

Careful Consideration Urged On Frat Bids

Next Monday each of the eight Greek letter social organizations for college men at Mercer—Alpha Tau Omega, Kappa Alpha, Kappa Sigma, Lambda Chi Alpha, Pi Kappa Phi, Phi Delta Theta, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, and Sigma Nu fraternities—each a member of the Inter-Fraternity Council, will extend invitations to non-fraternity men of its choice to become affiliated with its group.

Many men have already made up their minds which, if any, of these fraternities they will join. Many others will not choose to affiliate with any of the Greek letter societies, and may become members of the Mercer Independent Men's Association. But whatever the final decision, may we urge each socially unaffiliated man on the campus to consider carefully the step he is taking.

Most men will be primarily concerned with the more immediate implications of their decisions. These will include such important phases of campus life as new personal friendships, group social activity, intramural athletic participation, political party affiliation, and the intangibles of educational, cultural, and character development.

All of these should be worthwhile additions to the already established curriculum and should not, as some have feared, destroy it. Certainly no fraternity of the right sort would demand that its pledges or brothers give up any of their old friends whether they are independents or members of other fraternities. And certainly no fraternity that is really sure of its own position would teach, or even permit, its members to assume an attitude of social snobbery toward people outside its group. Such an attitude is not only stupid and self-deluding, but reflects a basic fallacy in the social order fostering it.

It must be remembered, however, that the joining of a fraternity is a life-time proposition and does not, as some have erroneously asserted, terminate with graduation. There certainly should be a continuation of the fine fellowship and brotherhood found in college long after these still formative years have been relegated to the halls of memory. And there should be a life-long continuation of interest in the welfare of the young men who, like ourselves, will come to college for the purpose of adding the finishing touches to their moral, intellectual, professional, and social maturity.

Fraternities are encouraged for these purposes by institutions of higher learning. They are individually made available to men who are known to be congenial with all of the men in the group. At Mercer, membership and non-membership have nothing to do with any so-called accepted or unaccepted social positions.

It is our sincere hope that fraternities at Mercer may continue serving a useful purpose and that each man who wishes to affiliate may find the ideal group that is best suited to his own individual needs.

—J.C.

Carol Service Is Welcome Addition To Campus Life

Mercer has long needed just such an activity as the campus wide caroling around the lighted Christmas tree. Ralph Temples, who originated the idea, and Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, which is sponsoring the program, are due the appreciation of students and faculty alike for bringing to the Mercer campus a program which has long been a Yuletide custom in many of the small towns and communities from which so many students come. It will be unnecessary to urge support of a program that will add such a heartwarming touch to the mounting campus spirit that recently has been so evident.

—J.C.

New Sears Store Snubs Mercer In Photo Murals

Sears, Roebuck and Co. opened its new store at Third and Walnut in downtown Macon, November 26.

Many of Sears' selling and non-selling personnel are Mercer students and Mercer alumni. Many of Sears' best customers are Mercer students and Mercer alumni.

Yet Mercer is not deemed recognition in either one of the new store's two photograph murals. These two murals are made up of photo views of Wesleyan, Ft. Hawkins, and the Indian Mounds and are placed on the stair landings between Sears' three floors.

Are not Mercer's buildings as picturesque as those of Wesleyan who was accorded the three scenes of one whole mural? Is not Mercer as vital an educational asset to Macon and Middle Georgia as Wesleyan is?

—J.H.

'Miss Mercer'—Choose With Care

In a few days we, the student body of Mercer, will make our choice for 1948-49's "Miss Mercer." To be elected to this position is, of course, a great honor. The selection must be made with care.

There will be a tendency to select a girl solely on the basis of her physical beauty, or perhaps on her popularity. These are not all the factors which should go into the choice of "Miss Mercer." Since the girl whom we select will be considered representative of the entire school and what it stands for, it behooves us to choose a girl who embodies the Spirit of Mercer.

The physical attributes of Miss Mercer will undoubtedly play a part in her selection; yet let us think of more than this. Let us consider her friendliness, for Mercer is known as a friendly school; let us think of her character, for she will represent a Christian Institution; let us consider her personality, her sincerity, her attitude toward the whole of life.

Let us choose wisely, and each one as he thinks best, that Miss Mercer of 1948-49 may truly represent the student body, and the Spirit of Mercer.

—J. P.

Remember Pearl Harbor

by Spencer B. King, Jr.
Professor of History

The year—1941; the month—December; the day—Sunday, the seventh.

The year 1941 was drawing to a close. It had been a year of preparation for "defense" because the world was on fire. And yet the American people still hoped the conflagration would not engulf them. Only in the South did the people appear ready and willing to fight the fire face to face.

The month was young, but Christmas buying had begun. Christmas lights shone in glistening splendor in contrast to the bloody red glare against eastern and western skies; and the ministers were preparing sermons with Christ, the Prince of Peace, as the central theme.

The day was the Lord's day, Sunday, the seventh. It was early afternoon—after church and after a big Sunday dinner for many people in well-fed America. Remember? Remember Pearl Harbor?

Remember Pearl Harbor! In Washington, Japanese agents—Nomura and Kurosu—whose very names are remembered by Americans who can't forget their treachery were pretending to seek reconciliation between the two governments whose diplomacy was strained to the breaking point.

We do not know what was in the minds of top officials in Washington. All the investigation and study of Pearl Harbor has not given us a clear understanding of that tragic day. But seven years ago on the seventh day of December the Japanese struck in all their fury. Remember?

They struck suddenly to gain an

advantage; instead they united America into an all-out and total war. No longer was the South alone in its war fever.

Remember Pearl Harbor! What shall we remember? Shall we remember the years of hate, anxiety, denial, suffering and death? Over 22 million people were killed and over 34 million wounded in World War II. Of the armed forces of our nation 296,602 died in service and 670,379 were wounded. Of the Georgians who served in the armed forces 6,721 gave their lives in an effort to put out the fire. Mercer contributed 1,550 to the nation's fighting forces. Of this number 44 paid the supreme sacrifice.

We, the living, remember Pearl Harbor—over 800 persons have been put to death for war crimes! The dead, if they could speak—or do they not speak?—would say, "Do not remember Pearl Harbor! Rather remember Christmas. Remember 'peace on earth.'" They would say, "Preachers, sit down again and write the Christmas sermon that was interrupted seven years ago—the one that had the Prince of Peace as its central theme. Tell your people to remember peace and good will that we who died might not have died in vain."

An Open Letter To The Alumni

Recently I read in a college newspaper of a dance that was held on the campus of another college. This was not all that I heard of this dance, for everyone was talking about it. Yes, it was an excellent dance. It caused much good comment, and did much to create college spirit.

I would like to ask the "Alumni" of Mercer why it is that when we have a dance, we hear nothing of it after it is over? It could be that we never have a "Name" band to come to play for us. Are we so small or poor that we cannot afford a really good dance once a year? I think not. It seems to me that our "Alumni" could give us one outstanding dance once a year to go along with our other dances.

Now is the time to book "Name" bands. Why not start now, "Alumni" and give us something to talk about in the line of dances when the Spring interfraternity dances come around?

—Eugene Hall.

The Mercer Cluster

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Registration Setup Needs Improved Organization

by Paul Bobbitt

By now this quarter's registration has been discussed and discussed and the harsh statements have gently slipped into that which is reserved for memories. What had seemed to be the beginning of a "different" registration resulted in the malady of past registrations, only on a larger scale.

To be sure the students' behavior was petty, childish, and silly. It was a demonstration of egotism sublime. It can well be imagined that if any one person could have been removed from the mass to observe the scene, he would have laughed as we have so laughed when we watched the feeding of fish, monkeys, or similar animals. But rather than lose ourselves in condemnation, let us be primarily concerned with actions of construction.

Truths are inevitable when one is analytical of a condition.

What were the conditions?

1. A general state of ignorance concerning registration.
2. A line in the Co-op that became a mob and which endangered the safety of those caught in the conglomeration.
3. An undermanned staff of faculty and assistants to control the lines.
4. Lack of insight of the ones who gave out the absentee cards.
5. Slowness of lines outside and inside the New building, especially at the payment desk.
6. Failure of students to fill out cards correctly.

Who then can we blame?

1. The Faculty and Administration: for the lack of information concerning registration, for the lax system used in registering, and for not having sufficient staff of faculty and assistants to handle the lines.
2. The Students: for acting foolishly, and for failing to follow directions implicitly in filling out cards which resulted in delay at other lines.

What could and should be done? First consider the system as we now know it.

1. Have one chapel period near the end of the quarter for orientation about the ensuing registration.
2. Have a faculty member or assistant present by at least seven o'clock who can pass out numbers to those desiring them at that time. There are never enough persons waiting at this time to present a problem.
3. Have the system organized, set up, and ready to begin registering proper at nine o'clock.
4. Have two assistants at each door; one to inform those going into the room, and the other to check and to inform the student where to go next. Uncertainty results in confusion.
5. Have separate rooms for payment processing of the veterans and non-veterans.
6. Have enough workers at the various desks. The movement of the lines would have been greatly facilitated had there been more workers at the Dean's desk and the payment desk.

Secondly, consider the system of other schools.

That is, let "pre-registration" serve as registration. Other schools set aside a week at the end of the quarter for this purpose. Faculty members and assistants use their "free" time that week which allows the students to register at their own convenience. In this manner only those who desire or who find it necessary to make schedule changes have to re-register. The only lines necessary then would be one for veteran payment and another for non-veteran payment.

In any case let us avoid the passing out of the cards as happened at the Co-op. The mob scene was unnecessary, dangerous and could have been avoided easily.

This matter of registration is of interest to everyone here, and it deserves the attention of everyone. Speak of family relations... organization and cooperation are elementary. Registration! "Passed and be forgotten?" No, let us remember and reconstruct!

THE CLUSTER PLATFORM

1. To promote a strong, self-governing student body.
2. To stimulate interest in worthwhile extra-curricular activities.
3. To work toward placing the administration of the student activities funds in the hands of the students.
4. To maintain an editorial policy committed to the interests of the entire student body and to pull no punches.
5. To constructively criticize any campus irregularities after a complete investigation of the facts.