

The Mercer Cluster

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Number 9

Fraternities At Mercer Pledge Fifty-Nine Men

Fraternities at Mercer pledged 59 men Monday night as the annual winter rush season closed. Alpha Tau Omega led the groups in numbers, pledging a total of 13 men. Other fraternities pledging were as follows: Sigma Nu, 9; Kappa Sigma, 8; Pi Kappa Phi, 7; Phi Delta Theta, 7; Kappa Alpha, 6; Sigma Alpha Epsilon, 6; and Lambda Chi Alpha, 3.

Names of the new pledges are as follows:

Alpha Tau Omega: Jake Kneece, Batesburg, S. C.; Bill Ratteree, Batesburg, S. C.; Elwood Clino, Clinton, S. C.; James Flowers, Hinesville; Robert Ivey, Dawson; Lorrie McElhenny, Perry; Jerry Conner, Harlem; Larry Lowe, Warrenton; Robert Matthews, Thomson; James Futral, Griffin; Hal Dixon, Leary; Ben Tucker, Valdosta; and Bill Buffington, Rome, Ga.

Kappa Alpha: Dewey Cave, of Augusta; Harold (Sonny) Bivins, of Mt. Vernon; Johnny McCreary, of Macon; Fred Hattrich, of Macon; Richard Sheridan, Macon, and Emory Clay, Macon.

Kappa Sigma: Robert C. Hayes, Somerset, Ky.; Jeff Clements, of Eatonton; Thomas Lockhart, of Smyrna; Robert G. Kopp, of Montezuma; Richard F. Scholz, Jr., of Quincy, Ill.; Joe Lister of Spartanburg, S. C.; Spencer Walker of Newnan; and Wallace Faulkner, of Macon.

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Mercer Players To Present Radio Program Series

by Jim Young

The Mercer Players currently are preparing a series of radio plays to be presented over WBML every Thursday night from 9 to 9:30 o'clock. The series will start January 6, and will continue until June, at least, said Miss Mary Brooks Popkins, faculty adviser.

The broadcasts will present radio adaptations of standard plays and of some written by Mercer students. The first air show will be "She Stoops to Conquer" by Oliver Goldsmith followed by Henrik Ibsen's "Pillars of Society," "Camille" and "The Avengers."

In February, the Players hope to produce programs by Mercer students. Of these they will adapt for radio, "Will You Marry Me," a musical by William Sackman, Jr., and Bob Littell. Sackman wrote the words and music; Littell, the plot and dialogue.

"She Stoops to Conquer" will be under the direction of Mary Mott.

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Stertz Announces Newnan Pastorate

Jim Stertz, Director of Religious Activities at Mercer, has announced his resignation of that position in order to become pastor of the Central Baptist Church at Newnan, Georgia. He was installed as pastor there last Sunday, December 12, and will take up his duties January 1. President Dowell has not yet announced who will be his successor as Director of Religious Activities.

Dr. H. L. Batts, professor of Religious Education in the Roberts School of Christianity, presided at the installation services Sunday morning. He was in charge of the first part of the worship service, then installed Rev. Stertz as pastor. Rev. Stertz then preached the installation sermon.

Jim Stertz was born in St. Louis.

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Mercer Students Plan Gala Christmas Season

Carol Sing Slated For Thursday Night

Mercer students already have begun preparing for December 25, the 1948th anniversary of the birth of Christ. Many have begun preparing Christmas day sermons, sending Christmas cards, and doing their Yuletide shopping.

Student voices will ring out over Mercer's campus tomorrow night as they hold their first traditional Christmas Carol Sing.

The sing will be held in front of Roberts Hall around the lighted Christmas tree at 7 p.m. Ray Brewster of Cedartown, student body president, will lead the singing. Wallace DuVall of Edison will serve as master of ceremonies.

The program is being sponsored by Alpha Tau Omega as a means of building more campus spirit. It is hoped this will be accomplished by bringing the students together.

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SILENT PROTEST: Over 40 Mercer students, some of them pictured above, registered a 'silent protest' against the Ku Klux Klan at its recent public initiation ceremonies in Macon.—(Photo courtesy, The Macon Telegraph.)

Mercer Students Stage Silent Protest As Ku Klux Klan Holds Open Initiation

by John Hyde

Each wearing placards which read "I am here in protest to Klan and its principles!" some 40 Mercer students picketed the Ku Klux Klan naturalization ceremonies at Macon city auditorium last Friday night.

Arriving too late to enter the crowded auditorium where they had planned to sit in a body as a "silent protest" to the Klan, the group remained on the building's steps during the hour and a half initiation ceremonies.

The group passed out mimeographed handbills to the overflow of spectators who were listening to the Klan exercises over loudspeakers. Police finally warned them against distributing the sheets. The handbills cited Bible scripture in refutation of Klan ideals.

Bizarre Rites

Inside the massive auditorium initiation ceremonies for approximately 265 men were in progress. Dr. Sam Green, grand dragon, and an initiation team, of Atlanta, conducted the rites.

In a hollow circle of about 2,500 hooded, white-robed Klansmen; the

"aliens," dressed in street clothing with the upper half of their faces covered by domino masks, paraded in a four-column platoon around a red electric cross. Then the men halted and knelt in a semi-circle.

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Students Choose 1949 'Miss Mercer'

Miss Mercer was elected Monday as 362 Mercerians voted at polls in the Co-op.

However, her identity will not be announced until the 1949 Cauldron is published next spring.

She is one of the following Mercer misses: Evelyn McArthur, Lib Howard, Laurie Shannan, or Ann Wood. These four coeds and four others who later withdrew were named at a nomination session held by Broadus Willoughby, freshman advisor, in the gym last Thursday noon.

Holding the polls Monday were

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Press Club Seeks Publications Board To Choose Staffs

A move to remove the three campus publications, *The Cluster*, *The Bearskin*, and *The Cauldron* from political control was instituted by the Press Club last Thursday night. President Ralph Temples has disclosed.

Temples stated that a resolution will be drawn up and presented to the Student Government and to the faculty student publications committee. He said the Club will ask that some type of publication board of students and faculty members be set up to chase editors and business managers of the publications.

A cup will be presented Spring quarter to Mercer's outstanding journalist by Donald McDonald, head of the journalism department. Temples also said. Judges to be designated will determine the recipient of the cup.

Press Club members will visit the Macon Telegraph tonight to observe composing and printing operations.

Dreams Come True for D. T. Carowan in Hollywood During Six Month Absence From Mercer

by Paul Bobbitt

Some dreams come true, even those of seemingly fantastic adventures. That is what literally happened to one of Mercer's students, namely D. T. Carowan.

Shortly after school was out last year, D. T. attended the wedding of a friend in North Carolina. It was here that the dream started to come real, for upon the insistence of a friend, Charlie Wellfong, who was attending Southern California University, the two went to California.

Just to start the ball rolling right the two drove first to the corner of Hollywood and Vine nonchalantly parked the car in a No Parking zone, got out, shook hands, got back in and left immediately to look for a place to stay. It so happened that

after a week D. T. took residence in the Palisades with Billie Simmons, whose niece, Juan Peterson, he had attended school with at Mars Hill, N. C. Pacific Palisades is a community only five blocks from the ocean; it borders Beverly Hills, the site of magnificent homes of notable movie stars. Among the celebrities homes which D. T. passed every day were those of Walt Disney, Carey Grant, and Esther Williams.

Though they had planned to come home immediately, D. T. and Charlie found themselves taking training in radio announcing, script producing, and directing. Here an acquired acquaintance, a girl who had worked for Republic, arranged for them to tour Republic studios. D. T.

seemed to be utterly fascinated by the realistic movie sets and the tricks of Hollywood in making pictures—such as using bottles made of sugar solution if they are to be used in fights.

Incidentally upon inquiry, he and Charlie took screen tests for extras, qualified, and were told to stand by for the sequence of a rodeo scene. However, the sequence was postponed several times, and they did not get the opportunity "to get into the movies."

Meanwhile, D. T. and Charlie, through friends ("Hollywood is a place where you need friends," said D. T.), met and had a dramatic test by Columbia Broadcasting Studio director Ted Rodgers. Rodgers directs and produces the well-known shows of Jack Carson, Junior Miss, Jack Benny, and Sam Spade, and he

did work on Arthur Godfrey's show for some time.

Seemingly Rodgers took an interest in these novices, D. T. and Charlie (he stated that D. T. was natural born comedy actor), and arranged for them to be on a CBS program. But a soap company bought the radio time—thus eliminating this opportunity for them.

Even with all this D. T. said that he had a wonderful time just being in Hollywood. "It is a land of convertibles and crazy drivers," said he. He saw many of the shows and orchestras while there: "Take It or Leave it," Ken Murray's "Blackouts," Jack Smith, Kay Kaiser, Frank Sinatra, Bob Crosby, and Horace Heidt with Johnnie; to name a few. D. T. also met Jack Smith, Lou Costello, Dinah Shore, and The Andrews Sisters, all of

whom were very friendly. Peter Lawford spoke to him a couple of times when passing on the street.

D. T. was wearing his "M" sweater one day while getting tickets to a radio show; the receptionist inquired what the "M" meant and upon reply of "Mercer University," she exclaimed that she had attended Wesleyan. Thereby he came to know Beverly Daniels, CBS receptionist. Later he met Mutual receptionist Nina Bishop, who had gone to school with Beverly at Wesleyan.

When questioned about his coming back to Mercer and about further plans, D. T. replied "I wanted to come back to Mercer to finish my major in Physical Education. Later I might go into radio and one of these days do sports announcing."