

Interfraternity Council Praised On Rush Rules

One of the most hectic seasons for fraternity men—rush season—has again come to a close with fifty-nine men students of Mercer situated in the campus groups of which they will form an integral part during the coming years of their college life.

It is to be hoped that all of them have chosen wisely and well and as is most befitting their own needs and personalities and those of the other men in the individual groups or affiliating with them. Few things in the entire Greek system of social organizations for college men are more deplorable than the occasional wrong choices made in a state of confusion by those who have been buffeted about by two or more fraternities during rush season. The Interfraternity Council at Mercer is to be commended for taking a very practical step to prevent this sort of situation arising. The ruling forbidding the pledging of first quarter men gives both the rushees and the fraternities ample time to become well enough acquainted with each other to leave no excuse for wrong choices. If such wrong choices do arise under this system and new pledges find that they are mismatched to the fraternity they have chosen, it will probably be found that the fault lies in the men themselves, in this instance, rather than in the system.

The Interfraternity Council has also amply provided for the scholastic standing to the new men by allowing no rushee making less than an overall average of C to pledge a fraternity. This places more emphasis on scholarship than has formerly been accorded by fraternities at Mercer. It also tends to bring down the high "mortality" rate among new pledges who are sometimes forced to withdraw from the fraternity because of failure to make the necessary scholastic average to be initiated or, for that matter, even to stay in school. The ruling forbidding first quarter non-fraternity men to be in the fraternity dormitory after 8 o'clock on week-day evenings has also been an effective aid to scholarship among rushees.

May we congratulate all of the new fraternity pledges on their choices and wish for them and their fraternities a long and happy association in that fine spirit of brotherhood which should form such an integral part of the life of every fraternity.

—J.C.

Ku Klux Klan Initiation Both Ridiculous And Sad

Those who were present at the initiation ceremonies of the Knights of the Invisible Empire of the Ku Klux Klan didn't know whether to laugh or to cry.

The ignorance of those who fell for the line of bunk that was passed out was laughable; but the implications of the Klan's sinister doctrines were enough to bring tears to the eyes of one who loves his fellow man.

It would seem that our generation would have learned enough about the equality of every race to stand for equal opportunity for all. Yet the startling fact remains that the KKK is gaining a great many of its new members from the younger generation, from boys of high school age. That means the problem of race ignorance, race hate, and race violence is with us for another forty years.

The leaders of the Klan (who undoubtedly are getting rich off the scheme) have no scruples; they appeal to the race hate and race fears of the lower classes; they teach hate of "aliens"—all immigrants to this country; they stimulate a false feeling of white superiority to all other races; and they defend their position by splendid quotations from the Bible, and the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution. It is hard to keep from seeing the analogy between the Klan tactics and those of Adolf Hitler's Nazi strategy: the same appeal to ignorance, the same hatred of foreigners; above all the same proclamation of the Master Race idea (in our country not "Aryan Superiority" but "White Supremacy").

What can we do? Not much. We can try to get our law enforcement officers to keep the Klan within the bounds of the law; we can try to get our lawyers to prosecute all cases against the Klan to the full extent of the law; we can certainly elect officials whom we know to be opposed to the Klan's principles. But after all, the Ku Klux Klan movement is rooted in the ignorance and fear of the common people; we can never rid ourselves of the Klan and what it stands for until we educate all of our people to a feeling of love for all men, white and black.

It is particularly distressing at this season, when we celebrate the coming of the Prince of Peace who taught equality and brotherhood of all men, to become aware of those who seek to destroy all of His ideals. May we, at this Christmas time, pray to the Creator of all men and all races for forgiveness, and for the coming of love into the hearts of all mankind.

—J.P.



"They look almost real, don't they?"

Christmas—1948

by Jim Stertz
Director of Religious Activities

The snow was falling very fast,
As I looked out to see,
If old Saint Nick had come at last,
And there was he.

His jolly eyes smiled into mine,
And I felt very shy,
For never had I expected to find,
That sly old guy.

He brings us candy, fruit, and toys,
And oh, we have such fun,
With all our many Christmas joys,
And my shot gun."

...So went my first and only contribution to the world of poetry, and, as a child of eleven, that is what Christmas meant to me. As we view our world today, it is not difficult to perceive that much of our thinking and many of our ideas regarding the Christmas celebration are those of a child.

"Candy, fruit, and toys . . . and my shot gun;" Santa Claus, lighted trees with tinsel and ornaments,

and, if we're lucky, a trip home for a wonderful week with loved ones. Who could ask for anything more? Surely that's what Christmas means, doesn't it? Does it? All that, yes, and more. Much more!

To this childish conception of Christmas must be added the recognition of a tremendous, world-shaping event; an event which happened "once-for-all." "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" . . . "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given." And his name was called Jesus for He would save His people.

If we could but stand at the manger in Bethlehem with the curious excited shepherds and the sage Magi from the east, perhaps our conception of Christmas, 1948, would be delivered forever from the thralldom of commerce and secularism which capitalizes on man's naivete and selfishness. Like the angels he would be able to truly sing, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among men of good will."

'That's All Brother!'

by Jim Young

Here again is Christmas, the season of peace.

Little Droopdraws is playing with a super atomic, automatic, disintegrator machine gun.

An aura of quiet friendliness pervades the home.

"Mama, Sammy won't let me play with my football!"

All are intent on holy prayer, While fixing the tree lights, Dad

puts his finger instead of the bulb into the socket. Mama hurriedly claps her hands over Junior's ears.

Kindly cooperation is the order of the day.

We hear Dad talking: "Son, you're too young to handle this thing. Let Daddy show you how to run your electric train."

We'd better leave it here, folks. We wouldn't want anyone to get disillusioned about Christmas.

The Mercer Cluster

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Mercer Basketball Team Deserves Highest Praise

The students of Mercer wish to offer nothing but the highest praise to the entire basketball squad and its coach.

The team, while playing against the Big Men from Athenstown, showed a spirit and enthusiasm which was inspiring. The boys were playing to win and every Mercerian present caught their enthusiasm—we were very proud when the game was over, regardless of the fact that we were on the short end of the score. The sportsmanlike conduct of the team was very much in evidence; it is refreshing in this era of professionalism in sports, to find a bunch of guys on the court who exhibit true sportsmanship. Another feature that has stood out all season has been the team spirit of every player—individual honor has willingly been sacrificed for the good of the team.

It is difficult to point to outstanding players, for it has been the team itself that has been outstanding. Glenn Wilkes, as usual, has played brilliant basketball each game down under the net—his performance in the Georgia game was exceptional; Rudy Stewart has been a sparkplug all season—his beautiful ballhandling and his sureness in working the ball in to the net have contributed a great deal; Quincy Crawford, the Diminutive One, has amazed everyone with his agility on the court offensively and defensively, and with his beautiful long shots; Mayes Dobbins has been the most effective defense man on the team—his ability to stick to his man is marvelous, and he covers the court with brilliant footwork; Bob "Lefty" Reeder has turned in a sterling performance every game—his speed on the court is terrific, and his fast breaks are things of beauty, and all credit must be given to Dilmas Barnett, Lamar Clements, and Bob Murdock for fine work—they've been up against the tall boys.

Too much credit cannot be given to Coach Jim Cowan. His guiding hand is of course responsible for a large share of our successes, as his great popularity both with the team and with the student body readily attests. (Our only fear during the game is that Coach will either tear his poor, down-trodden hat completely to shreds, or that he will choke himself twisting that towel around his head.)

The spirit of the students at the games has been commendable. The cheerleaders have turned in a fine performance at both of the home games. The students and the team owe these folks a vote of thanks: Ruth Dunwoody, head cheerleader; Neal "Pinky" Newsome; Betty Tom Smith; Richard "Shorty" Sheridan; and Doris Hobby. But our lack of pep meetings and spirit outside of the gyms is very much in evidence. It was sad to note that only one car showed up to escort the team through town, before the Georgia game, in a publicized "parade," that is a sour note on Mercer's "spirit." Our team certainly deserves the highest support; if they care enough for the school to play their best on the court, certainly we, the Student Body, can do our very best to back them up in every way possible. Let's support the Bears!

—J.P.

Alpha Phi Omega Frat To Send CARE Packages

Mercerians will have an opportunity Thursday to put the Spirit of Christmas into practice. Alpha Phi Omega, service fraternity, will sponsor a drive to gather funds for the purpose of sending CARE packages to the destitute peoples of Europe. A booth will be open in the Co-op all day Thursday to receive the money.

The drive will be carried out with the full realization that most people are short of cash around Christmas. No large amount will be asked. The Alpha Phi Omega chapter has started the drive with a contribution of \$10.00, which will pay for one CARE package. The packages will be as a note stating that they are from the students of Mercer University.

It would indeed be difficult to find a more worthy cause to contribute to at this season. For us here in America, Christmas is a time of plenty, when it is easy to utter glib phrases about "Peace on earth, good will to men"—as we open our expensive presents and sit down to our holiday feasts. For those famine-stricken, cold, and shelterless people in devastated Europe, it must be rather difficult to find assurance in the anniversary of His coming. This then would be our task at Christmas: to share our plenty, and by sharing to show our brothers in Europe that there is hope that Christ did not come in vain.

Give all that you can for this worthy cause. Peace on earth will come only when we have love for all our fellow men.