

Baptism From Above

Take it from residents of Sherwood Hall, it's no fun to be awakened in the middle of the night with rain pouring on you and your bed. Yet those men on the third floor of Sherwood got such dousings last Saturday night and again Monday night.

As the ceilings of many of the rooms clearly demonstrate, this is not the first time that the ancient hall has let in the rains. We believe that some tar was applied to the roof last year but did not improve the situation.

As told elsewhere in this issue, the leaks are not confined to any one room or few rooms, but are rather general throughout the dorm. At least one boy had to move, bed and all, out in the hall for lack of space within his room.

We can think of better ways to initiate the incoming students (old students suffered also) than this baptism from above. We strongly urge that IMMEDIATE action be taken to prevent this occurrence again.

Newton Performs Feat

Any person who can hold a Mercer Chapel audience for over an hour and then receive a tremendous ovation at the end is nothing short of great and that is exactly what Dr. Louie D. Newton did last Wednesday morning.

Most students were expecting a dull opening convocation and a "usual" Chapel program. Instead, they heard a most eloquent interpretation of Mercer's heritage which made all proud that we are a part of this institution.

History is, for many, often nothing but a dry presentation of cold facts, but Dr. Newton made his audience feel an intimate acquaintance with those figures who have made this institution what it is.

A wire recording was made of the address and Harry Smith promises that a large portion of it will be included in the next issue of the Mercerian.

Everyone will surely want a copy of the address but that cannot recapture the high moment shared by those present Wednesday morning.

'Rats' Find Home

Rat Week is perhaps not the appropriate time but, nevertheless, we wish to add our word of welcome to those frosh and transfer students who're entering this institution for the first time.

Even with all its faults we are of the opinion that Mercer is one of the best of the smaller schools in this section of the country. We think you'll go a long way to find a better small, denominational school than this one.

It is our sincere hope that each new student will seek to make a definite contribution to the life of the campus during his stay here. He should seek through the organizations and activities which interest him to not only enrich his own life but add to the total spirit of the campus.

The school and its facilities are here for the enjoyment and edification of each student. Use them wisely!

The Real Orientation

By Julian LeRoy, Freshman Adviser

By now many of you freshmen, after completing a rigorous program of addresses, tests, instructions, etc., feel that you are pretty well orientated to Mercer University.

In a small sense that is true, but allow me to say, not to your discouragement, that your orientation here is never finished. You may have been made familiar with much of the mechanics of the school, but the greater part of your orientation is yet to come.

You have yet to meet the innumerable and invaluable opportunities that will confront you sooner or later. You have yet to become familiar with the activities of our university in the sense that you will be a vital part of them and put your best services into them.

Yes, you are just beginning your REAL orientation of Mercer. Maybe these phrases strike a familiar tone to what you have heard most of your life, but have you ever

really taken it to heart?

You have the chance NOW to develop some of the abilities you never knew you had, those things which God has endowed you with and reveals them to you as you use them in service for others. There is a place for you here to use your mental skills, physical abilities, social qualities, and then there is a place where you can receive the REAL POWER which comes from God, to strengthen each one of these and multiply them. Many a new student has realized the first part, but many have never thought seriously of the second part.

In closing let me remind you that "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding." (Prov. 3:13).

Strive for a Banner Year

By Jerry Conner, President, Student Government

The college student today is living in an age of decision. On every hand events of world shattering importance are taking place. Under such circumstances it is most important that we have a well organized and functioning student body. We must strive to maintain the idea of "business as usual" or even "better than usual."

Student Government includes every student on Mercer's campus. The elected officers are merely those persons selected to represent you in particular capacities. With this in mind it is our sincere desire that you take an interest in student affairs.

This year we are planning a program of student activities that should interest everyone. Religious Focus Week will bring outstanding leaders from every field to meet with us during the Winter Quarter. The Artist Series which brought Alec Templeton and Gladys Swarthout to our campus last year is to be continued. In ad-

dition to the concert type program there are plans underway to bring outstanding theatrical troupes to Willingham Chapel.

Our annual Bear Day will be held during the Winter Quarter. This is the big occasion of the year at Mercer. We hope to arrange a program to run for several days which will be culminated by the big parade through Macon.

In addition to these major events there will be the daily work of editing the Cluster, the Bearskin, and the Cauldron. With the cooperation of all this can be made a banner year at Mercer. Let us all strive toward this end.

Registration Is Improved

Hats off to the administration for the improvements made in the new guidance program for registration. Though still not perfect, many bottlenecks were eliminated in the new set up initiated this quarter.

At last the Mercer student is able to know when he signs up for courses in fall quarter what he will be able to take in the winter and spring quarters as well. Also he may now know in advance who will be his instructors and what time the courses will be offered.

However we must hasten to point out that some course is needed to inform some Mercer instructors about some of the registration procedures. Some of the students were of more assistance than some of the professors in the registration line.

Great strides have been taken and we are grateful for them. We trust that even more will be done in the future to help ease this quarterly headache.

Clay and Miller Attend Convention

Emory Clay, president of the Mercer chapter of KA and Terrell Miller, No. IX, attended the national officer's school at Gulf Park College, Gulfport, Miss.

After the school they went to the Edgewater Gulf Hotel to attend the 44th national convention of the fraternity.

At the convention both Clay and Miller received the national Award of Merit for outstanding work at the school and for making 95 on the national examination. This is the first time a KA from Mercer has ever won the award and the chapter was the only one to receive two awards.

SIGMA NUS HOLD OPEN HOUSE

Sunday afternoon the Sigma Nus held Open House in the fraternity suite in Shorter Hall.

Light refreshments were served and an informal program of entertainment was presented by members of the fraternity.

SAE's Give Summer Parties

The SAE's had two major rush functions this summer.

Hayden Bryant was in charge of the first party which was held at Willingham Lodge. This was an informal affair given by the Mercer chapter for Macon rushees coming to Mercer.

Hot dogs and watermelon were served, then the brothers and rushees ended the party by singing SAE songs.

The SAE Macon Alumni Association gave another party for Macon boys going to Mercer, Tech, Georgia, Auburn and Vanderbilt. SAE's from Mercer, Tech, Georgia, and Emory were present.

D. Sanders Walker, president of the Alumni Association was in charge of the party and Baldwin Martin, Jr., was in charge of the rushees.

The function was held at Willingham Lodge. A friend chicken dinner was served and afterwards an orchestra furnished music for dancing.

JUDSON MOSS

Enrollment Maintained

Registration figures at our press time reveal that Mercer's enrollment this fall will be about what it was last fall. This is remarkable in the face of many factors which gave indication of a drop in this year's enrollment.

According to the New York Times, there are about a quarter million less students in American colleges and universities this fall than last year. Naturally the world situation influenced this greatly and some thought that Mercer would suffer also.

Besides the world crises, the addition of an extra grade in many Georgia high schools caused some fear of a decrease. It seems however that there are a larger number of transfers this fall and this is the last opportunity for vets to take advantage of the GI Bill of Rights.

Crowded conditions in the dorms (especially in Sherwood where there are three students in most rooms) would indicate that there are many more students. This is explained however in that there are not as many vets and others living off campus as before.

Indications point to a good year and that calls for the cooperation of each student and faculty member to make the year '51-'52 the very best in Mercer's history.

CLUSTER CHATTER—Many prayers were answered on the return of Dean Knight to his office and the psychology department. He was out part of last year because of sickness . . . Mercer had one of its largest summer school enrollments during the last session.

Indications point to a good concert series this year with perhaps one this quarter. Final decision will be made Monday . . . Max Miller, Albany, has been named temporary publicity chairman of BSU, succeeding Helen Rister.

Rats Unveiled

By Reg Murphy

Hordes of varmints scampered over our fair campus this week in the wake of operation "Rat Extermination."

The gaily-decorated newcomers furnished many sources of amusement for the old heads who have seen numerous exhibitions of rathood. They never seem to tire of the antics of the sophomore-inspired lowlings.

One of the more humorous exhibitions was that of two freshmen trudging up the steps inside the Administration building. These pudgy conspirators were attempting to elude some upperclassmen bent on requesting their rendition of the "Alma Mater."

At the first landing they hastily perched once again their orange and black helmets nauseatingly atop their cranium, shifted the suitcase (containing printed words of knowledge) to the other hand, and proceeded to torment the protesting stairs.

The stouter of the two lost a coat hanger from a belt loop on the third step. As he stooped to retrieve it, his scalp protector received the call from old man gravity. He handed the suitcase to the buddy, only to find that the moorings had been unable to read the print, and was letting the books into the light to get a closer look.

Both males of the lower class were now industriously attempting to gather together their belongings, but neither was having one of those lucky days. (What freshman does?)

As the congestion grew on the main thoroughfare, other gentlemen of the rodent class attempted to be of assistance. However, the only assistance they gave was that of intermingling their crooks and triangles with those of the two hapless individuals. Toothbrushes, bars of soap, and the like made their grand entrance into the melee.

Bare feet took a beating that paled youthful toe-stumping into insignificance. Those railroad spikes that ladies use to enhance and accentuate their close communion with the upper atmosphere took their unestimable toll on the fellows with the cheeks of tan. They were also said to render a certain class of girls incapable of walking for several hours.

Getting back to our heroes of the staircase, we find them abandoning their first idea of salvaging their personal belongings. Instead, they took flight in a run for their lives from the oncoming pedestrians.

When last seen, they were entering a German class looking as if they had been wrapped in hay-baling wire, stuffed with soap, and trampled by a stampeding herd of rat exterminators.

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