

Willard Clutchmyer
VIEWS WITH ALARM!

Ignomy and woeful gloom were mine to have and hold last Friday Featherfelt Shaftwell Jr., former student and author of the best-selling novel, *I Was A Teenage Dean of Men*, had just completed his weekly inspection of the dormitories and had informed me that I would have to give up my ant colony and the cadaver I had been saving for Med School.

In a fit of pique and despair I moped about the campi, running into one of my law student friends, Bob Barratry. Bob was on his way to class and insisted that I join him.

"Why don't you cut the class?" I asked.
 "I would but I need the sleep," he explained. "Come on with me, Willard, and after class we'll tip down to the Sunshine for a pint of stout."

As we entered the Moot Court Room, named incidentally, after the first Dean of the Law School, Maurice Moot, we heard Professor C. Depew Sforza begin his lecture.

Groping through unprepared slips to find his notes the aged prof began: "Mercer University's School of Law was founded in 1826 by Clarence Darrow Ferd for students who were too poor to go to Emory and too proud to go to Georgia."

"Graduates of the Law School fared very poorly until 1856 when the 13th President of the United States, Samuel Gompers, accidentally invented law. Gompers, incidentally, was a M. U. student but flunked out of law school because he couldn't speak Spanish."

"Among Mercer's more famous law school graduates is Eugent V. Debs, now a practicing notary public in Smarr, Georgia. Debs is remembered in legal circles as attorney for the defendant in City Council of Pavo vs. Phfsst. Debs carried the case all the way to the Supreme Court, only to see his client sentenced to the electric chair. It is interesting to note that Debs' client was only charged with poaching."

"Another M. U. grad who made good was Nick Nefarious. Nefarious, unwanted as a child, is now wanted in 13 states and Canada."

"Perry Swanson, another legal luminary, is now a lawyer for the Coca-Cola Company—he handles all their cases!" With this bon mot the venerable prof flashed a gummy smile and began taking names of those who were not laughing. "Actually, Swanson ekes out a very good living serving summons and has perhaps the only complete collection of records made by Jessica Dragonette and the A. & P. Gypsies."

"Let's not forget Hugh Quinn Aardvark who, in 1936, coined the now famous phrase, *res ipsa loquitur*, which, freely translated means, 'I don't have that case, sir!' Aardvark, not content to rest on these laurels, went on to set a new indoor record for flunking the bar exam. He gave up a successful law practice to begin manufacturing Z-shaped bandaids for Zorro victims."

"In 1946, Associate Supreme Court Justice and Tattall Tech alumnus, Sonny Tufts, made legal history when he declared World II unconstitutional."

"On closing I urge all of you neophyte barristers to use originality in your arguments. Need I repeat the classic example set by Bernutti K. Willkie who had the phrase 'The Quality of Mercy is Not Strained' traced in Silver nitrate on his chest. After completing eloquent and moving pleas to a jury he would rip off his shirt before the startled court. Willkie, now doing five to ten, for indecent exposure, can teach us all a lesson in originality."

The bell tolled the end of second period and all of the students rushed to recess as the professor roared on.

On the way to the Co-op I noticed one of the professors standing in the hall smoking. A group of fun-loving fraternity men had just set him on fire.



BOB STEED

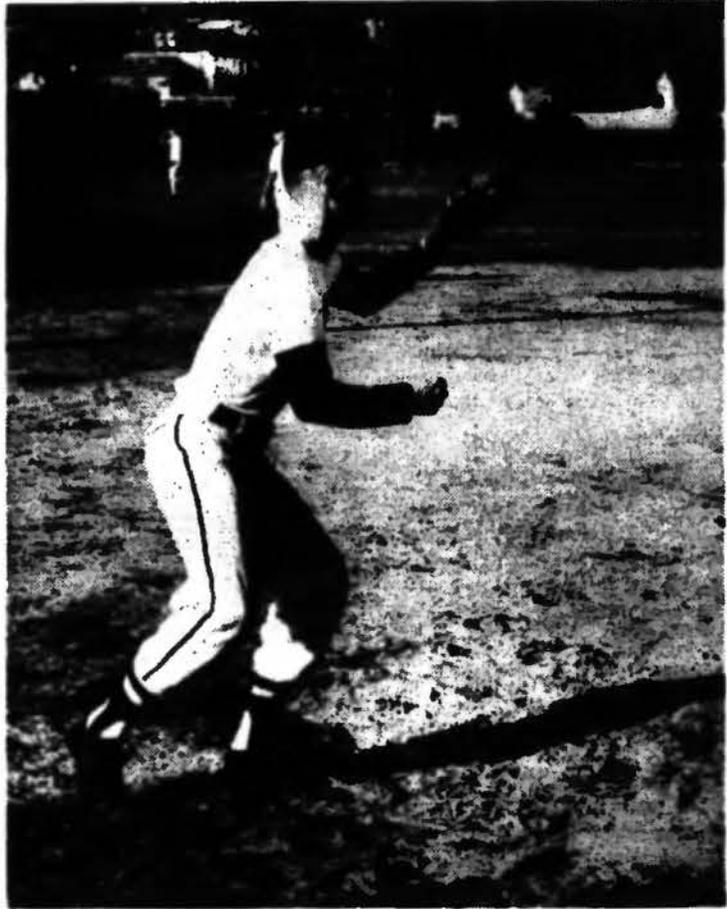
Steed Creator of Living Myth

During his term as Cluster editor, some four years ago, Bob Steed created a mythical Mercerian called "Willard Clutchmyer."

Since then, "Willard" has become a campus institution. His sardonic comments and knowing naive are eagerly awaited by Cluster readers.

"Willard" has added new words, such as "campi," to the MU vocabulary. An Intra-mural team is named for him.

Easily the most widely-read Cluster feature, the editors thought it fitting to include the latest example of "Willard's" wit in this commemorative issue.



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