

# Rush Week Brings Parties, Serenades, Decisions

By JOY O'BERRY

The dining hall menu featured blue gingerbread bears and yellow star-shaped cookies. The court was a maze of yellow and blue streamers. The fountain sported alternately a yellow—and—white goat and a seven-foot high bear. It was obvious that Rush Week had arrived.

The activities began Tuesday, January 30, as singing Astros met the freshmen at breakfast. For the rest of the day, countless Astros surged upon freshmen inviting them to "let their Astro light shine."

Supper club signaled the climax of a busy day for the Astros. The chairman of the supper club, Shan Pruitt, had planned a visit to Stardom. Undoubtedly, such celebrities as a balloon-inflated Mamie Van Doren, played by Susan Cameron; Meredith's own Mama Cass, Carolyn Halyburton; and a skipping, screeching Julie Andrews, portrayed by Mary Kathryn Moffitt, made many converts for the Astros.

The Phis began early Wednesday morning as they distributed stuffed bears. In the afternoon the "guardian angels" quietly and anonymously

left goodies outside the door of the freshmen rooms.

The Phi supper club, led by Carol Price and Izzie Eaton, also offered a variety of entertainment. A Swiss chalet was the setting for such talent as Lynn Dodge's attempts as a skier, Mrs. Jane Sullivan's rendition of "Climb Every Mountain," and Bet Garrett's interpretation of a character known as Inspector Pierre Phi. The day ended with the Phis' serenading the freshmen at closing time just as the Astros had done the night before.

Thursday was Co-operation Day, the main event being a party given by each society. At seven o'clock the freshmen entered the Astrosphere to be entertained by the Astropops and three Astrostars. The highlight of the evening was a performance by the Rhythm Kids from the Governor Morehead School for the Blind.

Mrs. Frank Grubbs, Astro sponsor, explained that this tradition had been started years ago when Meredith girls took musical instruments out to the school for the blind to give to the children. This act resulted in the formation of a singing group known as "The Pop-sicles." Since then the group has returned each year to entertain the Astros. As the freshmen left, they were awarded a certificate stating that they had completed Flight no. 1 toward becoming an Astro.

By ten o'clock the Phis had transformed Society Hall into an exotic island, the setting for the traditional luau. Girls who had planned to become Astros a few hours earlier suddenly became Phis as they were greeted by boys who presented them with leis! In a short skit, Bet Garrett and Cindy Griffith portrayed two characters who had been "washed ashore on a lonely island in the sea" only to be entertained by some Phi talent. Judy Parks sang



The Rhythm Kids, instrumental and singing group from the Governor Morehead School for the Blind, provided entertainment for the Astro Rush party on Cooperation Day. Freshmen, transfers, Astros, and dates enjoyed this traditional program in Society Hall.



The Meredith biology department, not the Hawaiian Islands, provided the hula dancer for the Phi luau during Rush in the person of Mr. James Eads, Phi advisor. Here, Angie Pridden looks on somewhat apprehensively as Mr. Eads goes through his routine.

"Bali-Hi," and Mr. Eads, dressed in a grass skirt, performed the hula. After an encore by Mr. Eads, Barbara Ann Perry did an "interpretive" dance to a song entitled "Tattooed Woman." Her music was provided by Ann Sullivan, Peggy Timmerman, and Betty King.

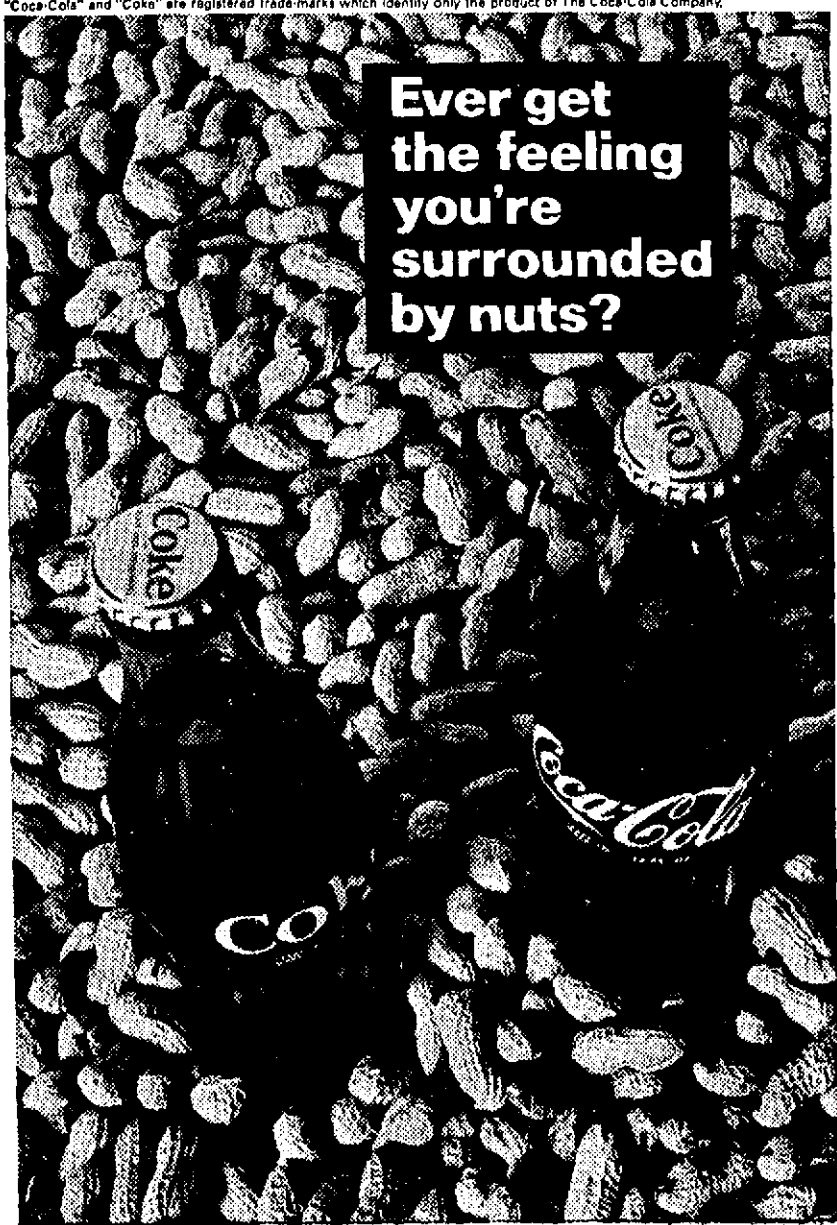
Finally, the freshmen retreated to their rooms and checked their clothes to make sure that they had a yellow blouse or a blue skirt to wear the next day. Rush had ended, and the two societies could only wait for their decisions.

Friday morning at seven o'clock the Astros and Phis lined on opposite sides of the court to watch as the freshmen peeled off raincoats

to reveal either blue or yellow outfits and then ran to meet their new "sisters." Their decisions became official during chapel when the freshmen marched to either the Astro or the Phi side of the auditorium.

Phi president, Ann Crockett, remarked that each freshman seemed to be happy about her choice and then congratulated Betty Duckworth, the Astro president, on the victory of the Astros. Then the streamer which had separated the two societies was broken, and the old and new Astros and Phi joined hands to sing the Alma Mater of a larger society, Meredith College.

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