

The Mercer Cluster

MERCER UNIVERSITY, MACON, GEORGIA

May 22, 1964

Volume XLIV, No. 26

Bill Dayton
Editor in Chief

Bob Hurt
Executive Editor

John Weatherly
Managing Editor

Ben Jordan
Business Manager

Contributing Editors Anne Johnson, Katie Koellner, Diana Denton
Sports Editor Mike Swords
Circulation Manager Joyce Davis
Business Adviser Bob Carter

News and Features: Ellen Jones, John Lough, Bobby Douthit, Mary Beth O'Quinn, John Johnson, Clayton Stephens, Faye Johnson, Betty Jo Freeman, Nancy Hendrix, Danny Roper, Sue Evans, Pete Black, Tina Rowland, Doug Pullen, Charles Lewis, Lamar Oglesby.

Staff Photographers: Jimmy Gibson, Bob Hurt.
Proofreaders: Bernard Lindsey, Frances Hobbs.



Thanks For The Laundry

The Mercer laundry, after 39 years, will be around no longer. Like Chapel and the Cafeteria, the laundry is one of the few things which all students have in common, and consequently, one of the things which everybody constantly depreciates as a matter of principle. The Laundry staff, like Dean Otto and the Kitchen staff, knows that the many cuts, jokes and sarcastic comments coming from every source at all times of day, are not to be taken seriously; and that though no one would dare say so, their services are appreciated. On behalf of the student body, the Cluster would like to formally thank the Mercer Laundry for the many services which Mercer has received from them since 1925.

To wind up the year, we heartily wish ourselves and the rest of the student body good luck on exams, and a profitable summer.

Campus Thefts Exceed \$1,000

"Well, I went to breakfast one rainy morning. When I got ready to go to class, my umbrella had already gone—with someone else." This statement by an irate Mercerian might well be echoed by numerous voices. Of the 283 questionnaires received in a recent Cluster poll on thievery 35 per cent reported at least one missing umbrella, and many stated the loss of two or three. Thievery at Mercer has cost students a good deal of time and money.

The most alarming figure of the poll was the amount of money stolen. From those who participated, more than \$635 in cash was taken. The amount ranged from \$2 to an average of \$10 to an amazing high of \$85. The thieves did not stop with cash, however, but took everything else they could find. Forty-six students reported the loss of books, twenty-nine reported missing coats, and twenty reported the loss of other articles of clothing. Radios, record albums, perfume,

shoes, and laundry were other popular items.

Another important item among the thefts was the stealing of the ATO treasury during spring quarter. Several days after the treasury was found missing, the metal box was discovered under a bush on campus, without the cash, checks, and other papers which it had contained.

Individual losses were high, with some reporting the loss of six or seven items. Among the most expensive items stolen were a \$75 watch, and an electric typewriter. The most infuriating was the loss of a term paper, folder, and outline. Other valuable items included a collection of rare coins, a forty-five dollar set of hubcaps, and a twenty-eight dollar pen and pencil set.

Many stolen items were of sentimental value. A set of drapes used in a vesper program was removed from 314 Student Center; the drapes had belonged to the owner's grandmother and were highly cherished.

Over the seemingly four millenia I have been at Mercer, several items to me have appeared strange. More correctly, their absence has appeared odd. Rather than attempt to enumerate all, I'll limit my note to three.

First is the type regard shown for Christianity, particularly by student groups who often view themselves as the last remnant. If their faith is but half what they claim, why do they keep it so selfishly? Instead, why not show it to others? Why not get together and work toward a series examining the meaning of their faith?

Now this can be no glib thing. It must honestly face the very real and the very concrete tensions, uncertainties, and dilemmas inherent in Christianity. It must, in short, be a depth study. But does Christianity fear honest, rigorous analysis? Must it be exonerated by apologies and apologists?

A second item is the music department and the choir. Even an avowed secularist will admit to the esthetic uplift given by a well trained choir. More than this, any Christian will be adamant about the beauty and richness of the works, from

hymns to oratorios, inspired by his faith.

I am not cutting our choir. The job done me every Thursday and Friday plus the specials in St. Paul's make me a near awe-struck admirer. What I am cutting is the insensitivity to the benefits of having an eight or ten man department as contrasted to the present four or five.

Third is the honors program, a real Mercer phantom. It has been talked about, but it was said long ago of a time far in the future. Fobbing again! Lessen a few faculty loads; require 2.25 average for the freshman and sophomore years; offer one or two goodies—say, (1) regular quarter credit for a quarter's independent research, (2) honors student carrels in the library—and eureka, you have found it! Faculty student rapport, intellectual snobbery, a liberal arts journal, and Rhodes scholars are then in the making.

There are, to be sure, other deficiencies—swimming pool, campus dancing, integrated dorms (male- and female-wise, of course). Others with a good deal more expertise in these affairs will have to rush in here. I fear to tread.

Sue Evans

B.S.U. Doin's

This year has been a fruitful one for the B.S.U. and its branch organizations.

Christian Service Fellowship is in charge of projects for the B.S.U. and is open to any Christian who wishes to put his beliefs into practice. Among their many activities were weekly visits to the Bibb County Old Folks Home, Timmy Turtle Nursery for retarded children, and the Bibb County Juvenile Detention Home where personal work was carried on. Twice a quarter the C.S.F. visited the Boys Training School in Milledgeville. There they supervised recreation followed by a short devotional period.

The Religious Education Association is composed of students who plan to go into that field. Speakers who acquaint them with the field of religious education and its opportunities were usually included in each meeting. Once this year a party was given for the members.

The Young Woman's Auxiliary is composed of girls wishing to learn about and support Baptist missions. Each hall in the dormitory had a circle meeting and general meeting once a month. Projects such as Annie Armstrong and Lottie Moon Offerings were planned and carried out. Also the Y.W.A.'s were in charge of Hall devotions. This year the Mercer Y.W.A.'s parti-

cipated in the statewide Y.W.A. house party. May 21, a White Bible Ceremony was held for the girls who had become engaged during the quarter.

The Ministerial Association met every Wednesday at 10:00 in 214 Student Center and was open to everyone. A variety of interesting speakers addressed the group. Among their other activities were services at the Rescue Mission, participation in intramural sports and a banquet.

A discussion group sponsored by Dr. Glow and the B.S.U. met to debate topics which were decided on by the students and which covered a wide range of subjects.

Vespers, which was open to all students, sponsored by the whole B.S.U. and planned a committee especially established for that purpose.

Other activities in which the whole B.S.U. participated were the faculty frolics, Sweetheart Bagquet, and the solicitation of funds for the B.S.U. summer missions as well.

Much improvement has been made in the B.S.U. during this past year, and next year should be the best yet, but there is still much to be done. The support and help of every Baptist student is needed if the B.S.U. is to be successful.

The thieves at Mercer have operated in every conceivable place, but the frequent is the dormitory room. Rooms have been entered while unlocked and locked. Some used passkeys and others simply jimmed the door. The only answer to this problem seems to be

(Continued on page 4)

Why pick up a piece of paper? After, all, isn't this the reason they have janitors? Why, Mercer must employ 25 or more people just to keep clean the buildings and grounds.

Why open a door for a coed? Coeds can't claim infirmity of old age as their elders might do. In fact, opening doors would strengthen their forearms. Physical fitness is certainly a national goal.

Why use 'sir' or 'ma'm' when talking with older people? Of course, this is a necessary part of the military. But in civilian life, there is no article of discipline rigidly enforcing its observance.

Why listen in chapel to a boring speaker, who has different or unpopular views? Instead open a book or read a newspaper. Who can deny the importance of grades or the need of keeping abreast of current events?

Why vote in elections? Democracy doesn't require 100% participation. Others will vote.

Why ask these silly questions? Perhaps, because of the silly answers given to them.

COMPLIMENTS OF

MULBERRY PROVISION CO.

"Your Wholesale Grocer"

444 Mulberry Street



The week of weeks draws closer and closer. Final exams are upon Mercer, and students are running around the University doing everything they can to ensure a passing grade this year.

One individual I find is sitting under a tree enjoying the beautiful sunlight and listening to the birds and just enjoying life. He is me, the spy himself. He hasn't a care in the world. Or does he? Across the campus strolls the editor of the Cluster and their eyes meet with the thought: "Have you written another column this week like the last several?" The spy cautiously whispers "No," and hurries off to his hideaway to type his masterpiece. He enters his room, stocked like unto a bomb shelter because he is afraid to eat in the cafeteria since he reread his last column. The blinds are drawn and his pet bat asleep as usual.

For the next four hours he examines his notes, masterpiece after masterpiece. None of which is nice enough to be printed. The deadline time draws near and as the Cluster office door swings

shut for the last trip to the printers for the week, the spy bursts around the corner and hands the editor his final copy.

The editor rushes off cackling wildly and the spy finds himself another tree and begins to think about what he will do next year. A sly smile creeps across his face as he notices faculty member after faculty member cross the grass and do little, normally unnoticeable things. Things such as blessing students, or worshipping on their knees as the 'little man' strolls by, ignoring other professors, and watching from the corners of their eyes to see if anyone, especially the spy, is watching them.

They are all happy though, since the spy has not looked at them—yet. But the spy will be back next year and maybe for many years to come.

And so to all I leave this little admonition; "Don't do anything I wouldn't do." Even then you may not be safe!