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## a negative revolution

Only eleven days remain for Americans to reach one of the greatest decisions ever to face our nation—who will lead our country as President of the United States for the next four years. The choice will be such an important one, for only prudence, restraint, and a peaceful spirit can prevent hurling our people into primary Destruction. But world peace is not, nor should it be, our primary concern, for we have a great land to run, and it is our business as young Americans to make sure it is run correctly.

When our nation was founded, our forefathers sought to throw off the harness of tyranny which had been forced upon them by Great Britain. However, in throwing off this "harness", the effort was not "negative revolution". This was a movement to form a new and great country where all men, regardless of race, color, or creed, could work and live together. They adopted a constitution, which has been, is, and always will be the guide for our people. This was the "positive rebellion," for these men realized that it was not enough to declare their independence—they had to have a definite, clear-cut alternative. This was their alternative—the United States Constitution.

Today we are dealing with another revolution, although not quite so worthwhile as the dramatic events of 1776. This revolution is just the "revolution in the negative" of which I have spoken. It claims to come under the name "Conservatism." It is the haven of Ku Klux Klanners, John Birchites, segregationists—who claim that their "freedoms" have been taken away. It seems to me that the only freedom the Federal Government has taken away from these extremists is their right to hate those who do not deserve to be hated. But this is not my point. What these people don't realize is that this is a mighty big nation, watched over by a mighty big God, who expects some mighty big things from us nationally and internationally. And the negative rebellion just doesn't meet these expectations!

But, for the sake of these "freedom-seekers" let us assume that their proposal is not totally negative; and I must ask you to really stretch your imaginations on this one. There are things which must be considered: what each candidate or party has done and what each candidate or party proposes to do.

Now let us analyze the Goldwater side. First we will list the Goldwater achievements in the Senate: an irrigation project for the state of Arizona. Now let us deal with what the "temporary spokesman of the Republican Party," proposes to do: restore free enterprise. My first question: how? By repealing laws, he says, making them. My second question: which laws?

Of course, to be fair we must look to the other side—the present administration. Since 1961, industrial production is up 25%, and profits (after taxes) is up 62%. Taxes have been cut by nine billion dollars. By extension of the Social Security Act, nine out of ten working Americans now enjoy Social Security protection, and more than 10 million older Americans are receiving benefits. Gas rates are being lowered. A "War on Poverty" program has begun. A Peace Corps has been established. "The Library Services and Construction Act" is providing poor counties with adequate library facilities. Favorable REA legislation is assuring more and more farmers and rural dwellers with modern electricity. Good crops bring good prices through the Government Farm Subsidy Program. The Manpower and Training Act is providing unemployed workers the opportunity to learn new skills. Must I go on?

I can only hope that all clearthink Americans will look more deeply into the issues that a few have been (namely the Goldwaters), for such a search into the depths of what America means—where it is and where it is going—will reveal that there is more to solving our problems than a flamboyant, unproductive "negative revolution".

## Cluster Battlefield

The Cluster is happy to see that the Republicans have finally come across with some material for our pages. We were sorry not to have had any pro-Goldwater columns last week, but, as was obvious, we were prepared to print the material we received, all of which was in support of President Johnson. As we stated in our editorial announcing the Cluster's political neutrality, we hope to make our pages a political battleground. We also said that should any one party have more space than its opponent, it would be due to the failure of the latter (last week, the G O P) to submit any material by Sunday night. We think that finally, in this issue, we have something resembling the battlefield for which we had hoped.

For GOP Opinion, see letters on page 3 and 'Which Future' on page 4.

## Bells Bells Bells

The Norman Luboff choir was singing an air by the composer Delius, Willingham chapel was full of students, faculty members, and other Maconites, come for an evening with the musical arts which, as Dryden tells us, "will untune the sky."

Delius, however, was not given his full chance to "raise a mortal to the skies," or "draw an angel down," for that composer's message last Wednesday night was most rudely interrupted by the indecent caterwalling of Mercer's ever-vigilant class bells. We would certainly think that there is some way to turn the things off for a few hours, particularly in the chapel building. We most definitely hope that in the future, someone will take such precautions as to insure performers and lecturers who appear on the Willingham chapel stage after class hours that they will not have to put up with such disrupting audible vandalisms as those class bells.

## Letter To The Editor

Editor, The Cluster:  
 Ed Simmons' defense of Dr. Otto (Oct. 9) and the resolution of the Mercer Ministerial Association were very timely. It is important that Mercer defend academic freedom and the freedom and aloneness of the individual before his God from any meddlers who would abrogate these basic tenets. Students, faculty, and administration will stand together to prevent outside influences and interests from dictating the content or personnel of our chapel or classroom programs.

Mr. Simmons is quite right when he says, "The college has a duty to present the various sides of issues without laying down the absolute path." Dr. Otto and I have not always been in agreement in regard to our degree of success in achieving this ideal, but I would "fight to the death" for his right to be wrong.

Sincerely,  
 Marshall Daugherty

EDWARD SIMMONS

## bridging the gap

It is very unfortunate that the relationship between many Mercer students and their home churches is precarious. I have heard many laments concerning the inadequacy of Baptist churches from students who feel that their experiences at Mercer have been "growth in the Spirit." And the students are not the only ones complaining. The leaders of many Baptist churches are attacking the University as betraying the "old time religion." Actually, neither side is completely right or wrong.

I wish to suggest several reasons why there is a gap between student and church. And I hope to outline a policy to suit the problem.

The student is often at fault in his critical but uninvolved attitude. Having long harbored rebellion, many students use the dabbling of theology that they receive in the basic Christianity courses as the excuse to unleash resentment otherwise founded. Some rebel out of downright immaturity in spite of teacher and parents. Suddenly some students feel themselves above their past. Losing sight of the real significance of their church life, they lapse into inactive criticism. Such criticism of course goes unheeded because it takes the form of the unreasonable and the insincere.

The church is not without fault. The church often disparages the reevaluating of the old positions. In the face of a growing number of college students who demand more because they question rather than absorb, the church has refused to meet the challenge of adding new depth to the "old time religion."

Therefore, for the sake of the student as well as the denomination, I suggest that new steps be taken. First, I would suggest that both acknowledge that God may have spoken to the other. Neither gives due recognition and understanding. Students, then, must stop their aimless criticism and begin working constructively within the churches. When there is dissatisfaction, they should express what is lacking in a spirit of humility and offer alternatives.

In the same spirit of humility, the churches should welcome the demands of the students for improvement. They must not defensively assert that what applied thirty years ago still applies.

The churches bear the greatest burden in the problem, for whether students are incorporated in the spirit of Christian love depends greatly on the understanding and love shown by the church. This love is the debt of the Church even to the insincere and rebellious.

SAM ONI

## who cares

The time is 5 p.m. as you enter the cafeteria for your evening meal. Of course, you know supper isn't served until 5:30 p.m., but you remember the harrowing experience of yesterday and the day before and you don't want to take chances.

Yesterday as you came into the cafeteria, there were only a handful of students already on the line. The time was 5:15 p.m. You had come this early to avoid the rush. But as the minutes ticked by you noticed that the line in front of you was gradually growing thicker and larger. Then it suddenly dawned on you that most of the tables in the halls were being taken by diners, but somehow you didn't seem to be making any progress towards the kitchen. A glance at your watch told you that you had been standing at the same spot for thirty-five minutes.

You wondered why. Was the kitchen to blame for this snail pace? No, the kitchen always does a brisk job of serving. The real culprits were the unprincipled group of students who find nothing wrong in flouting established rules and conventions. These conceited "brothers" and "sisters" couldn't care less about the

feeling of the fellow students. They have the audacity to not only break the line but also to actually walk straight into the kitchen to get their meal.

You are still on the same spot as those who walked in only a few minutes ago return their empty trays to the kitchen. Naturally you are beginning to lose your patience. In righteous indignation you wonder if you should not follow the disgraceful example of people who have little sense of fair play and break the line. You decide that you won't because two wrongs don't make one right, and also because you are considerate of the feelings of others. Meanwhile you are smarting with a burning anger and numbing hunger. Finally you get your tray of food—after fifty-five minutes of waiting.

So today you think you are smart and you go in half an hour ahead of time. Today, you are lucky—only half a dozen broken the line in front of you. You get your tray and settle down to eat. All in all, it took you just forty-five minutes. Some improvement!

REVIEW BY BILL DAYTON

## Luboff Choir "Excellent"

The Norman Luboff Choir presented its audience with an excellently varied musical fare last Wednesday night when it began Mercer's concert series for this year.

We thought that the opening number was somewhat disappointing as Sjolund's "Christ Is Risen" bears just enough resemblance to Handel's work on the same theme in "Messiah" for Sjolund's piece to pale in the comparison which it invites.

However, this becomes unimportant as one listens to the rest of the program. The first section, of Latin hymns, reaches a climax with "Exultate Justi In Domino." The next part of the program makes a gentle change of pace, presenting a series of madrigals and airs, with a surprise ending in the form of "Geographical Fugue".

The most curious pieces in the first two sections of the program were Leering's "O Filii et Filiae," with its double chorus and the unexpected quick pauses which gave it a jazz-spiritual effect, and Toch's "Geographical Fugue" with its dream-like web of (sung) place names.

High point of the program, we thought, was Luboff's presentation of Vivaldi's "Gloria." The accompaniment (obviously meant for harpsichord) was very nicely handled on a grand piano. The arrangement and direction were flawless save for the first Grand Pause which was a few seconds too long and so confused some members of the audience that they mistook the end of a movement for the end of the

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