

# The Mercer Cluster

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JOHN WEATHERLY

## some kind of nut

Once upon a time when the Cluster office was a newspaper office with nothing out of the way but a Buddha and a few strands of string, sanity prevailed.

Not now. No, not now. Now the melody of Mozart, Mantovani and Percy Faith. And over it all the shrill pronouncements of the youth responsible for it all. Pacing, of course, always pacing.

George, certainly no match for him, bade him "hush."

"Nevermouck. "Goldwaterism is the apex of nothink," George thrust.

Pacing, pacing, then "I'm frigid to that as you can see," the Fuhrer answered, and kept on pacing.

"Could I borrow one of Jones' revolvers?" George turned to me.

"Take heart," I said. "He provides a column—and—a moral."

"You see, he's not the first of the Birch crew. Sometime back there was a similar nut. He put out his own paper, the Patriot, he called. People frowned. People didn't contribute. And he failed.

"Later a Cluster editor thought the rather liberal editorial page needed balance—something from the right. So he asked this chap to contribute. He did. He had an outlet. And he flourished.

"His thought improved with each issue. He reflected upon the commie threat, but more so more from sources other than the Birch Book. Courses in Russian were established here and he took them.

"Now he's doing graduate work in history. Russian history. He has a future.

"He was some kind of nut, George, but he was given enough rope—and someday he'll probably be a damn good scholar."

BERNARD LINDSEY



## the vice of socialism

## Letters To The Editor

Dear Mr. Dayton:

I had supported Miss Diana Denton's attack on lunchroom food, but I did not approve of her action Friday night. I refer, of course, to her taking a job behind the serving counter, supposedly to help out a friend and enable her to go home. I feel that in doing this, your columnist humiliated herself and unspeakingly, expressed approval of cafeteria fare.

For once I approve Mrs. Maddox's habit of sticking her nose in where it wasn't either wanted or necessary, for in this case it resulted in the firing of Miss Denton. Mercer has too few student leaders for one of Miss Denton's stature to lose face. I thank Mrs. Maddox for stepping in before this could happen.

I furthermore hope—and I know I speak for the majority, if not the entirety of the student body in saying this—I hope that Miss Denton will continue to write her attacks and you to publish them, until something is done. Chili, brussels sprouts, and beets just don't get it!

Thank you,  
J. A.

Dear Sir:

I must commend the "Mercer Cluster" for its keen observation of Mercer and its problems. Through the influence of the paper, there have been many improvements and alterations to our University. Once again, the paper has noted a major problem in our school. This problem is the quality and condition of the meals that are served in the cafeteria. Since my arrival on this campus, I have noted that by keen observation one can actually tell the days of the week by the meals served. Sunday is the day for fried chicken and Monday at lunch we have soup and sandwiches. Tuesday is pot luck, and usually without luck. Wednesday is the day for hamburgers. And on Friday, we have the basic Baptist requirements—fish or shrimp.

Saturday night's meal is the most original—hot dogs, usually not so hot. Surely it seems that the cafeteria could learn to vary its meals. Every so often a decent meal could be served.

Seriously, not all the meals are bad, but some of them are not good either.

A college student needs nourishment as well as an enjoyable meal. Well-planning and originality can make a meal very enjoyable. Also, if food is served hot, it would add greatly.

As far as the incident that occurred Friday night in the cafeteria—it was uncalled for. No one should be asked to leave from working in the cafeteria just because he openly dislikes the food.

I am sure the cafeteria is open for suggestions even though they don't openly appear so. We are sure that the university administration notes the student's problems and is always conscientiously attempting to solve them.

**EDITORS NOTE**—The above is a sampling of student opinion regarding the food served here. Several letters were not printed on the grounds of their rather unprintable language; we think their sentiment is adequately expressed by the above. In general, MERCER CLUSTER sympathizes with these opinions, but does not endorse them. Rather, we would call for constructive suggestions and for understanding of the cafeteria administration's problems which have engendered the opinions above, and hope to see some solution worked out.

Enough has been said and written about the lunchroom to indicate that some broad and sweeping changes are needed. That the University should compel its resident students to line up like sheep for food they don't want is preposterous.

I am extremely fortunate to live off campus, it for no other reason than my freedom of choice to eat where I please, what I please, as I please, and when I please. Twice in three years I have eaten in the lunchroom and twice I have vowed to never eat there again.

It is not a question of food not fit to be served nearly so much as a question of academic freedom. The measure of a university's excellence corresponds to the degree of liberty it affords its students. Even if the food were palatable in the extreme, the students should have the right not to eat it and not to pay for it.

This breach of academic freedom is the very

reason why the lunchroom is so bad. If other places were permitted to compete with it for students' dollars, it would either have to get fast or go out of business, instead of being afforded a privileged monopoly by the inaccessible and unfair Mercer bureaucracy and the entrenched campus power structure.

Only the strong can survive in a free market and only the weak need special favors. As it is the weak are exploiting the strong and the rich, with the Mercer student body paying the bill for this liberal holiday.

As a test of its courage and quality, the lunchroom should accept my dare to enter the free market of competition, as soon as possible. Then the students might have food served them again. Otherwise the lunchroom will no longer need worry about expansion and can turn its attention to reduction.

## EDWARD SIMMONS

### Bridging The Gap #2

## another try

The recent call attributed by some to Louie Newton to root Bultmannism out of Mercer points again to the gap between the Church and the student. Of late, this separation has become more apparent through the efforts of some to purge Baptist seminaries and Mercer. Holding high the banner of orthodoxy, they challenge "heretical influences" which they feel are leading the innocent student astray. To their chagrin, however, the issue is not orthodoxy. The basis is in fact in the approach to education. The question is whether Mercer will be a liberal arts college or a point of indoctrination.

Those who favor the purges represent the indoctrinational method. This is apparent in such cries as that which Louie Newton is alleged to have made. Akin to this is the last plea of the parents before their precious child leaves for school: "Please don't let God-less professors upset your faith."

This obviously is not the approach taken at Mercer or any other institution serious about the task of education. Mercer indoctrinates neither Bultmann or the "Sunday School faith." Instead, the student is expected to read widely in both camps and to understand the importance of the issues raised by both. This approach discards the fear that leads to indoctrination for student responsibility. Rather than soaking up absolutes, students are expected to evaluate intelligently.

Any decision of commitment depends upon the student and cannot be laid at the feet of the instructors.

In this light, the purges are actions of fear. Fear to let students decide for themselves what they will believe, fear that the students in this age of independence will become independent of parental control, fear that a look at both sides may point to a deficiency in what has been taught to be accepted without question.

Furthermore, the purges are a contradiction of the doctrine of "priesthood of the believer." This has been discussed in a previous article, yet the point has still not been taken. Baptists profess to believe that the individual believer will be guided by the Holy Spirit in understanding scriptures and therefore needs no priest or church to outline what he must interpret. Baptists also supposed to believe that Christ will present His own. "Once saved, always saved," is the traditional phrasing. Nevertheless, some leading Baptists persist in contradiction, in confessing to be defending orthodoxy. Again the root is fear and even lack of faith.

Though the approach is wrong, perhaps those who are disturbed are pointing to a matter that needs further consideration on another level. Next week let us do that in order to find why students react as they do and where the fault lies.

## Tuition Increase . . .

(Continued from page 1)

He submitted the following comparative figures of charges at other private schools in Georgia and surrounding states:

COLLEGE	Location	Tuition & Fees	Room & Board	Total
Georgetown	Kentucky	\$ 641	\$ 660	\$1291
Richmond	Virginia	810	695	1505
Wake Forest	North Carolina	750	700	1450
Furman	South Carolina	850	800	1650
Carson-Newman	Tennessee	650	583	1233
Mercer	Georgia	825	630	1455
Howard	Alabama	774	645	1419
Mississippi College	Mississippi	534	499	1033
Stetson	Florida	1,000	715	1715
Emory	Georgia	1,095	825	1920
LaGrange	Georgia	825	675	1500
Agnes Scott	Georgia	1,125	1,000	2125

Wesleyan	Georgia	900	850	1750
Brenau	Georgia	604	980	1584

Mr. Haywood also announced that the Connell Student Center will be enlarged this summer to provide added dining service space. The walls of the cafeteria will be extended towards Roberts Hall to provide an additional 14,000 square feet for the cafeteria, kitchen, private dining areas, meeting rooms, and other activity needs.

This addition will provide space for a third cafeteria serving line to expedite food service operation.

Mr. Haywood said this will afford the opportunity to move from a policy requiring the purchase of

meal tickets by all resident students, to a policy of offering a choice of contract food service or a la carte food service. Students will be offered a choice, and resident students will not be required to purchase meal tickets.

In other areas, Mr. Haywood announced that housemothers will be placed in three of the four men's residence halls, and some additional refurbishing will be done in the men's and women's residence halls this summer.

The housemothers will reside in Sherwood Hall, Shorter Hall, and

the new freshman residence hall. Roberts Hall will be reserved for law students.

The business manager pointed out that the housemothers are necessary in the interest of proper residence hall living and management.

The double deck beds in Sherwood Hall will be replaced with pull-out bed loungers similar to those in the other men's residence halls.

The metal furniture in Bob Hall and Porter Hall will be painted, and study desks in Dowell Hall will be refurbished with formica tops.