

# The Mercer Cluster

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EDITOR IN CHIEF  
Diana Denton

ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
Sidney Moore



BUSINESS MANAGER  
Lee O'Brien

## The Draft

It was recently brought to our attention that the bowls of catsup, mustard, jam, etc. in the cafeteria are placed neatly beneath the air conditioner intake duct. We went down to check, and sure enough, the airs of the dining hall are being sucked right over the open bowls of food.

The Cluster has some doubts regarding the pristine purity of air which has been breathed, talked through, smoked in, and walked through by hundreds of Mercer students, and though it may be that not even they can contaminate air sufficiently, we would be happier to see the tables with bowls of dressing moved to some spot a little further away from the intake duct.

## "Speaking Out"

Commendation is due the parties responsible for adjusting the speaker system in the rear of Willingham Chapel so that the speaker on the stage can now be heard distinctly. It is a little more difficult to sleep or study in the rear of the chapel now that words, rather than a comforting murmur, come from the stage, but perhaps the good will outweigh the bad. Perhaps this innovation will even

help to drown out the noise of the lawn-mowers and carpenters outside the building. But, as the bad inevitably follows the good, a new noise has been created by the improvement. Those used-to-be whisperers in the rear seats have turned to overt conversation in retaliation for the speakers' interference. Perhaps some day a method will be found to eliminate even this.

## "In The Dark"

When the lights went out Tuesday (it was just a power failure, not, as has been rumored, the result of an unpaid light bill) we were quite pleased to see the cafeteria staff bring out candles in ornate candelabra to light the serving line. It was very pleasant, as was the darkened dining hall.

We also were quite aware of a quieter, more restrained atmosphere while the lights were out, and noticed that everyone started talking louder and making more noise within 30 seconds after the lights went back on.

It occurs to the Cluster that the cafeteria administration might do well to buy a few more candlesticks and candles, close all the curtains, and keep at least most of the lights turned off in the dining room and serving line during the evening and afternoon meals. Going by the events of last Tuesday, and recalling the comments of students at other schools where dining hall lights have been turned out or down, we would suggest that Mercer improve her dining hall by maintaining the atmosphere of last Tuesday.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Campus Unity in BSU

Editor, The Cluster:

The letter is a challenge to you as Mercer students to help Mercer University regain its lost status as a Christian campus composed of dedicated men and women who are endeavoring to find a better understanding of the world around us.

"But what can we as fraternity members do?" you may ask.

The answer is: "A lot!" There is no denying the fact that the fraternities and sororities compose the majority of the student body, and therefore you have a tremendous influence over the students.

As you know, there has been much talk that Mercer is being outdone by other colleges in manifesting a unified spirit. What Mercer needs is a unified outlet wherein all can join together for the common good; an outlet wherein all can come together without fear of being sanctioned by others.

The Mercer Baptist Student Union exists for the purpose of not only trying to link the church and the campus together and provide devotional services, but also to provide a way in which all Christians can come together and have fellowship with each other, regardless of fraternity, sorority or other organizational ties.

We must put "group exclusiveness" behind us, and support the various activities sponsored by the B.S.U. The various leaders of other

campus organizations should push the B.S.U. and get their members to understand its true purpose.

Let's put Mercer back in her place as a unified, harmonious and Christian atmosphere. Let's make our campus such that we'll be "all with one accord in Christ."

Bobby Cook

Ed. Note: According to Dean Helen Glenn, the Greek organizations on the Mercer campus comprise "almost 50 per cent" of the student body. Perhaps the Baptist Student Union would be a good medium through which our student body could achieve the unity so essential to campus life.

### The Risers and Fallers

It has recently been pointed out to the Cluster office the dangers inherent in the risers of 314. During a particularly rousing sermon on the fall of man, our vesper victim found himself "looking up" all right—after the abrupt stop of a fall from the third tier. Perhaps someone might look into this as they check his insurance claim. And a three or four inch edging nailed along the back and sides of the row might stop the sliding chairs and their falling occupants.

## NOTICE

The pre-registration fee of \$50.00 for on-campus students and \$25.00 for off-campus students is due by May 1. Any paying after that date will be assessed a ten dollar fine. This money must be paid in order to reserve a place next year.

DIANA DENTON

## The Invisible Crew

"And is that Woman all her crew? . . . And are there two?" Our associate Editor jokingly

## Honor System ?

Day after day this story is repeated around Mercer. In Roberts, Sherwood, Shorter Halls, Porter, Dowell, Boone, and the new Freshman Dormitory, rooms are entered and the thief makes his haul. The girls are usually lucky—their Demetrius seldom takes more than the cash or coins, leaving the purse and other contents intact. But other things mysteriously disappear: jewelry, shoes, clothing, books, stamps. Nothing of value seems to be exempt. Complaints pile up in the offices of Student Personnel. Signs appear on dorm doors and bulletin boards around campus. But still the blight goes on, spreading like the cankerous disease it is. Nobody is safe and apparently God alone knows who is to blame.

Apparently the culprits fail to realize this is more than a matter of honesty. The question of honor, of principle, is involved as well. Besides the inconvenience involved in locking the door each time you leave the room, and unlocking it to re-enter, is the matter of how far you can trust your fellow student.

Mercer supposedly accepts only the best—those of the highest caliber character, on the basis of their personal record and references, as well as grades. To be accepted here, then, is an honor.

But how much is that honor—and the honor of the individual student—worth, as long as such deplorable dishonesty continues? Aren't each of us responsible in part? As widespread as the stealing seems to be, there has to be more than one involved.

Perhaps the student who needs so much to supplement his allowance is not aware that there are jobs available at school and downtown. We recommend a talk then with Dean Hendricks. Mercer is more than willing to do its part to help such needy individuals. Work may be degrading, but it is much less so than having to resort to theft. Or maybe he should learn to win at pool, or become really proficient at some game of chance. These are hardly recommended hobbies, but at least they beat picking pockets.

Finally, the Division of Student Personnel advises students to exercise caution in leaving coats and umbrellas in the Student Center. London Fogs have disappeared as mysteriously as does real fog before the sun, and in great number, which doesn't help out much with our many Macon rains.

## U. of Hawaii Sets Summer Program

Dr. Robert E. Cralle, Executive Director of The Adler University Study Tour to Hawaii, has announced that reservations for the 1965 Summer Session Program to the University of Hawaii are entering the final acceptance period before closing on May 15, 1965.

The Annual Program departs to Honolulu via Pan American World Airways Boeing 707 Jet on June 19 from San Francisco, Los Angeles and Seattle. Program members will return to the Mainland August 1. Special rates for teachers. Students rates begin at \$549 for the 44 day program and include transpacific transportation, deluxe Waikiki Beach hotel accommodations and 22 planned

social and sightseeing activities.

Complete information, Dr. Cralle advises, is detailed in a 24-page Bulletin that gives all necessary travel information, including forms for making application.

Students and teachers wishing to apply for Summer Session Study at the University of Hawaii on this Program should write to Dr. Robert E. Cralle at the Program's headquarters: The Adler University Study Tour to Hawaii, 345 Stockton Street, San Francisco, California.

## Trustees Seek Science Funds

The Mercer University Board of Trustees has requested that the Georgia Baptist Convention initiate a new capital gifts program, and that provisions be made in the new program for the allocation of funds to Mercer for construction of a new science facility.

The current Capital Gifts Program of the Convention expires this year. It provides only for endowment grants to Baptist colleges in the convention, the revenue from which is to be used for construction and renovation of physical plant.

The new program requested by the Trustees would provide Mercer

spoke of the "invisible crew" of the good ship Cluster as he wrote, then typed, then edited his half of this, our first joint effort, while in the corner Yours Truly madly phoned to try and find out what was going and had gone on around campus so Mercer's non-cooperating student body would be kept informed. The Greeks came in as usual—their reports were as invisible as our staff—in spite of things like open houses, Old South balls, relays and campus sings. The fact that these events were covered is to the credit of a hard-working two or three who heard rumors that fraternities and sororities occasionally do something at Mercer. Please thank your reporters for the excellent jobs they do.

Organizations, also, seemed to have taken the vow to silence, despite our attempts to ferret information. Thank goodness for Mrs. Vance and her Phi Beta Lambda!

Rome was not built in a day, nor, I guess, were paper staffs or policies of co-operation. But here's a plea: please let us know what your club or fraternity is doing; just a list of facts if there's no time to write a story. If you're not doing anything, let us know that, too. "no news" is news indeed!

## Cluster Editor Leaves Country

Miss Diana Denton has been awarded a scholarship for the coming summer which will involve a trip to Turkey. The scholarship was granted by the Experiment in International Living.

Diana will remain in Turkey for four weeks and while there will spend two weeks in the home of Turkish family and the remainder touring the country with a member of the family she visits. Prior to her trip Miss Denton will attend a brief training session in Putney, Vt., to acquaint her with the language and customs of the Turkish people.

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funds on a matching basis, at least one-half of which would be in cash rather than endowment. A special committee of the Trustees, headed by Dr. Montague Cook of Moultrie, would study the program and coordinate with the Convention.

Dr. Rufus Harris pointed out the meeting of the Trustees that there is a great need for additional science facilities at Mercer. It is to remain competitive in the modern age. The estimated cost of putting Mercer "in the running," he said, would be \$1,250,000, from terms of the cost of plant facilities.

The Mercer president and trustees also requested that a study be directed toward the problem of federal loans and grants for the construction of educational facilities on Baptist campuses. Be said he believed that the current fear of federal funds among Baptist laymen was really a result of dislike of the federal government and not a result of belief in separation of church and state.

## TERM PAPERS, THESES, ETC.

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