



Harris Calls for Higher Education Standards



Dr. Rufus Carrollton Harris, president of Mercer University, said Friday that this is a time to "educate or perish," and asserted that "most of the students in Georgia's schools and colleges are not pushed to work near enough to their full capacity."

Speaking to members of the Ft. Valley Kiwanis Club, he went on to say that this is not confined to Georgia or the South. "This natural condition contributes to our national danger, because good education now lies at the heart of our hope and purpose," he said.

The Mercer president added that there are three primary causes for this inadequacy of student effort:

1. An indifference of parents to the unremitting need for disciplined effort by their children.
2. The dissipative power of community trivia, plus the lack of knowledge by community, church and political leaders of the difference between good and bad education.

3. The fact that so many of the good educational institutions have not rearranged their processes to stimulate the highest, instead of minimum student effort.

Dr. Harris pointed out that "honors" programs of work for the talented student is one way to produce this improved opportunity for the millions enrolled in high schools, colleges and universities. "By 'honors' programs I mean special educational programs that both discover talent and challenge it," he said. "Such programs can range from small discussion sessions to large interdisciplinary courses, and special or regular faculty may be used."

The Mercer president said that two chief fundamentals of "honors" programs are a belief in the inter-relationship and interconnection of all knowledge; and an insistence that students fulfill their potential. He added that "the problem is not necessarily how to give something to the best students alone . . . but rather to set in motion a force for change that will spur the institution as a whole to strive to make

as many students as possible into first-rate ones."

Dr. Harris noted that the idea of "honors" work is not new. "What is new," he said, "is the scale on which the programs at this moment should be designed, in view of their need."

The prominent educator pointed out that everyone should welcome in honors work the effort to give new and significant importance to the individual.

"The individual in our society has become lost and too much ignored," he added.

He went on to say "the knowledge of a nation's citizens is a nation's treasure, and it grows when it is adequately shared."

The Mercer president asserted that the time may come when the United States cannot fight poverty and the Viet Cong at the same time, but he added that "one of the distortions coming out of the Viet Nam debate is the suggestion that the American contemporary attack on poverty and ignorance

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Mercer In High Spirits For Homecoming 1966

Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity's float, built around the theme "Mercer Moves with the Sands of Time", won top honors last Saturday in the annual Toby and Tot Parade, held in observance of Toby and Tot Week-end, climaxing Homecoming Week. Tied for second place were the Alpha Delta Pi float, depicting a balance between knowledge and school spirit, and the Alpha Tau Omega entry, showing the Mercer bear pulling the Georgia Baptist Convention toward the goal of federal aid.

The Lambda Chi float depicted the progress of Mercer from Penfield through the portals of Time to the present campus and further, into the future. The float was highlighted by a nine-foot model of the Administration building and an elaborately worked reproduction of the Mercer seal, formed from black, orange, and white crepe paper.

Eleven floats sponsored by the social organizations on the Mercer campus were entered in the parade, each depicting some aspect of the theme, "Mercer on the Move". Leading the parade was a car carrying LaRose Powell, the current Miss Mercer, followed by school dignitaries and the Mercer cheerleaders. Next came the Toby and Tot car carrying Steve Moody this year's Toby, and the Mercer Bear. Janie Baker, who was elected Tot; was unable to participate in the parade due to injuries which she received in an auto accident. Janie is a sophomore from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, and Steve, a junior, is a star basketball player from Blackshear, Georgia. Toby and Tot are chosen from those students who are nominated as best exemplifying Mercer spirit.

Tommy Day Wilcox, director of the Student Union and a former Toby, said, "In my judgment this was the best Toby and Tot parade in the last five years. All the floats were well constructed and their themes were unique. This was a



THE BEST: Lambda Chi — First Place; ADPi and ATO — Second Place Tie.

great show of Mercer school spirit on the move."

A large crowd lined the sidewalks of Cherry Street to view the floats and to pay tribute to Toby and Tot. After the parade came the job of taking the floats apart and preparing for the dance at McKenna Armory, which ended the Homecoming Week. Entertaining at the dance were the "Orlons" backed up by the "Embers".

Whitaker Speaks On World Affairs

Dr. Urban Whitaker, professor of international relations at San Francisco State College, told an overflow audience in Mercer's Connell Student Center that some form of world government is unavoidable. His talk last Monday evening was sponsored by the Macon Council on World Affairs and was followed by a lively question and answer session.

"We are approaching a basic unification of mankind," said the scholar and author. "Since economic and political organizations must match advancing technology, we are rapidly moving into an era where world government is inevitable."

Dr. Whitaker was born in Kansas and took his undergraduate degree at Occidental College in 1946. He spent the next two years in language study at the College of Chinese Studies in Peking. He received his doctorate from the University of Washington in 1954. In addition to being professor of international relations at San Francisco State College, he is the visiting professor at the University of South Carolina for this year. Aside from his academic duties Dr. Whitaker has written six books.

Council President Weyman C. Huckabee presided at the meeting and announced the appointment of nine new members to the Council's steering committee. Among these were Dean Garland Taylor and James Arnall, Jr., both of Mercer. The purpose of the Council is to secure speakers on topics of international interest in order to stimulate local interest and awareness.

Phi Delta Gains Ground

The Phi Delta society which sponsored yesterday's speeches for and against the U. S. commitment in Viet Nam is at the same time among the oldest and newest organizations on the Mercer campus.

Organized in 1834, shortly after the Ciceronian Society, the Phi Delta Society was recently reorganized, having been disbanded in 1936. Law Student Sidney Moore has been elected president of the Phi Deltas and plans to build the Society's membership and sponsor discussions and debates on literary and political topics.

In Penfield days, the Phi Deltas, like the Ciceronians, had their own building, a towered "gingerbread" structure which burned shortly before the university moved to Macon; and, like the Ciceronians, the Phi Deltas held frequent meetings to debate and discuss literature and politics.

From the beginning, the Phi Deltas were the chief rivals of the Ciceronian Society. Both organizations held debates frequently, recording carefully everything that went on. The library has the minutes of the two societies going back into the 1830's. Among the questions discussed in the early days were "Was Brutus Justified in Killing Caesar?" and "Should Texas be Admitted to the Union?" A list of the society's honorary members included General Robert E. Lee.

Wednesday's speeches resulted from a challenge issued by the Phi Deltas to the Ciceronians "and other interested parties." Phi Delta president Moore hopes to resume the rivalry between the societies in hope of engendering more interest

in both. Membership in the society is open to all Mercer students who do not belong to the Ciceronian Society.

Calendar of Events

- MAR. 3:
6:30—Circle K
7:00—Appalachian Volunteers
7:00—SNEA
- MAR. 4:
10:00—Choir, Chapel
3:30—Phi Mu Founder's Day Tea
7:30—"North to Alaska"
7:30—BSU Banquet
- MAR. 5:
MIMA Car Wash
8:00—Chi O Pledge—Sister Dance
8:00—MIMA Dance, Jonesco
- MAR. 6:
3:00—Choir, "King David and Bach Cantata"
7:30—Forum, 314 SC
8:00—Newman Club
- MAR. 7:
3:00—Sponsor's Day Parade
7:00—SNEA
- MAR. 8:
7:00—Eta Sigma Iota
7:00—Ciceronian, 314 SC
- MAR. 9:
10:00—IFC, CSF
8:30—Peter Nero, Chapel
- MAR. 10:
10:00—Chapel, Dr. Otto

BSU BEGINS NEW SESSION

Friday evening at 7:00 the Mercer Baptist Student Union will hold its annual banquet at the Tannal Square Church Educational Building. The guest speaker will be E. Warren Woolf, Secretary of Special Mission Ministries of the Home Mission Board. Also to be presented at the meeting is "The Grasshopper, a Tragic Tale," performed by the Mercer Opera Company. Tickets are now on sale for one dollar and everyone is invited.

At the B.S.U. meeting Wednesday February 23, 1966, the following officers were elected:

President—Ronnie Jones, Vice-President—Cathy Talton, Secretary—Jackie Knox, Treasurer—Bill George, Enlistment Chairman—David Clark, Social Chairman—Laura Helton, Publicity Chairman—Sandra Griffin, Summer Missions Chairman—Carolyn Cook, Music Chairman—Rocky Davis, Historian—Hope Slaton, Vesper Committee Chairman—Nina Bean, Convention Chairman—Joe Shank, Cluster Reporter—Billie Uelton, "Baptist Bear" Editor—Jerry Johnson, Faculty Advisor—Dr. Bill Glover, Pastor Advisor—Rev. Albert Cardwell.

The Cluster wishes to express its deepest condolences to Auburn University upon the recent death of its newspaper editor.

The CLUSTER wishes to apologize to Lambda Chi Alpha for failing to include the name of their Tot candidate in last week's issue.

Volunteers Needed For Poverty Program

Five hundred college students are needed to work in the Appalachian Mountains in remedial, educational, community action, and recreation programs for 9 weeks this summer. This is part of the Appalachian Volunteers Program. The program is administered by the Council of the Southern Mountains, Inc., a non-profit organization, and is financed by a grant from the Office of Economic Opportunity.

The Council was organized in 1913 and has been working in the Appalachian South ever since through the Appalachian Volunteers it placed much-needed library books in one-room schools. The Volunteers are now obtaining kitchen equipment for the schools to prepare hot lunches.

Mr. Fred Strache will be on the Mercer campus on the afternoon and evening of Thursday, March 3, to talk to interested students. Two meetings will be held at 3:30 and at 7:00 in Room 314 S. C.