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The Blood Drive Is On Its Way

The Vietnam blood drive is not dead, but very much alive and kicking.

Early next week pledge cards—and parents' permission slips for those under twenty-one—will be distributed. These may be picked up from Agnes Jones' desk in the Student Center. The definite date has not yet been set for distribution, since they are currently being shipped to the Macon Red Cross from the Atlanta chapter; but they will be available before Thursday, Mar. 10.

Those people who need parental permission may find spring vacation a convenient time to get it. Those not requiring permission and/or able to get it earlier will please return the forms to Agnes as soon as possible. (You may fill the card out on the spot if you like.) Staple or clip the pledge card and permission slip together when they are both returned.

The latest date that they may be returned is Wednesday, March 30. All pledge cards and permission slips must be in by that date.

Much of the groundwork has already been laid. First of all, all the donated blood will go to the servicemen in Vietnam; none can be kept for civilian use or for use by servicemen in other areas.

Also, the drive is not being drummed up only to be forgotten. A bloodmobile from Atlanta is scheduled for the Mercer campus sometime during spring quarter. (Tentative dates have been proposed and are pending selection.) This is the first time in twelve (12) years that Macon has rated a bloodmobile!

We must emphasize the importance of all able people giving. Those folks who deny that Mercer has any gumption are going to have to put up or shut up. This campus-wide movement can make school spirit and morale soar. More important, it's an opportunity to do something constructive for Vietnam. But it's going to take lots of cooperation.

May we reiterate: This is a campus-wide movement. All students—unaffiliated or no—all professors (age is irrelevant, that's no excuse), all lawyers, all alumni, all administrative personnel should seriously consider the sacrifice . . . then sign up.

The Red Cross cannot schedule a bloodmobile until we have at least 300 pledges. Out of 1400 students plus the rest of the population this is nothing. It would surprise a few people if we blew the roof off this thing with more than 500.

Now. It's up to you.

Orphan Still Adopted?

Back in 1955, ADPi, Chi O, and Phi Mu joined forces. (AGD had not then been organized.) Pooling their yearly budget intended for pledge parties, the sororities adopted a World War II war orphan named Madeline Loeffler.

Madeline was born in Senaones (Vosges), France on March 17, 1945. She and a brother three years her senior were complete orphans. Their father was sent to Germany for forced labor in 1942 but was allowed back into France on leave to be married the same year.

The young groom refused to return to Germany and for two years successfully kept hidden. In September, 1944, he was arrested and deported to a Russian concentration camp. No further news was ever heard from him.

Madeline's mother died when the child was born; and the little girl lived with her grandparents until her grandfather was deported to Dachau never to return.

This March will be her 21st birthday. If the sororities are still associated with her, this would be an excellent opportunity to unify Panhellenic spirit and to improve international relations.

HALLELUJAH CORNER

Our cup runneth over.

Many thanks to the powers that be for the miraculous renovation of MEP's rec room. From a grubby, roach-infested chamber to the present luxuriously carpeted studio is an awfully long way.

Not only did we get new furniture, but the walls were repainted and papered. Floor length drapes replaced the rusted blinds, and the kitchen was divided from the washing machines. More than this: the piano's getting tuned.

From grateful residents of Boone, Dowell and Porter, our heartiest and happiest praises.

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

I attended the Mercer Forum on February 20 and must say I enjoyed Mrs. Riera's speech on "A Blueprint for Communist-Socialist Takeover."

However, I left the meeting ashamed of the disrespectful way in which some Mercer students acted during the question-answer period.

Most of them did not raise their hands for a turn but instead burst in on someone else's discussion. One of the students was even so rude as to make an unfriendly remark to Mrs. Riera.

I think that college students should know better and if we want to keep the Mercer Forum going, we MUST know how to act better.

Roger L. Bell

Dear Editor:

After most humbly participating in today's lunch orgy, I feel as if it is my duty, to God and my country, to PROTEST the mutilated meals which have been administered unto the disillusioned Mercer students. I am tired of the cold, moldy pancakes which the cafeteria has been saving since orientation, and the cold eggs and the bitter juices, which I presume are to boost our vitamin deficiency from our "balanced" meals. Lunches aren't really as disgraceful as breakfast.

After one pushes the MOUNDS of starches, the mashed potatoes, the french fried potatoes, the greasy reshaped hash brown potatoes, the baked potatoes, the cold grits, and the green peas, the lima beans, the navy beans, the black-eyed Susan beans, and the beans with the little worms which protrude from the cover of the bean, and the other little monsters from the center of the plate, you come to the main course of the meal: the glob of gristle and fat that the manager of the cafeteria calls MEAT, the hairy chicken leg, the fatty pork chop, the french fried and tri-breaded veal cutlet, and the Friday Bear Burgers from the snack bar. Desert is the best part of our most humble meals.

Instead of receiving pumpkin pie, one receives sweet potato pie. NICE? Oh, and sweet potatoes are another form of starch which I failed to mention a while back. Dinner speaks for itself. Dinner is the mixed left-overs from lunch with a different kind of Mercer Mystery Meat.

Yes, this letter is sarcastic. It is meant to be. What was the occupation of the cafeteria manager before he came to Mercer, a navy cook, a cow boy, or a truck driver?

Ima Protester

Ed. note: I like the food. It sure beats chili and brussel sprouts.

The Larger View



INTERNATIONAL:

JAKARTA, Indonesia, Feb. 21—Gen. Abdul Haris Nasution, leader of the recent purges against the communists in Indonesia following the abortive coup d'etat of early October 1965, was dismissed as Defense Minister by President Sukarno. Gen. Nasution had looked in recent months to be emerging as a new strongman who might have challenged Sukarno's supremacy in Indonesia.

PARIS, Feb. 21—French President de Gaulle announced that France would claim control of all foreign military bases on her soil by April 4, 1969, the date at which member-nations of NATO may first withdraw their membership in that alliance. President de Gaulle also stated explicitly that France would no longer take part in NATO after that date.

SAIGON—It has been announced by the South Vietnamese government that about 96,000 men have deserted from the South Vietnamese armed forces in the last year. This figure is equal to approximately half of the number of U. S. troops presently in South Vietnam. The actual number of desertions reported was somewhat higher, but some of the men returned to fighting after deserting. Most of the deserters were originally volunteers and had apparently returned to their villages.

JAMPALA, Uganda, Feb. 22—Prime Minister Milton Obote announced today that he has assumed "all powers of the Government of Uganda" and that five members of his cabinet had been arrested, apparently for challenging Obote's authority. Obote also said that he will rule with the advice of a council "whose members I shall name later."

SYRIA, Feb. 23—Left-wing army officers overthrew the Baath Socialist government in Lebanon in a pre-dawn coup d'etat. Later in the day the "Young Turks" who were apparently in charge of the coup announced that all the top men in the former government and the controlling Baathist Party had been arrested, and that the new government would speed up the country's march toward socialism.

ACCRA, Ghana, Feb. 24—In a pre-dawn coup d'etat led by army Col. E. K. Kotoka, the government of President Kwame Nkrumah was ousted and Nkrumah removed from the presidency. At the time of the revolution Nkrumah was in Peking on a "peace mission" to North Vietnam. What type of government will come out of this coup is not yet known, but it is assumed that it will be more moderate than that of Nkrumah's communist-oriented regime.

LONDON, Feb. 24—Prime Minister Harold Wilson returned from Moscow after three days of talks with top Soviet officials and admitted that he had gotten nowhere with them on moves to end the war in Vietnam. Apparently however, they did express a willingness to take part in talks with the West on major world problems.

NATIONAL:

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 20—Senator Robert F. Kennedy's apparent proposal that a coalition government to include representatives of the Viet Cong political arm, the National Liberation Front, be created to rule South Vietnam drew strong criticism from members of the U. S. Administration. Under Secretary of State George W. Ball said that any such coalition government would be quickly turned into a communist regime.

McGeorge Bundy, the President's special assistant for national security affairs, criticized Senator Kennedy's stand by quoting from a speech given in Berlin in 1963 by Senator Kennedy's brother, the late President: "I am not impressed by the opportunities open to popular fronts throughout the world . . . I do not believe that any democrat can successfully ride that tiger."

In New Zealand Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey said of Senator Kennedy's proposal: "If my advice were asked, I would oppose it."

Then, on Tuesday, Feb. 22, Senator Kennedy stated that he had meant in his statement that the National Liberation Front should be given recognition and a part in any peace discussions on South Vietnam, and that they should not be automatically excluded or included in any interim South Vietnamese government. He also stated that he remained in agreement with President Johnson as to the steps to achieve a peaceful settlement of the war in Vietnam.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 23—Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara told Congress that the U. S. armed forces Reserves will be called up if the Communists escalate the war any further in Vietnam.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 24—After returning from his Southeast Asia "goodwill" tour, Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey said that he returned from his trip "with a spirit of restrained optimism and confidence" that the communists can be defeated in South Vietnam and that a better life can in the future be built for the people of South Vietnam.

Lauding Carnegie Hall Cafeteria

For the short while that we had the piped-in cafeteria music loud enough to hear, we are humbly grateful. The Cluster wishes to thank whoever is responsible for allowing us the privilege of listening to it—if just for a short time.

However, we somehow lost this boon and are now back to music audible only when the cafeteria is completely vacant. "Melodies unheard" may be sweeter, but we'd rather hear a lower grade than none at all.

Music improves digestion (proven with cows) and soothes frayed nerve endings (proven with harassed collegians). Please strike a blow for better campus spirit by calming us down and cheering us up with music we can hear.

Cinema This Week Stars John Wayne

NORTH TO ALASKA is the film this week. This spoof of he-man action melodrama stars John Wayne, Stewart Granger, Capucine, and Fabian. The plot concerns what happens when Wayne is asked by Granger to bring back his fiancée.

Finding that she is already married, Wayne meets and persuades

Capucine to return with him as a consolation prize for Granger. The film will be shown in Room 314 Student Center at 7:30 on Friday.

HARRIS

Continued from page 1 apparently labeled as a concept of a Great Society must be suspended." He concluded that it is too early to make that decision now.

Dr. Harris said it is unfortunate that the war in Viet Nam is dividing the American people more than any issue of recent years, and he called for support of the national involvement of this encounter.

"The fact is that wisely or unwisely we are in Viet Nam, and we cannot repudiate our national leadership of the past fifteen years which brought us there," he said. "With American troops being under fire we have but one available course, which is to support them by closing ranks and discontinuing the national dissension which could undermine our security."

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