

Exchange Corner

SUPERDRUNK CONTEST

(From the Florida Alligator:)

by Gene Williams

The originality and genius of the American college student has triumphed once again, and this time the University of Fla. takes credit for the victory. In co-operation with Superdrunk magazine, the University is sponsoring its first Alcoholic Man Contest. Representatives are to be chosen from each dormitory and social organization, and these lucky drunks will be judged on the basis of tastes and degree of saturation. Other factors to be considered are types of liquor used, frequency of drunkenness, and history of heart trouble.

The alcoholics will be judged by a panel of bartenders, with the biggest sot attending the national contest and really trying one on! Winners will receive a fifth of bourbon and an all-expense paid trip to New York, where they will see who can chug...

SYNDICATE AT WORK ON FURMAN CAMPUS?

(From the Furman Paladin:)

During the past two weeks, there has been a mysterious outbreak of cheating, petty larceny, and vandalism at Furman. Dean Ernest E. Harrill can't yet decide whether there has been more cheating or simply greater awareness of it, but the acts of vandalism have attained criminal proportions. Three masked culprits were seen in the office of classical languages before an exam last week, but these crafty vagrants eluded the relentless pursuit of several faculty members. The next night, mysterious events took place in the biology building. It seems that an evil scheme had been plotted in order to steal tests for the following day. A most wicked device was discovered at the scene of the crime — a coathanger, leather strap, and cord designed to open doors from the inside. Truly the work of a diabolical mind! Meanwhile, the Honor Council waits in eager anticipation.

There is little doubt that we here at Mercer at this particular time are set apart from all the preceding part of this institution. But if we are to be set distinctly in perspective with the other students of "Collegiate Americana" then we must be heir to the same academic of quality which they receive.

Now perhaps we are not experts on the operation of a university or on the hundreds of monetary matters and other details that make it up, but we are experts on what we know to be true and what we know to be untrue. If we see our university continually dissipate for any reason then we know that "something is rotten in the state of Denmark."

We may not be particularly impressed with our daily fare of intellectual consumption. Some days this consumption draws to a grinding halt. When it halts we usually vegetate and pass the tedious vacuum without noticing. But, after several quarters of grinding halts we become very aware of the emptiness of a broadening intellectual experience.

This emptiness does not have to take place in everyone's schedule but it does in many, and seems, will continue for the bulk of the students. This emptiness is not a product of mediocre instruction but is the product of a mediocre atmosphere produced by a faculty that is disturbed to its very roots because of the lack of positive progress in academic improvement.

The best qualified student possible can be brought to Mercer but these minds will wither and die if not nourished by an atmosphere that encourage more than rote memorization.

If the average Mercer student is asked about this problem, and he has been, he will answer that the problem seems to be money. Now money seems to be here, in fact the campus is so well lighted now that we cannot help but see all the money. It seems that the budget could be rearranged so as to accommodate more faculty than external physical adornments for a campus that may become absurd if not stocked with the biggest and best instructors.

As for the atmosphere, it will improve if the intellectuals are allowed to pursue their intellectual paths rather than worry about passing up better offers elsewhere or fretting about problems that are essentially managerial and not academic. If we could see some progress in the intellectual end of the university then we would understand the necessity of seeing bright lights and adornments on campus at night.

Now any skilled statistician may write a reply to this article and prove that Mercer is moving intellectually ahead, that she raised her faculty salaries more last year percentage wise than ever before, or that we are not evidence to the Secret Facts, but the fact will still glare through that there is an academic problem at Mercer and that this problem, at present, is not being solved. The problem is here, the money may be here, the managerial expertise is here: Why are the intellectual improvements not here?

We may pat ourselves on the back for our swift pace but we may be going at a much slower pace than the rest of the academic universe. May we pat ourselves on the back, become loquacious and cover the problem or actually build a better Mercer? The problem is an academic one but the question whether there is or is not a problem is not academic but pitifully real.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Gone are the days of yelling, cheering and school spirit at Mercer. Speaking as front row spectators of the student body, we have found that though most Mercerians profess to love, honor, and cherish dear old Mercer, they are not willing to sacrifice a little of their sophisticated airs at basketball games and render a little pep and enthusiasm that would probably give the Mercer team more confidence.

It was disgusting to see the attendance at the one and only pep rally a few weeks ago. In the front of the Co-op were the cheerleaders. On one side were most of the Negro students and the other side was sparsely scattered with a few curiosity seeking whites.

And who are they that display almost the only enthusiasm and zeal at the games? Why they are the unaffiliates, the outcasts, and the minority. In other words, they are the Negroes. Why should they cheer, only to be stared at and snickered at by the rest of those present? It is because they feel a certain obligation to, a certain pride in, and a particular love for Mercer University.

At most colleges the Homecoming Activities are centered around the basketball or football games and whether they win or lose. Here at Mercer we tend to concentrate on the things which should only add to the spirit of Homecoming—the dance and concert. Though the sororities and fraternities present displays, there seems to be a prevailing attitude of grasping at prestige for these organizations and not for the prestige of the whole school.

Though things really did look dim during the Homecoming Weekend, credit must be given to the cheerleaders who, though they seemed to try as hard as they could, only managed to excite the crowd to the point of one minor chant during the entire game.

Sincerely,
Mary A. Buckner
and
Jaamine Dawson

The Place of Dissent in the Modern Society

By Steve Darby

Because of numerous social ills and international situations, the place of dissent in our country has been questioned. Is it constitutional or is it seditious? And what about the participants themselves: what level of society do they represent? What is their aim? These are the questions that must be answered in order to understand the "why" and "wherefore" of the protest movement.

Freedom of speech was insured to us by the writers of the Constitution and set forth in the First Amendment. But the question is to what bounds does this extend? In our present state of affairs this has been defined as to mean anything pro- or con- that does not breach the legalities of the law and does not lend moral aid to the "enemy". This means that one can not be a picketer and a trespasser at the same time and expect to be free from arrest. This also means that they need not be threatened by a bureau of the government whose job is to draft young men, not judge them. It is over this very question of the interpretation of the first amendment that Dr. Spock and his colleagues are being tried. Were they within the limits of the constitution when they counseled young men in defying the draft or was it treason? It is a matter for the courts and for the conscience.

... Of the undergraduates arrested nearly half (47%) had better than 3.0 averages; 71% of the graduate students had averages

above 3.5. Twenty were Phi Beta Kappa; eight were Woodrow Wilson fellows; twenty have published articles in scholarly journals; fifty-three were National Merit Scholarship winners; and 260 have received other academic awards." This was a report prepared by A Fact-Finding Committee of Graduate Political Scientist on the Free Speech Movement at Berkeley. The students were not the only ones involved. Two hundred faculty members called a strike in support of the students. Just this past week a number of students and faculty at the University of Florida were arrested for picketing Dow Chemical, the producer of napalm. To the contrary of the common belief, it is not always the illiterate and the unkempt that hold placards.

What is their aim? To Father Groppi it is equality, to Dr. Spock it is tranquility and to the student at college it is maturity. To Fulton Sheen it is a "new" church and to the parent it is a "failure to communicate". Dissent and the want for change is a part of every generation, but it depends on how this voice of discordance is applied and expressed as to the final outcome of an issue.

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The Mercer Cluster

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