

# Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:  
We recognize the concern for peace on the part of college students throughout the nation. We are aware of the dedication of the youth movement as seen in the recent mobilization of the October 15 Moratorium for Peace.

There is one problem of particular concern to the American Red Cross that we hope will be brought to the attention of the students on your campus involved in this movement as well as other students and faculty. Recent figures show some 413 men are known to be prisoners of war in North Vietnam. There are another 918 missing and believed captured. These men are not there by choice. All Americans of good will should insist on their receiving the humane treatment called for by the Conventions.

Although North Vietnam is a signator to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, which covers the treatment of prisoners of war, it has refused to allow delegates of the International Committee of Red Cross to visit prison camps where Americans are being held. The Hanoi government has also refused to provide the International Committee with the names of American prisoners they hold or to permit the regular flow of mail between prisoners and their families in this country.

The American Red Cross is intensifying its efforts to open channels of communication in accordance with the Conventions. Our responsibility as an organization and our humane concern for the welfare of these men is our only motivation.

This effort can be even more effective if we have the support of students in recognizing this Red Cross mission. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,  
Pete Upton  
National Director  
Office of Public Relations

Dear Editor:  
I am interested in measuring the effectiveness of our liberal arts program at Mercer. Since the "in" method of evaluation seems to be to conduct a poll

and the efficient method of reaching the students is through the Cluster, I would appreciate your printing my letter.

All interested students are requested to fill out the following questionnaire and return it to P.O. Box #2:

Answer yes or no.  
Did you think before coming to Mercer?

- If so, did you think about
- (1) water pollution \_\_\_\_\_
  - (2) personal maladjustment \_\_\_\_\_
  - (3) sex \_\_\_\_\_
  - (4) pot \_\_\_\_\_
  - (5) draft card burning \_\_\_\_\_

Have you been thinking since you've been at Mercer?

- If so, have you been thinking about
- (1) filling out surveys \_\_\_\_\_
  - (2) water pollution \_\_\_\_\_
  - (3) personal maladjustment \_\_\_\_\_
  - (4) sex \_\_\_\_\_
  - (5) pot \_\_\_\_\_
  - (6) draft card burning \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: If you cannot answer yes or no but must quibble with a maybe, sometimes, or almost never, then don't bother to answer. Your opinion would not count in a poll anyway.)

Sincerely yours,  
Dr. May F. McMillan  
Professor of English

Dear Editor:

It is with regret that I feel such a letter is necessary to write, but with the present attitudes of the Blacks & Whites I feel it should be done. Only in the past few years have Blacks and Whites had the real opportunity of living together and therefore hopefully gaining mutual respect and equality and harmony. How are the Blacks using this time?

In the 1960's, Mercer became integrated and a chance for obtaining true interracial relations began. Unfortunately Blacks have misused this opportunity dreadfully. Instead of using friendliness to gain admiration, brotherhood, and respect from Whites, they segregate themselves from and

show hatred to Whites and then wonder why they are not fully accepted on campus. Then they are heard demanding respect.

Statements like those of Otis Ball and Will King ("Don't worry about the white man... let's live and think black!" Oct. 14 Cluster) serve only to polarize the two races. One cannot demand respect; one must prove first that he is respectable. A belligerent person will never prove respectable.

Often in the cafeteria, on the sidewalk, or in the classroom I will acknowledge a Black with a "hello" or "how are you" only to be ignored or answered with an unfriendly grunt - never a smile. I'm tired of trying to force friendships with what appears to be unfriendly Blacks.

White will never "accept" the Blacks if they continue down their present path of "Black Power" slogans written on the cafeteria tables, Black militant statements given front page coverage in the Mercer Cluster, etc., etc. It's time the Black students and certain members of the administration realize this fact.

IT TAKES BEING A FRIEND TO GAIN TO FRIEND.

So you had your Moratorium? I had mine, too.

I had mine for a man named Terry.

Who died in a delay of Birds, Who actually died in a war not fought with words,

A war not won with massive packs and discordance so merry.

Don't you know? "Telling it like it is," just won't do.

So you had your moratorium? I had one the other day, Held over the family of a village chief

In a vil called An Bang (2). 1 man-48, 1 wife-39, 4 kids, the V.C. slew

What's the prob. back there? No other way to express your grief?

There's a better way than backing an enemy at bay.

So you had your Moratorium. I paused that day in thought. There's something to win here if it hasn't been lost.

Can't you back something that's really there, Something that seems a little bit square,

Something in which a country, not a group, has to count the cost?

How can you fight a war you haven't fought?

So I had a Moratorium, and I had the right.

Meier '68  
C. O. Charlie Co.  
1st Bn. 5th Reg.  
1st Mar. Div.  
Viet Nam

Dear Class of '73,

Although I was not elected to the SGA as I had hoped, I, none the less, was gratified to see the concern that the freshman class expressed in their political future by having turned out in large numbers to elect our leadership for the current academic year. With this notable exception, I feel we chose wisely. I wish to express my particular thanks to those 70 wise men and women who cast their votes for Sam Halpert.

To these people and to the entire freshman class, I say this: In my campaign I spoke of my desire to serve my class and my university. The outcome of this election has not diminished my commitment to this goal. I shall continue to serve my class and my school to the utmost of my ability.

To the new elected officials of SGA, my most sincere congratulations and best wishes for a prosperous and meaningful year. To the freshman class, my thanks and dedication.

Sincerely,  
Samuel Halpert

Hon. Quentin Burdick  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C.

We share and recommend to you, the views concerning the value of the ABA Judiciary Committee's endorsement of Judge Haynsworth nomination to the Supreme Court expressed by Professor Vern Countryman in his letter to the editor of the New York Times, October 21, 1969.

Dean Robert S. Rushing, Professor Ross C. Tisdale, Professor Robert E. Beck, Associate Professor Alan Karabus, Associate Professor William Fisch, Assistant Professor Lee Teitelbaum, Assistant Professor Leland Bull, Jr., Assistant Professor Joseph Goldberg, and Assistant Professor Richard Kuhns, University of North Dakota School of Law.

A majority of the American Bar Association's Committee on the Federal Judiciary has approved President Nixon's nomination of Judge Clement Haynsworth to the Supreme Court of the United States despite the evidence that Judge Haynsworth participated in the decision of a number of cases in which he had a conflict of interest.

The fact that the chairman of the A.B.A. Committee, Lawrence E. Walsh, himself holds his appointment from President Nixon as special deputy to the Paris peace talks suggests that a majority of the committee does not recognize conflict of interest when it sees one.

Vern Countryman  
Harvard Law School  
Cambridge, Mass.,  
October 15, 1969

## LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS



### For Your Information

## What A Waste!

(This column is an attempt at informing Cluster readers about various areas of national and international concern. -Editors.)

The American society is a consumer society. This is true for both raw materials and commodities, although the GNP approaches a trillion dollars (\$924.8 billion for the second quarter of 1969).

This country is the destination for most of the world's raw materials. We consume each year more than half of all the petroleum, rubber, iron ore, manganese, and zinc (we produce only about 25% of the world's petroleum, 14% of its iron ore, 22% of its zinc).

What do Americans spend their money on in terms of services and commodity goods?

This year they will spend over \$83 billion for leisure activities. This includes, for example, participation in over 10,000 golf courses, and 13,500 theatres (gross receipts: about \$1 billion).

Automobile sales also rank high in priority. Over 28,000 car dealers sell over \$30 billion worth of cars per year.

Even more money is spent on fashion goods - \$36 billion this year (a 40% increase in four years, a rise equal to the last 15 years put together). The 18-24 year-olds spend more money per person for clothing than any other age group in the country. Males show a preference for coats, sport coats, shirts and jewelry, outspending all other age groups for these items.

Men and boys' clothing

store sales for 1969 are estimated at \$4.3 billion; women's apparel and accessories store sales: an estimated \$7.7 billion this year. Men will spend \$60 million this year for aftershave lotions alone; beauty shop receipts for 1969 are estimated at \$2.3 billion. (In 1967, almost \$75 million in wigs, hairpieces, and toupees were imported into the U.S.)

Other luxury items include expenditures on cosmetics (\$3.3 billion this year), tobacco products (\$4.8 billion), jewelry (\$1 billion), and air-conditioning and refrigeration equipment (\$4.25 billion).

To encourage all this spending (kids from ages 10 to 19 spend more than \$30 billion every year), almost \$19 billion will be spent this year in advertising. To take the television medium as one example, the cosmetics industries spent over \$400 million advertising their products (a sum exceeded only by that of the food products industry).

This advertising, incidentally, was received by the 6 million color TV sets and 5 1/2 million monochrome sets in the U.S. (where 96% of all homes have TV.)

A necessary aspect of a consumer society is waste. One measure of this is that there are 3.5 billion tons of solid waste per year in the United States (5.3 pounds per person, per day).

Stated in other terms that's 48 billion cans, 26 billion bottles, 30 million tons of paper, 4 million tons of plastics and 100 million tires.

## Empty Wine Bottles



# Beckett Continues To Look For A Refund

by Ron Childs

Samuel Beckett was recently awarded the Nobel Prize for literature for his achievement in the off-Broadway musical "Oh! Calcutta!" In this production Beckett wrote the stage directions for "Prologue" in which he gives his views on life.

1) Faint light on stage littered with miscellaneous rubbish, including naked people. Hold about five seconds. 2) Faint brief cry and immediately inspiration and slow increase of light reaching maximum together in about ten seconds. Silence and hold about five seconds. These stage directions "exposed the misery of man in our

time through new dramatic and literary forms." "His poetic authorship rises over the wasteland of destruction as a miserere for all mankind, and its muted tone holds liberation for the oppressed and comfort for the distressed," said an academy official.

Although there has been much criticism of Beckett, he is unconcerned about what people think of his writing and he refuses to talk about his work. His main concern seems to be privacy, to get away, to retreat. Beckett has boarded a train of despair and disillusionment and his ticket is for solitude, a security in seclusion.

From this gray, dismal out-

look on life one may become frustrated, confused, or even disgusted at Beckett, yet thanks be for Mr. Beckett. There are too many people, including a great number at Mercer University, who are riding a ferris-wheel of unconcern and unawareness in a world that sooths with trash cans and empty wine bottles.

Too often our economic and social insulation only tends to imprison us in a sterile pod of sanctity and shield us of swollen bellies and battered bodies. Yes, free us for after dinner drinks and extra mild cigars. However, Mr. Beckett got off that ferris-wheel and continues to search for a refund on his ticket.

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