

THE MERCER CLUSTER

The Pacesetter of the Seventies



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Mercer Maturity Still Unevidenced



by Allen Wallace

Last Spring Quarter a report was presented to the SGA Senate outlining a system which would place more responsibility for disciplinary matters into the hands of students. Because of some points raised by the University Disciplinary Committee and by several students the Waverly Conference asked that further study be given to the matter before it was presented in final form to the President and the Board of Trustees.

At Waverly the SGA President appointed a committee to revise the proposed judicial system, and extensive work was done over the summer. In its current form within the committee the system would provide for lower courts composed of students to adjudicate minor student offenses, and there is provision for a higher court to replace the University Disciplinary Committee to adjudicate major offenses and to act as an appellate body from the lower courts. The committee is also preparing a revised Student Code of Conduct and a Bill of Rights for the students.

A few weeks ago the proposal for a Men's Judicial Council (the lower court for the men's residence halls) was presented to the men in a referendum. It was defeated in a relatively close vote.

It is ironic that at a time when most students are clamoring for more power and are demanding that they be given control over their own affairs that a proposal which would

do exactly that is defeated. Of course some Mercer students may be in the process of realizing that their peers are not mature and responsible enough to sit in judgement of others, but I doubt this.

There was much misunderstanding of how the Men's Judicial Council would function. This point was made salient to me when I sat in on a freshman English class where the matter was discussed briefly; it was clear that the freshman who spoke against the Council had been misinformed (or not informed at all) as to the duties and purposes of the Council. At the SGA Senate meeting last week misunderstanding was reflected again; by one Senator in particular who seemed incapable of thinking beyond his own preconceived prejudices. There was a cover letter supposed to explain the Council attached to the referendum ballot, but this was rather vague; this vagueness was explained by the author of the letter (the SGA President) when he stated that he himself was "a little unsure" of exactly how the Council would function. Despite this and despite the fact that one student stated that some hall counselors had sought to influence the voting in the referendum the Senate refused to conduct another vote.

Perhaps some day Mercer students will begin to show their maturity by accepting the responsibility which is an essential part of coming of age and of becoming educated.

On Capitol Hill



by Larry Finkelstein

When the President of the United States has something to say, both the Congress and people inevitably find something to say about it. Such was certainly the case with the President's Vietnam address of 3 November. In this week's expanded coverage, I shall do two things; First, I shall include copies of the Nixon and Ho Chi Minh letters that the President mentioned at the end of his address; and second, I shall relay the reaction of the war critics, so that the long range effects of the President's pleas for greater unity may be accurately assessed.

Following is the full text of the Richard M. Nixon and Ho Chi Minh letters:

In terms of the unifying effect of the President's message, it is the reactions of the war critics that must be carefully considered — not the reactions of those already sold on the President's policies. In this vital area of presidential salesmanship, the Nixon address was a dismal failure. Evidence abounds in the reaction of his critics. Representative statements follow:

Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts: "I and millions of Americans were most disappointed by the President's address on Vietnam. The President's speech, simply stated, was more of the same — no new hopes, no new considerations, no new inspiration for an American people who have waited so long and given so much for peace."

Stephen M. Young of Ohio: "The President revealed no new initiatives toward peace. His talk about a secret schedule of withdrawal reminded me of his promised secret plan to end the war — a plan announced more than 13 months ago which remains his secret. His plea to the American people was not successful and will only serve to increase opposition to our continued involvement in that immoral undeclared war in Vietnam."

Charles Goodell of New York: "President Nixon has once again stated his desire for peace. I am most disappointed, however, that he has offered no new policy initiatives. The President will keep American forces in Viet-

nam — and continue American casualties — well into the 1970's."

And finally, Senate Majority Leader, Mike Mansfield: "The President spoke sincerely for peace. He emphasized once again, that he wants to get the United States out of Vietnam. What is still not clear is the how or when. There were no specifics. The President undoubtedly had his reasons for not making this clarification. Nevertheless, until it is made, I am afraid the issue of Vietnam will remain as divisive as ever in the life of the nation."

The White House,
July 15, 1969

His Excellency Ho Chi Minh,
President, Democratic Republic of Vietnam,
Hanoi.

Dear Mr. President: I realize that it is difficult to communicate meaningfully across the gulf of four years of war. But precisely because of this gulf I wanted to take this opportunity to reaffirm in all solemnity my desire to work for a just peace. I deeply believe that the war in Vietnam has gone on too long and delay in bringing it to an end can benefit no one — least of all the people of Vietnam. My speech on May 14 laid a proposal which I believe is fair to all parties. Other proposals have been made which attempt to give the people of South Vietnam an opportunity to choose their own future. These proposals take into account the reasonable conditions of all sides. But we stand ready to discuss other programs as well, specifically the 10-point program of the NLF.

As I have said repeatedly, there is nothing to be gained by waiting. Delay can only increase the dangers and multiply the suffering.

The time has come to move forward at the conference table toward an early resolution of this tragic war. You will find us forthcoming and open-minded in a common effort to bring the blessings of peace to the brave people of Vietnam. Let history record that at this critical

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In Place of Folly

by Dr. Norman Cousins

(The following is adapted from *In Place of Folly* by Norman Cousins. Dr. Cousins is Editor-in-Chief of *Saturday Review*. —The Editors)

The enemy is not a totalitarian power with a world ideology. Nor is the enemy solely the unfettered national state, violating the rights of man and jeopardizing his natural environment.

The enemy is many people. He is a man whose only concern about the world is that it stay in one piece during his own lifetime. He regards his good fortune not as a challenge to get close to the real problems of the age but as proof of the correctness of everything he does. Nothing to him is less important than the shape of things to come or the needs of the next generation. Talk of the legacy of the past or of human destiny leaves him cold. Historically, he is the disconnected man. When he thinks about the world at all, it is usually in terms of his hope that the atomic fireworks can be postponed for fifteen or twenty years.

The enemy is a man who not only believes in his own helplessness but worships it. His main article of faith is that there are mammoth forces at work which the individual cannot possibly comprehend, much less alter or direct. He assumes that only people in authority are in a position to know and act. He believes that if vital information essential to the

making of public decisions is withheld, it can only be for a good reason. If a problem is wholly or partially scientific in nature, he will ask no questions even though the consequences of the problem are political or social.

The enemy is any man who waits for public mandates before he develops ideas of his own, or who does little or nothing to bring about such mandates. Along with this goes an obsessive fear of criticism. To such a man, the worst thing in the world that can happen is to be accused of not being tough-minded in his nation's dealings with other governments. He can take in his stride, however, the accusation that he is implicated in grave injury to the human race. He figures national security largely in terms of statistics — generally in terms of the kind of force that can be put to work in a showdown situation — rather than in terms of the confidence and good will a nation may enjoy among its neighbors in the world. He is an enemy because he sees no connection between himself and the need to act in behalf of the human community.

The enemy is any man who is preoccupied with personal peace of mind rather than with personal responsibility.

At a time when everything man could be and when everything man could have are in jeopardy, it is essential that we know not the names of easy scapegoats, but the faces of the enemy.

The Vocal Minority Bonzai, Mr. Nixon!



by Roger Bell

If any virtue is ever found in America's silent majority, it may be the fact that it is silent. All other praise escapes me.

Several years ago, this majority adopted as its own, a fun-filled hobby known as the Viet-Nam War, better known as "Let's get our minds off of domestic problems." Since then, this game has continued much to the joy and amusement of its co-inventors, the South Viet-Namense oligarchy and the C.I.A.

Now the time for fun and nonsense is over. A very vocal minority has arisen in this

country which will not take anymore of this type of fun. The call is for an immediate withdrawal of American forces from Viet-Nam and continued resistance to the war as long as any U.S. forces remain there. No redress or grievances has been given yet or is any in immediate sight. Therefore, only one course remains: constant and vigorous resistance to administrative policies in regard to the war. In fact, we must be in a state of virtual revolution with respect to the war machinery.

This revolution must include resistance to legal

slavery (the draft), exhaustion of all legal processes, demonstrations and strikes, even armed rebellion if our demands are not met within the immediate future.

In view of Nixon's about-face policy on anti-war protest, it may well take an armed rebellion to ensure that our demands are even taken seriously!

A quarter of a million people made it to Washington on November 15th to register their protest against the war. One may have a gun next time, Mr. Nixon. You had better turn around and look

From the Editor

The Seventies — A Decade of Hope

Although the Student Government Association Senate and the Cluster have been at odds with each other at times, the Cluster does recognize the progress and achievement of that body. The student senate has indeed made great strides. It has confronted, debated, and resolved many key issues that had to be faced. And though the debate has at times been hectic, it has also been fruitful.

And so, we begin the new year, the Cluster's 50th year, with the spirit of optimism. There are many issues yet to be resolved. But we have laid the ground work. It is now up to the Cluster and the Senate to take the lead in resolving these issues. Special attention must, of necessity, be given to the problems of increased student power, Black studies, student and faculty recruitment, and urban development, among others.

Both The Cluster and the Student Government Association

have functioned this year as autonomous bodies. The Cluster has had a free hand in analyzing and evaluating the work of the Senate. This is

healthy, and it is hoped that the Cluster and the SGA can continue to work together for the betterment of Mercer.

LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS



WE SIMPLY GOT TO FIND ANOTHER TEXT, THIS REASON — WHY THERE ARE PARTS OF THIS FIRST CHAPTER WRITTEN SO CLEARLY THAT I EVEN UNDERSTAND IT.