

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor,

I had been hoping for some significant reaction to my open letter concerning the attributes of Wonderful Wednesday, but having waited for over three weeks to no avail, I've decided to speak out once more.

Dean Trimble really has a point in saying that some of the activities on Tuesday night at Mercer have become undesirable. Unfortunately the students haven't even made a point — defensive or otherwise. Where are the non-sympathetic students? When will interaction replace reaction? The time to act is now — form a student committee, rejuvenate the Free University, or create a worthwhile substitute.

The three abstract ideas for action, which I mentioned above, lead me to mentioning one fallacy in Dean Trimble's thinking: "Participation in free university classes and other forums seems to have decreased." So what! As a student, it seems to me that appreciable students are engaging in worthwhile activities on Wonderful Wednesday. However, many of these activities are not formally registered as free university courses — some of them could be, but what difference should it make if a student attends a certified free university course or a non-registered discussion group. Moreover, what difference does it make if the students involved in non-registered discussion groups study Sunday afternoons and discuss on Wednesdays or if they reverse the order and study on Wednesdays and discuss on Sundays?

Students concerned with keeping Wonderful Wednesday and maintaining their freedom to either take or leave the registered free university courses must stand up now! I, personally, am willing to join interested persons in taking the proper measures, but I can't do it alone. Please stop being apathetic and start interacting!

Claudia J. Bicht

CONCERNED?

As a freshman in college I had concern for the injustices of one race against another and I asked meekly, "What can I do?"

SORROW?

Yes, I even felt sorry for the minority and even a little guilty, but this was the popular thing to do, and as a sophomore it was easy to get 'caught up' in popular things.

EXPERIENCE?

I thought at last there will be an opportunity to have "common experience" with members of the black race and to work together in the process of obtaining our education. I soon learned that the blacks had no desire to 'share' their experiences with me, unless I abandoned my own race. As a junior I felt unwanted.

EDUCATED!

Yes, as a senior I've been educated. I see now that all men regardless of race still have the same weaknesses; even the black man is prejudiced. When I see a raised black fist, I think of Hitler. When I look at my son, I cry. When I read the *Cluster*, I laugh, just as I did when Maddox was elected. Neither is funny, but "What can I do?"

"WHAT CAN I DO?"

I can offer advice to the concerned student: "LIBERALISM IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR EDUCATION."

Editor of THE SHAFT

Upon reading in the past two papers the two editorials discussing two views on the same subject, that is, the Greek system, I would like to express a third view that no one seems to have thought about.

Granted the Greek system is not perfect; as a Greek I will be the first to admit it. But looking at other institutions with Greek systems, I have found that no Greek system is perfect. Fraternities and sororities realize that changes need to be made but

these have to be effected within each organization and the overall system. Students who are not affiliated cannot change Greeks. With this in mind the unaffiliated students condemn the Greeks for all they stand for with most of these dissenters condemning something they know little or nothing about.

I have one approach to the system which people seem to ignore. In the first place the terms unaffiliate, black and independent are all different ways of using a term which people seem to ignore, that is, the term non-Greek. However, I would like to address myself to the unaffiliates and in using this term I include blacks because they are students and also unaffiliates and should not be separated.

Many unaffiliates, although not all, who do not get in a fraternity or sorority in a sense give up and satisfy themselves with condemning Greeks using pointless arguments. There are non-Greeks who view Greeks and themselves objectively and present good arguments and suggestions. These are the people to whom the Greeks listen. Constructive criticism is the best kind. I can speak for all Greeks when I say that we will listen to any non-Greek who wish to present valid arguments and opinions. In return we expect those same students to listen to us.

Mercer is a small school and there are not many issues on which one may take a stand. The Greek system seems to be the easiest and most fun to condemn; therefore, it is the most popular. There is room for change throughout this campus. The Greeks are working on their problems. If the non-Greeks want to take a stand I believe that they should focus their energies on something that they can do something about; that is, on something in which they can take an active part. I urge non-Greeks to look at themselves first, and then look elsewhere.

Bob Stanton

CAPITOL HILL (from page 2)

cal juncture, both sides turned their face toward peace rather than toward conflict and war. Sincerely,

Richard Nixon

Hanoi,

August 25, 1969

(Received in Paris August 30.)

His Excellency Richard Milhous Nixon, President of the United States, Washington.

Mr. President: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter.

The war of aggression of the United States against our people, violating our fundamental national rights, still continues in South Vietnam. The United States continues to intensify military operations, the B-52 bombings and the use of toxic chemical products multiply the crimes against the Vietnamese people. The longer the war goes on, the more it accumulates the mourning and burdens of the American people. I am extremely indignant at the losses and destructions caused by

the American troops to our people and our country. I am also deeply touched at the rising toll of death of young Americans who have fallen in Vietnam by reason of the policy of American governing circles.

Our Vietnamese people are deeply devoted to peace, a real peace with independence and real freedom. They are determined to fight to the end, without fearing the sacrifices and difficulties in order to defend their country and their sacred national rights. The overall solution in 10 points of the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam and of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam is a logical and reasonable basis for the settlement of the Vietnamese problem. It has earned the sympathy and support of the peoples of the world.

In your letter you have expressed the desire to act for a just peace. For this the United States must cease the war of aggression and withdraw their troops from South Vietnam, respect the right of the population of the South and of the

Vietnamese nation to dispose of themselves, without foreign influence. This is the correct manner of solving the Vietnamese problem in conformity with the national rights of the Vietnamese people, the interests of the United States and the hopes for peace of the peoples of the world. This is the path that will allow the United States to get out of the war with honor.

With good will on both sides we might arrive at common efforts in view of finding a correct solution of the Vietnamese problem.

Sincerely,

Ho Chi Minh.



The Need For Action

Too often, an editorialist is prone to point out the fact that a problem exists, merely for the purpose of filling his weekly column. Such an approach fails to result in either progress or correction in any university functions. For this reason, I have chosen to



change the format of my column from one of commentary to one of accomplishment. Though never much of an established musician, I shall now learn to specialize on the harp; I will continue to harp on a single subject — week after week after week, if necessary — until the cause of my harping has been believed.

This university suffers from a remarkable lack of recreation facilities — facilities that would require only a modest expenditure, yet would result in immeasurable enjoyment to the whole campus community. Furthermore, in the two years that I have resided at this university, I have seen no meaningful steps taken to provide recreation facilities intended for campus wide enjoyment.

What steps do I suggest to the immediate alleviation of this growing problem? (1) the immediate purchase of 6 ping pong tables and accompanying equipment. (2) the placement of said equipment in that area of the student center immediately adjacent to the cafeteria, with the responsibility for administering the accompanying equipment vested in the operator of the switchboard.

I firmly believe that the adoption of this proposal is in

the best interests of the university in that it will provide desperately needed facilities to the entire campus community — facilities of a minimal expense that will accrue the following advantages:

- (1) Provide recreational facilities open to all university students — particularly those now lacking access to fraternity facilities.
- (2) Provide a rationale for calling the Student Center a student center by providing facilities normally associated with student centers as defined by such facilities at other universities.
- (3) Improve the atmosphere of the university

through making it a more complete entity; then we can begin to lend credence to the idea of the university being a home for all of its students.

In the forthcoming week I shall seek the definite commitment of key members of the Administration and Student Government Association to the accomplishment of this program by opening day, winter quarter 1970. The responses that I receive, and the progress that I make will be the subject of my next report. Until then, I remain dedicated to the proposition that much remains to be done, and it remains our job to see that it gets done!

Brother Wade

Housemothers Superfluous!

With the recent investigation initiated by the SGA into the relevancy of housemothers, it is time for the SGA to go one step further to question the relevancy of the position of housekeepers. There has recently arisen on this campus, a genuine concern over the rights and privileges of students in the seemingly snug atmosphere of their dorm room. Some question has also arisen as to the violation of the rights to privacy in your dorm first off by the mere appearance and necessity of such a monitor as a housekeeper and secondly, by certain acts that may hinge on legal sanctions.

A college student is supposedly a maturing adult who is learning to accept responsibilities, yet how can one mature when he has a housemother who runs around ranting "women on the hall" and leering into rooms like a hovering hen hunting for evil. And who knows what a curious woman with entrance to your room will do when you are not around to guard yourself and your room? The necessity of a housekeeper predicated that you are a child not a college student.

But there is more to this problem than just the house-

keeper being around. There are the disturbances that have been reported at one time or other:

American flags being removed from windows without permission.

Threats of slicing locks to investigate an overhead closet. Appearances in showers which should be private, especially to male students.

Looking into briefcases inside students' rooms.

There appears to be no need for the housekeeper. We have our individual initiative to urge students to keep their rooms clean, we have the janitors to keep the internal areas of the dorm clean, and we have the garden crew to keep the exterior of the dorm clean. There seems to be nothing left for the housekeeper to do. The SGA needs to find out and relate their findings to the students what are the actual duties of the little miss.

I have reviewed the position of the housekeeper and I feel that it has no benefits and much potential for harm. I feel that the position of housemothers is detrimental and should be eliminated. Furthermore, I urge the SGA to investigate this position and act on what can be done about this problem.

Spiro And The Cluster

by Rocky Wade

"I'd rather live in a country with newspapers and no government, than in a country with a government and no newspapers."

Thomas Jefferson

Recently, the masthead was changed at the top of this newspaper. The change was small — the word "independent" was altered to "controversial" — and yet this act is noticeable in the recent furor over the Mercer Cluster and its new image.

There is a long fine between being the most controversial paper in this area. And the question many Mercerians are asking is if this is the purpose of their school paper to be controversial and if so why? Spiro Agnew's blistering attack on the news media had some clear overtones to the

situation at Mercer. He related the fact that the TV news media should represent the populous rather than their own editorial policy since they held almost a monopoly on the news that is presented to the viewers. At Mercer presently the *Cluster* is the only paper and therefore, should represent the editorial viewpoint of the majority of Mercerians. This is not to deny individual editorialists their own say, but rather to question the basic context and philosophy that surrounds the paper.

The television news media may have a way out for they are owned by private businesses and regulated for a profit, therefore they have to say some things and get into controversy to sell their products. The Mercer *Cluster* is totally different — the paper is paid for by students as a non-profit service. There is no real need for it to be controversial.

As Judge Byron White recently ruled it is paramount

that the news media represent the majority sector of the populous that it covers. I feel that this should be the course for the *Cluster*. There would be no need for a second paper for our school if the present paper spoke for more students.

The *Barron's* profile of Mercer University shows that the average Mercerian is conservative and fraternity-minded. Yet, personally I feel that our paper ideology is far from that.

The only way to correct this problem is to work through the established system. The person most at fault for the dissent over the *Cluster* is the Mercerians who gripe at but have never worked on the paper. I urge the "silent" Mercerians and those who are beginning a new paper to get vocal and get involved to improve the situation. It's time for the process to roll again.