

CLUSTER IS QUOTED BY TELEGRAPH

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Many Mercerians, in which the abolition of compulsory chapel exercises is advocated.

"Citing the action of the dean of the University of North Carolina, The Cluster relates that the students on Chapel Hill will have chapel services only on Monday and even then, it seems, only the Freshmen will be rigidly checked as to attendance. On the other days of the week, short devotional exercises will be held under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A. The Cluster comments:

"The Mercer Cluster heartily congratulates its friends across the foothills of the Appalachians who have been relieved of the bonds of compulsory chapel. It comes to the students of Mercer at an opportune time. We have felt the burden of compulsory worship, no matter how great has been the faith of all who have been compelled to attend. So, in reprinting the news story, we are VOICING THE PRAYER OF MANY MERCERIANs. Dean Bradshaw evidently reached his decision after a careful study of the problem. His position was not taken quickly and with little judgment. Coming from the dean of an institution whose example Mercer might well follow, his ruling stands out as one which would be more than welcome at Mercer.

"That's the news story. The Cluster prints also an editorial on the subject. In it, the writer sets forth his conception of the purposes of chapel gatherings.

"They are first, to assimilate the students and draw them closer together by having at least one place where they may be forced to meet; second, to furnish the only place wherein the entire student body may be reached in order to convey something to them."

"The editorial argues that if the students have not been assimilated by this time of the collegiate year, the job of assimilation is hopeless and that the messages to be conveyed to the students are not of such importance and such number to necessitate the herding together of the students every school day except Friday to get messages which could be done with in one day.

"There you have the aims, the aspirations, the program of the revolt—one day of compulsory chapel attendance. Now, the symptoms—if any—of the revolt itself.

"The same issue of The Cluster devotes two full columns on page 5 to these sententious words:

"There was a man who had a big job in a big school where many men were registered and there was a big job to do over him because he had a bit of trouble with the college paper, there; and because of the fuss, The Telegraph and The Enquirer-Sun raved, some too, and then the man who was at the big job desk gave in because he was on the wrong side and the students won out. But the trouble was, they said what they and others thought. If The Cluster would do the same, would The Telegraph rear for us as hard? We are tempted to—some day perhaps they will be tested."

"That seems rather short to take up two full columns, but it was written three or four words to a line, liberally spaced and adorned with star lines, in the manner made popular by the lazy liberal, Kenneth C. Beaton.

"Now what of the merits of the matter? The most conspicuous flaw in The Cluster's plan of campaign probably will be found in its analysis of the purpose and excuse for chapel exercises. It is going to shock some of the Baptist patriarchs to learn that the students do not consider the religious element in these matutinal gatherings, even in second or third place. The desirability of a little daily spiritual instruction and inspiration is not con-

ceded by The Cluster.

"Mercer is a religious institution, founded as much for religious instruction as for secular training. Its aim is Christian education and the adjective has always been as important to the men who guide the destinies of Mercer as the noun. Chapel is one of the few religious requirements for students in the departments devoted to training for lay activities. It is therefore considered rather vital in this respect by the good Baptists who are responsible for the conduct of affairs at Mercer. The students will find, if they have not already found, that religious instruction is the paramount purpose of chapel assemblies, and not assimilation or announcements.

"It may not fulfill this purpose. Apparently, from the yawns and moans of boredom, it does not. Nevertheless, since Mercer's avowed function is to turn out not only trained men but Christians, some sort of spiritual convocation would seem to be inevitable.

"The suggested analogies with state universities, also would seem to be in error. The students at Mercer have not the same right to protest against such matters that the students at Chapel Hill and Athens have.

"Mercer is a private institution. It was established and is operated under the rules of the Baptist conventions and is subject to their rules and—if you please—prejudices. The University of Georgia, on the other hand, belongs to all the people. Every citizen of Georgia theoretically has a right to a voice in the conduct of its affairs. Not every citizen, by any means, has a right to expect the Baptists to heed his complaints, even though the complainant be a student at Mercer and his complaint justified.

"At a state university, a student who may be a Christian Baptist or Congregationalist has the right of a citizen to protest against being forced to subscribe Methodist or Presbyterian dogma. At Mercer, he has no recourse, if he doesn't like the Baptist doctrines, he knows where he can go to avoid them. Similarly, if he wants to avoid all intrusion of religion into his scholastic life, he is in the wrong place and that's all there is to that. Mercer, it may not be forgotten, is primarily a religious college and the religion is Baptist. It is not going to be changed, it cannot be changed and ought not to be changed, in its Baptist religious manifestations, by the protests of some of the students that some of these manifestations are tedious and that students in state-supported universities do not have to tolerate them.

"If Mercer chapel can be made more attractive and less a burden, the authorities ought to do what they can to achieve this end, in the interest of religion no less than in the interest of peace. The authorities will doubtless be willing to co-operate with the students to brighten the period. Students at Chapel Hill and at Athens found the faculty even a little anxious to get undergraduate assistance and suggestions.

"This department interviewed a Mercer student who normally is all for insurrection, in a search for a specimen opinion on the compulsory chapel issue. Much of what is set forth above was expressed by him. He was very emphatic about the futility of the thing.

"The Cluster writer would have a better chance for success if he climbed Coleman Hill before dawn and, holding a batpin in his hand, dared the sun to rise," he said.

"Compulsory chapel," he added, "is a mouth-stopper for sneoping trustees and is as necessary as hired athletes. I surely do not favor compulsory chapel—I have to go myself—no one who has listened to returned missionaries, retired ministers and returned and moneyed alumni could favor such torture. I favor a fight for a liberal principle wherever victory is possible but not a fight just to see who can be infuriated and how much newspaper space may be won."

BASKETBALL TO BE TAUGHT HERE BY VIENNA PROF.

J. H. Jenkins, coach of the "wonderful" basketball team of Vienna, which recently won the applause of the world by its gallant stand in the national high school tournament held recently in Chicago, will conduct a course in basketball coaching and statistics at the coming session of the Mercer summer school. This announcement was made recently by Dean Peyton Jacob, director of the summer school.

Mr. Jenkins, who is a graduate of Mercer, has taught in the summer schools here for the past two years. He will, in addition to his duties as teacher, continue work on his Master of Arts degree.

For the past three years Coach Jenkins has built up a cage team at the little Vienna High School whose success has been phenomenal. With only approximately eighty-five students in the school and over half of this number girls, he has by his thorough knowledge of the indoor game developed a team that ranks with any in America.

The team won three tournaments during the past year and made a wonderful showing at the national tourney at Chicago against terrific odds. This little team of eagles began its tourney battles by sweeping through the Cotton States tournament held at Auburn, to victory; then proceeded to annex the district and state championships with comparative ease.

In the tourney at Chicago the team won three games by displaying some brilliant basketball and soon won the admiration of the fans. But in the fourth game the strain told, and they were beaten by the Champion Morjon High School team of Chicago, by one lone point.

It is probably that had it not been for the long ride, the strain of so many tourney games, and the unfavorable conditions the boys from the peach state would have been crowned champions. Two Vienna players were placed on the All-American team; an honor to the South as well as Georgia.

RHODES AWARD TO BE MADE SOON

The election of the winners of the Rhodes Scholarships for 1927, will be held in Georgia December 10, according to information given recently by Dr. Percy Scott Flippin, Dean of the History department of the University. All applications for the appointment are due October 22, and it is hoped that all colleges will select their representatives by October 15. All Georgia applications should be sent in to Dean R. P. Brooks, of the University of Georgia.

The Rhodes Scholarship which is awarded to two students in each state annually by the Rhodes Trustees of Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, are tenable for three years. The intrinsic value of the scholarship amounts to \$2,000 and no restriction is placed upon a Rhodes Scholar's choice of studies. No examinations are required for the candidate to become a scholar, but the student is appointed on the basis of his character and his scholastic record while in college. Mercer is allowed three candidates, who are selected by the faculty according to the regulations of the appointment.

Some of the qualifications of the candidate are: (1) He must be a male citizen of the United States and unmarried; (2) He must be between the ages of nineteen and twenty-five; (3) He must have completed at least his Sophomore year in college.

A candidate may apply in the state in which he resides or in the one in which he has received at least two years of his college education.

The qualities which will be considered in making the selections are: (1) Literary and scholastic ability and attainments; (2) Qualities of manhood, character, public spirit, and leadership; (3) Physical vigor, as shown by interest in outdoor sports or in other ways.

Those pupils who think that they can measure up to those standards set forward by the awards committee of this scholarship contest, should give all attention possible to their work in order to be eligible for the election in December. This is another wonderful

SENIOR-FACULTY BASEBALL GAME

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In the game. Among Mercer instructors there are probably many who, in the days of their college life, were campus heroes by virtue of some athletic achievement. The Cluster issues this suggestion with an earnest hope it will not be taken as a jest.

The seniors should take the initial step and invite the faculty to participate in the game. It is hoped the faculty will throw aside their duties and enter into the game if for no other reason than to allow the seniors to get revenge. Possibly they will not, after all, be able to obtain vengeance. Few of us know what baseball celebrities we have on our faculty.

opportunity for another Mercer student to acquit himself with honor and it is hoped that among the next winners of Rhodes Scholarships a Mercer student will be listed.

Other information may be obtained from Dean Flippin or Dean Brooks, at Athens, Ga.

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