

THE MERCER CLUSTER

Published weekly by the student body of Mercer University

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THE CLUSTER WANTS--

- to thank The Telegraph for its excellent editorial Monday on the trustees meeting.
-heat and hot water in the dormitories on Sunday.
-light current available in the dormitories before dark.
-to thank The Macon News for its article last Saturday in regard to support of Mercer athletics.
-the trustees to provide a badly needed gymnasium.
-everyone to obtain as much football equipment as possible during the holidays for class games.
-stronger and warmer coffee at the cafeteria.
-to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and luck on exams.

THE CRISIS

The Macon Telegraph, keen diagnostician of Mercer's ills, said Monday that the meeting of the trustees in Augusta Tuesday would be the most important gathering that body has ever had. At the time The Cluster goes to press, news from Augusta will not have reached Macon.

Said The Telegraph: "On the action taken by this board tomorrow hinges very largely the question of whether Mercer shall go forward to a place as a university or whether it shall slip back into the position of simply another denominational college. Denominational colleges are very well, in their place, and this place is a rather important one in the present arrangement of society, but a sectarian school is not a university. The woods are full of 'universities' which are just what Mercer is growing away from--small colleges, with an earnest Christian faculty, their hands tied by sectarian dogma and their efforts hamstrung by sectarian tight-fistedness."

The trustees had it in their power to select a man the type of Dr. Weaver. If they did this, Mercer will grow as a real university. If, on the other hand, they selected a "safe" man, one who will be acceptable to bucolic Baptists, Mercer will degenerate into "just another denominational school," as The Telegraph expresses it.

The trustees were also to take in consideration the erection of a law building. If the legal school continues in its present back-room quarters in Sherwood hall, it will soon lose its place as the leading law school in the state. It is possible that in time even the Georgia school will equal Mercer's. The Telegraph says, "The quarters of the law school are so preposterously inadequate as to defy calm description."

In regard to the law school The Telegraph says, in part: "The penny-wise, pound-foolish element which always has a voice in such matters, will bring up the objection of lack of en-

THE JOURNALISTIC SCHOOL

Some time in February the Newspaper Institute for the Georgia Press Association will be held at Mercer University. That such an honor should be conferred upon the university is satisfying, and we feel just. It is a recognition of the quality of Mercer's School of Journalism.

Likely the meeting factor causing the Georgia Press Association to convene here for the meeting of 1928 was Dr. Weaver's speech before that body last summer at Eatonton. There he outlined to the members the practical newspaper course being offered at Mercer. Dr. Weaver has always been in trend and a booster of the sentiment that the press of journalism owes much. It was through his insistence that all steps be taken before receiving any degree should have at least five hours of journalism.

In this requirement Mercer is unique. It is the only school in the world having such a stipulation.

But why was this rule made? There are many reasons. Here are three of the most important.

The study of journalism teaches accuracy, promptness and the possibility of the word "and." It teaches the student how to read the newspaper intelligently. And it teaches him that he can use, in a practical way, what he learns in other courses, in physics, chemistry, sociology, psychology, economics, history. If these were the only benefits it would be most profitable course.

Since the first classes in 1920 the popularity of the journalism courses has steadily increased; in the last three years the enrollment in the higher classes those not required has doubled. There is little doubt in the minds of the students of journalism that this popularity is due as much to the personnel of the teaching staff as to the intrinsic interest of the subject.

But in the teaching staff lies one weakness: there is only one and a half professors. That is, there is only one professor employed for the full number of hours. Because of this, Mercer was not allowed membership in the Association of American Schools and Departments of Journalism when applied for in 1924. Of course, this does not reflect upon its merits, but in a casual comparison with other schools of journalism one could easily misunderstand the reason.

There are three outstanding needs:

- 1. To obtain another full time teacher, so that the requirements of the association may be met.
2. The building up of the department library to include most of the more important works on journalism and kindred subjects.
3. At least ten typewriters for the use of journalism students.

Endowments, like the gods in the proverb, help those who help themselves. If Mercer proposes to revert to a policy of scrimping, men with money will permit it to scrimp. If, however, the trustees adopt a progressive policy of intelligent growth, the money will be provided. The alumni and well-wishers, who, on a sentimental appeal for athletics, raised a fund of \$40,000, can be counted on to do as much or more for the law school.

CLASS ATHLETICS

This issue of The Cluster carries a news story about class football, which is to start after the holidays. The athletic department of the university hopes later to have class basketball, baseball and tennis, in order that all students may take part in some sport. Little or no publicity comes to a school from its mass athletics, yet class sports are more valuable than press-agented, semi-professional football teams. The new education is concerned in the physical as well as the mental man.

Athletics for all is the enlightened opinion, but such is impossible without equipment of a sort. Mercer has a plant for teaching preachers, but no place to teach health. Since the gymnasium was evolved into a theological seminary, students who wish to take part in games which require at least a building in which to play--to say

"SHUCKS" BY COBB

THE EVOLUTION OF THE KISS

I am not striving for a striking or resplendent title. I am conscious that this title is rather "risky," all right, because a discussion of any sort of evolution is banned in this particular institution for the advancement of enlightenment. If it is treason, then I am willing to make the least of it. And if I have readers who resent any open discussion of such clandestine things as kisses are supposed to be, they may afford themselves the consolation of reading this treatise in private.

I am an authority on kisses. (This is not an advertisement meant for a Wesleyan clientele, because kisses are not included in the diet of Wesleyans, and I'm sure I am heartily in accord with the authorities on The Hill.) I have made a special study of this topic for years, and I conscientiously feel that I should give posterity the benefit of my research before my demise shall inter my pen.

It was many and many a year ago in some sort of kingdom by some sort of sea that kissing began. The greater psychologists maintain that all of our habits are acquired by trial and error. That is, the animal attempts to get out of its cage by some sort of chance movement; and, these failing, he employs others and others and so on until some happy accident accomplishes, finally that at which he had aimed. Now kissing, being a human animal habit, must have originated in a like manner--I have reasoned. Primitive man must have fought very often over the division of food. No doubt, the first kiss was enacted over a bitter battle for the possession of a choice morsel. When the Aborigine he-man had wrested the dainty from his spouse, she must have charged upon him merely and sought to recover the stolen goods as I entered his lips--by the use of her own avid, watering mouth. And I am inclined to imagine that man was stunned by the delight that this vicious attack slipped into his veins, for he must have lingered with his mate in the contest of lips--and tendrily. This was the first kiss.

Has that first fierce and genuine kiss evolved any? I am sure that this question is a logical one. There are some who may question that Greta Garbo and John Gilbert can attain to anything more powerful than this antilevelian career I have conjured up for you. But the scientists of you will agree with me, that evolution does not make a graph with a constant upward line; evolution moves in upward-swinging cycles. Now this first kiss might have its points, but I am of the opinion that it went into a decline and remained in the valleys for centuries--and has only recently come into its own. Now the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries saw the low water mark in kissing. Chaucer and Shakespeare and Jonson and a few others seemed to have the idea, but kissing declined horribly after these great souls. The maiden of 1865 didn't even know the significance of a kiss; she thought that it was a sort of necessary kind of seal to the formality of accepting a suitor. She thought of no beauty in it and believed in more restraint than the Greeks, who finished the Parthenon. And I doubt if she should have confederated even to a wedding kiss, had she known that every kiss witnesses the interchange of some forty-odd thousand bacteria.

nothing of uniforms and such things, are--to put it mildly--out of luck. The university evidently considered the "having" of souls more important than the building of bodies. If not, we would now have a gym instead of a seminary. It should be remembered that while soul-saving is all right in its place, a fundamental need of every college is a gymnasium.

CLUSTER PRESENTS NEWS GLEANED FROM COLLEGES

(Continued from Page 1)

at handling a portable typewriter. "Journalism," he said, "is not rewarded by wealth or scholarly attainments but is a fascinating, creative work offering the possibility of literary leadership. It is a profession which gives and takes courage, initiative, wisdom, knowledge, literary style, knowledge of life and information."

Morgantown, W. Va. (By New Student Service)--West Virginia has earned a place in the hall of fame with Tennessee and Chicago as a third great defender of American ideals. Only now has the complete story of the Kirby Page exclusion incident filtered through, and in its entirety it reads like an advertisement offering for sale or trade the University of West Virginia. In October it was suggested that Page, editor of the World Tomorrow, be invited to speak on the Morgantown campus. The Religious Work Council, consisting of the student pastors and Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. representatives, decided that it would be unwise and unsafe to have Mr. Page at the University. The Y. W. C. A., acting for itself, made arrangements to have the forbidden speaker come anyhow, and he was scheduled for two addresses.

At once the military department got into action. From the Reserve Officers Association they had received materials purporting to prove Kirby Page a dangerous radical, and if not an out and out red, at least a very pink pink. Besides, Page is a conscientious objector. So the R. O. T. C. took it upon itself to legislate for the University. It had no difficulty in enlisting the aid of the D. A. E. and the American Legion. With such prominent citizens applying the thumb screws, President Trotter succumbed, and announced to the Y. W. C. A. that the campus was closed to Mr. Page.

That wasn't the end. A few faculty members wondered out loud if a state University was to be censored by the campus military, and chaperoned by the townspeople. A few students, loath to place their faith even in a University president, also thought out loud. Two of them invited Mr. Page to come and speak off the campus. He did, before a fairly large and interested crowd.

The next day President Trotter declared himself boldly and frankly. He would bar from the campus any speaker toward whom there existed organized opposition. He was not going to have any fights on his presidential hands. And that ended the case so far as Mr. Trotter is concerned and that is the end so far as the University is concerned, unless the few students and faculty members are willing to risk expulsion in order to do a little organized revolting.

Those who read "Children of the Ritz" in College Humor, or who are contemplating reading the novel, should be interested in this excellent, witty review--from The Red and Black (Georgia): "Children of the Ritz, by Cornell Woolrich. Boni and Liveright. "An atmosphere of stale cigarette smoke, faded flowers, spilt illegal wine, and the remains of the party last night. Real--real--real--impossible."

INTRA-MURAL TILTS BEGIN NEXT MONTH

(Continued from page 1) ville today to meet with the coaches in the S. I. C. Then tomorrow he will go to Chattanooga and meet with the coaches of the S. I. A. A. After attending three meetings in as many days Coach Moore will go to his home in Winchester, Tennessee, and then return to the campus some time during the early part of next week. In his absence the varsity basketball team will be under the direction of Captain Phoney Smith and Charlie Morgan.

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