

THE MERCER CLUSTER

Published weekly by the student body of Mercer University

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A COWARD'S CHANCE

The Cluster is unpleasantly surprised to learn that there is a coward enrolled in Mercer. The letter appearing below explains the reason for such a statement. It was received by the officials here during the early part of this week. It said: "The faculty or board of trustees seem to have the authority to force each student to pay his fees—including the subscription to the Cluster. Many of us would not take and read such radical stuff if we were to decide the subscription. Surely you have the right to make suggestions as to what is put in the Cluster. So stick to it."

"A Student."

Here is a person who is afraid to back his statements by his signature; the kind of person who plants his ideas and then hides, that these ideas may not find him out and slap his face. Oh, dear, why be so "radical"? Perhaps the person was just too modest to see his name in print.

But it is only justice that this staunch backer of conservatism be given a chance to redeem himself. The Cluster wants to know what "radical stuff" has been printed and invites this person to tell—in an anonymous letter which will be printed in the Cluster—which articles go under this head.

DR. NEWMAN

Those who are familiar with the Mercer campus have seen the stouped figure of a kindly man, now old in years but young in mind. They remember with pleasure the ceremonies at a special chapel service held last year in which this same white-haired man sat humbly on the platform, listening with bowed head to the praise which came to him from all parts of the world.

On that day Dr. Albert Henry Newman was honored at the completion of fifty years service to his church; for he is the ablest authority of Baptist church history.

Times have changed; a new policy is outlined for Mercer; teachers must be dropped. Yes, and among these for whom there is no longer a place on the faculty is Dr. Newman, the ripest scholar Mercer has ever had.

Regardless of the ability or prominence of the man there is yet another reason for keeping Dr. Newman. On every faculty there should be older men who, by their very maturity, give weight and dignity to such a body. They create a sense of stability rarely felt without their presence; they are needed to bridge the gaps in the generations, to co-ordinate the thought of the periods. In such a capacity is Dr. Newman invaluable.

A CHANGE OF EDITORS

(Note: This editorial is published without the knowledge of the editor or the editor-elect.—The Editorial Council.)

The Cluster staff regrets that June Ellis has resigned, but it sees in his resignation a brave geste for freedom. Ellis would not like to be called a martyr, and The Cluster will not so nominate him; but certainly he has made a sacrifice for an ideal.

It is one thing to edit an ordinary college weekly, and quite another to publish a free newspaper. The Cluster has said, in sincerity, what has been the duty, and should be the privilege, of a free press to say. Ellis has been a courageous leader.

At a Cluster staff meeting Monday night, Ellis was called "the best editor The Cluster ever had." Surely no past editor who reads this newspaper this year could object to that statement. Ellis is a newspaperman; he has run The Cluster like a newspaper, and not as a publicity sheet.

If the student body approves, The Cluster passes next week into the hands of Courtland Gilbert. Knowing Gilbert's record as a journalist, the staff knows that he will carry on the good work of publishing not an ordinary newspaper, but an expressive journal.

If students have something to say, let them say it, whether it is orthodox, whether the faculty agrees with it or not. If students always agreed with the faculty, of what use would be expression? It would be merely regressive—landation—without constructive value.

Whatever comes, whether we are allowed expression (and every perfect expression must be free or not)—The Cluster is for its new editor. We are impoverished in losing the best editor The Cluster ever had. We are enriched by acquiring such a man as Gilbert.

COLLEGIATE SPELLERS

The provision made by the trustees that Juniors be required to pass an examination in spelling and grammar is one that might well be copied in almost every university in the country. A college man who can spell is the exception.

Spelling is important not so much in itself, but because of his spelling, as by his speech, a man is judged. If we get a letter in which the spelling or grammar is bad, we get an idea that the writer is ignorant. Whether this is fair or not makes no difference; it is so.

The college man should be thought intelligent and informed. Let him understand Einstein's (is that misspelled?) theory and the intricate philosophy of Kant, yet not be able to spell "separate"—and he is called ignorant.

The editors of The Macon Telegraph said a few days ago that they have trouble finding reporters who can spell. Men and women from universities and schools, large and small—educated people—find, when writing away from a dictionary, that they cannot spell.

ATHLETIC SUGGESTION

Mercer will play Davidson in tennis Monday. This match should remind the trustees that an apportionment should be made next year for some sports other than football, basketball and baseball. Tennis, golf and track attract men who are not interested in the so-called major sports.

What a small amount of money can do for minor athletics is shown by the record made by the tennis team two years ago with \$100. The team made a trip through North and South Carolina, played in the state tournament, played Georgia, and brought the S. I. A. A. tournament to Macon—all on \$100. Davidson is being brought here Monday on money raised by subscription in the Tennis club.

This year there was no money for tennis, track or golf. If it were not for the Tennis club, Mercer could have no matches. While \$100 means little to baseball, football or basketball, it would mean a great deal to the minor sports.

THE COLLEGE PRESS

Senator James A. Reed spoke recently at the University of North Carolina. He was brought to Chapel Hill under the auspices of The Tar Heel, university newspaper, and is reported by that journal as attacking Coolidge and charging the whole Republican administration with fraud and dishonesty, and as saying:

"The whole trend of modern life is to make people good by statute, but no man or woman was ever made good by law. The good impulse must come from within. We have come to a condition in this country where we have no real respect for law. Multiplicity of law does not produce universal virtues."

Many notables were expected to attend the first Eastern Regional Conference on the Drama which was to be held at Chapel Hill, April 4 and 5. The purpose of the conference was to stimulate interest in the Little Theatre.

Some of those prominent in the dramatic world who were to be present are Prof. Frederick H. Koch, director of the famous Carolina Playmakers; George Pierce Baker, of Yale; Eva La Gallienne, famed actress; John Emerson, president, and Frank Gilmore, secretary, of the Actors' Equity association.

Up at Wake Forest they organized an Al Smith club, and several Charlotte ministers got hot up about it, it seems, and tried to interfere. The Tar Heel, progressive journal of North Carolina's seat of culture, commented courageously:

"Those ministers who would thus tyrannize campus thought are worse than witch-doctors. They possess just enough education to be dangerous, just enough influence to make their extermination a benefit to public welfare."

"One day they drool of brotherly love; the next finds them calling college boys 'cat-brained' and 'silly-minded'."

"Now, if these Baptists were setting out to utter truisms, they might well remark that college students are generally cat-brained and silly-minded. But ministers of the gospel are not sworn servants of manifested truth; they are merely agents of a moralistic philosophy which millions have found comforting and to which a fanciful few have ascribed a sort of divinity. Hence, as advocates of one ethical theory, they present a clownish exhibition when they quibble over rival doctrines like Catholicism and Protestantism."

"But after all, ministers and college students should not cross swords. They are blood brothers in the great fraternity of ignorance."

"In the Wake Forest case especially, there seems to be little cause for ministerial interference. Will the Baptists of this progressive state deny a college full of young men, some of whom are already of voting age and others of whom are destined for political office, the privilege of organizing partisan discussion groups? All worthwhile forums center attention on some individual man or issue. Surely men of God cannot prate of civil liberties one day and grant them only to anti-Smith movements the next. Let it be observed here that in politics a non-Smith club is simply an anti-Smith subterfuge."

One could write columns about what's going on at North Carolina, but we mustn't overlook the Empire State. Says the Emory Wheel:

"According to a letter recently received by Edgar James, manager of the Glee Club's European tour, the South's Sweetest Singers will have luncheon and an afternoon date with Lady Nancy Astor while they are in Europe next summer."

Several of the college papers are denouncing the ludicrous misrepresentation of college life as shown in the movies. A petition asking for true dramatization of college life or none at all was signed by the sophomore class of Princeton.

THREE TO BE TAKEN INTO SIGMA UPSILON

Austin Gilmore, Joe R. Bobbitt and Mark Ethridge of the Macon Telegraph will be initiated into the Sigma Upsilon literary fraternity at its meeting next Thursday night.

Gilmore is from Kentucky and is a junior in the school of journalism, while Bobbitt is from Louisiana and is a senior in the arts college. Mark Ethridge was pledged to Sigma Upsilon at Mississippi college, but was not initiated before leaving school.

The Sigma Upsilon charter was placed at Mercer last summer. The meetings are held fortnightly. Each member reads something of his own creation which is then freely discussed by the group.

The active members of the fraternity are: Dr. B. C. Holtzclaw, Professors Folk and Knight, of the faculty, and the following students, Howard Leonard, W. E. Smith, June Ellis, Fred K. Salter, Turley Warlick, Tom Cobb, Edwin Tribble, Paul Ethridge, J. M. Dallam, Carl M. White, Hal Harris, Paul Stevens, Henry Billingshurst, and Wink Walker.

CAULDRON STAFF BACKS NEW PLAN

Students May Pay Fee at Beginning of Year Instead of Present Method

A plan whereby each student will pay for his Cauldron in advance along with other fees assessed at the beginning of the scholastic year, was placed before the students at the Chapel period Thursday by the 1928 Cauldron staff.

John Gilbert, business manager, stated that the proposition was brought before the student body at this time in order that the 1928 Cauldron catalogue, which goes to press soon, will list the Cauldron fee with other student expenses.

Election Suggested
 The 1928 Cauldron editor and business manager also suggested that the junior class elect members for next year's Cauldron staff Thursday. The results were not known when the Cluster went to press.

Final work for the publishing of the 1928 Senior year book has been completed and the material has been sent to the printers. It is expected to be ready for distribution the first week in May.

Many Features

It has been announced that eight sections are to comprise this year's Cauldron. These are: the university section, faculty members, class section, athletic, fraternity, sponsor, hilarity, student life, and the advertisement sections.

All students who have not reserved their annuals are urged to see the editor or business manager as soon as possible, for they have ordered only the number for which they now have orders with a few extra ones.

LITERARY SOCIETY DIES OF JAZZ-ITIS

Madison, Wis. (by New Student Service)—After forty-five years of life, Philomathia Literary society, one of the oldest organizations on the University of Wisconsin campus, has decided that competition with dances and co-eds is futile, and has willfully gone out of existence. A funeral banquet marked the farewell. David M. Gantz, secretary of the organization, made the announcement in a statement, which said in part: "It seems that literary societies 'went out' with the horse and buggy. With so many outside activities going on in the university, few men find time, or are interested enough, to attend our meetings."

Other is Alive

However, the president of Resperia, another literary society founded in 1854, reported that his organization is very much alive. "Perhaps the reason that Philomathia has found trouble in competing with other things, especially social functions," he said, "is the fact that it holds its meetings on Friday night."



THE ONE PIECE BACK

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 Pants, 20-inch Bottoms

College Clothes
 With a Punch

DAVID WACHTEL

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