

THE MERCER CLUSTER

Published weekly by the student body of Mercer University

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Subscription \$1.50 the College Year. Advertising rates sent upon request.

Entered as second-class matter, Sept. 8, 1924, at the post office at Macon, Ga., under the act of March 3, 1879.

Don't forget to write mother a mother's day letter.

Congratulations officers of the class of 1929. The job is big but capable men hold the steering wheel.

There is something approaching besides hot weather, vacation and familiar visions of the home-steads—Examinations.

The saving instinct of man—the ability to use his legs—still preserved its existence last Tuesday at the inter-class track meet. The contest also showed that Mercer students are not dead yet.

We would like to see the faculty play at least three more innings of the ball game cancelled last spring. The seniors were leading in the second inning when the game was called because some of the professors were "Lare." They have had time to rest.

The Cluster extends its congratulations to W. A. Wommack on his election to the presidency of the student body. In this office, one of the high gifts of the student body, he can do much for the general good, and we know he will.

THE DEBATERS

In no line of activities have Mercer's teams been so successful or gained such distinction as in the forensic field. Mercer's representatives have met the best colleges in the South and few, indeed, have been the occasions when her debaters were not victorious. The season just closed ended with four victories and no defeats.

But our debaters have paid for these victories. They have worked as hard as any athlete ever did to uphold the honor and the traditions of the university. Hour after hour they have studied to maintain Mercer's excellent past record.

Nobly and well have they performed; in fact, they could not have done better. For this, however, they have received but little of the credit that is due them. They and their coach, Prof. Fowler, have been too long neglected when laurel wreaths and tokens of true worth have been distributed. The student body as a whole has shown so little interest as to hardly know that debates were being held. And few students have thought to congratulate a debater after his victory.

To you, who have labored with little hope of recognition or commendation, who have been the unsung heroes of victory, The Cluster again extends congratulations.

MISS GARNER LEAVES

With the departure of Miss Virginia Garner, associate professor of journalism at Mercer for the last seven years, but a month away, it is fitting that some appreciation of her services to the university should be made through the columns of The Cluster.

It was solely through the efforts and ability of Miss Garner that the best known school of Mercer University rose from a nonentity to a being in itself. She is the one who from mature teaching experience was able to work out the curriculum which made of the journalism school one that is reputed to be the best in the South and one of the

THE TRUSTEES OBJECT

At the top of the list of advantages of the small college is the fact that in the smaller institutions, such as Mercer, there can be more personal contact between students and teachers. Free discussion between the two bodies is the best means of education—for both.

The old philosophers taught their pupils by talking and arguing with them. Modern education has found no better way of preventing factory products from emanating from their schools than by personal contact of students and professors.

The student learns more from intimate conversation with his instructor than he absorbs in the classroom. Class instruction is more or less cut and dried, and things heard in formal academic gatherings are soon forgotten. By questioning and arguing, the student remembers what he learns.

Yet objection was raised to a proposed debate between two students and two professors in the college.

The Cluster suggests that the debate be held in the Municipal auditorium. Then there could be no legitimate objection to it. The affair would take place off the campus and away from the jurisdiction of the college.

Dr. P. H. Anderson, one of the professors who agreed to oppose Smith, said in a letter to The Macon Telegraph: "According to an announcement in The Cluster . . . the debate was to have been a faculty versus student affair . . . Such an arrangement was not what I had in mind."

Dr. Anderson is mistaken in his interpretation of the story in The Cluster. It said specifically that TWO MEMBERS of the faculty have agreed publicly to oppose . . . etc. The Cluster said further that "unbiased judges are to be selected and no favor will be shown Dr. Anderson and Prof. Carver because they are members of the faculty, but that the debate will be judged solely on the merits of the arguments."

THE OLD ORDER

In this, one of its few remaining issues of the year, The Cluster extends a farewell and a God-speed to those members of the faculty who will not return another year.

Especially do we express regret over the departure of Dr. B. D. Ragsdale and of S. W. Garrett. Since 1918, Dr. Ragsdale has occupied with credit the office of custodian over the sine qua non of Mercer, the treasury. Largely through his efforts, the university has been able to expand in periods of adversity and marked financial depression, when he was receiving practically nothing from the supporters of the college. His contact with the students has always been politely impartial, a characteristic which those who know him closely can but remark with admiration.

In 1923, Mr. Garrett became the registrar and business manager of the school. Hampered by the small allowance which the treasury could afford him, he yet, with the assistance of the other executives, made Mercer sufficiently attractive substantially to increase the number of the student body. It is amazing that Mr. Garrett has been able to maintain the campus and buildings and advertise the university as well as he has with the small pittance of money necessarily allowed to him.

There is little doubt that the journalism students will see Miss Garner frequently at Wesleyan, but it is to be regretted that we will have to go six miles for this privilege.

The absence of Dr. Newman, who has been with us since 1921, will be deeply felt.

Dr. D. H. Kerchner will be missed both by the students and faculty of the Law school. It will be indeed difficult to fill the vacancy created by his resignation with a more competent instructor.

best in the country. And she is the one who, with Professor Folk and Mark Etheridge, has made the work conform to the high standards which were set.

There are few professors at Mercer who can compare in thoroughness and teaching ability to Miss Garner. Those who have studied under her know her to be strict in classroom requirements, but at the same time she manages to put into the work a wealth of interest not usually found in difficult subjects. Those students who wish to gain knowledge of journalism at the sacrifice of leisure know that in her classes their aim can be realized; but those who elect to follow the easier road avoid them.

It is sufficient for many teachers to merely assign work from the text books, not taking the trouble to keep abreast of the times and impart to their classes the current development of the subjects taught. An extensive reader, Miss Garner is able, in such courses as "The Magazine" and "Feature Article," to always keep one jump ahead of the work she outlines, and often at the discomfort of her classes, to point out any negligence on the part of her students.

Mercer is losing a valuable teacher.

WHAT THEY DO

Every week, The Cluster criticizes and interprets the work of various so-called major organizations of the campus. The Presidents' club and the Student Tribunal have been dealt with, and this week the Y. M. C. A. is due an analysis.

THE Y. M. C. A.

And now we come to record the untold blessings wrought by the Mercer band of the Young Men's Christian association, which meets for short sessions three times some weeks, twice others, and some weeks not at all.

The Cluster cannot criticize the association for its lack of meetings at times. The group gathers with more regularity than many organizations on the campus. Then, too, the president of the association said in reply to a query from The Cluster in regard to his organization: "the weekly meetings are only a small part of the work of the Y. M. C. A. They are only a means to an end."

In enumerating the blessings of the "Y," The Cluster will set forth the projects of the association, as outlined by its president: "The outstanding contributions of the Y. M. C. A. this year have been as follows: (1) We have sought to line Mercer students up with the various churches, Sunday schools and B. Y. P. U.'s of the city; (2) we have sought to place those who desire to teach and do other work on the campus in the churches; (3) we have sponsored prayer meetings at various places on the campus."

The association might point its finger with pride at blessings (1) and (2) were it not for the fact that the report uses the word "sought" instead of "did."

In blessing (3), a more positive assertion is made. A representative of The Cluster questioned the first six men he met Tuesday afternoon and not one of them had heard of a prayer meeting on the campus, certainly none of them has been invited to participate. All the men interviewed were from Sherwood, the bugaboo of the gun-istors.

If prayer meetings are held, a select group living in the ministerial area is cheating the rest of the students out of the benefits to be derived from such devoutness.

The association has high aims—but the accomplishments?

To ascertain what a live Christian organization can do, The Cluster inquired about the accomplishments of the Shorter college Y. W. C. A. Some of the projects carried through by that organization during the year are: orphan-children-visited-and-entertained many times; prayer groups organized on the campus; twenty-five baskets of provisions taken to the needy of Rome; the entire college was entertained on Jan. 14; sunbeam hands were organized in Rome with cabinet members at the head of every group.

The Cluster hopes that the Y. M. C. A. will take its rightful place in Mercer's activities and enlarge its scope to become what its name signifies—a young men's Christian association.

GAMBLERS OF DUST

(By Jesse Stuart in The Blue and Gray)

Men are gamblers of dust . . . Handfuls walking the streets of tomorrow.

They throw the dice of time, and say, "Yesterday is gone. What about it? We are rolling the dice of tomorrow."

God, cover them over with ashes and dreams.

God let them work . . . Handfuls . . . gamblers of dust . . .



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