

# The Mercer Cluster

Published weekly during the college year by the students of Mercer

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### TWO WRITERS-

### TWO TEACHERS

The newspaper students of Mercer, and especially the staff of The Cluster last year bemoaned the departure of Prof. E. E. Folk, formerly head of the department of journalism here, with sad hearts and mournful pens. Any student who has had work under Professor Folk will tell you today that Mercer seldom has seen such a striking composition of the scholar, the gentlemen, the teacher and the newspaperman as is Professor Folk. His presence is missed by all, and especially by those who learned the principles of good journalism at his feet.

When Professor Folk left Macon, he promised those interested that his successor in the department of journalism would be a first-rate man. Characteristically, he was sincere; characteristically, he was not mistaken.

John D. Allen, formerly of the Baltimore Sun and the Columbus Enquirer-Sun, fills the bill. He is a worthy successor to a worthy man. Mr. Allen, recently out of college, understands and sympathizes with the college student; he is, in fact, a student himself. He is not snooty, is not professorial, is not pedantic. Mr. Allen conducts his classes in the only manner in which college classes should be managed—the informal meeting to discuss the subject at hand, with the teacher as chairman and instructor rather than a posing professor.

As for qualifications, Mr. Allen has them all. First, he is a newspaperman. Too many so-called teachers are professing what they know not, are instructing that in which they are un instructed. Mr. Allen reminds one of Professor Folk in that he knows his material first hand.

Having done many kinds of writing, Mr. Allen is qualified to teach a wide field of journalistic endeavor. His students are looking forward to the course in editorial writing, planned for the winter term, for Mr. Allen is experienced and expert in writing for what Professor Folk called the "soul of the newspaper."

The new teacher's class in book reviewing already has proved him acquainted with that field of writing. Mr. Allen, in fact, has published many

excellent book reviews and since reaching Macon has been "adopted" by Mr. Tribble's book page of The Telegraph.

Such praise could go on, but there is another addition to the journalism faculty who deserves note. Mrs. Mark Ethridge, known to thousands of magazine and newspaper readers as "Willie Snow Ethridge" has been added to the journalism faculty to teach special feature writing.

If ever an instructor knew what she professed to teach, Mrs. Ethridge does. Already, her students are dreaming of publishing in the national magazines. Her enthusiasm added to her erudition and sheer humanity make her the ideal person to encourage and inform, aspiring young writers. The most mediocre story, remodeled according to Mrs. Ethridge, is transformed into a first-rate article. She is, in fine, thorough, well-informed, enthusiastic, sympathetic, inspiring. Nothing more could be asked.

### RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE

A little over 400 hundred years ago a tiny band of sufferers, believing that to worship as conscience called was the greatest command of a just God, severed the ties of their persecuting countrymen and fled to the bleak but free shores of a new continent. But these people were bigots. Free themselves, they soon forgot the causes of their emigration, forgot their persecutors had the teachings of Jesus Christ, and inflicted upon the newer arrivals to the colony the hide-bound dogmas of their own religion.

A few years before the Pilgrims there came to the shores of Virginia another band of people, not in search of religious freedom but with the more homely design of enriching themselves. These men and women, not instructed by God to make people conform to the only true way of believing, welcomed those of all creeds. A century and a half passed, in which time the two insignificant settlements in Massachusetts and Virginia spread rapidly north and south along the Atlantic seaboard, using the more recently formed colonies of Pennsylvania and Maryland as links in the American chain. Maryland was Catholic; Pennsylvania, Quaker. But this was a country dedicated to freedom of every kind. The intolerance of the seventeenth century was buried, at least in the new world.

Independence was declared, and in the Declaration was written Freedom. Eleven years later, the Constitution of the United States was drawn up and signed by as widely a representative body of statesmen and political thinkers as the world has seen. And in the articles to which they attached their signatures and gave their approval was the clause saying that religion was not to be a qualification for office.

Over a century and a quarter has passed since those men first divorced religion from politics; and it was the belief of all those who have faith in the American people that our civilization had outgrown the prejudices of the centuries. They were mistaken. They did not realize that the people of this country had gradually forgotten the precepts and the teachings of early leaders, and more important, the teachings of the Master. They did not realize that the South, the Cavalier South, had let itself get into the hands of ignorant, bigoted people who were ready at the first pretence to disgrace the name of Christians, southerners, and democracy. They did not realize that the time was soon to come when the church of Rome would be cursed and the Democratic candidate for President of the United States libeled because he is a Catholic.

But let us be thankful that the majority of southerners are still Christians; that they still are guided by Him who taught the way to peace and happiness. Let us be thankful that the college men of the country and of the South are not blinded by prejudice; are not influenced by lying and foolish propaganda; and let Mercer men be counted among the just.

### EXAMPLES OF COLLEGIA

Two Associated Press reports in the last few days indicate that at least a part of the college youth of today is not far removed from the barbaric age.

A student of Birmingham-Southern college was arrested on Oct. 6 in connection with the severe beating administered by a gang of young men to a gatekeeper as they rushed the gate at the Howard-Marion football game. The gatekeeper was badly beaten, and sustained severe lacerations and contusions to his head in addition to three broken ribs.

After beating the gatekeeper, the gang passed over his prostrate body and proceeded into the stadium where they lost themselves in the crowd.

At Howard college, authorities have demanded an investigation of fraternity hazing methods. A Howard freshman was drugged in the annual fraternity rush. The student reported that he became dizzy and later unconscious after having a soft drink in a drug store. Upon awakening, he found himself in a fraternity house.

Both of which cases are evidence in support of the opinion that some college men are not up to the civilization of their elders. Many youngsters hold to the idea that because they are college men they can get by with anything. It is no uncommon thing for the man in the street to say, "Oh, well; he's a college boy. You can't expect anything better of him."

But the fact that a man is in college is no reason for him to lose decency and what remnants of gentility he may have to the winds. Those who read the papers will tell you, college men, that more publicity—and bad publicity, mind you—is given to the student who misbehaves in public than to the man in the street who disturbs the peace. Nobody cares much about the latter, but the former makes news over the slightest disturbance.

### APOLOGIA PRO SUA TACITURNITATE

The Cluster hastens to explain to the student body lest its editorial council seem to be blind to matters of fact, or, what is worse, its editor to be devoid of backbone.

For the past four years The Cluster has been very fortunate in having as its faculty adviser a man of wide experience in the journalistic field, as well as of keen judgment in the matter of editorial policy; a man who was interested in the student publication, Prof. Edgar Folk. Under his direction The Cluster has been able to do what the staffs of very few school papers succeed in doing with immunity, that is, to criticize the administration of the university.

The reason for this is that in very few instances, and those minor ones, has the criticism been undeserved or other than constructive.

But this year we are without Professor Folk. A new administration has taken charge, and this administration feels that its affairs can be conducted more harmoniously without suggestions from the student publication. A recent editorial criticism has drawn disapproval from those higher up. We take the position that sincerity forbids the painting of only one side of a picture.

We, the editorial staff of The Cluster, wish the students to take this situation into account in their perusal of our columns. If they find that there are not enough clean plates or glasses of water in the cafeteria, if the food should be antiquated, or if there are not a sufficient number of employees to keep the dormitories and classrooms inhabitable, we ask that, when they find these things unmentioned by The Cluster, they not think that the staff is so hog-like that it does not notice it, or that the editor should be compared to the invertebrate chambered nautilus, because of his fear to speak.

### ALL IN THE GAME

Skirts—bright colored skirts—and silk stockings in the proper place make the ideal football game. A cynic would say they are the football game. Last Saturday at Athens it must have been the game, at least from the Mercer standpoint. There was nothing else of interest. It was a hot day, and besides, the Georgia boys were too rough—decidedly too rough. Also those same boys enjoyed unning fast and far. The field assuredly was too large; but Georgia likes large fields, because as we said before the Georgia players, like to un fast and far.

The Bears get a new deal this Saturday. The Howard boys from Birmingham come to Macon to play on Mercer's own field. The Mercer boys know that the field at Centennial stadium is about the same size as they are accustomed to play on and they will not be handicapped because it is too large. This Saturday is not likely to be as hot as last Saturday, so the play will therefore be snappier. It should be snappier also because the teams playing are more equally matched. It is not fair to judge Mercer by the Athens game. The Georgia boys are too rough. Howard is a denominational college and so is Mercer. The game will be better.

But remember, it will not be worth seeing unless, unless there are skirts—bright-colored skirts—and silk stockings properly placed.

The boys will do their duty, never fear. Now girls, do yours and be there—with your skirts—bright



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