

THE MERCER CLUSTER

Published weekly during the college year by the students of Mercer

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USE THE LIBRARY

If one could ask the fathers of Mercer students why they sent their boys to college, perhaps half of them would say, "The boy fairly thirsts for knowledge. It would be a shame not to let him continue his education."

That statement, in itself, is becoming monotonous. One hears all his life about boys who thirst for knowledge, and, when he goes to college he is surprised to find very few quaffing at the fountain. The college library is intended for the satisfaction of the desires of one interested in the pursuit of knowledge, culture, and the truth. Yet the appeal that it has for the masses consists primarily in that it is a place where one may become warm between classes, and secondarily for the chance that it affords to read the morning newspaper.

The student who makes his parents think that he is doing everything humanly possible to broaden himself is being untrue to them, and the student who really likes to read and wants to learn things and yet allows himself to throw his time away is being untrue to himself.

This is an appeal for the students of Mercer university to use the library. Don't think that you have accomplished anything worth while if you know who wrote a book, if you know nothing of the style, the purpose, or the content of the book. And don't think yourself well-read if you have read Zane Grey's works and Hubbard's scrap-book.

When the students of Mercer university begin to realize that there is more to be gained by spending six or seven hours with good books than there is in a week's work on any course, the number of high class morons in the school will be greatly diminished.

RETURN THE BOOKS

In every community are some individuals who act as obstructionists to the other citizens. Unfortunately, the same is true on a college campus.

Students who take books from the library and do not bring them back on time are actually branding themselves as the type of individual who does nothing on time, who does not seem to care for the privileges of others and who may be looked upon as being more or less untrustworthy in other things.

The books in the Mercer library are there for a purpose—to be used by the students of the institution. But when a small number of students whose selfish natures allow them to keep the books overtime prevent others who may want to read the volumes from doing so, the library cannot give as efficient service as it should.

It is possible that negligence is the cause. This is no excuse. Negligence and carelessness are responsible for many things which should be corrected, but the condition here is to be deplored.

The Cluster thinks that each student should cooperate with the librarian and those who are in charge to make the Mercer library serve its designated purpose as much as possible. This cannot be done so long as certain members of the student body fail to return books due and long overdue.

THE STUDENT TRIBUNAL

The editorial staff takes this, its first opportunity, to criticize the attitude of a considerable number of the students towards the student tribunal.

At the first meeting of the tribunal considerable difficulty was had in keeping order, because of a tendency of the audience to take the slightest irregularity as the pretext for a general laugh. Such conduct on the part of the students can be excused only by reason of the fact that it occurred at the first meeting of the tribunal, at which time they did not know of the purpose of that organization.

The student judiciary has perhaps the most serious and certainly the most responsible purpose of any organization upon Mercer's campus. To it the president of the university has delegated almost perfect sovereignty over the affairs of the student body. Upon it rests the duty of preserving the peace and dignity of the campus, the duty of allowing to each student the utmost freedom of action consistent with the privileges and rights of his fellow-students. The tribunal is to the Mercer student body what the Supreme court of Georgia is to the people of Georgia. There is but one authority higher than either in its respective sphere—the president of the university; than one, and the Supreme court of the United States, than the other.

The fact that most of the cases which arise for the determination of the tribunal are those involving the infraction of rules governing freshmen is in no sense due to the inadvertence of any officer of that court but to the fact that those cases are the only class, fortunately, which frequently occur. But it is the duty of the tribunal, not relieved by the fact that the punishment is small, to administer justice in these minor cases just as much as it would be its duty so to do if a student were brought before it for theft or drunkenness.

The Cluster feels that the students, realizing this fact, will not again, by conduct either within or outside of the court, hamper its efforts to secure justice, ridicule its actions, or question its motives—without just cause shown.

PSHAW

By SHAW

In view of the fact that numerous publications throughout the country are attempting to give the beliefs of the average citizen of some town or community, I submit for your consideration what I BELIEVE to be the beliefs of the average Mercerian. Please do not think that I am trying to be an authority on the situation or that I think the following statements are true. In fact, I think that the beliefs of the average person are usually, though not inevitably, wrong.

Mercer Credo

That, I, as an average Mercer student, believe that if I ever make a million dollars, my first act will be to equip the administration building with an elevator.

That, should Mercer university put out a winning football team, the student body would be increased one hundred per cent, and the intelligence of the student body one hundred and one per cent.

That the proposed gymnasium will never be built on the Mercer campus.

That compulsory chapel lowers one's religious stamina and one's ability to resist crime.

That it would be for the best advantages of Mercer for The Cluster to be uncensored.

That it is far better to dance with a girl one has never seen before than with a really superior dancer who lives in Macon.

That the student who gets by without studying is very intelligent but that the student who bones and crams is merely a bookworm.

That it is a sign of marked intelligence to be radical and to get books out of the library even though one never reads them.

That all freshmen are very dumb but all upper-classmen were superior beings.

That Eddie Adams is the champion gate-crasher in the world, and, that given a pair of track shoes, he could sid-step the whole Macon police force.

That it is contrary to the constitution of these United States to close the co-op before everyone has had a chance to get his mail.

That Tattall Square pharmacy has an unlimited supply of money and can cash a check for any amount.

That all current Victrola records contain good philosophy.

That a bull-session means more to a student than attending a class.

That cigarette smoking has never harmed anyone and that it betters one's game of pool.

That a Wesleyan freshman is a much better date than a Wesleyan senior.

That Al Smith is a Mercer graduate, and if elected to the presidency, should be granted an honorary degree.

That all who use anything but ordinary words are trying to be smart and that they are really inferior to the average student.

That Kipling's fiancée refused to marry him because he said that a woman is only a woman but a good cigar is a Hav-a-Tampa.

That Hubbard's scrapbook and the Literary Digest contain all that is necessary for an intellectual being, and to succeed a college student should never be without them.

That no one really likes the American Mercury, but that students who wish to be individual always subscribe to it, and that, furthermore, H. L. Mencken is an upstart.

That Harold Bell Wright is a good writer but that his stuff is very hard to understand on account of it's great depth.

That the works of Edgar A. Guest will live forever, will be famous when Edna St. Vincent Millay, Max Bedenheim, Amy Lowell and others of his contemporaries have been forgotten, and that he is the outstanding poet of the age.

The College Press

By SAM CHEEK

The electrical building at N. C. State became in reality electrical last week, according to the Technician, when the high voltage wire in the laboratory became grounded against the steel frame of the building, charging the steel frame of the front door, and, incidentally, the doorknob. Quite a shocking state of affairs, one might say. At least the students and professors found it so when they tried to meet classes in the building.

Birmingham-Southern college is to have a live panther for a mascot, according to the Howard Crimson. One of the alumni of Southern, now living in Africa, has promised the animal to the college, and the Crimson expresses the desire that it might arrive in time for the Howard-Southern game.

"Was it worth it?" asks a University of Florida senior of the editor of the Alligator in a letter regarding the dates he has had since he entered the university. According to his statistics, he has lost 2,578 hours on dates, 1,849 miles traveling to and from them, lost 17,888 hours of sleep, gargled 236 bottles of listerine, and purchased 3,479 "dopes," rushed 14 girls, recovered 56,837 hairpins, and bailed her brother out of jail four times. On the other side of the ledger, he has received 73 heart-rending, and 18,489 indifferent kisses, 19,511 tender embraces, chronic insomnia and the loss of a good fraternity pin. We give you his statistics, and leave it to you. Was it worth it?

Another chance for ex-athletes to advance in the world has been given by Earl Carrol. According to the Georgia Tech Technique, he has offered fifty jobs at fifty dollars per week to ex-college athletes. The line will form to the right, gentlemen, and please don't crowd.

Five sophas at N. C. State chose to write five thousand word themes on student government, and to receive strict probation, rather than be suspended from the college for their part in the having of a freshman last week. The having consisted of rather severe quizzing of the freshman on the subject of the rules made for the new men, and the applying of belts on the seat of the freshman's trousers when he got "horsey," in addition to an auto ride from which the honoree would have walked home, had it not been for the kindness of a student of the college who brought him back.

Pipe smoking has suddenly become very popular at Oglethorpe university, according to the Petrel, and the number of pipe smokers is increasing rapidly. The Petrel's give six probable reasons for this increase. The Petrel's analysis of the situation is: 1. The pipe costs only fifty cents; 2. A can of tobacco goes twice as far as a package of Luckies; 3. Seniors smoke pipes because it looks dignified; 4. Sophas think it's doggy; 5. Freshmen have pipes too; 6. It is a prerogative safe from infringement by the co-eds. (We won't make any remarks about that last reason.) The writer of the article gives three more reasons for the popularity of the pipes, which are: 7. & 8. A vain desire to emulate his distinguished appearance; which seems to be the best reasons of them all.