

THE MERCER CLUSTER

Published weekly during the college year by students of Mercer

Editorial Staff

Austin W. Gilmour	Editor-in-Chief
Sam Cheek	Managing Editor
Fred Shaw	Alumni Editor
Joseph J. Moore	News Editor
Alton Bartlett	Business Manager
Charlie Wallace	Advertising Manager
Ashton Almond	Auditor
Prof. H. S. Barnes	Business Adviser
Dean C. B. Wray	Business Adviser
Prof. John D. Allen	Editorial Adviser

Junior Staff

L. Y. Bryant	Editor
James O'Neal	Managing Editor
Charles Cox	J. D. Sewell
Jack Gregory	Fletcher McCord
J. A. Kirkland	Ed A. Burch

Clarence Strippy

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.

-Impressions-

By Sarah Henderson

(Special to The Mercer Cluster)
The Mercer Players CERTAINLY showed us girls what they could do Saturday night. We were ACTUALLY torn between laughter and SHIVERING with fright as the plot SWIFTLY unfolded. The only thing that kept us from SQUEALING with FRIGHT at the psychological moments was the fact that we had SWORN to prove our bravery to various members of the opposite sex. We, as members of the fairer sex, feel GREATLY complimented at the excellence of the portrayal of our sex. ESPECIALLY WERE WE DELIGHTED at Jane's high soprano voice. To sing like that has been a secret LIFE-LONG ambition of ours—and her GRACEFUL walk! We move that Jane apply for LEADING lady opposite JOHN GILBERT, that DELICATE gait would draw CROWDS to the box offices—made up mostly of men. A VERY BEAUTIFUL girl indeed was this heroine, but not only beautiful of face.
And MY, we NEVER forget that GOOD OLD Irish landlady with her Irish wisecracks. She did justice to our rep. of being graceful fainters when she fell UNCONCIOUS at Larry's feet; in fact, she managed it FAR better than we could at such times.
If WE could just look as beautiful, UTTERLY COME-HITHERY as Kay did in her evening gown, OH GEE we'd be PLUMB happy and the good old date book would be full a YEAR in advance.
SORROW, the cook, we MUST say was worthy of a negress. She displayed a famous trait of our sex when she REFUSED to be DOWNED in a word battle. Her's MUST be the last one.

OF "SQUARE CROOKS," FROM OUR BESSIE TIFT SCRIBE

But we CAN'T forget the MEN-- what girls would--? Of COURSE, we MUST have a criticism about THEM. And first we will aim at EDDIE. He was a GRAND actor and a GOOD husband, but, at the beginning of the first scene we were RIGHT disappointed when he was lying with THE BOTTOMS of his FEET toward the audience, because--well, we couldn't see his head.
And LARRY! The shivers ran UP and DOWN our backs at his lovmaking. Could WE resist that pleading? NO! we would have done JUST what June did.
Br-r-r-r-- we could HARDLY SLEEP after seeing the fierceness of the DETECTIVES and CROOKS. Only Tim's squareness saved us from being SCARED TO DEATH, of Welsh and his TERROR STRIKING makeup, and Ross and his deadly pistol.
But REALLY, girls aren't ALWAYS as silly as they seem. THEY see the deep side of things TOO. We complement the Mercer Players on their WONDERFUL dramatic ability. We were UNUSUALLY impressed with the acting and with the naturalness of the characters-- You are doing FINE and we are proud of our near-NEIGHBORS. Keep it up!
Sarah Henderson
Bessie Tift

The characters, with the names of the students taking the parts, were:
Eddie Ellison Henry Stokes
Kay Ellison Harold Raymond
Larry Scott Archie Grinaldas
Jane Brown Coleman-Clarke
Bridget O'Rourke Addie McGlon
Mike Ross Gilbert Cone
Timothy Hogan Hugh Kelley
Harry Welch George Cain
John Clancy George Billingshurst
Mrs. Phillip Carston George Mosely
Sorrow William B. Wright

FRATERNITY PLEDGING

The action of the Pan-Hellenic council in taking up the question of deferred pledging, and the seriousness with which the problem is being considered; evidences one of the most progressive steps taken by students at Mercer university in many years.
Without doubt the old haphazard scheme of rushing and pledging was detrimental to the fraternities, to the men pledged, and to the men who would have reaped the richest reward from fraternal contacts and could not.
Under the proposed system freshmen will be on the campus for three and one half months before they pledge to any fraternity. They will have the opportunity of thoroughly investigating each group. There is a much greater possibility that each man will choose the organization into which he can best fit. A serious choice, when one realizes the tremendous influence wielded by a group of older men on a newcomer.
The fraternities will have opportunity to investigate completely the character of each freshman and to choose from the group the men who have the greatest possibilities. To pick a misfit is the gravest error that such an organization can commit.
Operating under the proposed or a similar plan of pledging, the fraternities will have the opportunity to observe those men, the development of whose personalities swings in the balance their entrance to college. Neglected, they frequently sink into the obscurity of the grind. Developed, as only a fraternity can develop a man, they grow into well rounded men who realize the demands of society.
The fact that majority of the larger universities have adopted, and are using systems of deferred pledging is the strongest evidence for their feasibility and justice.

YANK WRIGHT

The election of Arthur (Yank) Wright, a Yankee from Barberton, Ohio, to the captaincy of the 1923 southern gridiron team of Mercer university is an event upon which a few interesting observations may be made. In the first place, an examination of the occurrence permits of deliberations and perspectives from two types of minds--the biased and the unbiased. Persons possessing the former type will, no doubt, consider the election as an anomaly in that "Yank" was elected to lead a southern team, and that the members of a southern team chose him as their leader. Biased minds might question whether or not it is necessary for the South to plow to the North for athletic leadership, as was once done in literature, industry, and education. They might ask whether the South is not yet able to produce its own leaders.
The Mercer football player displayed a typically unbiased trend of mind in the recent election. It was a mind of realization, concession, and recognition--realization in that "Yank's" team mates found in him the qualities which go to make an able leader; concession in that his comrades granted these qualities as being superior to their own; recognition in that the honor of captain was bestowed upon him.

That "Yank" possesses these qualities of leadership has been demonstrated numbers of times on the football field and the basketball court. In the latter sport, especially, are they noticeable. His dash, spirit, energy, determination--all are a striking contrast to the cooler nonchalance of his southern team mates.
The Cluster interprets the election of "Yank" Wright as a striking manifestation of the amity, of the wholesome comradeship, of the altruism which exists among the students representing the various parts of the country who are attending our colleges today. The election was a dual tribute; one to the elected in that he was the recipient of a high honor, the other to the electors in that they ignored geographic boundaries and sectarian traditions in selecting the best man for the position. The Cluster extends its congratulations to the new leader and his teammates, and wishes them a most successful season for the ensuing year.

CLASS EDITIONS

This is the fourth year in which the different classes of the university have published issues of The Cluster. The editions of previous years were characterized by sundry color schemes, experiments in newspaper make-up, "mud-slinging", picayunishness, and caustic vituperation. Color schemes and experiments in make-up are quite permissible provided they do not impair the facility of reading, which is a fundamental requirement. The employment of "mud-slinging", picayunishness, and vituperation, however, is not only a prostitution of the purposes which the class editions are supposed to serve, but is a dissipation of the opportunities which they afford.

Classes are granted the privilege of issuing these editions that new journalistic talent might be given a project upon which to display its ability. By each class being responsible for an edition, the college weekly is brought closer to the students. Class editors and their staffs are made to realize what an undertaking it is to produce and edit the copy that goes into an edition of The Cluster. Resulting from this experience are a fuller appreciation of and a higher regard for the work of the regular editor and his associates. Class issues also create a spirit of rivalry and competition among the classes, which is permissible and even desirable so long as it remains wholesome.

However, when the editors take this as an opportunity to air their personal grievances and animosities, when they resort to the petty and trivial, when they make their papers vehicles through which to injure someone by unwarranted abuse--then it is time to call a halt. It is time to make a change. Such policies are not tolerated in successful journalism, for they lead to degeneracy. Two solutions present themselves: either do away with class editions or change the policies. Of the two, the latter is the more feasible, the more gentlemanly, and the more dignified. Therefore, let us depart from our past indulgencies, elevate our purposes and ideals, and concentrate our endeavors on a cleaner, higher type of journalism.

RELIGIOUS WEEK

As we drift along through college, taking our scholastic work more or less as a matter of course, thinking little and talking much, permitting our physical and material well-being to absorb our interests, it is always profitable to turn aside for a while and devote our attention to the spiritual side of life. It is to fulfill this purpose that Religious Week, Feb. 11-16, has been designated. The meetings to be held during this week at the Tattnell Square Baptist church under the leadership of Dr. John E. White will be a vital part of the religious program of the university which includes B. S. U. meetings, chapel exercises, "go to church movements", and other religious activities.

Dr. White, himself a college graduate, a former college athlete and college president, is a man who knows and understands the problems, the whims, the indulgencies of college men. He comes here to talk with men and not at them on the important issues of life. His messages will be interesting and beneficial.
In his letter to The Cluster, Dr. White makes an appeal especially for personal interest and activity on the part of the faculty and the Christian student body. Of this, he says, he has been assured. It is true that the fraternities and all campus organizations have pledged their co-operation, but the issue is too easily evaded upon a pledge of this type. As organizations are made up of individuals, the question of co-operation should be made an individual one. The students and faculty should consider it not only an opportunity but a duty to attend these services. Nothing is more discouraging than for a speaker to have to address an unoccupied house when he is aware that there are more who could attend the meetings if they would. Make the matter a personal one, attend both in body and spirit, and the success of Religious Week will be assured.

STRIPS

by STRIPPY

"That's My Weakness Now"
He was a wise Shakespeare,
Pulled some "forsooth" when he was near.
So we decided to give him the air,
And that's the cause of this row.
Well, he wished his eyes black,
He wanted his eyes to be black,
So we made them both black.
Well gee! Can't you see!
And that's his "blackness" now.
He wouldn't keep still, he'd have his fill,
All day,
Well, he wanted to ride in a hack,
We wanted him to ride in a hack,
We fixed him so he won't come back,
And that's his "hotness" now.

Bla Bla thinks an apple core is a fruit brigade.

"Heard the Real Estate Song?"
"Nope."
"A lot in the dark."

Apologize to Lanier

Over the paths of the campus,
Down the corner of the green,
We stand in line for an hour or so,
Waiting for our bread and beans.
Over the counter of the "Cafe"
Down on our plate it goes,
And we shuffle along, with a song(?)
As some one steps on our toes.
Over to the next place,
Down to where coffee we seek--
Well the steak oughta be coffee,
And the coffee strong as the steak.
Down the line a while,
Over where the register sings--
And we moan and groan and rave on,
As our meal tickets all take wings.
Down out of the line a little,
Over to where water we hath,
Then we shove up our glass, and alas!
We get our daily bath.
Over the floor of the "Cafe"
Thru to one table at hand,
We silently(?) take our knives and forks
And begin the battle "What am."
Then over the paths of the campus,
Down to a class where we sit in a daze,
We don't know what's it about, in or out,
"Cause we just had a meal in the "Cafe."

"How did the salesman get into the boss' private office?"
"Threw a cork over the transom."

"Here is a gun that shoots nine times," said the salesman.
"Sir, do you think I am a polygamist," replied the lady.

He was only a cotton broker's son,
but he was well ginned.

Lips so red--
Eyes so blue--
Cheeks that match
Sunset hue.
Teeth of gold--
Hair of silk;
Hands so white--
Just like milk.
All of this--
And much more--
You can buy
At our store.

Popular Fiction

"Yes," by George.
"Missed," by A. Mile.
"Let Bygones Be," by Gonna.
"Benjamin Franklin's Auto," by Ography.
"Pass Me," by Foot Ball.
"By," by Blackbird.
"Rock-a," by Baby.
"Good," by Everybody.

"Who'd walk a mile for a Camel?"
That's my Gal.
Who swam that wild English champion?
That's my Gal.
Who knows all that the Charlestown teaches?
Who gets all the gases at the beach?
Who made Browning and Franks?
You wanna know? That's my Gal.