

THE MERCER CLUSTER

Published weekly during the college year by the students of Mercer
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DR. DOWELL SAYS

Georgia Baptists realize the need of a big educational program in the state and they are putting emphasis on Christian education.

I have confidence in Mercer's athletic future.

I am very happy about the selection of Coach Russell. He looks like a real man and is. He is a good sportsman, a Christian gentleman, and a fine coach.

Anything that remains the collegian of the "little old church back home" and its restraining influences, is of inestimable value in raising and maintaining a high moral standard among students of any college. Such a reminder was the recent meeting held by Dr. White. We think that he did a great work and hope to secure his services for a similar meeting next year.

Although I am as much a freshman as any of the first year men in regard to campus politics, I believe that should the office of Master Mercarian be abolished, the men who have received this honor in the past would be shorn of much of their glory.

Outside opinion is determined by student opinion.

The value of your diploma ten years from now will depend on the then Mercer rather than on the Mercer of today.

We need institutional pride and confidence in present conditions at Mercer. We must look forward to the future with determination.

This sheet in your hands is the freshman edition of The Mercer Cluster. Since it is the product of students who know practically nothing about journalism we think that it deserves your most tolerant perusal and criticism. Only through the more patient members of the regular Cluster staff have we learned enough to even dare to attempt the publication of an edition of this renowned college weekly.

Since this is the last of the class editions it is probable that the results of the contest will be announced in the next regular Cluster which appears next Friday, the first day of March. Regardless of who wins the cup we cannot help feeling that this is a creditable product which needs no apology to recommend it to the attention of Cluster readers.

When we had read the last bit of copy it was with pleasant emotions that visualized the completed work as the result of the combined honest efforts of a capable, though inexperienced Freshman staff.

FRESHMEN SPIRIT

There has been some criticism by the student body of the spirit of this year's freshmen at athletic contests. We admit that there was some cause for complaint, but take this opportunity to offer an explanation.

From the upperclassmen freshmen form their opinions of college life. We conduct ourselves as we see the sophomores, juniors, and seniors doing. When they yelled, we yelled, when they didn't we didn't. At the first football game the students were called upon to cheer, and we looked around and saw the others, upperclassmen, silent, too dignified to urge their team on. Glory would be played and some of the sophomores would shout, "Stand up, freshmen!" We stood up, while near us were groups of collegians, dressed in the smartest tailored clothes, sporting new black hats, keeping up endless chatter, mainly concerning that "hot date," or about the dumb freshman making a fool out of himself by cheering, sitting down.

How could you expect us to get up and yell with such conditions?

We saw old college students acting that way, so naturally didn't jump up and say "whoopie," as much as you wanted us to, but we are willing to start over and put all we have into it.

To develop a good school spirit, the upperclassmen must first show that they have it, and the freshmen will absorb it, each year influencing the new class. Why can't we have a good college morale? Others have.

Come on, fellows, we'll follow you.

DECREASED ENROLLMENT

The decreased enrollment at Mercer for the winter term is, on the whole, most desirable. The administration of the university is not worried about the registration, but rather about the problem of providing adequate facilities for those who are attending. Plans are now being formulated to procure a large endowment fund, which will relieve the institution of all financial difficulties.

The decreased enrollment at Mercer may be attributed to several sources. The poor agricultural conditions and subsequent failure of many Georgia banks aided economically in reducing the number of students.

Higher scholastic standards have caused a decided slump. It is not possible for a boy to loaf his way through school, and still adhere to the requirements of the faculty. When a student fails inordinately, he is instantly dropped from the school. The Mercer of today is not the habitation of the indolent. Scholarships have been awarded this year to those more deserving than in former times, keeping away the undesired element.

In recent years there has been a capacious influx of female students in colleges originally founded for men. Only a few women formerly attended Mercer, but in the last year or two there has been quite a number of applicants. The university has passed a ruling restricting women registering in the future except in the junior and senior classes thereby cutting down the number.

Let us hope that the backers of Mercer, the students, and all who are interested in its welfare, will realize that the decreased enrollment is not a cause of worry, but entirely gratifying.

THE MERCER GLEE CLUB

The announcement that the Mercer University Glee club will give a performance at the Junior College auditorium on the evening of the 19th inst., will be received with the greatest interest throughout this city and section. That Mercer had last year the best college glee club in the Southeast we think everyone will admit, and the audience that attended the performance in Augusta freely accorded the boys who carry the colors of orange and black that distinction.

Last year Mercer came here unheralded. A few of the local alumni sponsored the glee club entertainment and there was a small audience. However, the entertainment was so finished, the wit was so clean and sparkling and the music so snappy that the Mercer boys won the hearts of Augusta people.

In this section of Georgia there are hundreds of loyal Mercer alumni who will be present when the boys representing their alma mater come here. For many years Mercer has shone in the field of oratory and has always had the into the field of football teams that competed highest scholastic standards. She has not put with the finished products of Georgia and Tech, but in basketball she has been an outstanding leader, while her baseball teams have been among the best.

At the glee club concert on next Tuesday night we hope and believe that there will be a generous support from the people of this city, from those who appreciate a fine performance by college boys who do their work on the stage with the zeal, the enthusiasm, the freshness and the wholesomeness of youth, unmarred with even the semblance of professionalism.—Augusta Chronicle.

A FRESHMAN ANSWERS

By Ed Callaway

In the senior issue of The Cluster a writer spoke rather deprecatingly of freshmen and their themes. All, mind you. There were no exceptions. And it must be admitted, sorrowfully of course, that the writer had just grounds for his many and cauti remarks: While not attempting to prove the statement false, the freshman wishes to condone a few of the mistakes.

Picture the sad scenes as the Freshman leaves his happy home to enter the maelstrom of "this wicked and adulterous generation" which centers around college—spelled with big letters. All of his sheltered life he has been taught morals and more of them. Every tale of life has carried its corollary, a moral. Then to his dismay, at college he is told that he should not divide a moral from How to Grow Hops and Centurion Life in Ancient Rome. Seriously, it would not be amiss to point out the fact that great men have gloried in driving home truths by moralizing on everyday happenings.

Our senior writer proceeds jauntily along and says that "boys go to college to keep from working. If a freshman is asked why he came to college, he will immediately reply that he came to study. And he will be right. Every freshman leaves home imbued with the actual intention of preparing himself for a life work. For the first three weeks, excluding time spent in rat courts, the Freshman keeps his ideals and intentions. After association with the enlightened upperclassmen, he becomes sophisticated and loses his ambition to study.

Unconsciously, the senior paid the freshman a compliment. He said that the first-year men can write about "anything from the abacus to ymase, including the treatment of regression neuroses." Now an abacus is a primitive counting board of beads strung on wire, but it is doubtful if a freshman could discourse very learnedly upon the other subject. Arise, freshmen, make a bow of grateful acknowledgement for such a nice compliment. Also, we quote this: "He (the freshman) must write or flunk, so he accepts the subject assigned and begins to worry." This is indeed a philosophical attitude and philosophy is the highest attribute of civilization.

The columnist seemed to get huge enjoyment from the well known fact that a freshman will, and does write upon any given subject. In fact, judging from the general tone of the article, the first-year themes are not only ridiculous, but useless. Now, wasn't it Bacon who said, "Writing maketh an exact man." But that is not the greatest benefit. Just think. If we freshmen write all our themes and be good little boys, we shall all grow up to be wise and ingenious men like the Senior—who once wrote silly themes himself.

The Newspaper Club

There is a peculiar significance attached to the smoker the Newspaper Club gave in honor of Dr. Bleyer Tuesday night. The director of the School of Journalism of the University of Wisconsin left Macon Wednesday for Athens, where he will address the newspapermen of the state at the Georgia Press Institute.

The Newspaper club has been a quiet organization, going about its business without seeking publicity and putting over several enterprises of unusual benefit to the university. One of the most spectacular, as well as one of the worthiest activities of the club was its handling of the state press institute at Mercer last year. The club established and maintained headquarters for the newspapermen who were the guest of the university, helping them gather and write the news for their papers, and gave Mar-

THE COLLEGE PRESS

BACK TO FORM KNITTED PANTS CAPTAINS APPOINTED NEW PAPER

The Red and Black says that the entire male student body of the university is engrossed in a horse-kneeing tournament. "The contest is waiting furious," says the publication. Such an ancient sport must undoubtedly have to be "waxed" to make it retain its attractiveness for the blas collegian.

The same paper carries the story of Rene Stuart, an enterprising student, who has created a new branch of insurance business. This astute young gentleman is agent for reclamation insurance. Before the professor arrives, the sagacious Mr. Stuart hastens to a classroom and offers to insure anyone against being called on to recite. The buyer of the policy pays Mr. Stuart a small sum of money. In case the policy-holder is called upon he receives twice the amount of the premium. However, should the professor fail to question the student, the agent pockets the premium. And herein lies the secret of the success of the project. For Mr. Stuart hurriedly fires some question at the professor whenever his client seems in danger of being interrogated.

The Presbyterian college football team may appear in knitted football pants next season, according to the P. C. Blue Stocking. This will be fine—for the opposition. A single shameless opponent, equipped with a small hook, could send the whole team scurrying modestly to the sidelines, with the thread of their ravelled pants trailing far behind.

"Photographs of Georgia Tech's greatest football battle are to hang alongside the pictorial record of Atlanta's most famous military engagement," reads the Ga. Tech Technique. In our opinion it is desecrating a noble cause to place football pictures of the Rose Bowl game in the Cyclorama at Grant Park.

Departing from the time honored custom of allowing members of the team to elect their own leaders, coaches in all branches of athletics at Boe for the various sports. It is believed that university will appoint captains by the athletic officials that this will eliminate the possibility of fraternities and other campus groups steamrolling the favorite into the office.

A columnist in the King college News has unearthed an ancient epigram. "2000 years ago Aesop said: No matter how hungry a baby gets, it never cries for its daddy."

From the Mount Berry News, the (Continued on page five)

car a fair amount of publicity for the event.

The freshmen recognize the value of the club, and the first year students who intend to enter the department of journalism next year cannot honor which can come to an underclassman in a professional club.

The freshmen Cluster regrets only that the club was not able to give a more elaborate entertainment for its distinguished guest. In its unostentatious manner, the Newspaper club put over a graceful affair; but it is unfortunate that the student newspapermen were limited in their resources.

The freshmen take this opportunity, in their only publication, to express their appreciation of the organization and wish it continued success. It is one of the few clubs on the campus which aids its members materially in their professions.