

**THE MERCER CLUSTER**

Published weekly during the school year by the students of Mercer  
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The "Elm-College" street car has returned from North Highland. That's two successful voyages we know of.

Let your Dad have as good a time for his money as you do. Don't think because his idea of a good time is reading a fine report of your work that you have to miss—much.

Do only the frivolous minority have a good time at school? If thinking makes it so, and they think so, then whatever they do is worth the price.

A questionnaire propounded by a dean asks, "Is neatness in appearance, as evidenced by clean shaving, well shined shoes, starched linen, appropriate neckties or neat appearance and well-pressed suits of clothing typical of your student body?" Well ah - - yes. Most of us are too young to worry about shaving and we defy anybody to question our ability to select appropriate neckties. No specification is made in this questionnaire as to which way the press should run; and we'd like to know how anybody is going to know about the amount of starch in our linen.

Many comments have been made by visitors during the last few weeks about the change in the Mercer campus. The authorities are to be commended upon the improvement. We've said this before, but it will bear the repetition. The Keep off the Grass signs did not prevent paths, but have diminished the number considerably.

Unless an agent who buys used books comes by this month, many boys will ship those 'valuable possessions' home to clutter up the neat libraries of 'Wonder Books' and 'Harvard Classics'.

It's not impossible to enjoy parall reading when the stories are spicy old pre-Shakespearean tales. It is almost impossible to enjoy writing reports, however, of any kind of tale.

Don't try to sponge on your friends all the year. Surprise them once by pulling out your own cigarett.

**A HYPERBOLE**

An eerie, awe-inspiring silence—still as night, deep as life, mysterious as death—now prevades the grim old halls of Mercer's dormitories. It crept stealthily and insidiously over all a short time ago, and how long it will remain to haunt, to frighten, to repulse; to mystify no one knows. Whether it came in the early morning twilight, in the mid-day sun, on the cool, evening breezes, or in the depths of night no one cares. The fact that it is here and lingers, persistently and unbroken, is all that matters.

Since the arrival of this silence, voices have become stifled, subdued, hushed. So deathly still are the environs that muffled whispers are now audible from the dimly lighted corridors. Boards in the floors can be heard to creak and cry softly as students tread lightly through the halls. Obnoxious outbursts, once labeled by optimists or the sedulous as singing, are no more. The

screaky, quivering strains from the violin, as the bow was being drawn across its strings, have ceased. The clarion like blasts of the horns, the fluttering trills of the flute, the guttural, warbling notes of the saxophone have subsided and are at rest. Students are left to study, to sleep, or to dream, as suits their whim, in peace.

But from whence cometh this shrouded, unfathomable silence? What is the cause or explanation of such covert procedures? Have more petitions been circulating? Has The Cluster been publishing more editorials? Has the discipline committee been functioning again? No! The answer is evident, simple, and conclusive enough the Glee Club is out of town!

**ATHLETE AND ATHLETICS**

Prospects for the Mercer gridiron season in the near future are more pleasing than they have been since the year when Josh Cody came down from Tennessee with the famous Smith brothers, Red Simmons, and other athletes from the Volunteer state.

Coach-elect Lake Russell is another Tennessee man whose physical vigor, intellect and personality radiate the healthful cleanliness essential for directing the Bear forward wall.

Coach Russell is planning to bring a 195-pound muntaineer with him who played fullback in high school, who was a star center on the basketball team, a baseball player, high school debater, and member of the dramatic club. He is 23 years old.

Year after next Mercer will probably have a cosmopolitan team in the campus sense of the word. It is probable that athletic relations will be resumed with the University of Georgia. It will not take pep to win the next football game scheduled with the university at Athens. It will simply take training, thought, and cool calculation. For years Mercer students have been prophesying that the Bears will win, and hopping to the slogan, "Beat Georgia." It is inevitable that Mercer will one day win over the University of Georgia, but to win will take more than hippity-hip pep.

It is not the size of the stadium or the reputation of an institution that make football, basketball, or baseball teams. It is a combination of human sense and brawn. Athletes need not form muscular factions any more than ministerial students or teachers or attorneys need form fraternal groups. The selective process is up to the university registrar. Thereafter, factions should be one factor: Mercer students.

**ARGUE OR SWALLOW WHOLE?**

The conference plan of higher education is receiving the approval of a majority of the liberal educators of today. One need not be a student of learning to realize this, for the newspapers and reviews recently have been occupied extensively with accounts of the conference idea.

Briefly, it is this: Instead of attending formal classes so many times a week and absorbing the particular prejudices of various professors, the students dig up information for themselves and take it to their professorial peers for approval and assimilation. While the method differs in sundry institutions, in most cases the student is assigned some subject, say American constitutional history, and given a week to find out all he can about it. At the end of the seven days, the class meets for a discussion. Opions are aired freely and without fear of censure. In a comfortable room students and teacher talk over the subject as though they are equals, the ideas of one worth the same hearing as those of another. When the course is completed examinations are given by outsiders - - educators who do not know the students.

The successful operation of this idea - - and its fulfillment has been successful in almost every trial - - rectifies several vital faults of the lecture and recitation method of teaching. Under the old plan the student need know only a little of the subject and many of the teacher's biases to make a good grade. Bootlicking is a prevalent practice. It is not common to hear a veteran collegian give the neophyte such advice as, "If you wish to pass English 406 praise Sherman and give Mencken hell."

On the other hand, when the class knows that the professor is not going to have anything to do with its grades, the students feel freer to express themselves sincerely. The professor, if he is any good at all, becomes a co-student with the advantages of scholarship. A friendly social relationship exists among faculty and undergraduates. They can argue with one another.

The pictures given here of both plans - - the lecture system and the conference idea - - are withdrawn, but the faults of one and the virtues of the other have been emphasized that they may show up more clearly and thus interest those who otherwise might remain indifferent to the movement.

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