

# THE MERCER CLUSTER

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## CLUSTER POLICIES:

- For abolition of office of Master Mercarian.
- For deferred pledging by fraternities.
- For spring holidays.
- For student representation on student activities committee.
- For operation of Campus book store on a non-profit basis.
- For abolition of compulsory physical education until adequate facilities are furnished.
- For remuneration to those working on the campus publications.
- For whole-hearted support of Greater Mercer program.

## THE ASCENDANT MERCER

"That act alone is, in my estimation, worth \$50,000 to Mercer," declared Ely Callaway, first vice president of the state Baptist convention, in commenting on the visit to the convention hall of the student body and faculty of Mercer, last Wednesday. His sentiments have been echoed in other phases of the interest shown by students in the convention's activities.

Saturday, Mercer won what is in all probability the greatest football game she had played in six years. Members of the team have been frank in expressing a belief that the spirit exhibited by the students at the game had an appreciable effect on the attitude of the team, and therefore affixed to some extent the result of Saturday's contest.

These incidents evidence a new spirit of willingness to cooperate, of constructive work and boosting rather than actionless criticism, which is a little different from the general spirit of Mercer's campus last year.

These incidents indicate we believe the interest of outside capital in Mercer like a locust that has been buried in a close binding shell, and then bursts out to fly—Mercer is releasing herself from various constricting shells which have bound her and is about to fly.

There are given in this paper, the opinions on the present status of Mercer of Dr. Dowell and of Rev. Fred Eden—one presenting the university's inside view, the other giving the view of the alumnus who is chiefly responsible for the enlistment of the interest of outside capital in Mercer university. There is nothing sensational about these opinions—there has been nothing sensational about the entire project of the revivification of Mercer—but there is the sound and thoughtful judgment of those best fitted to know the facts.

Again there is nothing startling in the acceptances of Mr. Rentschler and Mr. Stetson, but here again may be seen practical, thoughtful words. That is what Mercer has needed, and that is what will ultimately send her toward definite growth and progress—thoughtful considerations of conditions, and practical efforts to shape a solution.

We believe it to be quite possible that before the end of the summer, announcements may be made which will change profoundly the attitude toward Mercer university of those not aware of the evolution taking place.

## EMPIRES AND INTELLECTS

Relating to a proposal sent last week by the Chamber of Commerce of Savannah to the universities of the state. The Telegraph of November 20, comments as follows:

Scepticism as to the real value of colleges of higher education is not uncommon. Many a canny business man who is called upon to contribute to the support of such an institution, has asked himself and other people: "For what exactly am I giving my money? What do colleges do? Are they any tangible value to myself, my community or to the social structure to which I belong?" And quite often the answer—to himself or others, is "No," and yet he may give his contribution cynically as part of a "booster plan" or because the football games bring big crowds to the city in which he does business, or because he feels other species of social pressure.

American colleges are subject to more of this type of criticism than are foreign universities. It is frequently pointed out that the students of French, English, German, Russian, Spanish, Italian, South American and Chinese schools are vitally, and often passionately interested in the problems of their various nations. They have brought about revolutions, putting an end to tyranny and oppression; they have brought about the end of dictatorships, and their fingers have been in all the political and social movements of their fatherlands. As compared to students of such calibre, the college man of the United States seems on the whole, backward and sophomoric, callow and adolescent, with his precious "frats," his dances, his school politics, and his be-painted and be-labeled "tin-lizzies."

And yet there are those more idealistic or more hopeful people who think that universities do have a vital part to play in our social scheme through the training of leaders. In accordance with this idea, perhaps, the officers of the Savannah Chamber of Commerce have submitted a plan to the five major colleges of Georgia by which these young students may actively participate in the growth and development of the state.

The plan, as submitted to the heads of these institutions if acquiesced in, would result in the formation of a body of student associates, composed of nearly 500 young men to assist in the future commercial, agricultural, and industrial development of Georgia. The plan specifies that each university appoint one senior and one junior from each of 81 counties in South Georgia who will study local and regional problems and be in a position to bring to the work of the associate membership the viewpoint and research of the institutions they represent.

On the whole, the most disappointing aspect of the proposed movement is that the students themselves were not the prime movers. They did not themselves start the thing. They are to be more or less dragged into it. Their elders were forced to invite them to participate in their own problems. They had to be told by those in authority that the problems are their own. If they were the brand of students who would be capable of thinking and acting importantly for themselves and for their state, it seems at least plausible that they would not have had to be asked to play the game. They would have done so before now.

The Telegraph seems quite correct as far as it considers the question—but its consideration hardly goes deep enough for Mercer. The fact that students have not shown concern enough to suggest some such plan on their own initiative is not all. If Mercer students be taken as a model—it might seriously be questioned if one tenth the members the Chamber of Commerce desires could be found on the Mercer campus who are capable of serving in such a capacity.

The problem is not simply one of wanting interest; it is an alarming condition of slovenly intellects, intellects too dulled by the rust of idleness to cope with real problems. Intellects which are undoubtedly incapable of making any worthwhile contribution to progress—and why a college education, unless it does develop real intellects, true personalities?

Just what does it all mean? The solution cannot be put into a few sentences, but regardless of how difficult or how involved, those who are genuinely interested should give serious thought to the problem.

## THIS CO-ED QUESTION

Those who have been prone to term co-eds useless on the Mercer campus have now to combat additional evidence for the defense. The program presented by the co-eds in chapel this morning revealed some talents, the presence of which were doubtless hitherto unsuspected by many.

Which brings us to this much mooted co-ed question. The Cluster will shortly conduct a survey of the campus to determine the real consensus of opinion on this subject.

Until the survey has been completed the editors will refrain from upholding either side. Various writers in The Cluster have been giving divers views. The editors hope that all Mercerians will formulate an opinion.

## A LOW GROWL AND A HICCOUGH

By Ted E. Bear

Whoop! We have dug the mud out of our eyes, and discovered this and quit raining. I do not think Noah was in near as bad shape as the students. Why Noah didn't even have to guide his ark, and we had to push our gunboats over the mud and water with as much care as the captain of the Leviathan would have to use in getting his little row-boat up the classic Ocmulgee.

Watching the clouds doing their best to break up last Sunday, I saw a patch of sky that was positively green in color. And I had no inspiration.

Hic

And thinking of the classic Ocmulgee, there is a certain person in school who pronounces the name of the river in this way, with the accent on the last syllable; Occ-as-in-bock (pawnshop), mul-as-in-promulgate, and gee-as-it-is-not-pronounced-in-Georgia. Try that on your player piano.

Hic

My friend the cynic came in the other night as I was preparing to turn in, put his feet on the mantel-piece, and we discussed co-eds. After much earnest deliberation he brought forth this modest proposal—let the co-eds be married to the low average students at Xmas, so that the remaining intellects may pursue their studies without being hampered by the ulterior designs of said co-eds. There's something for the student body to vote on.

Hic

"What do you see in that girl?" I asked my friend the cynic. "Oh," he replied, "She knows I'm a heathen and she doesn't try to reform me." And I had thought that Fannie Squeers knew all about such things, but she never said anything half so wise as that.

Hic

All of which makes me wonder if Fannie Squeers has to shave in the morning. If the Telegraph has so far disregarded the customs of the land as to have a wo-

man answer those letters from the love-love, I'm gonna quit reading their sheet.

Hic

Has anyone noticed the proximity of exams? Now is the time to get up your back work. Furthermore, I'm in the market to bet that there aren't even twenty students on the campus who don't have some back work to do.

Hic

"Chief", the amiable campus cop, says that things are too dull this term. Complains further of an alarming lack of drunkenness, murders, wrecks, thefts, etc.

Hic

Lee Battle doesn't get the attention he should at the games. He really puts over some good laughs, but few can hear them because of others trying to be bright while Lee is speaking. I'm not alone in asking for respect for Lee; plenty of the fans like to hear Battle's talks. That yell of his deserves special mention. I've tried, but I can't seem to get it quite right.

Hic

In my few years here, many of the traditions have been trampled. I could see when I had been here only a short time that some had recently fallen. The old method of breaking the freshmen has suffered a severe set-back. Freshmen for the last two years have sported hair, all against the very best of tradition. Yes, traditions are falling. Query: Is chapel a tradition?

Hic

As a freshman, I once obtained very favorable notice from the upper-classes by making this sage remark, "Books are the things you throw off the table when you start to play cards." And now, with more work to do than I feel like doing, it suddenly came to me that perhaps she books were punishing me for my slander of them. Quiet, I say?

Thought for the day: Do your Xmas shopping early. If you don't somebody else will.

## SIX YEARS AGO TODAY

The Cluster, Nov. 21, 1924

President Rufus Weaver announces the receipt of a gift of \$5,000 from B. P. O'Neal, retired Macon capitalist and philanthropist. The money is to be used in remodeling and equipping the gymnasium building for the exclusive use of the Theological Seminary.

The Mercer Bears, sensationally triumphant over the Florida Gators by virtue of the excellent performances turned in by "Crook" Smith, Sid Ellison, and "Kid" Cecil, meet the Oglethorpe Petrels tomorrow in a battle for revenge. Reports show that 163 Mercer

Theological students have added a total of 3000 members to the 110 churches they served during the year.

Delving into a pile of rubbish in the Mercer library attic, Winburn Carswell, a student, found the 110-year-old family Bible of Jesse Mercer, founder of the university. This follows another discovery by Miss Sallie Boone of the only copy of "Two Grey Tourists", a novel of Georgia life by Richard Malcolm Johnston, Mercer alumnus, and once a leading American literary figure.

## AS A MATTER OF INFORMATION

By Carlos Copy

Contrary to custom, we have only ONE question to propound in this week's "A Matter of Information". That is: "Who, in the name of Thaint Thameul,

broke the "eth" on our typewriter?" We had a nice set of questions all thought out, that would tear the thought of thudenth and fraternity men alike, and thomebody hath to enter our thancum thancorum and uth our venerable old typewriter. Of courthe, not knowing the machine's weak pointth, he proceeded to hit the "eth" about twice ath hard ath the poor thing would thtand, and now it's thitting be-

fore me ath I write, connected in no way ththoever with the rethth of the machin. I am fairly thizzling with dithguth.

Now! If the thoundrel who did thith dathardly act will but thow thith face in the Cluthter office, and make known thith identity, it will give uth the utmoth pleathure to thlap thith eyeth-out of their thocketth, and athk him if he doethn't like it.

Let uth repeat the thole queththion for thith week's thithue of the Cluthter: "Who, in the name of Thaint Thameul, broke the "eth" on our typewriter?"

## Mercer's Fraternities

### KAPPA SIGMA

**KAPPA SIGMA**—Founded at the University of Virginia, 1889 at present has 108 chapters. Alpha Beta chapter founded at Mercer, 1891, by C. Q. Richardson, G. H. Richardson, W. Wright, and C. H. B. Jackson. Chapter House—219 Coleman Avenue, Phone 5664.

**Pledge Button**—Black triangle; a gold staff with wings, two gold serpents entwined around the staff.

**Chapter Roll**—William Morton, Gray; Irwin Evans, Sandersville; Thomas Ingram, Jessup; Fred C. Evans, Sandersville; James Wilson, Davisboro; Robert M. Smith, John Cimperman, Joe Seryac, Barbrton, O.; Howard Butler, Unidilla; Harlan Lunsford, Shellman; William Auld, Macon; Joe Marion, Rome; Robert Sperry, Detroit, Mich.; Patrick King, Hartford

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