

THE MERCER CLUSTER

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CLUSTER POLICIES:

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

It is a pity that the first fifteen minutes or so of those after chapel classes usually spent in rather pointless talk, are so important that it becomes necessary to chop down in the rudest sort of fashion chapel speakers invited to address students. Who was it who once said that Macon was a center of that old Southern Culture?

In regard to the recent confusion in the athletic circles of the university. The Cluster has nothing to say. The matter is so involved, and the true facts are so difficult to obtain that the Cluster refuses to comment. The Cluster believes that no one side can be championed without unjustly criticizing the other parties.

However, one subject should be discussed freely. The Cluster believes that those who arranged the basketball schedule were somewhat unfair in their treatment of the basketball squad and to the school in general.

The basketball schedule has been reduced to a minimum. The Mercer season ends while other colleges are in the full swing of the mid-season. Fewer games and trips have been scheduled this year than in any recent years.

It is evident that the athletic board, or whoever is in charge is over partial to football. In order to lay emphasis on spring training the basketball activity must be curtailed. We think all lines of athletics should be promulgated so as to allow the largest number of student participants, instead of endeavoring to make Mercer solely a football school.

The Cluster has no objection to a wonderful football team. On the contrary, it would appreciate such a team. But we do object to making football a fetish and demigod to the exclusion of all other sports.

In past years Mercer has had an excellent reputation in basketball and baseball circles. Frankly, the football teams have not been on a par with these others. The Cluster would like to see this reputation upheld.

To the boys who play no other sports and to the entire school, then should be given the privilege of enjoying a full season in the one sport in which they can hold their heads as high as anyone.

Cannot some solution be found whereby perhaps more games at home can be scheduled without financial danger?

MEDDLERSOME SPORTS WRITES

The Cluster is as pleased as anyone that Smokey Harper is to continue to coach basketball. With Russell's time devoted to football, Harper will be useful in basketball.

We regret as doubtless everyone does that there should ever have been any misunderstanding. We regret even more that the misunderstanding was fostered to so great an extent by the meddlesomeness of those outside the university's affairs.

It is unfortunate that sports writers or others should feel impelled to interfere unduly in Mercer's affairs, particularly when they know less about those affairs than the ones they interfere with, when they accept information from questionable sources, and when their meddling does more harm than good.

Such was the case regarding the sports writer who last week had considerable to say as to how Mercer affairs should be conducted.

The following appeared as part of this meddler's remarks:

"His resignation was brought on by the blunder of an individual, or we might add the constant intervention in the affairs of running the basketball team. Maybe he had a right to do so, but he should have at least used more tact. It seems to us that someone who has the least right to meddle in Mercer athletics is eternally making such blunders. This time it came from the business office.

"What we can't understand is why should a person who has no knowledge of how many players a coach needs on a trip have the authority to designate the number to be carried. And why should the professor of Heredity or something like that have the right to horn in and make a suggestion as to how the team should be straightened out?"

All this is somewhat in contrast with a statement made today by Dr. Thornwell Jacobs, president of Oglethorpe university, who declares:

The fault lies in the vicious system of allowing alumni, students and 'outside business men' to operate and control the athletic programs. Consequent lack of interest in and authority over athletics by the college faculties is at the bottom of all so-called evils of the game.

The department of physical culture, including intercollegiate and intra-muray sports, should come under the faculties the same as any other class or subject, with the coach having direct supervision.

But back to the immediate problem, the specific meddling of sports writers last week. The references to the "business office" and to "doctors of Heredity" are of course slurs at S. J. T. Price, treasurer of the university and G. L. Carver, professor of biology. The very venom revealed in these remarks indicate that they are the result of personal spite rather than considered opinion. We have no way of knowing if any local sports writer ever had the misfortune to fail a course in biology at Mercer, but certainly the references to Professor Carver were poorly put.

The truth of this "faculty interference" is this - there is in all probability going to be a deficit from the basketball season this year; that deficit is being underwritten by Mr. Price, Professor Carver, and Dean McClain - these faculty members of the athletic board. Each of these has personally underwritten \$500, although the deficit is not expected to reach so great a sum.

If this be those who have 'the least right to meddle in Mercer athletics,' we most emphatically prefer it to the useless meddling of sports writers outside the school, and ignorant of either real conditions or needs.

We rather think that anyone who stands to lose on a campaign has a pretty good right to say how much the expenses of that campaign shall be increased by carrying additional players.

No one has greater hopes for basketball than we; but that does not entirely blind us to stark economic necessity.

We appreciate every bit of help those outside the university give us. We don't like uninformed meddlers.

THE FUNNEL

If anyone should endeavor to ascertain why the full bloom of my youth has changed to the pallor of the aged and decrepit, why my usual jaunty step has become metamorphosed into a painful drag, why my insouciant and nonchalant air has been converted into a furtive and crestfallen attitude, why my innocent and cherubic countenance is now wrinkled with the suffering of days and nights, why my once manly shoulders are drooped and palsied, why the merry glint and sparkle of my eyes has been replaced by a dull, vacuous and haunted stare, and why my ambitious and roving nature has fallen into a disillusioned vision towards life, then point to the letter in the open forum section.

Ah! If I survive the calumny of accused of writing an unsagacious column, then will I be ready to die in peace. So downcast am I that never more will the alias Ted E. Baer grace my writings. Never would a scion of a family known in great and noted circles disgrace

the name Ted E. Baer. For months it has been a sign of a criterion among columns and full worthy of emulation. Henceforth and forever more the name, THE FUNNEL, will point out to all the works of this brilliant writer.

But, wait! As I was about to perish miserably 'neath the waters of the lucid Ocmulgee, a thought struck me. Ere I die I must defend my fair name and keep clear the illustrious list of the family. Family, family has a familiar sound.

Rhetorically I must question that defamer of character, the writer of the above mentioned letter. (Hereafter he will be named in this document as Mr. T. Wherein said the "T" representing thereof. Mr. Wherein fell short came was weak and he was sub-worth of worthy invective. His sardonic not at all.

He could have chosen a method like unto that of Cyrano de Bergerac when he replied to the Viscount (Continued on page 3)

SHORTER SHORT STORY

By Richard Grinalds

Ways and Means

Paul Mansel paced agitatedly from the window to the door of that most commonplace domicile wherein he lived. Most certainly he was excited. He would run his hands through his hair, then bite his nails, and then gaze in a most despairing way in the general direction of Heaven. That was Paul's greatest trouble. His idea of Heaven was only general. He had never seen a genuine pearl and his conception of just what the Pearly Gates should look like was, to say the least, cheap. Suddenly however, it had become vitally important that Paul establish relations with his most vague and indefinite idea.

Paul was a barber. He loved his profession as passionately as some men love their mistresses and as genuinely as most spinsters love their spinsterhood. When he was only a boy, he had stood on the busy city street, and gazed

wistfully at the brilliant array of barber tools as displayed in the windows of Grissetto, Grissetto Grissetto, and MacDonald, BARBER SUPPLIES. People had snickered, and it had seemed to this forlorn little boy that God too had snickered. In spite of this handicap, the lad had studied persistently and in time had graduated from grammar school. Afterwards to the great consternation of the public, he had entered a tonsorial college. Here he became the artist that the world was

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Anyone who wishes to submit shorter short stories for publication in The Cluster is urged to communicate with Richard Grinalds. Stories should not exceed 300 words in length. There is no restriction as to subject.

Open Forum

Evidences in Chapel
 EDITOR OF THE CLUSTER—

If the chapel services at Mercer are to be continually forced on the students, it would at least appear that faculty members would not act silly and ungentlemanly toward speakers invited for the sole purpose of addressing the students. At times the faculty or certain members of the faculty, make the students feel quite disgusted.

The situation in chapel Friday, was entirely uncalled for. There was no reason why Dr. Harrison acting as chairman, should have assumed such a dictatorial manner towards the speaker. Dr. Harrison presided like a time keeper at a debate. He warned Judge Evans that he had only two minutes left for his speech, and then at the end of that period called him from the rostrum with, "This court will have to adjourn." It would seem (Continued on Page 3)

Dining Hall Manners
 Editor of Open Forum:

For a number of weeks I have been expecting to see an article in The Cluster on the subject of which I am about to write. But none has appeared. However, I know that number of the students have made the same observations that I have.

Anyone who eats at the cafeteria as regularly as I do cannot keep from noticing the persistence of some, may I say, Mercers to crowd in front of those who are supposed to be ahead of them. At noon I have seen boys stand in the line for fifteen minutes, simply because twelve or fifteen fellows who came in late

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The Constitution Again
 Editor of The Cluster:

Because of the flagrant, distorted and unwarranted interpretation which was given in last week's Cluster with reference to The Proposed Constitution, I wish to take the liberty to say a few things in defense of the treatise which it was my pleasure to help write.

Certainly the editor must think himself a Juggernaut, if he believes for a moment that the members of an intelligent student body could be led to accept such a base interpretation of the constitution. Whether the treatise submitted could or could not be improved on by the graduate of a high school, one thing is certain, and that is that the average student of a grammar school could have written a better criticism. At least it is certain that the grammar school kid could not have reached such illogical conclusions as that presented in the Cluster. The editor ought to realize that he is not an object of blind devotion.

I do not purport to say that the constitution submitted is in any respect perfect. Just like all other human productions it is subject to human limitations and may be improved upon. I do submit, however, that the criticisms that were made were unjust and improper. It is unfortunate that the editor saw fit to mix personalities. The editor should have some never-failing contraceptive device applied to his brain in order that he might not give birth to any more unwarranted deductions.

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