

THE MERCER CLUSTER

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INNOVATIONS IN EDUCATION

One of the most unfortunate circumstances—and probably the one hardest to cope with—which arise from an economic crisis is the adjustment of salaries and wages to existing price levels. As a matter of fact, some economists believe that most of the responsibility for the prolongation of depressions is due to the failure of merchants, manufacturers, and dealers in commodities to meet the cut in salaries with a corresponding reduction in the price of their goods.

Sometimes, of course, this sort of reduction is almost impossible. An independent merchant or retail dealer cannot arbitrarily set what he thinks is an equitable price on his goods, and expect to meet competition and make profit with his business. The move, if it comes at all, must originate from a point nearer the beginning; it must come from the manufacturer, or from the dealer in raw products.

Strange as it may seem at first thought, colleges and universities form a part of the great American commercial system, just as business establishments and corporations do. It behooves universities to enter into the movement to alleviate economic distress if they can advance any plan that will serve in some measure towards this goal. But, like any other business, one university must take the initiative. It is for this reason, if for no other, that we believe Mercer deserves a great deal of credit for being the first school of the South to plan the installation of a monthly payment system, and to offer a half-term's work with credit—two admirable measures designed especially to meet the needs of people from Georgia and neighboring states.

Mercer was one of the pioneers among Southern schools to offer tuition in exchange for farm products; and, so far as we can learn, she is the first in this section of the country to offer the monthly payment plan. Only one school in the United States—George Washington University, in Washington, D. C.—is accepting tuition by installments. Under the new system, which will become effective at the first of the fall term, 1933,

Mercer students will have the option of paying the fees in advance, with a discount, and paying each month for a month's work, or a third of the full term's work.

Students of the lower division—freshmen and sophomores—can save \$53 by paying \$44.17 a month, or \$132.50 a quarter. Upper division students—juniors and seniors—can save approximately the same amount by paying \$46.67 a month, or \$140 a quarter. Law students can save about \$12 a year, and graduate students about \$20. This includes room, board, laundry, matriculation, library, doctor, and student activity fees. This new system should prove beneficial to the university, and it will without doubt, make it easier for some boy or girl to go to school next year.

Because of a shortage in the state education funds, and because some grammar schools and high schools in Georgia will have ended their regular session, Mercer officials are offering full college credit for a half-term of work to teachers throughout the state. Matriculation will begin April 17, approximately a month and a half before commencement. A student can complete seven and one-half hours of work by the end of this term; and by attending the full summer session, he can obtain credit for a full half-year's work.

It has long been conventional in university circles to "stick to old traditions," both in the administration of the business of the university and in offering the curricula. Any departure from these time-worn customs has been frowned on with a great deal of disapproval. However, when economic conditions become so aggravated that it is virtually impossible for boys and girls of college calibre to attend school, the college or university that makes the first step to lower these barriers is doing the essential duty of an institution of higher learning—to see that young men and young women are given an opportunity to become educated.

ORVILLE PARK TELLS MERCER STUDENTS OF NEEDED REFORMS

(Continued from Page 1) lative procedure, according to Mr. Park. He said that over 900 bills were introduced in the last session, and only sixty general bills were passed. The large, unwieldy House makes rapid work next to impossible, explained the speaker, and the committee system is too overlapping to do the preliminary work on bills before they reach the House.

Mr. Park spoke at the chapel upon the invitation of Professor L. K. Johnson. Several students on the campus interested in state reforms requested the chapel hour and were instrumental in arranging the program.

Students wishing publication of letters or making inquiries to the Cluster must sign their names to all notices or material turned in, otherwise no notice will be given such material. THE EDITORS.

BARE BEAR OPINIONS

By ROY RHODENHISER, Jr.

The Question: "WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE OUTSTANDING NEED OF MERCER?"

The Answer: By Daly Smith, Art Student, Kappa Alpha.

"The needs of Mercer are so many that it would be a difficult task to single out any one as being the outstanding. However, I would name as the most outstanding the following: A better co-operation between the faculty and student body, more students, and better dormitories and other buildings."

The Answer: By C. D. Womack, Student in the Arts School.

"Mercer is not nearly as sick as a lot of us think. It is not Mercer that is sick, but the students. They are individual conceit, distrust of other students, and student politics, that are not doing us or the institution any good. What we need is a few Pills of Enthusiasm and loyalty to Mercer. If we get the sneer off our faces and smile and go to work, Mercer will receive the benefit and so will you."

Mercer Needs Co-eds

The Answer: By Frances Swails, Co-ed in the Arts school, Alpha Kappa.

"The great need that I see at Mercer is the need of more students, especially co-eds. There are many people in Georgia who do not know that Mercer is co-educational. If the fact that Mercer is a co-educational institution was better advertised, the enrollment would increase."

The Answer: By Albert McCowan, Commerce Student, Delta Sigma Pi.

"I think that Mercer needs to discontinue the practice of having the first two years of work uniform for all students. If this was done more boys and girls would come to Mercer, because if there was a good stopping point at the end of one or two years, students who can not afford to go through college would be better equipped to follow the profession that they had chosen. As it is no student can take up specialized work until after first spending two years in the Arts school."

Any student who has a question, concerning Mercer, and would like to know the student and faculty's opinions, please submit it to yours truly.

DIRT

By HOMER ZILCH

If your correspondent is found dead by the wayside, you'll know that he has been put on the spot. Threatening letters have been received, but phooey, who cares? Congratulations, Bob, and how did you feel when the gang walked in on you Saturday night? Rumor has it that we are going to lose a good postmistress pretty soon. How does it feel Tony? Cotton has been having his picture sketched every Wednesday afternoon. So far the girl has been drawing for three weeks, and she hasn't finished with his nose yet. Roman or Hoople model? How does Mrs. Montague get that way about football players being too tough to associate with the co-eds? Maybe if they roomed in Sherwood it would be all right. And why can't the Tattnall Square Drug Store give the Cluster an

ad? Loosen up Doc. . . . If you want to enjoy yourself, get over-by-to let you read some of his love letters. His girl keeps him informed of all the Blessed Events in the home town. From latest reports, Gainesville should be as big as Atlanta. . . . And what Prof made this remark when his son was born, "I hope he has his mother's virtues and his father's intelligence?" Dear me! And ask Jake what he was doing in Atlanta during the past week-end? . . . H. P., who has been courting the femme at the Capitol, took another date to the show with the comps he had received from the former, and was his face red when he met Nell inside the door? . . . Seen on the sly, Julia doing interpretive dancing in the Co-op when she thought no one was looking. You ought to try buck dancing, Julia. . . . And one of our Co-eds goes riding in an aeroplane at three o'clock in the morning, while another goes out on a date, and buys beer for all the crowd. Don't rush, fellows, I'm first.

"In spring a young man's fancy turns to lighter things"

Wonder if Bob Smith and his gang are still picking flowers in the woods? Well, daisies won't tell. . . . And say, Bob, is it true that you are about to follow the other Bob's footsteps? . . . Mr. Price, how about changing that breakfast hour? These boys that go out on Friday nights can't shake it off in time to get there before eight. . . . What co-ed stayed out until the wee hours Tuesday morning? Are you going to give her the picture or the ring, Joe? . . . Who has been calling Popeko so much lately? Could it be Mrs. C. . . . Why does Dumpty always have to go home so early? The steps of the apartments make a good courting place, don't they, Dumpty? What co-ed gets letters signed "Your loving husband"? . . . I suppose the Glee Club will come back with some more wild tales. . . . Mrs. Harrison's bad boy, John, seems to have reformed this year, the Glee Club reports. . . . And what crooner makes the biggest hit on the trips? You're wrong, its Billy. . . . This year's frosh class turned out to be another set of lillies. . . . And say Easter, why was your Wesleyan girl put on probation for three weeks? Not late hours was it? . . . Helen, how is your "hubby" getting along? Don't hold out on us. . . . The Mercer College of Oratory gives a course leading to a degree of B. O. Not on your Life Buoy! Glad you like the column, folks. Just send a few pansies if I'm found dead. Just wait till next week if you want some real dirt. S'long, Your friend, Homer.

rang goals at the beginning of the fourth quarter, but these were met by goals by Hampton and Cook. Evans and Seryak each rang a foul, but Cook again rang a field goal, as the final whistle blew.

Cook, Nesmith, and Jake Trommerhauser led the Omegas in their final drive, and were greatly aided by the superb defensive play of O. P. Gilbert and Ralph Hampton. Nesmith was above every one on the floor, with his fine shooting and floor covering.

Henry Wasden was the main cog in the Kappa Sigma play. Bob Sperry also played well for the Sigmas.

THE LINE-UPS
A. T. O. 36 Poa. K. S. 26
Tromhauser B. F. Seryak 6
Cook 12 F. Sperry 7
Gilbert 2 C. Wasden 5
Hampton 5 G. Lowe 2
Nesmith 9 G. Evans 6
Pulliam G. Rader
Referee: Popeko.
Umpire: Bennett.

An astronomer predicts the earth will run into a cosmic fog and an ice age will result. Now tell that to your assets.

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A. T. O.'S WIN TITLE FROM KAPPA SIGMAS
(Continued from Page 1) within two points but, goals by Cook, and Trommerhauser, combined with several foul shots gave the Alpha Tau Omega team a lead of 20 to 11 at the half.
Evans and Seryak Score
Evans and Seryak scored for the Sigmas after the half began, but this was discounted by three straight goals by Gene Nesmith, star of Tuesday's victory by the A. T. O.'s over the Kappa Alphas. Sperry and Evans rang fouls, but Nesmith countered again with a field goal. At the end of the third quarter the A. T. O.'s led, 28 to 18.
Wasden, Seryak, and Evans