

THE MERCER CLUSTER

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Entered as second-class matter September 8, 1924, at the post office at Macon, Ga., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

1935 Member 1936
 Associated Collegiate Press
 Distributor of
 Collegiate Digest

CLUSTER BOARD

The Mercer Cluster is in a state of affairs—just what that state is could be defined in many ways. As a member of the board of control (assuming that I may or may not have been) of the Cluster in the past there are many changes in the paper which I would like to present to the student body. At a meeting of the board recently elected by the students a tie was reached as to who should be the editor of the Cluster for the coming year. And usually the case is nearly identical due to members of an equal number on the board representing opposite political parties on the campus.

In such cases the decision is always made by the arbitration of faculty committee on publications. And the pamphlet on Mercer publication published under student management with no control except the self imposed standards of a good newspaper with no censorship from the school. Here of late the students seem incapable of making decisions without calling in the faculty. The two most simple solutions which present themselves at present are to either put the Cluster under management of a faculty or some outside—non political group—or to elect five members to the editorial board so that some decision may be reached.

Several other plans also may be considered here. First have the student council of the school to choose the members of the board best suited for certain offices. Secondly, the candidates in the spring elections should run for respective offices on the ticket just as the offices of the Cauldron are voted upon with the student body choosing at the polls those men who are to hold the offices and thus prevent any later argument. The third plan which seems best of all and which I would like to impress upon the mind of the student body for their careful consideration, is that each spring the members of the Cluster staff shall compete in contests to determine the selection of the editorial board for the next year.

Not only should these offices have their definite purpose and duties, but the business manager should also fully cooperate with the rest of the board. At the end of each month he should present a set of books to be carefully checked over by the board as a group. In the past this has not been done. In the future it would be appropriate if the above named and any other desirable features were placed in a binding contract between the board of the Mercer Cluster and the student body to bear the signatures of the president and officers of the student body and the board members. This would be an ideal policy so that the Cluster could best function in accordance with the demands and desires of the student and so that the student government, as a whole might keep a better check upon the policy of their school paper.

If however the students wish this editorial board of control of the Cluster in the student elections even though the influence of political parties often put into office people who could not write a story without having the copy man rewrite it. Last year, for example, Carroll Tinsley, by means of political pull, was made managing editor of the Cluster with no past experience to speak of and no idea of managing a paper. Thank your lucky star that the Mercer Cluster was saved by his transferring to another school.

As we have said before if it is not your pleasure that you be represented by the students most capable of putting out your paper but by the most popular man on the campus who does not know beans about writing a news story, feature, headline, or editorial, it is entirely your business.

EMMA NORRIS

FOR MEN ONLY

By Basil Hall

LITTLE MAN, WHAT NOW?

Let's face it. In less than a month, now, Mercer will pat her senior sons on their collective back, and with a flourish and an imitation sheepskin diploma, send them into this troublous, troubled world. Mercer's task is finished; her job is done. Those men are prepared—but for what? That's the question that will crowd their baffled minds as they shuffle haltingly from door to door looking for work. For every inexperienced college graduate without an iota of business training, there are a dozen men with years of active background seeking the same job. Times, they say, are better; but remember, this is a campaign year, and times are always "better" in campaign years. Recently, a New York restaurant advertised for a college graduate to work in its kitchen and learn the trade of chef. Among the hoards that applied were seven Doctors of Philosophy. Even they, it seems, must eat.

But don't you worry. You're different. Why you're Johnny Jones of the Jones County Jones's, and even if your granddaddy hadn't been a lieutenant in the Confederate Army, suh, why you've got an A.B. degree, so what the hell! Well, let us tell you a thing or two, young fellow. You think you've had a poor time slaving over the books, but you really don't know what a poor time is. And when you finally choke down the pride, and go to see rich old Uncle Eary as a last resort, and you find out with something of a shock that blood runs a little thin in short years, why then you'll begin to appreciate your pitiable situation.

But don't take our word for it. Analyze the thing for yourself. What, exactly, do you know how to do? Having the date of the Congress of Vienna on the tip of your tongue, and knowing how to translate some vague French expression isn't much of a recommendation to fire at a big-shot executive. The only thing you have to offer is youth and vitality and strength; and we hope you manage to get located before they're wanted.

A friend of ours, a man out of college one year, gave us a few startling statistics. He figured up the total cost of his education, and at the end of one year out of college (having waved his degree here and there at random) the realization was fifteen ten thousandths per cent on his original investment. Think of it!

But you mustn't let us discourage you. We realize that for every one of us who gives you a little of the steamy side, there are ten others (your fond family chiefest among them, no doubt) who would have you know that it's really a bed of roses, no matter what people may say. But keep a sharp look-out. You might sit down on a thorn.

HUZZAH!

We were amazed to find ourself an "associate editor" of the Cauldron. We are not deserving of the title. But to those boys who slaved for hours on end to give you the

JIM'S JAMS

Dear Mom,

I really ain't got much news this week, but since I know you always cry yourself to sleep when you don't get a letter from me I decided to write you and let you know that I was getting along all right. That reminds me of what one of the boys did the week or two ago when I came home and stayed over the week-end. I am talking about my roommate. While I was gone he cried himself to sleep every night. I felt kinda sorry for him when he was telling me about it.

I might tell you about some of the people that was up here on the day that we had pilgrimage day. There was more boys and girls together in one place at one time than I ever saw in all my life. And there were more people of more lots of kinds than you could ever see again in one place together. Some of the boys and girls that came along looked well and some of them looked pretty bad. Most of them looked well; in fact all of them looked well. That's what I heard one of my teachers say one day this week after all who was up here last Friday had gone home.

Well, but I never did tell you what I started to about the girls that I carried around with me that day. Boy, were they the stuff!

Well, I'll quit.
 Your loving boy,
 Jim.

TO AND FRO

By Aileen Bacon

The fault finding expert who complains that the modern girl lacks the patience grandma was so liberally endowed with evidently doesn't have to roll his hair up every night.

Spring's been here long enough now that one might start wondering why nobody's made any cracks about white shoes.

For the number one position on the black list might we suggest the originator of the idea that three tardies should count as an absence.

Well, we had dirt last week. The CLUSTER is going to be a success yet.

Take it your own way. Galahad's strength was as the strength of ten because his heart was pure. Siegfried was "strong with the strength of twelve men" on account of the kind of clothes he wore.

best that was in them, and the best annual this school has ever had, all the praise must go. Will Johnson has seemingly limitless talent. He was wise, too, in the selection of those who actively helped him. Though we are hesitant in making prophecies, but it stands to reason that next year, with Johnson still in the uneasy chair, the book should prove with its editors' experience. But we really don't see how it could.

In The Throes Of
CLUSTERPHOBIA

SPRING FEVER—

His work is neglected
 He dozes in classes;
 His pace is lethargic,
 And slow as molasses.
 He calls it spring fever
 For now spring is here,
 But what does he call it
 The rest of the year?

—The Hornet

Well, anyway, what does it matter?

FRIBBLES—

University of Toronto students like "slinky" girls best. The Mercer glee club likes them from Tallahassee. Frances Drake, who stars in the picture "—And Sudden Death," which is a campaign picture against speeding and traffic violations, was recently arrested for speeding. When the American Geological Society dug into the basement of Harvard hall they made an important find; 100-year-old beer bottles. Which may or may not prove that Grandma was right about these here college fellers. A candidate in a recent county primary received at least one vote because he wasn't a college man. It's getting to the point where a degree is a real handicap. By the way, can the Ashmore dynasty be slipping? There are rumors to the effect that the BEARSKIN is not in such good standing. The Brown and Gold contributes this collegiate revision of old proverbs. A ditch in time saves writing that theme tonight. People who live in sorority houses should pull the shades down. And, of course, "When Greek meets Greek, they fight over a rushee."

Most quoted this week was Bascom Anthony's dig, "If a girl must be a man she should at least be a gentleman." Which, for no reason at all, reminds us of the New York professor who says "An instructor is a fussy old maid of either sex." And another one copied merely to fill space.—Book Review of the week—Webster's Dictionary — A splendid vocabulary but a bit plotless. Even the copy boy thinks it's lousy.

FACTS—

"The life of flags flying day and night over the United States Capitol is less than thirty days." Some Brain-Truster ought to be able to do something about that. Lucky Strike has gone into radio advertising in a big way. "Your Hit Parade" broadcast twice a week, costs more than the hamburgers Wimpy consumes. It averages \$24,000 per hour, which amounts to exactly \$2,500,000 a year. Doing as the Romans do would be rather expensive right now. It would mean paying \$1.30 a gallon for gas. The ancient Egyptians, believing that male scarab beetles reproduced themselves, made the scarab the emblem of all self-gotten deities. The mountain beaver could substitute for one of the most modern harvesting machines. He cuts green hay, puts it in the sun to dry, and then stores it for winter use. The Rockefeller foundation has given chem-

ists at Cornell University \$42,500 for research of a study of diets which will prolong life. They expect to prove that "the characteristics of youth can be retained by special diets." Farm experts at Cornell are producing thick skinned onions by coating the plants with copper sulphate. There is enough natural gas in the outer planet to supply the earth for the next 21,000,000,000 years.

FANCIES—

It's better to be broke than never have loved at all.—Punch Bowl. Some men have dens in their homes. Some just growl all over the house.—The Hilltop. Make yourself an honest man and you may be sure there is one racial less in the world.—Carlyle. A fool must now and then be right by chance.—William Cooper. Flattery is sweet food to those who can swallow it.—Danish. Affection is a greater enemy to the face than the smallpox.—St. Evremond. When men grow virtuous in their old age they are merely making a sacrifice to God of the Devil's leavings.—Swift. Rabbits do not realize they are running around in beautiful seal-skin coats.—The Hilltop. If all the books which local professors have written were laid end to end, they would still not be read.—Punch Bowl. Relatives are tedious people who never know how to live or when to die.—Oscar Wilde.

How far this little candle throws his beams!
 So shines a good deed in a naughty world.
 Heaven doth with us as we with torches do;
 Not light them for themselves;
 for if their Virtues
 Do not go forth from us, 'til all alike
 As if we had them not.

Merchant of Venice

LETTER

TO MR. BASIL HALL

It appears from a recent article "Peace on You" that Sir Basil knows little or nothing about the elementary principles of sound journalism. In his column "For Men Only" this truth is glaringly obvious as gathered from his calumniated article concerning the movement for peace. His interpretation of the purpose behind this movement is sugar-coated with "tommy-rot" and filled with an odious scent of prejudice.

Doesn't it seem reasonable to assume, that a sergeant in the National Guards would be a strong advocate of peace when, in all probability, he would be the first to leave for the battle front, and the last one to return in the event of another World War. The "outstanding leaders in the movement for peace, today, are those who are actually a part of the National Defense, for they realize it is their responsibility to see that the integrity and security for this na-

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