

STUDENT IS IN FAVOR OF CLUSTER PROPOSALS

LETTER TO THE CLUSTER

To the Editor of the Cluster:

I notice that the Cluster proposes some great strides for the future of Mercer. May I congratulate you on your great movement.

Many of us know that your aim is not in line with some of our conservative faculty members, as they glory in the past. For instance "Harvard school days, the family, only heir, personal philosophy." All this is okeh, if examinations were given accordingly. I dare say the Deans' list would be crowded, as it is the list is extended by blue slips.

Among a few members of the faculty, there seems to be a fear that if the institution were to grow the "Big Mercer Family" would be too big. Yet we have another group seeking students, trying to sell Mercer to high school seniors every day. Evidently a cultural conflict exists among the faculty. It is human nature to soar as high as possible, but while soaring one should not be selfish, conceited, and jealous of their position, particularly those on a college faculty.

If there were no students, there would be no need for a faculty, therefore the Cluster Aims should be carried out in order to have a larger student body next year. More students would necessitate an addition of faculty, and perhaps they might be as intelligent as some of our present staff, consequently taking away prestige of some present member.

There are some members of Mercer's faculty who are continually trying to widen Mercer's scope of service so that it may keep abreast with the demands of an exacting public. On one hand a conservative group and on the other a progressive group, therefore a conflict and no progress.

I shall mention by number "The Cluster Proposals," and give my opinion as a student who is very anxious for Mercer to expand.

Number 1. Profits made by bookstore. No one should worry about No. 1 as the profits will be reduced by the students. The majority of the students already know of a Company who sell new and second-hand books much cheaper than the Co-Op.

Number 5, would certainly put Mercer on the air. If a good snappy program is rendered, Mercer would become an outstanding college and its influence would reach far and near.

Number 6, would most certainly be a benefit to the college in many ways. At the present, publicity for Mercer is picked up here and there, with no one to look after its interest. By all means Mercer should have a publicity department established.

Number 4, is the most important step you propose. Typing and shorthand should be added to the Mercer curriculum and credit should be given for both towards a degree. All other outstanding progressive colleges have these two courses in their curriculum. Why does Mercer have to keep some faculty members who are afraid of their prestige and power?

Students want typing and shorthand along with their college subjects. I know of students who go to other colleges where they can graduate and go out into the world ready to take a job in the business field. They do not want to leave college and have to enter a Commercial School in order to prepare themselves for a job. In the common commercial schools students may enter at all times, and with practically no education, consequently lowering the standard of a college graduate to have to attend a commercial school after receiving a degree.

I have actually heard an "Honorable" faculty member at Mercer tell students "if they wanted typing and shorthand to go to a commercial school." In this way students are driven away from Mercer in order to get the necessary courses. Yet Mercer boasts her journalism department. Can you imagine a progressive journalism department without typing?

The journalism department has admitted a need and desire for typing, yet Mercer must not expand. Who is to blame for Mercer not expanding?

Alice Elizabeth Bates.

HOLLYWOOD NOTES

HOLLYWOOD, Cal.—Clearly showing the respect motion picture studios have for the rigors of collegiate athletics is the recent request to the Universal casting office by Director H. C. Potter.

Preparing for a huge cafe brawl sequence in "Wings Over Honolulu," which features Wendy Barrie and Ray Milland, he asked for two hundred and fifty extras. But not just any extras would do. They had to be (1) ex-marines (2) former prizefighters (3) stevedores (4) hard rock tunnel men or (5) EX-COLLEGE ATHELETS.

"I want men who enjoy a good fight now and then," Potter said. (Too bad politicians can't qualify.)

How well the casting office obliged was shown by the wreckage piled on State 18 when the day's shooting was over — and by the shredded clothing, black eyes, swollen noses, and assorted abrasions adorning the actors.

Two members of Universal's serial unit—the outfit which is famous for turning out blood and thunder—wandered onto the set during the filming of the scene. They took a long look, hung their heads, and exclaimed, "This makes us feel like sissies!"

Potter didn't state which of the five afore-listed categories made the best showing, but it's a safe guess the ex-collegians weren't among the first out.

THE COMING STUDENT ELECTION

With the first week in May comes the annual Mercer student body election with all its two-faced back-slapping, dirty politics, and the Cluster's usual non-partisan stand. As a student publication, the Cluster is again this year attempting to steer clear of the political brawl and continue to keep its slate clean since the founding as a weekly newspaper.

There are, however, certain points which the Cluster would like to bring to the attention of the student body. May we advise that in the election next Thursday (1) each Mer-each student should vote. (2) No student, should vote a straight ticket, contrary to all the agreements previously made, and (3) No student vote for a candidate unless he is convinced that the one he is voting for is the best qualified for that office.

Without a doubt enough harm has already been done in the "party" arrangements for the nominations for the various offices. Already candidates totally unfit for offices have been nominated and are supposedly backed by a number of voters; already students who are qualified for one position are running for an entirely different office, of which, if elected, they will make a beautiful flop; already schemes have failed, are failing, and will fail.

The best the Mercer student can do now is to pick the lesser of the evils and vote for the man best qualified. Surely no student will be mentally weak enough to vote a straight ticket next Thursday.

A campaign for the abolition of student politics is in keeping with the third proposal made by the Cluster, namely that all factions of the student body should work together in concerted effort for a fair election. Mercer students can help make the election fairer next year by beginning now to clean out the "notorious" campus politicians. They are marked by their activities in the preparation for the coming election. We know their type and we demand that they be given no support. Surely students can see the fallacy of their arguments.

AST WEDNESDAY'S CHAPEL

May the student body president for next year profit by the example demonstrated in chapel Wednesday and voluntarily abolish all chapel programs which occur on dates when there are examinations scheduled for the period immediately following. The program Wednesday could have been interesting had it been presented on any day other than that when students were studying for examinations. It was the fault of the time of the exercises—not of the program itself. Great discourtesy was shown those who had parts on the program and as a representative of the student body, the Cluster apologizes. But in order to prevent the same from recurring next year, let's have no chapel on such dates.

THE CLUSTER PROPOSES THAT:

1. The profits made by the campus bookstore be reduced so that Mercer students can buy their books and supplies at a cheaper price.
2. Copies of the Cluster be mailed to all Junior colleges in Georgia and to the larger high schools in the state.
3. Student politics be abolished by the concerted effort of all factions of the student body.
4. Typing and shorthand courses, for which credit toward degrees would be allowed, be added to the Mercer curriculum.
5. Radio broadcasts be made direct from the Mercer Campus.
6. A separate publicity department for Mercer be established.
7. Mutual cooperation between the students and the university administration be a common goal of all parties concerned.

THE MERCER CLUSTER

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By Harry Dismukes

Roger Babson, in a recent article in the New York Times predicted that in the next score of years half of the population in the United States will be housed in trailers in order to escape taxes.

College students seem to be leaders in the trailer movement. Rollins College in Florida is said to be the first college to welcome a trailer to its campus.

The State College of Agriculture in Utah boasts of a trailer town consisting of 16 trailers. Although not quite as large as the trailer town in Utah, one has sprung up at the University of Georgia just this year, and the idea seems to be growing here at West Georgia.

In the West Georgian, we see that the school annual will be based on Margaret Mitchell's book, "Gone With The Wind."

According to The Daily Tar Heel, 57 per cent of their professors prefer a "Good-Pass-Fail" system of grades to the present alphabetical system.

It is claimed by a West Virginia University statistician that you can buy 67,200 safety matches for the amount that a good cigarette lighter would cost. See there, frosh, life is not so bad!
—Sewanee Purple.

A small boy was asked to write an essay in as few words as possible on two of life's greatest problems.
He wrote: "Twins."
—Valleyhoe.

From science's laboratories comes the latest test for alcohol. If your present formula for home brew doesn't suit you, try this one:

Connect 20,000 volts of electricity across a pint. If the current jumps it, the whiskey is poor.

If the current causes a precipitation of lye, tin, arsenic, iron slag, and alum, the whiskey is fair.

If the whiskey chases the current back to the generator, you've got good whiskey.
—The Darlingtonian.

Women, asserts an East Texas State college professor, are angels—for three reasons. They are always up in the air, always harping on something, and never have an earthly thing to wear.

AROUND WASHINGTON

By Marvin Cox

WASHINGTON, D. C.—College scholarships for street sweepers; test tubes and microscopes in exchange for the broom and pushcart of the "white-wings." This is what is being brought about in New York where street cleaners and other employees of the Department of Sanitation have been invited to compete for scholarships at New York University.

New York's growing problem of sewage disposal, water pollution and sanitation are yearly demanding greater attention and more scientific treatment. Hence, the scholarships are being offered to employees of the Sanitation Department in order that they may receive expert scientific training in the field of sanitation.

Getting a bill introduced in Congress is one of the easiest things in the world to accomplish. Draft your bill, persuade some Congressman to drop it in the hopper, and there you are.

Securing action on a bill after it is introduced is something else again. Around 20,000 individual bills were introduced in the last Congress, but only a small fraction of them were acted upon.

So, while the American Youth Congress experienced little difficulty in having the American Youth Act introduced in the House and Senate, they are having some trouble in having hearings before the committee. And, naturally, a bill appropriating \$500,000,000 for the advancement of youth will require a number of hearings before it is favorably reported to the Congress for passage.

The Youth Congress in order to speed action on the bill is therefore, adopting a course long since found effective by labor union, utilities, and other groups seeking legislation which is favorable to them. Local and regional Youth Congress groups and each of the 3,000 individuals who made the Youth Pilgrimage to Washington in February have received sample letters and telegrams with which to bombard their Senators and Representatives.

This legislative game of having the folks "back home" write to the Congressmen is an old trick, and sometimes highly effective. And the American Youth Congress is adopting this time honored practice to get its legislation across.

However, your Washington agent predicts that the Youth Act will not pass at this Session of Congress. Less you take this seriously let me hasten to add that I picked the New York Giants to win the World Series.