

Student Editorials

Editors note: The following editorials were written by Florence Adams and Bob Crandall, members of the journalism class in advanced reporting and editing, and express the opinion of the Cluster as well as those of the students themselves.

THE WORLD DOES MOVE

Several students expressed themselves as unsympathetic to sit-down strikers and labor unions in a recent issue of the Cluster. Perhaps, in 1240 A.D., they would have so denounced the rights of serfs to such a thing as an independent farm. For one of the arguments advanced by defenders of the rich and powerful is that the 'working men are confiscating the property of their employers.' From the viewpoint of these 'working men' — who receive so small a share of the wealth they create — it is their labor that is being 'confiscated.'

A money economy, something like which was in existence when Pharaoh denied the slaving children of Israel their just dividends, still piles up fortunes for the few, some of whom, under government protection, blindly refuse decent working conditions and a living wage to the masses.

Unless we search out and remedy the defects in this system — which the present administration is trying to do — we are headed for chaos, or revolution. To take the place of the "Council for Industrial Progress" — which council was attended by labor leaders and boycotted by capitalists — President Roosevelt will soon submit to Congress labor reform legislation that will guarantee to workers minimum hours and maximum wages. Perhaps now, with the aid of the federal government, labor will come into its own in 1937.

Meanwhile, it is the duty of thoughtful students to be just in their thinking, and to recognize that the world does sometimes move.

STUDENT CONDITIONS

We students are continually whining about the privileges we lack at the hands of the Administration. We contend that we are not given credit for being college students, that the Administration treats us like high school kids. Let's pause for a moment in our whimpering campaign, and see if we aren't getting just about what we deserve in the way of a "deal."

In the past, several activities have been entirely in the hands of the student body. The Administration has kept hands off. Consider the Cauldron: Its editor and business manager are elected by us; we leave it up to them to decide its style and size. And year after year stories have run rife about the sizable sums these editors and business managers have made off us supposedly intelligent students. Big bank accounts, new automobiles — perhaps just idle rumors, but rumors that would not have arisen without some grounds of truth. None of us will deny that the handlers of the Cauldron get compensated entirely out of proportion to the amount of work they do. The University of Georgia Pandora gets \$150.00 for services rendered. Should our editor get two and often three times that much. Compare the two annuals. Well, we can't whine about that: After all we elected them. We can't blame the Administration for that.

There is another activity which the Administration makes no attempt to govern: student elections. We run them as we see fit. And yet, year after year there have been not just rumors but provable statements to the effect that crookedness, dirty politics, and general corruptness have eaten away all pretense of fairness in the annual election. Maybe we shouldn't be called high school students. We seem to be post-graduates in the school of moral turpitude, recreant to all ideals of honesty and integrity. To be elected to an office has too often been a dubious honor. Well, we can't blame the Administration for that — we run the elections, you know.

Then, there is the condition that exists at Sherwood that we complain a lot about. And we go about complaining in much the way that we conduct our other affairs. We all admit that the meals dished out at Sherwood are rather disgraceful. There are few of us who wouldn't eat somewhere else if we could. But what do we do about it. At the outset we conduct ourselves like hogs. We yell and stomp, and generally act like cannibals when human blood is wafted their way. We vilify and put to shame the stewardess — a woman whose hands are tied. We act as ungentlemanly as we possibly can. Like high school students? I wonder.

During this year there have been a few little gleams of improvement. Formerly, Pan-Hellenic was a hot-bed of crooked, dirty politics and graft. But this year affairs in the Council have run rather smoothly and honestly, with the exception of one little rift which never became publicized — to the credit of every member of Pan-Hellenic. And the second edition of the general election had all the qualities of a fair race. Things are looking up.

But we might just as well admit to ourselves, that until we act like the decent, honest, upright college students that all of us could be, we have little right to complain to ourselves — or to the Administration — for what privileges we have or haven't. For, after all, aren't we getting pretty much what we deserve?

With the Greeks

Phi Delta Theta held an open house last Sunday afternoon for its members, pledges, and representatives from the Phi Delta chapters at the University of Georgia, Georgia Tech, and Emory. The initiation of Johnnie Reed, Gainesville, "Chick" Edwards, Commerce, and John Arnett, Newman, is announced.

The S.A.E.'s had a house party at St. Simon's Island week-end before last. Tomorrow they will have an all day picnic at Lakeside to be followed by a dance to which all Mercer fraternity men are invited. Duke Harold and his Cherokee Indians, fresh off the reservation, will furnish the music.

Herbert Bailey, Stonewall, has been initiated into Alpha Tau Omega.

The K. A.'s announce the initiation of John Dixon, Thomasville, and Albert Adams, Macon.

A PUBLICITY DIRECTOR

In discussing this sixth proposal of the Cluster, we repeat a statement made in this paper last fall, namely: "The need of a strictly Publicity department at Mercer has lately become more pronounced." As was then true, and at present even more noticeable, any school the size of Mercer's and making the progress we believe Mercer is making, should have one person to direct all publicity and be engaged in no other duties than those in connection with this office.

Under the present arrangement publicity for the University is divided into three divisions: among two professors who, being confined to regular classroom duties, can devote only a small part of their time to such outside work, and the athletic director, who has still less time to use for that type of work. Perhaps the establishment of this office would make room for the faculty member who has shown himself remarkably talented along this line of work and who is not scheduled to return to Mercer next year. The Cluster could think of no better solution to both problems — satisfying the need for a publicity department and the retention of this faculty member — than putting Dr. Stout in charge of all publicity work.

All publicity work being done by one department would relieve the athletic department, Dean Clark, and Prof. Allen of their responsibilities in connection with the football stories, news releases, catalog compiling, and the like. In other words, the Cluster suggests that supervision of all types of publicity and publications — not student publications, let us emphasize — be done by this new office. News releases to both out-of-town and local newspapers would be made from this central office; all athletic publicity would be carried on from this department; supervision of all printed folders, circulars, and catalogs would be done by this office.

If Dr. Dowell, or the board of trustees, or any other body of the university administration has any statement to make for publication, it would go through this department. The publicity director would even work with the students in preparing radio programs to be broadcast both from the campus and from the studios. Our present programs could be improved by such help. Further, this publicity department could work with Mr. Ishminger and Mr. Alfriend in advertising Mercer to high school students. Not that he would become field representatives but that a systematic bombardment of publicity about the University could be made upon all prospective students contacted. Publicity programs in the various high schools could be worked out by this new department in connection with the field representatives. Students could be brought to the campus for occasions other than pilgrimage day, namely for contests of various kinds.

The Cluster thoroughly believes that Mercer must have such a publicity department in order to compete with the ever-growing publicity now put out by other schools and colleges. We sincerely hope to see such a department established in the very near future.

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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Letters To The Cluster

To the Editor of the Cluster:

Through the efforts of Dr. Stout the Zeta-Pi Cast of Alpha Psi Omega, national honorary dramatic fraternity, was established at Mercer University. Now it so happens that only two other colleges in the state of Georgia have met the requirements for admission into Alpha Psi Omega. Should we not feel proud of this achievement?

I hear that Dr. Stout will not be at Mercer this fall, the rumor is that the Dramatics department is to be annexed, as a side, to the Registrar's office.

Fellow students, you know and I know that Dr. Stout is one of the most capable and perhaps the hardest working member of the faculty. Frequently it is late at night before he leaves his office; he has spent much of his spare time, has taken money out of his own pocket, and has sacrificed himself in many ways in order that Dramatic might be advanced on our campus.

If Dr. Stout goes ... that will be the last of a good Dramatics department at Mercer. How many colleges in Georgia have a Dramatics department that will compare with ours? Our students have written, directed, and produced original one-act plays, have begun work on puppets and marionettes — all this because of the talent and ability of Dr. Stout in directing and supervising these activities.

Can't something be done to keep Dr. Stout at Mercer? If you are a loyal Mercer student you want your Alma Mater to offer the best in every department of the school's activities. For Dramatics Dr. Stout is tops, and if he is dismissed it will be an administrative blunder from which this University will not soon recover.

Sincerely,
J. H. Jones.

AYE, TEAR HER TATTERED ENSIGN DOWN

An Open Letter to Dean Clark and Dr. Dowell, by Herbert Bailey

Editor's note: The following letter will displace "Campus Personalities" this week).

Dear Doctor:

As I see it, work combined with intelligent dreaming makes for progress. Both are essential.

Mercer University at present attempts to follow two paths: the straight wide road of tradition that stretches back into the past, and the long tortuous path of progress that lies in the future. Workers for both of these courses are needed to maintain the dynamic equilibrium of this university.

Shall all the workers for progress be turned from our portals? Nay, can we lift our heads without a trace of shame if it be said that even ONE of our faithful servants were cast out ungratefully and without cause?

I am referring to one who is at once a worker and a dreamer; a worker who has toiled unceasingly for the benefit of the institution in fields lying outside his actual trust; a dreamer who dared to make his altruistic dreams come true. The university has received the beneficence of his labors and dreams. Will the university drive out the WORKER for progress and extirpate his works without a reason other than mere whim? Can the university afford to deal this detrimental blow to itself? The vineyard without the WORKER will produce only weeds. Apparently, there are a few who think the WORKER is superfluous. The vast majority of alumni, professors, and students of this university think otherwise. Superfluous are always relative.

Sincerely,
Herbert Bailey.

Collegiate Whirl

The only permit allowing an Indiana student to sleep through a day's classes was issued a dozen years ago to James W. Elliot, '26, who had pent 72 sleepless hours while rushed with work on the Daily Student.

DAFFYNITIANS:

Carat—Vegetable
Trench—What a spiritualist goes into
Sweater—Person who perspires freely
Cheer—Something to sit in
Negligence—A nightgown
Western Union—A cowboy organization
Bribe—A wife
Paint—To breathe rapidly
Close—Wearing apparel
Corner—Doctor who examines dead people.
—Frederick High Flier.

The remedy for stupor at the end of the quarter:
When French gets rather dreary
And you feel you are in a rut,
When Payh starts getting puzzling
And your eyes keep falling shut,
When the next day is dismal
And you lack your usual gets,
Just relax and take it easy—for
The time has come to cut.
—Blue and Gray.

Ninety-two per cent of the freshmen at Penn. State college have voted that a college woman should get married before the age of 25.

Fourteen students of Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical college will take a Caribbean cruise this summer and get six hours of college credit for it. They are going to study life in the tropics.

The old quarrel between the North and South has spread out to include East and West, and is now called contract bridge.

—Ohio Soudal.