

The Mercer Cluster

Published weekly by the students of the fourteen schools and colleges in the Mercer University System.

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DEBATING VICTORIES

The double victory, in debate, won by Mercer over Mississippi College and Howard College in the triangular contest last Thursday night, is a noteworthy achievement. Such triumphs indicate that the days of Mercer's debating and oratorical supremacy are to continue with undiminished splendor.

Winning unanimous decisions on both sides of the same subject on the same night from two great Southern Baptist institutions is a feat unexcelled in any line of intercollegiate activity. In fact, we believe that these victories in intercollegiate debate are worth more to Mercer than even the splendid athletic triumphs, important as these are.

The young men on the debating teams deserve the highest praise and appreciation of the whole student body. They have brought credit and renown to Mercer along intellectual and cultural lines in a way to be of great service in the program set for us in the Greater Mercer. They have discharged in the highest possible manner the responsibilities placed upon them.

The Debating Council, under the leadership of Dr. A. P. Montague, are doing great things for Mercer. It is largely to their credit that the debaters go into the contests well prepared. For they insist on thorough study and application to the task of intercollegiate debating. They are untiring in their efforts to encourage the speakers in every possible way. Mercer is fortunate, indeed, that they are so capable, and so wholeheartedly interested in this line of college activities.

C. J. B.

CHARACTER ATHLETES

Are Mercer's athletes without character and will? One speaker at chapel inferred that they were and pointed out the fact that Coach Cody had to bring the basketball team back from Atlanta during the tournament to keep them out of the reach of the temptations of the city.

One of the most prominent coaches of the West said: "Victory is sweet, but to win success means hard work. The campaign that each athlete undertakes tests his capacity and endurance to the limit. Each season is like a giant crucible. As the weeks go by, the wear and grind and stress of the work sifts out the good metal until we have only the pure gold."

Still another coach had this to say: "To each athlete, the seasons means self-denial and self-sacrifice; early to bed every night, no parties or dances, no smoking, careful eating, strict attention to business, reliability, promptness, hard study and hard work, and the development of teamwork and comradeship which binds the squad together into a mighty machine that sweeps all before to success."

Still another great man in the athletic and business world summed up the matter as follows: "To win championships takes character. Each athlete has to make up his mind to give heart and soul throughout the season to the one great purpose—of utilizing every ounce of brain, energy and strength to acquire the skill to develop a team that will go through to victory."

The purpose of Coach Cody in bringing the team back to Macon was to get the rest that could not be obtained in Atlanta. To one who has never undergone the intensive training of an athletic season, the necessity of doing such a thing would never occur. So let's boost the teams instead of trying to discredit them.

J. P. Leggett.

BOOST ALL

It is rather peculiar that the entire student body of Mercer will turn out to see a basketball game with Georgia or Tech, but only a few professors and students will come to an intercollegiate debate in which Mercer participates.

Perhaps, too little publicity is given to these occasions, but it is a fact that no one will have to stand when they attend a debate or oratorical contest at Mercer. There seems to be a universal lack of interest in this phase of college activities, which should mean more to the student than the winning of a basketball game.

Just how many students attended the Mercer-Mississippi debate? Not as many as attended the Mercer-Tech basketball game, at any rate. The athletic teams need support, but the debating teams need the support as much as the athletic teams do.

Everybody try to sacrifice a little time for helping out the men who are upholding Mercer along literary lines. This is the only way to have a greater Mercer and the greatest university in the South, so let's pull together, boys.

J. P. Leggett.

FURMAN SPEAKS

Furman University, through her weekly, the Furman Hornet, is doing some tall talking in regard to the intercollegiate debate which is to be held between Mercer and Furman in the Brenau auditorium at Gainesville, Ga., Friday night, April 28. The boys from the Goober State seem to possess worlds of confidence in their ability to down Mercer in debate. The Hornet says:

"The Furmanites are determined to show their brethren from the Cracker State that a Mercer debating team is no harder to conquer than a Mercer football team." Well, the Mercer debating team may have a bit to say on the night of the debate. We suppose the Hornet is not attempting to count the eggs before they are laid, and we admire their enthusiasm. They are worthy opponents, and capable of giving our boys a nip-and-tuck struggle.

OPEN LIBRARY?

A petition requesting that the library be kept open on Sunday afternoon is being regarded with favor by the faculty of Wake Forest College. The petition has been signed by practically the entire student body.

Mercer would not go wrong in following the example of Wake Forest along that line, is the opinion of many closely connected with the faculty. Most of the students have nothing to do on Sunday afternoon and the time spent in sitting around in the rooms and on the campus could be profitably used in reading the books, papers and periodicals with which the library is filled. The opening of the library from 2 to 4 P. M. would give many the opportunity of reading and getting as much good as possible out of the advantages offered.

What about a similar petition for Mercer's library to be kept open on Sunday afternoon?

J. P. Leggett.

SPRING DAWN

John Milton Samples

Now the earth like a virgin sleeping
Wakes from her vision-dreams of night.

Sees the glowing sun come peeping
With his beaming eyes of light.

As she sees her unclad beauty
With its luring loveliness

Full-revealed, remembers Duty,
Clothes her form in modest dress.

Bathes her cheeks in sun-kissed showers,

Tosses back her streaming hair,
Decks herself with fragrant flowers—
Goddess sweet, with charms so rare!

Forth she fares to greet her lover
Where the winding woodways meet,
Cloudless skies of blue above her
Blooming daisies at her feet.

Blushing maiden, Goddess Spring-time!

Symbol of eternal youth,
Though the heart must have its flogging time

Guide it into paths of truth.

LINES WRITTEN ON READING THE RUBAYAT OF OMAR KHAYYAM

By T. M. Hart

When I have reached the Stygian shore

And all my earthly joy is o'er
Shall I regret the sparkling wine,
The strains of music, most divine?
Shall I regret those festive nights
And all the sweets of love's delights
And other joys I'll know no more
When I have reached the Stygian shore

Perhaps!—But ere this life be past,
Drink to the dregs its joy, for fast
The rose is fading, and inclines—
So list to ancient Khayamm's lines:

"One thing at least is certain, this life flies,

The rose that once hath blown forever dies."

OTHER COLLEGES

Wake Forest has recently launched a campaign for better athletics and all forms of professionalism are to be abolished. A plan has been inaugurated to install a coaching system in preparatory schools by giving alumni the benefit of courses in coaching at the beginning of the next summer session.—Old Gold and Black.

North Carolina recently won the championship of the South in basketball and is to have a new athletic field completed within the next few weeks. The new field has been laid out at a cost of approximately \$9,000 and a new gymnasium is to be erected nearby.—The Tar Heel.

The town team of Winter Park, Fla., defeated the baseball team of Rollins Thursday, March 2, in the first game of the season. Errors accounted for the downfall of the Tar, the score being 6-2.—Rollins Sandspur.

Athens students and townpeople get two glimpses of the cinder men in local setting when cross-country runs with Oglethorpe and Mercer are held here March 25 and April 1, respectively, in conjunction with baseball games arranged with the Petrels and Baptists.—Red and Black.

Although enthusiasm has always been a predominant characteristic of the Emory University Glee Club, the "Wesleyan pep" displayed at Macon last week has set a new goal for future performances. The Coca-Cola warblers may have gained nothing more than new life and laurels from Wesleyan but the Wesleyan girls won exactly thirty-two hearts from Emory.—The Emory Wheel.

Furman has just completed an intercollegiate debate schedule which will put her representatives against teams of three of the leading educational institutions of the South, Oklahoma Baptist University, Mercer University, and Carson and Newman College. The contest with Mercer will be staged in the auditorium of Brenau College, Gainesville, April 28.—The Furman Hornet.

SPRING AGAIN

"I have tried a lot o' pleasures
But I ain't found nothin' yet
That will fit my constitution
Half so well as jes' to set."

These quoted lines from "Spring Fever" by Herbert Ethridge summarize conditions on the Mercer campus today.

Yes, Spring is here and with it that well known malady of Spring fever. Even though final examinations are casting its shadows of gloom and despair over the hearts of the entire student body, yet many precious hours are flitting by while students "set."

Every evening as the athletes go jogging down to Alumni Field for their daily practice, and as the crash of bat against ball is heard, you will find Mercer boys "jes' settin'" almost too lazy to get out of the way of a speeding ball.

And who wouldn't be lazy? Spring sunshine has driven away the last touches of Winter and is gradually painting the campus green. Spring fever has already laid its clutches upon a number of students and when final examinations are over the "flunked" list promises to be enormous.
F. M. Holland.

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