

CLUSTER PLATFORM FOR 1937-1938

1. Add typing and shorthand courses, for which credit toward degrees would be allowed, to the Mercer curriculum.
2. Broadcast radio programs direct from the Mercer campus.
3. Reduce the profits made by the campus co-op and sell supplies to students at cheaper prices.
4. Establish a separate publicity department for the University.
5. Better the cooperation between the student body and the University administration.

A Mold For Student Opinion

Cluster editors were informed from an authoritative source this week that the statement about newspaper editorials being "the mold for public opinion" is gradually becoming recognized as a falsity and that today newspapers no longer make any claim to such an ideal. This strikes our newly-adopted slogan a hard blow, but one we believe can be rebuffed by a justification of our stand on the matter.

The Cluster is the only organization on the Mercer campus which is devoted to the regular and thorough informing of students about various events which take place among both student and faculty groups; it is the only periodical on the campus which is published with student financial aid and therefore in the interest of student betterment; it is the only means students have of expressing their own opinions and ideas to the entire student body in written form.

Material expressing opinion in the Cluster, as in metropolitan newspapers, is confined to the editorial page as much as possible, whether it be in the form of letters, columns, or editorials. Perhaps the best editorial produced by the most laborious efforts of the editor will have little or no effect on the opinion Mercer students have on various matters, but certainly the ideas which their fellow students have as expressed along with the editorials on this page will have some, and in exceptional cases a powerful, effect on student opinion. It is with this view that we adopted the slogan "The mold for student opinion."

THE PLAN IS NOT TO FORCE STUDENT THOUGHT INTO ANY DEFINITE SHAPE—were that the case, the slogan would certainly be a falsity because of the mere impossibility of accomplishing such a feat—but the plan is to present the opinions of various students, including those of Cluster editors, and thereby lead to the formulation of some definite, concrete opinion in the minds of students who would otherwise have only vague notions of the matters in discussion.

It is the Cluster editorial page, not the editorial, which is the mold for opinion. Students expressing their views and bringing them before other students by means of the editorial page are themselves the molders of the student body opinion.

If newspapers today presented only the factual news stories, few of the readers would be capable of reasoning out opinions for themselves, and a still smaller number would bother to do so. Even newspapers whose editorial pages do nothing but interpret the news for the readers are taking an active part in forming the readers' opinions as to the consequences and significances of the events. There is no opinion written or spoken which does not have its influence on some person. If this were not the case there would be little cause for expressing it.

The Cluster editorial page does not pretend that student thought depends entirely upon it for formulation of opinion, but it does hold that when a student body opinion is formed it is done by means of this page. Not all opinion is in harmony with that expressed on this page—and it should not be for a thoughtful student body—but before conclusion is reached on any controversial matter the students can look to this page for opinions upon which they will mold their own.

AROUND WASHINGTON

By Marvin Cox

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Despite the common impression that government work is haphazard and carried on almost exclusively by political hangers-on who can neither read nor write, there are some ambitious government workers. Not just ambitious to study medicine or law while holding down a government job, but ambitious to advance in the government and make a career of it.

This fact is proven by a little known course offered by American University here. On F street, just a few blocks from the White House, classes in the "School of Public Affairs," meet every night. The courses are given usually by successful government executives and are practical as well as grounded in theory.

The school was established by American U. in 1914 and its original enrollment was 80. This year the number of students seeking knowledge of governmental affairs will probably exceed 1200.

Two capitol college students who met a violent death while enroute to Dartmouth a few weeks ago, will have an unusual memorial, a living memorial.

Jimmie Leech and Elmer Hays, Jr., motoring to Dartmouth to begin their sophomore year, were killed near the Capital in an automobile crash that also took the lives of Hays' father and mother.

Western High School students here, aroused by the accident that took the lives of the former school mate, have banded together to prevent similar traffic tragedies. All other high schools in the capital have joined with Western and, as a result, 25,000 high school students here are forming an organization to foster sane driving practices.

So, the death of these two college students, may result in the saving of many other lives of students.



COX

Collegiate World

By R. C. Souder

At Emory the Inter-fraternity Council will put on six "two-bit" dances this year. Each fraternity man is assessed 25 cents, while non-frat men will be admitted at the same price, also. Dances will well-known orchestras will be given during the year, but these "two-bit" dances are given more for just pure fun than for "putting on the dog."

Frank Dailey and his orchestra are to play at the University of North Carolina and at Georgia this month.



SOUDER

D. D. Carroll of the University of N. C. told the freshmen recently that "there are four jobs to do every day. They are the physical, mental, social, and spiritual jobs a day without each of them is incomplete."

"Modern marriage is like a cafeteria. A man grabs what looks nice to him and pays for it later."

The Alpha Delta Pi sorority at Brenau led all others in the number of pledges this year. Delta Delta Delta was second.

Taken from a U. of North Carolina editorial: "—And one more thing, remember that if you do go frat you haven't entered the kingdom; there are just as many sorry fellows who pledge fraternities as there are good men who can't."

University of California co-eds are allowed to stay out on dates until 2:30 p. m. On special occasions they can stay out all night if they want to. That's one for Ripley.

The S.A.E. fraternity at Sewanee has announced recently to the fraternity council that it will not beat any of their freshmen this year. Other fraternities were very astonished at this announcement, and remarked that they would not follow suit.

Freshmen are required to try for the glee club at Emory. I don't think it would be hard to miss the grade if the student was not interested.

Eight Davidson students were selected as outstanding by Collegiate Who's Who. Kappa Sigma led all other fraternities there in scholarship. Phi Gamma Delta and Phi Delta Theta were second and third respectively.

Dean: So you're back in school. I thought I expelled you last week.

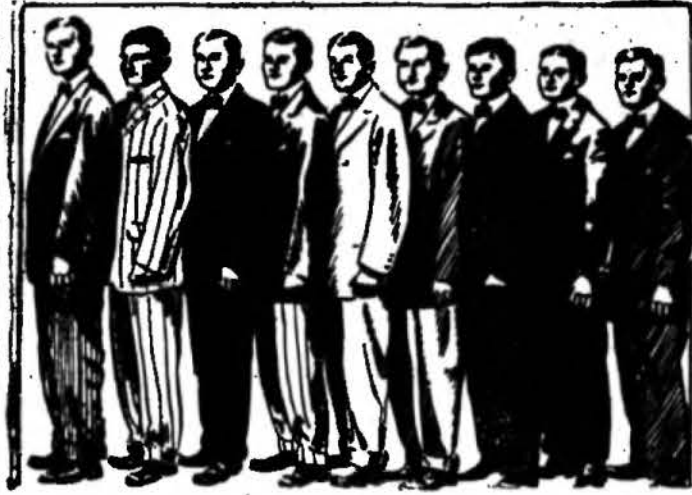
Frosh: You did, but don't do it again because my dad was plenty sore. —Carson-Newman.

Pop Warner, head coach at Temple, has been directing football teams for 43 years. His teams have won 60 per cent. of their games. —Exchange.

Out of the sixteen times that Mercer has played Howard, Mercer has won eleven games.

Lou Gehrig, star of the New York Yankees and generally regarded as the most valuable player in the American League, is a Phi Delta Theta, while Dick Bartell is an A.T.O. and played for the Giants.

CAMPUS CAMERA



The Nine Leavell Brothers

MOST FAMOUS FAMILY IN GREEK-LETTER HISTORY!
All were members of Sigma Chi at U. of Miss. from 1899 to 1912



Dr. Stout Writes
OF VOCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN DRAMATICS

By Dr. Wilbur Stout
Mercer Dramatic Instructor

To look for vocational opportunities in play production and play writing is like looking for snakes in Ireland. There are no snakes in Ireland!

Only when dramatics is considered an avocation does the topic seem worth discussing. But as soon as point is realized, we discover that a lot of tails are wagging dogs. The avocation does become one's principal occupation. One can get jobs—apparently on the strength of his avocation—and draw pay for doing little else. Sometimes very good pay.

Take an illustration. A certain graduate student completed (during time left over from a heavy extra-curricular interest in dramatics) a thesis on the mysticism of Spenser's Four Hymns. With his degree, and the grasp of literature actually behind it, he started work for \$1,800 a year—and put most of his time on dramatics. That experience quickly brought him an offer of \$5,000 a year at Northwestern University, which he accepted. His recent book

on dramatics, probably the best of its kind, was the adopted text in the Mercer summer school last year; and his royalty check was increased a little thereby.

On the other hand, if that man had "majored" in dramatics and had made no acquaintance with the immortals of literature, he might have taken the very same degree—and been doomed to struggle with a new group of little theatre know-it-alls every year, on starvation pay.

In the same way a play writer, with no other means of making money, is lucky if he turns out one play a year that some Broadway producer likes well enough to pay \$250 for a six months option, just in case nothing better comes along. Even a \$500 option is not enough to live on for a year.

If the may adopt a term that our friends in chemistry like to use, the knowledge of play production and play writing provides no good vocational opportunities without some "catalytic agent."

It seems that every one must work out his own catalysis with fear and trembling.

THE MERCER CLUSTER

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Nature Challenges You

Manager, Chamber of Commerce
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When passing a fertile cornfield where the stalks are ten feet high holding two or three heavy ears 12 inches long, each ear packed full of food or feed, the thought comes, "Nature is wonderful to provide such a bounty as this for mankind."

But Nature did not do all that. What she provided was a coarse grass, the stems carrying small nubbins with a few grains of corn for reproduction. Man has improved that grass into the corn we see today.

The wild hen of Asia, laying a setting of eggs each year as birds do, has been bred into the prolific Leghorn laying an egg a day the year round.

The first apple was a tiny knotty thing scarcely worthy of being called a fruit, hardly worth the eating; but the Golden Delicious mellow and succulent, has been evolved from it.

Nature gives the start and points the way. She rarely gives man anything fully developed. She furnishes the raw material, challenging him to improve it for his wants. And, she is ready for all his real needs.

These instances tell something of the possibilities that abound in natural sources all about us. A book might be written to describe the properties and contents of the cotton boll.

New uses for old products is the way to new wealth and higher standards of living in Georgia. If all the wants of all the folks who live here were known and listed supplying them would create enough business to make a prosperous people. All about us, hidden in the earth, the air, the water, the trees, plants, fruits and fibers are the means of satisfying all practical uses of mankind, if they are but discovered and utilized. Nature has done her part; it is man's privilege to realize on what is already here for his use and benefit.

The day of the pioneer is not yet (Continued on Page 4)

AT MACON THEATRES

By Olla Morgan

Playing at the Grand theatre today and tomorrow is Shirley Temple in "Heidi," a picture which is expected to receive the hearty approval of Macon cinemaddicts. The story is a popular one for both grown-ups and children, and with Shirley Temple taking the leading part the production should be a hit.

Next week at the Grand will be Irene Dunne and Randolph Scott in "High, Wide and Handsome." This picture will run for the first half of the week, with "Broadway Melody," featuring Robert Taylor and Eleanore Powell, playing the last half.

At the Capitol theatre today and tomorrow are the Marx Brothers in "A Day At The Races." This picture has already set audiences laughing throughout the country. Next week, Monday and Tuesday, "Forty Naughty Girls" with ZaSu Pitts will dominate the screen.

Wednesday and Thursday "Love in a Bungalow" with Kent Taylor and Nan Gray will be shown. The week's pictures will be concluded with Jean Harlow and Clark Gable in "Saratoga."

Pictures to be shown at the Hits through next week include Nino Martini in "The Gay Desperado" today, Bob Allen in "Rangers Step In" tomorrow, Warren Williams and Mady Currell in "Midnight Madonna" on Monday and Tuesday.