

THE MERCER CLUSTER

GUEST EDITORIAL

SMALL TALK  
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Mercer Marches On

Schools like Macon's own Mercer and Wesleyan are the genuine hope of the world was the view expressed by Dr. Allen Diehl Albert at the eighth annual Inter-Civic dinner Tuesday.

He declared unqualifiedly that enthusiastic support of small colleges will lead to training of responsible leaders and ultimately to solution of major problems of the world through "reaffirmation of good faith between nations."

The speaker scuttled the idea that the tendency is toward concentration of education, as has been the case in other fields of American endeavor.

Attributing the apparent popularity of large schools to the "unfortunate fact that youth is born to be an exhibitionist," he quoted statistics to show that figures compiled two years ago give small schools a much greater attendance than larger institutions.

In 1938, of the 1,350,000 students attending colleges, large institutions enrolled 100,000 or 30.3 per cent, while colleges with small student bodies attracted 884,000 undergraduates.

Of 868,703 attending colleges in 1928, 335,000 were going to large institutions and 533,784 matriculated at smaller colleges and universities.

These figures should serve to bolster the so-called school spirit of any Mercer student or faculty member who has seen fit to doubt the high standing and all-important place of this institution.

The Cluster has always believed in Mercer, its methods, its objectives, its faculty and student body. True, there have been times when certain members of the Baptist denomination have seemed utterly out of line in their views toward the school.

But to persons familiar with the problems and hindrances peculiar to a school such as our own Mercer's performance over the last decade has been almost miraculous. The University of Georgia nor any other state-owned institution can ever absorb the place which Mercer and Wesleyan have filled in the social, political, religious and cultural life of this section.

To prove this point, one has only to call to mind the last state elections held in 1938. Mercer had an undisputed monopoly on candidates in that race, a sizeable number of the aspirants to major offices being former students here.

We have little doubt that Dr. Albert's contention that large state-owned institutions have difficulty in getting the right caliber of instructors is true.

"It is difficult," he said, "for larger institutions such as those operated by state governments, to get teachers who will make impressions on their students, but small colleges seem able to acquire men for their faculties who are not keyed up so high, men who are not so absorbed."

Smaller colleges and universities can best provide what were termed the essentials of sound education—fellowship, broad culture, religious support, and building of character.

Some of the higher class of large universities are realizing that their size is destroying them and have attempted to remedy the situation by dividing up into smaller units.

But, as was pointed out by the scholarly Dr. Albert, schools like Mercer can hold their own in the best of company and need not feel inferior to their more impressive looking colleagues in the field of education.

Subject: Erosion

By JOHN COURIC

The eroded grounds around Mercer's newest physical addition, Columbus Roberts hall, daily detracts from the pleasing appearance of this building. In fact, it might be said that the washed out and ill-kept grounds deprive the campus of the beauty which might be created for it.

Great washed out holes are in the lower quadrangle and the so-called grassy slopes around Columbus Roberts hall are washing away so fast that the loose slabs of cement laid around the edge of the lawn for paths have been undermined and are unsafe for use. The run down condition of the dirt paths leading from building to building surely must create a bad impression upon visitors and prospective students. At best, Mercer's few laid out walkways are made of rough, well worn bricks. The worst path of all is between Penfield hall and the main campus. Students making this trip (and practically everyone does at least once a day) travel down a rain gully reminiscent of a small dried-up creek bed—here a patch

of sand, here a smooth spot, or here a hole cut by drainage from a recent hard rain.

What, one is entitled to ask, can be done about this? It is evident that the University lacks funds for such ground improvement, or the campus would have been landscaped long ago. Why not get the money for landscaping the same way money was raised for the school's new buildings? Set a definite goal for a campus landscaping fund. Make this drive a post-script to Mercer's first five-year plan. There are enough interested alumni who would be willing to finance this program.

Give Mercer the campus her new buildings deserve.

With The Greeks

By FIELDS VARNER

Alpha Tau Omega . . . The local chapter's basketball team was entered recently in the Salvation Army tournament.

Phi Mu . . . The active and alumni chapters will attend a Founders Day program to be given at Wesleyan Conservatory, today, 4:00 p. m.

Phi Delta Theta . . . Plans are being made for the members of the local chapter to attend the annual state conclave which will be held in Athens in the near future.

Kappa Sigma . . . Announces the initiation of Jack Ferris of Macon.

Alpha Lambda Tau . . . Celebrated their championship in the intra-mural basketball tournament with a wiener roast at Recreation last Wednesday night.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon . . . Announces the pledging of Harry Lee Smith of Mt. Vernon.

Alpha Delta Pi . . . Plans being made for an initiation service to be held March 20. Those who will be initiated are: Virginia Fincher, Nina Napier, Katherine Hanberry and Neloise Johnson.

Here's What You Smoke

AUSTIN, Texas, March 7—As a group, college students are giving the tobacco growers a good business, for well over half of them report that they are smokers. Less than a third, however, smoke habitually, and half of the women who attend the nation's colleges and universities say they never indulge in cigarettes.

Sending out its scores of interviewers to talk to students of all types, the Student Opinion Surveys of America, with The Cluster cooperating, has compiled statistics that show the tobacco habits of collegians.

"What is your favorite brand of cigarette?" a scientific cross section of the colleges was asked. And this is what they answered.

Lucky Strike	12.1%
Camel	8.0
Phillip Morris	8.0
Chesterfield	6.9
Old Gold	2.9
Pall Mall	2.8

QUALIFICATIONS AMENDMENT

A Proposed Amendment to Change Sections of the Student Constitution

Article two section two: (a) This section shall be changed to read: "to be eligible for president or vice-president of the student government the candidate must have attended Mercer University for at least five quarters and must have attained senior college rank on or before the day of election. To be eligible for freshman advisor a candidate must have spent his freshman year in residence at Mercer and must have been enrolled for five additional quarters."

Add to article seven—"The president of the senior class must be a member of the class that will be seniors for the ensuing school year from the date of the election."

Article five section two—Change sentence one to: "To be eligible for editor in chief or business manager of any student publication the candidate must have served on the editorial or business staff of that publication for two full years in addition to the quarter in which the election is held."

Article five section three — (b) The faculty committee on student publications as listed in the university catalogue shall be the faculty members of the board of publications."

Article five section two — add "Candidates for positions on the publications shall be expected to assume duties as assistants in the position to which they are elected immediately after their election and shall serve for the remainder of that year in such capacity."

Article two section six to be added new: "An election committee of five members shall be provided to certify the qualifications of the various candidates for office with the exception of the publications whose certifications from the publications board shall be accepted as final by the committee. The committee shall be composed of the president of the student body, the secretary-treasurer of the student body, and three other members appointed by the president."

The foregoing proposals shall become a part of the student constitution if ratified in the prescribed manner contained therein and shall go into effect with the school year 1940-41.

All others	2.0
No particular choice	9.8
Smoke pipe, cigars	3.4
Don't smoke	42.3

Both men and women in greater percentages prefer Luckies over any other brand (14.1 men, 8.8 women). But the girls placed Phillip Morris second with 7.6 per cent, 2.1 per cent selecting Camels. The preferences of men run in exactly the same order as those for all students above.

SUNDAY One of those college who read about but seldom read come in contact with, made some pertinent remarks the other Sabbath afternoon at the drug store in the Sunday movies in Macon.

"This old, old problem of what to do on Sunday afternoon has about got me down," he confessed. "If we had Sunday movies in Macon, that would solve the problem. Of course no body would ever really go, but it would be something to consider. . . . At least you don't argue over whether to go or not, and spend the afternoon profitably that way."

Somebody mentioned the Sunday movies in Milledgeville.

"Oh, of course there's that," he said. "But that's just what I mean. Most anybody could go to Milledgeville to a movie—but do they? Certainly not; they just talk about going. It sort of like writing a book; you never actually get around to it!"

Later we thought of a Benchley quotation that would have fitted in nicely, if it had only come to mind at the time: "I really have no reason for Sunday afternoon, at least none that I have any confidence in. The only one that might work would be to rearrange the week in your own mind so that Sunday afternoon falls on Saturday."

IMPLICATION

A recent chapel speech set a group of local intelligentsia to thinking. Somebody opened a quite an argument after the program with statement that he resented the implication made by so many non-college adults that college students are not "out in the world."

"They tell us, 'When you get out in the world, you will do thus-and-so,' or that we must prepare ourselves in school for our life in the bigger world outside." I don't see where they get the idea that students are not members of world society as much as they are. It may have been the case in the Middle Ages, but it certainly doesn't hold true now."

So ran the thread of the young man's contention. He was outnumbered by his friends, who clung to the belief that college is, indeed, a miniature world and students fairly remote from larger affairs. He asked them if they had thought of how many students today are working their way and thus are cogs in world machinery.

What do you think?

POLITICS

What with exams coming next week, and soon after that—spring elections—there has been lately great deal of what the amiable and transcendental editor of The Cluster once referred to as "the low rumble of political undercurrents." The symptoms are recognizable. Affiliations between Fraternity A and Fraternity B are being strengthened or broken entirely, as the case may be—while Fraternities C, D, E, F and G await results anxiously under a mask of inauspicious (Names of fraternities used are fictitious.)

As usual, campus diplomats, including non-frats, are clustering about in little knots "wondering what the non-frats will do." Will they split or will they vote straight—or will they vote at all? Most people seem to think there's a better chance than usual of us always-unpredictable non-frats voting straight this year.

At least everybody, whether sincerely opposed to politics or sincerely in favor, seems to be a little quickening of that peculiar anticipatory excitement that comes with spring weather—"democratic" campuses. So we shall see. Anyway, and in the meantime, remember: YOU CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL.

REMAINING POINTS IN CLUSTER PLATFORM:

1. Revision of political system with stricter qualifications for office as a pre-requisite to candidacy for major offices.
2. Adoption of honor system.
3. Inclusion of definite allotment for dramatics in the annual university budget.
4. Paving of walkways to buildings on lower campus.

ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED:

1. Establishment of adequate hospital facilities on campus.
2. Organization of student council to meet with president of university at regular intervals to discuss problems involving student body-administration relations.