

## Paging Mr. Arnall

Ellis Arnall, we fear, has become an astute politician—a crowd-pleaser, if you will.

The Gentleman in Question came to Macon last week-end to make a speech and proceeded to toss factual figures out the well-known window in a talk which apparently had this for its theme: "Tell them what they want to hear."

Said Mr. Arnall holds down the office of attorney general for the state of Georgia and so was invited to this city to address University of Georgia alumni in the Georgia Education Association.

With apparently not one crumb of evidence to support his stand, The Gentleman in Question is quoted as having burst forth with the statement that state-supported institutions of higher learning will sooner or later have the field to themselves.

One finds himself at a total loss to locate even a weak basis for such an expression. Had The Gentleman spent a few quiet moments in research he would have come face to face with these significant statistics:

In 1938, of the 1,350,000 students attending colleges, large institutions (principally state-supported) enrolled 488,000 or 30.3 per cent, while colleges with small student bodies attracted 844,000 undergraduates.

Also, the official would have uncovered the fact that in 1928, out of a total college enrollment of 808,793, 535,000 were going to large institutions and 538,784 matriculated at the smaller colleges and universities.

Too, The Gentleman might have cast a look at his own chosen field of politics. A review of the 1938 state elections brings to light the fact that Mercer had an undisputed monopoly on candidates in that race.

The Cluster sincerely hopes The Gentleman's remarks were soothing to the ears of his listeners. They certainly were not in line with the facts.

Shame, Mr. Attorney General. Shame upon you.

## Long Live Academic Freedom

The eyes of educators and students throughout the land are focused upon the City College of New York which this week must decide the question: academic freedom or academic censorship.

The report goes that the city board of education has been called upon to reconsider the appointment of Bertrand Russell to the faculty of the college because of an Episcopal bishop's accusation that Russell is "a recognized propagandist against both religion and morality."

Persons opposing the appointment lifted one brief passage from a book written by Professor Russell, Education and the Good Life, and proceeded to condemn the author on the basis of that one paragraph. Such action is unpardonable, The Cluster believes. It is the technique of dogmatists and dogma is the most despicable thing which has cursed the world.

It is to be hoped that the attitude taken by Dr. Nelson P. Mead, president of the college, will prevail. Said Dr. Mead: "Mr. Russell has been invited by our department of philosophy to teach courses in mathematics and logic . . . and not to discourse on his personal ethical and moral views to which he, as an individual, is entitled."

This is the sane, sensible and scholarly view of the situation. There is, to our mind, no reason why a specialist in one line of endeavor would have to be orthodox in his beliefs about all other things.

Long live open-mindedness. Long live academic freedom.—B. G.

## THE MERCER CLUSTER

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Entered as second-class matter September 8, 1934, at the post office at Macon, Georgia, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Published each Friday during the college year except holidays and final examination periods by the students of Mercer College.

## ON THE COLLEGE FRONT

### Subject: Democrats And 1940

With speculation on the third term aspirations of President Roosevelt holding the limelight, collegians all over the nation are turning to a consideration of the 1940 election prospects of the Democratic party and are discussing the party's possibilities with great interest.

Comment on the third-term issue seems about evenly divided, with many urging the President to make up his mind as soon as possible so the party will not be split further. The Washington College Elm is most vociferous in denouncing another term for Mr. Roosevelt: "The life of the American people will be imperiled by a third term candidacy for Mr. Roosevelt. Our national economy and political institutions will be destroyed. War or peace, we suggest that Mr. Roosevelt declare his intention to obey the unwritten rule against the third term."

The University of Kansas Daily Kansan believes the third-term controversy serves two purposes: "The innocent one of providing a safety valve by which today's anxiety and alarm may be released, and the more doubtful one of providing an effective smoke screen that obscures all other important events."

Turning to the speculation over James A. Farley's candidacy, the University of Minnesota Daily said: "The Postmaster General would no doubt make a formidable candidate for the presidency, being an able politician who has a strong personal following. He has a wide acquaintance throughout the country, a thorough grasp of its many diverse problems and would give a creditable account of himself in the presidency. Mr. Farley is best known, of course, for his political sagacity and his almost uncanny ability in divining popular trends. It is doubtful, however, that a man of his unquestionable political acumen would care to suffer the fate of Alfred E. Smith."

The University of Texas Daily Texan predicts that President Roosevelt could not win the nomination or the election should "Genial Jim" desert him: "A Farley walk-out would be a blow to the White House. Farley has a tremendous personal following—a strong and genial personality, he makes and keeps friends. As head of one of the most effective political machines ever developed in this country, he knows how to get results. And many a delegate at the next nomination convention will 'ask Jim' before supporting or opposing any candidate."

Several of the college newspapers are thumping for Cordell Hull as the next carrier of the Democratic standard. On this subject, the University of Iowa Daily Iowan says: "The greatest barrier to the presidency for Cordell Hull is his age. The secretary of state is 70, which doesn't appeal to most voters. As capable as Cordell Hull has been in his political career, making few enemies in the years since 1906 when he first entered Congress, his age alone is enough to keep him from getting the Democratic nomination for the presidency. A second barrier to the nomination of Hull is his relationship to Roosevelt in the party. Were Roosevelt to announce his intentions of running for a third term, even the slim chance that Hull now has to get the nomination would fade."

So, while F. D. R. is still favored by collegians in sample polls, there still is much talk about other candidates. Only time and political developments can bring an indication of the final choice of Democratic collegians.

## With The Greeks

By FIELDS VARNER

Phi Delta Theta . . . Members, pledges and dates will be entertained at a breakfast to be held after the Saturday night dance. The annual Founders Day banquet will be given March 25 in the Walter Little Room of Hotel Dempsey. At this time several local men who have been alumni for fifty years or longer will be presented with a Golden Legion certificate.

Alpha Tau Omega . . . Will hold a breakfast at the New Yorker after Saturday night dance. Recently elected officers are: president, Walter Ashmore; vice president, Addison Webb; secretary, Louis Warlick; treasurer, Frank Alexander. The Pan-Hellenic representatives are Bob Sparks and Fred Shearer.

Kappa Alpha . . . Election for new officers for the next year was held Wednesday, March 20. They are: president, Darnell Brawner; vice president, Wylie Davis; secretary, Russell Daley.

Alpha Delta Pi . . . Recently elected officers are: president, Margaret Zeigler; vice president, Sara Marshall; secretary, Sara Jane Reese; treasurer, Stevens Deane.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon . . . Annie Wheat Jones, sponsor, will entertain at an intermission party Friday evening. Brothers, pledges, and dates will be entertained at breakfast, to be held at the New Yorker following the Saturday night dance.

Psi Mu . . . Association meeting of Tau Phi of Mercer.

## SMALL TALK

By Harry Goldgar

### AN OPEN LETTER

To Miss Margaret Zeigler

My dear Miss Zeigler,  
Allow me once again to express to you my appreciation and enjoyment of your verse "Compromise," which appeared in the last 38 hobette. I have already mentioned to you in complete disagreement with your thesis, at least as I interpret your thesis.

It seems to me, Miss Zeigler, that there can be no "compromise." It seems to me, indeed, that Mr. Shearer has advanced a more satisfactory and a more rational philosophy than have you. And as one of those who do not only feel a does Mr. Shearer, but who likewise live or in some measure attempt to live as he advocates, I feel called upon to elucidate as best I can on standpoint.

Being one who tries to write and who hopes to make literature a vocation, I think an objective view of the present literary and artistic scene is absolutely mandatory. Now, Miss Zeigler, can one write if one lacks familiarity with the schools of thought of his epoch, whether or no he is in agreement with these trends? Would you have us, as the head of our Mercer English department would have us, go no further than the year 1900 in our reading and observations? Evidently yes. I think, on the contrary, that the arts since that time have undergone and are undergoing certain significant changes. It happens that I am in accord with many of these changes. Even if I disagreed violently with them all, however, I should nevertheless feel it incumbent upon me to read them, look at them, listen to them, to ATTEMPT correctly to interpret them—and even, should I feel so inclined, to pass judgment upon them.

Self-contradiction, Miss Zeigler, is apparent in your poem. You ask us not to draw from "older men who . . . dug this rut for us." And yet you believe that we are too young, to assess our individuality. What then would you have us do? Cease thinking entirely?

We are "queer, gloomy youths" as you say who "prate of life." My only answer—and I seem to me an all-inclusive and all-conclusive answer, is this: Why not, Miss Zeigler, "prate" of life, since we are of necessity a part of it and since we are going to write and are even now writing about it? And if we "prate" in this manner, since life is as it is, can we be anything but gloomy?

I look at the morning paper and I read, as you say, that "Yesterday Nazi assassins entered the home of an obscure Protestant pastor at his evening prayers and dragged him to a concentration camp." Or, "Yesterday Japanese soldiers herded together a group of Chinese citizens in a public square of a Chinese city and shot them down with machine guns." Or, "Yesterday police fired on strikers, killing twelve and wounding three." Can one help being gloomy?

There are those who will say that in this world there are those who will say that in this world there is presented a golden opportunity to serve mankind. I have heard them say it; and have you—you have probably said it. But, Miss Zeigler, is the human animal, driven and motivated by the most base and selfish of instincts and desires, really worth serving or saving? I rather think not. I marvel at the wasted energy of those who serve me, for instance. They might so easily be doing something better. See?

One who has written far greater words than I or my friends can ever hope to write, has expressed our viewpoint thus: "O waste of life in the hot mazes, lost, among bright stars this most weary unbright cinder, lost! Borne being speechlessly we seek the great forgotten language, the lost lane-end into heaven, a star a leaf, an unopened door. Where? When? You know, Miss Zeigler, as well as I know, the answer is, and will remain, forever unknown."

As for me, my dear Miss Zeigler, I am not worried, feeling that it makes no difference how.  
Yours very truly,  
Harry Goldgar.

## CENSUS

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liable national inventory, the U. S. Bureau of the Census is asking them to do their part in making the 1940 census a success. The Bureau needs their help in the gigantic task of assembling facts about 132 million Americans in two ways. First, by making sure that their parents will report on them to the Census enumerator, and second, by supplying their parents with certain information they will need in order to report on them accurately. The latter precaution is advisable even for students living at home, since they may be at class when the enumerator arrives.

Offhand, it might be thought that parents would know everything about the student which would be called for in the Census. The questions which are being asked in 1940, however, are somewhat more complex than those of previous years, reflecting the need for facts bearing on the many problems which have arisen in the United States during the eventful decade just closing.

The only other question which parents might have trouble answering concerns place of residence of the student on April 1, 1936. If the student was away from home at the time, in prep school, college or elsewhere, the parents are still to report his permanent residence, which normally would be the same as their own.

Reporting to the Census Bureau is required by law, but the same statute protects those giving the answers against disclosure of individual names or their use for taxation, investigation or similar purposes.

## 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 students.