

# The Mercer Cluster

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The Cluster is a member of GPCA and ACP. Advertising and circulation rates upon application. Represented for national advertising by National Advertising Service Inc. Published each Friday during the college year except holidays and final examination periods by the students of Mercer University.

Entered as second-class matter September 8, 1924, at the post office at Macon, Ga., under the Act of March 3, 1927.

## Athletics - Finis

At last Mercer has solved its athletic situation—or at least is taking steps towards a solution. We believe the members of the athletic committee are to be congratulated upon the selection of Bobby Hooks, Valdosta high mentor, as head coach for Mercer. His record speaks for itself.

Although it was disappointing to some of us that an alumnus coach was not hired, the arrangement by which Billy Smith, of the class of '38, becomes a member of the coaching staff is gratifying.

While Smith has not had the experience that Coach Hooks has had, his three years of high school coaching and his year in 1937-'38 as Mercer frosh coach have shown that he has real ability. Smith's popularity with the students, we predict, will be enormous. While at Mercer he gained the reputation of being one of the most popular men on the campus, and was narrowly defeated for president of the student body.

His team has had to meet teams from much larger schools and, consequently, does not have an excellent record—on paper. His situation at Fitzgerald high has been analogous with Mercer's set-up over the same period. Let us hope that he finds things different here.

We like this idea of hiring high school coaches. (If they have outgrown their class.) Mercer has decided on a policy of football de-emphasis. A program which amounts, among other things, to football for football's sake, not an attempt to make football Mercer's main offering. We say without hesitation that Mercer wants to be no state university where students are more interested in a good football team than in high scholarship. Football is a component part of university life, but it is not the only part.

We believe, then, that Bobby Hooks and Billy Smith will make good coaches because they have shown that they can take South Georgia boys and turn out good, competitive teams.—J. C.

## Honor Again

Perhaps so much has been said of the honor system that students have become weary of hearing it discussed. But we believe that until all students awaken from their lethargy and realize the importance and workability of such a plan, it must be discussed.

Many students are ready for the honor system now. Others oppose it on the grounds that Mercer students can't be trusted. Still others wish to know the simple mechanics or code, before considering whether the student body can put over the essence of an honor system—honor without code.

As all of the chapel speakers have pointed out, the honor system is based on the individual student's character and not on an honor council, or student punitive group.

But to satisfy those who still cry method and means, this column next week will be devoted to an explanation of the proposed honor council. To the old students whose memories are strong enough to remember the two columns of facts printed in a Cluster of last spring we ask forbearance.

The explanation will be for new students and those who cannot or do not wish to remember.—J. C.

# Dishing the Dirt

By BETTE CO-ED

Well, studes, here it is another Friday, and as usual—you just ain't acting dirty. Youse kids noticed how last week I begged you to give me the lowdown (and I do mean low-down) but as yet there ain't no filth on the files. So-o-o-o-o-o it's your own fault, angels. But such as it is, here you are.

A certain president of a certain fraternity which is soon to give an old Southern brawl (typographical error, I assure you) seems to be more full of **Brawn** than brains. **Withall** the cigarettes, money and companionship he's "borrowed" from a local co-ed, he, following the usual trend, is sporting imported talent in the leadout. Of course, he's only met the gal once, and she's **Johnny Draughon's** girl, but that's Southern chivalry.

In a previous column I mentioned that **Sheik Garfield** could not make up his mind between three women. Now, the fact that he's taking the KA sponsor to the dance tonight may not mean a thing—probably doesn't. But still you can't get away from the fact that he is taking the aforementioned gal to the dance. Maybe she's **Hardening** his heart against the other two.

Did you know that **Edgar Gostin** owes his success with the women to his "neektiq" (to coin a previous expression)?

Sarah Harnsberger used to be **Guyed** a lot about **Mr. Cobb**. But it's now evident that she prefers

## In the Crucible

By FRED SHEARER

### LETTER

Dear Quack Boys:  
 Your latest work of pamphleteering was read with interest. We were particularly amused at your criticism of this column as being "half hearted" in its griping. By the term "half hearted" do you mean that the Crucible is deficient in the number of gripes voiced, or that we are not vitriolic enough in our methods of griping?

If it is the range of griping to which you refer, we reassert that this column will voice any complaint that any student desires, provided, of course, that such complaint is within the limit of journalistic propriety. We rest assured that any griping outside this limit will be handled by your anonymous sheet. As to intensity of expression, let it be remembered that the writer of this column signs his name to what he writes.

Yours,  
F. C. S.

### DOGS

What, in the name of Allah, is the great attraction for the canine species on the Mercer campus? Tuesday afternoon I counted 11 of the beasts on the lower campus. Roberts hall is teeming with them.

Frankly I love dogs. Nothing draws a deeper sigh of satisfac-

tion than to sit by the hearth with a book, etc., and a faithful specimen of "man's best friend" sitting vigilantly and affectionately near. But when, myriads of these self-invited hangers around trip us in the mad rush to the dining hall, well, that is another story.

### FACULTY NOISE

Students who work in the NYA office, are complaining that the faculty make too much noise when they have their pow-wows in Dr. Highsmith's classroom. One of the sufferers, however, maintained that the noise would not be so objectionable, if he could understand what was being said.

### PROGRAMS

It has been suggested that the music rendered at Mercer festivities would be enjoyed infinitely more if such music would actually follow the program, or if the program would be arranged to fit the music.

### SUGGESTION

Since chapel attendance is on the honor basis, it seems that it would be no violation of good judgment to allow the co-op to remain open during chapel period. Since everyone does not attend chapel every time, Chichester's gets a lot of business that the co-op would get if this restriction were not imposed.

## Let's Have Honor

"The sole reason for the existence of the small denominational college in this world of state-subsidized education is the PRODUCTION OF CHRISTIAN LEADERS." Primary among the characteristics of a real leader is a living and vital sense of honor. If our institution is to fulfill its function, it must instill, permanently instill, into the very beings of its students that living and vital sense of honor. Education, in its essence, is experience. The best way for a student to acquire that sense of honor, is through the experience of being a part of a system which gives him the opportunity of exercising his sense of honor, of developing it. Through the projected Honor System, then, our institution can fulfill its destiny—to the greatest permanent benefit of its students.—Sam Lowe Jr.

Harry Goldgar's

# SMALL TALK

(The opinions expressed by the writer of Small Talk are his own and do not necessarily agree with the editorial policy of The Cluster.)

EDITOR'S NOTE: This week's Small Talk is by Margaret Zeigler, Cluster women's editor, substituting for Harry Goldgar, who is ill.

**IRONICAL** The flu epidemic on the campus has at last reached such proportions that the estimable author of this column has been included in the ranks of those stricken. (Well, anyhow, he has streptococcal throat.) We deem it unnecessary to disperse sympathy in the direction of said columnist's bedside, however, as he has expressed himself so ably in a previous column as to his own capability in caring for himself.

We assume that Mr. Goldgar is adequately supplied with Dr. Newton's White prescription, and that his absence from classes, publications and convivial gatherings of the intelligentsia will be of limited duration.

Bowing to the proclamation that Small Talk is the first column read on receipt of a Cluster, we advise all solely interested in Harry's literary style and general subject matter to turn the page, as the remaining inches will be devoted to topics of campus conversation given in our own manner.

## POST ADOLESCENCE

In a drug store assembly the other day a prominent group of Mercer's socialites and civic-minded citizens were observed in serious discourse. Thinking we'd probably become involved in a discussion of the impending campus politics, the Friday night dance, or at least the merits of orchestras under consideration for Little Commencement, we ambled up and lent an ear.

We were astonished to learn that some of the juniors and seniors are growing up. An embryonic lawyer was dissertating on various styles of architecture and the practicability of certain types of houses for the young married couple. Next came a heated colloquy on the minimum income with which a man may support a wife, not lavishly, but comfortably.

A pre-med student opined that the ideal family would include five boys and one girl, while a young lady asserted that two boys and two girls would insure a more congenial life for all concerned. In the midst of this domestic confab an outsider mentioned tonight's imminent frivolity, and the prevailing attitude was "Dance? What dance?"

## PERSONAL, Etc.

Dear Harry: I for one am in favor of your printing as soon as possible the "several practical points" of your proposed honor system. Then perhaps the rather infantile practice of name-calling and tongue-sticking-out can be abandoned.

It seems to me that honor is, honor any way you look at it; and personally I fail to see how two sets of "ideals of honor" can exist. You ask about compulsory informing on students observed cheating. I honestly think that there would be little need of this. I seem to remember your asserting that honor can't be instilled in anyone. Maybe not; nevertheless, there has been a noticeable increase in chapel attendance since the system has been adopted there. Major Blair has the right idea: there was no discussion about the merits of the roll-checking method now in use; he just turned loose and tried it out. The reckoning will come later if necessary.

Have you noticed how few students cheat in Dr. Jones' classes? And does he walk around the room like a blood-hound? No, he sits in his office and not but once in the five quarters I've taken exams from him has anybody been accused of cheating. There was a pretty fair cross-section of Mercereans in the class at the time, and I feel free to say there was a general feeling among the students that the guilty persons were jeopardizing a prized independence in the class—the feeling that one could proceed with an exam unworried by a suspicious professor prowling between desks and reading over the shoulder.

Well, I'll be looking forward to reading your own ideas as to how the honor system should be worked. I can't get over the feeling, though, that at first there will necessarily be a few unpleasant requisites to get the program started and in working condition.



GOLDGAR