

The Cluster

Established in 1920

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The CLUSTER is the official newspaper of Mercer University, published by the students bi-weekly during the summer and weekly during the regular school year except during examination week and holidays.

Entered as second class matter in the Post Office of Macon, Georgia.

CLUSTER POLICY

"We are the sum of all the moments of our lives..."—Thomas Wolfe.

It shall be the policy of the Mercer CLUSTER to record these moments honestly, focusing upon them without distortion.

Valedictory

Mercer University is again nearing the time when she will lose a portion of her students. In about two weeks, graduation will be held and at about the same time quite a few members of the naval unit will finish their collegiate training and be sent to advanced schools where they will be trained as deck, flight, medical or supply officers. Both of these groups are reaching the period of life when they must cast aside the rather carefree ways of college students and adopt the more serious attitude of mature men and women.

The civilian students who are about to be graduated have come a long way to reach that occasion when they will don the cap and gown and receive their degrees. Probably no one who has not worked for four college years to gain such a reward can appreciate fully the efforts which these men and women have exerted. They have shown great courage and determination by fixing a high goal and not letting any obstacle keep them from reaching it. We who have not yet reached that point in our education cannot be too prolific in our praise of these scholars.

But we have a word of caution for those who are going to be graduated in such a short time. These men and women must not believe that, by receiving a piece of parchment on which they are described as being a bachelor or master of art or science, they have reached the end of their education. They must realize that education never ends for those who have open minds. It is only when our minds become prejudiced and fixed in their thoughts that we depart from the world of education. And if we reach a period of life when our thoughts are iron-clad by logic-tight compartments, we have ceased living and have reached a stage of life that is merely an existence. People who reach such an existence can never do any real good for themselves or for humanity. Their college work has in reality been only a failure because they have lost track of one of the foremost objectives of undergraduate work—teaching the student to have an inquiring mind, unhampered by any prejudice.

The naval students who are leaving for more specialized work are soon to accept the responsibility of actively defending the United States and overcoming the enemy. Few words can be said to express the feelings which all of us remaining behind must have in our hearts. We realize that they are going to risk their lives that their country may remain free and that people such as us may remain in our work without interruption. Nothing spoken or written could ever express sufficient praise to these men.

The naval trainees realize that they are not getting a full education. It is very unfortunate that they cannot have a full college career ending with a degree, as they would have in more normal times. We believe that those men who are vitally interested in academic achievement will return to college after the war is over. We sincerely hope that a large percentage of these men will resume their studies because they have the advantage of wide practical experience.

Thus we have two groups, one of men and women and the other of men, who are preparing to depart from the halls of Mercer University. Theirs is a gigantic undertaking, but one which they will accomplish more fully because of their days at Mercer University. All of us, who will remain after they have gone, extend to them the fondest wish for every success and the best of everything.

Au Revoir To Dear Old Mercer U.

By BOB BANKS

As you well know, this is the last chance I have to express myself, and as it is traditional, when one makes one's last stab in this "Thursday Review of Literature," to get out one's easel and paint the sobbing soul about the take flight into Chaos, leaving Paradise with its heavenly creatures and forbidden fruits. I shall do my best to follow in the footsteps of my predecessors.

I glance over my paints and notice a deep purple that seems to be the stain of sorrow. I dab (or whatever a painter does) into the oils (or whatever a painter dabs into) and various forms of the obstacle course begin to take shape. The reminiscent mind turn backwards like a projection machine and one sees the happy days spent dancing on its architecture. No longer will I swing on her ropes, nor carry my dollies three and climb down her rain barrel, or slide down her cellar door. My Charlie Horse brays a sorrowful farewell to her as she tries desperately to remain the tough ole gal we knew so well, but startled I find there is a tear on her cheek. I guess a part of her will always be with me (not saying where it sticks, of course).

Still keener is another figure, and if you have that so-called artistic eye you will recognize Chief Malone wearing a Hindu sarong (and a YWCA towel wrapped about his head), nonchalantly blowing a flute and squatting on a board of nails placed in front of the obstacle (what I call it would never do) that one wiggles through that takes anywhere from ten to thirty minutes to get out according to how well one follows one's map and how many times one has to stop and give a long artificial respiration. I'll never forget the disgusting look I got from the cobra that was handing out salt tablets as I wiggled through the thing already so well described. But after all Maria Montez has a lot I don't have! But I dare say I could be as famous. There is a certain talent scout from Universal that jumps from behind a bush everytime I swing on that rope thing and asks if I have ever played in a jungle film, and I keep telling him that I have never even played in a jungle. Everytime we get to the point where I am about to sign on the dotted line Chief Scott appears and before I know it he has the guy "hitting the wall." Then I lose him among the obstacles.

Back to the easel: Another pang of the sobbing soul displays all the characters I have known gathered in the Bohemian atmosphere of the Sunshine, drinking from the bottle of life (with a Budweiser label). As we are about to go into our song and dance, Sanford Mullen dashes in and begins to beat us for not being at our typewriters producing copy. We buy him a beer. He composes himself. We buy him another beer. He joins our mirth. He buys us a beer. The next day the familiar note is tacked in the co-op. "Due to printing difficulties, the CLUSTER will not appear today."

Then too there is the "old men's banquet." A last send off, so to speak, painted as the buying of a magazine before boarding a train. We notice the pages reflect joy and laughter and maybe a little fear (that, of course, would be midshipmen's school). On the cover someone is wishing us Godspeed and inches of gold braid.

The Battle of Mercer . . .

By Marfleet



The FORUM

Fisher Craft, Editor

What Does Mercer University Need?

A new swimming pool? Another science building? More professorships? What does Mercer need the most? In the postwar period, Mercer will undoubtedly expand her facilities, as soon as men and material are released from their all-important war jobs. But the question is, what does Mercer need most. Here are the opinions of a few. What do you think?

Miss Wilma Sowell

Miss Wilma Sowell, assistant librarian, thinks that a better school spirit is Mercer's greatest need. "I believe that Mercer needs a better school spirit, not only among the students, but also among the faculty members. In a material way, I think that the need is for a real student center. This center, to be open at night, should fill in the deficiencies in recreational facilities on the campus. One of the best of the recent improvements in Mercer has been the addition of the lounge for town girls. But what the town students should have is a place to eat on the campus, possibly a cafeteria that could serve both the dormitory students and the town students."

Forrest Lanier

According to Forrest Lanier, sophomore, Mercer's need is intangible. "I believe that Mercer's principle need is not material but intangible. Mercer's assets cannot be developed to the fullest extent in the face of the criticism that they must stand. Mercer's spirit is largely concentrated within the various groups of the campus, and is not centralized in the school. The central need is understanding—between individual students and organizations. I believe that there is no substitute for brotherly love, not even a poor one."

Miss Mary Frances Harrison

Miss Mary Frances Harrison, junior, says, "I think one of the things that Mercer needs most is a swimming pool. Recreational facilities at Mercer are far below those of other colleges. A swimming pool would not only give Mercer students a wholesome and healthful type of recreation, but would also raise the prestige of

the school. Students from other schools and also prospective students seem always to guide the conversation into the embarrassing question, 'Does Mercer have a swimming pool?'"

Miss Nell Lewis

Miss Nell Lewis, vice-president of the student body, mentions several things that Mercer needs. "Most of all Mercer needs school spirit, which is an integral part of any school. A football team would do much to improve the school spirit. Next, I believe that we need a new science building, properly lighted and with adequate space. Our present science building is far too crowded and far too inadequately equipped to measure up to Mercer standards. For the convenience of the students there should be a science library in the science building. For the comfort of the students there should be a number of drinking fountains located at various places on the campus."

Miss Jennie Sue Clatt

Miss Jennie Sue Clatt, junior, says, "I don't think that Mercer lacks anything to a great extent, but one of the first things lacking is school spirit. Of course I realize that during a war it is not exactly patriotic to talk about not having a football or a basketball team, but it will be good when they can come back with flying colors.

"As a chemistry major, I wish that we could have more laboratory equipment. That which the chemistry department now has is good, but there is not enough of it.

"For a school of credit and traditions, I believe that Mercer should have a concert series each year. I don't think that these deficiencies are of great significance, but there is always room for some improvement."