

The Mercer Cluster

Established in 1920

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

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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 them without distortion.

Member
Associated Collegiate Press
Distributor of
Collegiate Digest

Ratting

Through some inexplicable evolution—perhaps Heaven only understands how—the custom of ratting has now become an institution in most American colleges. Indeed, so much so that every sophomore class think it mandatory that the freshmen be subjected to a period of heckling. To be iconoclastic is neither our aim nor our purpose, but we would like to discuss ratting quite frankly.

Ratting, itself, is perhaps a harmless pastime when conducted in a gentlemanly manner, but it happens quite often that some sadistic upperclassmen take the ratting period as an opportune time to satisfy their fiendish desires. As a most excellent proof of this statement, take the most disgraceful hair-cutting incident of Tuesday, a fortnight ago, which was, simply, a high school prank played in a grammar school manner.

Perhaps such scandalous exhibitions are the result of the prolonged, tiresome periods of ratting. Witness this: The first day of ratting the philosophy of the freshman is that ratting should be abolished altogether; the last day of ratting sees no such humble attitude, nearly every freshman boasts of what fiendish things he is going to inflict upon next year's freshmen. The attitude of the average upperclassmen changes no less drastically during the same period; The first day of ratting is immensely amusing, the last day a complete bore.

We have said ratting is an institution. So let it be. But to remedy the situation, we suggest that ratting be limited to one day and that the freshmen be requested to wear the rat caps for a semester....

Ratting, as a proper institution, depends on man's honor. It is to be regretted that unhonorable men take advantage of this fact.

Campus Beautification

Along with the landscaping improvements now in progress on the campus, the CLUSTER would like to suggest that something be done about needed improvements in the outside electric wiring system now in use. It seems that a great improvement could be had if all the outside wiring could be subterranean.

Many unsightly poles are cluttering up the campus. Also, some trees are used as means of supporting wires, electric and telephone.

Especially unattractive is the conglomeration of wires and insulators near the back entrance to the Administration Building. Our attention was called to this matter, and taking this as a starting point, investigation shows other similar sights and places of needed improvement.

May we suggest that with the planned improvement, outside wiring be placed underground, thus doing away with the unattractive and outmoded system now noticeably disfiguring our campus?

Will you join me in a cup of coffee?
Why yes, if you think there's room.

Sophomores Win Flag Rush

On the tenth of October at 4:00, seven freshmen boys made an attempt to capture the flag from seven sophomores to end rat week.

They were effectively stopped by the sophomores.

On the sophomore team were: Louis Wanniger, Herschel Darsey, Carmen Trevitt, Dan Eden, Landrum Leavell, Jay Trawick and Compton Usina.

On the freshman team were: Pat Stockton, Joe Surrat, Bob Murdock, James Dillard, Paul McCardel, Fred Lowe, and T. L. Everett.

Even though the freshmen hadn't gotten the flag before their three minutes were up word was given that rat week officially ended.

As an anticlimax the wind blew the flag down some seconds after time was given whereupon a freshman picked it up.

Freshman Girls

Give Wiener Roast

The girls of the Freshman Class are sponsoring a wiener roast on Halloween night. This function is also initiating the use of a new outdoor grill which is being given to the girls by Dr. and Mrs. Dowell.

Mary Arnold has been elected chairman of the social committee.

On October 17, twenty-seven girls were honored with a birthday dinner at Mary Porter Dining Hall. There will be a birthday dinner each month for the girls whose birthdays occur during the month.

Legion Post

Names Officers

The Henry-Dickey-Wage Post No. 178 was officially recognized as an active unit of the American Legion about June 1, when the post charter was issued. At that time the post had only sixteen members; now the membership is thirty-odd.

The Post has as its officers: J. T. Wright, commander; Forrest Lanier, vice-commander; Homer Statham, Adjutant; Baldwin Martin, Historian; and Richard Blanchard, Chaplain. The post has, also, several men who attended Mercer prior to their entry into the Armed Forces.

The Henry-Dickey-Wage Post was named in honor of three former Mercer students, each from a different branch of the service, who made the supreme sacrifice.

DEAN FEILDS SPEAKS TO CICERONIAN

The Ciceronian Literary Society held its first meeting of the fall quarter at 7:30 Tuesday, October 16. The attendance was one of the largest in a number of quarters.

The election of officers for the coming year was held. They are as follows:

President—Ben Giles.
Vice-President—Laura Major.
Sec. & Treas.—J. Marion Brantley.

The topic for discussion was the well-known question, "The Race Relations," which was presented by Dean Feilds.

Following this talk, Dean Feilds conducted a forum on this topic.

TO THE BOYS IN BLUE

The time has come for you to leave us too soon, for you have made a place for yourselves in our hearts, which cannot be filled by any one else. You have become a part of Mercer in the two years that you have been here.

It has been a joy to work with you in all the religious organizations, The Cluster, the Dramatic Club, the Glee Club, the Fraternities, the other organizations which you have participated in here at Mercer.

When you are gone, we will have fond memories of you, and will sincerely miss you on the campus. For each and everyone of you we wish a full and happy life, with success in the field of work you may choose.

Wherever you go, remember that Mercer will always welcome you back, and you will still be considered a part of the campus life.

The meaning of your friendship will have a clearer meaning when you are gone from Mercer. For a "great group of boys" will be gone, leaving behind the "fellows" and "weeping comeds."

Alembic Club

Holds Meeting

The first meeting of the Alembic Club for the new year was held October 9 in the Biology Lecture Room.

Ben Giles was elected Vice-President to fill the office formerly held by Bill Smith, now in the Marines. Mary Frances Harrison and Dot Taylor were selected as Co-Chairmen of the Program Committee. Also, Benton Stocumb was selected to take the place of Fisher Craft, as Chemistry Department Program Chairman.

Noxie Sullivan, Biology Department Program Chairman, presented a program which included a speech by Dr. Applewhite on the subject of "Serums and Vaccines."

The meeting was presided over by Stanley Stinson, President.

What's the difference between a jeweler and a jailor?

I don't know. What is the—
One sells watches and the other watches.

WHAT THE MINISTERS SAY

Fool's Paradise

By Ralph Peck

The helplessness of man is a dominant principle in much current thought and interpretation of events. Seemingly, circumstances have a relentless hold upon our lives and our efforts to improve the world appear futile and misguided. Indeed we have come to think that a better world will be brought into being entirely by God and that a man is not religious until he realizes his utter helplessness before a tolerant God.

On the contrary, it is my considered conviction that the world will never be improved until God can find men who are willing and able to serve as his agents—men having freedom of action, using their minds to bring about a nearer realization of the Kingdom on earth and not accepting man-made traditions as a starting point but thinking creatively. In other words: Man's place in the world is one of inescapable responsibility for the care and keeping of the good things of life. These things remain ours only as long as we cherish them and exercise eternal vigilance in their cultivation. There can be no

progress without the continual striving of man, notwithstanding to the contrary the Calvinistic doctrine that the power and grace of God operate entirely without reference to human effort. Both divine and human effort are essential to the creation of a good world. When we cease to strive to be more pleasing to our friends, more faithful to ourselves and genuinely sincere and devoted in our living, that moment our personality begins to disintegrate.

Then, let us here be highly dedicated to the ideal that we are to cooperate with God in making the world a more congenial habitation for the human soul. To do otherwise is to build for ourselves a Fool's paradise.

B.S.U.

The B.S.U. held its first "peg" meeting Tuesday, October 16, in the auditorium of the chapel. Winifred Peterson, president of the B.S.U. on the campus, presided.

Group singing, led by Herschel Darsey opened the program, after which Winifred gave a word of welcome to all who were present. This was followed by the reading of the scripture and prayer by Winifred.

Members of the executive council, representing the different organizations on the campus, were introduced and they told of the work and plans of their organizations.

Catherine Harwell read a poem, "What B.S.U. Means to Me," expressing the feelings of the student toward B.S.U. It told of the spirit of B.S.U. and how it affects the life of the student on the campus.

Nathan Byrd, president of the State B.S.U., told of the State B.S.U. convention that is to meet in Athens at the First Baptist Church on the 26-27-28 of this month. The names of those who are going were taken and adequate transportation was decided upon. Housing facilities will be provided, but all meals will be paid according to the individual.

Following these announcements, Dr. Henry L. Batts brought an inspiring message.

Dr. Hansford Johnson, faculty adviser for B.S.U., gave the benediction.

What's the difference between Jack Dempsey, Max Schmelling and a piece of bologna?

Don't know—what is the difference—

Jack Dempsey and Max Schmelling have done great feats.

That's right, but where do you get the bologna?

At the butcher's.

Fall Term 1945

Final Exams 5-7

Winter 1945-46

December 10

Christmas Holidays

December 14-31