

# The Mercer Cluster

Established in 1920

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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

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## SPIRIT

Spirit showed a big jump last week—nearly everyone was moved, at least a little, by the awakening of student interest. Some, naturally were moved more than others.

For the first time in many a moon the students saw what a little interest in the right place could do. It's true that we didn't actually get football but we jumped a mighty big ditch toward it. It's interesting to think what would have happened if we hadn't perked up a bit. Or is high school football in Mercer's line—well not if you look at it from a good sound point of view.

The Cluster has helped and will help in coordinating student opinion and desires. Its policies are in the mast head above and these policies of printing the facts will be stuck by.

The student organizations may be rather, "conservative" in its organization but we still have a lot to say and do.

In the coming years no interruption of normal activities can be foreseen. Many people, who may now be only in kindergarten will come to Mercer and take their turn at higher education. Looking at the situation from that angle, what we do NOW and what we say will be materially reaped by those students. When student elections, organization, activities and any other preparation comes up, may we keep these people and Mercer in mind. Will it be a dead exaction and imposition or will it be the will of the people who live in it? Let us hope that our interest and action leaves Mercer a free, Christian, Liberal arts University.

## TO SYSTEMATIZE OR NOT TO SYSTEMATIZE

There has been much talk lately about different systems of student government; not types of government but ways by which the student government can be improved. Everyone is familiar with the proposed Honor System. This would indeed be a step forward in self-government. Such a system, if properly managed, would not only give the students more authority and responsibility but should raise the scholastic standing of the University as a whole in a great degree. The student body of the school as a whole is at the present time not governing itself as it is supposed to do. Students have no voice in the activities of the campus with the exception of the club groups which are generally very weak. Thenceforth for a student government was, I think, clearly shown last week when the students gave a demonstration of their feelings to the administration and trustees. Well, we still don't have football, but if we had had a strong STUDENT government I believe we would have had more weight than the demonstration carried (not that I disapprove of the demonstration—it showed a very healthy condition of student spirit—but it also showed the need for a definite organization of the student body). The establishment of an honor system should open the way to further authority in the hands of students.

Then we have the Point System of student activities. As I see it, this is another opportunity for advancement knocking at the door of acceptance, waiting to be adopted by the students. I am certain that everyone is acquainted with this plan as well as with the honor system, so will not elaborate on it, but will mention it briefly for the benefit of those not familiar with it. According to the plans, a setup of this sort would give points for all extra-curricula activities and would limit everyone to a certain number of points, the end of all this being to give more people an opportunity for leadership. This would allow enough activities to keep everyone busy and yet prevent anyone from having so much to do that they couldn't do anything well.

Both of these are fine!

But there is another system that needs to be established (or at least re-established) here. The system of which I speak is the system of class cuts.

Before the war, students were allowed a limited number of class cuts.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

As most students have heard, Mercer is to entertain high school teams which are District champions for the next two weeks. The first week will display the boys' teams and the latter is to determine Girls' State Champions.

Very few Mercer students attended the Junior College Tournament held here last week mainly because of the extravagant admission fee. Fifty-five cents seems an outrageous price to charge to watch class B & C teams play in our own gymnasium! That is only, the "half of it" . . . Mercer directly is not making one red cent in the form of rental for use of our gym, while our honorable (?) administration flatly refused to permit Mercer's own students, the Informal Freshman team, to use the gym to play high school teams. Could it, by any chance, be that Mercer feels these tournaments are good advertisements?

Signed, Fred Lowe.

### Where's the Juke-Box?

Dear Editor,

For the past week I have been faced with a question that seems to be puzzling nearly every student, "Where's the Juke-Box?"

It is true that on February 21st a juke-box was to be placed in the Co-op. The news quickly made its rounds to the different groups on the campus, and at twelve noon on Thursday many students with their nickels were at the Co-op ready to christen the juke-box but — where was the juke-box?

A call was put in to the shop where we had seen about getting the juke-box but the manager was out on a call. Later in the afternoon I learned that the manager had promised the juke-box to someone else and thus, we were left "empty handed" with no juke-box.

However, the members of Blue Key are looking for a juke-box and just as soon as one can be obtained it will be placed in the Co-op.

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When the navy entered Mercer, the entire school went on a 100% class attendance basis. This was done to put all students on an equal footing with the V-12 men as they were, of course, required to attend all classes every day.

Since the navy left in November, no change has been made in the standard of class attendance. Becoming effective with the new catalogue and the quarter beginning in June, students will again be allowed a limited number of class cuts. According to the new system, Dean's list students will be given ten (10) unexcused cuts with no penalty, "B" students five (5) cuts with no penalty, "C" students (3) cuts with no penalty. Students with an average of less than a "C" will still be required to attend all classes. Students with a "C" average or better will also be allowed five (5) additional cuts for school business (glee club trips, forensic activities, etc.). No more than 16 cuts (a third of the quarter's classes) will be allowed anyone, whether excused or unexcused.

This is a great improvement over the no-cut system, but why not have a system of unlimited class cuts?

Such a request may sound a little bit extreme at first thought. However, I have received letters from a number of colleges approving such a system. Two examples should suffice for the present: Dr. H. C. Garwood, Dean of Stetson University (the Mercer of Florida), writes that students are responsible directly to their instructors in the matter of class attendance. When a student is absent to the detriment of his scholastic achievement, he is given notice by his instructor, the Registrar, and the Dean to the effect that no further cuts will be allowed him. The accumulation of further cuts automatically drops the student from the course in question. But, if a student can do satisfactory work without regular class attendance, he is given the privilege of optional attendance. Also, all Dean's list students have this privilege.

Mrs. Olivia N. Dorman, Dean of F.S.C.W., writes that they have found the system of unlimited cuts to meet with the approval of both students and faculty. They have had the system only for the past year for all students but have had it for "a long period of time" for students with a "B" average or better.

It may be argued that under such a system everyone would cut all their classes. I sincerely believe, however, that if a student is given the power of choice he will realize some responsibility and recognize the fact that he must either study or drop out of school. Also, it is my opinion that students derive more benefit from something when they are doing it according to their own volition rather than under compulsion.

This all goes to make a point under the same question that has been mentioned before. And that is: "Are the students to govern themselves, or must they have everything cut and dried for them because they are unable to make their own choices?"

I would appreciate any comments anyone would like to make on this subject.

Signed,  
Dupree Jordan.

## BLUE KEY STATES REQUIREMENTS

Blue Key National honor fraternity has announced its selection qualifications for the coming year. With the return of many veterans and talk of a point system in Mercer extra curricula activities, many questions arise in regard to selection to Blue Key. A discussion of these questions was initiated at a recent meeting.

The basic ideals of Blue Key and its objects are set forth in three points of the group's Code Preamble. These are (1) The belief in God will be perpetuated and intensified. The Government of the United States will be supported and defended, and the principles of good citizenship will be preserved; (2) An ambition for intellectual attainment and a desire to serve college and fellows will be fostered among students in institutions of higher learning; (3) Student problems may be studied, student life may be enriched, and the progress and best interests of the institution in which the organization is found may be stimulated and promoted.

Forrest Lanier, the President of Blue Key, stated that in accordance with these points, the key factors of Blue Key selection would remain character and leadership ability.

In correlation with leadership a point system is used. A minimum total of six (6) points is required from the following groups:

Group I (two points)  
Phi Eta Sigma, Sigma Mu, Gamma Sigma Epsilon, Editor and Business Manager of a publication, President of Student Body, Who's Who, Alpha Psi Omega.

Group II (one point)  
Kappa Phi Kappa, Class President, Glee Club, Mercer Players, Organization President, Staff Members of Publications, B S U Executive Council, Student Body Officer, Varsity and Intramural Sports, Pan-Hellenic Council, Students Assistants (Laboratory, Library).

Group III (one-half point)  
Alembic Club, Literary Societies, Class Officer, other than President B S U Greater Council, organization officer, other than president, Life Service Band, Ministerial Association.

No more than three points may be given for activities or publications, athletics, or religious organizations.

Inter-collegiate activities and activities at other colleges and universities will be evaluated at the discretion of the local chapter.

## WHAT THE MINISTERS SAY

### "The Judgment of A Blonde"

By Lewis Brazell

Forrest had announced a student mass meeting. A heavy air of suspense and curiosity pervaded the apprehensive student body; students freely but hurriedly sought a closer proximity to friends across the chapel preparatory to a possible verbal fracas; football's destiny was weighed in the balance — it had been found wanting. Our student president mounted the stage; the spontaneous fervor of the moment was forcibly suppressed; everyone became quiet, expectant. He introduced the matter at hand.

"Let's go, I'm a preacher," said

the retreating blonde, flippantly and somewhat contemptuously, as she strode toward the exit, leaving these subtle words ringing in my ears with increasing force and implication. I wondered if this statement characterized the general attitude of the lay students toward the ministers. The nature of the assembly indicated that individualism was to be predominant, but at the very outset the ministers' status had been indubitably fixed as disinterested or negative without a collective expression or other concrete provocation. The issue was presumably too spirited for staid, sedate ecclesiasticism. Never could a misguided, unqualified presumption be further from the truth. The ministers too had diverse ideas and opinions not necessarily contrary to promotional ideals nor restricted to group consideration and sanction.

Possibly because of sporadic outbursts of some who are certainly not representative of the group, we all have been indiscriminately relegated to the category of the disgruntled retrogressive. We love Mercer and are definitely interested in any worthy enterprise or program which purports to enhance the prestige of our Alma-Mater or which quickens the decadent spirit within our lethargic student-body. We welcome the opportunity of voicing our appraisal of any campus-wide proposal and of resolutely supporting the operation of any conventional policy which does not violate the principles upon which the institution was founded. We are endued with a common interest in its welfare, and are equally-susceptible to the spirit which prevails in our midst. We strive to inject spirit into our gatherings, socials, organizations, and even our Church services; therefore, we would be grossly inconsistent if we endeavored to dampen our school spirit by passive indifference or active opposition. Note, of the last three student-body presidents, two came from our ranks; a notable representation from our body appears in fraternities, honorary and selective; and we ranked second in the last academic survey.

In the football controversy previously alluded to, many ministers favored a renewal of the sport on a "proper functional basis"; and many, like many lay students, were opposed to it. Many ministers are

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