

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.

Morons or Children

It seems that an editorial printed in this paper during the spring quarter was heedlessly ignored. During recent chapel periods there has been a need of more well trained and disciplined students. Whether the gross rudeness shown toward speakers is attributable to lack of home training and environment or just a hold-over of infancy, it is hard to ascertain. At any rate may we impress upon those who are in error—you are in college—a supposedly mature person with a definite and sober aim in life.

Please, in the future, for the sake of the student body and for the name of the institution, act as if you are in college and not a gangling Tom Sawyer.

Mercer's Colors

Alpha Phi Omega rendered a service to Mercer that will make history, in their designing and presenting to the student body a flag under which all may unite.

It is well to note that this group of students devote their time and energy to serving the school without compensation.

Yes, the program was fine, but yet mockery to a certain degree. In a ceremony dedicating to this institution a banner to be carried by the sons of Mercer for all time to come, a foreign element was present—with sincere appreciation to the Lanier band we could not help but notice that a Mercer band should have played. With the number of accomplished musicians on the campus owning instruments it would only be necessary to employ a conductor!

Let us hope that in the future, ceremonies and sports engagements will be supported by a Mercer band instead of some foreign element.

The Daily Contact

Each evening at 6:45 o'clock in the Chapel building, a group of students form for the purpose of devoting fifteen minutes of their time to quietness and meditation. This service is commonly called *Vespers*.

Since so much of our time is devoted to the hurried modern way of life and so many campus activities, it is a welcome and timely period for the *daily contact* with the more sober and stabilized way of thinking.

Programs are presented each night by a different group of students. Some times quiet organ music alone composes the program, at other times speakers are supplied. All programs are free from administration control and are led by local talent.

In order that we may carry into our professions the Christian influence so necessary to safeguard our government and society from corrupt politicians, we must form our daily lives and practice to meet this demand.

Basketball First Drill

4 P.M., Oct. 21

Be There!

Those Who Wish To Try Out For Manager on Basketball Team See Coach Cowan Immediately!

POTENTIAL POWER



Harmony

By GEORGE S. BENSON
President of Harding College
Searcy, Arkansas

Looking Ahead

DURING the recent months of industrial strife and popular confusion, current events have been almost as common a topic of conversation as the weather. Wherever people congregate, somebody opens the subject of "What's the world coming to, anyhow?" It's a wholesome condition. The common sense of Tom, Dick and Harry has saved this nation from many a bad spill.

Recently an old man (slightly deaf) sat near me on the train. With him was a teen-age girl, a grand-daughter perhaps. They had divided a newspaper between them. Grandad spoke first. "There's nothing wrong with this country if everybody would get together and do the right thing," he observed. The girl looked at him, shifted her gum and replied, "Many an honest heart beats beneath a wooden head."

Not A MAYBE she lacked respect for her elders but the young woman was practical. People in a country this large don't get together. Moreover they don't do the right thing unless they know what it is, and their education in economic matters has been sadly neglected. Unless that very situation is corrected before long, our people will trail the British into the wilderness of Collectivism.

Within the last 12 months, I have been privileged to talk with students of a great many high schools and colleges in widely scattered states. I have discussed private enterprise and state so-

cialism with them, and I can testify that most of them seem to consider private enterprise a failure. Some of them have been extremely well coached to debate against the American system.

Misunderstand QUESTIONING Free Enterprise them sympathetically, I find that very few of the students I meet have a clear idea about what private enterprise is. They consider it a system that gives special advantages to rich men and big corporations. They point out that our system has not maintained full employment, has not prevented alternate depressions and booms, and has never equalized living standards.

It is no surprise that studious youngsters are able to pick the obvious flaws in any system, but here is a surprise: Almost without exception these young people seem to think all the imperfections of America's present system can be corrected by government management. With the scandalous exhibitions of incompetence from WPA to the OPA, how can anybody expect politics to help?

Harmony is really needed in American industry, and American government, but it will be found only on a plane of better knowledge. Text books must be prepared and instructors trained to teach Americanism: if human freedom, individual opportunity and intellectual liberty are to continue. When enough of us know the truth we can do the right thing whether we can actually get together or not.

A Non-Fraternity Organization Is Needed

More now than ever before it is vital that Mercer have a non-fraternity organization. A club of this kind would be of great assistance to many of the students. Because of the highest enrollment in Mercer's history, many will be unable to benefit from a fraternity's advantages. Students in this category should be able to voice themselves in all the activities of the university. "United we stand, divided we fall" prevails in this case. If the fellows who do not belong to fraternities band together, a strong organization can be formed.

From an athletic standpoint a non-fraternity organization would promote much interest in non-frats to compete in Mercer's intramural athletic program. Teams in touch football, volleyball, track and field, basketball, and softball could easily be organized from the large number of men who will not belong to fraternities.

The many veterans know the value of strong, unified collective force in war. All of us know the importance of cooperation in athletic events, debates, and other teams. It is essential that the non-frats band together and have a cooperative government to back various movements, that we, the students, want.

A non-frat (a term which does not mean anti-frat) organization could sponsor drives, carry out helpful campus activities, and be an asset to Mercer University. A greater fellowship among the students could be enjoyed. Many things could be done.

Let's organize! If enough of the interested fellows strive hard enough, great things can be accomplished. It's up to us to do it!

Chuck Glenn.

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Perhaps the greatest weakness in humanity — insofar, at least, as thought processes are concerned — is the utter lack of infallibility with which conclusions are sometimes reached. Consideration and deliberation, great as they are in the formation of concrete and useful ideas, are no assurance that those ideas are sound.

That this is so has been demonstrated recently by this staff, myself included. There was no hasty outburst; rather, an attack strengthened by the length and soundness of our thoughts.

Means to an end are often very hard to determine. The actual ends, in this case, improvement, are easily discovered — staring us in the face, in fact. The belligerent means, however, prove not to be the ideal way. Whether a constructive means is the ultimate has yet to be proven.

But the point is actually this: by the simple means of falling on our head, we have found that bristling does not work. Maybe beseeching will not work. Maybe nothing at all, save time and existing plans, will work. At any rate, we know now what will not work; let us then adopt some other means that stands a better chance of achieving our desired ends.

Sincerely,
Bob Gardner.

Capacity Crowd

Mercer is a "big girl now." Last year it was just a small school where everyone knew everyone else, but those days are gone. Growing by leaps and bounds, it has reached its present enrollment of almost 1,200.

Classes are bigger now than they used to be, too. Why, even the first two rows are filled with us eager seekers of knowledge. A student has to reach the classroom at least thirty minutes early to avoid sitting within arm's reach of the Prof. Maybe some people like this front row stuff; I don't know, but I've found that most teachers talk so loud that they disturb my otherwise peaceful slumber when I'm so close to them. Besides, rumor has it that a lot of the teachers don't take kindly and sympathetic attitudes towards sleeping students, and in the back of the room, likely as not, you'd be lost in the crowd.

The classroom, however, is not the only place that has reached capacity. Just try to find a booth at the Co-op sometimes during the morning. In years gone by, there was what was known as rush hour there, but now any hour could be properly designated by that term. Last spring we were wondering what in the world we would ever do with all those new booths they were putting in, but now we think we underestimated the number of hungry young scholars.

Oh well, at least there are enough books and chapel seats to go around!

M.I.C.A. to Initiate New Members

The second meeting of the M.I.C.A. was held on October 2, at which time Mrs. Gwyn O'Connell spoke to the group.

Mrs. O'Connell is a home demonstration agent for the Georgia Power Company. The subject of her informal discussion was table setting, table decorations and silver. She also discussed the evolution of table manners and compared the eating customs of different nations. Verna Prince announced that new members will be initiated on October 9.