

The Mercer Cluster

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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.

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MAYBE SO

By WRS

Macon News, March 28

Baseball is just around the corner—corner lots as well as at Luther Williams Park. Reminds us of a story.

Seems that two Afro-American teams were battling it out for top place in a crucial game. At the tense period in the ninth inning the team at bat sent in their great pinch-hitter. The big boy glowered at the umpire who crouched back of the catcher and remarked:

"Call dem right, black boy, else six of yore frens gwine be wearing white gloves, bout dis time tomorro."

The pitcher whistled one over the plate.

"Strike one!" yelled the umpire.

As the batter turned a withering look on the umpire another fast one whizzed right over the center of the plate.

"Strike two," chanted the umpire.

The big darkey dropped his bat and grabbed the scrawny little arbiter by the throat.

"Two what?" he demanded as though he couldn't hear.

"Too high fur a strike," croaked the umpire with magnificent presence of mind, "Yes suh, entirely too high fur a strike."

To Learn to Write—Read

"The best advice I can give to anyone who wants to write is to read," said whitehaired and witty John Kieran recently in an interview with a Rosemount College (Pa.) Newswriting student.

"Of course, I don't mean to read just anything—you absorb too much of what you read for that to be safe—but if you can read a good piece of writing and understand just what makes it good, you've got a fine basis for writing yourself."

"Don't let a 'musty dusty' reputation scare you away from Thackeray or Dickens—they've got a lot to offer young writers. They were both great reporters.

"Speaking of reporters, I know of almost no successful writer today who hasn't had newspaper experience at one time or another. There's nothing like the copy desk to cure and prevent flummery.

"You really learn the value of a word in a newspaper office, and if you're going to write (as anyone who has been bitten by the writing bug is going to do, in spite of discouragements) that is something you've got to learn. Wordiness and circumlocution have few readers.

"Another thing . . . that newspaper work can give you is an interest in everything and the habit of looking around so that you'll never lack something to write about."

The writer of a daily sports column for over 16 years, Mr. Kieran knows what he's talking about. His own "interest in everything" made his "Sports of the Times" unorthodox but also widely read.

None of his readers were surprised when "J. K." became a permanent member of that board of experts on everything—"Information Please," although he himself was "surprised and delighted with the very pretty please of \$500 a week."

"I won't promise . . . that much to all young writers, however," he smiled. "That's a matter of getting the breaks. But, since I know none of you are going to be stopped by anything I say, you might just as well be encouraged.

"If you want to write, then sit down and write. That's the only way to get it off your chest. If you've really got something to say, people will want to read it."

(The Rambler)

Fourth Estate

The term "fourth estate," as applied to the press, may have long puzzled a large number of persons, but according to the Rivier News of Nashua, N. H., it is so named because of its great influence on public affairs.

Formerly in England and France, the church, the nobility, and the common people were known as the three estates of the realm.

In England the three estates were specifically the lords spiritual, the lords temporal and the Commons. In 1828 Macaulay had written in the Edinburgh Review: "The gallery in which the reporters sit has become a fourth estate of the realm."

From these beginnings, this expression has come into use as it is known today—and confers upon that noble work, journalism, the dignity and honor it deserves.

(The Rivier News)

Courage vs. Hysteria

Christian Science Monitor

Insufficient attention has been given to one feature of the Senate struggle over confirmation of the Atomic Energy Commission. We refer to the substantial check administered to anti-Communist hysteria by the courage and common sense of Senators Vandenberg, Knowland, Barkley, and their colleagues.

All loyal Americans welcome more alert and effective measures to combat Communism. But many patriotic citizens have lately been concerned by increasing signs of a blind terror similar to that which wrote a wretched record soon after the First World War. They have hoped that it would be checked before it produces measures not merely ineffective but gravely damaging to free institution.

But to stand up to an emotional tide of hysteria and hate is a dangerous task. Particularly for politicians, always vulnerable to the demagogue's cry of disloyalty. And it is an especially difficult task just at this time when the inroads of Communism in labor unions are being exposed and when national sentiment is being marshaled behind a foreign policy designed to halt Russian expansion. It was decidedly a task for courage and common sense. Fortunately those qualities came to the front in the Senate.

Senator Vandenberg sounded the keynote in one of the great Senate speeches of this era:

"I do not want to emulate the intolerance of Communism itself by condemning to some sort of Siberia all persons who do not happen totally to subscribe to my own view as to how America ought to be run; nor would any one of us, I hope, use Communism as an excuse for verdicts otherwise unjustified."

Reporting that he was at first prejudiced against David Lilienthal, the Michigan Senator declared the weeks of hearings before a committee had convinced him that the former head of TVA was not soft toward Communism. Mr. Vandenberg's testimony was all the more telling because he himself is one of the most belabored targets of the Communists.

Senator Barkley summoned common sense to dispel the fantasies of fear conjured up by Senator Taft and particularly to explode the "curious if not spurious" theory that the Senate should reject anyone who did not have the approval of every Senator. Senator Knowland, aroused by the continued vengeful attacks on Mr. Lilienthal by Senator McKellar, appealed to an old-fashioned sense of fair play:

"I think as a matter of fairness that we who enjoy Congressional immunity should stick to the facts adduced before the committee and not draw conclusions wholly unwarranted by the record."

It is encouraging to note that spontaneous and unusual applause from the gallery supported the appeals for tolerance and fairness.

Mr Vandenberg seems to us to deserve special praise. For in this affair he dared stand squarely against the Taft-Bricker-Wherry-Bridges leadership of his party and against a majority of Republican Senators. He refused the possible short-range party advantage that might accrue from blocking the Lilienthal appointment and generally discrediting liberal groups. He risked the displeasure of some conservatives who appear tempted to promote their cause by playing along with witch-hunters.

It seems to us that he has taken a courageous and conscientious position in an issue that is far larger than the Lilienthal affair. It is whether political leaders are going to foster fears of "foreign devils" for their own purposes or whether they are going to combat hysteria with courage. It is whether they are

With The Greeks

The Greeks have welcomed Spring with dances, parties, and banquets. On the afternoon of March 27th, at the Chi Omega house, a rush party was held. The rushees Louise Smith, Joyce Hobby, Betty McIver, Dot Garrett, and Betty Sanders made Easter bonnets, with the help of the members, and the wearer of the most attractive hat won a prize. After singing some Chi Omega songs, refreshments were served by Jeanette Wiggins and Elaine Denson, who were in charge of the party.

A spend-the-night party was given at the Chi Omega house on Saturday night, March 29th, for the rushees. Bridge was played and fudge candy was made. All Chi O members and pledges are looking forward to their Cardinal and Straw Ball on April 11th at the Shrine Mosque from 9 to 1: Their new-pledge is Louise Smith.

On the afternoon of March 25, 1947, the Phi Mu's entertained a few of the new co-eds at a Juke Box Party in their chapter room. Laurie Shannon and Kitty Carmichael, the rush chairmen, were in charge of the party, and those invited were: Louise Smith, Betty McIver, Joyce Hobby, and Betty Sanders.

Tuesday night, March 25th, the Phi Mu Fraternity entertained a group of the new students on this campus at a rush party.

Saturday night, March 29, the Phi Mu Alumnae chapter gave a Carnation Ball at the Shrine Mosque for the local chapter to which the entire student body was invited. T. A. White and his band played for the dance. To the tune of the Phi Mu Sweetheart song, Lon Jarnigan, president, and her escort, Sam Freeman headed the lead-out. Other officers and their dates were: Nat Blossom, Vice-President, with Dick Moody; Shirley Dukes, Pledge Trainer, and Hoyt Biggers; Ruth Allen, Secretary, and Arthur Miller, and Betty Lathem, Treasurer, with "Pougie" Bowen. The dance was chaperoned by Mr. and Mrs. Sam Chandler, Dr. and Mrs. Otis Knight, and Dean and Mrs. Richard Burt. During intermission Sally McKay entertained the Phi Mu's and their dates and the Kappa Sigma's and their dates at a party at the Baconsfield Club House. After the dance, the Phi Mu chapter gave a breakfast for their dates.

The new Phi Mu pledge is Betty McIver.

The A. D. Phi's had a Doll Party on Monday, March 24th. The members were dressed in pinafores. Refreshments were served. The rushees were Joyce Hobby, Betty Sanders, and Betty McIver. Their new pledge is Joyce Hobby.

Kappa Sigma held open house on March 30. The Chaperone was Miss Louise Brown, and hostesses were Mrs. King, Mrs. Stinson and Mrs. Prescott. Those present were the brothers, pledges and their dates.

The punch table was covered with a lace table cover and red camellias bordered the base of the punch bowl, which was flanked by burning tapers in silver candle holders. The refreshment table was attractive with centerpiece of yellow jonquils and burning tapers. Spring flowers were used for decorations for the suite, carrying out color scheme of scarlet, green and white. Joyce Chandler, Chapter Sponsor and Sally McKay, Pledge Sweetheart, served refreshments which included punch, crackers and sandwiches. Chesterfield cigarettes were served.

An election was held recently to fill the offices of Secretary and Treasurer for the coming year. Clarence Kay was elected Secretary, and Carlisle Minter was elected Secretary of Kappa Sigma.

The A.L.T.'s held an initiation on April 2. The new members are: Archie Moore, Walter Stevens, Bill Tyson, Buck Odom, Bob Shuler, Frank Morrison, and Earl Wilson. After initiation a stag party was held at the Pig 'N' Whistle.

The A.T.O.'s had a Founders' Day Banquet to commemorate the 50 and 25 year members. At the banquet Betty Lee was presented as their Sweetheart, for the coming year.

On March 28th they held their formal dance. The members and pledges formed the A.T.O. cross in the leadout, which was headed by President John Hemmingway, with Betty Langston; Secretary Hugh Wamble, with Beverly Faye Culbertson; Secretary Gene Chaffin, with Rose Walden; Treasurer John Hatten, with Marjorie Wood.

The K.A.'s had a rush party out at Cherokee Lodge on April 2nd. The Lodge was decorated with daffodils and burning candles. Refreshments were served before the program, which was presented by Val Sheridan. The Wesleyan quartet sang, and Nita Johnson entertained. They sang the Sweetheart song to Margaret O'Neal, followed by other songs and dancing.

The rushees were: Dewey and Benny English, Willie Brewer, Charlie Roberts, Kenneth Trimble, Bobby Thomas, George Willis, Bill Newberry, Norman Hibble, and "Termite" Jackson.

The new K.A. officers for the coming year will be installed on April 9th. They are, number one, "Skifny" Stevens; number two, Morris Brown; number three, Don Bradford.

A party was given by the S.A.E.'s on April 7th at the S.A.E. lodge.

going to try merely to suppress totalitarian beliefs or seek primarily to make democracy so successful that it will everywhere by the mere process of comparison put Communism more clearly on the defensive.

Sig Alphas Take Nine for the Ride

Sigma Alpha Epsilon held initiation ceremonies Wednesday night, March 26, and acquired nine new brothers.

The initiates are William Dismuke, Albany; John Lee, Marshallville; Allen McCowan, Albany; Tommy Minor, Macon; Malcolm Pierce, Fernandina, Fla.; Winfred Roberts, Dublin; Matthew Roughgarden, Americus; James Sheehan, Macon; Charles Swiley, Dublin.

The new brothers were honored at a party given by the chapter at the Bell House immediately following the ceremony.

MORE THAN A STUDY IN ENGLISH

The following ads were picked from newspapers here and there:

Lost: Green fountain pen by a man half full of red ink.

Special Sale of apples and chestnuts. Come in the morning. The early bird gets the worm.

Wanted: Small furnished apartment by a couple with no children until March 1.

Lost: Gold watch by a man with a cracked face.

Wanted: Energetic housekeeper who can milk cows to keep house for one.

Modern girls are fond of nice clothes but they are not entirely wrapped up in them.

The man in the moon isn't half as interesting as the lady in the sun.

Perhaps a hero is no braver than ordinary men, but he is braver longer.