

# The Mercer Cluster

Established in 1920

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The CLUSTER is the official newspaper of Mercer University, published by the students twice during October and November and weekly from January through May except holidays and examination periods.

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Macon, Georgia, under the Act of March 3, 1879. Subscription Rate \$1.10 per School Year.

Member  
**Associated Collegiate Press**  
 Distributor of  
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### THE CLUSTER PLATFORM

1. To promote a strong, self-governing student body.
2. To stimulate interest in worthwhile extra-curricular activities.
3. To work toward placing the administration of the student activities funds in the hands of the student government.
4. To maintain an editorial policy committed to the interests of the entire student body and to pull no punches.
5. To constructively criticize any campus irregularities after a complete investigation of the facts.

## IT'S YOURS

The Cluster is a student publication, written, edited, and financed by Mercer students; therefore it belongs to you.

We, your new staff, want the Cluster to be as much a part of your school life as your classes, clubs, and socials.

Our policy is and will be one of cooperation, both with the student body and with the Administration. However, we will hold to the privilege of criticizing any and all who deviate from the best interests of school and students.

Alone, the Cluster cannot be expected to accomplish anything. We will need full student cooperation. A cooperative spirit is necessary if we are to live together in harmony. Together we can decide what we want, and together we can accomplish it. Let's all work for a better school, a Mercer of which we can be truly proud.

The Cluster hopes through its coming issues to guide and help, to reflect your interests, to present your case, and to share with you the benefits of a close union.

It's yours! We hope you like it. Read it thoroughly, and let us know how it appeals to you.

## SMILE

It was a Baptist minister who once said something to the effect that "more people are driven away from more churches by more Christians who get upon the wrong side of the bed Monday morning." That was part of his sermon; it need not have been. To please the fancy of those who shy away from sermons, we can again read it to apply to our own strictly-secular selves.

Common ordinary disagreeableness loses more friends than most other faults. A "sour-puss" is very apt to be a lonely one. Shunning a scowl rates about A with most folks. Chasing a smile ranks equally as high. Nothing in the wide world forces us to be friendly, it just seems to be the smart thing to do.

And we don't have to be gay just to attract others to our religion. We need not even have a religion. Part of the Bill of Rights gives us that freedom. It's just that smiling has its own reward; if we don't use ours to spread Christ's popularity, at least we can use it to spread our own.

## MAN OF STATURE

"I am tired and need a rest—I am at peace with God and with myself." With these words King Christian of Denmark died.

The passing of a king gets a few lines on the front page of the newspapers of the United States and then it is promptly forgotten.

King Christian was different from a lot of the Kings that have been known to this generation. One anecdote during his career makes him outstanding.

The Nazis took the small Kingdom of Denmark without a struggle because of fifth column activity and because of the small size of the country. The first thing done by the invaders was to raise the swastika on the royal flagpole of Denmark. King Christian ordered his men to lower it and replace it with the Danish flag. The Nazis said that they would shoot the first person that touched the Nazi flag. This was related to King Christian. He slowly walked from the royal palace to the flagpole and pulled the swastika from the pole, replacing it with the flag of his own country. The Nazis looked on helplessly, knowing that they dare not touch a man of such courage.

Men of this stature are needed in positions of responsibility today. May the men in control of the destinies of the world live up to the courage of such a great man.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

For the past two and one-half quarters, I have watched my grades being pulled down by people cheating on examinations.

These people, who have no regard whatever for their fellow students or teachers, are, whether you realize it or not, stealing from you and me.

Life is competition and when we finish school the person with the better record has the best chance of getting the better job. Are you willing to have future income stolen from you. Then why have a good or fair college record stolen by these petty thieves?

There are only two solutions. spread out the class, allow no papers or books in class, and have constant proctoring; or employ an honor system that applies only to examinations.

Some people will scream that they won't "rat" or "squeal." But would not the same person report a thief to the proper authority? What is the difference?

Personally I'm sick of the entire affair. Some of the "big wheels" on this campus are the worst thieves. I can cite cases in the top honor-virtue organizations from personal knowledge. The presidents of Cardinal Key, the B.S.U. and the Ministerial Association should correct some of their members or expel them. The social fraternities and the M.I.C.A. should also do a little house cleaning. Most of these organizations set forth honesty and virtue in their ideals but quite a few very active members don't seem to practice them.

Is anyone else interested in correcting this disgrace?

Disgusted George.

## Deliver!

By L. Hall

A student election through the advantages of open politics on the campus, for the first time since the war, resulted in almost a straight ticket of elections for the Representative party. The other party fought a good fight; now the thing to do is to unite behind the winners and fight for the good of the students and for the things that are rightly theirs.

Various and sundry promises were made by the candidates up for election. The president of the student body and the editors of the Cluster and the Silhouettes along with the Cauldron committed themselves to platforms. Time will begin to pass and these students will be expected to deliver the promises. In some instances it will not be easy to bring about the reforms and improvements mentioned, but you are in office, the eyes of the students are upon you, you have made commitments, now let's all work together and gain what we fought for in open politics. Periodic reports from the President of the Student Body on his efforts to achieve a proper allocation of the student activities funds should be made to the Student Body. The Cluster and the Silhouettes can best be expressed by the worthiness of the contents of their publication. The editor of the Cauldron will learn of the hardships and of the difficulties that she will face and of the limited amount of funds that she will be given to work with.

Only that which is worth fighting for is worth having; the promises were made, so let's get to work and deliver.

Those who pride themselves on being hard-boiled are usually only half-baked.

Some people's idea of a vacation is to spend two weeks on the sands and the other fifty on the rocks.

## Preachers Plutocrats Pulchritude

By D. Eden

(Wherein begins a weekly dirge of harmless chatter—from the depths of—a student's shallowness.)

'Tis a dour state of being when a man cannot love a flower for thinking of how he must go hungry for well nigh a day to make a down-payment on such a bouquet for his Lady. But, gentle people, there lies the fact—there's blood on the rose and pain even in the forget-me-not. Listen though,

The sweetness lives when the bloom is wasted away—

Yet, we fret when comes this—"How's to pay?"

Perhaps a thought on Omar's immortal "Flask of wine add thou—" leaves a foul taste in the memories of lads who have loved and lost—the truth remains—Omar Khayyam didn't want much! For a fact, contemporary slaves of "The Anatomy of the Cat" and "Urban Sociology (plus) leaves behind a trail of regretful tears, staining many a page of misconstrued literature—and they learn to pay! (the Piper)

Let the barber have a free hand, and, O trusting One, your three little quarters will come short of paying for the curls you ain't got! Mark you thought, 'tis a balm to your wounded pride when lotioned fingers lovingly stroke that near-bald pate.

For a moment, leave be your Chaucer and your Deuteroth, wise man—preacher, plutocrat and—co-ed, and let me lead you into a land of lovely carelessness.

The end-point of living is not Loving,—but Being. (?)

From book to book, meal to meal, day on day

Thoughts are bound to wat the eye is seeing

Yet, for all You think You see, you live to pay.

Or should lovely things bear a tag—a price?

Then, my friend, you've two lessons to learn:

A heart has always another to entice,

And th purse knows buto ne word—"Yearn."

A tater's got a jacket—a fish a thousand scales.

If you wanta get fat and wear a big red suspender.

You gotta hold the key to forty of the tallest tales—

Else your plush-lined front seat in—goes oh a bender.

## THE CASE OF JOE STUDENT

By Dick Dismuke

Hon. Jule Greene, editor of the Cluster, K.A., and currently enrolled in Miss Lutrell's Political Science Class has that dangerous, lean and haggard look, to paraphrase someone—I have forgotten whom. Irrespective of what the details of physiognomy might show, "ole" Jule is a conscientious person who does some soul-searching thinking. He is much concerned about government and more concerned about the Mercer student body. He feels an intense responsibility of serving the best interests of the electorate who placed him in the editorial position he now occupies. He is, in a phrase, a fine fellow, especially since he invited me to do a few feature articles. (Makes a fellow feel good even though he doesn't know one d— thing about such goings on.)

Moved by such a spirit, I asked Jule what he would prefer in the way of a feature. He immediately offered student government and I readily agreed that such a subject would certainly be timely, but at the same moment I cautioned him that such a task would be difficult for many reasons. This is a problem I wish to present to you, dear reader, for your consideration and help in form of suggestions through letters to your feature editor, if I may take the liberty to solicit your aid.

The major problem is in finding a method of attracting interest in an intangible subject such as government whose effects are not usually felt overnight, but whose results creep over us so slowly that those who do not pause to consider are not conscious of the change which has occurred. The area to be dealt with is an insidious one. We find ourselves, nevertheless, in an era in which a political philosophy of democracy is standing in its last bulwark of defense against a seemingly irresistible, rising tide of communism. We shall, by hypothesis, say Mercer students are proponents of democracy and go to our next problem.

What measures should the constituents of democracy take in thwarting the concerted effort of communism to destroy this concept of democracy? To this, it is

generally agreed, more active, interested, and optimistic participation in government by our citizenry is the answer. This would reward us by providing our people with their needs and in so doing would not justify the resort to communism as an instrumentality in providing this end. The political end in all concepts of government, it might be added, is essentially the same. We must make the distinction in the means toward that end. In other words, which means must we employ with a reasonable expectancy of achieving the values of human happiness? Can we show the means of democracy to be better than those of communism?

To this last question my answer would be yes, conditioned by these provisions:

- (1) More real participation by our people in government.
- (2) More training and experience in dealing with activities in governmental areas.
- (3) A sincere regard to public interest.

Mercer University and its student body fit the peculiar needs of our times. First, Mercer is an institutional landmark in democracy; second, an institution of higher learning; third, she has the splendid opportunity to reassert the faith in democracy. With the proper leadership Mercer University and student body can create a student government admired and respected by all to provide its cultured graduates the wholesome experience that is necessary to the perpetuation of individual freedom.

To this end I will dedicate my efforts. I can assure you, with your cooperation, we can attain this goal. In so doing we will find, I believe, ourselves to be a happier student body. The relations between administration and students will not be strained, as now, and will take on the aspects of a happy home life. We will get not only a better welfare but a sense of belonging.

Again, I am soliciting your aid in the series of articles to follow—if need be I shall plead for your assistance. Someone has said, "the price of democracy is constant vigilance"—let's begin to discharge our debt now so that our payments shall not build up to exorbitant.