

The Mercer Cluster

Established in 1920

Key

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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.

A CHALLENGE

In the May 2 issue of this paper, under *Letters to the Editor*, there appeared an item which should have provoked much thought from us all. At last, a student has had the intestinal fortitude to print some facts on a subject truly Mercerian . . . *Cheating*.

School is, next to the family, the most important factor in the moulding of the individual; and Mercer, with all its religious emphasis and so-called Christian atmosphere, is failing in what should be her major aim . . . *the moral maturation of her wards*.

Both the Administration and the Students are guilty of allowing such an intolerable situation to exist. There are none of us who can not cite cases of cheating in more than half of our classes; there are few of us who have not participated at one time or another. Yet, how many of us would steal from another or fail to report a theft to the proper authorities; and how many of us would steal from ourselves? Well, that is just what we are doing.

I can offer no solution to the problem, I am not an administrator, I can only present the case. However, I can, and hereby do, challenge the Administration, its professors, and you, the Student Body, to get "on the ball" and *clean house* before final exams.

"M" CLUB

In a recent sports column there was printed a statement that any person who wears a letter from any school other than Mercer is liable to have it torn up.

I have contacted several members of the "M" Club, and none of them are of the opinion that there will be any violence in regard to the wearing of letters foreign to Mercer.

However, it is only right that the people who have won letters at Mercer because of their athletic prowess or their hard work as managers be given the respect of having only "M's" worn on the Campus.

An editorial was written concerning this in the January 21st issue of the Cluster urging cooperation. This has been and will be the policy of the Cluster. Once again we urge you to cooperate with the "M" Club and not wear letters won elsewhere, and we urge the "M" Club to do nothing that would keep it from attaining the heights that it once held.

PLEASE

There is something lacking from the Campus that for a long time has been one of the institutions of the boy and girl combination. That something is the lawn chairs.

Last Spring there were several chairs scattered about at strategic spots upon the Campus. During the balmy spring days when boy and girl decide that they want to loll around in the sun and enjoy the lazy weather, the lawn chairs would come in handy keeping them from having to sit on the grass in the early morning and getting damp from the dew.

The students would appreciate the return of the lawn chairs so that they can be used. It is the belief of many that they would be kept occupied much of the time.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:
 A few weeks ago some individuals of our student body took it upon themselves to criticize two of our school administrators by using their names to express sentiments on the faulty drainage of our campus. The phrases used were: "Dowell's Lake" for water that settled on the old tennis courts, and "Hattrich's Gulch" for another portion of land.
 Now our campus is being degraded with a sign that has outlived its usefulness. The sign, "Representative Party" made from paper, was cemented to the roof of the Co-op building by person or persons unknown to this writer; but, I wonder if this sign was constructed by the same party or parties who have done the other mentioned advertising.

In any case, I feel that this sign should be removed by the Representative Party bigwigs, because they can best display their platform of, "Cleaning up politics on Mercer's campus" by cleaning up their own mess first.

(Signed) Dale English

(Ed. Note: This has been referred to the President of the Student Government.)

Selling Snowballs

By Lucius Hall, Jr.

In a recent edition of *Time* magazine, the author in his report on foreign issues, inadvertently wrote the following sentence. "Great Britain has been bled white by victory in the past two wars." Now the question is, Who Profits in a War? How many students on this campus, the future lawyers, doctors, teachers, businessmen, economists, and ministers, are conscious of the present chaos that is prevalent in the world today? You, the future leaders of your community and of our nation, what will be your answer to the inquiring minds of the people in your community? Who has ever heard of one world of peace, of United Nations, or of the free independence of all countries.

There is a possibility that Mercer, a university founded around the principles and ideals of Christianity, will have a ROTC unit. I grant you that phases of it would be very beneficial to young college men. But it would accomplish nothing that a well carried out physical training program would not do. Many students on this campus would profit by the extra compensation that they would get, but the question is, Who Wins in a War? Those who plan such movements have, nine time out of ten, never been on the front lines of combat for a great period of time. No one who has really seen combat in all of its ugliness wants to fight. Life is neither ours to give or take. That belongs to God. But then again some people might think that they are God. The past war was not fought for the preservation of the grand heritage of democracy. Those who sit back in swivel chairs are the big cogs in the so-called preparedness for peace. A colonel informed his men that on "D" day in Normandy, they had as much chance of coming back alive as a Chinaman did of selling snowballs in hell at two for a quarter. This is the answer of a great many veterans who fought in the last war as to their fighting in a second war. But, Who Wins in a War? How many of the big cogs at this school who advocate bringing ROTC to Mercer have ever seen their buddies dying, or little kids begging for food, or men and women eating out of garbage cans, or homes destroyed? Sherman said that war was hell. I seriously doubt that Sherman ever went to hell and came back to report on the conditions there, but if some of these "preparedness for peace men," could see war in its es-

Preachers Plutocrats Pulchritude

By D. Eden

When the wheels of fate badly need oiling, they grind, and, in grinding, they fail to produce quality material for thought. Lacking thinking stuff, we take to grousing. Now I grant you, grousing is no cardinal virtue, but I beg to contend that it is a birthright!

This week, the wheels just stopped dead, so I'm left with very little to yap about but gripes. Let's just have a good try at it.

Dignity may forbid any pro and con talk on the wisdom of incorporating into our pat little Society a cool one hundred "Reserve Officers"—ROTC, that is. Nevertheless, I feel it my bunden duty to add an "ouch" to the chorus that surely must and will be heard 'ere the distardly deed is done.

Mind you, I'm not unmindful of the fact that an embryo-would-be-journalist is obligated, to the best of his ability, what is good and what is not good for the people's well-being. But, are there not some of you who lived through the sage of "God's Gift to Females"—the V-12??

Would it be presumptuous to fire away at this dubious idea just a bit? Something on this order: "One hundred uniformed barbarians engaged to fill 'near-empty' dormitories at Baptist School." ROTC (Regal Order of Tiddlywinks Chasers) to be activated (or Injected- into serene society of Jesu! tranquil domain." "University show line to be commanded by gallant band of volunteer troopers."

And too, can't you see these knightly little flowers of manhood chilling and thrilling our little lotus blossoms of Mary Erin??

Seriously though, the generally peaceful life of our little school was very definitely disrupted by the V-12; and, we've no sound reason to expect more or less of this newly proposed organization. There are, to be sure, certain things expected by a student when he takes up a life here; that is, as well as taking the proposed view that "enrollment here is not a right but a privilege," we also have the just reason to expect no double-dealing on the part of the powers that be at the University.

Again I question the dignity of making this statement; but, it appears to me that there are about three good, solid reasons for their bringing an ROTC unit to Mercer—all three spell . . . \$ Harsh—but true!!

Have the students been consulted at all on this mess? Whose idea is it? I cannot quite fully see a staid old bunch of Baptist Trustees stamping approval to the bringing to this denominational school of some renown a marching, shooting bunch of embryo soldiers—can you?

To salve a wounded pride, I have only to walk through the park—there where so many vows are made and, er, broken. By the way, did you ever pay much mind to the habits and nature of birds? It is a fact that if and when a boy and girl bird take up with each other, there is no foolishness tolerated concerning any sort of triangle. The old man is hooked for life and the wife is ever-faithful there never being any case of a sparrow straying off with a crow or, otherwise,—it just ain't done! Ah, if you watch, you can see the little fellows sitting on a limb just laughing their heads off at people—for all their promiscuousness.

Exchange

By Jo Jordan

Spring has sprung and brought with it that same old disease known as "Spring Fever." It seems to be taking hold of students all over the country—if you will step upon my pink cloud, we will tour the stricken areas.

Huntington College—"Starry-eyed and vaguely discontented"—Students sitting in classroom windows, holding a book, but that glow in their eyes couldn't be taken for anything so down to earth as concentration.

The peaceful solitude of one's thoughts is interrupted only by the irregular thump of tennis balls, the clatter of a lawn mower, the put-put of a Ford car, and the melodious bird trills. Ah, me! Spring!
 —The Huntress.

The poet says, "In the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love." Maybe this is so, but it seems at Georgia Teachers College, that some of the young men's fancies turned to love long ago and the others don't seem to be affected by spring.—(must be chemistry students.)
 —The George-Anne

Now pull in your wings and stop at West Georgia. Here we find Dean Roberts shaving off his mustache and speaking on the subject, "Spring in Russia."

Some of the boys are turning somersaults to impress their girls, while others are trying hopelessly to pick the combinations to their TRUE loves' nail box—(It couldn't happen here!?)
 —The West Georgian.

Oh, Hum! Spring seems to be late arriving at Andrew College. With the slowly opening buds come a similar opening of mouths into full yawns that are the first and fatal symptoms of spring fever each yawn drives the present farther and farther from the mind, leaving a highly polished scene from some past experience or the fresh glowing perfect of an expected one. Oh, Hum! Shall we leave Andrew to develop spring fever in all of its glory?
 —The A. & W. write.

At Georgia Tech we find that the male species considers spring beautiful from the standpoint of nature in its splendor of dogwood and peach trees. It seems that these beauties add to the appearance of their campus. (Could it happen here?)
 —The Technique.

Yes, spring is here, with all of its beauties promising a glorious summer, so settle back to your dreaming. Just a word to the wise, if spring is here, can exams be far behind? Pleasant dreams!

tirely, they would change their than it might be a good idea to change the founding principles of If ROTC is brought to Mercer the university????