

# The Mercer Cluster

Established in 1920

Editor-in-Chief—Jule Greene

Associate Editors—Christy Harp, Jim Griffith, Bill Tucker

### Editorial Staff

News Editor ..... Bernie Reynolds  
 News Staff ..... Lillian Moye, Ham Kellam, Lou Jarnagin  
 Make-Up Editor ..... Nell Finley  
 Make-Up Staff ..... Alice Crimmins, Betty Allen, Landrum Leavell  
 Feature Editor ..... Jim Cowan  
 Feature Staff—Charlie McDaniel, Cecile Paul, Pete Geer, Lucius Hall, Dick Dismuke, Dan Eden, Tom Kellam, Hubert Alexander.  
 Sports Editors ..... George Horkan, Tom Marsh  
 Sports Staff ..... Emmett Floyd, C. Tennille  
 Society Editor ..... Alleen Jones  
 Associate Society Editors ..... Betty Lathem, Evelyn Zinn  
 Exchange Editor ..... Jo Jordan  
 Rewrite Editor ..... Jean Kinnett  
 Copy Editors ..... Hank Watson, Sue Fitts  
 Staff Photographers ..... Gus Parker, John Christopher, H. Gilbert

Business Manager—Joe Davis

Assistant Business Mgr.—Milton Grubbs

### Business Staff

Advertising Manager ..... Fred Hattrich, Jr.  
 Advertising Staff—Peggy Parker, Jim Faulkner, Mary Nell Kinnaman, Frances Clements, Marion Freeman, Lillian Leavell, Lara Shannon, Spencer Jerigan, Hilda Harris, Leon Higgenbotham, Clara Bailey  
 Circulation Manager ..... Bill Currie  
 Circulation Staff—Mary Haulbrook, Bill Hitchcock, Ralph Clance, Howard Hartley, Hilda Harris, Leon Higgenbotham.

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.

### 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

Associated Collegiate Press  
 Distributor of  
 Collegiate Digest

### Member

Intercollegiate Press

### 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.

## PROFESSOR-OLGY

Grades at Mercer are a farce! This is, perhaps, a strong statement to make, but it is true. The A.B. degree which some of us will receive this June will, in many cases, merely indicate that we have agreed with our professors for four school years.

Most students make a detailed study of their professors and, during their first quarter under them, familiarize themselves with their eccentricities and weaknesses. Thus, the student is able to adjust his attitude accordingly. This study is commonly called Professor-ology.

Many students do not choose their courses with a view toward getting the most possible good from them. The subjects which are most needed are often neglected because of dread of the instructor or because of the desire for craps.

Before each examination the lazy student crams for hours, and often makes better grades than the one who has conscientiously worked all quarter. Yet, many teachers make no distinction between the two. They are graded solely on the results from the final tests. These grades are only symbols and cannot represent the accomplishments of the two students. Nevertheless, there is no difference between the sheepskin of the Student and that of the Apple-polisher.

Something can and should be done to remedy this situation, not only for the protection of her genuine students, but for the prestige of Mercer herself.

## THE CAULDRON

The Cluster wishes to urge every student at Mercer to do his part toward helping in the publication of the University's year book. It is impossible for the editors of the annual to produce a creditable book without the best of co-operation from all members of the student body.

Unlike the annual staffs of some other institutions, members of The Cauldron staff have never been able to realize any considerable profit. What they do is done through loyalty to their mother institution and not from any hope of a profitable business deal.

It is then the duty of every Mercerian to co-operate with the editors of the annual in order that their work may be lightened as much as possible—and that the book will do credit to them and to the University. It should be remembered that this is a campus institution as much as is one of the athletic teams, and that a Mercer student owes his support to every student activity if he is at all qualified to help.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Several weeks ago it came to my attention that Mercer is slowly but surely losing her more able faculty members. The turn over at this institution is greater than at Podunk Hollows High School.

Could it be that Mercer pays her Professors only slightly more than the University of Georgia pays her instructors. We have lost several very outstanding men in the past for that very reason. And now it is rumored that we are losing Dr. Frederick L. Jones to the University of Pennsylvania. . . . Also rumored leaving are several other competent professors and instructors.

Whether we realize it or not, and some of our athletic-struck friends don't seem to, the faculty is the backbone of any institution. It takes years, not months, for them to get their courses settled so that they may have some time to spend on research. . . . If we are going to hold on to the good men that we have and build up a stronger and better faculty, their pay must be increased. . . .

It can be done if the students are willing to back the administration by showing that they want more pay for more and better professors. Are you willing to help? . . .

Signed: J. C. Bell.

## JOE STUDENT

By Dick Dismuke

This mythical character, Citizen Joe Student, cannot be typed or reduced to a common denominator on our campus. We are students, we are human beings, we go to classes and chapel — but of what consequence are these common traits? Whether we prefer it or not, we are labeled a veteran, a minister, a frat man, a non-frat, and so forth. Sooner or later in our careers here, we begin to identify ourselves as such and in many instances we find we are playing a multilateral role. Upon a little inspecting, being at odds with ourselves is ripe these days.

The interests of many groups within our body (if you may dignify us by the name body) diverge and our legacy is a problem in the solution of synthesizing these groups' interest to the best interest of all. Whatever the solution may be, it can only find an active expression in government. An idea of solution must use a body politic as a vehicle to reach its expression in government or else remain forever passive.

There is certainly a need for government by our student body today. With the college plant expanded, as it is, the administration is undoubtedly laboring under an almost impossible pyramid of duties. If, we will, and I think we can, convince ourselves and the administration that there are many areas we can administer very effectively, then we are ready to assume the responsibilities of a usable, respected, and effective student government.

Of course this means we must sit together in unity with the administration and determine a jurisdictional line for matters pertaining to the peculiar interests of the students and the administration. Then, after these areas of control have been established and clarified, we must meet in a constitutional assembly and set up the necessary machinery to operate a successful government.

This course of action would be advantageous to the administration and the student body. It would mean a reduction in the work-load of the administration which would enable them to apply more of their time and talents to problems which could not be delegated to student government. The student body would be assured of having their problems dealt with and redress of their grievances. We can all share the work-load. It is our duty.

## PREACHERS PLUTOCRATS PULCHRITUDE

D. Eden

(Just a brief elaboration on the heading:)

The high-sounding word "column" is certain to hold for anyone a bit of intrigue. Yet, a weekly task of conjuring up some dab of decently thoughtful material is no simple snap. That idea and the oft' misconstrued title "Preachers, Plutocrats, Pulchritude" taken together is like mixing grass seed with salt and cavier and expecting Bull Durham to sprout, believe me! The, er, original idea was this:

PREACHERS  
 PLUTOCRATS  
 PULCHRITUDE

MERCER.....SEE??!

Anyhow, I am still of a just opinion that that's just it. There exists these three separate and distinct "sects": The righteous, the . . . , and the . . . righteous; that is; the good boys, the bad boys, and the inspiration (?), et al. And I trust that any reader who gets this far will be gentle enough to grant me the license to stray from the restrictions imposed by the title? . . . Thank you!

My "thought" for the day—in the act of "straying."  
 "Free thing is surely more to be desired than that freedom of speech" catch-phrase which is often a misnomer. Surely we know that the spoken thought can and does often chisel a groove of pain when it so simply could be the soul of gentility. The problem is not the chinking up of that groove, but dulling the chisel. Then how is this deserving task to be done?

Let us say that we might make a brave start by being in certain places where thought can best be set on a straight track. The people, the environment give to thinking the impetus that a trolley gets from the power-service lines; but, the car must stick to its prescribed wire. The implication is not that a "one track brain" is to be desired, but that the type thinking done is dependent upon the material for thought. The material goes to cultivate a complete sort of thinking.

Educated thinking is truly the ultimate in full living (with others). No choppy half-education, but the near-exhaustion of all the decent material that a man can master in his lifetime, is the end-point of pure, true thinking. Versatility—well defined, liberal, clean versatility—is a deserved reward of thorough education. This same versatility serves to prompt and perpetuate genteel, sifted thinking . . . the thoughts of intellect that, it seems, are so sorely needed by people now and tomorrow.

What then can we expect as a product of free, cultivated, educated thinking? A free people, I say! Free of stunted, unwhet half-thinking . . . the ravager of constructive works. People free of acid, hurting words . . . restricted, barren, uneducated spoken thoughts.

NOTE: (In last week's column there were several misprints of pertinent words, the most outstanding being the word "JESUI", which was originally intended to be "JESSE'S"—Jesse Mercer, that is. The others—three, I believe—were these: "SAGE" of V-12, which should have been "SAGA of V-12;" "SHOW LINE," which was to have been "CHOW LINE;" and "BUNDEN DUTY," which was originally "BOUNDIN' DUTY." Now, if you wish, go back and read it over right, and you will find it at least—DIFFERENT!!

## R.O.T.C. AT MERCER? AYE!

By Hubert Alexander

Aye!—and you ask why? Well, here's my answer.

The United States has just come out of a war that threatened our existence. It came out knowing that the world must have peace. If another war were to come along the atomic bomb may destroy the world. If not, the children produced by ideas of the atomic age will.

We know that a weak nation cannot insure world peace. We must be armed as well or better than any other power on earth. The United States has taken a lead in international affairs; in this lead she must be able to back up her foreign policy. The war hasn't been won until all people can live without the threat of war or extermination. We have not progressed far enough to enforce world disarmament. Until we have, we must maintain a great potential army capable of "taking on" any threat to world peace.

While we are getting or keeping a reserve force, we must not turn our backs on education. We must progress in both or soon we will begin to retrogress. One plane gives us the opportunity of being strong and educated at the same time. This plan is the Reserve Officers Training Corps. ROTC units in the United States are making a contribution to world security and I would like to see Mercer make its contribution.

Advantages on a more personal line are what you would like to know. "How will it help me?" I understand that there is pay in it. If so, it will benefit many people. It will help the veteran students to

get along easier; sixty-five dollars a month isn't much, and few can make it stretch thirty days.

"Vets taking ROTC! Ha! ha!"  
 Yep, that's what I said. Vets may not have a complete education, but one thing most of them have learned is how much they do not like service life. They have learned it so well that they will do almost anything to avoid war . . . anything short of continuous appeasement.

"Why, Mercer is a Baptist school and military training is against the principles of Christ." I think this is a stupid statement! Having ROTC is a way of insuring our freedoms; there are many who would like to take these away from us. One of our most cherished freedoms is freedom of religion. We believe that our form of government and our principles are closer to Christ's teachings than are those of any other nation. I do not think He would shirk a responsibility. Christ fought many times for right and truth; to say that fighting is against Christian principles is to say that He has never fought. Christ did fight and still is fighting the agents of evil.

I have never heard a pastor condemn the service men for fighting the Japs and Germans. I do not believe they can honestly condemn the practice of trying to prevent wars. And in this practice R.O.T.C. has a very definite part.

I want Mercer to have its part in this program; to give me an education and, above all, to keep my ideas of the Christian way of life forever embedded in my soul.