

THE EDITORS SPEAK

ON AMERICANISM

There is great social, political, economic and religious turmoil in the world today. The very foundations of civilization are being shaken. And here, in our own country, various self-interest groups are vying with each other for the spoils ever-present in our lackadaisical society.

How can we ever expect to combat the many outside dangers to our existence if we are unwilling to meet with fairness and intelligence our own internal conflicts? There are those among us who would overthrow our form of government, who would stifle individual initiative and destroy private enterprise, that stuff out of which our country is made. There are others who advocate the exploiting of the inarticulate masses by powerful overbearing privileged groups. These two factions are strong and active, working day and night for the domination of the country. Can we afford to sit idly by while our own and our country's future is being torn to shreds by these opposing selfish interests?

Let us seek the facts, analyze them without prejudice, and reach our conclusions in the light of Americanism. Then, let us strive to inform others of their threatened liberties, for it is our job to do all in our power to keep alive confidence in the democratic principles of fairness, freedom and justice, our duty to perpetuate the belief of the worthwhileness of every man—the hope of opportunity and freedom for the complete, balanced growth and development of each individual according to his vision, abilities and efforts.

HANK O'NEAL

So You Don't Like It Here!

Two editorials appear in the last edition of the **Cluster** which constitute food for reflection. In dealing with such agitative nuisances as these articles, it is necessary to be highly critical, so as not to seem hypocritical. The enlightened masterpieces referred to are **Chapel Talk** and **The Mercer Spirit**.

Chapel Talk is a luscious target. Its writer, while savagely criticizing the student chapel, admits that his reasons for so doing are vain. Back in November, this same column propagated the theory that not over 35% of the people who attended chapel stayed awake. He also stated that the few who did remain conscious received innumerable benefits from the programs. Now that it is January, he insists that the kind of chapels that this institution sees fit to hold are intrusions on moral turpitude. It is indeed sad to see any individual in such a state of mental confusion. It is even sadder to see a person sit through something week after week that he feels is inherently wrong, and yet be perfectly willing for George or somebody else to be the one to rectify the situation. Remember, son, that God helps those who help themselves.

The individual who perpetrated

that literary fraud labeled **The Mercer Spirit** is able to find conflicts, divisions, and animosities on this campus that those of us who have lived in close proximity to it for a quarter of a century have not been able to locate. The writer of that odious thing claimed that the fraternities had leagued against the Ministerial Association; that the Law School was coming to grips with the Arts College; and that there was a conspiracy against the B.S.U. If he is right, there must be another party on this campus of which the present politicians know nothing. If there is such a party, son, don't worry; it will be defeated at the April elections.

Mercer is an institution under the auspices of Christian leadership; and whoever doesn't like the spirit here is not only free to leave, but is hereby expressly invited to do so. With this invitation goes a standing offer of a free ride out anytime you feel that this place is corrupting your morals. This offer is made by one who holds a promised word as sacred; it is made by one who does not make a dogmatic claim in November, only to repudiate it in January; it is also made by one who believes that "religion is the best armor in the world, but by far the poorest cloak."

Know Your Professors!



VIVE LA FRANCE

M. ROBERT DuPOUEY

The illustrious Monsieur Robert DuPouey, who refers to your local tabloid as something to keep off the rain, was born in the Pyrenees Mountains of France. Since 1946 the scant little figure with the triangular shoulders and Parisian mustache, has given the French accent to the Mercer campus. He left behind him in his native country a colorful career in both military and scholastic life. During World War I he was commissioned in the French Army, rose to the rank of captain and won the coveted Croix de Guerre. At the University of Paris he received *Agrege-des-lettres*. Later he came to the United States for further study at Harvard University. After many years of work in the French schools, he came to America to teach. In June he plans to return to France.

This, Our Focus Week

by Burton Hayes

Year after year, time after time, since the glorious days of yore, there has arisen a like situation which has overtaken us once again this week. Postings have informed us far in advance that another Focus Week approached. So here it is upon us, and each one asks the other what good will come of it, or how will it affect our rusty outlook toward the faith? The conscientious, although extremely secular, hope ever so earnestly each year that such emphasis will bring about his own enlightenment. But from past experience he knows just what lays in store for him—that which has come before.

Heretofore such an emphasis week has meant little more than spasmodic interruptions of classes, hour after hour on those hard, uninspirational, chapel seats, and arduous boredom.

In a history class the visiting "focus-pocus" would become most demonstrative with a map of Europe. He points to France, Belgium, Spain, and Italy, and denounces those people for not having "seen the light." Then to England he points, condemning the "bob-tail catholics." The rapture of Christian brotherhood!

The younger ministers came to the fraternity suites to condemn the art of dancing, declaring that the thumba initiated sexual temptations.

But where amid all this "Jew-bait" and scandalous condemnation was the philosophy of Christ? Either we were so indignant after this trivial chatter that it was overlooked, or it was non-existent—probably the latter. The Light of Light is overlooked by these evangelistic agitators in the upbraiding of innocent secular acts.

Those who are obstinately and unreasonably attached to particular creed or opinion, intolerant of all others, are nothing short of Jew-baiters and are reminiscent of Hitler or the Spanish Inquisition or the medieval censure of heretics.

It is not the desire of the conscientious to become embittered with his soul; his is the wish to be afforded help in mending a distorted philosophy. The effect is entirely idealistic; it is toward a pure and decent code to live-by—unaffected by the prevalent earthly bigotry and naivete.

Let us hope for the ideal, and not merely a Focus Week mingled with trivialities, which entomb its divine purpose.

Open Letter To Bob Gardner

Dear Mr. Gardner:

In your own scholarly sarcastic style you have taken the liberty on two occasions to criticize the student chapel programs. Because you have the right to do so, I am proud; and because you have troubled yourself to do so, I am flattered; but for the manner in which you have offered your criticism, I am disgusted.

You have low-rated these programs insofar as your excellent vocabulary has allowed, but as yet you have not thrown the egg!

I have tried to arrange for a variety of programs which include not only musical comedies, but features of a more serious nature as well. When the Senior class presented their programs, you did not participate. Nor were you seen in

any of the other programs. Maybe you have no class spirit. Or is it that you just don't want your fellow students to have the benefit of all your hidden talents. I could use your abilities on a program, if you would just condescend to cooperate.

Mr. Gardner, not once have you made any suggestion to me about better programs. But I have, after reading your article a second time, come to the conclusion that you would make a confident, competent Chairman of the Program Committee. I am recommending to Cloud Morgan, President of the Student Body, that you be appointed to this position, and I shall be delighted to serve under you.

Yours for better programs,
S. Hamilton Kellam
Chairman, Student Chapel Programs Committee.

RAMBLIN

with BILL TYSON

I, personally, would like to see Mercer deal off the top of the deck just one time. For their own good the fraternities on this campus had better demand a re-shuffling of the cards before they go diving into the fraternity lodge plan as now proposed. I'm not saying whether I approve of building lodges now or waiting to try and get houses later, but I will say that the present plans are nothing more than a money-making scheme fostered in the interest of the University, for the University, and by the University.

\$50,000 per Frat.

Has anyone stopped to think just what is going to happen if this plan is adopted? The University wants to set a limit on the cost of the lodges at \$10,000. They will put up something like \$6,000 of the money and the fraternities put up the rest. The school will retain full title in the property and give the fraternities a 99-year lease. They will charge each fraternity \$40 per month rent for that 99 years which will amount to around \$50,000 each. Fraternity will have paid in that time and they still will have nothing which belongs to them. All they will have is the privilege of renewing the lease for 99 more years.

For instance, say that a fraternity wants to build an \$8,000 lodge. The school puts \$6,000 in it and the fraternity sinks in \$2,000. What happens to that \$2,000, it doesn't buy anything. All that the \$2,000 does is help Mercer build itself a lodge which in turn will rent to the fraternity for \$40 per month for 99 years. Does this sound like a fair plan to you? It doesn't to me, especially where there are so many other ways it can be done in which the fraternities will have some hope of owning their lodge someday. If we are going to build lodges let's build something which our brothers in the years to come can have as their own.

"Sense of Fairness"

It seems to me that the school should have a sense of fairness great enough to set up a non-profit plan or at least limit the profit to a nominal margin. A simple plan would be for the University to give, grant, or sell each fraternity a lot of land and lend them the money to build their lodge, say eight, nine or ten thousand dollars and then take a mortgage on the property and let the fraternities pay back the loan over an extended period and compound interest on the loan at a reasonable rate. That way when the loan is paid off the fraternity would have a lodge and a lot that belonged to it and the University would have made its profit in the interest and also benefited the fraternities and the campus.

Mortgage Property

Take for example the following situation: If a fraternity desires to build a \$10,000 lodge, let them borrow the \$10,000 from the University and give them a mortgage on the property. The fraternity could then pay back the loan at, say, \$50 per quarter or \$200 per year and at the end of 50 years the principal would be paid off. This, of course, is only one example; the rate of payment could be prorated over a longer or shorter time, but what I'm driving at is the sensibility of working for something that will ultimately belong to your interest and not that of the University alone.

This is running into a lengthy and possibly useless discussion, but I would like to see some more thought put to this, thing before any fraternity gets itself all tied up with something that is utterly logically unsound.

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Mirror of Students' Thought and Action

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