

# THE EDITOR SPEAKS...

## The Dixie Athletic Conference

It is gratifying to learn that Mercer's athletic committee has officially approved the proposed constitution of the newly formed Dixie Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Plans for the formation of this conference were discussed in Birmingham March 1 when the constitutional committee, composed of Major George B. Connell, of Mercer, Stanley Robinson, W. R. Battle, Gordon Clark, and H. G. Danford, met with other representatives of small colleges of Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Mississippi. There the constitution committee presented the proposed constitution for the consideration of the athletic committees of all of the participating schools.

The purposes of the conference as outlined in the proposed constitution are as follows:

1. To uphold the principles of institutional control of, and responsibility for, all intercollegiate sports.
2. To stimulate and improve intercollegiate athletic programs.
3. To establish uniform laws for amateurism and principles of amateur sports.

Mercer's approval of this program may be regarded as a "step in the right direction" from the viewpoint of the majority of the Mercer students. But, as already pointed out by Sam Glassman, sports editor of *The Macon Telegraph*, there is no need for anyone to get excited about the football issue. Under the present set-up, member schools of the conference must take part in at least one intercollegiate sport, but no specific activity participation is required.

### No Athletic Scholarships

The proposed, tentative constitution also stipulates that no scholarships be given to athletes as such. Member schools may continue to award scholarships under their own individual regulations. Of course, some students who would participate in athletics also might be awarded scholarships under his college's scholarship rules. In the case of Mercer students, these scholarships definitely would not involve athletic participation as an end in-itself.

Another meeting of committee members and representatives of participating colleges will be held in Birmingham May 10 to determine whether the proposed constitution will be accepted as it now reads or revised to meet the needs of any of the schools represented in the meeting.

Mercer officials have made it clear that they will by no means approve the constitution if it is revised to provide for athletic scholarships or required participation in intercollegiate football. So, actually, when it is all boiled down, Mercer's approval of the present constitution does not mean a great deal in the eyes of many.

It does mean that the Dixie Intercollegiate Athletic Conference annual basketball and golf tournaments will be held at Mercer in 1948-49 if present plans are carried out. It does mean, as I have said before, a "step in the right direction." But it does not mean that the Administration has undergone any sudden "change of heart" in its general outlook on the subject of athletics.

Viewing the matter realistically we can interpret this step as a move on the part of the Administration to make the present athletic set-up a little better. But it is still the same set-up and as long as it remains so, there'll be no athletic scholarships and no intercollegiate football for Mercer fans.

J.C.C.

### 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 students.
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.

# The MERCER CLUSTER

Mirror of Students' Thought and Action

### CLUSTER STAFF

Jim Cowan Joe Davis Jean Kinnett Van Kirkland Ralph Temples George Chamlee Alleen Jones Bennie English Alice Crimmins	Editor-in-Chief Business Manager Associate Editor Managing Editor News Editor Sports Editor Society Editor Feature Editor Make-Up Editor
---	--

Copy Editor: Jeff Smith, Kewelle Editor: Spencer Jarnagin, Staff Photographer: Pobby Erud, News: Bill Wheeler, Jimmie Jones, Paula Howard, George Otter, Lewis Wilson, Sue Rawls, Sports: George Jones, Guy Williamson, Faculty: Gerrie Dixon, Beckie Watson, Features: Joe Gossett, Pete Murray, Ralph Smith, Bob Gardner, Dexter Kimsy, Jo Jordan, Cartoonists: Archer Moore, J. W. Holland, Tabbit Smith, Secretary: Sally Serson.

Assistant Bus. Mgrs.—Milton Grubbs, Grady Durden, Circulation—Bill Currie, Hilda Harris, Ralph Clance, Sally McKay, George Griffin, Elaine Wilcoxen, Dewey Hayes, Garrett Thornon, Advertising—Harry Trulove, Peggy Parker, Francis Clements, Laurie Shannon.

The MERCER CLUSTER is the official newspaper of Mercer University, published by the students weekly from September 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. Annual subscription rate: \$1.50.



**THE LAUNDRY PROBLEM:** A number of complaints have been registered—especially by male students of Mercer—concerning the University laundry. While most of them realize the difficulty of operating a laundry on such a large scale, they point out that torn shirts and charges for excess just don't fit in together. Artist J. W. Holland registers his approval of the argument in the above cartoon.

## Outlaw The Javelin

by Charles Scholz

To learn through bitter experience is to learn the hard way. Locking the barn after the horse has been stolen is a futile gesture. In cases of which the writer speaks it may well be at the cost of a human life. Such cost is entirely too high a price to pay for the lesson that it seems can only be learned in such manner.

At the intramural track meet which recently took place, a javelin struck in the midst of a group of spectators. The writer believes in miracles, and the fact that no one was injured was indeed a miracle.

The javelin, as most readers know, is a steel tipped shaft, approximately six feet in length, thrown for a distance by the participating athletes. It is a weapon as capable of snuffing out a human life as is a fully loaded firearm.

This dangerous instrumentality has been outlawed in many states. But it was outlawed only after a person was killed. The hammer throw has been outlawed in almost all states, including Georgia. Throwing the javelin is no less dangerous. Must we wait until a life has been lost before it too is outlawed?

At a track meet the spectators rove through the geld in watching the various events. It is a very easy matter for one to wander into the dangerous area when the javelin is being thrown. It is also a very easy matter for a throw to go awry. These throws travel close to 150 feet and the chance of error is great. It is a senseless chance to take. There is a sufficient number of events to provide entertainment for the spectators and competition for the athletes without this dangerous event.

The State of Georgia should follow the example of other states, which have outlawed the javelin throw. It is up to the public to see the definite steps are taken in this direction.

## Guess Who?

The name will be found at the end and upside down, but see if you can guess who.

- Height five feet six.
- Brown hair with eyes of grey.
- Dizzy but delightful.
- Well known, especially in Red Cross work.
- Hails from the state's largest city.
- Tapped-for Back Door Key.
- Friends call her "Gallant Bess."
- Guess who?

Betty Latham

# AROUND MERCER

with

Dexter Kimsy

Golf is an interesting game that is enjoyed by all true lovers of outdoor sports. It has been rumored that Mercer is planning to build a golf course. This would add greatly to the prestige of the school.

Many flurries of interest in this sport has been shown by active participation of students in games on local courses. Almost every day, when the weather permits, you can see several groups of Mercerians heading for Bowden Golf course.

Achievement in golf is dependent upon constancy of practice. The amateur golfer usually begins with only four or five clubs and slowly adds to his collection until he has a complete set.

After years of hard practice a golfer might be good enough to compete for various titles that are being championed. It is this level that he has been striving for with all the hard years of practice behind him.

Pinafore

The comic opera *H.M.S. Pinafore* was well worth seeing last week for its rollicking mirth. The cheerful lyrics and easy rhythm of the music kept the large crowd of people in the Willingham Chapel laughing through the entire opera.

This opera showed the wonderful development of student talent both in directing and acting. Let's hope there will be other operas or plays such as this one soon.

Activity on the Mercer campus has attained an ebb seldom achieved at any time during the year and most Mercerians seem at quite a loss for something to occupy their ever dragging time. To be sure, tennis fills in a small part of the gap left by political rallies and mid-term studying, but most of us find that the scarcity of courts does little to speed the phlegmatic clock on its way.

BOB GARDNER

## Discourse On Materialism

Once upon a time there was a little Easter bunny. And this little Easter bunny lived in an old play house in a nice lady's back yard. Unfortunately, the little bunny was very weak and could not hop out of the house, nor could he see very far because of bad eye-sight. He was just a poor, pathetic, lonely little Easter bunny.

And to make matters worse, the nice lady would occasionally drench him with water, throw stones at him, and allow her noisy pet dog to chase him 'round and 'round inside the play house.

But at least the little bunny stayed alive. Every morning before he woke up the nice lady would put a head of lettuce, three carrots, and a bunch of celery near the bunny, and when he awoke—lo!—food!

Well, the food continued and the little Easter bunny got to be a big Easter bunny. And his eyes got better. And his dormant rabbit brain began to function. And though the chastisements continued, he finally discovered a hole that the lady had made in the floor which would protect him. After that, he escaped most of his troubles; his life was one of relative ease.

But, as I have said, his rabbit brain continued to work, and the more he thought, the more he wondered. And finally one day he came to a marvelous conclusion. "My, how stupid I have been," his active rabbit brain thought to itself; "but now no longer am I so. For now I know that I have rendered my own life happy, and that my food just continues to come every morning of its own accord!"