

School Spirit Will Build Toby's Statue

Another spontaneous outburst of school spirit is observable in the splendid co-operation being given from all corners of the campus to the new project of the art department, the erection of a statue of Toby, the Mercer bear, on the campus.

Ideas were popping as fast as balloons in a pinwheel factory at the last meeting of those interested. Ideas about the size of the statue, the materials to be used, the best place to put it, publicity on the project, financial backing to pay the cost of materials—these were only a few of the things mentioned. Some of the ideas were good and others were not so good; the important thing is that they were ideas.

One of the ideas mentioned, that of a campus wide contest among organizations for choosing a line to be inscribed on the pedestal of the statue, will require the interest and co-operation of every student and organization at Mercer. As a matter of fact, the entire project will require such interest and co-operation if it is to be carried out successfully. May we urge the utmost support of the Toby statue project by the whole student body.

—J.C.

Phi Eta Sigma Is Little-Lauded Honor

One of the little-lauded honors at Mercer, that of receiving a bid to and being initiated into Phi Eta Sigma national freshman scholastic fraternity, should really carry more campus prestige than it does.

Many win a more shallow, transient form of campus glory in the joining of many organizations to which they frequently devote little time or interest. Many of these go still further in the holding of many offices, too often gained by petty politics rather than by real leadership and too often motivated by selfish, egotistical whims rather than by a genuine desire to lead and serve others and to better campus conditions.

Some few freshman, it is refreshing to learn, still place scholarship ahead of membership. Their reward will come not in the passing parade of campus glory but in the real honor of personal satisfaction in a job well done scholastically.

Later in their college careers these freshmen may find it necessary to sacrifice the very highest scholastic averages for a place on the second rung of the scholastic ladder if they decide to pursue some few of the better extra-curricular activities and more worthy positions of campus leadership. But it is certainly to be hoped that they will judge carefully of the outside interests to which they give their time and not make the frequently made mistake of giving up permanent scholastic honors to court a fast-fading form of campus glory.

—J.C.

Will Endorse Honor System Only When Faculty Is Purged Of Poor Instructors

Editor, The Cluster:

The appalling and certainly justified article that appeared in last week's Cluster started several of us, like many others on the campus, to talking about the problem of cheating. We all fully recognize that cheating in a course is mainly cheating your self, but few students recognize the fact that cheating is primarily an expression of hostility—hostility toward the instructor and the institution. Since I am certain that the large majority of the students on this campus have cheated at one time or another; it is you to whom I am writing, as well as your instructors.

Now, to the dumbkops who inspired and wrote that short-sighted inconclusive, and unintelligent article last week and to the student body of this campus I ask this question: do you think that even five per cent of the students enter this university with even a nebulous intention of cheating their way through? NO. Where then is the fault; would anyone insinuate that these honest and intelligent students are lured into the vice of cheating by the vicious few who may come with that intention? PHOOEY! What, then, happens to that vast majority of well intentioned students? THINK, and you will see the answer as well as I. But let me put it in the form of a few questions. Have you ever started in a course only to be disappointed by the gross inefficiency of your instructor? Did you ever have the feeling that Gastric Juices 109 was a "crip" and that you were wasting your time? Did you ever feel that you could accomplish just as much in bed as by listening to Dr. Holzaplatz's tirade on cosmic order? Did you ever want to rip out a pair of dice and start an interesting and profitable game in the back of a class because Prof. McTavish has come to class for the thirtieth consecutive day about as well prepared to lecture on the course as a Siberian cockroach? Then if you have such feelings regarding any or all of your instructors look also at the incidence of cheating in his class... ASTOUNDING!

On the other hand look at the incidence of cheating in classes un-

der such instructors as Dr. Knight, Prof. Haines, Mr. Stansfeld, Miss Byrd, Miss Bates, Dr. Newton, Dr. Pope Duncan, Mr. Smalley and several others. I hope. These are instructors, I have found, for whom students have profound respect and admiration. They respect them, not because they are necessarily jolly good fellows, but BECAUSE THEY COME PREPARED, THEY TEACH THE COURSE LISTED AT THAT HOUR, THEY ARE OBJECTIVE AND FAIR, and a host of other things which boil down to one, THEY DON'T CHEAT THEIR STUDENTS!

American Association of Universities or not this university will never come of age until it starts hiring TEACHERS instead of DEGREES!

Then there is the problem of rapport; frequently I find that tensions grow up between a student and his instructor because they know each other only on a classroom basis. Few instructors will find it difficult to get on good terms with their students if they will only give them a minute or so of time outside class. By this they become friends and we just don't cheat our friends.

Honor system? Yes by all means let's have one, or better still a couple of 'em. And I mean that, it would be a dirty blow to give this institution a single edged sword to wield at the students and draw no blood from the faculty. And it wouldn't work. I'll endorse an honor system to the limit when, and ONLY WHEN, the administration is willing to purge from its faculty this gang of stupid and incompetent instructors that are wasting our precious college hours and peace of mind.

I don't want to hurt any one's feelings but I'd be glad to if I thought that by so doing it will make some of the moss headed, pseudo-human, "instructors" we have around here either get on the ball or move on. To spare yourselves the embarrassment, check yourselves on the above points of agitation and if you are one of these instructors, I suggest that you pluck the moat from thine own eye.

Robert M. C. Rose.

Student Forum:

Names 2 Methods To Stop Creating

Editor, The Cluster:

Generally speaking there are two methods by which cheating can be eliminated. First, we could install a system of monitoring by faculty members which would instill a fear within each of us. Second, we could follow the pattern of many of the greatest universities in the country by instituting an honor system.

The former method, which is being applied in part now, acts to limit cheating through the superficial medium of improving overt individual behavior.

The latter approach tends to operate as a two-fold advantage to each of us. A well planned honor system serves to eliminate cheating, and, more important, to remove the internal desire to take advantage of dishonest opportunities.

Many say the honor system is not practicable, the primary objection being the refusal by some students to report guilty persons. True, it is difficult to "turn in" one's best friends; on the other hand, try to picture our society today if we failed to bring criminals to justice.

We must be taught the importance of honesty in the classroom. Being dishonest in college work will spread over into other fields thereby greatly endangering the spiritual well-being of the individual.

If we all learn that cheating is not a game of trying to outsmart the professor, then, we would have little opportunity to "tell on" our friends. This movement must come from within, but organization and planning will aid each of us to further ourselves and others towards the goal of a better developed personality.

Cheating one's way through school is the so-called "easy way," but in the long run it is the hard way. Mercer was founded on Christian principles; these ideals, however, are not being perpetuated now on our campus. The administration as well as the members of the student body must look towards those ideals and attempt to uphold them in the best manner possible.

I believe that more could be accomplished if we were not forced



or ordered to carry out commands. Cheating is a student problem, so why not allow the students to solve it without faculty dictatorship?

Jimmy Hiers, Jr.



All Cheaters Not Really Dishonest

Editor, The Cluster:

May I commend The Cluster for forcibly bringing to our attention the findings of the student-faculty committee on cheating conditions at Mercer. The first step to be taken in the correction of any evil is the recognition of its existence.

I do not believe that all students who cheat are basically dishonest. Many of us came from high schools where practically all of the students cheated and anyone who reported it was labeled a "tattle-tale." It is only natural that we, as a rule, do not feel so strongly against this practice as we do against stealing money. But in reality, one is just as bad as the other. I believe that if we can fully realize the moral implications of stealing grades and degrees which we do not earn, we can resist the temptation to be intellectually dishonest.

I hope that a workable honor system in which intellectual honesty can be cultivated among us shall soon be established.

—John Strickland.

Praises Cluster's 'Cheating' Story

Editor, Mercer Cluster:

We want to congratulate you on your splendid article on the widespread conditions of cheating. The article really exposed the terrible facts which exist on the Mercer campus.

It is a disgrace to a Baptist school, and it is the duty of each student at Mercer to support the honor system.

Joan Walthall
Martha King

Gives Support To Honor System

Editor, The Cluster:

The coverage which The Cluster has given to the cheating done on the campus is commendable. While the subject, and the information given on it, are subjective, still it is not so much "sensational journalism" and it is an insight into actual campus conditions.

The Mercer Cluster

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Letters To Editor Reveal Opinions On Cheating Issue

There are two courses of action open. Either we may submit to the dictatorship of faculty monitoring, splitting the campus into a faculty-versus-student game of hide-and-seek, or we may submit to the dictatorship of a mature student body conscience. I favor the latter dictatorship, as embodied in an honor system. However, the honor system will work only if it is regarded not as a privilege, but also as a responsibility.

—Henry J. Durham

Rigidly Righteous Lift Own Egos By Downing Others

Editor, The Cluster:

It is difficult to remember a time when the campus was not abuzz with ideas and happenings of a trivial nature. The majority of these disturbances, however, quickly come and go, as should all mental agitation motivated by shallow ego and stemming from a superficial intellectual plane.

Now, as always, we have among our midst a small impeccable group



who seemingly experience a deep emotional release in uncovering the iniquity of their fellow men. This small number of "rigidly righteous" attempt to elevate themselves in their own eyes not by their own honest endeavors but by casting a bad reflection on the rest of the student body. This division between themselves and the student body as a whole stands not as a monument to their own fruitful work but rather to their attempts to push the other fellow down the ladder.

Since the creation of the world, there undoubtedly have been those few who attempted to cheat their way through life, and, judging from our own experience with human nature, probably there will be such a group as long as the world continues. We could certainly spend our time more profitably by increasing our own intellectual orbits than by continually observing that few who have a tendency to propagate their ends by false means. It is not necessary for us to seek out and punish that few, for time will take care of it. Those who build their castles on a foundation of sand will soon enough find their structures crumbling, and the realization of their own iniquity will strike a more forceful blow into their minds and hearts than that which others could effect. Perhaps a timely quote at this point would be "He that is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone." Let us bring our minds from the intellectual gutters to such a plane where they might be of use in struggling with the more important problems of building a better civilization.

A bucket of mud to the "Cluster" for such a colorful display of small thinking on the front page. Others will now judge our degree as a certificate of proficiency in the art of cheating. I am now reminded of my own definition of a journalist as "one who spends four or more years learning to write about that of which he knows nothing."

Tom A. Gibson, Jr.