

Use Politics Wisely

A tried and true formula for Cluster editorial stands on campus politics in the past has been that of urging students to get out and vote. A quick check into some of the old files revealed that more editors supported this political policy than any other. There is something in that, too.

All too often in the past it has been the rule that the very students who do not vote are the ones who register the bitterest complaints about the new officers once they are elected. Last year about three-fourths of the student body voted. Although this was a definite improvement over the interest shown in the past, it can and should be further improved this year.

One Step Further

But this year may we go one step further and really consider the qualifications and past records of the candidates for the Student Government offices. We do not believe it to be too naively idealistic to say that this can and, in many cases, will be done. One organization has already expressed its intention of voting independently of either political party. Two independent groups are still composed, for the most part, of truly independent voters in spite of the political connections of various members of these groups. And even those organizations which openly hold membership in campus political parties have no way of enforcing a bloc vote.

Campus political parties are useful for the purpose of attaining the practical end of choosing candidates. These candidates naturally come from within the ranks of the individual party and from groups without open party affiliation. Once the candidates are agreed upon and endorsed by the authorized representatives to the nominating committee from each of the affiliated organizations that should be enough. Certainly these authorized representatives will do all they can to obtain support for the candidates they themselves have helped to choose, but to attempt to enforce a bloc vote is to take away the individual's freedom of choice.

Small Counterpart

It has become the fashion in many newspapers on the contemporary college campus to ridicule campus politics and elections and to treat them with a somewhat cynical attitude. But as absurd as the antics and maneuvers of campus politicians may become at times, they are certainly not more so than those of state and national politicians as was seen in Georgia's recent gubernatorial race and the nation's presidential election. We regard campus politics as a smaller counterpart of the more far-reaching politics on the state and national level.

And so our stand can be summed up briefly as follows: campus politics can be useful both for present needs and for preparation for the future provided the individual retains his right of freedom of choice and, of course, provided he gets out and expresses it.

—J.C.

Red Cross Makes Appeal

Soon the Red Cross will make an appeal to the students of Mercer. Most things that could be said about a Red Cross campaign have already been said, but, in the case of this organization, familiarity certainly does not breed contempt.

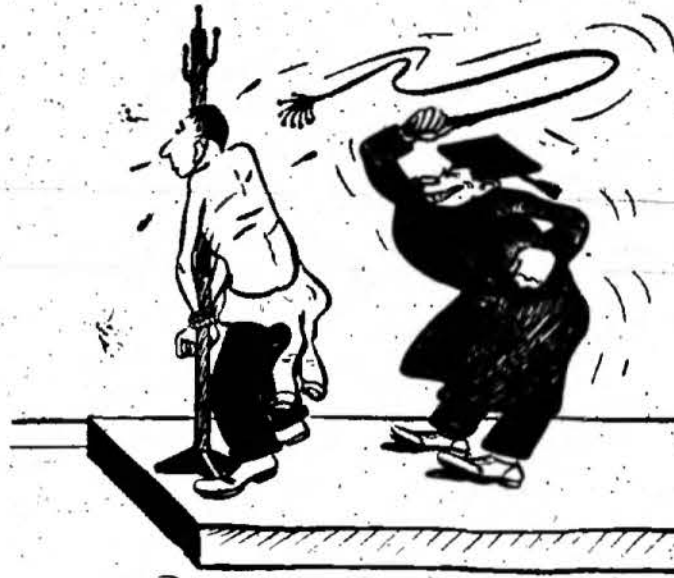
The past winter was a calamitous one for certain sections of our country. Every month there was some new flood, or blizzard, or storm in some part of the nation. Always, whether it received publicity or not, the Red Cross was on the spot with comfort, food, and clothing.

Whenever we see a newsreel of a disaster, or read a newspaper account, we take it as a matter of course to find the Red Cross there. Whether it be a train wreck, or a blizzard, or an explosion, or a plane crash in some out-of-the-way place, or a flood disaster—we always find mention of the Red Cross being on the job.

But the operations of the great organization cannot be taken lightly, just because we are accustomed to finding them doing their job well. Such operations require a great deal of planning, ability, and smooth-working cooperation. In such a large country as ours, it requires a great staff to adequately cover the territory—and it requires a great deal of money.

Certainly a large part of good citizenship, and an even larger part of Christianity, lies in giving of oneself for the good of others. A concrete example and opportunity may be found in the forthcoming Red Cross drive. A concrete example and opportunity may be which time the appeal will be made. Ushers will circulate through the audience for the purpose of collecting funds.

—J.P.



Unlimited Cuts Proposed

The list would certainly range from knitting to newspapers and possibly would include many far stranger diversions—that's the list of things some students do to avoid listening to class lectures. Somebody once tried taking the playthings away, but it didn't work so well even in junior high school. So long as many of the students aren't going to listen anyway, we'll suggest harnessing all that manpower. Let them make paper poppies for the VFW. Or lick stamps for the Extension Division. But then that wouldn't look so good to outsiders who think all college students are serious about education.

Disregard Cuts?

So once again comes forth the old and battered suggestion of disregarding "cuts" completely.

Now hold on to that desk, professor. We didn't say anything about cutting down the ivy, just cutting out some nonsense. With unlimited "cuts," it's possible that the average student would be more serious about getting an education. Obviously there would be little change in the attendance of classes in which students are already interested, in which they feel they learn something. In short, the good—or well-taught—classes would attract just about as many students to attend. Poor attendance of the badly conducted is a quick indication of such a condition. Excessive "cutting" would soon cut down the frivolous element of the student body.

Nothing Radical

The University would not be taking a shot in the dark or doing anything radically original in abolishing the rule requiring class attendance. The unlimited cut plan for all students or at least for Dean's List students is rapidly growing in popularity throughout the country. While we believe in the same degree of freedom for all students, even such a special arrangement for students on the Dean's List would be a tremendous improvement. Any such liberal "cut" plan—unlimited or partially restricted—should soon replace the present attendance requirement, which is a Rotunda-sized flaw in Mr. Jefferson's student freedom.

—The Cavalier Daily.

Let's Rate Our Teachers

Blue Key announced fall quarter that they would conduct a faculty rating survey the following quarter. A poll would be taken of the students to determine their opinions of the qualifications, efforts, and personalities of our various faculty members. Blue Key officers indicated.

The group said they hoped the results of the poll would be used to help strengthen our teaching staff in an effort to better the scholastic standing of Mercer.

Unfortunately, Blue Key has had to postpone the poll until further work can be done to formulate suitable plans for the project. Indications are that the rating may be conducted at a later date, possibly the early part of next year.

Carry Out Proposal

We hope that the proposal will be carried out, sooner or later, preferably sooner. If the poll is postponed until next year, it cannot be conducted effectively until after many weeks of classwork. A long period of tutelage under a professor would be necessary before we could adequately evaluate his teaching.

A recent United Press news release reports that a similar survey was conducted by the University of Michigan and that amazing results were registered in the poll. According to the UP report, "Five professors and instructors who flunked a campus-wide student popularity poll may be fired and 42 who won 'A' ratings may receive raises."

Michigan Poll

This poll was conducted by the University of Michigan administration, which passed out 50,000 questionnaires to students asking that they rate their professors on 10 points. About 11,000 of the 21,000 students there answered in the survey, flunking five of their teachers and giving superior ratings to 42 out of a total of 410.

Here is a teacher poll in which a student body apparently became interested. Here is a university that apparently feels, as Blue Key does, that "every educational institution is basically and fundamentally for the students that attend that institution."

Blue Key says, "We think that the students should be the ones to judge the instructors in any institution, and we propose to give the students at Mercer that chance." Let's hope Blue Key gives us that chance.

—J.H.

MEET YOUR CLUSTER STAFF

'Chalky' Weaver, Make-Up Editor Has Perfect Record Of Dependability

by Jim Cowan

One of the very few really perfectly dependable persons on the campus is Charles "Chalky" Weaver, Cluster make-up editor. A staff member of long high-standing, his efficiency has grown with every issue of The Cluster.

Joining the staff fall quarter of 1946 shortly after entering Mercer, "Chalky" wrote features for the first year, moved to make-up in the second, and took over the position of make-up editor in the third. His technical skill has made him a valuable asset to the paper, but by far more important than this is his punctuality and willingness to work.



Weaver

Weaver, a Macon boy, was graduated from Lanier High School in 1944. Spending the next two years in the U. S. Navy, he entered Mercer in the fall of 1946. Not long after, he had begun active participation in a number of extra-curriculars such as Glee Club, Flying Club, Intramurals, The Cluster, and, most important of all, his social fraternity, Phi Delta Theta.

Majoring in English, Weaver says that he intends to enter either teaching or newspaper work after graduation.

'THAT'S ALL BROTHER'

Pal Itches To Catch Well Wisher

by Jim Young

Years ago, teacher said: "Be careful of your grammar, which, if you lit down on it, you are likely to stumble over."

So I have thus always been one to carefully watch against things like splitting infinitives.

And if I would ever get in trouble with ending sentences with prepositions, teacher was the one I would always confer with.

She would always get straightened-out me.

Yessir. Ending sentences with prepositions was one of those

things up with which she would not put.

Take it from me, you gotta be careful of language. Like a bosom buddy got sore at me last year. He sent me a letter about the birth of a son airmail special delivery. I write him a year later and he writes back: "Listen, you skunk, don't never say such a thing again and don't never speak to me again."

What was he sore about? All I said was: "Congratulations on your son who now must be a year old and crawling all over."

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