

### The Mercer Cluster

Published weekly by the students of the fourteen schools and colleges in the Mercer University System.

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#### IS IT WORTHY?

In practically every college community there are a number of honorary organizations and societies. These are made up of men who have attained a higher standard of scholarship than their fellow-students and who are honored by their predecessors with an invitation to become a member of the organization.

The only academic honorary order that has existed at Mercer during recent years has passed into the region of the has-beens. Just why this organization that was made up of such splendid college fellows should be allowed to decay and cease to function is unknown. Its passing leaves but one honorary order on the campus and that is confined to the students in science.

But why these organizations anyway? When a man has striven to become a leader by actual hard work, what is there to reward him with upon reaching his goal? Should he be rewarded? Most assuredly he should be recognized for his efforts. If anything is worthy of work to win then it is surely worthy of recognition when won. Organization stimulates interest and honorary groups are characteristic of a progressive college community. Is our community progressive? To keep in line with the expansion program of the college authorities the student body must show signs of progress also.

One or two highly standardized orders on the campus would go further than any one thing to give proof of the fact that we are not a dead student body who are willing to discard effort and remain in the worn-out paths of yesterday. Who is to start the good work? All praise to him who is first!

#### THE JESTER

That unique college publication, having for its slogan, "All the news we dare to print," made its annual debut at Mercer chapel exercises Thursday morning, and turned things topsy-turvy with its fabrications of the press and make-believe news items.

The occasion was the seventh anniversary appearance of "The Jester," published as a supplement to the Macon Telegraph by the Y. L. J.'s from Wesleyan College, under the tutelage of Miss M. Virginia Garner. Six of the fairest of these blushing dames offered their product to their attentive audience in a most attractive manner and the sales ran high with gross receipts that were startling. But it must be distinctly understood that the "Jester" is not a mercenary publication at all, but one gotten out merely for the fun, practice and liberation of stored-up ingenuity in the systems of these budding journalists.

Dr. Weaver in referring to the young ladies' paper said that it was "The greatest publication of its kind in America." He was even able to say this after the twisted stories of this paper had made him to leave Mercer University and acknowledge Miss Sallie Boone as his successor. According to the "Jester," Mercer University had been merged with Bessie Tift and moved to Forsyth, with our Miss Boone as president in toto of the co-ed. college. Dr. Weaver had succeeded Secretary Mellon as Secretary of the Treasury in Washington.

#### YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Much criticism has been brought to bear upon the schools and colleges all over the country relative to the inefficient methods of offering to their student bodies the proper facilities and opportunities for building up their physical selves. A question asked by Dr. G. Stanley Hall is worthy of consideration. He asks, "What shall it profit a child if he gain the whole world of knowledge and lose his own health?"

Dr. Hall goes on to say, "There are hundreds and thousands of premature and unnecessary deaths in America every year. The nation needs to conserve life for the development of its enterprises."

"Let us not confuse physical education with the highly specialized system of team athletics so much stressed in some schools. A system which develops eleven players while a thousand idle youths look on will never go far in raising the physical efficiency of America."

This then raises the question as to whether the three or four major sports of a college, which only provide exercise for a limited number of students is sufficient for the proper development of the student body as a whole. There will be the argument that all students should go out for one or more of these major sports and thereby get his share of the exercise and also sponsor a more successful athletic program for his alma mater. But there is always a number of students in every college who are not in a position to go out for the chief sports and who need the exercise for body building the same as any privileged member of the student body.

When we consider the vast impor-

tance of physical training to the youths of this and every other land, we are inclined to look with favor on the nation-wide criticism that is being directed toward college authorities, which criticism is constructive, we believe.

#### BASEBALL SPIRIT

Mercer's baseball season of 1923 was ushered in at Auburn with games that were played against Auburn last week. There is not any excuse for anyone to feel discouraged at the outcome of the first game. The grounds were wet as a result of the rain that fell a few minutes before the game was called and but for this reason the score might have been different.

The game Saturday proved the true worth of the nine that represents us this year. It is well known that Auburn has a great team, but we must remember that our team is the strongest in several years. A strong schedule is ahead of the team and the loyal support of every Mercer student is urged.

The spirit that the fellows showed during the past basketball season is the kind that is needed throughout the year. Such spirit is to be commended and if all the boys will lend this kind of support to the baseball team, there is every reason to believe that our team will be crowned with the championship honors when the last collegiate game is played.

By W. O. D.

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