

*The Editors Speak*

## The Next Might Be You!

Every year Americans are warned of the hazards of the holiday season caused by careless drivers of the ingenious vehicle, the automobile. Training in accident prevention and safe-driving campaigns have helped to reduce the rate of traffic fatalities and injuries to some extent, but the figure cannot be curtailed enough until the drivers themselves wake up to the realization that their own security is involved.

Last year the National Safety Council reported that one person was killed in a traffic accident every 16 1-2 minutes, and every 29 seconds someone was injured by an automobile. Such fatal facts should not be considered as trivial. The one who feels as though "it always happens to other people — not me" may be the very next fatality of such a disaster.

Parents and teachers may have the first obligation in training young people to drive carefully, considerately, and obey traffic regulations, but the biggest responsibility is left up to the individual. He must learn to be emotionally stable and alert behind the wheel, and he must realize that traffic rules are enforced for his own benefit and safety, as well as for the security of others.

Statistics show that of the fatal accidents that occurred last year, one quarter of the drivers were speeding or driving too fast for existing conditions. Top cruising speeds of 65 miles an hour compared to 40 miles an hour show that, at 65 miles an hour: (1) gasoline consumption is more than 30 per cent higher, (2) oil consumption is almost four times as great, (3) tire wear is 2 1-2 times as great, (4) gain in average speed is only 15 miles per hour, and (5) the cost per thousand miles of operation is over \$6.00 more.

December is the greatest accident month of the year. During the holidays this year, even if one does not care about costs of operation, he should realize that slower safer driving may give someone, maybe himself, the chance to observe another Christmas. —S.H.

## Try Reading Textbooks

By Charles Weaver  
Cluster Managing Editor

It's hard to believe that another quarter is all over except for final exams and the weeping, wailing, and gnashing of teeth which logically follows such events. At least that seems to be part of the ritual for some Mercer students. Personally, I am so relieved when the quarterly ordeal of exams is over that I don't even think about the terrible grade that I probably have made.

There ought to be a law against such instruments of torture as those which certain professors on the Mercer campus employ. They seem to take a fiendish delight in putting such to students who are so unfortunate and uninformed as to have wandered into their course.

Some poor fellow who is not too wise in the way of the campus signs up for a course because some brain tells him, "Oh yes, Professor X is a little bit hard, but you can get sooo much out of his class if you apply yourself." So he falls into the snare and rocks along until examination time, when it is much too late to turn back. If he had only known sooner what was coming, he could have quit when he was still ahead.

But when he walks into the classroom and sees the examination, he is sure he has come to the wrong room. Why, they never mentioned any such subjects in class,

much less discussed them. He has the nerve to bother the professor with such an incidental detail, and he is promptly cut off with, "I know what we talked about in class; now I want to see what you got on your own."

So the student suffers through some three hours of indescribable agony while he tries to figure out what the first couple of questions are all about. He does learn something from experience. He now knows what those poor unfortunates who suffered the horrors of the inquisition went through.

When he is finally finished, and I do mean finished, he manages to stagger outside, where some other sadistic members of the faculty give him refreshments to build his strength up to face another ordeal the same afternoon.

After three days of this it is little wonder that the poor student has to rest all the next quarter in preparation for the next round of hellish tortures disguised under the name of examinations. When he finally builds his strength back up, it is time to face the inquisitors again. This vicious circle continues until he leaves college, a broken man.

It seems you just can't win in this college game unless, in spite of the strong feeling of the student body against such practices, you break down and try reading some of those text books outside of class.



"MAY THERE BE NO END TO YOUR CHRISTMAS JOY"

## What Do YOU Think?

By L. John Stewart and Jack Landrum

**QUESTION: What has been your most interesting experience at Mercer?**

**George Lee Markey, senior, Albany:**

"One night, during my freshman year, one of the Negro tenant houses behind Porter Hall caught fire. From Sherwood Hall, where I was living at the time, it looked as if M.E.P. was on fire. Some of the boys in Sherwood were fanatic over the idea that their sweethearts might be in danger. Practically all of the dormitory boys went over. Everyone of us was quite thankful that it was not the girls' dormitory."

**Jane Maddox, junior, Dalton:**

"My most interesting experience at Mercer was being editor of 'Porter Patter'. It was a lot of fun each week to get up the gossip at M.E.P. It was an experience which brought pleasure and satisfaction to me, even though 'Snooper's Slander' did usually keep me in trouble."

**Julie B. Greene, Law School senior, Dublin:**

"Most most interesting experience at Mercer was my visit to Penfield. It was there that I saw the physical embodiment of the real Mercer spirit—Penfield Chapel. Upon arrival, I was most impressed by the manner in which the past served as a backdrop for the present, and the two merged into one. As the old chapel stood there in bold relief against the rugged landscape, it seemed as old as eternity, yet new as tomorrow—aged, yet ageless, stolid before the relentless onslaughts of man and nature. What a promise it holds forth for the future, the new Mercer standing firmly against the destructive forces of a materialistic society. I learned a valuable lesson—that that which is built upon sound principles possesses the quality of endurance."

**Marion Barfield, senior, Macon:**

"Had I been at Mercer my freshman year it would be easy to say what experience stands out most in my mind. For the week preceding and the actual pledging to my sorority stands out most."

"However, at Mercer the experience which stands out most for me is 'Bear Day'. I'll never forget the excitement, color and enjoyment of participation I felt as everyone gathered at the gym and started on the route down town. I certainly hope next year's will be as exciting as the first!"

**Bob Reeder, junior, Charleston, S. C.:**

"I recall one experience that stands out as the most interesting, as well as the most meaningful experience I've had while here at

Mercer. The last night of the Youth Revival I gave my personal testimony of what Christ means to me, a thing I'd never before attempted before such an audience. And that night was most meaningful to me."

**Pansy Abbott, soph., Waynesboro, Ga.:**

"My most unforgettable experience at Mercer was a date with a fraternity initiate who could not speak to me the entire evening. The evening proved to be extremely gay, although somewhat silent. Imagine my embarrassment when he bought a cake of Lifebuoy soap and presented it to me as a gentle hint! Naturally I took full advantage of the situation and turned loose my feminine wiles, complete with tears, in order to turn the tables on him. The fraternity initiate was unaware that I had previously been informed of all the circumstances of his enforced silence."

### Mixed Musings

## Overthrow of Labor Government Down Under Shakes Left Wingers

By R. C. Odom

Utopia has crumpled into Asher. The promised land has failed to materialize. There is a noise down under the world which rumbles threateningly in the ears of the left-wingers.

Karl Marx turns in his grave. The Politburo holds an emergency meeting, but Stalin is unable to attend because of a slight indisposition. Atlee has retired to the country for an extended rest. Truman is vacationing in Florida. Socialism falters; Communism cringes; but private enterprise takes a new heart.

The trend has been set; the ship has foundered; and the Reds, the Pinks, and the fellow travelers are looking for a quick and easy exit.

New Zealand, which has often been cited by the Socialists and far left-wingers as a model social-

## Columnist Has Sure Cure for World Situation

By Clarence Streetman

According to Drew Pearson, some character in the State Department with nothing better to do figured up that the arms to Europe program would cost the United States something like 50 billion bucks a year.

Naturally, a lot of people and especially the Republicans voice sharp criticism when the country spends more money than it has, but that 50 billion could be a good investment.

Of course, if we send the dough and the guns overseas and arm the small countries so the Communists can walk in and take over the well-equipped nations in order to have something to throw back at us in case of a war, it's not so smart. And that could happen.

What I would advocate is including a staff of high-powered publicity men along with each gift of guns. I mean the type of character who ballyhooed "Forever Amber" up from the latrine to the library. If necessary, their salaries could be paid by the United States.

Their functions would be to negotiate wars between the smaller nations. When the actual fighting started, they could either come back home or become war correspondents for American news services.

Meanwhile, the United States could keep a watchful eye on the progress of each country, and kick in with a bonus load of guns and ammunition when one of them begins to lose ground. In that way, most of them would eventually eliminate each other, permanently solving both the political and economic controversies.

Give them the atomic bomb? I should say not. We would keep that here to drop on the winners of these small wars.

ist nation, has returned to the fold of free enterprise. It has always been pointed to with pride as the land of milk and honey where such things as poor people and hunger were unknown. The socialists, after controlling the country for fourteen years, have apparently failed to bring about the utopia which they claim to be the result of their system.

The overthrow of the Labor Government by the Nationalists is convincing when one considers the fact that it was accomplished without the aid of the radio. The government controlled the radio and refused to give the opposition any time to express their side while an extremely large amount of time speakers.

It seems that the Nationalists had something worthwhile to offer. They promised to lower taxes and reduce government controls.

### THAT'S ALL BROTHER

## Gossips Gasp Behind Iron Mask

By Jim Young

Centuries ago in England police clamped iron masks on women gossips and paraded them through the streets.

Iron was a poor mask material. Could not have lasted long on acid-tongued women.

No doubt it melted rapidly during the relation of a hot scandal. However the English used this material because it could withstand biting words.

They did the best they could

with what they had. The modern refinement is to make recordings, then gag the gossip, and make her listen to the playbacks.

Did I hear someone say this recording is fantastic? Nonsense! Cutting the wax is the natural way to make use of cutting remarks.

Notwithstanding new improvements, modern man in some cases clapping masks on culprits and subjecting them to the jibes and jeers of the crowd. Robbers often are so punished. Ask any baseball home-plate umpire.

## The Mercer Cluster

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| SYBIL HARTLEY  | Editor           |
| TOMMY OLMSTEAD | Business Manager |
| JOHN HYDE      | Associate Editor |
| CHARLES WEAVER | Managing Editor  |
| EMORY CLAY     | News Editor      |
| JOHN WARD      | News Editor      |
| MARTHA MARTIN  | Feature Editor   |
| BOBBY BONNER   | Sports Editor    |
| ELLEN WILLIS   | Society Editor   |

COPY EDITOR—Sellers Parker. NEWS—June Smalley, Bobby Bobo, June Brinkley, Charles Tozier, Patsy Aldred, Miriam McCook, Jackie Means, Raymond Coppage, John Lewis, Anne Lucy Wood. SOCIETY—Janice Weathers, Kitty Carmichael, Miriam McCook. FEATURES—Jim Young, Sonny Futch, R. C. Odom, Clarence Streetman, L. J. Stewart, Jack Landrum, Richard Jones, Jimmy Johnson. SPORTS—Richard Sanger, Eleanor Ann Sammons. MAKE-UP—Charlie Andrew. CARTOONISTS—J. W. Holland, Ben Tucker, Martha King.

ASSISTANT BUS. MGR.—Carl Beard. ADVERTISING—Robert Barfield, Lillian Patton, Bob Ponder, Red Morgan. CIRCULATION—George Mau, Bob Ponder.

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, April 6, 1948, under Act of March 3, 1879.

Annual subscription rate: \$1.50.