

**THE EDITORS SPEAK**

**Mend the Gap**

The lasting tension between the administration and the student body on Mercer campus shows signs of lack of interest and co-operation from both parties.

A public relations class Saturday found a professor who actually wants to see better relations between these groups. Yes, we all want to see it, perhaps, but no thought and action ever seem to appear. We only lend our words to aptious criticism, always finding fault, never trying to mend the gap.

Founders' Day last Friday must have been quite embarrassing to the administration and speakers. Approximately fifty per cent of the student body who did attend complained of a boring hour. In other words, Founders' Day had little student interest and participation. Therefore, it was not a success.

Bear Day has been planned again for the near future. What interest and participation will be contributed by the faculty and administration? What, really, can we expect?

Why not have our big red-letter day, was the suggestion made by Professor Malcolm D. McDonald, of the Journalism Department. Why not have a day that will appeal to both the administration and the student body? At present, Founders' Day has no direct appeal to the students, and Bear Day has no direct appeal to the administration. Why not combine the two, giving each group a part in the other's activities?

The set-up gets something like this. First, a school holiday on January 11, with no classes, no assignments pressing. Students might agree to one Saturday of classes, or an extra day at the beginning of the quarter, to make up the required hours.

Founders' Day exercises might be held in the chapel in the morning, with a program planned to attract not only students but also a large alumni group. Then Bear Day, consisting of a parade and a local campus program, might be held in the afternoon. Fraternities, sororities, and independent groups might have open house for alumni from years back at some hour during the afternoon. That would add a homecoming phase to the day.

To clinch the festivities of the holiday, the Athletic Department might cooperate by previously scheduling a big basketball game for that night. Student and administrative turnout would hit its peak. Mercer spirit would envelope the divided groups and unite them into one, all shooting for the same goal—an institution to honor.

It would truly be a day that Mercer would never forget, a day on the calendar that the students, faculty, administration, and alumni all together might make the biggest day of the year. We think it sounds great. What do you think?—S.H.

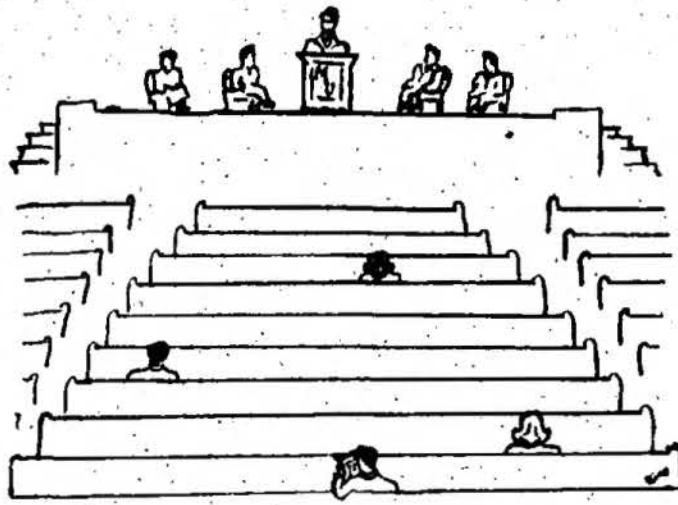
**Organist Well Received**

Willingham chapel resounded Tuesday night with the brilliant organ artistry of the renowned Alexander Schreiner, organist of the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City. Both Schreiner and the near-capacity audience found the chapel's year-old \$25,000 organ to be "sparkling and clear" and "beautiful in tone".

The large attendance and the several encores the audience asked of Schreiner indicated the enthusiastic reception which Mercerians and Maconites alike accorded his musical recital.

The Juilliard String Quartet of New York, which performed here last quarter, also received a warm response.

It is to be hoped that more recitals and perhaps some lectures and forums will be presented for this apparently responsive audience.



**FOUNDERS' DAY**  
Puzzle: Find the students.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR . . .**

*(Editor's Note: All letters to the editor should be typed, signed, and left at the post office window a week in advance of publication. Such letters should not exceed 175 words. Student opinion needs to be expressed. We do not want strictly a grip sheet; many phases of the school are commendable. But opinion, for or against, will be published. We urge and appreciate student participation.)*

**Editor, The Cluster:**

Chapel programs are in the news around the campus again. There has been a wide discussion of the musical selections of our A Capella Choir.

I have heard the choir practice many times, and they certainly do include selections other than hymns—for example—Latin music, fast rhythms, and other types.

We need hymns in chapel, but I think also that students would like to hear other types of music. Wouldn't it be a nice change to hear these pieces, say, on Mondays and Fridays?

Respectfully,  
Bobby Simpson.

**Editor, The Cluster:**

Many things have been said about Mercer spirit in the two years that I have been at Mercer, but never have I seen it manifested to such a high degree as the other night in Athens. Why was it that for the first road trip this year approximately 200 Mercer students took off to support the Bears in the name of Mercer? That several of the Greek letter organizations thought this a legitimate reason to postpone their meetings, and the B.S.U. took "Lucy" over the rough road to Athens? Was it purely the fact that we have "a winning team?"

Whatever the reason, I believe that we boosted the name of Mercer more that night than it has been in many a year. The Georgia supporters were quite shocked and pleased with the spirit Mercer showed. One old Mercer student threw his new alma mater over for the old, and many Macon people who are students at the University came to the support of

their home town college. We, the Mercer student body, were accused of having a high degree of Mercer spirit. It really felt good to be accused in such a fashion. I only wish that the accusation was correct.

Why is it then if the Mercer administration wants this Mercer spirit that they will not cooperate with the students in obtaining it? I realize that these athletic contests would fail to reach some students, but I am firmly convinced that the many more it would reach could pull the spirit around in other fields. This is an activity that only a few have to work for. Consequently there would be a larger participation in the enjoyment. This would tend to make the students more willing to cooperate with the administration in the fields that the administration wants us to, such as Bear Day, Founders' Day, and Freshmen Week-end.

I have never felt as much pride or love for Mercer as I did that night when I walked into Woodruff Hall at Georgia and was called to by the many Mercer students already there.

The Georgia students were very interested in Mercer and after the game they left with a very favorable impression of the much smaller religious school in Macon. When feelings of this type prevail throughout the state of Georgia there will be many more students seeking admission here. So why does not the administration try a little harder to cooperate with the student body? A little feeling of interest, cooperation and concern on the part of the administration would go a long way toward the goal both the students and administration seeks.

Marion Barfield.

**The Mercer Cluster**

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**CLARENCE'S COLYUM**

**Hubby Curiously Awaits "1950 Look" for Ladies**

By Clarence Streetman

The 1950 spring outfits for ladies were supposed to come out last week. Frankly, I'm rather curious to see the general effect this year. I can remember (which makes me older than most freshmen) when every traveling comedian had the joke about women's dresses getting higher at the bottom hem and lower at the top each year. The punch line was "I keep hanging around to see the two meet."

Then a Frenchman named Jaques Something (they're all named Jaques) fouled up the whole process with the "New Look" and choker collars. The collars seem to have been modified somewhat, but the skirt has lingered on.

I have already seen a picture of the 1950 look for women's faces. One of the Hollywood boys made the woman up according to New York specifications. She looked like a kewpie doll with a hanger.

But back to clothes, there are some who favor the "New Look." Doc Anthony probably would say that it's a good thing because it increases the consumption of dress materials. Then on the other hand, maybe Doc ain't as old as we thought he was. Anyway, what they've been adding to the skirts, they have been taking off the swimming suits, so where's the percentage? Not that I'm criticizing, you understand.

I'm still waiting for that 1950 look. In the interests of the married man, let us breathe a reverent prayer that the skirts will be a few inches shorter than the 1949 models so that the ladies can lop off a few inches and still be in style with last year's clothes.

**MIXED MUSINGS**

**Churchill's Conservatives Should Fight Socialism**

By R. C. Odom

Britain's Prime Minister Chamberlain in 1939 gave way to the threats of Hitler and led the rest of Western European powers into appeasement. This weak-kneed policy encouraged Fascism and was directly responsible for World War II.

For the past five years Britain has been busily engaged in appeasing communism. Led by Prime Minister Attlee, the left-wingers, socialists, and communists in Britain have been actively engaged in nationalizing industries and setting up a welfare state.

Starting off with a mere handful of industries to be nationalized, the British Laborites have gradually expanded their list. It is to be clearly seen that their ultimate goal is to destroy private enterprise entirely and to institute state control over every phase of British lives.

The Labor party has not been without opposition to their nefarious schemes. The Conservative Party led by Winston Churchill has conducted a stubborn rear guard action although voted down at every turn by the overpowering majority of the Laborites.

It seems, however, that the Conservatives themselves have been infected by the disease. Even they are now supporting "welfare" plans. With such namby-pamby opposition the issues cannot be squarely settled in the approaching general election February 23, as to whether or not the British voters wish to continue along the road they have been traveling for the past five years.

Churchill and his Conservatives should take courage from the fact that within the past few weeks Socialistic governments have been thrown out of office in New Zealand and Australia. The line of battle should be clearly drawn and the people allowed to definitely choose either free enterprise and freedom from control or nationalization, socialism, and statism. The Churchill of the days of "blood, sweat, and tears" in Britain should know that a policy of appeasement results only in more and greater tribulations.

**THE CLUSTER PLATFORM**

1. To promote a strong, self-governing student body.
2. To stimulate interest in worthwhile extra-curricular activities.
3. To maintain an editorial policy committed to the interests of the entire student body and to pull no punches.
4. To constructively criticize any campus irregularities after a complete investigation of the facts.