

THE EDITORS SPEAK

Defending Segregation

Without beating around the bush, — the present editor of The Cluster stands counter the admittance of Negroes into southern universities, which issue has recently become controversial on our campus.

The day may come, but not in this era. Prejudice toward the Negro is inborn; it is tradition. It will take more than governmental law and "brotherhood" advocacy to purge the minds and feelings of the people.

Recently Dr. McLeod Bryan, professor of social ethics at Mercer, wrote an article on the subject, which was published in The Gauntlet, publication of the Baptist Student Union. He advocated that "We should at least press with all our power the upholding and co-operation with Georgia Baptist College for Negroes", — "until our praying and our worshipping have converted our minds and purged our prejudices" enough to admit Negroes into our college."

The facts are there before us. True, southern Negroes do not have sufficient educational facilities; true, they are not well provided with Christian colleges; and they want, need, and deserve them. But, so true, they prefer to attend school with people of their own color. They actually do not wish to mix with white people in most phases of everyday life any more than we, the majority of us, want to mix with them in close association. They have been happy among themselves, having their own places of interest and grouping — places of education, worship, and entertainment.

However, their one hindrance in life, and one we must admit, is lack of outside opportunity—the opportunity to advance by better education, the opportunity to fulfill the desires of greater understanding, and, through these, the opportunity to achieve greater things for themselves and for mankind. Of a minority group, they cannot have these opportunities without our help. But that does not mean that we must take them into our own schools where racial tension will hinder, rather than enhance, the development of both our own education and that of the Negro.

In a recent article, "Tradition vs. Fact", by the editor of the University of Georgia's The Red and Black, the issue is presented: "It is becoming increasingly evident to those following the recent decision of the United States Supreme Court, that the state of Georgia will soon be faced with the alternative of either admitting Negroes to the University or of setting up identical facilities for them elsewhere in the state."

And the issue will have to be met by all Georgia colleges. Of course the government, under the constitution, should urge equal facilities for Negroes; and we cannot deny that it is right and justifiable in a democratic country. So, why can we not support the government, the country, and the Negro race by helping to supply those equal facilities—supplying them colleges of their own; rather than admitting them into ours? Their opportunities then, would be unlimited, and they could gradually advance to a higher state of society in an easier and more acceptable manner.

One of the most popular reasons for segregation on this campus is that Negro enrollment would cause intermarriage. It is something to think about. What white woman would in all pride have a Negro baby, and visa-versa? It is inevitable that non-segregation would eventually lead to intermarriage.

Though this issue at Mercer has only been brought into conversational controversy so far, we, too, will eventually be confronted with an alternative. True, God created all men equal; true, the constitution guarantees equal rights; but, true, there can be a feeling of love and equality in the hearts of men that goes deeper than the segregation line.

(The opinion expressed in this editorial is not conclusive of The Cluster Staff or responsible to any person or persons other than the author.)—S.H.

What Do YOU Think?

By Johnny Lewis

Question: Are you in favor of admitting Negroes to white southern universities?

Gene Etheridge, junior, Perry—

"I believe the most advanced and Christian step the southern schools could take would be to allow Negroes to enter our schools. Not only would the Negro race benefit, but also the white race, because segregation is one of the biggest hindrances to our Christian religion and this would help us to see that God did not create a "superior" race. With our segregation and prejudices we are committing intellectual and spiritual murder, and this is a long way from the words of Jesus when he said, "I am come that they might have life and have it more abundantly."

Barbara Fleming, junior, Atlanta—

"No. For the simple reason that I don't feel they would feel that they would be wanted in white schools. I think that professors from their own race could aid them more. Allowing Negroes to enter white universities at this time would hold back educational development, and create racial tension in the universities of the south. The whole system of segregation will have to be changed before any one change in it can be made."

Laurice Walker, junior, Thomsville—

"As a Christian I feel that the only answer I can give is yes. I cannot see any real objections to non-segregated schools, and I think the admission of Negroes to southern universities would be one of the most Christian things our society could do. Certainly our churches and states cannot support a dual educational program, and the ideal solution is non-segregation. And we as Christians should be the first to stand up for the abolition of segregation in our educational program."

W. E. Neylans, graduate student, Macon—

"No. I am against Negroes going to any white university. If they are allowed to enroll in very many more of the universities, there will soon be intermarriage between the two races. If any teacher wants to teach Negroes, let him go to some school that is exclusively for Negroes."

Ann Thomas, junior, Macon—

"I admire greatly one who doesn't let society's prejudices influence his thoughts to a non-Christian level. There are the two levels of law — God's law, the higher law, and man's law, the lower. In this case, God's law has the upper hand. If the constitution guarantees equal rights, why shouldn't Christians, who are be-

lievers in the brotherhood of man in Christ (supposedly) go even further? I feel that this move in our colleges would progress to not only a higher standard of Christianity, but also a higher standard of living for our country."

Jack Butler, sophomore, Dallas—

"No. In my opinion, the person advocating this is doing like the majority of those trying to gain racial equality—they are forcing the issue. Equality, like anything unacceptable, will not be gained by force. It seems logical to believe that by education the future generations of Negroes will rise in society with greater ease."

Jerry Conner, law student, Harlem—

"The problem of non-segregation in southern schools is essentially just another phase of the southern segregation issue. When considering controversial situations of this sort we must look to the best good to be obtained for all in the context in which the problem arises. In spite of theoretical arguments that segregation is wrong it is incumbent upon us as thinking persons to look at the practical side. One must admit that an attempt to change the basic segregation patterns of the South radically today would cause strife and unrest which would go beyond the benefits to be derived therefrom."

Milledge Smith, senior, Ludovici—

"Yes, I am opposed to Negroes attending white southern universities. It is not because I am against the Negro because his skin is colored, because I am not. There are outstanding Negroes that are leaders among their race, even leaders in national and international affairs. However, the South by rearing and tradition has always had a color line and this line today is very distinct. To disregard this color line at the present time and initiate the plan of civil rights would only cause friction, unrest, and continued disturbances. In my opinion, and I am sure that thousands of southerners agree, the schools should remain separate."

I love the paper,
I think it's swell.
On Thursday evenings
I run pell mell
To get my copy,
And read each line.
The stories and columns
I think are fine.

I laugh at the jokes,
I read all the ads;
I note all the news,
I take up the fads.
When I praise the paper,
I scorn those who laugh.
I'm really most loyal—
I'm on the staff.

—George Washington Surveyor

CLARENCE'S COLYUM

Here's How to Get Rich Without Being Useful

By Clarence Streetman

One of the books Doc Anthony recommends for his economics students contains a list of 16 ways to get rich without being useful. I haven't read the list, but I'll bet the author left out one method that is becoming increasingly popular.

That one is, writing books, articles, and study courses on how to do certain things. Dale Carnegie must have started it with his "How to Win Friends and Influence People." Now, for a fee, you can learn how to hold your lover, how to get a lover if you don't have one, or how to be normally neurotic.

I recently got an envelope full of stuff on one of these how-to deals. It's a conversation course, in 12 easy lessons, with supplements, and sells for \$8.95.

The author modestly describes his course in the blurb on the lessons. Lesson One is called "Guiding Conversation". "How to guide any conversation into pleasurable and profitable channels." All you do is talk, and the money rolls in. That works sometimes, but usually, the donors catch on pretty soon, or else the cop horns in.

Lesson Three is my pick of the crop. It's called "Overcoming Irritation," and promises to teach you how to handle people that irritate you. As I understand ancient history, that problem was solved many centuries ago, but unfortunately, civilized legislative bodies have enacted certain criminal laws that prevent this method now.

The whole thing looks good to me, but like all how-to courses, it leaves out one important element. The missing link in the conversation course is, how to stop somebody else from talking when you've heard all you want to hear from them.

MIXED MUSINGS

Re-registration, Sales Tax May Play Important Part In Coming State Elections

By R. C. Odom

Last fall this column made the prediction that when the legislature met again there would be a move by the administration forces to defer the new re-registration law. The prediction has come to pass, with Herman Talmadge himself writing a special request to both houses declaring the deferment of the new law mandatory.

Herman and his cohorts realize that it would be foolish for him to allow the old list with which he won to be disqualified, and to use instead a list which may or may not include his supporters. As a matter of fact no one wants to use the new list since it is apparent that it will include only a fraction of the 1,200,000 qualified voters on the old list.

The new law was devised to curb Negro bloc voting but it seems that it would curb the majority of voting among all classes and groups if allowed to stand. The outcome of the approaching elections would be left in the hands of a small minority of the people of Georgia. Neither faction desires this for the simple reason that no one can predict which way the cat will jump under such circumstances.

Another issue which is giving both political camps trouble is the sales tax. The people definitely turned down a sales tax when it was put before them, yet both political factions in Georgia politics see the need for more money for the state, and the sales tax seems the only feasible means of raising it. Both sides want it, but neither side wishes to incur the people's displeasure by advocating it so soon before election time. Major adherents of both factions will probably try to avoid any direct commitment on the issue at this time.

This column predicts that if no sales tax measure is passed at present, which seems likely, that after the election whoever wins will suddenly find pressing reasons to enact such a tax in spite of any previous promises not to do so. The winners will be in the position of having ahead of them four years in office, during which time the short memories of the "fickle" public may be counted upon to forget.

The Mercer Cluster

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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, 1949, under the Act of March 3, 1879. Annual subscription rate: \$1.50.