

THE EDITORS SPEAK

Have Your Say

The Student Constitution is actually going to be re-written in the near future. Members of Student Government will convene for an entire day in closed room and draw up a revised Constitution to be presented to the student body for approval.

Harry Smith, Jr., president of the student body, requests that anyone who wishes to make any change in the document to please submit it in writing to any member of Student Government as soon as possible. Also, any student may attend the convention and express his desired changes for any part of the Constitution.

Student Government is composed of representatives which you chose to lead the campus. Its purpose is to function in such a way that all student opinion has a chance to be expressed. Therefore, you have every right and privilege to present your opinions and ideas for the new Constitution. It is your duty to take an interest and participate in this revision.

It is hoped that in this way the past conflicts caused by undesirable articles in the Constitution can be brought out and weighed in such a way that the new draft will be made more acceptable and that it will be a strong and well laid foundation for campus activities in the future. S. H.

Good English Important

With no apologies for trying to teach someone something, we are reprinting a letter which we "borrowed" from the desk of an English professor friend of ours. It's a letter from a man going to school here, a GI freshman old enough to have freshmen sons. This man has seen a hunk of the world previous to fall, 1919.

"I hope you won't take it amiss if I suggest that after you get through the grammar you give your freshmen classes a little lecture on the important part English plays in the acquisition and maintenance of jobs in the cold, cruel world.

"From what I hear around the campus, a great many bewildered freshmen cannot understand why they have to spend compulsory time learning to write well when their majors are to be agriculture, physical education, accounting and so forth.

"I feel it would give quite a few freshmen a real reason to attempt to improve if they knew how important it is—in any occupation, to have a decent command of vocabulary, punctuation and sentence structure. This is particularly true in the ordinary business chores such as: (1) applying for a job, (2) explaining a financial position when applying for a loan, (3) making a speech before the local gang, labor union or political group, (4) writing a "gripe" to a local paper—and so on.

"Frankly, the ability to marshal facts and present them clearly in the most effective order is of utmost importance in the world today. Arizona College "State Press."

The Mercer Cluster

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Mid-Terms

EDITORS NOTE: With this issue of The Cluster, the race question is closed to this publication. Much space has been devoted to both sides of the issue for the past few weeks. With future plans made for the paper, there is not space to keep battling it back and forth. Nor is it doing any good; rather it is merely causing conflict through sarcastic criticism and harsh judgment. If anyone wishes to make further comment on the issue as it has been printed in this publication, he or she will please make it to the editor or writers of articles personally. The Cluster will no longer be an organ for the conflict of opinions on the subject.

Southerner Expresses Race Views

By James Howell Henney

The South is beset with agitators and propagandists who are apparently filled with zeal in their efforts to break down the color line in the South. Those of us who fail to see the "light" of this ultra liberal thought are being attacked in every possible manner by our enlightened brethren. Every tactic in the book is being used in their efforts to break down segregation.

We are being preached at, hollered at, taught at, printed at; and even Hollywood in its most moral and hallowed atmosphere has the audacity to criticize us. In their desire to increase the profits at the box office the movie producers are capitalizing on the rampant emotionalism with such pictures as "Lost Boundaries", "Criss Cross", "Pinky", and others too numerous to mention. If they think they can beat the white Southerner into the ground with their abuse and criticism and thereby get us to erase the color line, then they are stupid, indeed.

These anti-segregationists are becoming so desperate in their efforts to break down segregation in the South that they are now resorting to the oldest trick of all—"You are un-Christian if you don't do as we say do." "You may not like it, but you must do it." They have reached the point where they don't believe you can accept the tenets of Jesus Christ and believe in segregation of the races, too.

If these people who are trying so hard to correct and mend the ways of us backward and unenlightened Southerners would turn their attention to a few real problems like eradication of poverty, polio, cancer, heart disease, war, just to mention a few evils that visit all mankind, they might do a world of good, and really earn themselves a great reward. If these crusaders, for once, would look beyond their own spotless noses, they would realize that they are making the Negro a social football, and in so doing will eventually create an intolerable situation here in the South. In their labors to "elevate" the Negro, they are going to him a grave injustice, not to mention the injustice to white Southerners.

This propaganda seems to have fallen on fertile soil, for now we are beginning to see the results of that planting. There are Mercer students who apparently are so ignorant of the facts of life and the ways of men that they are playing right into the hands of

those who would destroy our southern way of living. Don't they realize that they are pawns in the hands of the propagandists who have been sending their poison into the South for 60, these many years? Or can it be that they are interested in this anti-segregation movement as a means of satisfying ego and furthering their own personal self-aggrandizement, thereby giving unto themselves a joyous feeling of self-attainment and achievement?

In the last issue of the Cluster much space was devoted to a writer who had it all worked out. The race question, that is. Yes, it was so simple for him. Just a snap of his typewriter and we have all the answers. But there are millions of Southerners who fail to see eye to eye with him. Apparently this writer isn't familiar with the folkways and mores of our beloved South. In all his wasted space not once did he face realism—Southern realism—and that is this—WE JUST AIN'T GOIN' TO HAVE IT, SUH. I imagine he spent many sleepless nights just pondering over this weighty problem, and I can assure him that many others have pondered over the problem, too, and like he, still have to come up with a better solution than our outmoded, old-fashioned methods of segregation. He would sponsor a program that could easily turn into a pogrom.

If there be those who think they can do more for the Negro by freely mixing with him, and so desire, then I suggest that they cross the color line in the other direction. By doing this, they can take to the Negro colleges, schools, churches, businesses, and so forth their talents and the education they have obtained at the schools of their fathers—white schools. If they do this, then the rest of us who do not care of participate will be free of the race problem. However, I would like to suggest that they, who desire to join in this social aid to the Negro make it known to the rest of us who do not care to participate. As a means of identification I suggest that they wear black stars so that we might be made aware of their departure from us until such time as they become completely amalgamated.

My advice, in closing, to the boys and girls who are so visibly impressed with this ultra liberal and daring thought is to think of the consequences before you become so intoxicated with it that you can never turn back.

CLARENCE'S COLYUM

Cups and Spoons Valued By Some Coffee Drinkers

By Clarence Streetman

It's funny how even the simplest of us can be misunderstood. I once defended the Co-op coffee by saying that I liked a dash of soap in my coffee. Jack the Snake thought I was criticizing the mud, and he has reminded me several times of my statement.

I am a lover of coffee, which means I like all coffee. I'll grant you, the Co-op coffee might be better if they would squeeze a little more turpentine out of the wooden spoons they use, but generally, it's fair.

Some people criticize coffee purely for social reasons. A freshman who wants to start a conversation with somebody merely has to walk over and say, "This is lousy coffee, isn't it?" Most people except maybe seniors, will agree just from force of habit. Then a conversation is started.

After the first round or two of yarns, the quality of the coffee is forgotten, and a beautiful friendship develops. On the other hand, if the friendship doesn't develop, one can always leave with the remark, "I believe I'll have another cup of coffee."

Then, too, the cups and spoons are invaluable to the Reconstructor. He's the guy who arranges the dishes and silver to illustrate something. Dipping his finger in your coffee, he maps out an intersection. Then a 125-horsepower four-door cup with white sidewalls comes tearing down Cherry Street and broadsides a 1948 convertible spoon with the top let down. Also, he can show you how Grant took Richmond—or it's a KA, how Jackson cleaned house on the boys in the Union suits.

No, sir. Far be it from me to knock such a noble and utilitarian product as the Co-op's coffee. Besides, I may be old and weak myself someday.

MIXED MUSINGS

Negro Professor Advises Development Within Race

By R. C. Odom

Professor E. H. Miller of Claflin University, South Carolina, recently said in an article carried by the Savannah Morning News that "the American Negro is too sensitive about his rights." He says that the Negro agitates about segregation although it is not a "real issue," and much of it "is by his own choice."

According to his statement "the trained Negro would starve to death unless there were segregated jobs." Another belief expressed by the professor is that there are no great problems confronting the Negro today except those which he makes himself.

In view of the current controversy, both national and local, concerning the "poor" Negro, Professor Miller's ideas are interesting to say the least. The present trend is to depict the Negro as a down-trodden minority which is forcibly denied everything but the right to existence. However, it is a matter of record that many Negroes manage to lead happy and successful lives—even in such benighted places as Georgia and South Carolina.

There has been a regular rash of movements in recent years to give minorities of all kinds not only equal rights but special rights (such as the F.E.P.C. law) so as to protect them from the giant, Majority. If the present trend continues, it seems that before too long Majority may be forced to agitate for some rights itself.

Professor Miller advises the trained Negro to teach the young Negro how to acquire wealth, to be thrifty, and to develop a high moral character. His common-sense philosophy is that the Negro should develop in his own way alongside the white man in peace and harmony.

The professor is a graduate of Howard and Columbia Universities and holds a Ph.D. degree. He is eminently qualified to express the Negro's side of the race question, since he is himself a Negro.

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.