

# The Mercer Cluster

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## Support Due Basketball Team

Coach Jim Cowan will begin his fifth season Monday night as Bear mentor when the locals meet Oglethorpe University in Porter Gym. We believe the boys, under his able direction, will give a good account of themselves and we wish them a most successful season.

It is certain that such stars as Wilkes, Dobbins, Bivins, and Kinsaul will be missed from last year's squad. But even so there will be six returning from the varsity of last season. These, with several outstanding freshmen, transfers, and former B team members, should give Mercer a team of which we can all be justly proud.

Each Mercer student has an important part to play in assuring a successful season on the courts. These boys who put in hours of hard practice surely deserve the best support possible and we believe that each Mercerian will want to do his part.

Basketball games offer one of the best mediums through which we may demonstrate our school spirit. This demonstration cannot, and should not, be left to the cheerleaders alone. They seek only to lead the students' expression of support to the boys on the court.

We would like to suggest that a few "pep" meetings be held next quarter to encourage that spirit that we all know will be shown this season as well, if not better, than in seasons past.

Here's to Coach Cowan and all the Bears! We wish for them the very best this season and assure them of our support—win, lose or draw!

—J. M.

## Study Is Necessary for Exams

Dormitory bull sessions might well produce very logical and convincing arguments against certain faults in our present educational set up, but we must still face the stark reality of final exams, which are again upon us. And once again one loudly laments time wasted during the quarter and drives like mad to get those term papers into some sort of shape for that zero hour.

Last week it seemed as though the quarter would never end, but about now we wish that somehow it might be lengthened a few precious days. It seems impossible to see how we could have gotten so far behind in such a short while, but then we remember that next quarter, with basketball and a crammed social calendar, will be even shorter. And, chances are, we will again be our usual procrastinating selves, somehow never making of such experiences a painful lesson for the future.

## A Cup of Coffee Caused the Mishap

By Hal Hennecy

Hal walked slowly and happily along the deserted street taking huge bites out of the apple he had just bought from the nearby fruit stand. As he walked along, he was thinking on many things—the next assignment in his journalism course, and the cup of hot coffee he was going to get when he reached the grill. Oh boy! Hot coffee would be just the medicine to break the chill of this cold night before reaching home to study his next day's assignments. But little did he know that it would be some time before he would taste that delicious java. As he poked along a voice reached out of the darkness from across the street and penetrated his brain with a familiar ring. It was the voice of Jack, the other member of his journalism course calling.

"Hey Pop! where ya' goin' in such a hurry?" (Pop was a name by which Hal was familiarly known around the university).

"Hi Jack, whatcha know? I'm headed home, but first I'm goin' to stop by the grill and get a cup of coffee," Hal replied.

"I'm after a cup of coffee, too," Jack answered. "Tell you what let's do. Catch the bus with me out to my house, and I'll get the car, and we'll ride out to the Whistle Stop and get that coffee. You're not in a hurry are you?"

"Suit's me all right, if it doesn't take too long," Hal answered as he took the last bite out of the apple and threw the core into the street, and asked, "Where do we catch the bus?"

"Right here on the corner," Jack replied as they stopped to wait a few minutes for the bus to come along.

When the bus stopped to pick them up, Hal produced two bus tokens which he dropped into the hungry looking meter. In a few minutes with minor conversation they reached the nearest bus stop to Jack's house. Then after a quick walk of three long blocks they reached his house where the car had been parked faithfully in the drive by his Papa.

They got in the car and backed out of the drive, and before Jack could change the gears from low to second, he looked at Hal and announced,

"Pop, I hate to say it, but I think we've got a flat tire."

"Well, let's get out and take a look, Jack", Hal replied.

"Yep, Pop, the left front is flat", Jack answered, as visions of coffee flew away into the cold of the night, and a long cold walk flew into the mind of Hal.

Jack pulled the car under a nearby filling station, and he and Hal pulled off their jackets before even taking a look at the tire. Rummaging around in the back of the car they produced the necessary tools to go through a tire changing exercise; which they did with Hal apparently doing a little more than a lion's share of the changing, and all the while Jack assuring him that he didn't know that the car had a flat.

An hour and twenty minutes, a pair of greasy hands, and two bus tokens later Hal reached the

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## Think on These Things

By MARSHALL VAUGHN

Here it is! Examinations are just around the corner. Student social activities have ceased. A large amount of oil has been stored for midnight consumption. Weary eyes are pondering the pages of knowledge. If we only knew the questions the profs were going to ask, it would be a snap! But, we can only study that which we might not be found wanting.

In speaking of preparation for examinations, the parable of the Ten Virgins is very applicable. The great wedding day was at hand, even as our examination days are at hand. The Virgins were present as attendants. Five were fully prepared, but five were not! They lacked oil for their lamps! While waiting for the bridegroom, they had slept. Finally, the time came. The bridegroom was near at hand. The Virgins arose, wiped the wax off their lamps, and made them beautiful

in appearance. However, when the fire was placed to the wick of the lamps, five burned, but five failed to respond. The five, who were wanting, tried first to get those who were sufficiently prepared to share their store of oil. Having been rejected, they hurriedly tried to make preparation for the great event just as we cram at the very last minute.

The door of knowledge seems to close to us when we put off all preparation until the very last minute. Oh yes, the appearance might be intellectual, but is there any oil in the lamp? The solution is very difficult, and I for one, am guilty of gross neglect. However, as I remain true to the subject of this column, my suggestion is THINK ON THESE THINGS, WON'T YOU?

"An ounce of knowledge each day will weigh much when we put it on the Annual scales."

## What College Is to Various Students

By JACK PERRY

"For it's not for knowledge,  
That we come to college,  
But to raise hell while we're here."  
—Student Song.

There are several schools of thought as to what college is for. These various schools should properly be placed in two large divisions: (1) The Short-Sighted; those who regard college as an end in itself; and (2) The Far-Sighted, those who regard college as a stepping-stone to something else. For purposes of our discussion, we shall consider only the various schools existing among the students themselves; we shall omit the Administration (who are commonly worried too much about how a college is to consider what it is) and the Faculty (who are often too lost in the Renaissance to consider the twentieth century).

First we shall consider the inferior outlook, the Short-Sighted. A small portion of these folk look upon college as a prelude to a Phi Beta Kappa key. This is the group to whom a course means a high grade, period. They, however, are too numerically small to merit close consideration.

Another portion of this school looks upon college as a great athletic field. The flexed muscle, the high score, the athletic sweater—such is the goal. The main disadvantage of this way is that it entails too much hard work.

A unit closely akin to this is the "Wheel" group. Here, if a man has a list of activities two pages long and gorgeous key-chain, he is Successful. Again the objection is too much hard work, sleeping through organizational meetings, smiling at people, etc.

The last, and largest, group of the Short-Sighted see college as a great, big-social club. For them it is four years of wine, women, and class-cutting. This group's ideal has advantage of being overwhelmingly simple. The dance, the date, the fraternity, the coke, the kiss, the fun—so it goes. The only obstacles are the difficulties entailed in overcutting, flunking, going broke, etc. However, in the long run, the rewards are entirely compensatory.

Now we come to the Superior outlook, the Far-Sighted; this group is happily homogenous. These wise people can see beyond college days, and realize that college is only a pathway to the goal. Wise indeed! And what is the goal? Why, the A. B. degree, of course! These pragmatists can see that, with the A. B. degree, the magic doorway is opened to employment, a steady job, security. What matter to these idealists if it means four years lost? The rewards are so great! To these supersensory folk can only bow in reverence.

Oh, yes. There are among us some few dissonants, social outcasts as they are. These odd people have strange ideas that college is a place to deepen perception, to bind the rudiments of knowledge with a world outlook that makes them meaningful, to instill in the individual a consciousness of the world as a whole that will make him live deeply and earnestly, full of the wonder and delight of his own existence. Such pariahs should best be disregarded; they have obviously been reading too many books.

## College Budgeting Found Important

By Joan Wilson

Those (if any) who read this article in the hopes of finding a witty discussion of a hilarious theme will be disappointed. On the other hand, those (if any) who read it in order to get an intelligent discussion of a weighty problem will also be disappointed. In fact, if any do read this filler-in it must be read with the attitude, "I've got a minute to squander on something foolish, so what have I got to lose?"

Renowned speakers and essayists the world over have come to the conclusion that the best way to illustrate a point is to use someone else's anecdote. The reason for this is twofold: you can always find some kind of anecdote on any subject, and it saves wear and tear on the flabby muscles of your own brain. I will not deviate from this popular custom. My borrowed anecdote concerns a very rich railroad man, Francis X. Ploiter, who decided to teach his small son the importance of planning his spending. When the boy, Money, was five years old, X. Ploiter called him to his gold-cushioned chair and said to him, "Money, you're old enough to learn a few things now. I'm going to teach you the value of thrift and foresight. From now on you are going to receive a weekly allowance. You must plan your expenses ac-

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## Suggestion Box

Dean of Men  
Mercer University  
Macon, Georgia

Dear Sir:

There has been much talk and a great deal of groaning about arrangements for January 1 classes. Many of us are football fans and like to see good games; yet, the only time we get to see a really good game is on January 1 when the various teams are at their best. The question is: Why not one more day for Christmas Holidays?

We deeply appreciate the privilege given all girls for twelve o'clock curfew. However it seems to be inconsistent that the girls are not allowed 12 o'clock permission even on special occasions. The question is: Why not 12 o'clock permission on Saturday nights?

Sincerely Yours,  
John S. Meeks

Dear John:

Since a part of your letter comes under my jurisdiction, Mr. Daughtrey has asked that I answer it for you.

In answer to the first paragraph in your letter, we consulted Dr. Dowell on the school policy regarding scheduling classes on January 1. This has been done mainly in order to give as many days before Christmas as possible to all those who like to take extra jobs at Christmas time. Running on the close schedule we have it is hard for us to get in the number of days which are required for an accredited college, and the Administration feels that more people, perhaps, would get a real benefit from having the extra days before Christmas so that they might work.

In answer to your request for information regarding the closing hour for MEP on Saturday night, I should like to say that we can extend the closing hour until 12:00 o'clock on Friday night because Saturday is an off day, and the girls may sleep late to make up for that time. However, Sunday is a day for worship and we do not wish to be in the position of placing any hindrances in the way of girls going to Sunday School and church services on Sunday morning.

Sincerely yours,  
Louise Brown,  
Dean of Women