

# 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, 1948, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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## Focus Week Needs Support

An unusual array of speakers has been secured for the observance of Religious Focus Week February 5-9 and we believe the students will respond heartily to the program that has been planned especially for them.

These men and women will come here from all over the South and as far as Canada.

The Cluster wishes to welcome them to the campus. We hope their stay here will be profitable both for them and the student body to whom they shall speak.

A very full program has been planned for the week. There will be addresses in the morning, a seminar in the afternoon, and an address and some six simultaneous seminars in the evening. In addition these speakers will be available for dormitory "bull sessions" and personal conferences with students.

All of the planning, preparation, and expense in connection with this week will come to naught unless the students themselves enter heartily into the activities.

Let's make this a worthwhile week in each of our lives and gain a greater understanding of ourselves and our relation to our fellow man and to our God.

## Bear Day Big Success

From the big parade last Saturday until the activities before and during the Georgia game Tuesday night Bear Day was a tremendous success and we wish to thank the members of Student Government, the administration, the local merchants, mayor, businessmen, and all those who had any part in making it such an outstanding event.

And of course it would not have succeeded at all had it not been for the cooperation shown by the student body as a whole. The attendance and spirit at all the events were outstanding, and they are to be commended for this fine demonstration.

We shall look forward to next year with great anticipation, for it is our belief that Bear Day will become one of the cherished traditions of Mercer and that each year's celebration will be better than the previous one.

## Cluster Needs Money

The Cluster this week probably reminds its readers of an ad section in some daily newspaper. We are trying to get back in the black financially and even so we are still "in the hole" and we do not claim full responsibility for this deficit.

The Student Activities Committee has allotted \$25 per student per quarter for the publication of The Bearskin, which so far has failed to make an appearance on the campus, and from present appearances it seems doubtful that an issue will be put out this year. We appeal to the committee to give The Cluster this money so as to enable us to make this paper the kind of paper that the students deserve and should be paying for through their tuition fees.

Anyone who has ever gone down town in Macon to solicit ads knows what an almost impossible task it is. We believe that if the members of the Student Activities Committee would accompany our business manager on one of her ad quests that they would be willing to give us this money that at present is doing no one any good. It is student money and we believe that it should be used to the best advantage possible for them.

At the present time the Cluster is getting only \$.70 per student per quarter from the Student Activities Fund. This is just not enough to put out a paper that costs an average of \$200 per issue. And the money received from the national advertising firms pays us much less per column inch than the ads we're able to secure locally.

If the Cluster is to continue publication we must have some financial help. We implore the members of the faculty who have the trust of allotting the students' money to give a fair, proportionate amount to their newspaper that is seeking to serve them.



Bear Day's Afterwards Effect

## State Evangelistic Conference Will Meet at Mercer on January 5-20

Several hundred pastors and laymen from over the state are expected to attend the state evangelistic conference here January 29-31. Mercer will be host to the group at a barbecue on the campus on Monday evening and the session that night will be held in Willingham Chapel. The other sessions will be held at the First Baptist Church.

Dr. James W. Middleton, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Atlanta, will bring the main address at the opening session on Monday afternoon. His topic is "Full Spiritual Mobilization".

The Mercer Choir will present special music at the Monday evening service in the chapel. Dr. Ramsey Pollard, pastor of the Broadway Baptist Church in Knoxville, Tennessee, will bring the evening message, entitled "Compassion".

C. Y. Dossey, assistant in the department of evangelism of the Home Mission Board, Atlanta, will lead a conference period Tuesday morning. He is slated to speak Tuesday afternoon and evening and also Wednesday morning.

Also on Tuesday morning Dr. R. G. Lee, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, will speak on the topic "Is Hell a Myth?" Dr. Pollard will talk on "These Displaced Baptists" on Tuesday afternoon.

Messages by Drs. Pollard and Lee will feature the concluding session on Wednesday morning. Pollard's message will be "Drawing the Net" while Lee will speak on "Magnifying Christ in Evangelism."

Most of the state denominational leaders are expected to be present, and they will speak on the relation of evangelism to their particular departments of endeavor.

## Think On These Things

By Marshall Vaughn

WHY ARE CHRISTIANS FAILING? Every individual, who has some knowledge and experience with Christianity, stands ready with personal answers to such a question as this. It would take much time and space to try to present all the major reasons. However, let us look at some of the chief contributors:

In Protestant worship, the pulpit has been made the center of our service. Many ministers have failed in that more time has been given to preaching of eternal instead of present values of Christianity. New-born babes in Christ have been left as a child in the rain to battle the storms of life alone. None or little protection has been offered them against the vast number of modern evils. We sometime forget that this child is a stranger to this new world of living. If neglected with proper spiritual nourishment, what would be its first reaction? Would it not turn to the former means of life in which it would be received heartily? And would it not hesitate in a second venture toward the fellowship of Christianity? Yet, we, who call ourselves Christian, upon seeing one who has turned to the former things, stand proudly and label them "Blacksliders."

Then too, the House of God, in many instances, has become a meeting place to thrash out secular problems of life. An attitude of worship is far from formation in such surroundings as this. More attention is gradually being given to the personality of the preacher, and his means to entertain, rather than that of the individual soul in its heavenward flight to Godly achievements.

Another contributor to the failing of Christians is the lack of investments. You have heard the saying, "What one gets out of something is what one has put into it." The Kingdom of God is like a bank. The more you have invested, the greater will be the interest drawn! Time and effort are of great need in the church. It is no wonder why we have an indifferent attitude toward the "Few" who run the church. Do they actually try to run the church, or are they handling the duties which others have failed to undertake? Paul said, "We are one body . . ." If some of our physical organs fail to act, other organs will have to respond in order for the body to carry on normal functions.

Personally, I think the main reason for failing is that there are too many church members who are Christians only by name. They are actors without a stage—masons without mortar—books without words—they, they, they! As long as it is "they" and never "us" everything is alright! But think on these things, won't you?



JANE MADDOX ABEL



FORREST L. HAGAN, JR.

## Abel and Hagan Are Outstanding Students of Week

Jane Maddox Abel, Dalton, and Forrest L. Hagan, Jr., Cedartown, have been selected by The Cluster as the outstanding students of the week.

Miss Maddox is president of Chi Omega Sorority, vice president of Cardinal Key, vice president of Y.W.A. and a member of B.S.U. Greater Council.

She is past treasurer of Y.W.A., past editor of Porter Patter, past member of Women's Student Government, and past member of the Glee Club and A Cappella Chorus.

Mr. Hagan is vice president of the Student Body, past business manager of The Cauldron, past vice president of F.B.L.A. and past member of the Cluster staff.

He has been a member of the American Legion, Mercer Players and is now a member of the Kappa Alpha fraternity. Also he is informal discussion leader for Religious Focus Week.

## LETTER TO STUDENTS

Dear Students:

Many thanks go to you for the wonderful cooperation and spirit that showed during the Bear Day activities. The affair would not have been a success if it had not been for you.

Also many thanks for the cooperation shown in the March of Dimes Drive. Thanks to all the contestants, especially Sara Carstarphen, The Independent organizations, Ree Cunningham, the Phi Mu Sorority, Connie Smith, the Chi Omega Sorority, Billy Smith, the Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity, the Kappa Alpha Fraternity, Sonny Sharp, and many more.

Also thanks to The Macon Telegraph and News, the Mayor, Smith Used Car Lot, and thousands more.

Congratulations go to Don Reeves, Terry Conner, Paul Kayler, Forrest Hagan and members of Student Government for a job well done.

Sincerely,  
Emory Clay

P.S.—Keep up the good work and help to build Mercer to one of the top schools in the country!