

Needed—Better Advising

Only very recently, a student discovered after four years at Mercer, that instead of having to major in a particular field, had he been advised by his faculty advisor to do so, he would have been able to obtain a concentration in the field.

Unfortunately, however, the student graduates this spring and is of course not able to do anything about the situation now. If, when he was a freshman, he had been advised properly by his advisor, he would have been able to take more of the subjects he desired instead of so many required for a major.

There have been stories told of students who have been advised through four years at Mercer to take certain subjects, and then have found themselves lacking in required subjects when graduation time rolled around.

Instances such as these tend to point out a dire need in the program of advising students as to what subjects they are best suited for depending on their background and as to what subjects the students will have to take in order to obtain a major or minor, whichever the case may be, in the student's desired field.

Although the idea of a member of the faculty acting as a "faculty adviser" to the student is in theory all well and good, in practice, it seems to be doing as much harm as good at least in some instances.

True indeed are the words that in practically every case, an incoming student, whether freshman, sophomore, junior or senior, needs to have a faculty adviser. However, that faculty adviser should feel himself responsible for seeing to it that the student takes the subjects that he will need in later life and that he selects subjects he will have to take in order to be able to graduate with his class, and not remain at Mercer an extra quarter to make up some deficiency in a subject which the student thought he did not even have to take.

It is true enough, that the dean of the university has the final word on a student's requirements and needs for graduation, but the dean has enough work to do now, without having to handle individually the entire curriculum of nearly a thousand students each quarter, and this would become necessary if the student thought that due to some mistake of his faculty adviser, he might not be able to graduate.

In conclusion, it should be emphasized that the student DOES need a faculty adviser, one that is a reliable source of information and, that KNOWS HIMSELF what the student should choose as his curriculum in order to prepare properly for the long journey in life which lies ahead of the student.

Our Concert Programs

It seems as if there has been some criticism, although it has been on a minimum scale, of the idea of spending so much of the student activities money all at once by having such high priced artists to present concerts at Mercer.

Each of the two excellent artists that the student activities committee, along with Dr. Rich, brought to Mercer this year, came at a price of eighteen hundred dollars. However, approximately six hundred dollars in tickets were sold at each of the two concerts. Therefore, the student activities fund actually only had to pay for about two-thirds of the cost of having these two fine artists.

Surely, for such fine entertainment as the student activities committee has brought to Mercer this year and at what was really a minimum of cost to the student activities fund, the student activity committee and Dr. Rich deserve to be congratulated on a hard job well done.

Although no permanent options will be made on the artists for the concert series for next year, the selections made Monday in chapel by the student body are being seriously and wisely considered by the student activities committee.

RONALD GALLOWAY

The Third Type

"There are three types of lies: lies, black lies, and college catalogues"—overheard.

Students of Mercer, please take a few minutes and quickly browse through the Mercer catalogue with me. In it you will find some of the most amazing statements in regard to courses taught at Mercer as well as organizations on the campus which exist today (theoretically).

For example, are you aware of the fact that in your physical education class, if you are a freshman or a sophomore, your work is based on "his (your) previous training and experience in physical education."

Also fellow student, "the course includes a wide range of activity regular discussions based on the student's problems and interests." (check that) "and instructions in health problems of the community as a whole."

On the other hand, if you are a junior, you will do "only advanced work," and "the work will be based on the fundamental skills and knowledges of the first two years of work."

Now this is really rich: Listed under the activities for men are: Boxing, Gymnastics, Horseshoes, Soccer, Speedball, Track and Field, and Wrestling, plus the five courses which ARE offered. Fencing, which is now offered, is not even listed.

But before I create the impression of showing partiality to one

department, let us dwell briefly upon the section known as "Latin." Now, under this category we find Elementary Latin, Intermediate Latin, Cicero, Vergil, and Latin Poetry, NOT ONE of which is taught at Mercer University, nor has been for several years.

I'm sure that each of you can find examples just as false and ridiculous as the above. However, let's pass on to the organizations. The catalogue lists the Phi Delta Literary Society and the Presidents' Club as "Student Organizations". If either or both of these organizations exist on our campus today then will someone please enlighten me to the fact.

From the way I see it, it seems to me that there needs to be a "slight bit" of renovating and revising on the Mercer Catalogue. It's sad to think of the poor student who might register at Mercer with the idea of taking some of the courses offered by the catalogue but NOT taught in the university, very sad indeed.

New Version of 'Letters'

AD NOTE: Found on the campus an unauthorized addition to C. S. Lewis' SCRIBBLE LETTERS

By Paul Bobbit

Dear Wormwood,

Time and experience have proved invaluable in your methodology. You simply amaze me in your competence. And to think its happening at Mercer! Promotion of Assistant-to-the-Father awaits you.

Your conquest of the editor was superb. To be sure, the honorary societies for anything of remote resemblance will not stand by idly while this beast derives them of their "personal rights".

The Enemy is surely your prey now Wormwood. Enjoy your fruits. Why, he dare not mention (nor even think of, except in his guarded privacy) redemptive love in this time of national crises. Be sure to shout 'Communist' loudly when Enemy speaks of peace coming only when his people can scrutinize and recognize some of their wrongs and acquisitiveness. Had you thought of Little West Point for its future name?

I even hear that you are training some for life vocation of stealing legally. You learned well the lesson that sticks and stones are no match for 'hidden clauses'. Of course Wormwood, you did not fail to mention the service they shall render to society—and that they may have their own assistants some day to take their orders. Truly, the "dollar standard" could not be used more effectively in controlling their lives.

Let me assure you not to be disconcerted about Enemy's friends and partners. Our other agents report all is not lost even after they have found 'the way'. Con-

facts and major differences will arise: with our co-workers over their unpardonable sins, i.e. dancing; with their partners over their intolerable ideas of thinking—even apart from 'the' denominational outline.

We know . . . don't we Wormwood? You see Wormwood, by our Enemy's coercion (though heaven forbid they consciously think that) of our co-workers "Well if they don't like things here, they know what they can do. They didn't have to come to this Christian college," and of their friends "We will not tolerate and weaken ourselves by accepting the efforts of those who do not think and act exactly like we do," they have lost at least half of each person. Remember what Milton said,

So we have a half to start with Wormwood. You are our prize protegee my friend and sojourner. Let not your efforts lapse lest few of us share the rewards of Hell.

Your loving uncle,
Screwtape

Funds Needed For Piano

Next week will close the drive to purchase a piano for Sherwood and the funds are far short.

MIMA paid the down payment of \$30, allowing the piano to be placed in the dormitory. MICA has contributed \$10 and Alpha Phi Omega gave \$25.

Dean Daughtrey has made it clear that the piano will be sent back at the end of the quarter unless most of the money is subscribed.

Contributions may be placed in the containers in Sherwood Hall and MEP or turned in at the business office.

Gannon Named RA Assistant

Truett Gannon, Cordele, has been named assistant secretary of the Baptist Royal Ambassador organization for the state.

Announcement of the selection was made last weekend at a meeting here of the counselors who will serve at the RA camp at Clayton this summer.

Gannon will serve as RA secretary for a year while Glendon McCullough, regular secretary, is on a tour of Japan.

Other Mercer students attending the meeting last weekend included Bob Burks, Gene Ethridge, Pat Harrison, and Julian LeRoy.

'Are You Superstitious?'

By Eleanor Davidson

This week the Cluster's roving reporter roamed the Mercer campus to find an answer to the question, "Are you superstitious?" There are many and varied answers to the question, some of which are printed below.

"Chuck" Culver, senior, Macon: "No, I'm not superstitious in the general sense of the word but I do knock on wood occasionally. Wait, now, I do have one: "I don't believe in shaving just before finals."

W. A. Spears, junior, Macon: "Ever since I read the "Ancient Mariner" I've been afraid of birds. I was frightened by a baby sitter when I was six months of age and I was fifteen before I'd have anything to do with girls."

Dan Davis, sophomore, Macon: "I never kill a porpoise. I'll never use the same parachute if I find something wrong with it one time. Whenever I'm in the air I'm superstitious."

Guess Who? "Sure. I never light three Boy Scouts on one match, it's bad luck for the Boy Scouts. I never take my hat off when walking under a snake. There's room enough for the hat and me! (WELL!)"

Bobby Wilder, junior, Fort Valley: "No, none at all."

Joe Lister, senior, Spartanburg, S. C.: "I'm scared to death of women."

Kat Sheffield, sophomore, Atlanta: "I don't think so. I never paid much attention to superstitions."

Jim Boyd, sophomore, Montgomery, Ala.: "Not much. Sometimes I am, about stepping on the lines when I'm walking."

Maryse Anderson, junior, Nahunta: "No. Not about anything."

Pat Longenecker, freshman, Macon: "No. Well, it's hard to tell. Superstitions are subtle, they creep in sometimes."

Mary Joyce Henderson, freshman, Macon: "Some. I never tell a dream, before breakfast, if it's bad."

Wants Clusters

ST. PAUL'S COLLEGE
Tacloban, Leyte

The Editor-in-Chief
THE MERCER CLUSTER
Mercer University
Macon, Ga.
U. S. A.

Dear Sir:

In a recent issue of the SCHOLASTIC EDITOR I noticed that your publication received special honors among the school papers. May I offer my sincerest congratulation for your success in student journalism.

After such an achievement I hope you can advance your field of journalistic ambitions and give a hand to some Filipinos trying to be writers. It will not be too difficult for you to help. All I ask is that you send us some old copies of your school paper, whether magazine or newspaper. For my students they will serve as models and inspiration. Most of the boys and girls here in our high school and college (there are more than two thousand students) have not had the opportunity to see really a good school paper.

Here is my situation. I am an American Catholic Missionary from Indiana and have been in educational work since my arrival in 1947. In this post-war educational boom there are many workers and writers. If we could examine students interested in becoming newspaper workers and writers. If we could examine copies of your school paper I feel sure our own publication would greatly improve.

Please mail us any back issues of your paper or magazine that you can manage. We will be glad to send you copies of our papers if you wish. With deepest gratitude I am,

Sincerely yours,
Rev. Raymond Kunkel, S.V.D.
Tacloban, Leyte
Philippines

Editor's Note: The Cluster is very happy to send copies of recent issues to Rev. Kunkel with the hope that they may in some small way be of help to his students. We should be very happy to receive copies of the paper published by his students in Tacloban.

The Mercer Cluster

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