

## Congratulations, Bears

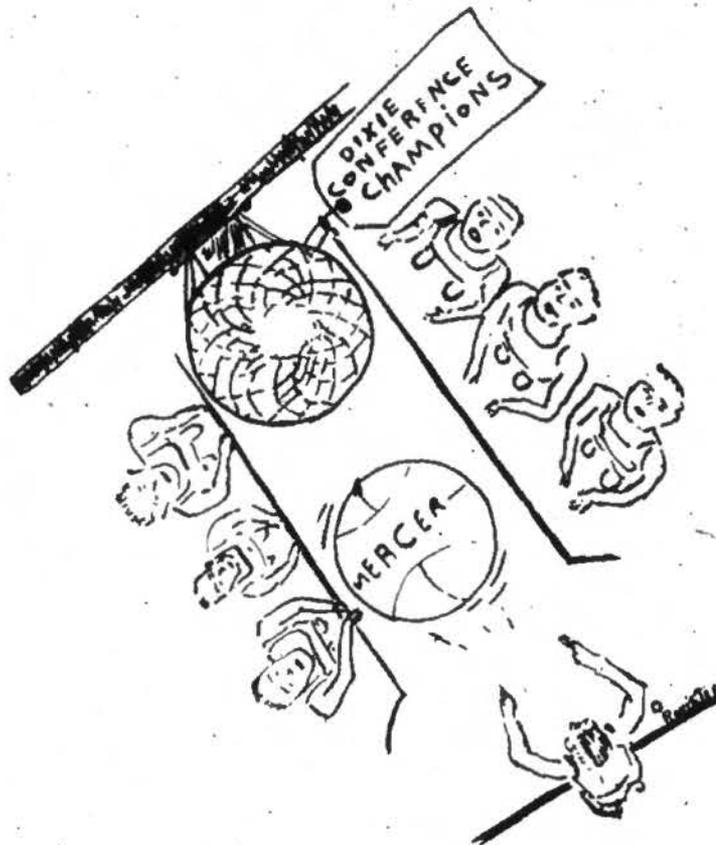
Much praise is due to the Bear basketball squad who finished regular season play top-seeded in the Dixie Conference tournament, which begins next Monday with the finals being played the following Wednesday night.

A large part of the credit for the impressive showing of the Bears this season goes to Coach Day Nyimicz. Nyimicz, in his first year with the Bears, has successfully guided the basketballers to one of their best seasons. Even though lacking in height, the Bears developed into one of the fastest and best conditioned teams Mercer has ever had.

Nyimicz had no easy task in taking over the team this year in the absence of Coach Jim Cowan, but the victories chalked up by the Bears this season are a good reflection of his skillful tutoring and coaching ability.

Our hats are off to Coach Nyimicz as well as to Emory Wilson, team captain, and the rest of the squad members who have exhibited some of the finest ball-handling and along with it top sportsmanship.

Here's hoping that the Bears will again as last season gain the title of Dixie Conference champions for 1952.



"Yea, Bears! Fight, Team, Fight!"

## 'Well Done', Seniors

In dedicating this year's Cauldron to Harry Smith, Mercer's senior class has done itself proud in honoring one of the most worthy and humble servants of this institution.

The alumni office in the Ad building is virtual headquarters for students who come by seeking help and advice on all kinds of problems. "Mr. Harry" is never too busy to lend a sympathetic ear and aid in any manner possible both students, faculty, and alumni.

Publication of the Cluster would be virtually impossible without the pictures which Smith takes, often on a moment's notice, all over the campus and even around the city. Many of the common, mental tasks that make a university "tick" fall to him and he performs them willingly and gladly, never seeking the publicity which he so deserves.

We are glad that the senior class was again given the privilege of selecting the honoree of the Cauldron dedication. In the past few years the Cauldron staff has made the selection, but we believe it should be decided by a larger, more representative group of students.

It couldn't happen to a more deserving guy. Thanks, seniors, and thanks, Harry Smith, for all you do and all you mean to each of us.

## The Mercer Cluster

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## Association Defined

By Dr. Edwin Johnston, Faculty Adviser  
Mercer Ministerial Association

Have you chosen a vocation? Many students come to Mercer with no immediate objective in mind, but with the general purpose of getting a liberal arts education for their self-improvement, assuming at the same time that such an education will increase their earning power and chances to get a good job.

Many among us, however, have already committed themselves to law, business, teaching, journalism, athletics, theology, medicine, or some such work. The only professional school at Mercer is that of law, but for the other vocations there are considerable opportunities to get part or all of the necessary training. Mercer students long ago felt the need of association with others of like vocational interest and have established various vocational and professional student societies. Thus, if a person is intending to teach in the public schools, he can join the Future Teachers of America; if he intends to be a businessman, he can join the Future Business Leaders of America.

One of these vocational-professional societies is the Ministerial Association. Founded some time in the long ago, this group includes students who have selected the ministry as their life work. The purpose of the society is to provide a means for the discussion of topics of spiritual, educational, or vocational interest. The organization provides its members with an effective agency for group fellowship and for participating in worthy causes within and beyond the university. Its activities include a weekly meeting, weekly evangelistic services at the jail, periodic social gatherings, an annual banquet, and participation in intramural athletics. Last year a new venture was begun when the Association asked the Roberts School of Christianity faculty to conduct a ministerial institute. Plans are now being made for the second of these institutes.

## Thesis Enjoyable

By Carolyn McElveen, Cluster Feature Writer

While the Bachelor of Arts degree for which we so strive is reached by many paths for which to us all, and has in itself become not such an unusual feat, the Master of Arts degree requires total uniqueness and originality. Before you conclude that you have created a new path of thought to develop your thesis, it is necessary to check with the masters themselves many times, says Miss Anne McKay, Mercer library cataloguer, who found the decision of a topic for her thesis the most difficult phase of her entire work under Dr. Highfield toward her Master's degree. (Her degree, issued in 1950, was one of the last three Master's degrees given in English here at Mercer. Her study began with a few psychology courses taken at Mercer where she has been library cataloguer since 1945.)

Agnes Scott Grad

Miss McKay is a graduate of Agnes Scott College, Emory School of Library Science, and followed decorating courses at Columbia University with three years of practical experience in interior decorating.

However, even with artistic originality, Miss McKay found her thesis topic a real problem. She at first thought of writing her thesis on Joe Chandler Harris whom she had learned to love as did the children she worked with for ten years as director of children's work in a public library in the Middle West. Next investigation was John Adams, but Miss McKay laughingly relates that the more she read of John Adams, the more she liked Thomas Jefferson. This would never do!

Chose Johnston Book

At the suggestion of Mr. Malcolm Lester, Miss McKay chose a book by Mr. Richard M. Johnston, one of the first three graduates of Mercer University. This book, entitled *Dukesborough Tales*, is compared with Augustus B. Longstreet's *Georgia Scenes* in her thesis. Both books depict humorous character sketches and serve as a cross section of the same portion of the state in an ante-bellum setting. But Miss McKay hastens to assure us that the characters are far from the romance and roses, mint-julep, plantation owned characters. Nor were they the decadent Erskine Caldwell Tobacco Road type.

Included in the comparison and analysis of the writings of the two men are similar life experiences and social backgrounds. Miss McKay's work hasn't been actually work, for she enjoyed writing her thesis as much as did the authors who wrote the humorous sketches. Miss McKay hopes, too, that her thesis will be read with the same sense of fun.

## Spring Clean Up

By Julian LeRoy

If you have noticed lately, you will be aware of the fact that it is approaching the season when the sun's workday becomes longer.

You will also notice the appearance of buds on the limbs of trees, bushes, and weeds which seem to be more dense in the grass on the campus.

You may then come to the conclusion that it is the time of the year when everything in nature becomes new again and everything takes on a new and fresh look.

### Junk Discarded

It is also the traditional time of the year when most people discard the excess trash and junk lying around the homes or dormitory rooms. (It might be better if they did it more often.)

Here on the campus it is that time of the year when politics begins to sizzle and promises come a dime a dozen.

As it usually turns out for those who take an active part in the campus election, one usually campaigns for some office, such as fly swatter for the junior class

### Campus Clean Up

Then about six months after his election to the office, if you were to ask him the duties of that particular office or what he has done in that capacity, it is likely that he would be speechless.

Most of the time he would have forgotten what office he was elected to fill. The same is true of a lot of other offices that students were elected to last spring. This leaves the burden of the student government in the hands of a few which makes it very difficult for them to express in student government affairs the consensus of the campus.

It is a situation that needs to be remedied in some manner or another if the campus as a whole has any form of unity or any legislation that reflects the spirit of the students.

## I Don't Like John Doe

By Seab Miller

John Doe, Joe Doaks, John Q. Public, the man on the street, and Samuel Roe are his names. He represents the average Mr. American. He reflects all public opinion; he is the sounding board for Dr. Gallup, et al; and is the epitome of all that is American.

You and I are daily confronted with statistics which seek to show us that John Doe's morals are thus and such and imply that ours should conform to this norm.

There are tables of aggregate which tell us how long you and I are going to live.

Advertising is based upon the principle of the norm and intice us to mold our purchasing habits so as to more nearly approximate the norm. Various celebrities are set up as examples for the man on the street to imitate.

### Patterned Behavior

More and more things seem to be based on consensus gentium. Ideas are presented with the statement that so many million people adhere to that particular line of thought.

If you haven't done certain acts, advanced to such and such a position, or been exposed to this and that by the time you reach a certain age you are not normal.

I'm tired of it. I believe it was Emerson who said that if you would be great you must be a non-conformist.

I don't care if twenty-five million people do believe in or do let themselves do certain acts. I do not believe that by abstaining from these makes me odd.

Because more people vote for a man to be president that doesn't mean that he's the right choice. He's the popular choice and nothing more.

Two out of every three doctors smoke a certain brand of cigarettes; two out of three tobacco experts smoke another. I smoke still another.

### Personal Preference

I'm happy for two reasons: I like my choice because it's my own, and like it because it's different. Besides, what scientific fact does it prove when the majority of doctors smoke one brand and the majority of tobacco experts smoke another? The only thing it proves to me is that cigarette A has more sales than B in the compared fields, for there are more doctors than tobacco experts.

So "farewell Joe Doaks, and your counterpart Joe College." No more shall you or the norm you represent influence me in making a decision.