

## Traffic—Again

With more and more people bringing cars to the campus, the parking system here has been outmoded. Cars clog driveways, get stuck in mud puddles, and overrun the space provided for them.

We are only presenting the facts in the hope that they will get some attention from responsible persons. Before another fall session rolls around, officials should look into the situation and act.

There has to be a realignment of the space between Sherwood Hall and the library. No longer can car owners leave their autos protruding into Adams Street, block the walkways provided for pedestrians, and take up the space that would ordinarily accommodate twice as many vehicles.

Another sore spot is behind Shorter Hall, where mud and dust alternately stick and swirl over the surroundings. It is very annoying to step out of your mode of transportation into a nice, gooey mudhole. There, too, is the space problem a serious one. It has no lanes for men who park there, and confusion is the order of every day.

Many other schools have set up special Traffic Committees to take care of such things, and that might prove a wise move for Mercer. This committee would act as an advisory board, with power to penalize for violations of rules that the University sets up. It would prove invaluable to officials who wish to find out student suggestions for alleviation of the problem.

The Cluster would like to see the wheels set in motion immediately.

## Mid-Terms Unfair

It is time that something was said and done about Mercer's mid-term examination schedule. The recently concluded mid-terms were fine for possibly ten per cent of the student body, but the other ninety per cent were unduly punished for something they had no jurisdiction over.

That is, they were forced to take their first examination on Monday morning. They were totally unprepared for it, and it did not present a true picture of their ability to pass the test. Since grades have been set up as the standard of judging one's accomplishments while in college, they should be given at a time when a majority of the student body is ready.

Why is a Monday morning test unfair? There are numerous reasons. The most important one is that many people must leave the campus over the week-end, not having time to study during that period. Another is that many people who remain on the campus have employment during that period, thus taking their time from books. Still another is that college folks look on the week-end as a time of semi-relaxation.

Probably the biggest group affected is the ministers amongst us who hold pastorates in out-lying communities. They are expected to spend as much time with their congregations as is possible, and this is the most readily available time. Next in line would be the athletic teams, who either make trips for contests or concentrate on the games they have at home. The list is endless, but that is enough to give an idea of the unfairness.

We hope the powers that be will take cognizance of this fact and alter the situation.



Seab Miller

## Moot

What is school spirit, and why hasn't Mercer got it? The other night a medley of college songs was played at a gathering where I was. As the strains of "Rambling Wreck" were played Tech alumni rose and cheered. The same thing happened when "Glory, Glory to old Georgia" was sounded, and even though the Duke grads were scarce, they were vociferous. The only alma mater which was not upheld by sustained applause was Mercer.

I didn't understand it. Is Georgia, Duke, or Tech so much more desirable than Mercer? Mercer has a tradition as glorious as any. Some of the foremost educators, financiers, coaches, journalists, clergymen, and lawyers hail from Mercer. Tradition must not be enough.

I refuse to believe that the size of the school is a valid reason. Obviously, there is something, and a good bit of it, that makes the Mercer students not particularly proud of his school.

There could be any reason why Mercer has little morale. Could it be that the student is bitter because there is no football team. There is considerable comment on their distaste for the situation.

Could it be that the student feels somewhat cramped by the

restriction placed upon him by a Baptist institution? Possibly, the student feels that the qualities of the teachers in Mercer are inadequate.

The students long for a student center big enough to accommodate them. This could be the cause. Or maybe a swimming pool would be a step towards a more unified student body.

Whatever the reason, whether one of the above or another, it is wrong. There is no one cause, no one thing that could be singled out that would make the student not proud he or she was from Mercer. It is a combination of inadequacies, some real, some imagined, that seem to say to the student, "Why boost Mercer, Why it doesn't even . . ."

Julian LeRoy

## Trends in School

It seems that the current trend in the college educational realm is toward specialization of subjects and skills taught.

That seems to be the direction of our present day collegiate educational system, although many modern progressive educators are not in favor of the trend.

This situation is important for us as students, even though we may not plan to be professional teachers, because it will have a decided effect upon our present culture: our churches, our schools, our communities.

The old form of classical education is becoming distasteful for the average student who wishes to seek a college education. Should this be?

What is usually meant by specialization of education is teaching or requiring those subjects that have a definite and direct bearing on a particular profession.

At first glance this matter looks as though it might be a good thing. It is mainly advantageous to those people whose age is pretty far beyond the student level and who wishes to learn some skill for purely financial reasons.

But looking at it from an overall perspective, such education can be a detriment to society.

There is more to living than just making money. Men have to learn to live peaceably with each other, which I do not believe is a natural instinct in a human being.

It would seem rather strange indeed if it got to the point that

when an individual greeted another in passing, he would be greeted in return with some sort of mathematical formula or with a description of the chemical constituents of the atmosphere. This, of course, is extreme specialization when man cannot speak in terms other than his particular profession.

Even a general "flunker" would have to have years of education before he could be very skilled at it.

Technological advances have resulted in a trend toward machine operators, mass production, etc., and have taken men away from rural professions.

There is sociology, psychology, philosophy, foreign languages to help one to understand people of other nations, and many other courses that would almost be omitted in fragmentary education.

We here at Mercer have no reason to gripe because we have to take a few courses which are not directly related to our proposed profession. Maybe we need to take more to help us to understand our fellow neighbors better, both local and foreign.

## On Other Campuses

This year's graduating seniors at Clarkson College of Technology are more aware of world affairs and the practical problems facing them after graduation, according to an announcement by the Liberal Studies Department.

The most recent addition to this department is a senior elective concerning China and the Far East. It is a study of the history and culture of Asia, with focus on China, its resources, culture institutions and its internal and international problems.

Another senior elective is Sociology of the Family. This course analyzes the family as a unit in society and deals with the factors in successful marriage.

Reg Murphy

## Dark Night

It must have been dark that night. How else could a handful of college boys have succeeded in placing a mule and wagon atop the administration building?

The little incident, now the pride of every Mercer graduate of the 1920's, was spoken of only when faculty and students were not in the same party then. It is almost a forgotten part of the University to us now, but to those hardy youths of the Roaring Twenties, it was real live wire.

They like to discuss the terrible time they had dismembering the cumbersome wagon so it could be transported up the stairs. The men had to bear the entire weight of the wagon up the stairs in that solid sheet of ebony. They had no other mode, so they did the work themselves.

It must have been a terrible crescendo of noise when the hard hooves of the mule struck the steps. He was half pulled, half pushed up the wooden supports against his better wishes, but up he went. Wonder if he stepped on any toes on the ascent?

Imagine the fearful looks the students cast about as they perpetrated the crime. They must have had a lookout at the exists of the building just in case someone should happen to stumble on their fun-filled prank. They probably had the watchers sign their names with blood to an oath that they would never desert their cohorts.

How they felt as they descended the stairs, their task finished. The anxiety until they saw the lookouts still at their posts must have been an awesome thing. Their beds must have felt as they were lined with pine needles, so badly were their nerves still acting up.

One thing is sure. The mule had a good vantage point for watching the sunrise the next morning. He could feast his eyes on almost the entire city, still asleep in the early morning luxury. A little later he was to be the center of visual focus, but he was getting the jump on the right now.

It surely must have been a dark night.

Judson Moss

## Rare Combination

College campuses today abound with students who have excelled in one of two areas: they have been outstanding students academically or they have made a name for themselves in extracurricular activities. Rare indeed is the student who has been able to combine these two spheres successfully without harm to one or the other.

Jerry Conner is such a man. I found him in his room on a recent evening working, for the second time this year, for the Blood Drive Day set for Friday. Through probing questions, I found out more about this plain, unassuming guy who has left such an indelible mark on this institution during his stay here.

Product, like so many outstanding leaders of a small Georgia town (Harlem), Conner began his collegiate career at Georgia Teachers College in '46. There he lettered in basketball, was charter secretary of the "T" Club, sports editor of the newspaper, in the dramatics club and fraternity, Alpha Psi Omega.

Entering Mercer in '48, Jerry early showed his aptitude both for studies and campus activities. He was initiated into Sigma Mu fraternity and received his A.B. degree in '50, magna cum laude.

He has been very active in fraternity affairs, serving his own frat (Alpha Tau Omega) as treasurer, vice-president, and president. He was also a member of the Interfraternity Council.

Few students at Mercer seem able to blend the rigorous study requirements of law school with activities in the college as a whole, but Jerry has certainly been an exception to this rule. In law school he was justice of the court of corrections, on the law review board and vice-president of the Alpha Delta legal fraternity.

Though not a participant in inter-collegiate sports here, Jerry has done much in intramurals, both as participant and team manager. He made both the volleyball and softball all-star squads and managed volleyball and basketball teams for law school.

In addition, Jerry has been active in debating and was elected to Blue Key, honorary fraternity. Last year the students recognized his leadership ability and selected him to lead student government and he has done an admirable job, almost single-handedly.

As he receives his LL.B. degree in June (probably cum laude) to enter law, we salute this tall, lanky man with the friendly smile and wish for him the best.

Mercer is a better place because he passed this way.

## The Mercer Cluster

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