

Orange and Black Game

The Cluster would like to add its support to the Orange and Black basketball game to be held next Tuesday night. We feel that this is a good way to give a boost to the lagging school spirit.

Many other schools have similar games, mostly in football. Since Mercer has no football, this phase of campus rivalry has been left out.

We would like to thank the "M" club for conceiving this idea, and Coach Nymicz for his cooperation.

The game will give us a preview of the basketball thrills which will await us in Uortter Gym on fifteen occasions this year. The proceeds will go to the "M" club.

As all high school sports writers end their stories, we too say, "Let's all get out and support the team."

A Request

To: The Residents of the Men's Dormitories

We are disturbed over continuing reports of disorder and noise in the dormitories, particularly at night. In an effort to have conditions which are conducive to an academic dormitory rather than a boardinghouse we wish to call your attention to the following, which if observed will provide the general conditions under which each student may do his school work:

1. The playing of musical instruments must be restricted to afternoon hours.
2. Beginning at 7:00 P.M. study conditions must prevail throughout the dormitory. This means that loud talking, playing of radios, singing, etc., which are a disturbance beyond the student's own room must be cut out.
3. Beginning at 11:00 o'clock sleep conditions must prevail. This means that all forms of noise which go beyond the individual student's room must be eliminated.

The Dormitory Committee wishes to be helpful in providing wholesome living conditions which are in harmony with our educational aims. The individual's freedom to do as he pleases when he pleases is definitely curbed by virtue of group living in the dormitory. We will regret it if disciplinary action has to be taken against students who will not observe the above stated conditions. We are determined, however, to curb some of the abuses which have recently been reported to us.

Sincerely yours,

C. D. Smith, Chairman
Mr. Holding
Mr. Nymicz
Dean Burts

The Mercer Cluster

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The Voice Needed Most



The increased attention being given to new translations of the Bible by Protestant and Catholic alike has caused the American Bible Society to sponsor again between Thanksgiving and Christmas a worldwide reading of the greatest passages of the Bible.

CAROLYN McELVEEN

Hard Life

So you think you live a hard life, humm? Well, brother, you should have been one of the thirty students enrolled for the very first term of Mercer's existence!

The crude details of how Mercer Institute commenced are related by Jesse Mercer in a letter to the *Christian Index* dated a short time after the tiny school's simple opening in the cold January of 1833. He states that the teachers and pupils at Penfield "are all in good spirits and take their yoke with much cheerfulness."

Mr. Mercer describes the exact nature of this "yoke" born so cheerfully, and I fear his brief resume of the day's activities does not present a "cheerful" prospect to Mercerians 119 years later.

The order of the day was: "Rise at daybreak, then make fires, dress beds and rooms, feed stock, and attend prayers about the rising of sun." This, of course, means that the sun has now risen.

Following this morning watch service, the students "study till breakfast, then leisure (one-half hour), resume study till 10:00, then labor by squads (according to work previously assigned to the leader of the squad) for three hours." This manual labor is probably in connection with the upkeep of the school or perhaps in the fields.

Then they ate and returned to their study "till one-half hour be-

fore supper, then study till nine o'clock, and to rest after that when they choose" — probably "when they choose" would be soon after nine.

Thus was Mercer established upon a wholesome program of work and study—with a cheerful attitude toward both.

Jesse Mercer states, "So you see, at our school there is nothing to be done but eating, drinking, working, studying and sleeping—no time for playing." (!)

But however far we have strayed from the original daily routine of activities, three desires expressed by Jesse Mercer in this letter continue as a part of Mercer University.

First, is Jesse Mercer's desire for money to expand. He says "the main fear is the want of money; for much of this we shall need."

Second is his desire to help everyone to get an education. The institute even furnished clothes for a number of boys while engaged in study there.

Third, is his desire for religious revival. "O that the Lord may shed down His blessings on this seminary and make it afford an abundant harvest to the surrounding churches and the world."

GLENN JOYNER

Shoot the Camel

What happens when you come to deadline day and have no column written?

Now that seems like a fair question, although I don't exactly know the correct definition of a fair question. The answer is something that I often have wondered about myself. The time is now 3:15; my column is supposed to be in at 3:30. Oh well that is the thrill of newspaper work.

Of course the editor doesn't think much of this but come to think of it he mustn't think much anyway or I wouldn't be here. (You can stop reading now I'm not going to say anything.)

The reason for a column being late is lack of a subject, which is what I lack today as you have undoubtedly noticed. When trying to think of a subject you cover every possible idea, up to and including the price of camels in the North Borneo market. (That sounds interesting.)

The current price, by the way, is around 35c a head, which is very cheap for a camel head, even a

small one. Of course to acquire a whole camel costs considerably more.

But then who would be silly enough to buy a whole camel. Everyone knows the main object in life is to get a-head.

That subject is not too important to college students though because the camel doesn't have too large an effect on his life, unless he knows a camel personally.

Now you know what happens when you don't have a column in on deadline. You just shoot the bull for a few hundred words. It may injure the bull a little but it takes up space in the paper.

ALVIN SHACKLEFORD

The Mail Bag

Looking into the box at the postoffice which brings in the mail addressed to the Mercer Cluster, I find it hard to know what to keep and what to throw away.

One day about a month ago I was shocked to see a small book in the mail box—a book with a size and shape which places it in the category of "pocket books".

Remembering what my mother had told me about books of such type, I hastily tossed it in the trash can. But remembering what my daddy had told me, I quickly retrieved it when I saw that it was from the Democratic Nation Convention. My daddy was a Democrat, my granddaddy was a Democrat, etc.

Thumbing through the 218 pages, I saw facts instead of figures. Facts of what the Democrats had done, and what they intended to do with their boys in the White House for the next four years. For you see—the title of the book was, "How To Win in 1952."

This little book then proceeds to tell how they will win. If the expression which started with the track team "You got to be cocky to win" is true, then I don't see how the Republicans got a vote.

The first paragraph starts with this, and I quote, "This is the time for a great President. Adlai Stevenson will be one." (Notice: it doesn't say when.)

If Tom Dewey can run for president after his terrific defeat in '44, why can't Adlai run again? According to the record of William Jennings Bryan, Stevenson has many rounds to go yet. Did you ever hear of a Socialist candidate giving up after one defeat?

Regardless of what anyone says, Ike beat 'em at the polls, and that's where it counts. It's quite a blow for us who can't remember a Republican in the White House. But that's neither here nor there (of course not, the White House is in Washington).

It makes one wonder if Truman really knew he was fixing up the mansion for Ike.

I wonder if Harry will ever find out who gave a copy of the book, "How To Win in 1952" to the Republicans.

REG MURPHY

Colorful Rain

And the rains came.

After more than a month of droughty aridness, precipitation fell on the campus, turning drab the colorful spectacle of bronzed leaves dancing and pirouetting their carefree ways underfoot. The rain turned dark brown the leaves of beautiful hue and made mushy messes of them.

But there was one thing it could not darken—raincoats. Never have these orbs seen such gay colors trudging along in a sea of fog and rain. They rivaled the garb of circus performers with their mingled blues, crimsons, silvers and yellows.

As if in defiance of the darkness, lads and lassies broke out the bundlesome, despicable rainwear to dye the landscape. It resembled a modernistic painting such as those made by a comic strip character by sliding along the canvas with paint on his feet. He was proclaimed a genius, and whoever designed the latest in raincoats deserves the same plaudits.

This kaleidoscope of color intermingled with the artistic touch given only to colorblind persons. I am not entirely certain that it would not have been a misfortune to suddenly lose the faculty for distinguishing hues.

The apparel ranged from screaming checks (with jockey caps to match) to canary yellow topped by multi-colored scarves. One young miss was observed wearing a spotlessly white cape, fading to dirty gray at the shoulders and to black from the waist down. The designer must have been comparing the sun above the clouds to the blackness on terra firma.

We are referring here to girls. The fellows seemed to still prefer the conservative tans, grays and light blues. But maybe flamboyance is a tribute.

My raincoat is black.

RUSSIA: A DISTURBING DELAY . . .

The Moscow newspaper, *Isvestija*, is greatly disturbed because so many graduate students have postponed taking their final exams. No student can get a degree unless he has passed this exam, but he can't take the exam until he has served for three years in a position designated by the state.

Since most of these assigned positions are in isolated parts of East Russia, the majority of students like to stall the proceedings as long as possible. However, if students don't accept the assigned work, or if they leave the position early, they must accept heavy penalties.