

AVON BUICE

Unbiased Paper?

Long has been the cry of the Mercer Student Body for an un-biased paper which will show each phase of the student body in a manner which will please everyone.

This is a great objective to work toward, and I am sure now that this has been the desire of every editor that has labored over the desk in the Co-op, but it was only until last week that I found out why this had not been done. This problem's solution can be stated in one sentence.

There is not a true representation of the campus and its activities willing to work enough to present their views through the voice of the Cluster.

In the first meeting of the new Cluster administration there were a total of five people there seeking positions on what is supposedly the voice of the student body. Those five were certainly capable of printing a college newspaper—they have done it—but the desire of the Cluster staff is to present the student body in action and what the student would like to read . . . we cannot do so without the aid and support of the student.

It is certainly not the purpose of this column to knock the work of any predecessor, but to urge those who have the ability and experience to join us in our fight to give the students a paper which they will enjoy reading.

In this, the first issue of the Cluster under new administration I, as editor would like to pledge myself and the staff of your campus newspaper to you and to your organizations in our bid to present the campus with a coverage of all of its activities.

Suggestions as to how we may accomplish the above stated desire will gladly be received, and it will not take very much of your time. Consider this problem . . . had you realized its greatness before?

Elections . . .

Mercer University has been election crazy the past few weeks, and with offices from those of the student body all the way up to the very head of our administration changing hands, a student hardly knows whom to criticize these days.

With the announcement of the promotion of our vice-president, Maj. George B. Connell, to president effective in September, the next thing that seems to register in the mind is who is to be the next vice-president? Elections can never be forgotten, no matter where we go.

Now that elections seem to be about over for another year, it is time that the "Mercer Family" settled down to take a look at those whom they have elected and ask themselves, "How may I best help them to build a school that we may all be proud of?"

Major Connell, the week after announcement of his election wrote your student leaders, pledging his services to them, and in turn asking their assistance in helping him produce a greater Mercer University. It is the duty of every student of this institution to make a pledge to our new President, Student President, and all student leaders who have recently been selected their unceasing support during their administration as representatives of this institution.

A student working to place his institution on top is one proud of it even at its lowest ebb.

The Mercer Cluster

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Spring Is Here



I've got to study. I've got to study . . .

CAROLYN McELVEEN

Relieving Energy

Spring is sure to bring forth many new things on the college campus—suntans, daydreams, spring formals, plays and operettas, summer planning, etc. A delightful new addition to the spring agenda on our campus is the "Campus Sing," which will take place next Tuesday.

Everywhere it seems that spring fever just has to work itself off some way. So far it has been a rather quiet process here, however, compared with spring upsets at other colleges.

On one campus a simple trumpet blast resulted in chaos. The trumpeter was answered by a trombonist and a musical duel followed. Then came shouts of "Knock it off," blaring radios, a fog horn and other noisy attempts to quiet the growing ruckus. Students, police, and a general mob joined the scene on the campus which was not quieted until 1:00 a.m. when a sudden rain called a halt to proceedings. The dean simply explained it as a "form of spring madness."

Another campus has recently suffered from a reverberation of last spring's "raids." This time the girls have reversed tactics and invaded the men's dorms.

But at Mercer we offer a more constructive project on which to expend spring energy. And now, shortly before its occurrence, we need to seriously consider it for a few moments. It concerns giving blood.

Last year Mercer fell far short of the goal. Less than 100 students donated blood when the blood-mobile arrived. It is heartwarming to know that this many students did respond, but this year, when we feel the need even keener, surely we'll come through with many times this amount—not for the sake of bettering the record, but because we're American citizens who are proud to support our boys.

The loss of blood is a necessity for victory. Not only does it actually save lives, but it comforts a soldier to know that if he should be wounded or near death, the blood of his countrymen would be behind the lines to "fight at his side."

Not only do the soldiers in Korea need blood, but the reserve here is exhausted. Weekly supply is 25,000 pints short of weekly demand, we learn.

Giving blood is really a completely painless process, and all persons above 18 are eligible. Those who donated blood last year in our drive, or elsewhere know they have helped to heal or save an American life. You can too.

REG MURPHY

Will They Work?

You sit in the chapel and watch the installation of new student government officers.

As they repeat the oath of office, doubts chase through the back parts of your mind.

You wonder whether this is another 30 persons who will do a lot of harping, or whether they will actually accomplish something during their terms.

You wonder whether the same old sing-song of "school spirit" will be echoed. You wonder if any actual achievements will mark the tenure of office of these intelligent young men and women standing there with their hands raised to Almighty God.

The brains, the foundation of an active student body stands on the stage. It can be the greatest thing that ever happened to Mercer, or it could be the worst. You wonder

which it will be. The faces look determined at the swearing-in. You wonder whether they will have the same look when actual problems confront the student government.

As you sit there watching the ceremony, a question flashes across your mind. What is to be the outcome of the school if its student leaders don't put their shoulders to the wheel?

Then you know the answer. The campus will gradually disintegrate and there will be no school—UNLESS.

The challenge is there. The brains are there. The answer is not—yet.

ALVIN SHACKLEFORD

Seniors Reminisce

The Chapel bell rang. Slowly the students filed in the door and took their places. Mr. Billington Sanders strided up on the platform and called the students to order. Sanders, the first president of Mercer, began his introduction, "Today, I'd like to introduce to Rev. Jesse Mercer, president of the Georgia Baptist Convention and editor of the *Christian Index*."

Last Friday, April 24, 1953, a group of Mercer seniors of the Class of '53 were introduced to Rev. Jesse Mercer. A person who they thought they already knew—but found that they had only scratched the surface.

The setting was the same. The same old Chapel bell rang. The seniors, who had been wandering around inspecting the old buildings, again filed into the Chapel and found their places.

Dr. Spright Dowell, Mercer's retiring President, stood at the front and "introduced" us to Jesse Mercer.

Rev. Mercer had a vision in three different fields—important fields where many never catch a glimpse. Mercer had these visions in the early 1800's and spent his life accomplishing these goals.

His first vision was that of organized Baptist. He realized early that the fast-growing Georgia Baptist needed to organize. He was instrumental in the organization of the Georgia Baptist Convention and served as its president for 19 years.

Not being content to rest on deserved laurels, he worked for the establishment of a school for the education of young Ministers. He was not only the inspirer and leader of this movement but also donated heavily to it finances.

Then, realizing that the Baptist of Georgia needed some means of communication, he journeyed to Philadelphia and purchased the *Christian Index*. He brought the equipment back to Georgia, and began to edit the state organ of Georgia Baptist. He donated the *Index* to the Convention, and it still operates.

The trip to Penfield will long remain in the hearts of the seniors—not because of the architecture of the Chapel, nor of the majestic tombstones in the well-kept grave yard, nor for the short program at the historic site. The Penfield pilgrimage will long be remembered by us because we have come in contact with those who have set the example of unselfish service—Jesse Mercer, Billington Sanders, Adiel Sherwood.

Draft Explained

(Editors of *Student Life*, Washington University, Mo., asked an army and a Selective Service official some jack-pot questions about the draft. Here are the answers.)

Question: Is any change likely to be necessary in the student deferment policy?

Answer: "Nearly all eligible men in the older age group have already been inducted and we are now starting to take 19-year-olds in many states. The manpower supply is running short. We cannot, therefore, afford to be as liberal with student deferments in the future as we have in the past."

Question: If drafting of students is found necessary, what consideration, if any, will be given students who are married or fathers?

Answer: "Under current regulations a student who is drafted at the end of an academic year receives no consideration for deferment on account of a wife. . . Under current regulations fathers cannot be inducted."

Question: Is any change likely to be made in the policy of deferring students enrolled in Reserve Officer Training Corps units?

Answer: "Students enrolled in ROTC units are deferred by law. . ."

Question: Speculation has been that if the need for draftees increases, the government will be forced to begin drafting either students or fathers. Which group is likely to be called first?

Answer: "The office has no way of knowing. . ."

Question: How many men are now being drafted and what change in the number is likely?

Answer: ". . . The secretary of defense has announced publicly that he expects to call approximately 50,000 men per month for the balance of the fiscal year. Should it be decided to increase the size of the monthly calls, that decision will be made by the department of defense."