

Chapel Solution

Much is said about chapel programs, and there are many ideas for improvement. We would like to call to mind the chapel program of last Friday, when the Hon. Camille Chautemps, four times prime minister of France was guest.

There was not a sound throughout the chapel and there were very few studying.

We cannot expect to have such honored men with every chapel, but if we had a few during each quarter, it would make the life of the student who must go to chapel, much more enriched, and certainly more pleasant.

There is no value in making a person go to chapel, if his mind is closed when he gets there.

Letters to the Editors

Dear Sports Editor:

Unlike most "Letters to Editors" this is not a letter of condemnation, but one of praise. To be specific, it is a letter praising "probably the best all-around basketball player in Mercer's history"—Richard Reid.

I am, not a Mercer student, but am a very ardent fan of the current Mercer Bears' basketball team; in fact, I have been so for quite a few years previous to this one.

A good player on any kind of team is one who plays for the team. He is one who is not seeking personal glory, but striving to help his team win. He is not concerned in being high scorer for his own honor, in being a spectacle to the spectators, or in any other type of selfish antic. He is a team man—one who will pass to a fellow teammate when he sees him in a better position at the time than he; he is a good ball handler, which is as important if not more important than a good scorer.

Everyone knows the numerous other qualities of the best basketball player.

Yes, little Richard Reid, who has indeed honored the name of the good Mercer University in our city and other college towns, fits all of the above qualifications in mine, and I'm very sure, many other fans' estimation.

No, he is not a "high-scorer", but he most certainly could be if his prime purpose in playing was solely to "shoot". Fortunately, it has not been, and his name shall be a distinct one in the history of the sport of basketball at Mercer U. for many a year.

Don't you firmly believe that Richard Reids' No. 3 uniform is just as deserving to be reserved as the the uniform of the great Glenn Wilkes was?

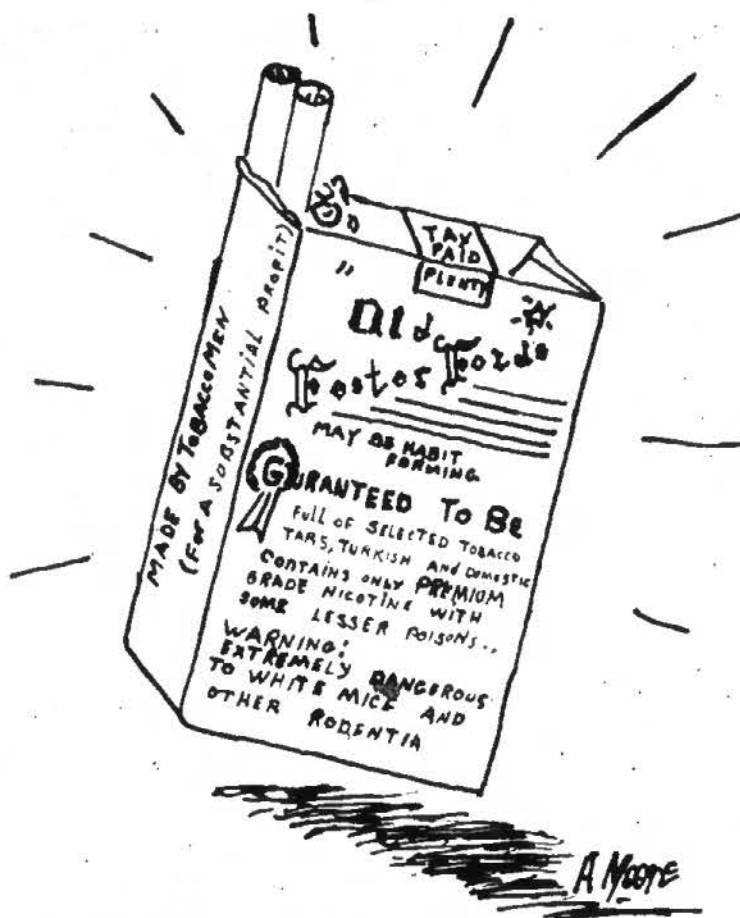
Sincerely,
Kenneth J. Brubaker

The Mercer Cluster

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What Next?



"More Camels Smoke Olderfolds Than any other People"

NANCY YATES

Take an Interest

Bear Day is here again with its annual influx of alumni, the big downtown parade, the IFC dance, and the homecoming game being played this year with Howard College.

Homecoming Day is the one day out of the entire school year that we should of all times be proud of our school. We should especially take note of its accomplishments in every field, those having to do with education, with athletics, with activities, and so on. At this time we should be full of that indefinable element known vaguely as "school spirit".

Are we as students really proud of Mercer? I think that most of us are, actually, but we spend so much time criticizing the school that finally we are left wondering what this school does have.

Sometimes students are even embarrassed for the school and apologize for its lack of a certain course, or certain activities.

If someone asked you what is good about Mercer, could you give him a convincing answer?

Instead of going on day after day and year after year throwing off on our school and apologizing for it, we should try to do something to change things. Actually, you the student, have

more power than you perhaps realize. I venture to say that over half of the student body doesn't even know how our student government works. I don't know fully, and I've been here almost two quarters. Many of you have been here longer.

How many of you know what goes on in meetings of the Student Activities committee? And yet, the meetings are open to any student who wants to attend.

What I am saying is this: We should make it our job to find out these things. These are only a couple of examples. We should inform ourselves on as many of Mercer's activities and achievements as possible and really make it our business to do our part in making the school better. If we will take the trouble to find out what goes on in our school and what part we can play in it, I believe we will take more pride in this university. And then, on future Bear Days, we will come back to the old alma mater remembering our days here as being really worthwhile.

A Tribute

Dixon, Nebr. Feb. 11, 1954

President of Mercer University
Macon, Ga.

Dear Doctor:

Welcome Talmadge Smalley was a good friend of mine in high school and at Mercer. My native place is a farm at Jackson, Ga. Smalley came to see me at that home place and we rode out from Fovilla in a top buggy driving a little gray horse. I could go back today to within one hundred yards of where Smalley said: "John, I am going to teach. I know that I am doomed to penury for life, but I love it and I am going to do it." It is my understanding that he is teaching at Mercer and has been there for years. I am writing to know whether he ever became very wealthy in material substance as a by-product of his teaching?

Sincerely, J. M. Etheredge, Class of 1911, Mercer University.

P.S. I shall appreciate your reading the above letter in chapel or some other public assembly, as a tribute to my friend, a good man and a dedicated teacher of capacity.

AVON BUICE

Social Reasoning

One of the Religious Focus Week team members brought to my mind one of the many ills of today's society which, in my estimation is one of our worst.

The statement was made, "too many preachers patronize a doctor because he attends church regularly or gives a large contribution to the church." Such unsound reasoning goes on throughout our society in many more fields other than that of religion and medicine.

We tend to evaluate a person for what he owns, how he looks, the "polish" of his speech, in general the first impression. We laugh a great deal at the comment a coed might make "he is a charming fellow, but doesn't have that car personality."

In the hustle of our daily lives, we look at the person who seems to have everything, and then complains as a traitor to himself—saying "if I had what he has I'll be darned if I'd say anything." He may need more friends, love, religion, or other emotional stimuli than we do. Man must have a portion of all.

Do we ever stop to hear the persons ideas, what he believes, how much he believes them, or upon what he bases his beliefs? Some of the greatest peoples of the world, in fact most of them probably, have been called dreamers, and idiots, by certain parts of their society.

It is not the place of anyone to judge the other. We may sit upon a haughty high seat and evaluate everyone but ourselves, which tends to make the judge look pretty good.

One of my elder kinsmen has said to me, "I like to trade cars with so and so, I know he'll treat me right," but then an uncle who is a business man says, "Don't even trust your dad in a business deal—he will not beat you willingly, but it is only human to want the best end of a bargain—sometimes the best end is bigger than he expects it to be."

I say the above to bring to point the question: Should we evaluate a person by one single trait? Would it not be better to pick the doctor for medical record? Many of us do not stop to think he must have something to guide him to the position of prominence other than undesirable forces.

HOMER LASSITER

Straight Answers

As this is-being written we are right in the midst of Religious Focus Week. Already many have begun to evaluate the benefits derived from this occasion and form opinions of this year's team in comparison to previous teams but I do not wish to expound on that subject at this time. That is not for any one person to do. When evaluating a team such as this, there are many things that must be taken into consideration which are often-times overlooked.

The speaker is usually most strongly judged by the method in which he answers a straight question and this probably should be so. The student's problem is solved, or directed, by the questions which they ask and if these questions are not answered, there can be very little benefit derived from most of the meetings.

The students with problems, therefore, look forward to the nightly "bull sessions" more than any part of the program because here we get away from ceremonies and themes and get right down to personal problems. These problems are brought out with straight, point-blank questions and an answer is almost invariably attempted. Some may leave more confused than they came but generally the answers come in a very comprehensive fashion.

It is at these times, too, that we may see exactly how widely educated our team may be. We usually find that they are extremely well-read in a wide range of fields. We find that they are capable of discussing almost any school of thought. It is very necessary that they be able to do this because they may be approached from any field without any warning.

It is for these reasons that I wanted to bring out what I thought was the most important part in the evaluation of our 1954 team, that is, how well did they answer your questions? Whether you agree with the speakers or not, we trust that you all benefitted from this week.