

Something new has been added. The Cluster salutes the faculty members who "let their hair down" and came to let the students see they too are human (?).

As the "barker", Mrs. McGosh said in student chapel Tuesday, who would have thought of those men "bunny hopping", and the "girls" of the show were great also.

This show was well worth the price of admission. Many faculty members displayed talents no one knew of previously, we are sure.

Those who missed this treat missed one of the greatest shows ever. We find that many of them were not as "old" as they say they are.

Our only hope is that they survive. We know both the audience and the faculty had fun.

We too, along with the faculty it was out of the ordinary, but it was fun. Faculty, you were great!

Notice in this issue a letter concerning the Campus Sing this spring, which is to be held next month. The Cluster salutes the two sponsors, Mr. G. L. Ware and Mr. T. P. Haines, for this contribution to the student activities of the campus.

All organizations note the date of the sing and be sure to be prompt with entries, the sponsors urge.

We congratulate the newly appointed faculty members. And wish to thank President Connell and the trustees for action taken. We only hope this will not displace others which are vitally needed also.

We salute Rev. Harry V. Smith, alumni secretary, and lifetime friend of Mercer University, and her students in the honored position he has recently been appointed to assistant to the president, one of two slots to replace the vice-president position vacated by Maj. Connell when elected president.

We give you an inside look at Russia by a student editor exactly as he saw it during a tour of that country recently.

Dean Schoelkopf is editor of the Minnesota Daily, at the University of Minnesota. He has just returned from a three-week tour of the Soviet Union.

Schoelkopf was one of seven editors to make the trip.

Student elections are to be held Tuesday, April 13. Ballot box will be found in the Coop.

Decide whom you wish to vote for and VOTE!

The Mercer Cluster

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OLE TOBY

STUDENT NEWSPAPER EDITOR.

Visits Moscow U.

By Dean Schoelkopf
Editor, Minnesota Daily

(ACP)—Moscow University is the shiny new showpiece of the Soviet educational system.

The 32-story skyscraper, situated on Lenin hills just outside the city, was opened last fall. It was built at a time when apartments and other new buildings were needed badly.

Facilities at the university are generally good. Laboratories are streamlined and well equipped.

Classrooms and lecture halls seemed adequate. The library had individual study desks—and a good supply of American technical journals.

Attached to the classroom section of the building are two 18-story wings, which provide dormitory space for 6,000 students. We visited some of the rooms and found them comparable to American college dormitory rooms.

Moscow University has the same enrollment as the University of Minnesota—about 18,000 students. At Moscow 52 per cent of the students are women, while at Minnesota about 30 per cent of the students are coeds.

There are 12 faculties or departments at Moscow University—mostly in the sciences. At Minnesota there are 31 departments in the liberal arts college alone.

All courses at Moscow run for five years, with an additional three years required for the first graduate degree. The Soviet student, though begins college with only ten years of previous schooling, compared to 12 years in the United States.

Entrance to colleges and universities is based on standards similar to those at American schools—previous grades and competitive examinations. Once admitted to college, almost all Russian students go on to complete scholarships.

Students told us they get monthly stipends from 300 to 700 rubles (\$75 to \$175). This covers the cost of their tuition, which is about 400 rubles a year, plus room, board, books and gives them some spending money.

There is a 25 per cent bonus available to students who maintain good and excellent marks, roughly equivalent to an A or B average. Upperclassmen get bigger scholarships than underclassmen.

Russian students were curious about the American system of scholarships and often asked if it is possible for children of American farmers and workers to go to college. Frequently we were asked about our own class background. In return for their scholarships, Soviet college graduates must serve for three years at whatever job the government assigns them. When we asked students whether they had any choice of jobs, they said yes, but that no two people ever compete for the same job. Russian students are deferred from military service while they are in school, and apparently even after they graduate. They told us the government considers them more valuable as scientists and engineers than as soldiers. There is some military training in the colleges, similar to our Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC). We were told graduates of this program get commissions but are not called to active duty. We visited three other colleges besides Moscow—Stalin University, Azerbaijan Industrial College at Baku, and the Odessa Institute of Technology.

At each of these places we found the same heavy emphasis on science and engineering courses. "Here we stress practical work," the president of Stalin University told us. "Students are training for particular jobs. Every summer they go to all parts of the Soviet Union for laboratory and field work." About the only people who major in areas like the social sciences and humanities are those who expect to become teachers. This emphasis goes back into the high schools, too. The Russians call them middle schools. A student in his tenth year of middle school—equivalent to our high school senior—takes almost all science courses.

A Kiev middle school principal told us the compulsory course consists of algebra, geometry, trigonometry, chemistry, physics, psychology, astronomy, logic, a choice of foreign language, physical culture, history, Russian and Ukrainian. It was this same principal who told us although education is compulsory for ten years in the larger cities, it is not free for the last three years. Tuition in Kiev was 270 rubles (50) a year, and there were no scholarships for students in these grades.

We asked about illiteracy in Russia and were told, "There is no illiteracy." Then we were asked about illiteracy in the United States, especially in the South. The major problem for the Soviet educators seemed the same wherever we went—not enough space for a growing student population. That is, everywhere but Moscow University. Everybody there was more than happy with their shiny new school.

AVON BUICE

"Looking Up"

Additions to the faculty for the 1954-55 school term announced by president G. B. Connell at the last regular meeting of the Board of Trustees give the student and the prospective student of Mercer (along with all interested) new hope.

These additions along with those promised which includes another administrative office as assistant to the president such as that Alumni Officer Harry Smith was appointed to in the last meeting seem to prove that Mercer under the leadership of Maj. Connell is beginning to take new life.

The people on the inside of the mechanism of Mercer say that the newly initiated Connell works as a master craftsman in this job some people speculated as too big for him. They observe the his? quiet, thinking, and aggressive person in his actions and not in words, and predict an optimistic future for both he and Mercer under his leadership.

New benefits have been given the teachers in the retirement program and their contacts have been re-written. The abolishment of the post of vice-president and replacing with two administrative advisors is a change that will be interesting to watch and from outlooks now will be an extremely effective one.

Mercer is continuing with the capable leadership she has always had heretofore . . . It is no wonder she produces great men when we look at the bale leaders she has had at her helm.

The survival of this institution in the day of technological changes and technological training is one we must be quite concerned about. Though society is turning more technical it seems that employers are turning more for the student of the art school for their executives. We read articles every day asking, "Are you the new executive type?"—giving emphasis to the art school educated—technical trained employee. Therefore the outlook for Mercer still holds a bright future, provided we are given the physical facilities we need along with improvements in faculty and curriculum we seem to be gradually getting.

Mercer, whose primary aim was theological at beginning, is strengthening this aim and adding much more in the schools of Education, Law, and the Arts than would have been dreamed possible in those days, must not stop now.

Do you think we shall see as much change in the next quarter century?

HOME LASSITER

As We Vote

We have now entered the second week of this spring quarter and are arriving at the time of the student body elections. Qualification day was Tuesday and now the candidates of both parties, the Cooperative and the Progressive, are known to all Mercer students who are interested in the betterment of our school. You all should be interested for it is these students who are called on to represent the school in many matters. It is these students who work for the school and decide on many of the school activities.

You should at least be interested enough to vote in each election that is held on the campus . . . some of you do not even do this. You who do take part in politics will be much in the middle of it for the next two weeks for, whether national, state or just local, politics is politics, and is accompanied by much hard work on the part of both parties to get a particular candidate elected to a particular position. This will never change and should not change. The fact remains, however, that this causes antagonism among students and tends to make many people dissatisfied with the present setup of campus politics.

However, we could not bring the candidates before the student eye in any method as well as it can be done with the party system. These candidates are nominated and their qualifications listed (and at times stretched) in much better fashion than could be arranged by any other method. We are given everything we need to work with and it is our job to weigh the qualifications and vote for the man who we think is best qualified for a particular position. This is not done on this campus on many occasions. However, this year we seem to have a good group to choose from and we are called upon to bring forth the best man for each spot. This can be done if each of you will take into consideration the qualifications of each man and act accordingly as you decide. This and this alone will rid us of the dissatisfaction on the campus and lead the way to a better Mercer.