

Let's Play Fair

The political campaign is over, but it seems that some of the results remain with us. That is, the general spirit caused by what we commonly call "dirty politics" can be sensed. It seems that some people simply cannot be fair about a thing, and our recent campus election showed some of their tactics. Both parties suffered losses of posters, and both parties were accused of destroying those of their opponents.

Although campus politics mean a lot to the welfare of Mercer, and the student body, especially, we do not think it calls for vicious campaigning.

In the past there has been some talk concerning what constitutes school spirit. It seems a fact that nothing can ruin school spirit more easily than unfairness in politics, social life, classwork, and all other areas of life. When we stoop to cheapness in our lives, we lose thereby.

We Back Connell

Major Connell's recent chapel "address" has drawn quite a bit of comment from all corners. Our opinion is that he means what he says. College students should have at least enough respect for those who endow an institution such as Mercer to treat the physical property in a civilized fashion.

We admit that it is tragic that rules have been so poorly enforced in the past. It seems that unenforced rules make the situation much worse than no rules at all.

When we entered Mercer a letter sent to us included such rules as the following: Freshmen can go home once a month. Freshmen cannot have automobiles on the campus. And so forth. We have seen no attempt to carry out the regulations, and the effect on the student body has been obvious.

A sudden crack-down such as that earlier in the week is not the best strategy; but, now that it has been done, it is our hope that consistency will govern future activities. We ask you fellow students, co-operate for the best interests of the Alma Mater!

A Vote of Confidence

Congratulations to the new Baptist Student Union Executive Council, which takes office next week. At the beginning of a new administration year, we look forward to plans for future advancements in the BSU work. We feel that Bill Middlebrooks, as the new president of the group, is capable of his job; and our support is behind him and the Council.

To Jamie Buckingham, who will hand over the position to Bill, we offer our thanks for a successful year gone by. He has handled the organization in a manner befitting a capable leader, and his Council has done its job well.

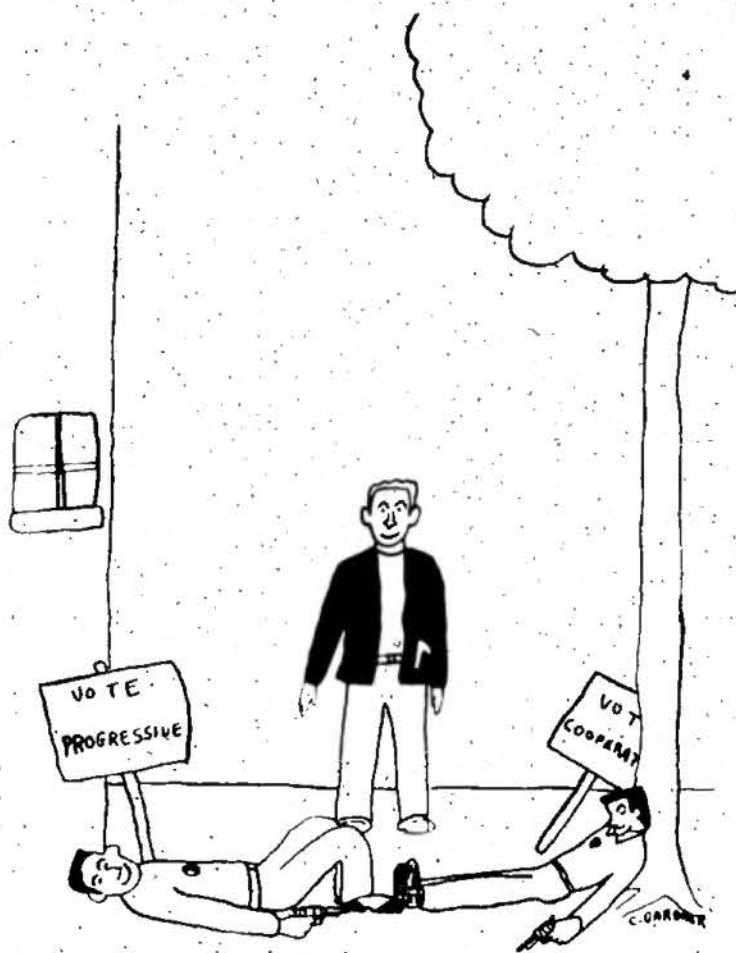
A standing vote of appreciation should go to Ray Brewster, director of religious activities, who has been, and continues to be, a counselor to students. He, too, has led the BSU in an effective fashion.

Hats off, BSU!

The Mercer Cluster

Editor: C. C. LYNCH Business Manager: WALTER MOORE

The Mercer Cluster is the official newspaper of Mercer University, published by the students weekly from September through May, except holidays and examination periods. Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Macon, Georgia, April 6, 1948, under the Act of March 3, 1879.



Thank GOD, No mud slinging

C. C. LYNCH

Outlook for the Cluster

The smoke has cleared, and last returns tell who make up our new slate of student government officers. I, as your new editor of the **Mercer Cluster**, am overwhelmed by the support given me in the recent election. Now, may the staff make a few goals.

We intend to remain true to our platform in its entirety; that is the place our loyalty to the party is. In other words, the new staff will be chosen for their ability, not for their connection with the editor, either politically or personally.

We stand behind the new president of the student body, as well as the other newly named leaders. Through the editorial columns of the **Cluster**, programs for the best interests of Mercer will be fostered and supported. Uppermost in this list is the idea of an immediately enacted, workable honor system. Then the non-profit book exchange, and the six-page **Cluster** will take our attention.

Now here are some points in our advance program:

Members of the staff will be carefully selected for their ability and determination. No one will be refused a job, but we will re-

serve the right to place them in their most useful positions.

I have acquired the nickname "Complete Coverage Lynch," so that will establish our goal.

A consistent editorial policy by which we shall not back away from controversial issues will be adhered to this coming year.

A pet project we have in mind is a "Letters to the Editors" column. Any letter of praise or criticism, so long as its intent is not to degrade Mercer as an institution, will be printed so long as space permits. The letters should be short and must be signed. We will withhold the name if it is requested that we do so. We would also like to have a forum column and other channels through which student opinion might be reflected.

With the coming of the six-page **Cluster**, more feature stories, book (Continued on Page 3)

NANCY YATES

Reviewing the Election

And now the election is over... so what?

Despite the enthusiastic campaigning of the past several weeks, the fervent anxiety of election night, and finally the Progressive party triumph—yet there seemed to be a general lack of elation.

Yes, of course, the new officeholders felt an individual sense of pride and accomplishment, and there was a silent approval in the minds of many.

But there was a pervading seriousness.

What can we say to explain this? Perhaps the "lack of elation" really doesn't exist and is only a figment of my own imagination. You realize that this column expresses the campus "as I see it", and has no pressure from any group (which, by the way, applies to the **Cluster** as a whole). Nevertheless, I would offer two reasons for the sobriety I recognized the morning after elections.

First, I think the Progressives themselves were a little awed by the mass response in their favor. They were, I believe, hopefully expecting victory, but had no idea

of the overwhelming one which came. It sobered them to realize that they were the choice, not by a narrow margin, but by a wide majority of opinion. It made them realize that by having practically their whole slate of nominees put into office, next year's election will be even harder. To me this is of more import than any single thing about the election. I say this—as you can readily see—from a non-partisan, objective standpoint.

The next phase of my explanation would, I think, be the deep sense of responsibility felt by each winner. Now all have to live up to the slogan, "Progressive supports principles." Work on putting the platform into effect has indeed already begun. The **Cluster** (Continued on Page 3)

THE PLATFORM

An Honor System

For many years there has been some discussion on Mercer's campus concerning a scholastic honor system. In the last few months, however, feeling on this issue has gained impetus; and in the recent campus election, each party promised an honor system of some form.

The Mercer student body seems to have reached the point where it is ready to carefully weigh the "pros" and "cons" of a system of scholastic honesty. Within a few weeks such a system will be presented to the students.

There is need for much discussion to continue to take place among individuals and within groups as we all consider an honor system for Mercer University.

LADIES' HOME JOURNAL

American Youth

Are the high schools and colleges infiltrated with communists? Is "this generation of American youth far more conservative than the generation of the twenties, thirties, and early forties?" Dorothy Thompson presents her views on the crucial question, "Is American Youth Radical?" in the May LADIES HOME JOURNAL.

Among the "bright young intelligentsia of the first postwar period" it was fashionable not to believe in God or in any divine creative force whatsoever. They scoffed at patriotism and proclaimed the only American idol to be money; the oath to the flag was considered childish; the business mentality was the enemy of all creative expression. Arguing the nonexistence of God or of any superhuman basis for morality was a favorite topic in the many studios and sparsely furnished apartments that covered Greenwich Village. Sinclair Lewis summed up his generation's philosophy in **Main Street**, which had a gigantic circulation. Those who could find the means to do so migrated to the Left Bank of Paris to haunt its cafes and seek confirmation of the idea that American democracy was hopeless.

In contrast, the youth of today, sobered by the depression and the fear of Communist infiltration, is more realistic and "more timid." Young men and women assume many more responsibilities, marry earlier, are more concerned with a serious education, establishing a home, and raising a family; there is more conformism among them. Today's forums argue the problems of democracy, juvenile delinquency, the United Nations, and McCarthyism. The test of government is its capacity to secure full or very high employment and to prevent slumps.

No, "American youth is not relatively radical." If it becomes so, it will be because the resurgence of faith in democracy is frustrated.

We Thank You

You may have noticed that the masthead has only the names of the elected officers of the **Cluster** staff. The reason for this is that the new staff has not yet been named. Any student still has a chance to get a position on this staff, and all are invited to the next meeting Monday, April 26, in Room 2 of the Economics Building at 3:00.

We would like to thank all of you who have cooperated so well with this issue of the **Cluster**. Here we name at least a part of the helpers for this issue:

Nancy Yates, John Rabun, Theresa Murr, Beverly Irvin, Peggy Carlisle, Shirley Tolber, Chuck Haffenden, Elliott Brack, Gene Plummer, Preston Moore, Malvern Brown, Jane Carol Adams, Spencer Ludlow, Jimmy Smith, Alice Tal, Dixie Cutler, Helen Lenkard, Mil Clyburn, Charles Gardner, and many others.

Thanks also to the newly-elected student government officers for their support and assistance. Several of them gave us a hand in the publication.

Several faculty members gave us great cooperation, and many of them expressed their support. This issue has been difficult to put out because of the time limit, lack of instruction on our part, and the disorganized state of our staff.

Turn in any news with which you are connected in the future, and we shall be able to bring you an even better paper.

This quarter's staff will be announced next Monday, and it will be printed in the next issue of the **Cluster**, which will come out May 6.

Bible Quote

He that answereth a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame unto him.—Proverbs 18:13.