

'Point 3' a Must

Mercerians have become point-conscious! We have begun to think of the proposed honor system as consisting of three separate and distinct units, any one of which can be omitted with no ill effects. This is untrue. Let us face it! The honor system is ineffective without the so-called "third point." This is necessary to the enforcement of the system, and it should be the duty of any student to uphold all three points. Any law must have teeth, and this third point is the teeth for the Mercer honor system. It is our hope that the student body will not make the mistake of rejecting the necessary provision.

You may wonder why the proposal has been divided into three points if it is so disastrous. The attitude of the honor system committee and the Student Government is that the entire student body must decide the final set-up. Nothing is being forced down the throats of the students.

We urge you: Do not consider stopping with the first two provisions, but continue to the entire three-point honor system!

The idea of the honor system, in the first place, is to create a changed attitude among the student body. The Student Government wants to turn the general opinion of the mass of students away from the idea of sanctioning the cheater and to the sanction of the student who wants to uphold and preserve honesty, integrity, and honor on the Mercer campus.

The choice you will make tomorrow when the vote is taken in chapel is actually one of whether you are adult enough to govern yourself and to execute your own law and order or whether you want to thrust into the laps of the faculty something the faculty itself does not want—a proctor system to control classroom cheating.

Stand up for your convictions tomorrow. Well over half of the student body has already said through their social organizations and the signing of a petition that they FAVOR a system of HONOR. The others of you, we feel, will also throw your support behind the cause. VOTE "YES" TOMORROW!

Needs of SAC

The following is quoted from Article IV of the Constitution of the Mercer Student Body:

Each student organization and publication receiving money from the Student Activities Fund shall publish at the end of each quarter a statement of all receipts and expenditures.

So far as we have seen, the above provision is ignored by the organizations receiving your money. A report is usually given to the Student Activities Committee itself, but rarely do students see these reports. In most instances they are good reports and should not be hidden, and there are some which need inspection because they exceed their allotment.

The Student Activities Committee of the Mercer Student Government could use several important changes. The faculty membership is larger than the student membership; and, although the actual voting seems to be done by the student members, the decisions are obviously made by the faculty members. They do all the talking and the students are many times only vaguely aware of what is going on.

All organizations which have faculty supervision are represented on the committee. However, none of the student-directed activities are represented on even notified of the meetings.

May we suggest the following changes and improvements in the Student Activities Committee:

1. More students be encouraged to attend meetings.
2. Student-directed activities be definitely represented on the committee.
3. More adherence to rules and parliamentary procedure.
4. Election of summer Student Activities Committee to govern money for that session.

PREPARING FOR FINALS



c Gardner

NANCY YATES

Notes on a Metal Tray

The fifteen small newspapers are thrown carelessly beside me, as I begin to write. All but two of them are white and shiny; these two are dull newsprint. Every one is opened to the editorial page.



Yates

The paper is "The Mercer Cluster." Having nothing better to do this sleepy Sunday afternoon, I have been turning through back issues of "my" little newspaper to see just what I have written during these past eight months—and to try to get a clear picture through this printed record of what has happened this year at Mercer.

I find that, in the main, I have wasted the 15 or 20 inches of space reserved each week for my column. There are so many things I could have said, so many causes I could have promoted, so much potential influence I have ignored. But the type has been set, the presses have rolled, and issue after issue has been placed in the Co-op for distribution. Now we have come to the last one.

I remember my first few weeks at Mercer — how eager I was to be on the Cluster staff and how genuinely flabbergasted I was when named a columnist by the former editor.

But not until now did I fully realize what a great privilege and responsibility rested with me. I have always been a firm believer in the "power of the press", the newspaper as an institution for democracy, etc., etc. It seems, however, that I have not applied these maxims as my own personal obligation.

In a newspaper print shop are

long, narrow metal trays in which are placed the thin strips of lead (really lines of type) which form

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Connell's Address

Occasions such as this, set apart to recognize achievements, bring to my mind a line from Virgil's *Aeneid* which, when translated, reads: "Perhaps someday it will delight thee to remember these things." I am sure that one day you will sit down and in retrospect recall with pleasure this Honors Day.

I am likewise certain that all of you after leaving the college will at sometime sit down and take stock of what you should have gained from the money and time you have and will invest here. Many of you will recall that it was here you developed a zest for learning. Many of you will no doubt list the development of an industrious and disciplined mind, able to marshall an ample array of facts as one of your most important accomplishments here; most of you will discover that while here at Mercer you learned to weigh issues objectively before reaching a decision.

All of these are worthy and 'laudable objectives' of a college education, but none of these, from the standpoint of society, are very important unless you learn here at college to act as a man or woman of character and unimpeachable integrity. I know that there are those who say that character building is the domain of the home and

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CYNIC'S COLUMN

The Seniors' Choice

When many of the present membership of the senior class of 1954 were consulted by this cynic concerning the dedication of the Cauldron, Mercer's yearbook, he discovered that the general opinion was that the yearbook was the property of the senior class and was theirs to dedicate to the person of their choice. This, it seems is by no means the case. The "we" which one finds on the dedication page seems to be like Charles Lindberg's "WE", one person and an inanimate object. It would seem that a travesty on good old American democracy has taken place and that the rights of the seniors in the matter of whom they wished to honor in the dedication of the yearbook have been usurped by those (?) who were elected solely to direct and not to dictate.

The author and many of his cohorts had been planning for four years to dedicate the 1954 Cauldron to one of the faithful for many years in ministering to the material needs of a large segment of the male student body and who, it was felt, deserved some recognition for her services. It was felt that as Lee Battle was honored for his many years of service, and friendship to the students of Mercer, honors should also go to the undisputed Queen of the Serving Line, our beloved Minnie. She has worked hard for long years, not only in the prep-

aration and serving of meals, but also in an effort to bring order and decency into the chaos that is the Sherwood cafeteria. It was, and still is felt that some tangible recognition should come to Minnie for her service above and beyond the call of duty to those who receive their daily meat ration from her capable hands. Doubtless, the choice in the dedication of this year's Cauldron has been a good one, but this writer thinks it would be proper to keep in mind the name of Minnie for future honors. It would also be

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The Big Test

The Supreme Court has spoken! Segregation in the public schools is now legally unconstitutional. From every side one hears reactions of varying types, and it is discouraging to hear the statements some people make. Many, especially in our own Georgia, pledge themselves to an all-out fight against the ruling and against the law of the land.



Lynch

If they were to vote on it today, I have no idea what the Mercer student body would say to the following question: If Negroes were admitted to Mercer next year, would you return. It would be a close decision, I feel; and many different views on the issue would be given.

I condemn no man for holding to his own beliefs, but I feel that open defiance to our country's judicial system will not solve the problem that is before us. I fear that the Supreme Court decision will not solve it, for as it stands the call is for immediate action against the wishes of the group favoring segregation. But the point is, the country must work toward answering the question that is before us, not complicating the problem itself.

I have never gone to school with a Negro; I have never lived in close contact with one. I have worked with them, talked with them, and ridden with them. I am only the better for it, for now I feel that I know this other race well enough to live peacefully in the same world with them. I have no fear of being corrupted by association with another race, whether that race be black, brown, or yellow. My main fear is of people who let their prejudice and hatred of other races cause them to lose their own self-control and dignity.

The trouble with this world now is that we have not understood the citizens of other nations and they have not understood us. If races and nations cannot learn to cooperate, the world can never be "safe for democracy", or for anything else respectable. If the Christian love which was the main theme of our Savior is not enough to guide us through situations such as the one facing us now, we may as well put the Bible back on the shelf and seek something else. Christ preached tolerance, and in it I believe he meant for us to taste some things we find unpleasant without broadcasting expression of regret.

Whatever the decision of our school might happen to be, I'm certain of one thing for next school year. I would not be afraid to test my Christianity by returning.

Salute to 'Big Man'

We feel that some people do not receive the credit that is really due them. In our American political system (and consequently, in the Mercer political system) it is most frequently the person who gets the most votes or the one who makes the loudest noise who gets all the credit. We would not deny that much praise should go to the people who receive it, but it is regrettable that so many noble accomplishments of people behind the scenes go unnoticed.

The recent Mercer blood drive goes to prove part of the above contention. One Mercer senior, graduating after next week, who was not officially connected with the Student Government blood drive was probably most responsible for its success. We are not saying that the chairmen of the campaign failed to do their jobs, but that one behind the scenes was equally valuable.

Neither do we base our praise of this person on one single instance. This person has worked untiringly for a number of years on worthy projects of differing kinds. When this article was written, we had not seen the new Cauldron; but it is probably true that the list of activities by no other person is comparable in number to that of Wade Hiltabidel.

We salute this hard-working Pennsylvanian!

The Mercer Cluster

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