

We Regret Behavior

It is with much regret that Mercer students opposed to the honor system had to present the kind of behavior in chapel this morning that they did in the honor system vote. It seems that some cannot keep their emotions under control. The repeated attempts to stop the vote by "hook or crook" were merely synthetic measures invented to serve selfish ends. The philosophy they took was one which called for, first, organized opposition (we heard beforehand of plans to "filibuster"); second unorganized argument; and, third, win if it takes violence. We must give credit to those who did adhere to order, on both sides of the question.

The third point failed to pass the vote, but we feel that the students who believe in honor will make the system work. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN. If it fails, no one but the students are responsible.

Students Vote Wisely; Now Let's Enforce It

CONGRATULATIONS, Mercerians! You have accepted the honor system, and now it is our hope that you will resolve to enforce it. You have stood well for your convictions, but soon the real test will come. The system goes into effect next week for final examinations.

Now that all the discussion is over and the vote has been taken, may we pay tribute to some of those who have done so much to make it possible. Naturally we would first list our student body president, Joe Hendricks. Joe has worked tirelessly perfecting the intricate workings of this program, and our support should be behind him now in the carrying out of it. Along with him have worked Sonny Posey, Moncrief Jordan, Lawson Sayer, and Dan Cline. A large number of faculty members have assisted in the preparation of the honor code and amendment. Their work has been chiefly advisory, but it has been necessary.

Now the Student Government will provide each classroom on the campus with a framed copy of the honor pledge. The student will sign this pledge on each test paper to indicate his adherence to it.

The following is what you will pledge on your tests:

1. I did not give any help.
2. I did not receive any help.

We agree with Joe Hendricks, who said that Mercerians are now under a positive honor system aimed at building character and integrity, not prying and spying. We hope with him that it will be one that the student body will really want to uphold.

Major Connell's speech in chapel Tuesday was a wonderful expression of his support, and we feel that in him and his staff we have friends.

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.

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



Mercerians Frown on This

OPINION

Students Comment on System

The adoption of the honor system this morning in chapel sparked different reactions among Mercerians. A Cluster reporter contacted several and got the following comments from them:

Cindy Sartin, member of Student Activities Committee, said: "I certainly am glad an honor system will go into effect at Mercer. It will be a tribute to the school and each individual student. It will mean much more to many of the students than they seem to realize now."

Bud Avret, unanimous choice for the all-star softball team, added: "It is beyond question that expediency can never conflict with honor. What is fitting is honorable, and what is honorable is fitting. Nobody can acquire honor by doing what is wrong."

Roy Thornton expressed his opinion as follows: "It was indeed a disreputable and disilluminating condition that germinated and gave birth to the honor system at Mercer. However, in an orderly and democratic process, the issue has been faced; the Rubicon has been crossed. Therefore, let those of us who have had little faith in the proposed facsimile of an honor system not only accept the verdict of the student body but, indeed, assume the leading role in making the honor system the genuine article at Mercer."

Freda Cagle gave this view: "I'm certainly happy to see the honor system going into effect. To say the least, it is very disgusting to study real hard for an exam and

then have someone come up and cheat, make a high grade, shoot up the curve, and leave you holding the bag. I intend to do all I possibly can to make the honor system work."

The president of the BSU, Bill Middlebrooks, said: "I'm glad the honor system amendment passed, but an affirmative vote for it is not a guarantee of its effectiveness. It is up to each Mercer student to back up the action of the majority by his own personal honesty in academy work."

Against a background of seeing Mercer students come and go, as well as the coming and going of other proposals for honor systems, Mrs. A. P. Montague, of the library staff, said: "I am gratified that Mercer students have proven that they are honorable by adopting the long-discussed honor system. I feel that it is a fine step forward."

POINT THREE FAILS

(Continued from Page 1) meeting of the student body to discuss the proposed plan.

Hendricks declared a cessation of discussion, and cries of "Rail-roading!" increased.

Vote on point three was called as the final chapel bell rang. Hendricks declared point three failed in passage.

Tax Exempt

A tax assessor came one day to a poor minister of the gospel to determine the amount of taxes the minister would have to pay.

"What property do you possess?" asked the assessor.

"I am very wealthy," replied the minister.

"List your possessions, please," the assessor instructed.

"I have everlasting life (John 3:16), a mansion in heaven (John 14:2), peace that passeth understanding (Phil. 4:7), joy unspeakable (1 Pet. 1:8), a faithful and pious wife (Proverbs 31:10), healthy, happy, obedient children (Ex. 20:12), true, loyal friends (Proverbs 18:24), songs in the night (Psalms 42:8), and a crown of life (James 1:12)."

The tax assessor closed his book and said: "Truly you are a very rich man, but your property is not subject to taxation."—Quoted.

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.

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.

Lynch 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 chairman of the campaign failed to do their job, 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 Constitution but it is probably true that the list of activities by no other person is comparable in number to that of Wade Hillabield.

We salute this hard-working Perry (vanian)!

The Mercer Cluster

Editor C. C. LYNCH	Business Manager WALTER MOORE
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	Typists and Proofreaders: Janet McLaughlin, Inge Harper, Elizabeth Proctor, Frances Mann, Malvern Brown, Malcolm Chapman.

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