

Church Service Was Impressive

If for no other reason, we appreciated last weekend's campus church service because of the reverence shown by those present. Especially noticeable was the absence of rustling newspapers and book-pages and of unbridled tongues scattering abroad the latest gossip. In a sentence, it was the first time in our memory that we have sat in the back under the balcony of Willingham Chapel and were able to hear practically every word that was spoken. Students should be commended for their worshipful attitude in this service and should be reminded that many of our chapel programs are also worship services.

It is quite fitting that our Bear Weekend should be concluded with a church service. It should make us realize that before we can really have the Mercer spirit we must first be absorbed in the spirit of Christ.

May we thank Carswell Hughes; Bill Middlebrooks, Claranell Hobby, Faye Watson, and Tolly Williamson for conducting so impressive a service. The words of the closing song, "More Love to Thee, O Christ," ought to live on in our minds. Only the common Bond can expunge from our minds petty disagreements brought about by campus politics, organizational differences, and differences in personal abilities and preferences. This campus—as this world—must have "more love"—brotherly and Godward.

Brotherhood Key To Ease Problems

This week is Brotherhood Week, a time set aside to emphasize the necessity in our modern world—as ever before—to "love thy neighbor as thyself." We talk of peace and prayers for peace, but we continue to condone conflict by allowing prejudice and hatred to rule our actions.

Our world is full of disagreements and wars caused by misunderstanding. Nations cannot come to common ground in their deliberations on peace. None denies that peace is desirable, but all want it on their own conditions. They seek to interpret their fellows only in terms of themselves—never to admit that the other side has some good points about it.

So long as we continue to foster race prejudice, religious conflict, and class division, we cannot expect to march onward to peace. Last week *The Cluster* published a cartoon depicting the cooperative march of all creeds and all races on the foundation of brotherhood toward the goal of peace. We feel that only when we join forces with those who are different from us can we bring harmony to a sick world.

New Amendment

There is some indication that forces opposing the last proposed Student Constitution amendment on publications officials will soon come forth with a new proposal—based on the suggestion made to submit to the student body the selections of a screening board. Frankly, we will support it. We do not feel that we are altering our ideals by doing so. The primary desire of *The Cluster* has been from the first to provide a means to insure that only the qualified are accepted.

Look back to the first editorial we published on this matter after the first amendment was proposed; we suggested then THAT THE SELECTIONS OF THE BOARD BE SUBMITTED TO THE STUDENT BODY. We feel that our object is to see qualified persons chosen. Whatever the outcome, we hold this principle.



NANCY YATES

Roaming Around

Cynics have said that you rarely see a statesman nowadays—only politicians. In my opinion we saw both—a real statesman and a successful politician—in chapel Tuesday.

Of course, Senator Douglas "plays politics"—who doesn't? As he himself said when questioned about Chiang Kai Shek, sometimes it becomes a question, not "Is he right or wrong?" but "Is he for us or against us?"

Nevertheless, it seemed that the Illinois Senator meant what he said. He has a definite conviction for strong national defense and resistance to aggression, and he sticks to it. And, what's more, he almost convinced me.

Our thanks to the Student Government Association for presenting such an opportunity. We hope this policy of sponsoring outstanding speakers will be continued by the new student government, whenever they are.

AND WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS? Someone has brought it to mind that by attending classes on just two Saturdays during winter quarter and by pre-registration for spring quarter we could enjoy a full week of spring holidays. It's done at other schools; why not here?

SEVERAL OUTSTANDING PROJECTS were in the news concerning Brotherhood Week this week. Several Mercer faculty members and numerous students have been outstanding in these projects. It is interesting to note the progress made in social relations during the past few years.

BEGINNING NEXT FALL Mercer will offer a special new curriculum preparing students for positions as ministers of music, choir directors and organists and leading to a B. A. degree with a major in music. Dr. Rich says there has been a great demand from churches

all over Georgia that Mercer offer this curriculum. Another sign of our university progress.

TONIGHT IN THE RECREATION ROOM in the co-op students are invited to meet for another discussion similar to those held during Religious Focus Week. This is a part of the follow-up series planned by Buddy Moore and his committee. Refreshments will be served.

TWO WEEKS FROM TONIGHT the Mercer Players will present two plays, both of foreign origin, which were chosen in cooperation with International Theater Month. One of the plays is "The Trojan Women," Euripides' famous Greek tragedy. The other, "The Apollo of Bel-lac," is a comedy by a modern French dramatist.

NOW THAT BEAR DAY IS OVER, things have settled down to normal except for those poor students who have to write term papers and book reports. Some people have even begun to think about finals. Winter quarter, the shortest quarter in the year, is nearly over.

And with this, to borrow a quaint custom from an Atlanta Journal scribe, we have the following "pome":

In the spring a young man's fancy
Seldom seems to turn to.....
Guess Who?

C. C. LYNCH

Your Own Enemy

Literature is the expression of the lives of the age in which it is produced. At least, that is the first definition we are apt to give to it. But, actually, true literature expresses universal characteristics—that identify themselves with no particular place or time.

In not-too-long-past years, I could see little point in the study of the writings of people who have long since left this earth. I imagine it falls the lot of most high school students—and even some college students—to wonder what value is served by certain studies. Perhaps that is one reason I decided to major in English when I came here. I knew here must be value in it, and I wanted to like it. I



feel that I am in the process of succeeding.

It is quite surprising to most students to look in on a man like Emerson, who seems to have monopolized most of the thoughts they had supposed themselves to have discovered. Here was a man who truly thought and put his thoughts into appealing form. Or consider Mark Twain, a slightly-less-than religious man, who offered some really constructive criticism of pious institutions and people.

I find some of the truest pictures of human nature in that oft-rejected dramatist of England, William Shakespeare. I like especially the way he illustrates how we bring upon ourselves so much of the troubles we have to suffer. A tragedy of character is one in which the downfall is brought about by the one who falls. His own character becomes so debased that he ruins his life by hasty decision, selfishness, or the like.

This, I feel, is one of the greatest truths of all time. Man can blame little outside himself for his destruction. As the Bible itself teaches, that which is outside the man cannot hurt him, but it is evil within the heart that defiles a man.

... BETTER THAN EVER

This Is Cinema

By Donald King

"Movies are better than ever"—at least that is what Hollywood says. After all, in recent years the American movie-goer has had his movie environment greatly altered. The popcorn remains, but the ticket holder now has the privilege of seeing flickers that have been improved by the advances of Hollywood's technical experts. He can view the slaughter of Custer in full Cinemascope. This means he can view the ever-mounting bodies of the outnumbered troopers and the on-charging redskins in all their awesome beauty. Add a splash of technicolor, a few bugles, and who can resist the temptation to escape the worldly problems that exist on the very outskirts of the blazing marquee.

There are those who do resist the wide screen, stereophonic sound and the luring gesture of the beckoning posters. These human beings remain in their homes watching a somewhat smaller screen. It's television time U.S.A.—time for music, mystery, Bill the Bartender, recipes for various types of delicacies, an occasional Shakespeare play, more than occasional advertisements and, if one gets up early enough on Saturday, Winky Dink. (If one stays up late enough there's always the rather frayed film of the "Late Show.") It's a varied menu for the entertainment-hungry public. In the old days, those living in the smaller towns had to take what entertainment was available. That choice has increased with the process of "piped in" entertainment. This new choice privilege enjoyed by ye old average America has prodded the entertainment industries into some progressive action.

Very seldom has the attention of the American public been fought for with such expensive enthusiasm as during this battle for audience domination. During election years, the public is pampered somewhat by eager politicians, but never is it offered anything as tangible as the visual dramatic technique of Mitzi Gaynor or the growing shower of stars appearing on that little screen in the living room.

Hollywood has learned a major lesson during this battle. It takes more than just gimics to grip the prolonged attention of its audience. A bad movie on a big screen is still a bad movie. Television has to keep up with the pace also (Hooper ratings, you know). At any rate, the course of the struggle tends to become more interesting and beneficial to the American Public as the fiscal years roll by.

"Ring up the curtain, boys. Your audience awaits."

The Mercer Cluster

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