

Cluster Urges Students To Vote This Tuesday

Election day is next Tuesday! It is your duty as an American citizen to vote and, whether you favor the Republican or Democratic party, like Ike or Stevenson, approve of the farm policy or the soil-bank plan, it is your duty to express your sentiments in the one place in life where each American is an individual. Here, in this small area, you and your conscience can argue the facts and decide the issues at stake; here you are truly free to make that "by the people" phrase come true.

And yet many college students never bother to vote. It's just too much trouble to send home for an absentee ballot or too far to go home this week end to get one. It seems to be of no consequence that Geor-

gia is the only state which considers 18-year-old mature enough to vote. Yet if we are mature enough to be given the duty and privilege of voting, then we should be mature enough to fulfill that responsibility; otherwise, we might soon find the opportunity withdrawn.

We won't use that trite expression; "It doesn't matter how you vote; just vote!", because it does matter. But only you can decide which is the right way for you to vote. And only you, after careful consideration, can transfer the philosophy of the heritage of America into actuality by voting—it's your duty, your responsibility, your privilege!

J. W.

Cluster Suggests Front For Shorter Hall Dorm

While Mercer is in the midst of the present building program it would be a good idea to complete some of the unfinished buildings on the campus.

One large dormitory on the University grounds is actually not finished. This dorm is Shorter hall, built in 1947.

According to some, the dormitory plans first included a front for the building. All other dorms on the campus, Sherwood, Roberts, and Mary Erin Porter have front door entrances. Not so with Shorter. Students who live in this dorm must enter and leave via fire escapes on the sides of the building.

The building is, in a sense, unsafe. Although the enclosed fire escapes are fire-proof, the absence of a middle exit or back fire escape could prove disastrous if a fire were to close off both exits on the upper floor.

The building looks and feels incomplete.

Unlike most dormitories, it has neither a porch or a lobby. It is simply a well-constructed building with four monotonous, unbroken, brick walls.

The structure and the University grounds would look much better if a front porch, fronted by white columns, facing Edgewood Avenue, were added to the dormitory.

A lobby could be built on the front. It could include one or two of the rooms on the ground floor and be enlarged by an addition to the outside front of the dorm.

There is no immediate need for this added construction. And class buildings should certainly have first priority but since so much planning is being done for future building work the Cluster feels that this addition to Shorter Hall should be included.

B. S.

Many Students Are Not Considerate of Others

A considerable amount of unrest and murmuring has been noticed in the meal line of Sherwood Hall lately. This especially noticeable during the noon and evening meals. This unrest is caused by the inconsideration of men—or should we say juveniles breaking in line.

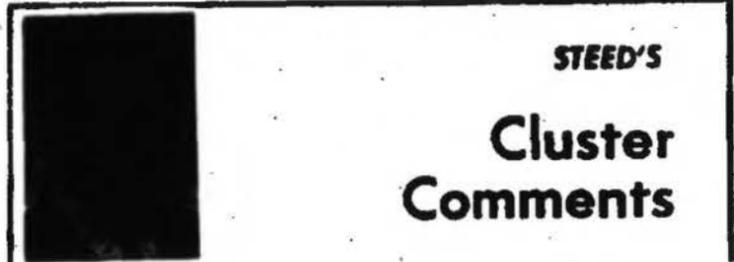
There have been several occasions when the line has grown toward the front while the rear end of the line remained stationary. The inconsideration of these immature little boys should not be tolerated in any college or university. Conduct such as this is just not expected of a man who is old

enough to be a college student.

Measures to prevent this action should not have to be taken. Every man should respect his fellow students and their position in line and take his own position at the back of the line.

If a man insists on acting like a high school boy, then he can only be expect to be treated as one. Therefore, we of the CLUSTER urge you "line jumpers" to grow up and be college men. Be respectful and considerate and you will receive the same treatment, and harmony will result.

T. J.



STEED'S

Cluster Comments

"WHY NO DANCING AT MERCER?"

An Englishman visiting this country was watching a dance at one of the high schools. After observing a few of the gyrations that go into what is called by some "dancing", he asked his friend, "They do get married later, don't they?"

This must be the attitude of the "powers that be" at Mercer. Since I have been here, entering freshmen have always had this question: "What do you mean you can't dance on the Mercer campus?" and the upperclassmen give the classic answer, "because."

No one knows exactly why we cannot have dances on campus. One professor told me that it was not because the administration felt it was sinful or un-Mercerlike but because there are simply no facilities.

This couldn't be so because Mercer, like every small college in the United States, has a gymnasium. All other colleges use their gyms for dancing, why not M. U.?

One fraternity has a lodge, another fraternity is building a lodge and others plan to do the same in the near future. Why couldn't these organizations hold small dances in these lodges instead of paying four or five hundred dollars a year to rent places like Ingleside, Idle-Hour or the YWCA.

There is a glaring inconsistency concerning the University's policy on this matter. Anything that is allowed to go on off the campus should be allowed to happen on the campus. And the University not only sanctions dancing off the campus, it requires that the dates of the dances be placed on the official calendar and that faculty chaperones be obtained for these functions. If they are going to control dancing off the campus, why don't they control it on campus.

If dancing is wrong why aren't students prohibited from going to places in town like the Pinebrook, Little T., Whistle Stop, etc., where they enjoy dancing to the music of bands hired for that purpose.

A definite stand should be taken on the matter. Either dancing is immoral and un-Mercerlike and should be outlawed altogether, on and off campus, or it should be officially approved by the University and allowed on the University grounds.

To me, the suggestion that dancing is wrong or sinful is ridiculous and I fail to see anyone, even by the most fantastic warping of any theology could come to such an absurd conclusion.

Our sister college, Wesleyan, a Methodist school, holds quite a few dances on their campus with no noticeable crime-rate or immorality increases as a result.

If Mercer University would dust the cob-webs off their antiquated book of social standards and spend a little student activities money to have one big "name-band" dance about once a year the increase in student spirit would be tremendous.

In my freshman year, Billy May and his orchestra were booked, probably by mistake, for a concert in chapel. Although no dancing was allowed, that one concert caused more spirit to be generated on this campus than I have ever seen before. Since then we have had Symphony orchestras, Dublin Players and Piano duos which have gone over like lead balloons.

Whatever steps must be taken to get the University to sanction dancing should be taken soon and if it means bringing this silly question up on the floor of the Baptist convention I think that might be in order.

Mercer Opinions

by Bob Stevens

The question this week is: "Do you think we should have faculty supervised dances on the Mercer campus?"

Warren Robertson, senior: "Yes, because I think it would help build up something Mercer needs—school spirit."

Robert Schell, senior: "Yes, because dances are the type of entertainment enjoyed by nearly all college students. School dances add greatly to school spirit."

Bill Hagan, junior: "I think we should have faculty-supported dances on the campus because they are held on campuses all around us, and I do not find anything basically wrong with dances. If they were held on the campus, it would be more convenient rather than having to rent a place, sometimes several miles away, for a dance. By having dances on the campus some people could attend who would not otherwise because of the transportation problem."

Betty Jean Carter, sophomore: "Yes, why can't we dance on campus as well as off campus at sorority or fraternity socials?"

Nancy Hall, sophomore: "Yes—dancing on campus with faculty supervision would be just like a chaperoned fraternity or sorority dance. So why should we have to have special occasions?"

Brackingham, senior: "Faculty supervised dances would be more orderly, carry more prestige, and create a closer union between faculty and students. In the long run, I believe it would also create better school spirit. These dances would also serve as a check against the student's conduct."

Katie Reed, senior: "Yes, I do. My reason is that I believe dancing to be wholesome fun, and I'd rather participate on campus than having to go find a place off."

Bill Nash, senior: "Yes, because I have yet to see any element on the campus so sacred or hallowed that would make dancing on the campus sacrilege. Furthermore, I don't see how anyone could be so stupid as to think that there is. It appears to me that it is sheer hypocrisy and nonsense for the school to prohibit dancing on the one hand and then turn around and allow the various social organizations to have dances with the stipulation that they are sponsored by the alumni of the organizations. This is pure fiction, and the school knows it."

York Hudgins, senior: "Yes, I think it would help the school spirit and bring the students closer together. At present various social organizations have dancing off campus, but I think it would be a good idea to bring the whole campus together as a group and have faculty supervised dances."



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