

ARNOLD



MU Spring Sports Need Much Student Support

Spring has finally arrived, and with it came the opening games of three Mercer Varsity sports. Three teams, golf, tennis and baseball opened their season officially last week and, as usual, the students on hand to witness these events were few in number.

The tennis team, of course, has not yet played a match on the Mercer campus and it is hoped that the tennis fans will line the clay courts when the Bear netmen hold their first home tilt.

The golf and baseball teams have both played games here and the student turnout has been almost nil. Track will start April 6, and the first home match will be with East Tennessee, April 20.

All Mercer teams show a great deal of promise in these early stages and they all have a better than even chance to have successful seasons this year.

The golf team has a number of returning players, Jerry Joyner, Ben Woodall, Dave Shiplett, Hank Chapell, John Thomas, and John Binns have all had experience on the links for Mercer and, with addi-

tional practice, should produce some good matches on the varsity scene. These encounters are held on the Bowden Municipal Golf Course and admission is free.

The baseball team has several lettermen returning and quite a bit of new talent has been imported for this season's squad. Coach Smith is looking forward to a very good season for the Bear nine. All Mercer baseball games at home are held in Willingham field behind Lanier High School and these too may be seen upon showing a student activities card.

Track meets will be held in Porter Stadium and although only two home meets are slated for this year they should prove very entertaining to all Mercer sports fans.

The tennis matches are held right here on Mercer's clay courts behind the Co-op and these are open to all spectators. Mercer has Bill Causey, Bill Nash, Carter Smith and Buddy Moore as returning lettermen this year and Sam Daniel and Tommy Johnson show a lot of promise as the tennis squad's rookies.

Mercer Debate Team Deserves More Support

In these confused, troubled, times of the atomic age, the Mercer University administration and student body are failing to support one of the best "activities" for preparing the college student of today to meet the crisis of tomorrow.

What is this "activity" the means for preparing the ambitious student for intelligent thought and action—that is not receiving proper support?

It is intercollegiate debating—an activity that has played a vital role on college campuses since the Harvard-Yale clash in 1892.

We know what debating is and what it does for the student, but just where is Mercer failing to support this activity?

First, Mercer is failing to adequately support debating here on our campus financially. Although many colleges offer scholarships to promising debaters, Mercer has not seen fit to relinquish its scholarship funds from emphasis in other areas.

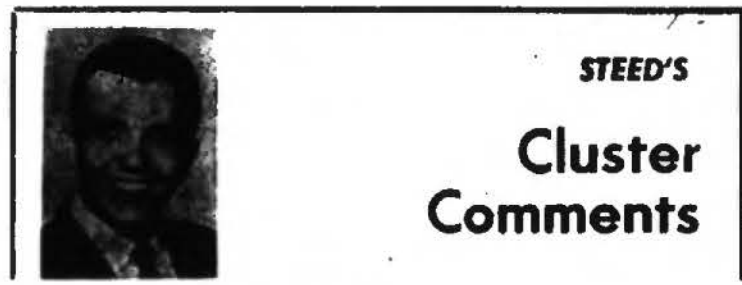
For another example, Mercer was eligible to enter the West Point national debate preliminaries held here last weekend, but was unable to do so because to enter you have to guarantee that you will go to West Point in April. The Mercer debaters were not assured the necessary funds and therefore could not enter.

Secondly, Mercer students do not show

any real interest in the art of debate. This is proved by the number of students that take debating course and by the number of students that go out for debating on the Mercer team.

Mercer's debate coach, Dr. Helen Thornton, and her debaters have continued to amaze many people with their excellent record in the face of the difficulties that confront them. All one has to do is step inside the speech room to see the awards that Mercer has amassed in past years. It is shameful that Mercer does not support its only intercollegiate team that competes with the largest schools in the country. Such schools as Harvard, who this year asked to meet Mercer's debate team here in Macon while they were in this region; West Point Military Academy, the University of Houston, second largest school in the south; Tulane, Miami University, FSU, Rice Institute, Kansas State, Baylor, Notre Dame, Columbia, Yale, and many more have recognized the stature of Mercer's debate team.

In light of the above facts, the Cluster earnestly and sincerely appeals to the student body and the administration to give the much needed support to the "activity" debate—an activity that truly deserves support.



STEED'S Cluster Comments

ON T. V. SOAP OPERAS . . .

Rain during the spring holidays made it too wet to plough while I was home, so in between sleeping and eating bouts I managed to log quite a bit of T. V. viewing. "Early to bed and early to rise" is the motto of small towns like ours and so every morning I would bound out of the bed around 11:00, quaff a little breakfast, and light up the picture tube.

This is an awkward time of the day for T. V. programs. Arthur Godfrey has already gone back to bed and the Mickey Mouse Club doesn't hit the screen for several hours. Sandwiched between these gems of entertainment are the daily T. V. soap opera serials, of which I will try to give a brief run-down.

The television version of the fifteen minute tear-jerker is about the same as the old programs on the radio. You remember the radio . . . they still have them in cars. The names of the programs are almost the same, "Mother Henklestrusser Faces Life"; "Stella Ft. Worth"; "One Man's Menagerie"; "Just Plain Otto"; "Lorenzo Shmoe" and "Portia Faces Milltown."

Background music has remained the same during the transition from the now forgotten radio to the tube-filled "Telafungie." The music is, of course, organ, and it is played throughout with flourishes and a little crescendo at the end of each speech. A good syrupy organist on a really sad soap opera can tear your heart out with these low notes.

They still have the same old announcer too. At the end of every program he sneaks up to the mike and asks, "Will Rosseta's six-year-old daughter Phoebe lose her job in the harness factory? Will Little Nell lose her liquor license? Will Yvonne Stringsshape starve to death before she gets slim enough to be a Vogue model? Tune in to tomorrow's exciting episode of 'Search For Normality' and find the answer to these and many other fascinating questions."

The sponsors for these little epics are still the detergent makers. If, while looking for one of these programs, you hear a voice screaming, "Just look at that rich, thick, foaming suds action!!!", don't move a dial, you're there. And have you ever noticed there aren't any old soaps . . . It's always "Gumbo . . . the New washday miracle." Gumbo was the NEW washday miracle during the depression when people used it to suds their spats.

The plots are about the same too. They are all slightly more than tragic and sometimes the script writers get completely carried away and utter chaos is the result.

My program wasn't too complicated. It was about Yetta Svenson, an Italian bookmaker, whose husband, Heathclift, was sent to jail for robbing a bank in order to buy his stepson, Bruno, a sophomore in the local university, some text books. Heathclift was released on parole and finds that Yetta is engaged to Stanley Deerfat, a butcher and local notary public. Deerfat, however is secretly in love with Bruno's half-sister Romona. This would all be pretty simple if it wasn't for Carlotta Bon Bon, who is madly in love with Stanley and mixes up all the marriage licenses in the courthouse. In the last show I saw before coming back to school Heathclift was contemplating suicide because he had just found out that he was married, by mistake to his brother-in-law Hemo Hearthstone.

I never found out how it ended, but the sponsor says "It'll all come out in the wash."

Mercer Opinions

The question this week is "What did you do over spring holidays?" Shirley Canady, senior . . . "Got blistered in Jacksonville, Fla."

J. Doherty, junior . . . "I visited a New York suburb—Miami Beach. While there I watched horses run and made friendly wagers on their speed. After some unsuccessful wagers I returned via the scenic route of the hitch-hiker."

Ed Chapman, Law School freshman . . . "I worked and took a vacation from The Law."

Hugh Juan Wallace, junior . . . "Sweated grades."

Nan Williams, junior . . . "Ate, slept and scrounged around."

Don Guest, junior . . . "Typed about 20 business letters, smoked 10 packs of Kools, drank one bottle Jack Daniels."

Charley Andrews, freshman . . . "When spring comes, my heart turns to thoughts of . . . tennis. Therefore, I played on the courts day and night while I was home."

Bad Wolfenbach, senior . . . "Watched frogs climb trees."



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