

The Mercer Cluster

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Dorm Girls Dissatisfied With Probation Rule

by Gene Anderson

(Editor's Note: The following article grew out of a Letter to the Editor appearing in this issue. See Letter, Page Three.)

"Most girls are mature enough to know when to go out and when to study . . . and if they don't they shouldn't be in college anyway."

This was one of the main comments heard when I went out to cover this assignment—just how effective is the study hall system at MEP.

Most of the girls I talked with were particularly dissatisfied with enforced study halls. "If one does not want to study, then no rule will make her do it," was often heard.

Another comment was . . . it's alright for entering freshmen but for juniors and seniors it's silly and illogical."

One sophomore particularly did not like the probation rule which kept her away from campus activities. She cited previous quarter's grades as keeping her at the dormitory.

"Harder subjects are taken during some quarters than in others and therefore grades are unrelated from quarter to quarter," she said.

A senior offered a possible solution to the problem: "If dorm probation were based on mid-term grades instead of previous quarter's grades, the system would be more effective."

Miss Burns, when asked to comment on the rule, said she hesitated in making a statement, but would be glad "to serve in an advisory capacity."

Dean Brown declined to comment on the situation.

Painting Exhibit Student Center

An exhibition of Canadian Abstract Paintings is now on view at the Student Center.

Organized by the National Gallery of Canada, this exhibition is being circulated by the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D. C.

The Mercer Art Department and the Student Activities Committee have joined with Wesleyan in bringing this important exhibition to Macon. Thirteen of Canada's best painters are represented by the 44 oil paintings which are displayed primarily in the upstairs Student Lounge.

Marshall Daugherty, head of the Mercer Art Department, has some advice for those who are puzzled or outraged by these abstractions: "If you look for stories or scenes in these paintings, you will fail to find them. The artists are interested only in creating beautiful or emotionally expressive combinations of colors, shapes and textures, rather than in attempting to portray nature photographically."

"Some of the paintings are harmonious in color and texture, while others show deliberate dissonances. Try to enjoy each one as you would a sunset or a precious stone, without any literary associations."

The Canadian exhibit will continue through next week.

Kierkegaard Book Review Scheduled Part Of RFW

Professor Francis Otto will review Soren Kierkegaard's Purity of Heart Is to Will One Thing on Feb. 20 in the special reading room of the library.

This review is planned as part of Religious Focus Week.

RFW Plans Near Finish, Noffsinger Main Speaker

Plans for Religious Focus Week 1958 were pronounced "in good shape" Thursday by the Rev. Mr. Heslip Lee, Mercer director of religious activities.



FINAL TOUCHES on Religious Focus Week activities are being made by co-ordinators of the presentation. Left to right are Elmer Whitaker, Heslip Lee, Jean Howell, and Johnny Johnson. Staff Photo by Robinson

The religious emphasis week begins Feb. 24, with Dr. Jack R. N. Noffsinger of Winston-Salem, N. C., as the main speaker.

"The majority of committees are in good shape," Mr. Lee said. He added, "A great deal of enthusiasm has been expressed for the seminar topics."

"It seems to me there are quite a number of students who are beginning to get the feel of the thing now, especially since the seminar topics and leaders have been released," Mr. Lee concluded.

Committee chairmen have all but completed final plans for the week, having been at work all quarter. The chairmen are Jean Howell, program; John Johnson, music; Marty Layfield, seminars; Linda Bellamy, publicity; Sara Cordell, hospitality; Mary Ann Clegg, social; Emily Hughes, stimulation; Shelby Royal, informal discussion; and Alan Warr, brochure.

Dr. Noffsinger will speak at three chapel periods and three evening services. He will also lead seminar groups.

Evening services will be at 7:30 with the seminar beginning at 8:30 and lasting one hour. The seminars will be held in classrooms over the campus.

Theme for the four day observance is Christian Faith Works Toward Community.

As a newly-ordained minister during World War II, Dr. Noffsinger served for three years as a Navy chaplain, most of his service being with the Third Marine Division with which he participated in the Iwo Jima campaign.

Teacher and Director

After being discharged, he helped organize and directed the Roanoke School for Veterans in Virginia. In 1946 he accepted a position on the faculty of the University of Richmond, where he taught New Testament and directed religious activities.

Before going to his present pastorate last September, he was minister at churches in Richmond and Gainesville, Fla.

He has been a member of Religious Focus Week teams at several colleges and universities, served as State Pastor Advisor for the Baptist Student Union in Florida, and been a member of the Ridgecrest faculty several times.

A Phi Beta Kappa, Dr. Noffsinger is a graduate of the University of Richmond and Colgate-Rochester Seminary, and in 1954 Stetson University conferred upon him the honorary degree of doctor of divinity.

Campus Sing Themes Due

Themes for the Campus Sing are overdue and should be turned in immediately according to sponsors T. P. Haines and Graydon Ware. Final date set for accepting themes is set for tomorrow, Feb. 15.

Ballads of America will be the general theme of the event. It covers a wide variety of singing and songs.

Date for the affair has been set for April 30, at 8 p.m. in Willingham Chapel.

Last year Chi O took top honors in the five campus organizations participating, with MICA receiving second and SAE third.

Gate of Hell Passion Tale

Gate of Hell, the first color film from Japan released in the United States, will be presented at Mercer Monday in Willingham Chapel.

The prize-winning foreign film features Japanese dialogue with English subtitles. According to Bosley Crowther of the New York Times, "use of color as applied to the Japanese scene . . . is on a level that renders it comparable to the best in Japanese art. And the use of music and physical movements has a weird eloquence and grace that are profound."

Grand Prize

Gates of Hell received Grand Prize at the 1954 Cannes Film Festival. Other awards include academy awards as best foreign film and best costume design; New York Film Critics award as best foreign film of the year; Joseph Burstyn Award; special award of Photographic Society of America.

It will be presented at 7:30 p. m. Monday.

"... Be My Valentine And I'll Tranquilize You"

by Charlotte Moore

Today is the day of hearts and flowers.

All over Macon huge red boxes are being opened by grammar school children at Valentine parties. All over Mercer students are receiving all kinds of cards—some sweet, some humorous, some obviously cuts.

More and more senders are turning to the "contemporary" cards: The downtown stores are full of these and they are more popular with the cynical crowd than are the traditional red lace hearts. Featuring such captions as "Two's company; be my guest," and "Be my tranquilizer," these cards can mean almost anything and can be sent to almost anyone.

The run-of-the-mill valentine has become extinct. The shelves are full of \$2 extravaganzas with mirror hearts and gilt cupids, valentines for Mommy, Daddy, Nannie, Great-Aunt, and darling-baby-brothers. There are those for the sick, the old, the too young to read,

and "one whom I have not seen for many years but still think of on holidays."

You can buy a valentine for your teacher (might be a good idea), your preacher, and even for your brother-in-law. Sweethearts are utterly ignored in the new industry, but "bosses" aren't.

But, there is something very bewildering about purchasing a discreet and sincere valentine. After you browse over red velvet hearts with two yards of florentine lace, and the infinite rows of "to my darling Mommy" and "Daddy, you'll always be my valentine," you will suddenly run into the perfect one—small, not elaborate, no poetry, adequate sentiment. You eagerly grab it and look inside, only to find something like "a little gift follows" or "here's your valentine wallet." Frustration.

Well anyway, it's all over. All the necessary cards have been bought and mailed and reacted to. If you got a "slam," remember it was a thought of you.

Traffic Committee Tells "Disregard" of Tickets

by Jane Oliver

Brannan Thompson, chairman of the Traffic Committee, reported that many students have disregarded tickets recently issued. The committee plans to check the license numbers and issue a second notice by mail to these violators.

Mercer's traffic cops were hard at work this week, giving tickets for all sorts of traffic offenses.

Traffic court for those who have received tickets will be held Monday at 12 noon in 107 Humanities Building.

On receiving a ticket, violators should appear at the next meeting of the court. They can appear no later than its second meeting.

Thompson said, "There is the possibility that a person may not be charged with contempt of court if he appears of his own accord, but it is definite that an extra fine will be levied if a second notice has to be sent."

Approximately 23 fines—most for improper parking—have been taken up so far. Around eight or ten fines have been collected for illegal possession of a car. A number of cars have been sent home.

The major emphasis of the committee has been in checking cars for registration and illegal parking. Registering a car within two days cancels a ticket received for this failure.

Illegal parking includes parking in restricted areas, blocking driveways, and failing to park within the lines. The fine is generally \$1 for first offenders, \$3 for second offenders, and \$5 for third offenders. After the third offense, the student will be deprived of his car.

Ease Traffic Flow

The committee plans to make a special effort toward easing the traffic flow in front of MEP and by the gym. Speed breakers have been suggested by President Connell but the city has taken no definite steps yet.

All money collected from fines now goes to the Student Government. However, the traffic committee hopes to use some of the funds for the purchase of registration decals.

Thompson says, "By way of information, Adams Street is one way from Shorter Hall to the traffic light."

"It is not my desire to punish the honest and let the dishonest go by with keeping a car or with disregarding a violation ticket," he added.

The committee has appointed two assistants, Daniel Boone and Ellis Taft. Other members of the committee are Thompson, chairman, Juanita Tanner, Beverly Bowers, Dean Louise Brown and Dean Richard Burts.

In Regular Session

The court will meet in regular session on the first Thursday of each month at 10 a. m. and the third Monday at 12 Noon, in 107 Humanities Building.

Offenses of Mercer automobile regulations are:

1. Failure to register car. All dormitory students are required to register their cars during the regular class registration or as soon as the car is brought to school. A fee of 25 cents will be charged for registration; failure to do so will result in a dollar fine (Only registered cars will be allowed in the campus parking lots, exclusive of the lot adjacent to the new student center.)

2. Parking in restricted areas. Driveways, walkways, areas clearly marked by signs or by yellow lines and other obvious places are considered restricted areas.

3. Illegal possession of car. No upperclassman without a "C" average or above for the preceding quarter will be allowed to have a car. A freshman will be allowed to have a car only provided he makes a "B" average for the preceding quarter.