

Students, Faculty Urged To See Fall Presentation

The drama department is putting the last touches on the fall quarter play "The Desperate Hours." They will have a two night stand Thursday and Friday in Willingham Chapel.

Students, faculty and friends are urged to attend and support this group in their endeavor to furnish the community with meaningful entertainment. The group's ability has been proved by their past performances.

It takes about 60 people to plan and stage a drama and almost 1800 man hours in rehearsals and stage work. The group works steady for nearly five weeks in order to bring the Mercer community a well produced play.

The few hours it takes to attend this drama are well worth our time. Not only do we receive good intellectual entertainment, but we also reward the director, cast and crew for their many hours of hard work and worry.

Honor System's Status Hard to Ascertain Now

It is difficult to tell at this particular point just how the Honor System stands at Mercer.

Probably a lot will depend on the recommendations and findings of the special faculty committee appointed to look into the Honor System in light of the defeat of the proposed constitutional amendment requiring reporting of academic cheating.

The question is this, does the Honor System have the support it needs to remain at Mercer?

And that is a question which is difficult to answer.

The vote on the amendment was 423 for, 376 against. It's anybody's guess as to what the figure mean. But it does seem safe to say that not over a third of the student body is willing to report academic cheating.

This is unfortunate, as indeed the defeat of the amendment is unfortunate. But it is also the truth and there is little getting around the fact the Honor System took a bad beating when the amendment was defeated.

The figures show that the number of students who would report violations of the Honor System is far from what supporters of the amendment would like.

It remains to be seen whether or not the Honor System took its death blow in last week's vote.

Debate a Big Success Due to Special Support

The second annual Dixie Debate Tournament at Mercer was a tremendous success due to the work of the debaters, coaches, Mercer faculty and interested students.

Many of the largest colleges and universities in the Southern region attended the tournament after hearing the favorable comments spoken after the last year's first Dixie Tournament.

Mercer was the recipient of deserved praise for conducting such a large tournament with grace and smoothness. The interest of faculty and students was expressed by their assistance of the Mercer debater and their able coach, Dr. Helen Thornton.

The two past tournaments prophecy continued growth and success in the future. Mercer is beginning a tradition which will require student participation and faculty support during the coming years. The Mercer Cluster urges students interested in debate to contact the Debate Club.

Paper Backs Are Here, Book Store Announces

Paperbacks are finally here. After many, many years of outcries, pleas and threats, the University book store is now stocking the inexpensive, soft-cover books.

A list of the titles which will be offered (see story elsewhere in this issue) promises boundless, inexpensive opportunities for the Mercer student.

No, the book store is not carrying paperbacks by Mickey Spillane or Francois Sagan, but the books being stocked are entertaining, informative, helpful and interesting.

Congratulations to the staff of the Mercer book store. We welcome the paperbacks to our campus.

The Mercer Cluster

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BUDDY HURT

Another \$42,000 ?

And just what couldn't this school do with an additional \$42,000 a year?

We could raise every faculty member's yearly salary a flat \$500. We could establish any number of honorary scholarships to attract outstanding students to Mercer.

We could do almost anything with another \$42,000 and there is a way whereby it would cost us nothing. The reason for the somewhat odd and arbitrary figure of \$42,000 is that it is just about how much Mercer pays in Georgia sales tax each year.



Tax Laws Are Tax Laws

On the face of things, the figure may be surprising but nothing more. That does seem like a lot of money, but tax laws are tax laws and why shouldn't Mercer pay just like everybody else?

Of if you want to expand the discussion to the nine independent senior accredited colleges in Georgia, why shouldn't they have to pay the \$250,000 per year they do?

Well, the facts are these. State-supported schools, naturally enough, pay no sales tax. The nine independent senior colleges are educating 37 per cent of all students now enrolled in Georgia four-year colleges.

An Illogical Position

This puts these colleges in the illogical position of paying to the State of Georgia each year a quarter of a million dollars for the privilege of fulfilling over one-third of the state's higher education responsibility.

No doubt, the state can use the money. But these non-profit colleges can use it, too, and all to everybody's advantage.

So these few words of prose amount to a plea (of questionable value) to our wise solons to reconsider their tax policies concerning private colleges.

We don't have near enough money as it is and we just don't see why we must pay the state to do the state's work.

LETTERS

Let's Cheer Loud and Long For Mercer Student Body

To the editors of The Mercer Cluster:

Why don't we cheer loud and long for the Mercer student body? At last the students have spoken and the issue of the second amendment (sic) is resolved.

The Cluster is no longer the "Mirror of Student Opinion", as the motto once read. It is, instead, a mirror of the opinions of a few. And it really mirrors their opinions. Several of the last issues have been devoted, it seems, to the Honor Council and its opinions.

In the last issue of the paper, part of one of your slanted news stories stated, "Student Government will hold a special orientation program." And surely, the SGA and the HC did try to orientate or perhaps indoctrinate the student body. With the newspaper as its mirror and \$250 of our money, the HC did everything possible to railroad its foolish amendment.

But the chapel indoctrination failed. Mercerians began thinking and then, seeing the thing as it really was, voted the amendment down. The difference in the size of the margin of defeat this year as compared to the margin of last spring is significant. More people are willing to make their own decisions and not let the "leaders" of SGA decide for them.

Maybe this whole thing indicates that a good many people are not well pleased with our bias newspaper, our "better-than-thou" Honor Council, and our Student Government.

Well, it sure would be nice, I think, if some people would realize that we, the student body, can think. Why don't we cheer loud and long for the student body?

Steve Smith

MARTY LAYFIELD

An Urgent Question

It would seem from the statements that have been made by the leading political leaders of our country, as well as the chairman of the Democratic Party, that the South is about to lose what voice it has had in the national political scheme.



We have never had much say so in the national elections or for that matter, even the political conventions. The situation this year looks worse than past years.

The heartbreaking news is the threat that Southern members of Congress are not going to be given the top committee chairmanships. This threat was made by Paul Butler last Sunday when asked about a Southern bolt from the Democratic Party.

Civil Rights Plank?

A revolt might result if a strong civil rights plank is included in the Democratic platform during the 1960 elections.

It has been the same story for many years and yet the South continues to vote Democratic no matter what! Georgia has never voted Republican and seems to be proud of it. Kicked, cussed and now almost dethroned, Georgia people will continue to vote the same way.

This will continue to be our place until Georgia and Southern people realize that they cannot remain so far to the left from the rest of the nation and world and remain respected and honored with awards.

Denounced and Dethroned

As long as we refuse to discuss and co-operate we will be denounced and dethroned.

The people outside the South have lost all confidence in the ability of Southern people to solve their own problems. The ramblings of certain political leaders have not done much to help this feeling nor has the action by certain organized groups helped us.

This is an urgent question and those who will suffer will be the present generation. The influence that they might have will be lessened by the present situation if it continues.

LIFE OF THE COOL-3

The Philosophy

By Haywood Ellis

What is the philosophy of the beats? Is there any difference between this group and the recently publicized "existentialists" or the now-forgotten "Bohemians?"

The existentialists can be classified most easily, as their center of operations has always been France. The Bohemians were a familiar group who have given a bad name to many similar movements, such as the beat. These blatant non-conformists-for-the-sake-of-non-conforming made Greenwich Village in New York City their home.

Beats From San Francisco

The beats, however, rose from a nucleus located in parts of San Francisco. This group had almost completely developed before news of their philosophy leaked out. Immediately, a branch office was opened in New York City. This is where the confusion with the Bohemians entered into the picture.

There is a definite difference between the philosophy of the San Francisco and New York beats. The principle aspect of the way of life developed on the West Coast is a mental climate apart from and above the ordinary level.

These "elder statesmen" have completely ridged their mind of thoughts on everyday, mundane affairs. They are only, it would seem, concerned with universal problems and the problems of mankind overall.

Move Selfish

The New York group, in a way, is more selfish than the others. They seemingly are concerned more with their individual problems than with the problems of mankind. They have also added a physical aspect to "the life." This aspect is best illustrated in the book by Jack Kerouac, "On The Road."

Herein Kerouac describes the "physical freedom" desired by this type in the pleasure the central character derives from hitchhiking, working, riding bumpy old trucks across three states at a time, sleeping inside a cloud of mosquitoes, etc.

But, according to the author, this more earthy type of beat stands in complete awe when he faces one of the Frisco clan. Kerouac hints that his own kind are so inferior as to be a different genre from the San Francisco High Priests.

(Next Week: The Philosophy, continued)