

THE FACULTY WRITES

Closer Faculty-Student Relationship Needed

by Dr. Willis B. Glover
 (Editor's Note: This is the third in the current series of articles by Mercer faculty members. The writer is a professor of history. He holds degrees from the University of Virginia and Harvard University.)

In my three years and more at Mercer, I have found some of my colleagues to be intellectually stimulating and worthy persons. What concerns me is that so few students ever get to know their more interesting teachers as I know them.

Apart from greater selectivity in students, the difference between a college like Williams and one like Mercer is not primarily in their having a superior faculty but in their putting that faculty in a position to continue the creative scholarship we were all introduced to in graduate school and to have more creative contact with bright students in small classes and informal meetings outside the classroom.

The heavy teaching load and large classes which sap the energies of the best teachers at Mercer are, however, not capable of amendment by students or faculty. What we can do is to seek to improve faculty-student relations under the existing circumstances.

The need is for informal fellowship between faculty and students in the discussion and appreciation of intellectual and artistic interests proper to the members of an institution of higher learning. Obviously this purpose is not served by stunt nights in which the faculty clown for the entertainment of students or by increasing the amount of time which faculty members spend in conferences with incompetent or indolent students who want to be told again that the way to make better grades is to work harder.

(This is not to say that there is anything improper about a student conferring seriously with his teacher about his grades or his study habits. Since the Mercer faculty is unusually approachable by students, this is not much of a problem; but this kind of contact does not do much to improve the quality of liberal education at Mercer.)

Efforts of faculty members to get students into their homes for the common enjoyment of serious conversation or art have not, so far as I know, met with much response from the students. The only case of sustained interest in such meetings since I have been at Mercer was, I think, a group with a strong in-group feeling of intellectual and moral superiority which had some very unhealthy results. Nevertheless, this group did more to enliven Mercer than anything that has happened here since the professor responsible moved on to greener pastures.

I am not sure what steps ought to be taken to improve the quality of faculty-student relations, but I think one prerequisite to any effective step is that the students raise their sights a bit and aspire to something more in this area than stunt nights or the transformation of faculty members into chaplains for "sad soldiers" among the students.

I doubt if any new organizations ought to be attempted—Mercer students are already as over-organized as a B.T.U. Perhaps something more could be done by organizations already existing. I understand the B.S.U. is planning to begin a theological discussion group under the leadership of Mr. Healy Lee and Mr. Kenneth Cauthen. Other groups might attempt some one-shot discussions and panels. And I hope, of course, that

there will always be some opportunities for students to visit with professors in their homes.

Messiah . . .

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 will be admitted. Also, because of contractual arrangements with the visiting parties and the religious mood of The Messiah, no tape recordings or flash bulb pictures may be made during the performance

Ushers will be members of the Mercer chapter of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. Decorations, set and lighting effects will be under direction of Norman Burnes, president and manager of the choir.

The Mercer art department will have a special exhibit of silk screen prints on display in the entrance hall and on the second floor of the chapel building. These works are on loan from the Western Serigraph Institute in California, and will be moved to the chapel building from the Student Center, where they are currently on display.



photo by John Robinson
A LOOK AT THE WATER-WORKS—It's the Macon water works and all that machinery plays a direct part in the purification of water as bacteriology teacher Harold Miller's classes learned last week on a special field trip. Left to right are Henry Drake, Bobby Ogden and John Harrington.

Phi Delt Elects

Phi Delta Theta Fraternity named Marty Layfield, senior from Columbus, as its new president Wednesday night. Sam Daniel was elected reporter for the coming term.

Other fraternity officers are Dixon Nash, secretary; Marvin

Ballard, treasurer; Charles Roquemore, assistant treasurer; Charles Keaton, warden; Ben Clements, chaplain; Wayne Evans, alumni secretary; Tommy Hudson, librarian; Win Parkins, historian.

The officers will be presented Friday night at a party given by the pledges at the Lanier Hotel.

Blue Key . . .

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Rodney Browne of Manchester, junior; German Club, president; Honor Council; The Mercer Cluster, sports editor; Phi Eta Sigma, president; Beta Beta Beta; Alembic Club; Inter-Fraternity Council; Sigma Alpha Epsilon, vice president.

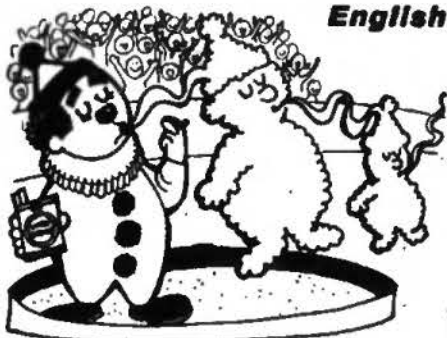
Jack Murphy of Macon, senior; Alembic Club; Beta Beta Beta, secretary; Pershing Rifles, captain; PMS & T Student Council; Distinguished Military Student; Military Honor Student; Cadet Major; Outstanding Cadet; Sigma Alpha Epsilon, vice president, secretary; intramurals.

Noel Osteen of Pembroke, junior; Honor Committee, Honor Council; Elections Committee, chairman; Pershing Rifles; Military Honor Student; Pre-Law Club; varsity basketball; Alpha Tau Omega, vice president; intramurals.

Marty Layfield of Columbus, senior; Student Government Association; Phi Delta Theta, secretary and historian; Tau Kappa Alpha, president; Debate Team; Debate Club, president; The Mercer Cluster, sports editor and executive editor; Homecoming Committee, chairman; Pre-Law Club; Ciceronian Literary Society, vice president; Westminster Fellowship.

THINKLISH

English: CLOWN WHO BLOWS FUNNY SMOKE RINGS



Thinklish translation: In three-ring circles, this fellow's known as "Mr. Funnyman" (largely because his name is Horace P. Funnyman). When he does his smoke-ring act, the tent's in stitches. Naturally, this world-famous puffoon chooses Lucky Strike. "I like the honest taste," he says. A canvass (or tent poll) of the Big Top shows that this is no freak sentiment.

English: WITLESS FOOTBALL PLAYER



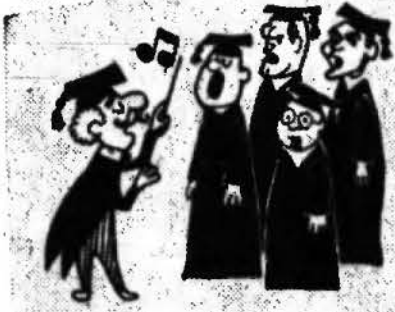
Thinklish: ORIDIOT
 LEON ROTH, U.S.C.

English: NOISY INSECT



Thinklish: CLATTERPILLAR
 WILLIAM ERNST, VALPARAISO

English: COLLEGE FOR SINGERS



Thinklish: CROONIVERSITY
 ERNEST EDISCH, AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL

English: GIANT RODENT



Thinklish: ENORMOUSE
 JIM STROTHER, MICHIGAN STATE

English: ANGRY MAN DOWN UNDER



Thinklish: CROSSTRALIAN
 RAOUL WEINSTEIN, U. OF RICHMOND



Get the genuine article
 Get the honest taste
 of a LUCKY STRIKE

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