

The Mercer Cluster

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THE TATTNALL Square

An item in the recent 75th Anniversary Edition of The Macon News quoted an article from the March 3, 1913 issue of that paper.

Headlined "Young Ladies Must Be Chaperoned In Mercer Frat Halls," the re-printed article read:

"Whenever young ladies visit the fraternity rooms of Mercer University in the future, a chaperone, approved by the faculty, must be present. Last week members of one of the frats and some young lady visitors indulged in a few dances in the frat hall. This being reported to the faculty, the following has been posted:

"The attention of the students is called to the following action of the faculty:

"The faculty, believing that ladies should not visit the fraternity halls without being properly chaperoned, passed the following regulation:

"Students desiring to have ladies visit the fraternity halls must provide a chaperone approved by some member of the faculty in writing, and this approval shall be filed by the professor with the secretary of the faculty.

(signed) W. E. Godfrey,

Secretary

"The Frat Halls are located on the third floor of the main frat building.

Maybe the good old days weren't so bad? Hmm.

More Student Action Need On Lunch Lines

The Cluster takes this opportunity and space to commend some of the groups on campus who have not been content to mere talk and listen about the lunch line situation.

ATO is given a hearty vote of thanks for initiating some constructive action in this matter. ATO brothers and pledges are fined \$1.00 for line breaking. It is about time someone made a first move toward this. We would ask other fraternities ties to consider some such action.

Women's Student Government has gone on record as being opposed to line breaking and has asked its member organizations to discuss some means of control within their own groups. Suggested measures include voluntary restraint on the part of the women students or a system of fines similar to the ATO plan.

Words are very impressive to all of us, whether written or spoken. We seem to have an awe of our language. But more awe-ful is the fact that words seem to have affected Mercer students to the point that they are doing something about this "mess" instead of adding more words to a very wordy question. Words without action have no meaning.

All About Lines

CLIFF HENDRIX



In light of the Student Senate resolution pertaining to the noon dining room congestion, it seems not amiss at this point to say that such a stand as the Senators took was reasonable, patient and designed with the student interest in mind.

Nobody can deny that such throngs as descend on the lunch room after fourth period are a nuisance and should be eliminated if possible.

On the other hand, circumstances are undoubtedly such that the cafeteria, for lack of student help, lack of other employees or whatever, cannot open for business before the fourth period bell sounds at twelve thirty.

However, the earliest that student help without periods can be found, or as quickly as fulltime employees can be found to man the steam tables, the better student, tired of sweating out lines of two and three abreast, weary of gulping food and dashing off to fifth period or to work, or to whatever, will like it.

It may be, in all fairness to the cafeteria administrators who serve hundreds of meals a day, that this bad situation cannot be relieved until next quarter. This is sad but it may have to be.

Only let us be sure that it does happen soon. Certainly, the Senator who observed that many students will not be back next quarter is absolutely right.

Most likely the need will not be so acute when school re-opens in January. But there will still be the students lacking fourth period classes who flock to the cafeteria between 12:15 and 12:30 who could be served and out of the way before the hordes pour down the hill from class after fourth period. If the dining room persists in its present policy these will continue to constitute a backlog which will make the situation what it is this quarter.

The Student Senate has asked for 15 minutes at the least. This isn't much to ask. They have even gone so far as to suggest that one line be closed at one o'clock if the cafeteria doesn't want to increase actual serving time.

But the important point is that a remedy, not difficult to realize, has been suggested for improving a bad situation.

This remedy should be used.

BOULDER, COLO. (I.P.) The Inter-University Committee on the Superior Student, organized by Dr. Joseph W. Cohen of the University of Colorado, is an effort to promote the growth of Honors programs, in particular growth in programs which single out superior students earlier in their college careers and cut across departmental lines.

According to Dr. Cohen, "Colleges and universities all over the country are proving that there are many ways, not just one way, to provide for the superior student. New techniques are being developed to meet new situations. The most common type of honors program is departmental, providing for more intensive work in the student's field of concentration.

Just So You Believe



It really doesn't matter what you believe, just so you believe in something, right?

Personally, I believe in lunch lines. I am at present toying with the idea of not believing in lunch lines, it hopes they will go away.

In case anyone cares, I wrote the editorial about Bev

a couple of weeks ago. One result of this is, you may have noticed, that the Cluster editorials heretofore nameless, shall henceforth carry initials, so that any wrath may be heaped on the head of intrepid one who wrote it.

But as I said, getting back to the subject I believe in lunch lines. I have good reason for my belief. As you know, lunch lines at Mercer are very easy to believe in.

What, to paraphrase the AMA and Edgar Guest is a lunch line? A lunch line is a place where one stands day after day in the constant search for life, health, and the American way. A lunch line is something in the nature of a calling, in the case of Mercer students, a life-long calling, or so it seems.

The better part of our day is spent in either going to get in line or standing in line. This is such a time-consuming process that when one finally achieves his goal, getting a tray with food on it, he is so astounded that he either drops it or forgets to finish the requirements of standing in line, in this case having his ticket punched.

Actually, only a small portion of our day is spent this way, at least for most of us. Some of us however have taken this thing to heart. These are the people who arise before dawn in order to get to the cafeteria before the workers.

This dedicated crew has also disdained fourth period classes in order to further devote themselves to their calling. This is a rare talent indeed, which many of us, the more mundane element, do not possess.

They may be found in the supper line clustered around the doors so that no intruder may enter the elect. This seems only fair. After all, they've given up sleep and fourth period class for this. They are entitled to their place in line. They've won it.

But the rest of us must continue in our less fervent ways, standing in line, complaining in sporadic outbursts about line breakers (heretics), and believing, yes, always believing in the lunch lines.

LETTERS

Sigma Nu's interest in the activities of its members is very commendable. The fact that the fraternity is willing to publicize its activities indicates that Sigma Nu is an organization vitally concerned with the contributions its members make to the life of the University. It is unfortunate, however, that their zeal has given an erroneous picture of events as they really are through the article in Wednesday's Macon Telegraph. The Mercer dramatic productions are open to every student on the campus regardless of social affiliation. They never have been and never will be specifically designed around a social organization. Sigma Nu undoubtedly did not intend to give such an impression, but the Speech Department would like to clarify any doubts the article may have raised in the minds of the student body.

Sincerely,
Audrey Needles
Drama Dept.

The Editor
The Mercer Cluster
Mercer University

I am a day student, working in the afternoon which gives me limited time to use the library. I wonder if there are others who could use the chapel hour to study in the library. It's kinda rough to be told you must leave the library, because it's chapel time, when you are right in the middle of an important paper or book.

Thank you,
Albert Studdard

Dr. Cohen offers a number of suggestions (as well as cautions) for the establishment or strengthening of programs for superior students.

1. Plans for superior students should start as early as possible, preferably by recruiting them on admission to college. . . . The instructional staff . . . can cooperate by identifying and reporting on superior students as they reveal themselves in classes. . . . Late bloomers would thus enter the program whenever evidence of their worthiness was forthcoming.

Dr. Harris at the GBC

BUDDY HURT



Dr. Rufus C. Harris, speaking last week at the Georgia Baptist Convention, has shown strongly his interest in high academic standards.

Dr. Harris said:

"No service is rendered to young people in a competitive world such as this by failing to require of them high quality performance. Schools and colleges build character when they require the best academic performances.

"The conditions conducive to high performance in teaching and learning are precisely those that are chiefly conducive to the development of character and principle. Large or small, wealthy or poor, each educational institution can be such a force if it really wants to.

"The principal determinate is the level of performance expected. The sad part is that on many campuses it is low and the cankers of trivia are substituting for important endeavor. Where trustees, officers, faculty and students live by the conviction that learning demands character is strengthened, principle is exalted and students will reflect character is strengthened, principle is exalted and students will reflect it, as will the entire state.

"In fact, all worthwhile ingredients of the college experience flow from this, including good teaching, the satisfactory curriculum, student responsibility and effective religious responsibility and practice. Where there is firm commitment to academic excellence, all college endeavor gains meaning and relevance."

There is more to Dr. Harris' speech, including an expression of his great regard for Christian education, but let us take as our text the points on academic excellence.

They are good ones, and we may second them. Our academic standards are far from slack already, and the level of performance required has risen steadily under the administrations of Dr. Spright Dowell and Dr. George Connell. Still, Mercer, with other institutions, will have to raise academic standards higher as more and more students inundate the colleges.

We may, anyway, expect them raised, and we may expect to find ourselves working harder in the very near future. And all of this, particularly the selection of Dr. Harris as our new president, is good.