

RITHIA McGLAUN  
MANAGING EDITOR

JANE LOVETT  
BUSINESS MGR.



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RALPH BASS, JR.  
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The Cluster is published weekly during the regular academic year by the students of Mercer University. The opinion expressed within does not necessarily reflect the policy or opinion of the faculty, the administration or the trustees.

Letters to the editor are published if signed. Signer's name can be withheld for legitimate reasons.

## Harris Lists Program Of Campus Improvement

Dr. Harris, writing in the *Mercerian*, recently announced that some \$600,000 is needed to enlarge the library.

This item represented one of the largest projects undertaken by the Harris administration.

Dr. Harris labeled the library building "wholly inadequate" in the *Mercerian* article and hinted that unless the building is soon improved the situation might threaten Mercer's accreditation.

Mercer students have long suffered from inadequate library facilities. The library staff has done well, but they have been hampered by restrictions imposed by a lack of facilities. Dr. Harris' enlargement of the library will be beneficial not only to the students, but it also increases the efficiency of the staff.

Dr. Harris has also mentioned to the alumni the need for the increase of faculty salaries. Mercer's salary scale is more than \$1,000 lower than the averages in the University system of Georgia. Dr. Harris should be commended in his efforts to make adjustments in the salaries of the faculty.

He also noted that additional repairs are needed in the existing classroom buildings, the chapel and the dormitories. The administration has carried on an almost continual program of plant improvement, but they, as we, realize the need for additional work to the present buildings.

As the president reiterates, his hopes are high for the future of Mercer. We are looking forward to the realization of these aims.

## American Flag Flies; Student Center Lighted

Two improvements have been made on the campus during the fall quarter that the Cluster previously recommended in its editorial column.

First, Alpha Phi Omega, national service fraternity, has come through with an up-to-date American flag presented to the school by the Woodmen of the World. The flag was recently received by Dean Burts in a chapel program and he entrusted it into the hands of this service organization.

Now the pledges of Alpha Phi Omega raise and fly the flag on the mornings when the weather permits and care for it at other times.

Also a light has been placed on the student center's side facing the men's dormitories. Since the construction of the student center this spot has been dark after sun-set. The steps leading to the dormitories were not properly lighted so that one could possibly stumble or fall from failure to see a step-up.

Now not only are the steps lighted but also that side of the student center can easily be seen at night by visitors on the campus.

The Cluster congratulates those responsible for these improvements on the campus.

## Why Not Sadie Hawkins Day?

Why don't we have a Sadie Hawkins Day? This would give the students as a student body some activity to participate in together.

Much of activity among the students at Mercer is divided between groups. These groups sponsor this program for their members and another little coterie plans a project for its members, but the active functions for student body as a whole are few. Students who are unaffiliated are left out of so many of the activities on campus.

This would also give the student government something to do in addition to their regular functions.

## SGA Provided Outstanding Chapel Last Tuesday

The Student Government Association deserves the credit for sponsoring such an excellent chapel program as that in chapel Tuesday.

It is not often that the students have been elevated to such intellectual heights—or would you say that the program was the best entertainment that the students have enjoyed this year?

This program showed such excellent planning. Surely to arrange such a chapel program requires considerable time, effort and energy.

It would not be surprising to Dean Batts, if he knew of the benefits gained from such provocative chapel sessions, discarded Wednesday's and Friday's programs in favor of such highly developed programs as given by SGA Tuesday.

## Art of Resisting an Education

Mercer students seem to be majoring in one course not offered in the university curriculum.

Now I know jokes have been told about students majoring in "campuseology" and other related fields of unacademic endeavor, but it seems to me that too many students are placing a great deal of importance on an art course—the art of resisting an education.

This is without doubt the easiest major here—if a true student of this noble subject can manage to evade the dean that long. It requires no effort, no initiative, no ingenuity, no textbooks nor any class assignments.

Like history majors, majors in this field begin with the broadest levels and then confine themselves to a more restricted area. The broadest level here at Mercer is the course in not studying. Students seem to be rather highly successful in this course—I note Dean Spiro recently sent out some 177 notices of academic probation.

And then there are the more restricted areas.

Not participating in extra-curricular affairs is one of these. Students who do nothing to develop their leadership potential, to broaden themselves through working with others, to better their school and fellow students by giving of

themselves make excellent grades on this fine quix.

Failing to become acquainted with the faculty is a major requirement for a major in this field. Faculty members have abilities that sometimes are not revealed in the classroom lecture. But discussion groups, e. g. the Katz or Stewart, affords the opportunity to become acquainted with them in a unique way. The book reviews are another way of becoming better acquainted with professors.

A student majoring in the art of resisting an education would never be found in the library. This is an area off limits to him. There are some 70,000 volumes catalogued there, yet it is the aim of this major student to pass through the college without every having such a dastard as checking out a library book go down on his record.

Finally, any student of the art of resisting an education would never be caught at any of the artist series programs. Bad as some of them are they do offer an introduction to some of the "finer" arts.

My best wishes to any student who is graduated from Mercer with a major in this field—he needs them.

## rithia: the drama of the situation

The pressures of a university have a way of submerging any remaining delights of childhood. Instead of counting the days till Christmas students count the days till final examination—holidays are something to escape to, deriving their primary glory in a negative fashion. It is impossible to focus on any activity or meaning beyond the blank stare of an accounting.

As a freshman, first quarter, I gathered that anticipation of final examination struck terror in

the hearts of all nice, conscientious students. And a special sort of exotic fear and trembling in the hearts of recipients of deficiency slips and probation notices and those whose parents had made enough excuses to the neighbors all ready I rather enjoyed the drama of the situation.

But pressure loses its novelty and terror its shimmering aspects. Final examinations stand clean and certain with a low cadence that is desperation.



JOHN WEATHERLY

## Intellectually Honest

"The plight of a fundamentalist is truly magic when in the company of honest intellectuals."

The tragedy of the fundamentalist is that he holds fast to a set of beliefs, a certain orientation toward reality when before "the widening horizon of scientific and historical knowledge" it "is no longer credible." He just will not yield to reason. He clings to prejudgments about life which were merely inherited and shaped from his associations quite independently of reason. He does this consciously.

Now our critic in his attack has the psychological advantage. His position is much vaguer than the person he criticizes, though presumably it is based on more rational, more acceptable intellectual grounds. But could it be that his basic orientation toward reality is shaped ultimately by the same irrational processes that structured the thought of the fundamentalist and that as long

as his position is not voiced clearly and conscientiously these prejudgments are hid from his consciousness?

Ah, but what if our fundamentalist engage his critic in conversation and prods him into making certain basic affirmations about life, religion, and God? These might not be very conventional. Or they might be only generally accepted in his set. But the fundamentalist is clever. He is skillful enough in the mechanics of logic of his affirmations beyond the bounds of reason and reason and doubt to push the critic's defense. The critic finds himself suddenly without reason to honestly go on believing what he has affirmed. But he wants to. He wants to badly. So the temptation is to invent reasons to maintain his position. And he is aware of this temptation.

It is then that the plight of the honest intellectual when in the company of a fundamentalist is truly tragic.

## LETTER TO EDITOR Is Willard Really Handsome?

Dear Mr. Editor:

I must confess (I use the word advisedly) that I am a regular reader of the column written by one Mr. Willard Clutchmyer. As one who appreciates the caustic verbalities of a Jonathan Swift, I have indulged numerous chuckles as I wandered through Mr. Clutchmyer's columns.

Indeed, I have often thought how fortunate is Tatnall Tech to have upon its campus a person of such obvious perspicuity. In this day when the when the devotees of conformity are soothingly urging their sophisms upon us, I have taken Mr. Clutchmyer to my bosom. In fact, at the risk of incurring his satirical scorn, I confess (again) that I like the gentleman!

Still and all, I am perturbed, discomposed, even to the point of confusion, as I ponder his column of today (Elmer Gantry Revisited). I am somewhat embarrassed that a minor thing should disturb me so. Actually, I confess (still again) that it is only a part of a sentence that has induced this disturbance. I quote: "my handsome-but-handsome head." That did it!

You see, I have never really met this clever gentleman. I take it that the photograph appearing in *The Cluster* is a good likeness of Mr. Clutchmyer, modern photography being what it

is.

As I have wandered amongst the ancient buildings of T. T. I have gazed searchingly upon the countenances of all the male students in an effort to recognize our celebrity. There have been occasions when I thought I had come face to face (brrrrrr) with our celebrated columnist, only to learn that the gentleman disclaimed being Mr. Clutchmyer.

But, Mr. Editor, that is not what really disturbs me. The question is this: Is Mr. Willard Clutchmyer really handsome? He apparently thinks so. Now I readily conceded that his head is misshapen, but candor compels me to express my doubts that he is handsome.

I feel myself on the verge of challenging Mr. Clutchmyer on the proposition that he possesses no capacity for self evaluation. On second thought perhaps a better approach would be to have Mr. Clutchmyer reveal the mental processes by which he arrived at this rather startling conclusion concerning himself.

Perhaps . . . then we might understand better the devious processes by which he created his collegiate Elmer Gantry.

Yours truly,  
Deagle B. Dingstrom