

The Mercer Cluster

Published weekly by the students of the fourteen schools and colleges in the Mercer University System.

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WORK WINS

Hard work wins in every undertaking. This is true especially in regard to debating. The team that works the hardest will win the decision of the judges in a majority of cases.

Mercer has four intercollegiate debates already scheduled, and the debaters for these contests have been selected. We must win the debates this year. Therefore the teams must get down to hard work on their subjects, and be ready to show themselves master debaters when the hour of the testing comes.

College debaters sometimes become slack in their attitude toward debating. They drift along, even on an intercollegiate contest, without adequate preparation, and seem to think that they can fall back upon their mediocre talents for off-hand speaking if they are caught unprepared. Then they fail. Another debate is lost for the college. And in nine out of ten cases the weaker team has bowed to the workers!

Great speeches are forged by the light of the midnight oil—or rather, the Edison Mazda—and do not spring full-grown into the brain of the extemporaneous speaker. The secret of debating is preparation, preparation, and more preparation.

EMBRYO STATESMEN

Students of Northern and Eastern Universities are already concerning themselves with the coming economic conference of the great powers at Genoa. The Conference for the Limitation of Armament has had its share of attention from the college men, and now they are anticipating the next move in international affairs.

The student bids fair to help to shape the policy of the statesman, for the opinions of the university men are to be made known to the representatives of the United States from time to time as the economic conference proceeds.

The cry has been raised in some quarters that the college man of today is not taking interest in world affairs. But now he is coming to the front in full strength.

Most college men have passed the kindergarten stage, and should be able to offer a fairly rational opinion about world questions. At Mercer it might not be a bad idea for the student body to thoroughly sift these matters, and to express itself from time to time upon the more important ones.

Mercer men must at least be as forward looking and as timely with their influence as the other leading university men of the country. Why not do a little pace-setting occasionally, too?

PAUL BRIGHAM—COMMANDER

Paul Brigham, elected commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post, is a Mercer graduate, pharmaceutical department, and when he has all "squads reared for action" is one of the most loyal college rooters and athletic supporters in Macon. He is now associated with the dispensing of gasoline in carload lots in and around Macon.

He was a member of the Fourth Alabama, National Guard, medical detachment, on the Mexican border, Nogales sector, but when the United States declared war on Germany joined the ranks with the same outfit, 167th Infantry, Rainbow Division. In that command he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and was in the four of the five fighting sectors in France.

TIPS AND TAPS

By Bob Gamble

Here we are again! Charitable friends of the colyum have rushed into the C. and C. sanctum from every quarter during the past fortnight, inquiring as to the reason for the demise of the colyum. There wasn't any demise at all, so that's one time we fooled 'em. Nor was the colyum suffering from the apparent inclemency of prevailing atmospheric conditions. In short, the reason why ye ed. has been forced to resist the probable unwelcome tendency to become intoxicated with the effervescent exuberance of his verbosity is attributable to a condition not hereinbefore mentioned, to-wit:

"Red" Delivers a Knockout

While perambulating around nonchalantly, as, as Josh says, "laced-daintily," on that acre of boards down at the Barn (Macon's New City Auditorium?) known as a basketball court, ye ed. suddenly came into violent contact with a ponderous elbow of one Jarred "Red" Simmons, formerly of Bryson College, now cavorting around as a fellow basketeer with ye ed. But enough of this "Red" person; we will not honor him again because through inadvertently, but nevertheless enthusiastically protruding the above-mentioned ponderous elbow in our direction, he incapacitated one of our thumbs, which resulted in our being unpleasantly occupied when trying to push the shift-key on our chained lightning typewriter.

Which, being translated, is to say that the reports of the colyum's demise (as Mark Twain would say) "have been very much exaggerated."

Night Time

He stood before the mirror With his eyes closed very tight, Trying to see just how he looked When fast asleep at night. —Davidsonian.

All the Time

She stands before the mirror, Be it early morn or late; She labors hard with paint in hand To put her lips on straight.

The Joke's on You

Getting out jokes once a week is no picnic. If I print jokes, they say I am silly. If I don't they say I am serious. If I put in original matter, they say it lacks variety. If I copy anything from other papers, they say I'm too lazy to write. If I don't go to chapel, they say I'm a heathen. If I do, they say I'm a hypocrite. If I stay in my room, I ought to be out hunting some jokes. If I hunt for jokes, they say I ought to be studying. If I wear old clothes, I'm sloven; if I wear new ones, they say they're not paid for. What am I to do? Like as not, someone will say I swiped this from an exchange. So I did!

FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

John Milton Samples.

Faith of our fathers of the olden days, Are you lost 'mid the maze of our modern ways? Desert not this spot of hallowed earth— Columbia—the child of your travail birth; Enkindle within our bosoms once more The spirit, that dared in the days of yore.

Faith of our fathers that conquered the West, Spirit undaunted enshrined in the breast Of Milton and Cromwell, Washington, Lee, Those fearless disciples of fair Liberty; Lead onward, O Spirit, unconquered and bold, That guided our forbears in the brave days of old.

Faith of our fathers, good angel of light, Smile on our homeland encumbered with night That hangs like a cloud—the symbol of doom— Banish our darkness, let Love's flowers bloom; Come back to Columbia's blood-purchased sod, Where the footprints of Freedom lead onward to God.

THE GIRL IN-BETWEEN YESTERDAY AND TODAY

By R. L. Brantley

Would-be poets in college today Keep crying out in a weary way, All about the girl that used to be, Some about girls that today we see. They're discussed from beginning to end, Pray, won't someone a peacemaker send!

The expounder of the old-time girl Likes her ways and her genuine curl, Her simple dress and bewitching charm, Fairest complexion, with dimpled arm; With innocent smile and grace galore With some man's happiness held in store.

Then the stand of another we see, Who believes that girls should all be free, And in their youth, just be a sapper, A social fool, a modern "flapper," Who drinks the wine that is forbidden, Dances the dance that should be hidden.

You get both views from reading above, Maybe it's jest, most likely it's love, That brings the discussion pro and con, About the fairest the sun shines on. We're not siding with either of these For we've found a way out, if you please.

Give me the girl that's both old and new, Who can love and ever comfort you, Who's combined the ancient and modern, alas! Just any old time she's sure to pass. Give me the girl who's always a queen, I'm speaking of the girl—in-between.

Andrews: "The doctor told me that if I didn't stop smoking I would be a halfwit." Pope: "Why didn't you stop?"

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