

# Editorials

## Registration? It's Simple!

Last quarter the Cluster commented on the just-completed winter registration, thus: "What has seemed to be the beginning of a 'different' registration resulted in the malady of past registrations, only on a larger scale."

This quarter the Cluster comments: What seemed to be the beginning of a different registration set-up actually became one. A new set-up was instituted which made possible one of the most successful and most efficiently administered registrations in many quarters, with a minimum of wasted time, lines, red tape, and confusion, a capable staff operating under a revised and simplified registration system enrolled almost 1,000 students in less than nine hours.

"Well begun is half done" seems to have been the order of the day for all registration activities. This 'good beginning' started with the pre-registration classification last quarter. Here many of the mistakes and misunderstandings were ironed out before the stress and strain of final enrolling.

Appointment slips were mailed to students, with admission times evenly apportioned to the number of persons that could be handled by the registration staff without difficulty and congestion. Time was saved by cooperative students who did not congest the registration center until time for their admission.

The long sheafs of registration cards also were mailed to the students, thus eliminating the customary distribution of them to students by individual handling after lengthy waiting in lines. The cards were filled-out by students at their leisure in the Co-op or elsewhere, again saving time usually consumed in the registration building.

Speed and efficiency marked all phases of the work in the registration building. Members of Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity acted as guides and advice-givers and aided in dispelling much of the confusion that accompany registrations.

Commendations for jobs well done go to Registrar Clark, workers from his office, the business office, Alpha Phi Omega, and the many faculty members who collaborated to carry out a successful registration.

Commendations also go to the students themselves for their patient and cooperative spirit.

—J.H.

## Money Lost On 'Bottoms Up'

The Mercer Independent Men's Association and Independent Co-Eds Association did an excellent job of producing the play "Bottoms Up." It was quite evident to the few students who took the trouble to go that a great amount of work had gone into the production.

The cast was well-coached; each of the characters acted his or her part in a very creditable manner. Especially were the leading roles presented well. The staging, lighting, costumes, etc., all were well-thought-out and effected. Since the choice of a play was such a happy one, all those who attended had a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

But who went? Thursday night there were about 50 people present; Friday night a little more than 200. Since it cost \$160.78 to present the play, there was an overall loss of \$31.78.

There was an excellent reason for the lack of interest, it is true. The play took place on Thursday and Friday nights before finals, and many students were undoubtedly studying for the quarterly horrors. Still, it would seem that more than 250 students would have been able to spare a couple of hours to see such an ably-presented production. Even considering that it was the weekend before finals, the small attendance indicates some degree of indifference to the play and the objects behind it.

If the play had been only a presentation by some campus organization for its own benefit, there would have been a better excuse for the students' staying away. But all of the student body was well aware that the production was to start a fund to be used in building a Student Union Building, for the use of all of the students. There has been much talk about the need for such a building on the campus, and most of the students voiced a hearty approval. Yet when a real opportunity presented itself to support the project, cooperation from the students was conspicuous by its absence.

If we are to proceed in plans for a Student Union Building, there must be cooperation from all the students. Let credit be given to MIMA-MICA for an excellent job, and with it a resolve to support any such future efforts toward a Student Union Building to the fullest extent.

—J.P.



"Foreign exchange students—he says he already has his pre-med."

### 'MEET YOUR CLUSTER STAFF'

## George Chamlee, Sports Editor, Wins Praise for Outstanding Work

by Jim Cowan

One of the greatest assets, and certainly one of the most dependable ones, to The Cluster during the past year has been George Chamlee, sports editor extraordinary.

As a person, George is one of those rare, refreshing individuals who are always completely dependable and unfailingly fair-minded. A somewhat reserved naive appearing person outwardly he has proved his capability by a

Chamlee

great deal of diligent work which, in his "In the Bear's Den" column, has proved no less than brilliant at times.

The six-foot-two-inch, 18-year-old Sparta High School graduate is no mean athlete himself. Holding three letters from Sparta High, he played basketball two years and football one year for his old alma mater. And just to show that brawn and brains do go together sometimes, Chamlee copped the state essay

champion's title with a winning high school masterpiece on "Compulsory Military Training." He added further home town laurels by editing his high school yearbook, The Spartan, and holding membership in the Beta Club and the debating team.

At Mercer, George Chamlee's first important step in extra-curricular activities was Phi Delta Theta fraternity which he has served faithfully in all intramural sports since his pledging, fall quarter, 1947. Besides being sports editor of The Cluster, he has actively led the new Mercer debating team with his partner, fraternity brother Charles Cureton, in several inter-collegiate and campus debates. He has also written a number of campus sports stories for The Macon News.

It is with regret that the editor and the staff of The Cluster see George Chamlee leave the staff after this issue. A heavy load of studies this quarter has forced him to resign. He takes with him the sincere best wishes of all of his fellow staff members.

### 'THAT'S ALL BROTHER'

## Drunks Blow Snow So Train Can Go

by Jim Young

When snowdrifts stalled a train six miles inside dry Kansas, the engineer backed up to put the club car inside wet Colorado.

Otherwise, he would have dampened the spirits of many passengers.

Not sociability but fear of airplane competition prompted this move. Friend engineer realized many people like to travel high.

The passengers, on their part, knew a good way to forget about being stuck tight in the snow; it was simply to get tight.

Why, after a few drinks that blanket of snow outside looked like a bed of roses. Which was only to be expected. When eyes are bloodshot, everything looks rosy.

And everything did turn out rosy in the end. The train started up shortly afterwards and went on to its destination in jig time.

What happened to the snowdrift? Oh, that was easy. A couple of the boys left the club car, walked up the tracks in front of the locomotive and just blew the snow away. After a few hours of drinking, their breaths were plenty strong enough.

# The Mercer Cluster

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# Student Forum

## Attacks Editor Cowan

Mercer University, February 3, 1949

Mr. Jim Cowan:

Enclosed is a letter which I would like for you to print in next week's Mercer Cluster. This is not only my opinion but the feelings of countless other Mercer students. Can't you find anything else to write besides this bunk about cheating? I don't see how any one person can have so much time to waste. Me, I have to study some. If you print the enclosed letter I am thanking you, but if you don't I am calling you a coward.

Keyhole McWart

[Sorry to disappoint Reader "McWart," but his letter is hereby printed.

First my apologies to other readers for answering personal mail in the editorial section of the campus newspaper, but I know of no other medium of replying to anonymous letters. The Cluster in printing this unsigned letter is relaxing a newspaper policy. In the future, as in the past, we will not consider any anonymous letter for publication, although a signed letter may be published with the name withheld at the editor's discretion. We also reserve the right to limit letters to the editor to 300 words and to edit any letter to comply with the laws of libel and decency.

As to the answer, may I suggest that my personal time is something that should be of interest only to myself and to my instructors as it may affect my studies. On checking with the registrar's office I find no "Keyhole McWart" registered at Mercer. Therefore I assume that he is either an outsider or himself a coward who does not have the guts to back up his written opinions with his own signature as I do mine. In the future, I shall be glad to settle personal discussions personally or answer personal letters through the U. S. Post Office, but anonymous letters will be disregarded for what they are, the childish products of fearful minds.

—Jim Cowan

## Attacks Honor System

Mercer University March 3, 1949

Editor, Mercer Cluster:

I read the brilliant write-up in the Cluster and was terribly shocked to find out that Mercer is nothing but a school of cheaters, shysters, and swindlers. I would like to say that there is not as much cheating going on at Mercer as at other colleges. It seems that the Cluster wants to follow the example set by the Macon Telegraph and go crusading. So the Cluster writes up a big article uncovering the terrible, shocking, conditions of cheating which is going on in the classrooms. The fellow who wrote the article seems to be on the "inside."

I also read your brilliant honor system which we are to vote on. This is supposed to be a Christian institution and if the students have to be forced to refrain from cheating we should disband the University. This honor system which puts students in the position to judge other students has many loop-holes. Yes it is a system of student spying against student, and will cause internal unrest. Yes and they are even going to impose fines. They must not get enough spending money from home to take care of their needs.

This is not the opinion of one person but of many students. I'm asking every student to vote against this "honor" system March 17 and keep down unrest, unfair convictions, unfair, unjust, penalties, and show people that we do not have to have a system of student spying and "tattle-tales" to stop cheating on the Mercer campus.

—Keyhole McWart.

[For the benefit of those who may be misled by statements in the above letter, The Cluster calls the attention of the readers to the fact that the front page news story on cheating conditions written by Marion Barfield, Cluster news editor, two weeks ago was only a factual account of the investigations, findings, and recommendations of a student-faculty committee which was appointed by the Executive Council of the University. Also the "brilliant honor system" referred to in mine is in reality the work of student government officials. The Cluster takes credit only for recognizing merit in the work done by others and supporting it as a great step that could be taken in the progress of the liberal arts college of Mercer. As much as we admire him, we were the greatest of sinners in the committee's report on the proposed honor system.

—Jim Cowan