

The Editors Speak

Toby-Symbol of Mercer?

Symbol of Mercer—is that Toby? Is that the Toby that stands on our campus to depict Mercer spirit and the tradition of the Bear?

No, that could no longer be the purpose of this statue that so many students have come to despise. It might have been, but it isn't. That was the purpose in the minds of those who created the statue, and their efforts must be acknowledged as unfeigned and genuine. But it just didn't bring about the intended reaction, and therefore it was a failure. We must admit now that it could never be upheld and appreciated, no matter what might be done to improve it.

Student revolt has only been disgusting. Instead of going through proper channels to have the statue removed, groups of students have taken it upon themselves to display their intolerance by pouring paint on the bear. Now that his head has also been smashed in, it could be no more shameful sight. It might just as well have been destroyed completely. Certainly no Mercerian should be proud to have anyone see it now!

Therefore, in view of the fact that reactionaries have so disgraced the statue, and in view of the fact that the majority of the students openly denounce its presence in any form, we want to see proper action taken to do something about it. If all those concerned will consider to the action and will submit proper and signed statements of disapproval of the statue, the editors of The Cluster will confer with those who erected and endorsed the statue and investigate the probability of having it removed. But the opinions of the students must be voiced. We will take no further action until we have been informed of the majority of student opinion.

If there is a drop of Mercerian blood in you, for or against the issue, stand up and show it now!

S. H.

Open Letter to Student Government

To Members of Student Government:

It has been forceably brought to my attention that Student Government is weak. I do not believe that this weakness lies in the members themselves but in the function of the Student Government as a unit.

There are two ways to correct this. One—by strict attendance to the regular Student Government meetings. You were not elected to

merely receive the honor of the office, but to do your duty in your respective positions.

Second—talk about it. Student Government is an organization consisting of the entire student body. Unless the entire student body has a voice in it, it cannot function effectively.

This is you student government. Take a part in it.

Sincerely,
Harry Smith

Artists Must Suffer?

By Clarence Streetman

The other day, I heard a campus ex-prima donna complaining about her troubles in high school. "People in different towns were always wanting me to sing," she said. I envy people like that. The only thing people in other towns ever wanted me to do was to stay at home.

I did enter the district literary meet essay division once in high school. After the thing was over the only people who were glad I had made the trip were the other contestants. It was a good thing I carried bus fare along, too. The folks I had gone to Griffin with wouldn't even admit knowing me, much less allow me to ride back with them—and Thomaston is a long walk away.

I didn't give up my ambition to excel in the fine arts, however.

While I was in the navy, I learned to play an ocarino and a tonette. I was an engineer on a motor launch, so I carried them with me to play on long trips. It almost resulted in tragedy. One day, nearing the ship, I wondered why the coxswain didn't signal me to slow down. I looked, and he wasn't there. He had gone over the side with a broom in his hand screaming, "I'm a mine sweeper!" Unfortunately for him, he was rescued and re-assigned to my boat.

Strangely, my tonette and ocarino were missing the next morn'round up full of hard-baked biscuit dough. And some stupid jerk filled a four dollar harmonica with honey so that the music would come out sweet.

Alas, we artists must suffer, but I guess it's worth it. Oscar Levant ain't doing so bad.

Stansfeld Writes Mexican Novel

By HENRY WARNOCK
Journalism Department

Georgia has a new author to add to its ranks.

He is not really a Georgian, however, in fact he is not even an American. But he is daily becoming more a part of the Georgia scene.

His name is Anthony Stansfeld, a member of the Department of History at Mercer University. Stansfeld is a native of England. The new book is *House in the Sun*, and was published this week by G. P. Putnam's Sons of New York. The novel appears under the pseudonym of Dane Chandos. Actually, Stansfeld claims only half credit, for he is the co-author, the other part of Dane Chandos remaining in another country.

The present volume is a sequel to an earlier work, *Village in the Sun*, although Stansfeld took no part in that publication. It dealt with the plight of an Anglo-American who built himself a home in a Mexican village.

"The new volume that I co-authored," explained the affable history teacher, "finds the same narrator now financially embarrassed by Mexican inflation. As a result he turns his house into a guest home and spends a hectic year giving out hospitality to a mixed bag of Mexicans and foreigners. The story ends with the publication of the first book and the return to financial stability."

The novel attempts to weave a story which depicts the color and humor of life in a Mexican community. The setting is in Ajijic, on Lake Chapala, south of Guadalajara. The special emphasis is on the Indian rather than the Spanish type of Mexican, the author pointed out.

Throughout the book there are interesting sketches of life in Mexico. Stansfeld is well acquainted with the various facts of life below the border, for he has spent much time there. He first arrived there in 1947 in order to collaborate on the writing of the book. Incidentally, it was the manuscript of the book which was indirectly responsible for the author's coming to Macon and to Mercer. Having finished the composition in Mexico, Stansfeld went into Texas to mail the copy to the publisher. After arriving in that state, he decided to come over to Georgia to visit Dan Evans of Macon, whom he had known in Italy. While he was in Macon he accepted a position at Mercer and has been here since.

Being something of a world traveler, Stansfeld has visited many countries and many climes. He was deeply impressed by his stay in Mexico, and he states emphatically that it has "the most beautiful climate in the world."

Having been in so many places, there is no telling what country the author's next book will have for a setting. But a next book there will be, for he is already making plans to begin work.

(Courtesy Macon Telegraph)

What Do YOU Think?

By L. JOHN STEWART and JACK LANDRUM

The question for the last issue, which was answered by the students was, "What traits does the best teacher at Mercer possess?"

Question: What traits does the best student possess?

Mr. Riley E. Plymale, Math.

"First consider open mindedness—that willingness to learn, to be helped, to see a problem from a new angle or to draw a logical conclusion. Accuracy and simplicity are marks of the better student. Any problem directly attacked, accurately and simply, analyzed, is more speedily solved. Too often a student is unable to give accurate and simple expression to his ideas and thoughts; and the poor student cannot say precisely what he thinks.

"The best students relate their learning to life. They have a high order of understanding of the teacher-student relationship; and try to help teachers put it across, rather than try to get a class cut or escape work. A good student recognizes that he will profit in proportion as he helps himself to learn and develop."

Mr. Anthony Stansfeld, History.

"1. Power of selection. What to select in their reading.

"2. Ability to express one's self clearly and in orderly manner

"3. Memory.

"4. Genuine wit.

"In the study of history the first two items are 'very necessary'. The third item is 'very useful'. The fourth item 'leavens the loaf'."

Major George Connell, vice-president.

"Zeal for knowledge is indispensable. If a student lacks this, there is not much a teacher can do for him no matter what technique or method he employs in teaching."

Miss JoEllen Cureton, modern language.

"A person who studies every day, and not because he is to have an examination. Another good quality in a student is cooperation with the instructor. An instructor would like for every student to have the utmost interest in the course which the instructor teaches, but to realize that students are required to take courses in which they are not as interested as others. Students who take an active part in a class will, in the long run, get more out of the class."

Dr. Otis Knight, dean of the college.

"Initiative is a wonderful trait for a student to possess. Intellectual curiosity involves an important principle in the art of learning. Another quality in students which is very desirable is the power to organize what he learns for his own needs. A student who tries to find experiences that help him change from an immature point of view to a mature point of view. When a student shows evidence that he has accepted a set of principles which he is determined to live by, he is respected by all."

Dr. Wm. P. Smith, modern language.

"Alertness and attention for the course works hand in hand. If a person is attentive the instructor feels that he is accomplishing his task of teaching. A student's willingness to work is exemplified by the attention he shows in class, and this is a challenge to the instructor to teach his course in an interesting manner.

If the course is taught in an interesting manner, the attention of the student is automatically directed toward the course."

Case of Leland Olds Shows Trend Of Present National Administration

By R. C. Odom

The case of Leland Olds shows all too clearly the political trend of the present administration.

President Truman not only nominated Olds to a third term on the Federal Power Commission but used every available means to force the Senate to confirm said nomination. The President, in a letter to the Senate, charged that powerful corporations were seeking to block the re-appointment of Olds and said that Olds "has labored diligently in the service of all the people." Also he ordered the Democratic National Committee to bring pressure to bear upon Democratic senators.

This seems to have been an outright attempt of the administrative branch of the government to coerce the legislative branch to confirm the nomination of a man who does not believe in the American system. If, as the President charged, but did not prove, powerful corporations opposed Olds it seems that they rendered a public service.

In hearings before the Senate Commerce Committee, Olds, according to Chairman Johnson, refused to disavow his earlier views that "property should be confiscated and capital destroyed." He denied that he was or ever had been a communist. However, he said in effect that he still believed in the "radical" articles he once wrote for the *Daily Worker*. In his articles he denounced the private enterprise system, praised Lenin, and recommended Lenin's system.

A crushing coalition of thirty-two Republicans and twenty-one Democrats turned down the nomination of Olds with a vote of fifty-three to fifteen.

It is reported that another job, not subject to Senate action, has already been provided for Olds with the National Security Resources Board.

All this demonstrates the determined attempt of the Truman administration to place men in high government positions who, to say the least, are of definite socialist or far left-wing tendencies. Such a move is but the first step toward government ownership, socialism, a planned economy, and the ultimate loss of freedom by the individual.

And yet this is the same administration for which the Conservative Jeffersonian South in its fanatical adherence to the Democratic party cast its ballot in the last election!

THAT'S ALL BROTHER

Disagreeing Books on Happiness Drive Confused Columnist Sappy

By Jim Young

On Chichester's book rack there was a pocket edition of "Be Glad You're Neurotic." Right below was "How to Control Worry." Now I'm worried. Which author has the right slant? It's troubling me into becoming a neurotic. So I'm back at the first author who says be glad you're sad. But I ain't. I'm mad.

Mad because I rode a mental merry-go-round from one "ham" pamphlet to another and ended up where I started. This makes me

dizzy and I ain't so happy—I'm sappy. Especially since it cost me seventy cents.

You heard me. Seventy hard earned (on the G. I. Bill) pennies, representing a sacrifice of six cups, aawfee, three sets adoughnuts, one package pipe tobacco, and ten boxes wooden matches. Such waste, for I bought the two books and threw them into garbage cans.

Into separate garbage cans, mind you. I wouldn't want any of my friends to come across both books together and wind up as confused as I was.

The Mercer Cluster

SYBIL BARTLEY
TOMMY OLMSFAD
JOHN HYDE
CHARLES WEAVER
EMORY GRAY
JOHN WARD
MARTHA MARTIN
BOBBY BONNER
ELLEN WILLIS

Editor
Business Manager
Associate Editor
Managing Editor
News Editor
News Editor
Feature Editor
Sports Editor
Society Editor

COPY EDITOR—Sellers Parker. NEWS—June Smalley, Bobby Bobo, June Brinkley, C. V. Williams, Charles Tozier, Patsy Aldred, Miriam McCook, Jackie Means, Raymond Coppage, John Lewis Society—Peggy Wood, Janice Weathers, Kitty Carmichael, Miriam McCook. FEATURES—Jim Young, Sonny Futch, Frankie Bullard, R. C. Odom, Clarence Streetman, L. J. Stewart, Jack Landrum, Richard Jones. SPORTS—Fred Hattrich, Richard Sangster, Eleanor Ann Sammons. MAKE-UP—Charlie Andrew. CARTOONISTS—Archer Moore, J. W. Holland, Ben Tucker. SECRETARY—Sally Seaton. ASSISTANT BUS. MGR.—Carl Beard. ADVERTISING—Robert Barfield, Lillian Patton, Bob Ponder, Red Morgan. CIRCULATION—George Mau, Bob Ponder.

The Mercer Cluster is the official newspaper of Mercer University published by the students weekly from September through May except holidays and examination periods. Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Macon, Georgia, April 6, 1948, under the Act of March 3, 1879. Annual subscription rate: \$1.50.