

FROM SID

# An Open Letter To The Students

Dear Fellow Students:

Once again we embark upon a year of studying; a year of fun; a year of fellowship. And once again we will renew old acquaintances and make new ones. In many ways it will be a year no different than those that we have gone through every year, but of course, there will be those events and activities that will set this year apart and make it remembered.

A school year just doesn't happen nor do successful ones just come along from time to time. A myriad of plans is necessary for the execution of success. And planning there has been to make this year bigger and better than ever. The administration, the religious groups, the fraternities and sororities have all spent countless hours perfecting their various programs to make this the banner year.

And so has Student Government made plans. Our biggest aim—and biggest problem—is the revision of the student constitution. It has become outdated and inadequate for the job that is to be done. The revision will take a great deal of time and it will be a tedious task. In the light of these facts, I am asking for the wholehearted co-operation of each student and each student group. Let me make it clear that by co-operation I don't mean acquiescence to any proposed program. Student Government wants to stay close to the student. We welcome student opinion and student opposition as long as the opposition is sincere and constructive. The purpose of student government is identical with the purpose of self government. And the principle of democracy can never be ignored. Every student can make his voice heard regardless of his ideas on an immediate question and regardless of his party affiliations.

I would also remind you of the honor system. We have made great strides since the initiation of the honor system. The atmosphere surrounding it has progressed from one of semi-hostility to a healthy encouraging one. The principle of academic honesty has swiftly become an integral part of the student thought. Our progress has been encouraging and sure. I urge you to regard this matter in the serious manner that you've previously exhibited.

On behalf of the officials of Student Government, welcome, and welcome back. We are at your service. Let us have your complaints—and your compliments.

Sincerely,  
Sid Johnson  
President, S. G. A.

## Ray Brewster Returns As Religious Director

By Mary Etta Clark

Ray Brewster, former Baptist Student Union director at Mercer, has returned to the campus after a year's leave of absence to take once again his place in B.S.U. work. During the past year he has been doing work toward his Master of Theology degree at Union Theological Seminary in New York.

Mr. Brewster, who is from Cedartown, Georgia, received the A. B. degree from Mercer and the B. D. degree in theology from Yale Divinity School. Before coming to

and youth work.

B. S. U. plans for the year, according to Mr. Brewster, will be slightly different. In addition to the regularly scheduled activities, the B.S.U. will also feature council meetings in which programs of discussion open to all students will be presented.

During the weekly council meetings, the monthly greater council meetings, and the quarterly general meetings, one period of about thirty minutes will be devoted to business and the remaining hour to discussion. This discussion will consist of topics concerning other faiths, other religions, certain theologians, and theological trends. The discussions will be open not only to council members but also to all other students who are interested.



RAY BREWSTER

Mercer to join the faculty. Mr. Brewster did religious education

Introducing . . .

### Sid Johnson

Albert Sidney Johnson Jr., a senior from Vidalia, is president of Student Government Association this year. During his high school career, Sid played football, was a member of the Georgia Key Club, vice-president of Georgia Beta Club, and was named Student of the Year in 1950.

Before coming to Mercer he attended Georgia Tech where he was



SID JOHNSON

a member of the Wesley Foundation and vice-president of the freshman class.

At Mercer he has been an active member of the Debate Council, is an officer of Tau Kappa Alpha National Debate Society, and a member of Blue Key. Last year he was junior class representative to Student Council. He is a member of Kappa Alpha social fraternity and has served as treasurer of that organization and is number Six man this year.

### Perry to Head News Bureau

More active this year will be the news bureau which will be headed by Mr. Jack Perry. The duty of this bureau will be to send news of Mercer students to their local papers and radio stations. Plans are being made to have a wider, more accurate coverage of student news.

A 1951 graduate of Mercer, Mr. Perry was very active on the campus. He served as vice-president of Sigma Nu social fraternity and as president of Blue Key. He will replace Professor Henry Warnock.

Nancy Yates will serve as his assistant. The bureau will be open every afternoon during the week in the economics building. All clubs and organizations will send all news of students, such as elections and awards, to the bureau.

Every student has been given a public relations sheet to be filled out. Everyone is urged to return these to the office of the bureau as soon as possible. It is through these that the bureau can have information of all students home towns.

# BE

By Brackingham

Well Freshmen, how does it feel to go to classes at eight in the morning? Stop grumbling, you get out by lunch, or either you have time to sleep in the morning between classes. So don't feel too put out.

And you probably have some complaints about minor campus rules that rub you the Other Way. For you that do have these remarks, the staff of the Cluster cordially invites you to the Letters to the Editor column. One catch: you must sign the letter if you want it printed, and, anything that you say will be held against you by the Sophomores at Rat Court.

Seriously, anytime anyone in the school, including the faculty, has anything they would like to get off their chest, the Letters column is open wide for them.

#### DOWN TO BUSINESS

As usually happens, the Administration asked many veteran students to come to the campus about a week early to help in the Freshman Orientation program. All, with the possible exception of one or two, happily showed up, eager to assist the college in any way they could.

The assistance of the upperclassmen in orientating the freshmen is being used effectively by most colleges today. No one has proposed a better method, and there probably is not one.

But one thing during the program seemed highly out of order. An initialed notice was tacked on the MEP Bulletin Board which read something like this: "Students, (meaning Co-eds), may have date privileges this weekend. Freshmen girls are to go out with freshmen boys, and transfer students are to go out with either freshmen boys or transfer students."

Now don't ask where this order came from. It could have come from the Dean of Women's office, the Pan-Hellenic Council, or even from the Woman's Student Government. Possibly other places. But you can bet your last Big Orange Drink that it did not come from the upperclassmen helping the school in the Orientation.

Had this injunction been followed (And who says it wasn't?) what in the world were these noble lads going to do over the weekend? Sit in the Co-op and play Monopoly?

Because of any whim of the Administration, the mandate could have come from the Dean of Women's office. If it did, probably no one will ever know it.

The Pan Hellenic Council might have thought that by dating an upperclassman, that upperclassmen might try to influence what social organization the girl might

pledge. That seems most unlikely. For this reason.

Most of the male students have no favorite female social organization, unless they have strings attached to some girl in one group. And if a fellow was already taken, he wouldn't be over at MEP looking for a woman anyway. An unattached boy would not give two hoots and a holler about which girl pledges what. (That is my personal opinion.)

The Women's Student Government? Their motive: Protecting the defenseless girls from the aggressive upperclassmen. Well, it failed, for those freshmen boys aren't the most lackadaisical fellows in the world. From talk I've overheard from the new Co-eds, the eager freshmen really want to get on with it.

But unless an Official Answer is given, no one will ever know. Just another crazy rule that got some people upset. As it stands, the silly notice probably robbed some lonely girl, not to speak of the boy, of a date her first weekend at college. And according to Freud, the girl's personality will be warped for life.

All because of a whim of some dictator. Be . . . . .

## MEP Filled, Overflowing

MEP and all its outposts, Bartlett, Findlay and Dowell houses, are now filled to the hilt with old girls, freshmen and transfers. At last the confusion of moving and unpacking seems to be over.

Although new girls may not have been aware of it, the old residents got a pleasant surprise when they sat down for their first meal in the dining hall. They found the tables set with new china and shiny new silverware.

Cleaning and rearranging in rooms and sorority suites is a familiar sight during fall quarter. Walking down the dormitory halls, one sees dust flying from the rooms, trunks being shoved from one place to another, and furniture being polished in the halls.

Life in the newly-opened Dowell House seems to be very pleasant. It has a cheerful, homey atmosphere and attractive new furnishings.

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