

### MEP Residents Under Unnecessary Rulings

"The new ruling provides that any girl may stay out until 8:30 p. m. without a date privilege. There will be no co-op break at 10 o'clock." These words are from a news item in the Nov. 22, 1957, issue of the Cluster on a tentative change in the MEP rules. The next issue of the Cluster editorialized an obituary.

We questioned the sagacity of the new ruling with a sarcastic comment. But the "tentative change" became reality. It took its place alongside a maze of MEP regulations.

In today's Cluster, a letter asks "Why?" to another rule. The writing student cannot understand the basis of dormitory probation. Neither can we.

Elsewhere in today's issue students comment on the effectiveness of the study hall system. A good many MEP residents are dissatisfied with the situation.

In governing ourselves we are prone sometimes to go overboard. It does seem a bit strange that MEP imposes higher scholarship standards than the school, and at the expense of its residents.

We again question the sagacity of the rulings. The whole of the regulations could stand a reworking—taking into consideration a college woman's maturity, age, and purpose here.

### Two Extremes Connive In Automobile Situation

The most recent addition to student government under the new constitution adopted last May is in full swing.

Mercer's Traffic Court is busy clearing the parking lots, checking on automobile registration, and generally making itself obnoxious to the students.

However, it is a big step in the right direction. It is very annoying to find driveways blocked by thoughtless individuals. It is just as annoying to look for a parking place near one's destination, only to finally park a block away on the street.

The students have had the run of the campus automobile-wise for some time, and now the Traffic Court is taking over. It seems to go from one extreme to the other.

If we are to have a student-supported, workable traffic commission, we must go easy at first, educate people to the matter, and then tighten down to what we want.

### An Elusive, Time-Worn Cliche Returns Here

The student-body has recently shown an amazing upsurge in that time-worn cliche, school spirit.

Spirit is an elusive sort of thing. One year it's here, the next year it's gone.

But its coming and going are due to reasons, or must be. Interest in school activity. But where does the interest stem from?

Participation in group meetings and events. But from whence the desire to participate?

A sense of belonging, but from what source?

With spring and the end of this quarter around the corner, the upsurge will surely gain momentum.



## Mercer Opinions

by Judy Ayers

The question this week is: "What is your opinion of the meals served at the new Student Center?"

Robbye McEver, freshman: "I think there could be more than spaghetti served."

Charles Jay, sophomore: "I think the feed has improved from the switch from the old dining hall to the new but it could still use some improvement. I could tell an improvement in the food at the new cafeteria the first of the quarter, but here lately I think the food has dropped considerably."

Hoyt Farr, sophomore: "I believe that the food has fallen down from Sherwood dining hall. In the first place you don't get as much, and then, the quality is not as good, and finally, the menu is not as well-rounded. Example: Last week we had cabbage at least once a day. I like cabbage fine but it does get old."

Deanne Dodson, junior: "Too much spaghetti!"

Norman Collins, senior: "I think that the meals have improved from what they were in that there is a greater variety, but they have not improved in quantity. Another reason I like eating in the new cafeteria is that it is co-ed. Also you have a choice in beverages and occasionally in meats and salads."

Charlie Keaton, junior: "I think that my meal ticket would show a good deal of how I feel. It has six holes punched so far this month."

Joann Roberts, junior: "I think the food shows a lot of imagination. It has a little more variety than we had at M.E.P."

### ALAN WARR

## The Middlers And Their Work

Pete Kelly's old eyes fell on a yellowed newspaper and were glued on one word—CENSORSHIP! That word brought vivid memories of his alma mater. And sadness followed.

One spring fifty years before, Pete had been in college. The school was a respectable institution from the outside.

However, on the inside some of the school were very religious and some were very unreligious. The rest were caught in the middle.

Pete Kelly was of the religious group. And he was glad that the school fathers saw fit to guard his group against "contamination."

THE RELIGIOUS LIVED together, studied together, sang together, and prayed the same prayer—that God in his mercy would rid the college of radicals and sinners.

And one day the prayer was answered. Stone walls twenty feet high were built around the campus. There was one gate guarded carefully by a tall, gaunt old man who never spoke.

However, on the inside some of the school were very religious and some were very unreligious. The rest were caught in the middle.

Pete Kelly was of the latter group. And he was thankful that the school fathers had foreseen the new age.

THE MIDLERS WORKED together, danced together, fought together, and convinced others of the value of moderation in all things.

And early one morning they laid the foundation of new learning. Directing the project were a balding, bespectacled Rhodes scholar and a chubby maker of atom bombs.



### MARTY LAYFIELD

## County Unit Vote

In 1917 the Georgia Legislature passed the Neill Primary Act creating the county unit system. Under this act the eight most populous counties have six unit votes, the next 30 counties have four unit votes, and the remaining 181 counties have two unit votes each.

In the election, the candidates need to receive a majority of the popular vote in a county to get the unit votes. Governors and U. S. Senators have to receive a majority of the state unit votes to win the election.

The population of the state has greatly shifted since the 1917 figures and yet the legislature has not adjusted the unit system in accord with this shift. Because of this fact the system has grown into an atrocious example of democratic procedure. The injustice done the citizens of the larger counties is unmistakable.

Take for example, the 473,572 citizens in Fulton County have six unit votes, while the 2,494 citizens in Echols County have two unit votes. Here Fulton has three times as many unit votes, yet the county has 190 times as many voters. It is easy to see the excessive value of a vote in Echols County.

### DeKalb Proposals

The proposal by the DeKalb County delegation to the General Assembly is deserving of our support. They propose to slightly upgrade the number of unit votes of the 43 largest counties in order to adjust the system to the 1917 level at which it was created.

Every citizen has a responsibility to write his representative and support the correction which this proposal would force on the outmoded unit system.

### Flagrant Disregard

Even those from smaller counties must see the flagrant disregard to democratic procedure that is created by this system. With any sense of justice and equality one must realize that the time has long since passed when we should have made some adjustment in accord with the population change in our state.

### BUDDY HURT

## Mrs. Burton

"Mrs. Margaret L. Burton was sentenced Monday to two to five years in prison for separate larceny convictions."—News item.

There was a picture in the paper Tuesday of a tired, graying woman silently weeping. The woman's name was Mrs. Margaret L. Burton (among her other aliases, Mrs. Gray), and since July Mrs. Burton has been big news in Atlanta.

A Fantastic Caravan Mrs. Burton first came into public view last July when she drove out of Atlanta with a fantastic caravan and an even more fantastic tale of grand larceny. The Atlanta papers leaped on the colorful aspects of the story, the caravan of trailers, expensive automobiles and prize show dogs, and have now presumably brought it to its conclusion.

It certainly was a colorful tale. None can deny that. A mystery woman, wearing dark glasses and travelling under aliases, with an exclusive address and a teen-age daughter in a private school, can hardly fail to make news. When she has a long record of international thievery, it is even better.

### Atlanta Household Name

During the summer, Mrs. Burton was an Atlanta household name. The newspapers strove to come up with new angles every day and often did. The story took some of the heat out of the summer. The picture of a gay, happy criminal who robbed the rich was refreshing. For a while.

But now the color, the glamor has gone. There are no more pictures of rich matrons or beautiful young daughters or scenes of graceful living.

Now there is only a photograph of a tired, graying woman, subject to fainting spells, who has been sentenced to prison. Now there is only the sordid aspect of the story, a reminder that after all crime is not funny, not romantic. The uproarious comedy has ended in bitterness.



## The Mercer Cluster

MERCER UNIVERSITY, MACON, GEORGIA  
FEBRUARY 14, 1958 VOLUME 38, NUMBER 14

ALAN M. WARR  
Editor in-Chief

BUD CAMPBELL  
Business Manager



BUDDY HURT  
Managing Editor

JULIA WILLIAMS  
Asst. Business Mgr.



Editorial Department: Executive Editor, John Kaufman; News Editor, Mary Etta Clark; Staff: Betty Bryant, Tommy Holland, Norman Cavender, Jane Oliver, Rosalee Perry, John Currie, Dot Thompson; Sports Editor, Cliff Hendrix; Staff: Gertrude Cross, Sammy Letson, Furman York, Jerry Bray; Society Editor, Charlotte Moore; Services Department: Manager, Jerry Dodd; Staff: Alan Smith, Jerry Pearce; Secretary, Roma Martin.

The Mercer Cluster is published weekly, except during holiday and examination periods, by the student body of Mercer University, Macon, Georgia, under the authority of the Student Government Association. It is written, edited and published by the undergraduate student body of Mercer University. All uncredited opinions in it are the opinions of the student editors, and not necessarily the University's viewpoint. All letters to the editor must be signed; names will be withheld on request. Letters do not necessarily reflect the policy of the paper or the opinion of the editors. Letters should not be longer than 300 words. Address all letters to Editor, The Mercer Cluster, Box 8, Mercer University, Macon, Georgia.