

## Amendments Explained

The amendments to the constitution which have been proposed by the Honor Council are intended simply as another step in the improvement and perfection of the system which has been going on for the past few years. They are meant to bring to fulfillment the ideals and the purpose of our system.

The first amendment is the most vital. The enforcement of the system has always been the responsibility of the student. The amendment proposes to state this responsibility more definitely in the constitution. It does not mean that the student will be required to report a violation on the basis of a vague suspicion. But it does mean that he will report each instance of academic dishonesty of which he is positive. This amendment is necessary in order to complete our system. It is an integral part of every efficient Honor System. It is taken for granted at such institutions as Davidson, the University of Virginia, the University of Florida, and Emory. The worth of our Honor System and the esteem in which it is held, would be increased immeasurably by this addition.

Another step forward for the system is embodied in the second part of this amendment. Lying before the Honor Council is already listed in the constitution as a major offense against the S.G.A. The Council simply wishes to include an injunction in the constitution against lying while giving testimony before the Council.

The second amendment is proposed for several reasons. The first reason for the amendment is to correct an omission in the constitution as it now stands. Originally, the Freshman Adviser was to be included on the committee set up to select the Honor Council, but was inadvertently left out. This addition will fulfill the intent of the writers of the constitution.

Also, the amendment is intended to give the appointing committee for the Council a loophole if they should be unable to fulfill the class distribution requirements of the constitution. If, for instance, there should not be two qualified seniors who are willing to serve, this gives the committee the right to appoint someone from another class.

The change in the date of appointments is proposed in order to avoid conflict with SGA elections. This is necessary because, in order to preserve a division of the judicial and executive branches, it has been a custom to allow no member of the SGA to sit on the Council.

## Registration Procedure Is Greatly Improved

Last week we witnessed the smoothest registration Mercer students have gone through in a long time. The inauguration and enforcement last year of the pre-registration requirement has eliminated many long lines and systematized procedure for entering classes.

Booklines, which for so long have presented almost unbearable problems at times, were a thing of the past. Lists were compiled and distributed well ahead of time and books purchased at a much greater convenience to students and bookstore personnel alike.

And when the money and chapel-seat people realize they have only half enough people to accommodate registering students, we will have taken all the crackerbarrel and old-home-week out of registration.

## The Mercer Cluster

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# MERCER OPINIONS

by Lamar Powell

The question this week was: What is your favorite television program and why?

Julia Williams, Junior: "Have Gun, Will Travel because the star is SO good-looking."

Iverson Jones, Junior: "Bilko because of the gambling, etc."

Beth White, senior: "Playhouse 90. I just like plays."

Don Mims, Junior: "The Little Rascals. It gives me a true picture of how little intellects live."

## LETTERS TO EDITOR

### Williams Professor Praises Debaters

(Editor's note: The following letter was received by President Dear Sir:

Last evening at Williams Mr. Beverly Bates and Mr. Marty Layfield debated two of our Williams' boys on the subject of segregation and I feel I must write and tell you what a rewarding experience this was to our student body. The forensic ability, as well as the realistic and moderate stand taken by the two Georgians, made a powerful impression upon a northern audience. This was particularly gratifying to me since six of my pleasantest teaching years were spent at the University of Georgia and two of my dearest friends are Preston Brooks and Hugh Hodgson. My wife is a Virginian, so I feel that my attitude on the question is a more reasonable one than the average New Englander.

It is my opinion that the trip of these two able and diplomatic young speakers is far more valuable to the nation than all the political orators of the north and the south put together. It is my hope that we may have more such people visit our campus for though we have many southerners, especially Texans, we have never had the privilege of hearing a case so well presented.

GEORGE G. CONNELLY  
Professor, Williams College.

Williamstown, Mass.

## Reader Raps Honor Council

Editor,

In my short time at Mercer, there have been several things that I have found that I did not like; however, I have been able to reconcile myself to all but one of these. This outstanding fault is the Honor System. It is in need of revision or abolition.

In a recent letter to the Cluster, the Honor Council admitted frankly that the Honor System does not work successfully. I would say that it even encourages dishonor. A person should never be required to sign a pledge that he does not want to sign. A person who has "given or received aid" on an exam should not be forced to sign a pledge saying that he did not "cheat." Yet some teachers refuse to grade papers that do not have a signed pledge on them. Thus a person who has received or given aid or even discussed the test commits two acts of dishonor.

No Mercerian can truthfully say that the Honor System works or that it even encourages honor. This failure to face reality is a serious mistake. The Honor System, as it now stands, is a farce. No one can force a person to be honest.

STEVEN R. SMITH.

## ALAN WARR

### Pete Kelly Takes In A Movie

Pete Kelly was young and impulsive and had more than his share of nervous energy. He planned big events to the last detail but never got any further than the planning. He had a pang of remorse after each of these occurrences and often contemplated his misactions and mullied over his misgivings.

Being a keen observer, Pete decided one day that he was not as old as his birthday. It was a big decision to make and a mightier one to accept. But his determination persisted and he returned to a younger age.

Later, not long after his decision, Pete saw a movie. It was based on a book he had read, but he was able to forget the book and accept the movie on its own standing.

The show was not too big in its scope. It disclosed a short segment from the lives of four Russian brothers and their father, their trials at the expense of each other and at the expense of religion; the entanglement of all five lives with the lives of two women.

The entanglement deepened with each successive scene and the show swept the characters to an anticlimactic but satisfactory ending.

Pete Kelly was fairly young and reserved and it was a long time since he was troubled by nervous energy. He planned only within the limits of his decided ability and

always followed with success. He felt justifiably pleased when he was done with a pet project and often reviewed his experience and projected it into future plans.

Being a calculating observer, Pete reached the conclusion that he was a little older than most people his age. He had gathered data, sorted it, comprehended the significance of it and meticulously formulated an unobtrusive plan of action.

One day not long after his success, Pete saw a motion picture. It had been taken from a book he had studied, and he was unable to put the probing, novel out of his critical eye and accept such an abortion of the original material.

The movie had no depth or breadth. It uniquely unraveled a brief segment from the lives of four Russian brothers, badly representing as many psychological entities, and their pitiful father. It skipped around through the family's conflicts and may as well have omitted the religious penetrations. It overlooked all but the vivid entanglements of the five men with the two women.

The movie rushed along from one scene to another and carried its burden of characters to an unsatisfactory end.

## Honor Council Amendment

### AMENDMENT 1

Article VI. Section 2. is hereby amended to read: Section 2. Honor Pledge.

A. "Honor Pledge" shall be signed by each regularly enrolled student on every classroom test. It shall also be signed on any individual paper or assignment the teacher may require. Subscription to the Honor Pledge shall be requisite for registration.

B. A student who signs the Honor Pledge signifies:

1. That he has neither given nor received aid on the examination, or individual assignment or paper nor has he used any information other than that allowed by the instructor,

2. That he will not allow to go unreported to the proper persons any violation of the above,

3. That he will give true and complete information before the Honor Council.

### AMENDMENT 2

Article V. Section 2. Paragraph A is hereby amended to read:

A. Selection shall be made by the President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer of the Student Government Association, the Freshman Adviser, and the President of the Senior Class, together with three faculty members appointed by the President of the University. Selection shall be based on the following requirements:

1. High principles and unquestioned moral and academic integrity in all their relations to fellow students, faculty, and administrative officials.

2. A minimum average of B for the preceding quarter and an overall average of C+.

3. Extra-curricular activity in at least two areas.

Article V. Section 2. Paragraph B is hereby amended to read:

B. The selection committee shall submit a questionnaire to those students who meet these requirements. On the basis of the questionnaires the committee has the power to appoint three seniors, four juniors, and two sophomores to serve on the Honor Council. This distribution may be altered when deemed best. These appointments shall be made by the second Tuesday in March, and the Council shall assume its duties on the last Tuesday in April.

## BUDDY HURT

### A Proposal

"Well," he said, "it looks like I'm going to be graduating with you."

"Did you flunk out of Tech?" I asked with a smile. I knew he had one of the very highest averages in his class.

"No. I've got a scholarship to study in Germany next year. All expenses paid.

He went on to explain that he had won a YMCA foreign exchange scholarship and was going to Germany's Stuttgart Tech. He painted glowing pictures of his soon-to-be life in Germany.

I congratulated him. And basically, the purpose of this bit of prose is to say, I would like to have the opportunity to congratulate his Mercer counterpart.

In case you haven't noticed, there are none too many Mercerians with plans for a year's similar study abroad. In fact, there are just none.

Now, why don't we (meaning Mercer University) do something like this. Pick out a European school and say, look, we would like to send one or two or three of our students here at Mercer to your institution. If you will let them come, free of charge, we will be happy to admit a similar number of your students to our own halls of learning. Also, free of charge.

#### Exposed To All Facets

In addition to that, we will set up a program for them, of dinners and/or of sessions at home with our faculty and/or students. We will see that they are exposed to all the facets of an American small college student.

The advantages of such an exchange are proven and could even be overly described as being beyond measure. For the students concerned, indeed for the schools themselves, it would be a cultural, educational interchange, well worth its cost.

However, maybe you're right. It probably isn't feasible. It certainly would involve some work. And no one will listen.

Just the same, I think it's a good idea.

