

The Mercer Cluster

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Bates' Request Shows Lack Of Careful Study of Problem

Lunch lines at Mercer are an ever present source of student comment. The Cluster in the past has often commented about the persistent line breaking of some of our fellow students. It seems, however, that line-breaking is as inevitable as death and taxes.

Some pressure on the lunch lines was removed last winter when the cafeteria management began opening one line at 12 o'clock, thereby permitting students who had fourth period free to eat early. This was a very successful policy and though it did not eliminate line-breaking, it did remove some of the provocation for it.

This year, according to a letter received by The Cluster, all this progress was neatly shoved aside and we are back in the same position.

Mr. Beverly Bates, president of our Student Government, in what we as last fall.

hope was response to student desires, has petitioned the administration to open one lunch line at 12 o'clock and "if no tangible progress is made by next week, I will recommend that the Student Senate pass a resolution condemning such an utter disregard of student opinion."

Mr. Bates, who has in the past proved himself a thoughtful and capable leader in SGA matters, would seem to have issued his petition without his usual careful consideration of the matter at hand.

The Cluster would like to call to the notice of Mr. Bates, and the student body in general, a paragraph in the Cluster this week to be found in the report of Mr. Bates' chapel speech. Mrs. Reeves, the cafeteria manager and school dietician, says that none of the student workers are out from classes during fourth period, making it impossible to open the lines at 12. The kitchen help cannot serve the food because they are busy preparing it.

A solution to this, perhaps, would be to hire student help that has fourth period free. This would be temporary, since schedules would change next quarter. This would involve getting health cards for the extra help, which could be a lengthy process. It would also involve paying them, which would be expensive, and which would directly affect students' pocketbooks.

Consideration should be given to the fact that the lunch lines were for a time opened at 12 o'clock this year on Mondays. This was on the hopeful assumption that non-military students would eat early and that the ROTC students could be served in 15 minutes. This might have worked, except that the non-military students shunned the cafeteria until 1 o'clock which caused the lines to have to stay open until nearly 1:30 because of the last minute rush.

About the only legitimate appeal for the early opening, aside from the irritation of standing in a long line, would be from students with fifth period classes or working students. The latter are permitted to break in line in order that they may get to work on time. Students with fifth period classes have no grounds for complaint since they have ample time to get to their class before the last bell.

The student workers do not eat until after everyone in the line has been served. Several of them have fifth period classes and so far have been able to attend them on time, except for days when there is a large assortment of food or when the line is jammed with latecomers.

It might be noted that the line is very often delayed because of student's insistence on having individual attention from the workers. We concede that it would be nice not to have asparagus or spinach on our plates. But when this causes the all-too-slow line to stop completely while a plate is prepared under our direction, we feel that it would be better to just refrain from eating the vegetables.

It probably would be impossible to stop line-breaking altogether, but a little consideration for the rights of other people on the part of the linebreakers, would lessen this problem.

We would like to ask Mr. Bates, whatever his motive for making his petition, to make another, this time to the members of the student body. If they will exercise the good manners that we are sure their mothers taught them, much of the controversy about the lunch lines could be stopped.

Thanks Administration For Co-op Action

The Mercer administration has considered the viewpoint of the students, and have taken steps to have the Student Center snack bar remain open until 4 p.m. on weekdays.

We feel this is the best the administration can do at the time, due to two factors: The extremely high amount of money lost on the snack bar last year, and the fact that Mr. Victor Heck, Dean of the Night School, has told the administration that the snack bar being closed at night suits him.



CLIFF HENDRIX:

What Education Is

When Pete Hawkins left Texas in 1919, he came east with one suitcase very empty, little money and less education.

After beating his way across Mississippi, Alabama and west Georgia, he arrived in Macon in the fall of the year, hungry, chilly and homeless. And he began to look for a job. He knew no trade, having spent most of his younger days helping his father work the worthless tract of real estate they called the family farm. Jobs were hard to come by.

Finally Pete thought he had something with the ancient Macon Electric Transport, forerunner of Bibb Transit Co., as a street car operator.

The bright young man in the personnel office helped Pete fill out the necessary forms. But at the end of the lengthy blank was a space for signature. Pete however couldn't write his name. The young man smirked and said Pete wouldn't be needed after all.

So he was back on the street, looking for work. After some more aimless wandering about the city, Pete stopped at a greasy hamburger stand for a bite of lunch. To make conversation he asked the seedy looking character behind the counter if the concern was for sale. It was, and after a little haggling and dickering over terms, Pete had himself a sale.

And he prospered. First, he remodeled the establishment and cleaned it up with a paint job on the outside. He made the hamburgers less greasy.

Soon he opened up a branch out on the other side of town. And another. And still he prospered.

Years passed. Pete branched out into other cities. He bought real estate, hotels, and financed building projects. Pete became wealthy indeed. But he maintained an office in Macon to handle affairs in this part of the country.

It came about that Pete was in Macon, a wealthy landed magnate now, to close the deal on a Florida hotel, worth thousands of dollars, a mere drop in the bucket to the affluent Pete.

All concerned gathered in Pete's office to seal the bargain. Pete's lawyers were there, other attorney's from the selling party came as well as a host of bright young clerks, office help and all the rest.

The time came for Pete to sign the contract. But he couldn't. In all these years, Pete had never learned to write his name.

A bright young clerk (recent Mercer grad) spoke up in surprise:

"Gee, Mr. Hawkins," he exclaimed, "suppose you with all your wealth had an education, just what would you be worth today?"

Pete smiled "Son, if I had an education, I'd be a street-car operator."



BUDDY HURT:

Our New College

Ed. Note: Cluster executive editor Hurt, who lives in Atlanta, recently visited the campus of the newly-annexed Southern College of Pharmacy. Here, he describes what he found, and offers a few opinions.

ATLANTA—The sign above the door of the Walton Street building tells the story. It says, "The Southern College of Pharmacy, a School of Mercer University."

Inside the four-story building are good-sized classrooms and well-equipped and gleaming laboratories. There is a faculty of 16, with nine Ph. D.'s, and a student body of 221.

They are all glad to be a part of Mercer, which they became last June when Mercer took over the pharmacy college. The students and faculty members are happy over the higher academic status they received with Mercer affiliation, and they think it's fine to belong to a larger institution.

In fact, new students at the College were required to wear Mercer rat caps last September, said Dr. Oliver Littlejohn, dean of the school. He said he plans to make this an annual event.

Other plans are being set into motion to bring a closer relationship between the two student bodies. Donald Scarborough, president of the



I get a headache every time I try to read the World Almanac.

I like Mort Sahl's bit about preparing yourselves for a shock when you see The Micky Mouse Club for the first time: when you see these kids coming on with their papier-mache ears, you're liable to think maybe those Atom Bomb tests should be stopped. He goes on to tell about Walt Disney talking in front of a camera set up at Disneyland, lecturing the kinds about brotherhood. In the background you can see hundreds of kids running around wearing T-shirts with pictures of various Disney characters on them (which Sahl understands their mothers bought at cost: \$1.50). Way back by the water fountain is a sad-looking little boy wearing a plain white T-shirt, and Disney is telling all the other kids they should play with him anyway. "Around here we don't punish a guy because his mother's an agnostic," Disney says.

Anybody who can sit and listen to Teresa Brewer, deserves to.

Things I dig: Alfred Hitchcock . . . science fiction novels . . . expensive paperback books . . . The Last Word, a Sunday afternoon program that Channel 13 dropped . . . Maria Schell . . . coffee . . . Mahalia Jackson . . . the textbook in English 131 . . . Gil Evans . . . Donald Duck orange juice . . . Roadrunner cartoons.

Things I don't dig: public opinion polls (especially when I have to count them) . . . Mr. Wizard . . . Channel 13's programming . . . Physics . . . Donald Duck cartoons . . . and Paramount cartoons . . . grapefruit-and-pineapple juice . . . Tennessee Ernie Ford.

Things I didn't dig: Superscope . . . summer school . . . Hercules . . . Dr. Frank Baxter.

Visit With Fidel

(ACP) — Four Ohio State coeds told the MORNING LANTERN their views after a week's travel in Cuba as guests of the Cuban National Union of Students.

Americans should view Cubans not from the bustling, highly organized American way of life, but with the slow, perhaps apathetic outlook of the Cubans, one girl said. This outlook, she commented, explains many things, including the apparent indifference to the possibility of an economic crisis.

The four hesitated to give political opinions, but all testified to the popularity of Fidel Castro. "The Cubans trust him implicitly," they said. "He's definitely a one-man government."

senior class of the college, said he hopes to get the Atlanta and Macon students together for a series of parties. This year's Cauldron will publish a special section devoted to the school of pharmacy.

We, for our part, can and should return the compliment. The College of Pharmacy is a school to be proud of. Its facilities are excellent and its well-trained faculty is enthusiastic about teaching.

The students are serious and hard working but lacking not at all in college spirit. They are, most of them, married. Practically all are putting themselves through school with outside jobs.

The College is located in the heart of downtown Atlanta, at 223 Walton St. It is not the best of all possible locations, since the building is jammed in with others, and the College has no real campus. But Dr. Littlejohn hopes to remedy this within the near future. He has plans for a new building and promises of support from pharmaceutical circles.

The College, already planning for the future, is a welcome addition to the University. We should strive for closer relationship between the two student bodies.