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DRIVE THE UNION

by Dick Newsome

Now that Monday night football is off the air, one has to check out all avenues for Monday night entertainment. Last Monday your raving reporter dropped in on a special meeting of the Mars Hill Mickey Mouse Club. Mickey presided over the meeting as usual. He even threatened to get sarcastic but that was a big enough joke in itself that no further stabs at humor (literally) were needed.

No sooner than I had gotten settled, someone said, "We are dying." This wasn't any new revelation to Mickey. He said that he had been dying since contraception. The meeting took on its usual format; a few cartoons, sheer profundity, and a noteworthy thought here and there.

It may be difficult to appreciate how profound some of these questions were, being given out of context, as they are here. Just the same, give a few moments of quiet contemplation to some of these gems. "What is wrong with Wednesday?" and "Do people go to Mars Hill?"

This was not a rerun of a poor Kung Fu outing but a serious (very much so) attempt by the Mickey Mouse Club to make you, Sammy and Sally Student, realize just what the College Union is and is not, can and cannot do, needs and does not need, hopes for and does not hope for. It's too bad you weren't there to get a feel for yourself just what these things are. It's too bad also because you weren't and if you are going to continue reading this

you are my audience for what I could make out of the whole discussion. The College Union is students working for

their fellow students to try to bring them the best entertainment they can. It is not the new location of the Fillmore East. It can be an organization where you as an individual have the opportunity just as big a role in what goes on as you have the desire to. It cannot be and organization that exists and succeeds merely because it is housed in a new building. It needs the support, involvement (rah-rah) and positive suggestions that only you as the individual can contribute to it. It does not need the spreading of uninformed criticism. It hopes to do one basic thing - provide you with a good time. It does not hope to be a small click - a few students arbitrarily deciding what will and will not happen as far as entertainment goes at Mars Hill College.

It seems that one could write the preceding paragraph a multitude of different ways, probably ways much better, but they would all say the same basic things. These are the things that the various chairmen and leaders of the Wren College Union want you to know and to be aware of.

To elaborate on these points, the College Union is students working for their fellow students to try to bring them the best entertainment they can. The College Union is the student organization on campus that provides the best medium for direct student input into decisions that affect the entire student body.

The College Union is not the new location of Fillmore East. We are not in the position here at Mars Hill to put on the highest quality of entertainment that each of us would like

to see. The College Union functions under a budget. Its resources, although considerably adequate, are limited. It has been suggested to relay some examples of just what some of the best in the various fields of entertainment cost these days and to compare this to what the committees of the College Union can afford.

One showing of movies such as "The Sting" and "American Graffiti" would cost the movie committee in the vicinity of \$500.00 each. This committee, chaired by Jean Barton, has a semester budget of \$1500.00, which averages out to about \$100.00 a week. At the most on a sellout Sunday night might take in \$60.00, thereby losing \$40.00 a week.

A one night concert by Bachman-Turner Overdrive would cost the Dance-Concert committee approximately \$15,000. This committee, which is chaired by Niles Hipps, has a semester budget of \$8000.00. Charging \$2.00 a ticket, the most the committee could take in with a packed Moore Auditorium would be about \$3000.

A two night stand by club entertainers such as Ball and Taylor and Ball or Columbine go for \$750.00. The coffeehouse committee, chaired by Wally Wallin, has a semester budget of \$1525. Considering how often entertainment is put on in the coffeehouse the money would not last long at these rates. All this says nothing of the \$1000 the committee has spent to bring an adequate P.A. system to the coffeehouse. Congratulations go to this committee for the work done to correct this oversight in the planning and early operation of the coffeehouse.

New ping pong and pool tables - how about leaving it at saying - they are expensive. The recreation committee, chaired by the Howard Hughes of Mars Hill, JBoy Black, has the financial responsibility of control over a budget totaling zero, zip, void, el nothing. The recreation committee operates with the money that is taken in by the rec - room. This would be great if there were no overhead, but there is.

The college union can be an organization where you as an individual have the opportunity to play just as big a role in what goes on as you have the desire to. The open membership policy of committees means that you as much as any student at Mars Hill can voice what you want done and work to see it done. This opportunity for decision making is real and not just apparent. The decisions as to what entertainment is and is not provided at Mars Hill are made by students. You can be one of them.

The college union cannot be an organization that exists and succeeds merely because it is housed in a new building. Trite but true, great people, not great buildings make an organization work. The building is merely a resource, the people are the ones that decide how to best utilize the resource.

The college union needs the support, involvement and positive suggestions that only you as the individual can contribute to it. Some positive suggestions between cartoons at the Monday night drive-in changing from weekend to week night entertainment since so many go home on weekends; opening the rec room in the morning if people could be

found to work those hours; trying to better publicize what is happening by utilizing announcements at basketball games, the Announcer, and the mythical radio station; teaching people how to read; and bringing in an ex-athlete to evangelize a committee membership drive. The Pick Hit suggestion of the Week was JBoy Black's suggestion of putting a Student Information Center in the main lobby of the College Union building. There would be a bulletin board display of all upcoming college union events. It would be an added responsibility of the page on duty to man the center. He/She would have access to the student directory, specific information about each event on the bulletin board and any additional information which students could benefit from.

Your reactions to these suggestions and any of your own will be appreciated. Letters to the Editor or visits to the College Union office are ways you can get your ideas across. Although the best way is to become - that's right - a committee member. Then you are not only offering suggestions but are in a position where you have the power to see them carried out!

The College Union does not need the spreading of uninformed criticism. Be informed, then criticize.

The College Union hopes to do one basic thing - provide you with a good time. Getting a little philosophical here, but that is what it's all about. The end for all the means of the college union is both simply and complicated - that you have a good time. The SEE UNION CONT. PAGE THREE