

porter patter

By Diana Denton

No fool I (having learned my lesson from last week's Feedback), I stood beside my usually empty box in the post-office, dousing the contents (an unprecedented matter—not the inundation, but the fact that that there was anything inside) prior to removal. Gingerly extracting the now-soggy missive, I was somewhat disappointed, albeit relieved, to find it nothing more dangerous than a notice about Thursday convocation. I must be losing my touch.

But I was somewhat cheered as my friend (believe it or not, I still have a few), and fellow CLUSTER staffer, Bernard Lindsey came by to inform me that my heresy trial before the Panhellenic Council was being postponed a week to gather further information from the mad blatherings of Willard Clutchmyer.

I couldn't help but think back to the last heresy trial here at Mercer, brought against five members of the Mercer faculty by a group of 13 ministerial students—among them, a certain John Morrison Birch.

Yes, my friends, the John Birch of whom you hear so much—especially in an election year—was once a Mercer student like unto ourselves.

Despite the misconceptions of Birch which have grown up, thanks to the work of Robert Welch, he

was by no means the radical right-winger as which he has been pictured. Dedicated to what he thought was right, yes—perhaps almost to the point of fanaticism—but dedicated more to the ministry to which he gave his life than to the politics with which his name has become associated.

This man and his part in the trials of 1939 are another part of Mercer's history which should not be allowed to lie "covered with dust and stacked with a few old boards in a corner." Two articles on the subject, in the May 5 and May 12 CLUSTERS of 1961 make perfectly fascinating reading for anyone who will take the trouble to look them up. (They are among the stacks in the CLUSTER office.) Who knows, someone may even be interested enough to revive the story in a future series of articles.

Snipes To Speak

Dr. Wilson E. Snipes will speak at the 6th district meeting of Georgia Council of Teachers of English on October 29. The meeting was held at Lanier Jr. High School. Dr. Snipes spoke on the Teaching of Composition.

GRIFFITH UNCOVERS LOST FOLKSONGS

Dr. Benjamin W. Griffith, chairman of the English department at Mercer University, is the author of two articles on folklore that appear in the current issues of the Journal of American Folklore and the Southern Folklore Quarterly.

Both of the articles deal with folk songs found in a manuscript songbook, dated 1829, kept by Thomas Hurry Morgan of Macon County, Georgia.

In the Journal of American Folklore, an article, entitled "An American Variant of 'The Bonny Scotch Lad,'" Dr. Griffith argues that a song in the Morgan book entitled "Bonnet So Blue" is the hitherto missing link between the Scotch song "The Bonny Scotch Lad" and the Americanized "Green Grow the Laurels."

In the Southern Folklore Quarterly article, "A Fuller Version of the 'Guinea Negro Song,'" Dr. Griffith presents evidence that a song in the Morgan book containing a slave's ironic comments about his condition of servitude is a complete version of a folksong that was previously known to exist in only one stanza in the Frank C. Brown collection.



By Sara June McRae

The past week has really been a busy and exciting one for Mercer Greeks, especially the sororities, who started their informal rush on Oct. 12. Both the fraternities and sororities, as well as the independent organizations, were well represented in the freshman talent show. The sororities did well in the freshman beauty contest too, taking all five finalists. I would sincerely like to thank all the reporters who took time out from the busy whirlpool of rush parties, talent practices, contests, pageants, intramurals, and possibly classes to turn in their group's news. I am looking forward to hearing from them again, and I hope to hear from the others by next week.

ALPHA DELTA PI was lacking an editor since the ADPI's old one transferred, but has selected a new one who has jumped head first into the job and reported all of the sorority's news for the past month.

After the new pledges were welcomed, the sorority held a pledge banquet at the Sultan's Table to honor them. Formal pledging was held on Oct. 8, and each little sister was given a sponsor to guide her through her pledgeship. Pledge officers were also elected, and are Pam Smith, president; Janice Gasaway, vice-president; and Suzanne Thornton, secretary-treasurer.

ADPI is very proud of its pledge class, which has recently acquired

many honors. Mary Belote was second runner-up in the Freshman Beauty Contest, and Mike Sanford was among the five finalists. Pam Smith has been appointed as assistant fire marshal, and was also recently recognized by Governor Carl Sanders. Another pledgee, Miss Caren Hart, was Miss Dairy Princess of Georgia, and first runner-up in the nation. She was also Miss Georgia Southwestern College, and has been recently appointed to the President's Council, which serves as an advisory to the student government.

During the last few months, Alpha Delta Pi has also been active in the romance department. Those recently pinned are Lucy Cook and John Tracy, Pi Kappa Phi; Carolyn Cambell and Tommy Lewis, Kappa Alpha; Sheila Crane and Ray Seagers, Pi Kappa Phi; Pat Weaver and Bryan Shipman, Pi Kappa Tau; Joan Phillips and Larry Quattlebaum, Phi Delta Theta. Carol Johnson is laudatory to Steve Steiman, Sigma Pi at Georgia.

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Mercer Has A Radio Program

Last Saturday morning the "Mercer University Program" made its radio debut on WCRY, 900 kc. This program is produced by the Office of News Services here and is devoted to news and announcements pertaining to the campus. It also features semi-classical and popular music, and interviews with students, faculty, and visitors.

The show is aired live each Saturday from 10:00 to 10:30 by Gary Broadnax and Caren Hart. At times, different students will moderate or be featured in talks or interviews.

Last Saturday, an interview was held with Charles B. Wood, who spoke to the students here on behalf of the Peace Corps last week. Also featured was the naming of the Humanities Building in honor of the late Dr. Otis Dewey Knight. This came about as the result of a resolution circulated by the student body last spring quarter.

Broadnax and Hart talked about plans for further building here at Mercer. A new law building and science center are in the works, not to mention the new men's dorm and library now under construction.

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HARRY CHAFIN

which future?

The editors of this so called neutral newspaper have begged in the past couple of weeks for loyal Barry Goldwaterians to rise to the cause of defending the issues for which they are fighting. This is the first of two articles to appear in the Cluster in the next two weeks.

As I sat down tonight to write this article, I called upon the services of an old witch and her crystal ball to give me the ability to see into the future. We gazed into the ball and to my surprise there appeared two future Americas. The choice was left to the voters in the forthcoming election. I saw the future America as a very prominent figure in the world, a place for individualism, and a place to raise families in peace and freedom. I also saw the future America as a socialistic state, and Heaven forbid, that of a dictatorship in a later scene.

Yes, there is a future with LBJ, but it's a future that scares me and should scare any American who values individualism and freedom. In the last few years of Democratic rule, we have lost the right of free enterprise with the passing of the Civil Rights Bill. A man is now told how to run his business, and who he must serve. The central government has become so strong that it steps on the rights of the states. Washington, Jefferson, and others who framed our Constitution would probably turn over in their graves if they knew the strength of the government and the power that is now invested in so many incompatible people. Our Constitution was set up for the people, by the people, and the people were to have the say so in the control of the government. We have seen many "egotists" who use the government for their own personal gain, appear in the past few years. We have seen the American name become more or less a joke in the foreign countries who used

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