

by Wright Davis

Editors note: The other day I had a very enlightening conversation with a fellow student about the race for space and the future prospects for life in space. Being a student of the "political motive-making-move", I began to wonder what politics will be like in newly discovered regions beyond our present domain. By transporting well-known political figures into this new environment I came up with the following:

When "Landslide Lurleen", the mother-governor of Alabama was asked recently who Alabama's first space delegate would be, she coyly replied, "Let George do it." But George, now President, refused to listen to his mother-governor's advice, and like most good Presidents sent his Vice-President, Marvin to do the job.

We would never have had so many riders in the sky if the Attorney General had not persuaded Mansmen, used to an invisible empire, to ride out into space with only their usual "hoods". Our later spacemen could not have survived if we had not first sent Bobby Kennedy on a one-way trip thither to furnish all the hot air.

It was noble and farsighted of Lyndon Johnson to send Barry Goldwater into space with enough water to keep him in space and enough gold to prevent his coming back. That space is now star spangled with signs which we owe

to the N.A.A.C.P. — National Advertisers of American Colonial Planets.

In order to eliminate discrimination on sex in space, Republicans passed their hats and from their wallets raised \$8 billion to send Ladybird into outer space. Senator Hickenlooper dissented, saying the only outer he's ever heard of is Outer Mongolia, and this was probably a communist plot anyway.

The Georgia legislature cooperated by unanimously electing Julian Bond as Georgia's permanent delegate to outer space, and the outer the better. Jim Easterland volunteered to explore the Milky Way, but gave up after finding that the Milky Way is not all white.

Martin Luther King, Jr. declined the invitation to go as far as he could in space, given by Senator Ellender, saying he would rather remain on terra firma — and the more firmer, the less terror.

Republicans, seeing no chance on earth, jumped at space, but Hubert Humphrey "thoughtfully" provided one too few parachutes, so Rockefeller and Javits flipped coins to see who would jump first, Thurmond or Callaway.

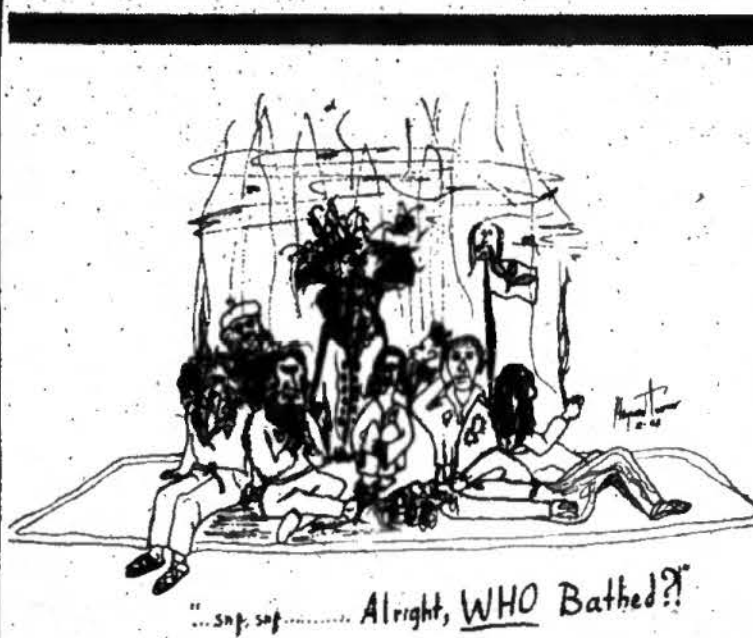
On the unanimous motion of Everett Dirksen, graciously seconded by John Stennis, it was voted to send the Highest Court in the land to the highest spot in space, with the slogan: Uplift Earl Warren, but General Walker failed to include the 9 parachutes.

The John Birch Society denounced all space trips as Un-American because it was above their heads. SNICK decided to picket space on the grounds that all space is black which is discrimination, and the Black Muslims were all given one-way tickets to Arcturus by the Alabama Citizens Council.

The first delegate to outer space from Mercer radioed back that he saw a sign in space which read: Emory IS Dead!, signed God.

Meanwhile, back at the Georgia space ranch, "space expert" Earnest Vandiver said there was no room in Georgia for a man with nothing on his head. But Spaceman Arnall retorted that we first sent Monkeys into space because they have more hair and less brains, and suggested that Georgia do the same.

(Continued on page 4)



## Why?

by Steve Holsenbeck

A pair of bluebirds were perched on the handrail outside the Student Center, a squirrel was playing in the pecan tree in front of Knight Hall, Smokey and her friends were basking in sun on the Chapel steps, a boy sat alone on a bench staring numbly at the ground between his feet, a girl was stumbling slowly towards Porter dorm with tears spilling down her cheeks; but who noticed? Many students were already on their way to their next classes, some walked in groups, laughing and joking; but most walked alone, silent, aware of only the sidewalk in front of them; and no one noticed.

Only the bright, blunt, and blatant break through their dull senses. They must be struck in the face with something before it breaks on their awareness. The insignificant things that make up so much of life, the simple, beautiful, yet so meaningful incidents that are constantly taking place are lost on them. The crispness in the air, the melody of a bird's song, the tears on the girl's cheeks, all are emotion-charge; yet they spark no emotion in those who complain most of the lack of feeling in the world.

This lack of feeling is imaginary. Emotions may come to the surface less, and they may be disguised better, but they are there. The real lack is in people's willingness to search out feeling, and show a little of their own in return.

Students are preoccupied with superficiality. They take only a glimpse of what is there to be learned. They are afraid of what they might threaten their timid, little worlds. Mary Jane is beautiful and sexy, and everyone shakes his head in numb surprise when she swallows a whole bottle of aspirin and hemorrhages to death in her dormitory bed. They were all dazzled by her beauty and entranced by her sexiness, and none looked into her eyes and saw the long nights of crying with a pillow covering her face so her roommate would not hear her sobs.

But life moves fast and a student must move with it. He must be first

in the fee lines, must get away from that stop light before anyone else, must be first to pin his fraternity sweetheart, must win that office in the S.G.A., because he must leave his footprints on the world, and, if need be, on other people's souls.

Why can he not stop for just one moment and see beauty? Why can he not stop for a whole day and touch someone's heart? Why can he not stop for a lifetime and find meaning in his existence beyond mere awards? Because he will not get to the end of the rainbow before everyone else, that is why.

There is no time to look behind the mirror reflections which hide true personalities. Students just accept these reflections as real, and, by doing so, are only adding to the unreality of their own personalities. Mirror reflects mirror, unreality reflects unreality, until they are no longer people, but mere bundles of diffused light images, shifting and reigning into unrecognizable entities.

But there is so much to be seen behind the mirrors. Every personality has its own distinct individuality and startling beauty, if only the time is taken to look for it. People are wonderful animals, and students are wonderful people; but, for lack of recognition, the beauty and individuality are hidden, disguised in intricate forms, and allow only the deserving to witness their delights. The hiding place must be searched out, the disguises carefully chipped away, and the true personalities beneath fully appreciated before relationships take on reality, before humans become human to each other.

An awareness must be developed which sees behind the mirrors, hears the tiny voices crying, and feels the emotions which are burning there. Such an awareness is thrilled at the sight of the bluebirds, pauses to watch the squirrel, stops to pet Smokey and saves her a bone from the noon meal, takes a seat on the bench beside the boy, and offers the girl a shoulder to cry on. Such an awareness sees the scars beneath Mary Jane's beautiful skin and helps her heal them, hears the muffled sobs in the night and helps silence them; feels the violent emotions fighting to destroy her and understands enough to stop them. Such an awareness makes life living.

## SGA News

The SGA meeting of February 20 was well attended in relation to the week previous. After roll call, President Dave Hudson announced that no longer would officers be excused from SGA meeting because of one test the next day.

During reports from officers and committees, Carole Ann Kelly, treasurer of the SGA, said that the next edition of the CLUSTER would carry a financial report, showing the monetary advantage of buying a SGA season ticket among other items of financial interest. Lynn Goyen, chairman of the Cafeteria Committee, raised the question of whether or not the SGA should request that the Cafeteria's budget be expanded with a comparable increase in the ticket price. After disapproval, the question was dropped.

Tom Cauthorn, Chairman of the Constitution Committee, reported that the Constitution had been read in full in the last SGA meeting and since then had been placed in each officer's mail box. Some questions were raised by those present and appropriate clarifications made. Ed Bacon then moved that the document entitled "Constitution 1968" be submitted to the student body as the SGA's official proposal for a new Constitution. The motion passed.

Gary Brenner, Chairman of the Library Committee, informed the meeting that February 21 would be a day set aside for the students to make constructive criticism pertaining to the Library. The forms to be filled out were to be placed in the lobby of the student center.

President Hudson suggested dates for Spring election procedures. They were approved by the members. They are as follows:

March 4 & 5 — Chapel program presented by the SGA members and officers, describing the duties and responsibilities of the major SGA and class offices. Also time will be taken to explain the newly proposed Constitution and the Chief Justice of the Honor Council will announce qualification procedure for applying for positions on the Council.

March 8 — Qualifications for candidacy in the Spring elections. Time and location will be announced later.

April 1 & 2 — Chapel program presented by the SGA, introducing candidates and allowing candidates for some of the offices to speak.

April 3 — Spring elections.

April 5 — Runoff.

April 22 — Installation of officers.

Tom Cauthorn, editor of the CLUSTER, announced that the CLUSTER would run an election publication with election qualifications (to be submitted by the candidates, not exceeding two double-spaced typed pages) and pictures (no qualifications published without pictures) of the candidates. To further interest in the election, the CLUSTER is also sponsoring campaign rallies for any candidates who would like to speak on Monday and Tuesday nights before the election.

A motion was made and passed that the SGA go on record as advocating the inauguration of "Wonderful Wednesday" into the Mercer schedule at the earliest possible date.

SGA members with nonexcused absences for the meeting were Bill Ingram, Marty Leverett, and Nancy Smith.

## More time for:

- music
- billiards
- knave
- archery
- reading
- hallet
- herbology
- cycling
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