



The Mercer Cluster

Editorial
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Volume 1

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Number 1



This promises to be a great year to the five hundred freshmen, we welcome to the Great Experience. — "We challenge you to obtain an education at Mercer; to give of yourself to the academic community in as many ways and as fully as you can so that you may receive something of the rich academic heritage which Mercer has to offer."

— Tom Cauthorn

University Joins Moratorium Call

Ending the war in Vietnam have not been changed. We If the war continues this fall is the most important task face follow the same military advice and there is no firm committing the American nation. Over which has created a futile and ment' to American withdrawal the last few years, millions of bloody conflict while we cling or a negotiated settlement on Americans have campaigned, to the same policies which have October 15th, participating protested, and demonstrated caused, the Paris negotiations to members of the academic community will spend the entire fend the war, yet it continues, of 25,000 troops over a three day organizing against the war. Death and destruction are un-month period simply is not the and working in the community abated; bombs and fire con-substantial change of policy to get others to join us in an lincue to devastate South Viet that is so desperately needed: enlarged and lengthened moratorium in November. This pro-cess will continue until there is domestic problems of this become active and help bring American withdrawal or a negotiated settlement.

Moreover, the war has had a Administration. We call upon our univer-sities to support the moratori-corruping influence on every We call for a periodic mora-cum, and we commit ourselves aspect of American life, and torium on "business as usual", um, and we commit ourselves much of the national discon-in order that students, faculty to, organize this effort on our tent can be traced to its influ- members and concerned campus and in our community. We ask others to join us. For citizens can devote time and energy to the important work further information on "Mora-torium Call" at Mercer, contact the Cluster Office Rm. 326 & 328 in the Student Center.

The discredited policies of taking the issue of peace in the past which have brought Vietnam to the larger com-munity.

Frosh Program Revamped

Reforms Mark 136th Year

Mercer University will begin classes for its 136th year of operation Monday, Sept. 29.

Enrollment will be slightly ahead of last year as a result of small increases in Walter F. George School of Law and the College of Liberal Arts. Enrollment at the School of Pharmacy in Atlanta will be about the same. Mercer has limited its enrollment to under 2,000 students annually.

Registrar Columbus H. Posey said the enrollment for the year is expected to be 220 students in the School of Law, 210 in the School of Pharmacy and 1500 in the College of Liberal Arts. Last year's total enrollment was 1918.

During Orientation Week, which begins Sunday, Sept. 21, the freshman class of 450 will participate in a variety of activities which will help make easier the transition from high school. Dr. Rufus C. Harris, president, and Dr. Garland F. Taylor, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, will speak to parents at an assembly that Sunday at 2 p.m.

Events scheduled during the week include campus tours, a seminar on the effects of drugs, group discussions of Thoreau's "Walden", soul sing and talent show, hayride and outing, presentations of academic issues, and an introduction to campus work and living. The week will end Sunday evening, Sept. 28, with fraternities and sororities holding open house.

A new approach to freshman English will be introduced by the Department of English, of which Dr. Benjamin W. Griffith is chairman. Instead of attending class in the conventional manner, one half of the freshman class will be divided into groups of 20. The study for a quarter will be arranged around themes. Two of the themes will be "Coming of Age" with Mark Twain's "Huckleberry Finn" as the source book, and "Journey Home" with Homer's "Odyssey" as the source book. Students will complete various readings around the theme, and

one guest lecture a week will speak to the group. The freshmen will be required to do some writing on the theme.

While one half of the freshman class is engaged in this new approach, the other half will attend classes in the conventional manner. Comparative results of the two approaches to learning will be evaluated at the end of the year.

Other programs underway at the university for the year will be the continuation of a comprehensive self-study by the faculty, and recommendations formulated by a Freshman Task Force which has the responsibility of evaluating the total effectiveness of the freshman year at Mercer, both in class and out.

Courses offerings for the year total 314 courses covering almost all phases of a liberal arts education.

President Rufus C. Harris has made 12 new appointments to the faculty for the new year. They are Dr. John W. Bessman Jr., assistant professor of mathematics, T. Scott Avery Jr., instructor in economics, Michael E. Cass instructor in English, William R. Davis Jr., assistant professor of Spanish.

Also Harvey H. Brimmer III assistant professor of philosophy, Larry H. Pearce instructor in history, Mrs. Jennifer Harper instructor in biology, Dr. Terence C. Todd associate professor of education, William A. Lane instructor in English, Col. Joseph H. Jones chairman of the Department of Military Science, Timothy M. Ireland instructor in French and Charles A. McKinley assistant professor of German.



Dr. Harris

Dear Freshman:

This is a note of cheer. We try to imagine what you are, what you think, how you feel and how you will meet the opportunities of your day.

It seems true that if there is adequate reason for your enrollment at Mercer, there is adequate reason for you to observe the best aspects of student, academic and extra-curricular life and endeavor which abound here. Everyone wants your education to bring to full blossom that which you love most and do best.

The chief matter in your life right now is to find here the appropriate niche for yourself, to work into it and even to enlarge it. There is always plenty of advice! Mine is that those who find the true shape of their new choices or better purposes should be aware that it will not hurt them if they have been bent somewhat by the wind and burned a bit by the sun. Challenges nearly always strengthen. Besides they help to withstand the searching eye of Mr. Status Quo, a difficult foreman.

Yours very truly,
Rufus Carrollton Harris

FU Courses Scheduled

On fall quarter, first Wonderful Wednesday, the Free University begins its second year at Mercer. The curriculum scheduled for practical and intellectual courses will be offered by students who have spent the summer preparing to lead a group.

For those not familiar with the Free University, it is based on the assumption that the desire for knowledge, strength, spring from aroused interest in the subject matter rather than from an arduous, unproductive grade points and rote learning is the understanding of concepts rather than the memorizing and categorizing of data. In following these assumptions, Mercer's Free University has established the following guidelines: (1) courses are non-credit, non-graded. Anything can be taught. (2) Anyone who wishes can offer a course. (cont. page 5, col. 2)

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SGA President Bob Potter and Cluster editor Gary Johnson attended NSA Convention in El Paso, Texas, August 19-30. The theme of the convention was "Revolt on Campus". — See President Potter's message on page 4.