



MERCER CLUSTER

HOME COMING SPECIAL

"The Pacemaker of the Seventies"

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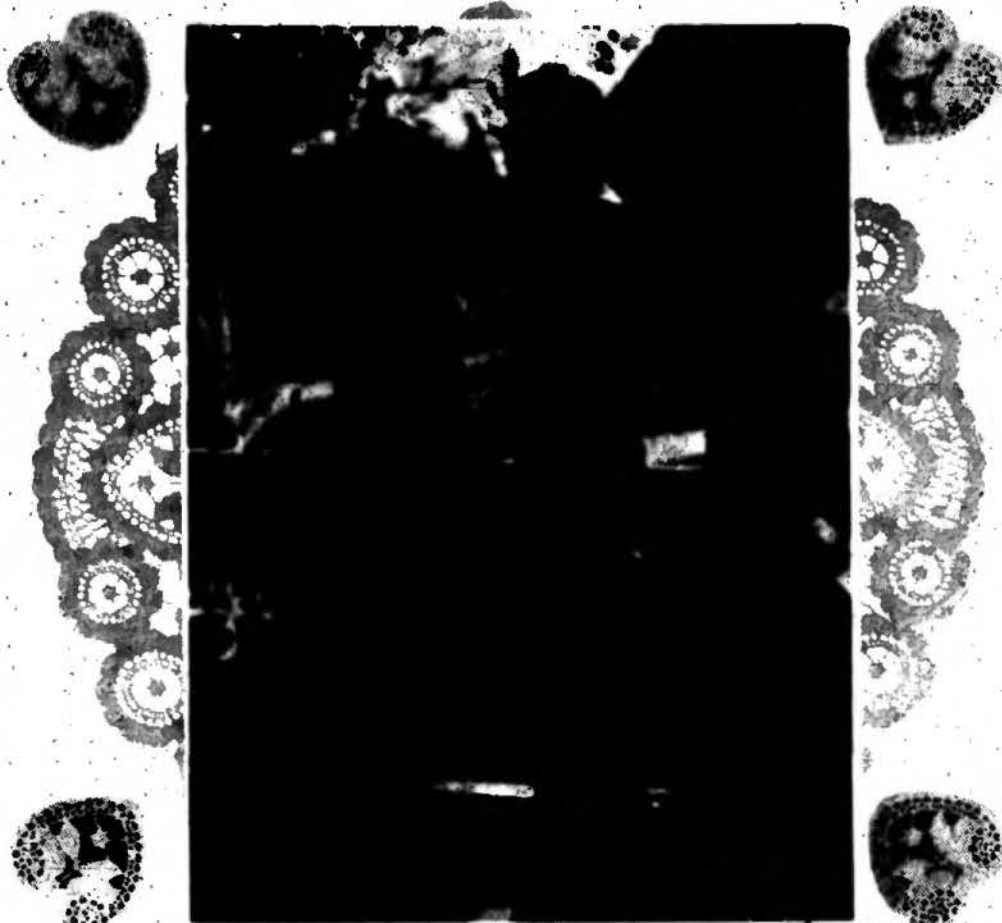
Cluster Dedicates Paper

This issue marks 50 years of publication of the Mercer Cluster. A half century of growth has produced a wealth of styles, formats, opinions and controversies; the paper has at times suffered neglect and lack of interest; and it has often sparkled under brilliant leadership. The many yellowing, framed documents hanging up in the office attest to the former periods of glory.

Not many college newspapers can thumb back through as many distinguished pages as ours and the fact that our history spans 50 years is a tribute both to the school and the long list of names of students and faculty who have contributed to the Cluster. To attempt to single out any outstanding individuals in this lengthy list would be to necessarily omit far too many vital names.

It is to all these persons that we dedicate this anniversary issue. Their energy, dedication and thought has quite literally made this issue possible.

It is only by chance that the present Cluster staff has the honor and responsibility of creating this special issue. We feel especially fortunate to be able to bring out a paper which we believe to be both a reminder of our tradition and a preview of the future. If we have accomplished only a fraction of what we set as our goal, then we have fulfilled our obligation to the past, and prepared for the coming decade.



As Valentine's Day approaches, Nancy Toothman, Miss Freshman and Charles Witzleben, senior, survey the campus from the belfry of the administration building. Homecoming spirits are high as they enjoy Macon's sunny, but unpredictable weather.

Executive Committee Recommends Student Trustee

The Mercer University Alumni Association Executive Committee held its quarterly meeting on January 30, 1970, and for the first time students were in attendance. Mr. Gary Johnson, Mr. Ron Childs, and Mr. Robert Potter were invited to the luncheon and business session attended by

more than 25 alumni. The big event of the meeting was the proposal to change Trustee selection policy to include student representation.

Of the following committee reports, the Alumni Trustee nominees report held particular interest for the students present. Mr. B. Carl Bince presented the report and nominated twelve persons for the Board of Trustees, as stipulated by the Constitution. He pointed out that these twelve nominees will be presented to the Board of Trustees, who select six. The list of six will then be presented to the Georgia Baptist Convention, who will approve two. Mr. Bince stated that this rule was quite antiquated and recommended from the committee that it be changed. The committee proposal, which would be sent to the Trustees upon approval, was that six persons be nominated by the Executive committee and that the Board of Trustees select two from the six nominees. This proposal, bypassing the Georgia Baptist Convention, was approved unanimously. However, a word of caution was added that implementation of the proposal might necessarily be a slow process.

Next, Bince recommended that the student body elect a student trustee to be a regular member of the Board of Trustees. This proposal, also to be sent to the Trustees for consideration, was passed unanimously by the executive committee. This step, initiated by the alumni, is certainly a major move for student parti-

icipation in the setting of university policy.

President Rufus C. Harris welcomed the group immediately after the luncheon and outlined a few university problems and how they were being handled. He told of the recent Administrative Council meeting which cleared the air for future progress in many areas and mentioned the participation of students, administrators, and faculty in these problems.

After a short recess, Dr. Ralph A. Phelps, newly appointed Vice-President for Development and Public Relations, addressed the committee. He discussed the problems involved in establishing a sound development program, but offered hope for progress in establishing a long-range program at Mercer University. The committee was quite receptive to Dr. Phelps comments and offered several questions concerning the overall plan and the present relationship between Mercer and the community and Mercer and her alumni.

The presiding officer, Mr. Lennie F. Davis, as well as others, emphasized that student participation in alumni functions is needed and appreciated. Several students will help plan for Alumni Day, set for May 1, in the hope of coordinating the event with some student activities. Mr. Archie Moore, chairman of Alumni Day, has already contacted one campus organization in coordinating events and will work with others as time permits.

Faculty Rejects Senate Proposal

In their February 3 meeting the faculty rejected by more than a two to one margin a proposal by the SGA Senate that six students participate in that body as full voting members. However, a subsequent proposal to support the principle of student participation in faculty meetings was defeated by only a narrow margin of 4 votes.

The action came after a month of correspondence, discussion, and red tape. At the beginning of winter quarter SGA President Bobby Potter wrote a letter to Dean Taylor, the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the faculty, asking that the faculty change their policy of closed faculty meetings. Dean Taylor suggested that a concrete proposal be made to the executive committee in this regard.

On January 28, Potter met with the executive committee and proposed the following: 1) that three permanent student members be invited to the faculty meetings (these would be the Cluster Editor, the Chief Justice of the Honor Council, and SGA Vice-President) 2) that as many as three additional members to be selected by the SGA President be invited. These students would most likely rotate from week to week 3) that all six of these students would have a voice as regular voting members. Discussion on this motion followed.

On January 30 Potter received a reply from Dean Taylor to the effect "that it was not the recorded vote of the committee that formal student representation should yet be approved". However, the executive committee would recommend to the faculty that efforts be made to establish student liaison committees to parallel all regular standing committees of the faculty.

The SGA Senate on February 2 discussed at length the general idea of student representation in the faculty meetings. They responded to the suggestion of the executive committee as well as to the previous proposal of Bobby Potter. A motion was passed that the proposal which had originally been presented to the executive com-

mittee be presented to the faculty at large in the meeting of February 3.

This proposal was to be sponsored by the SGA Senate. The SGA President attended the February 3 faculty meeting to present the proposal and discuss the thinking of the SGA Senate as to the reasons behind it.

Potter said that students all over the country are now taking an active part not only in their education but also in deciding what their education is to be. He pointed out that in the past students have been used as resource persons and have been valuable in this position. Because many of the policy-making decisions such as those affecting curriculum changes directly affect the students, many students would like to participate not only in the discussions, but also in the decisions.

After making his presentation, Potter left and Dr. Gallegos made a motion that the SGA proposal be adopted by the faculty. The motion was defeated by more than a two to one margin.

Some of the objections voiced by the faculty were that six is too large a figure, that the idea of appointment instead of direct election was bad, and that the Editor of the Cluster already has an organ to voice his opinion and therefore should not be allowed another voice.

Dr. McManus then proposed a substitute motion to support student participation in principle. This motion was also defeated, but only by a narrow margin of four votes (42-38).

The matter, however, is not closed, for it can now be referred back to the executive committee in the form of modified proposals.

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ACTION LINE

Question: Why does the Cluster refuse to print fraternity news? Don't answer that if it is not presented, because that would be a lie.

Answer: The policy of the Cluster is to send out to each fraternity and sorority a news release form each week, in hope that the organization will send in some news of its activities for the Cluster to print. Each one sent in has been printed, but most social organizations do not send in any news at all. The Cluster cannot make a social organization send in news, although we send out news release forms, the responsibility lies with the social organizations.

Question: Why does the Cluster print articles of Jimmy Samuel's biased and distorted opinion?

Answer: The Cluster is a student newspaper and prints the opinions and ideas of any student who wishes to express himself. Anyone is welcome to answer Mr. Samuel's article, and express himself equally as well. Mr. Samuel is a student at Mercer and wrote an article expressing his opinion, as any student can do in the Cluster, the student's newspaper.

Question: What is the price for tickets for Homecoming at Mercer?

Answer: Mercer students without I.D. cards or dates of Mercer incidents can purchase their tickets in the book store Monday - Wednesday at a price of \$5.00 for the entire Homecoming. Students with Mercer I.D.'s will be allowed to enter without charge. In addition separate tickets will be sold to each team. (See Student Union)

Question: What happened to the campus subscription survey?

Answer: If you're referring to the subscriptions that were offered in the campus packs which were distributed in the dorms, all requests regarding the girl's packs should be directed to the office of Carolyn Stewart, Assistant to the Dean of Women. The boy's packs were distributed through Jerry Stone's office.



The Community Center is on the move. On Wednesday from 3:30 to 4:30 and Saturday from 2:00 to 3:30, the girl's gym is the scene of basketball games.