



Randy Pollard, (right) helps Sandy Stone with her Spanish. Both girls participate in the Tutoring service at Mercer.

Mercer Plan Succeeds As Tutors Help Frosh

Ask any college upperclassman to give a one-word definition of his freshman year and you get answers all the way from "traumatic" to "dreamy".

For many the transition from high school to college is abrupt and for some difficult at best.

Bob Davies of Vero Beach, Fla., is director of a student tutorial service at Mercer which has made the transition to college easier for some students.

The Mercer plan has been getting attention from other colleges and Jerry Stone, director of the Student Union and who originated the Mercer plan, said that the results of the program compare favorably with similar programs conducted by professional tutors at other colleges.

Mercer's tutors are students — upperclassmen who have shown promise in certain areas — and this is perhaps one of the reasons why 85 percent of the freshmen who are tutored show improvement.

"Student tutors seem to be able to communicate better with first-year students than do professional teachers. For one thing, they have more of a helpful attitude and this seems to be effective in communicating," Stone said.

The Mercer plan was started three years ago and Stone said it has helped the university to retain some students who might have failed in school. "We have students who are juniors now who would not be here if it were not for this program. We feel a responsibility for every student who enters the freshman class and we want to give every one of them a chance to make it in college."

Davies, a senior who was chosen by Stone to direct the program this year, said students are eligible to receive tutoring in a subject if their mid-term grades are below passing.

"This is a voluntary program and, if the student comes to us and says he needs help, we talk to him. If the

interview shows him to have a sincere interest in passing, we arrange for an upperclassman to tutor him in the deficient subject for two one-hour periods every week.

"Most students who are tutored are able to bring their deficiency to a passing grade. We have not had one to fail who is willing to study and who cares about passing," Davies said.

Just any upperclassman is not qualified to tutor, Davies said. "We want those who have an interest in working with other students and we would rather the upperclassman be majoring in the subject he is tutoring. Most of our tutors plan to teach when they graduate or are going to graduate school."

The number of students in the program varies. In the quarter which ended last month, 72 freshmen (approximately 15 percent of the class) were tutored by 33 upperclassmen.

Randy Pollard, a senior of Cocoa Beach, Fla., who is majoring in Spanish tutored ten students in that subject last quarter. Two of them, who were falling at mid-term, finished the quarter with an A in the course.

One of the freshmen was Sandy Stone of Daytona Beach who says, "I could not

have made it without her help." Miss Pollard, who had one year's tutoring experience at the Mangold Institute of Foreign Languages in Valencia, Spain, simply says, "I gave her my ideas on how to study."

Donald Harrison, a junior chemistry major, tutored Julie Van Hoose of Sarasota, Fla., in freshmen chemistry.

Miss Van Hoose said, "I did not quite understand the work in the classroom and he helped me organize my material better."

Many times the problem is knowing how to study. Miss Van Hoose said she had been studying too much but was not getting very far. The tutoring helped her to understand how to study. She made a C in the course.

It's all part of the university's effort to make the transition from high school to college easier for the student.

Dr. Griffith Writes Two New Study Books

Dr. Ben W. Griffith, Pollock Professor of English and chairman of the department at Mercer University, is the author of two books recently published by Barron's Educational Series, Inc., Woodbury, New York.

One of the books, "A Simplified Approach to 'Huckleberry Finn,'" is designed for collateral reading for students using Twain's "Huckleberry Finn" as a textbook. Dr. Griffith's book includes biographical materials on Mark Twain, analyses and commentaries on the theme and form of the novel, and a collection of critical essays on the novel.

Dr. Griffith's other new book is "How to Prepare for the Graduate Record Examination in Literature." This book contains glossaries of literary terms, lists of significant dates, and critical evaluations of several hundred books and authors.

There is also a chronological sampling of prose styles, and three entire sets of sample questions similar to those given on the GRE examination in literature.

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On The Verge Of Junk

Old "Lucy" Is Dead

by jwright

"All who know Lucy had a fondness of her that compares to friendship. And our hope is that Lucy shall continue to give her best to Mercer and her students."

Services are to be held posthumously today for "Lucy," the last of the Mercer school buses, 33, Serial #056-22 A 116701, who died of old age, and technological proficiency and advancement.

Services will be held in the hearts and minds of all those students, faculty and alumni who rode on her during her long career at Mercer. The Rev. (revered) Bryant Durham, her last driver, presiding.

Born years ago in Detroit as a smooth blue-and-white Ford bus, Lucy in two years racked up 8000 miles. That was the era of her doing the work of Christ. She was a member, by right of ownership, of the Baptist Student Union, and thus eligible for the Life Service Band, Wesley Foundation, Young Woman's Association, Young Men's Mission Council and Ministerial Association. In her youth and middle age, Lucy got around.

From 1961 to the winter of 1968-69 pretty young student nurses were accompanied by her to and from the hospital and their classes at Mercer. By then she was Mercer property. The rifle team, ROTC, Debate Team, choir, Cluster staff and any other organization which needed transportation affectionately traveled with Lucy.

Her keys were available through the keepers of buildings and grounds, located in the south side of Penfield Hall (i.e., the present women's gym). But she lived a quiet, close-to-the-hearth existence after the nurses changed over to Macon Jr. College last year. This past summer she carried her last shining faces of Upward Bound students with pride and dignity on some of her final rounds.

The original Lucy blew up in the late 30's and was replaced, and again in 1946. In 1960 or '61 the ancient blue body lingered on a new chassis

while Lucy was forced to stay close to the Macon area. She departed the University, though not as a graduate which she much deserved, on September 9 of last year. For Lucy, Mercer was a place in which to grow old. Unheralded and unmourned, she was sold to Dunlap Chevrolet in Macon for about \$200. She was, according to Mr. Avery of the business offices, "technically traded in." Her companion of many years, the white athletic passenger coach,

also lived its final day at Mercer this past September.

The un-named "white bus" was sold a few days later by Dunlap, probably to become a camper for some would-be pioneer and continue to carry on the spirit manifested always in Lucy. But Lucy wasn't sold... on October 18, 1969 she finally came to rest in Dixie Trucking's lot where it is hoped she'll one day find a better home once more. For those who loved her through the years say: AMEN AND REST IN PEACE, LUCY. The University has managed to replace you with three shining '69 station wagons!

Social News

Georgia Psi Chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon recently elected their new slate of officers for Spring Quarter. The results were as follows:

President: Bob Daniel, Vice President: Tom Icard, Secretary: John Luther, Treasurer: Theron Finlayson, Assistant Treasurer: Dennis Rainier, Eminent Correspondent: Harry Joe Hickson, Eminent Chronicler: Jimmy Linn, Eminent Warden: Charles Sorenson, Eminent Herald: Russ Palmieri, Eminent Chaplain: Jim Bray

In addition to these elections, history was made with the unprecedented election of Russ Palmieri to the "triple crown" title of E.H.A., E.C.S., and E.B.S. The title of "Cool Breeze" was bestowed upon David Daniel. Mike Bales unanimously won the support of the Chapter in his campaign for "Ubi." Georgia Psi Chapter is proud to announce the appointment of Brother Charles Witzleben to the office of Chapter Consultant for the National Fraternity.

Phi Mu

Phi Mu started off the 70's with a new slate of officers: Shirley Harrison, President;

Susan Zellner, Vice President; Mary Sunby, Secretary; Marilyn Crawford, Treasurer; Margaret Partridge, Pledge Trainer; and Carolyn Jones, Rush Chairman.

Shirley was recently honored by the Macon Phi Mu Alumni as Outstanding Phi Mu Collegiate from Macon. Susan Watt was chosen as Battalion Sponsor, and Mary Donna McCorvey as Staff Sponsor for 1970. Carol Strange, Beverly Nix, and Nancy Ramsbottom are among the company sponsors. Jane Baker, Elaine Blanton, and Sherry Feek will be leaving at the end of this quarter. Jane Baker will be married to Sigma Nu, Rhea Richardson in March. The 18 Phi Mu pledges will be initiated this quarter. They will be selling singing valentines again this year and everyone is welcome to enjoy this bit of fun by bestowing a valentine on their "favorites."

Alpha Gamma Delta's Gamma Iota Chapter is proud to announce their new officers for 1970:

President: Marianne Hambrick, 1st Vice President: Carolyn Hamilton,

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