



# THE ELECTION SPECIAL MERCER CLUSTER

VOTE  
APRIL 10

"The Pacesetter of the Seventies"

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## SGA President

**Ernie Robinson, Tommy Maddox  
Danny Brogdon**

(The Mercer Cluster Campaign Platform for Ernie Robinson, Candidate, SGA President March 31, 1970.)  
**SOME PEOPLE CAN GET THINGS DONE!**

Ernie Robinson can. He doesn't work amid a lot of publicity, but rather seeks diligently to discern the sores and apply salve immediately, thoroughly and finally. At Mercer, and long before, Ernie has been a hard worker who tries to do the best without regard to personal gain.

This past year while a Senator he has endeavored to represent the students in diverse fields of campus activities. Ernie's accomplishments have been astonishing. Looking backward, Ernie has most recently originated the idea and chaired a committee to provide for a student radio station. His efforts promise to bring together the various facets of student life in communication and entertainment. The station will begin broadcasting in a professional manner by next fall with equipment valued at approximately \$2,000.00 — yet not one dime of the cost will come from the University or the students. Ernie has promised to raise the funds off campus, as he did for the Miss Mercer Pageant. And he will too! Not only will students have a new point on their radio dials, but interested students will have an opportunity to work directly with the station as announcers, technicians, programmers, and many other capacities.

Prior to this, Ernie Robinson aided in a petition for voluntary meal tickets. He has visited numerous campuses to investigate food services and private corporations who handle college cafeterias. Ernie has made suggestions for vending machines, buffet suppers, student pool utilization, sandwich lines, evening entertainment, sanitary improvements, and other concrete proposals to enhance dining. Still there is a considerable amount to be done in the Cafeteria and Co-op. Ernie can do it. As Chairman of Fiscal Review, he has had ideas that heretofore could not be enacted. Shortly, at the Waverly Conference, the tide will turn on poor food service. Ernie has already spoken to President Harris regarding the re-establishment of voluntary meal tickets. Students need a check on food quality, a right that should be theirs under the American Free enterprise system. Ernie has positive arguments favoring a return to student discretion in purchasing meal tickets.

Ernie has proven that he can work with students, faculty

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Dear Folks,

This paper is a statement of position and concern prepared by me and some of those folks who are responsible for my feelings about Mercer and student life here. I would hope that this may answer any of your questions and present an accurate picture of our feelings on what student rights and student responsibilities are and how student government can get it together.

### GENERAL POSITION

We feel that it is important that each Mercer student understand what Mercer is and what Mercer can and should be. Affecting each of us is the philosophy that Mercer is and should remain a small liberal arts college more involved in a quality educational experience and less involved with thoughts of expansion, more involved in the acquisition and retention of a high quality faculty and less involved with building and profit.

The very university must be prepared to accept its students as individuals recognizing their rights and allowing for their steady growth as responsible citizens.

The student body must be prepared not only to work for their rights as students and individuals but also to be sensitive to the needs of the entire university and especially to the needs of the student body.

We feel that because of certain circumstances within the university the students must take much of the initiative and responsibility for making Mercer a great place to go to school with the best learning experience, the best food, the best rules and regulations for all concerned, and the best entertainment.

Understanding our differences and the problems they create we can work together for the needs that are common to us all as students at Mercer.

We can be patient when patience is the best course yet firm and unwilling to allow student proposals to die in the complex of faculty-administrative-student committees.

We all should understand that we will never be free from one another but that we can learn to be free with one another.

### PLANS AND THOUGHTS ON STUDENT GOVERNMENT

1. Strength — the great possibilities for strength lie in the fact that actions by the Senate command a great deal of influence with the faculty and administration. The channels that have been opened by past senates can be used to direct most student proposals to the

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Brogdon

Dear Students,

It is a pleasure and a privilege to announce my candidacy for President of the Student Government Association. I have been very fortunate in being able to serve as your Representative in the past two years, and it is through this experience and with a vision of what the S.G.A. can become under the right leadership, that I seek this office.

My platform consists of pledging to you my efforts and my abilities to create a student government which is open, frank, and sensitive to the many needs of the students. It is, in my opinion, the duty of every member of the Senate to find out how their constituents feel toward the many issues that they will be voting on and begin to stand up and represent these people.

At present, there is much apathy and unrest on this campus. The causes are pretty evident but solutions are few and far between but I feel that the S.G.A. could truly become the voice of the students and the medium by which things can be debated and differences settled. If elected, I will work toward this end; the Student Government Association is or should be, a sample of Mercer's most responsible and most concerned students, and it is in this body that I place the confidence and hope of a better Mercer.

In the way of campaign promises I feel as though I can speculate that the atmosphere at Mercer necessitates more student involvement in every area. The spirit of self-government is seen through the open dorms, the new policy concerning women's rules, and the creation of the university judicial committee, which is now composed of students. These are the results of many hours of hard work and planning by the students and it is with these experiences that I see the challenge and the need to continue such work in the areas of a voluntary meal ticket, a wider curriculum which meets the needs of more students, and in providing more recreational activities for the benefit of Mercer students. There are many other areas that I could list, but let me just simply say that, if elected, I will be sensitive to the needs of all the Mercer students and I will be working with you and for you to accomplish these goals.

On April 10, you will have a choice to make. Realizing the time and the work that this office demands, I am asking for your support and for your vote. In the meantime, I urge

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## Cluster Editor

**Johnny Turner**

It has always seemed to me slightly unfortunate that aspiring editors of Mercer's publications must become politicians for a few brief days in order to become editors for the rest of the year. This is a situation not found on many university campuses. Usually editors are selected on the basis of prior experience, and campus popularity has little to do with such a selection.

Your selection of an editor for the Cluster should of course take into consideration such things as experience and ability to perform the many different aspects of producing week after week, a consistently good newspaper. My experience on the Cluster staff is a matter of record. I spent one year as a feature writer covering campus events. This past year I have served as Associate Editor and in that position I have been involved in just about every single aspect of the production of the Cluster.

I fully realize that being the editor involves more than writing a column once a week. Very few people have a complete picture of the demands of the position of Cluster editor — I do.

As editor one of my first priorities shall be to balance the Cluster with material from every facet of the Mercer campus. Any student familiar with the history of the Cluster must realize that this has been a consistent failure in the past. My editorial policy shall also center around balance and flexibility. Most of all the Cluster must continue to be the student's newspaper.

**Rocky Wade**

The office of Cluster Editor requires a most complex individual — he must be experienced enough to operate the paper and get it out, he must be able to represent all facets of the Mercer community, and he must be forward-looking enough to help Mercer progress in the 70's. I think that some facts speak as to why I feel that I am the candidate able to bridge that complexity:

I have had more experience than my opponent in the field of news and mass media. I am not restricted to just the journalistic field and therefore, I will be able to add new perspective and insight to the Cluster and its philosophy.

I can reunite the Mercer campus by several concepts I plan to initiate such as advisory boards, referendums, new ways to select division editors, seminars, and such.

I have just finished managing a multi-thousand dollar pageant that has proven my ability to manage a sound fiscal budget and to reunite the straining ties between the Macon community and Mercer University. Due to these facts, I feel that I can operate the paper financially stable and

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Turner



Howell

## Freshman Advisor

**Paul Howell**

Orientation Week for the Freshmen has become an integral part of their first year at Mercer. Very few of us forget the experiences we had during that first week. That week is a time of meeting college face to face for the first time, for making new friends and becoming adjusted to life at Mercer. Because of Orientation Week's great importance and because the Freshman Advisor is largely responsible for what goes on during that week his job is of great importance.

I understand the importance of his job and the great responsibility that accompanies it and if elected I will put all my effort into making Orientation week next year a meaningful experience. This can not be done by me alone, so I ask that if I am elected that each one of you will lend your assistance to me.

If elected the first thing I will do is form a committee of Freshmen and some of last years workers to iron our problems we might have encountered last year. From there we will begin to plan for next years orientation. Thank You

**Joe Cook**

The purpose of any Freshman Orientation program must be to acquaint new students with the environment which they are about to enter. In the past the scope of this acquaintance process has been limited. Freshmen are faced with a host of decisions to make and problems to solve individually. Their decisions concern their roles in the Mercer environment. An effective orientation program must encompass all the major aspects of this environment. First, Freshmen must be introduced to the academic community, the main reason for Mercer's existence. Second, they must be introduced to the social aspects of the Mercer community. Third,



Cook

and encompassing the other two, they must be oriented to the problems that they will have to solve — problems such as the lack of unity on campus, the changing role of social organizations, curriculum reform, faculty and student retention, and even the cafeteria.

Mercer is no "peaches and cream" situation. These problems, and others, are a very real part of Mercer. We cannot show only the sunny side of Mercer. If Freshmen are to know Mercer, they must do two things: (1) meet the people who make up the Mercer community, and, (2) meet the Mercer community as a whole, with its strengths and weaknesses.

Therefore, I propose a program of PREPARATION FOR PROBLEM SOLVING whereby new Mercerians can become acquainted with Mercer as a whole, and can be given a chart and compass by which to steer their own courses through their college experiences.

Respectfully yours,  
Joe Cook



Wade

## News Special

A recreational area providing billiard and ping pong tables will be constructed on the ground floor of the Connell Student Center in space now occupied by the U.S. Post Office.

William T. Haywood, vice president for business and finance, said the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees approved the installation April 1.

The new recreational area will be ready for use by the opening of the college for the fall quarter.

Haywood said the post office will be moved to the space adjacent to the College Store between the store and where steps to the second floor now are located. This area will be inclosed and the stairs eliminated. A walk that will offer an

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