

services as the cafeteria and the infirmary should be improved. I believe the sophomore class should be the key element in the organization and actual performance of the freshman orientation program. Since the sophomore class is more alert and closer to freshman situations, the freshman orientation can be made more successful by their more intricate involvement. Obviously, there are other problems here at Mercer, and inevitably more will develop in the future. I want to help alleviate these present and perspective problems at Mercer by becoming involved in SGA as sophomore senator.

Beth Turton

Reed Smith

If elected to the Student Government Association my principle effort will be to get the average Mercer student involved in the affairs of the university. It seems today that most problems are blamed on either the administration or the curriculum, and though some of these complaints are well-founded, I believe the basis for these problems is the disinterest of the uninformed majority of students. Any institution which is significantly and constantly affected by the words and efforts of outspoken minorities cannot be a success, and our university is no exception. Thus far the SGA has been an organization whose actions were generally ignored or unknown by the average student. The SGA will never be successful until it begins to operate on ideas fostered by an interested student body. My goal is to strive to solve Mercer's problems, but this goal will never be achieved unless the students become involved and informed. So I will first do my utmost to keep the students I wish to represent concerned and knowledgeable of all issues facing the SGA and through this involvement perhaps an effective and highly successful representative body will become a reality.



Smith

Rob Scherini

Having previously been a candidate for the SGA Senate I maintained my interest throughout the first quarter, attending a vast majority of Senate meetings. During this time I felt that SGA was not touching upon the matters that seemed to produce much of the discontent on campus.

Last quarter I became one of six who founded a group of concerned freshmen. Our main objective was to find out why 68% of the Freshman Class have requested transcripts sent to other schools. Efforts through our "Statement of Concern," which many of you signed, a freshman survey, a faculty survey, and a large group meeting with faculty and administrative officers brought attention and action leveled at three important areas. First was social life, (cafeteria, recreational facilities, open housing, etc.) The second area was community life (relations between Greeks, unaffiliates, Blacks and faculty). And lastly, curriculum. Opinion in this area varied but concern was shown where it counts and as stated by our new University Vice President, Dr. Phelps: "The curriculum in certain areas is pre-Victorian."

It's time for SGA to get moving. It's time to elect people who have shown concern and action in improving Mercer. I intend to spend four productive years here, but without your support we may keep on losing over half of each entering class. If elected my first objective is to correct this situation.

I ask your support but first I ask that you care enough to voice wisely. If you have any questions concerning my platform I may be contacted in room 304 Sherwood or through box 1330.

Yours very truly,
Robert A. Scherini

Bob Jackson

Fellow Freshmen,

During the past year I have had the privilege of serving you in the Student Senate. In observing and weighing the problems which the S.G.A. faced this year, I know that next year's student body will demand quite a few reforms! The S.G.A. often exercises a tremendous influence of administrative policy in initiating campus reform. The Senate was largely



Jackson

Wade

(Continued from page 1)

possibly to a profit. Secondly, I feel that I can make inroads as to the community tension.

I plan to continue with new innovations such as the magazine, the newsletter, and the news service. Also, I am presently working with WCWB-TV to establish a local Mercer TV show. I feel that expansion as mentioned above will help the Mercer Cluster to truly fulfill its goal.

As the only constitutionally approved candidate for Cluster editor, I welcomed the entrance of a challenger into the race, it will help to stimulate Mercerians into talking about the role of their school paper. And that is my ultimate goal — to see the Cluster as an integral part of the school life of all Mercerians.

responsible for intramural athletic reforms as well as open dormitories. A student radio station operated by Mercer students will serve our campus next year.

Much dissatisfaction has been expressed by the Freshman Class this year. It is my sincere desire that, through the S.G.A., constructive attempts can and will be made to produce concrete answers. A school of Mercer's caliber requires a capable faculty as well as progressive student leadership. I hope that you will consider this election carefully, especially concerning the election of the president and vice president of the Senate.

Good leadership in these positions would lend itself toward a strong student voice at Mercer. And students must continue to make themselves known concerning vital issues such as the retention of Wonderful Wednesday and establishment of improved recreational facilities. If re-elected, I promise you that I will do my best to work out solutions to problems which Mercer will face. I have worked hard for you these past few months and

MERCER CLUSTER

MERCER CLUSTER
STAFF 1969-70

- Managing Editor... Lyndon Mayes
 - News Editor... Don Nottingham
 - News Staff... E. Lightfoot, K. Shaw, K. Bryant, M. Weinstein, G. Copeland, J. Parker, M. Sweet, D. Wood, E. Vance, L. Hightower
 - Feature Editor... Chuck Jackson
 - Feature Staff... E. Robinson, B. Davies, D. Brown, T. Kandler, Alice Burns, Judy Wright, Vivian Southwell, Marsha Matthews, Gene Williams
 - Columnists... Ron Childs, Joe Hobbs, Larry Finklestein, Allen Wallace, Rocky Wade
 - Sports Editor... Lou Johnson
 - Sports Staff... B. Owens, B. Nottingham
 - Artists... G. Middleton, B. Stanley, E. Hammonds, P. Campbell
 - Advertising Mgr... James Boykins
 - Advertising Staff... Anne Gutley, Susan Plumley
 - Asst. Business Mgr... Mary A. Buckner
 - Typists... L. Pleas, Y. St. Denis, E. Poole, B. J. Bandlow, T. Ursery
 - Copy Editors... Tyler Hammett, Glenda Tully
 - Photography... Bob Johnson
 - Public Relations Mgr... Renata Williams, Jamie Dawson, Nadine Sherman
 - Layout... J. Camp, A. Cooper, J. Hatten, K. Kronquist, A. Stanton, B. Stanton, Ed Fisher
 - Political Editor... Larry Finklestein
 - Advisors... J. Paine, A. Stansfield
- The Mercer Cluster is a weekly student publication published by the students of Mercer University. The phone number is 743-1511, extension 221. The address is Box 29, Mercer University, Office room 326 and 328 CSC. Office hours are 9:00-5:00, Monday through Friday. Subscriptions are \$5.00.

Robinson

(Continued from page 1)

and Administration. At the Waverly Conference last summer he was commended by all parties for his beneficial participation in a broad spectrum of issues. This past year Ernie went directly to the proper Administrative authorities to obtain permission for Open House during Homecoming. Although the hours of co-ed visitation were meant only as an introductory taste of open dormitories, the achievement set a brave new precedent. Likewise, Ernie has quietly done as much as anyone to acquire recreational equipment for the campus, not by talking or writing, but by making serious proposals to proper people and following-up on the answers. Pool tables are being provided for at this moment

Maddox

(Continued from page 1)

most effective faculty or administrative committees or personnel. The Senate also has a terrific organizing power for getting interested students together.

2. Weaknesses — In many areas the student government suffers from a lack of confidence and support from the student body.

This can be traced to the often slow process of working proposals through this committee or that. The university is now swamped with a complex bureaucracy of faculty and administrative committees. The SGA should try not to let its own bureaucracy of committees hinder its effectiveness.

One weakness in the philosophy of committees is that many insist that most of the work be done by elected representatives. Therefore many committees suffer because they are chaired or controlled by uninterested or uninformed Senators.

There are a great many students both willing and capable to work with the various projects for which committees are set up.

With a little effort the Senate can find those students willing and capable of completing the report or project without the additional duties of keeping up with the entire actions of the Senate.

For instance the Auxillary Services committee could be largely composed of students who have previously worked in cafeterias or cafes, students who now serve in our own cafeteria and other interested senators and students.

Since all committee actions must be approved by elected senators the representative body would maintain final control.

Another failing of the SGA has been the lack of communicating to the student body not only what the SGA is doing but why and if its actions are important to the student.

This could be accomplished by delegating to the Publicity committee the responsibility for seeing that every effort is made to communicate to the student body what is done and why. This would alleviate much of the present misunderstanding. Persons willing to be responsible for these write-ups could be given priority for the committee.

FUTURE

We would hope that with its power and influence controlled by responsible senators the SGA could begin to assume the role of leadership not only in completing THIS project or that but also in being sensitive to campus trends, meeting campus problems and speaking to campus discontent.

and will be installed as soon as space is available.

The list of accomplishments is enormous — a proposal for changing grades, Producer of the 1969 Miss Mercer Pageant, Co-Chairman of last fall's Academic Orientation, Co-Author of the current SGA Constitution, feature writer for the Cluster, delegate to the NSA Convention. In high school Ernie was Editor of the Georgia Association of Student Council Journal and twice an instructor in the GASC Summer Workshop. He was President of his student body, numbering as many as Mercer, and lead in a large number of extra-curricular fields. At Mercer he has been able to participate in a variety of activities while maintaining a superior academic average.

If a responsible group does not take this leadership responsibility we can only hope that those who do assume leadership will be responsible.

POLARIZING THE CAMPUS

We must all become concerned that our campus not become more polarized.

In our present situation where members of social organizations distrust those who are not members, unaffiliates distrust and often dislike members of social organizations, black and white, conservative and liberal, each group has some claim to injustice and persecution. The trouble is we can understand why it began but it makes no sense that it has to continue. Those groups that have really suffered should be the last to wish that others would suffer.

As long as each group stands and irresponsibly demands their rights disregarding the suffering it could cause others, there is no way to confront the issue directly.

Though some area of evident wrong demand much of our immediate attention they can be improved only by getting beyond them to some common concern of importance such as faculty, cafeteria, recreation and future of the university.

CAFETERIA

Since the problem of cafeteria and food services is an eternal complaint among students there seems to be a very real need for a strong committee, with members free to give a lot of time to keep in constant touch with the cafeteria and the student body.

A committee comprised of those who have some knowledge of cafeteria operations would be able to compile suggestions, which past experience has shown, would be welcomed by Mr. Krakow and the administration.

There also seems to be constant conflict over the question of mandatory meal tickets. Too often we conclude that the only answer is to do away with the mandatory meal ticket. Although the assumption that the university has little right to require that students purchase meal tickets and that students have the power to do away with this requirement the problem is not so simple.

The complete abandon of the mandatory meal ticket would have these results:

- 1) Because of freeloaders the cafeteria would have to be divided into two areas, one for those with tickets and one for those without.
- 2) We would lose the only remaining place where students get together regularly.
- 3) And most important those students who, because of scholarships, parental pressure, or lack of transportation, must eat each meal in the cafeteria would suffer. The

Behind action there should be reason. Those who know him best, students and faculty, respect Ernie for his capacity to think thoroughly through various sides of a problem. He does not hesitate to ask for opinions and to weigh public sympathy. The product of his dialectic always has a firm foundation. Often his acts have behind them a huge volume of data. The process for Ernie is swift, however, not requiring long lapses into inaction. Ask him a question and listen for an engagingly frank response. Measure the reason. Test the catalogue of information. Without sense, how else would Ernie have been so successful in resolving controversial issues?

quality of the food would be poorer and the price per meal greater.

So to whom are we responsible? After considering the problem there seems to be another possibility. Talking with Mr. Krakow we have negotiated a plan by which students might purchase a ticket for say 10 meals per week out of the 20 served. Those purchasing fewer tickets would pay a little more per meal than those buying more. Although some concessions would have to be made and work done by students fewer students would be likely to suffer.

BLACK STUDENT ALLIANCE

The BSA has become an active and well defined force on Mercer campus. We can support any student effort to better the community and world we all must live in. One real effect of the BSA has been to place us all in a position in which we must all recognize the unique situation of being a black student on Mercer's campus and in the world and a situation in which we all feel and understand the widespread mistrust. We hope that the BSA in its efforts to better the black student at Mercer would not become insensitive to the effect its actions may have on the betterment of all concerned.

SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

Because of peer pressure and common group ideals Social Organization are capable of maintaining a great deal of influence over its membership. Although it is not the purpose or the duty of a Social Organization to be a service organization, it is the responsibility of each of its members as students at Mercer to be aware not only of his own rights but also aware of the entire student body. With this tremendous potential for unity and influence Social Organizations are in a position to promote campus spirit and to help trouble shoot campus problems.

COMMUNITY IMAGE

In past years Mercer has suffered a decline in influence and respect with Macon and the state in general. Much of this decline is in fact due to the changing philosophy of education and university policy. This the university must be prepared to accept. Some decline is however due to a lack of communication with the outside world. People hear most of what we do, yet very little of why we did it and how we feel. They are left to form conclusions for themselves.

The Student Government could take the responsibility for communicating to the world through the papers and/or radio what is taking place at Mercer. It could also look into means of creating some understanding and a better relationship with the Macon Community.

Active participation that defines specific goals needs to be a key in electing a President of the SGA. Ernie Robinson has proven in countless situations that he is capable of determinative leadership — a leadership that defines worthwhile goals and that encourages many to participate in attaining the aims. Ernie Robinson believes in the potential of Mercer and sincerely desires to serve in a manner to further the general interest. Ernie needs your help. You are the one who can allow Ernie to continue his work. He asks for you to speak with him personally or to talk with one of his several representatives. They can tell you much, much more of why Ernie Robinson should be our SGA President.

News Special

(Continued from page 1)

entrance to the Cooperative will be constructed above the area where the steps now are located.

The space now occupied by the post office and the supply room next to it will be converted into a recreation area where will be located five pool, and billiard tables and ping pong tables, Haywood said.

President Harris recommended the changes to the Executive Committee stating "It is incumbent upon the University to provide as adequately as possible for the recreational needs."

Brogdon

(Continued from page 1)

you to find out the platforms of each candidate and take the time to discover if he will represent you and work to move Mercer in the direction that you want. I hope that I will have the opportunity to speak to each of you personally; if not, please remember to vote on April 10, and I challenge you to put your confidence in a candidate that will represent your views and will work to make Mercer a better place in which to live and study.