



## Bear's Creator Says The Beast Is Personable

By BUDDY HURT

The Great Bear, a huge, black North American type bear, stands a towering 12 feet high and rears back on his papier mache haunches.

He's a personable fellow, The Bear, whose duties included being the center of Bear Day activities. He inspires devotion in his creators and even apprehension. "I keep on thinking he's going to bite," says Jack Tyson of Cairo, who was commissioned to build him.

But, overall, said Mr. Tyson, "You become quite attached to him. I've almost spoken to him several times."

He added, "I think after you've had him on campus awhile you'll become attached to him, too."

The Bear was unveiled last Saturday. The student body whooped it up around his overshadowing figure and offered "sacrifices" to him. The idea was for the students to "sacrifice" that which they did not want. As for The Bear himself, he stood in all his black, furry dignity, which is constructed from paper and paste, wood frame and screen wire.

He is built of five layers of paper materials and weighs and estimated 75 pounds. Mr. Tyson, who operates the Tyson Decorating Company in Cairo, says he was just barely able to squeeze The Bear through the doors of Porter Gym, where he was put together.

But The Bear has set a new campus tradition. He is expected to be the first in a line of Bears of Bear

Day, already an annual Mercer event.

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1960, Downbeat Magazine

## BRUBECK CANCELS SOUTHERN TOUR BECAUSE OF ADVERSITY TO NEGRO BASSIST

"Co-operate in helping us demonstrate that jazz music is one of the best aspects of American democracy."

This was the appeal issued by pianist Dave Brubeck as he explained the cancellation of his 25-day tour of Southern colleges and universities because his quartet is racially integrated.

Brubeck's appeal, in the Feb. 18 issue of Down Beat, was directed particularly to young jazz fans in the South.

"We know the problem is not with the Southern jazz fans," Brubeck told the magazine. "They know who we are. And we want to play the Southern colleges and universities. All we want is that the authorities accept us as we are and allow us — and all other integrated jazz groups — to play our music without intimidation or pressure."

Colleges at which the Brubeck group was to play began to drop out when they learned the Brubeck's bassist, Gene Wright, is a Negro. When Brubeck declined to accept an all-white clause in his contract, the tour dropped from 25 to 15 to 12 to 10.

When Brubeck ordered that these remaining 10 be specifically advised that the group is integrated, all but three — the University of Jacksonville, Vanderbilt University and the University of the South — dropped out. These three still wanted Brubeck.

## Bear Day . . .

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ishing touches to a successful weekend by nosing out Wofford College Saturday night 65-64 Porter Gym.

An informal dance follows completing Bear Day—1960.

Bev Bates, president of the Student Government Association, has the following comments to make in regard to the Bear Day festivities:

"Bear Day pumped new vitality into Mercer's school spirit. The success of the weekend was largely attributed to the original planning of co-chairmen, Nancy Minter and Doug Bailey.

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