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Executive Editor

Davis McAuley
Managing Editor

Bob Carter
Business Manager



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 Copy Editor Jane Shaw
 Sports Editor Jack Lamb
 Feature Editor Bobby Douthit
 Choragus Larry Maioriello

Contributing Editors: Al Stephenson, Dick Shiver, Bill Dayton, Tim Gill, Ronald Carr, Mary Jane Carter.

News and Features: Sandra Williams, Dana Poole, Joyce Davis, Patti Hart, Kaye Wells, Susie Gridley, Carla Daugherty, Cathy Roberts, Judy Kennerly, Ed Simmons, Nancy Preston, Brinson Hood, Mary Payne, Sandra Faulkner, Anne Johnson, Deann McCauley, Walter Pharr.

Business Staff: Genie Ashurst, Peggy O'Halloran.



Ralph Bass called it an albatross. Rithia said it was a headache.

They understand it, of course. Putting out a paper once a week should not happen to a dog. And it does not. It happens to people. People who otherwise would not ask for trouble, somehow or other sometimes become editors of college papers.

It is relatively easy to spot an editor. He is the one who is hurrying across campus—a deadline is approaching. He is the one who does not see his friends—no time to chat. He is the one who looks worried—his grades are dropping.

But then, being editor of the *Mercer Cluster* has its good points too. Every Friday afternoon after the paper has come out and before next week's paper is planned, there is an hour or so that is sheer joy. Then it starts all over again.

About one year and twenty-eight issues ago, it seemed that it would be quite a job to get out all the scheduled issues. And it was. But it has been quite a year at Mercer for news, so besides the regular issues there have been four extras. This must be some kind of record at Mercer. To my friend who said "I told you so," I say, "Amen."

Actually some other college editors have not been so lucky this past year. A student editor in Colorado was fired because the college president did not agree with his methods. An editor in Mississippi was censured by the student senate because she chose to take an unpopular stand. An editor in Florida saw his paper become a daily.

The one thing this year's edition of the *Cluster* has been blessed with is a fine staff. Without them there could have been no paper. Some of the more outstanding have been:

Bob Hurt—he gave it life. He is the new editor. The *Mercer Cluster* is in good hands. Good luck, Bob.

Davis McAuley—an asset to any newspaper, he can do everything, and he can do it well. It's a shame he could not win, too.

John Weatherly—he is the *Cluster*.

Tim Gill—old dependable, he was always ready with a good column.

The Weekly Albatross

Yvonne Reeves—our efficient business manager, who kept us out of the red, I hope.

Dick Shiver—our creative writer, he got most of his rejection slips from other publications.

Jane Shaw—she saw to it that copy got turned in on time.

Al Stephenson—on the right, he gave balance to the editorial page.

Mary Jane Carter—she found time to give the distaff viewpoint.

Genie Ashurst—girl Friday, in more ways than one. She distributed papers, filled in for Yvonne, and was a real help.

Ronald Carr—never at a loss for words.

Bob Carter—the SGA's loss is the *Cluster's* gain.

Katie Koellner—with her on the staff who needs a Gallup or a Roper?

There are many other names that could be listed. Kaye Wells, Dana Poole, Patti Hurt, Sandra Williams, Bobby Douthit, Joyce Davis, Bill Dayton, Jack Lamb, Peggy O'Halloran and a dozen others all helped when they were needed. The *Mercer Cluster* was a joint effort and that is what a student paper should be.

The *Mercer Cluster* has been blessed with a good advisor, several unofficial advisors, and some very cooperative members of the faculty and administration, but this being a student paper, they shall remain anonymous.

Of course no paper could exist without the pressroom. So thanks to George and Bill, the linotype operators who checked us on our spelling and struggled through sloppy copy. And to Gene ("Linotype don't make-up.") who worked a lot of overtime on the *Cluster*. And to J. C. who runs the press.

And last but not least thanks to Ruth who was very understanding.

Looking back on it now, from the perspective of a 'lame duck' it has been great, but best of all, it has been.

Debt of Responsibility

The time for policy making ended last week with the desegregation resolution of Mercer's trustees. A firm decision has been made and it is now a part of the character of the university.

Mercer students have reflected good judgment and maturity in their reaction to the decision. This is the same action that will bring Mercer through the next few months with the strength of purpose we have seen in the past.

As a matter of course some students will disagree with the decision, this is their right. The issue is too big and too complex to expect honest assent from everyone.

But now the resolution has been cast, and no matter what the individual opinion, the people involved owe Mercer the same responsibility and respect that the school has given them.

Mercer Should Back Future Folk Festivals

By now the campus has settled down somewhat from last week's boisterous but thoroughly enjoyable invasion of folks—folk singers that is. It is only to be hoped that the bluegrass boys, imitation Kingston Trios, more serious singers, and dulcimers will be back next year.

Nor, at this point, is the reoccurrence of the Folk Music Festival any certainty at all. In its present form the Festival has no official backing from the university or any organization for that matter.

The organization consists solely of Dr. Ben W. Griffith, chairman of the English department, who has simply written letters inviting singers to come at their own expense and sing—just for the coming.

It seems as if this might be the proper time for the school to assume an active backing of this activity. The value to the university need not even be listed. Not only will it attract attention to the school, but be a real addition to the permanent university program of liberal arts.

Also with the official and financial backing of the university the festival could be easily expanded by the addition of professional folk singers and authorities on folk literature which would add appreciably to the enjoyment and value of the enterprise.

At this point it is not important which existing university organization assumes this responsibility or whether a new group for this purpose is created. The important issue is that the university take this activity into its regular program of activities. This is an opportunity that should not be by-passed.

What's Your Opinion Of Trustees Decision

Cluster Associate Editor Katie Koellner put this question to Mercer students for the week's student poll: "What do you think of the Board of Trustees' decision to desegregate Mercer?"

Arnold Brawner: "I think it's about the only thing they could do, because it is a Baptist institution, and we believe in individual freedom."

Julian Whiting: "Being from Albany, think it would be better if I didn't voice an opinion."

Emmet Johnson: "I think it was foolish. It's a private school and wasn't forced, and we owe ourselves the right to hold on to past traditions. I don't think their contribution to Mercer will merit their acceptance."

Larry Quattlebaum: "It's about ten years late, but good."

Rudolph Patterson: "If we must integrate, I think it's a shame that the first Negro student to

come is a not a native American."

John Sims: "It's the popular thing to do. Why not?"

Frances Bozeman: "I think under the circumstances it was the only decision they could make."

John Manning: "I enjoyed Tatnall Square, and I'm looking forward to his arrival in the fall."

Ronnie Crow: "I think Mercer was a little hasty in reaching their decision. I think they're just following a trend, which was established by the larger independent school."

Ellen Schram: "It's the best thing the faculty has done all year."

Shawn Miller: "Reassuring to know that Mercer can make a social change without coercion."

Clayton Stephens: "I think the action is characteristic of the leadership that Mercer has always been expected to assume."

Feiffer

I NEVER USED TO GO OUT ON THE STREET. I WAS ALWAYS AFRAID I'D GET BEAT UP.



I KNEW IT WAS A STUPID FEAR. I KNEW IT WAS UNREALISTIC. I LOOKED UP STATISTICS ON PEOPLE WHO GOT BEAT UP WHEN THEY WENT OUT ON THE STREET. IT'S SURPRISINGLY SMALL.



BUT STILL—I HAD MY FOOD DELIVERED. I HAD MY NEWSPAPERS DELIVERED. ALL MY DATES WERE AT MY HOUSE. AND AS LONG AS I DIDN'T GO OUT ON THE STREET I SEEMED TO BE FINE.



UNTIL ONE DAY I WAS SITTING COMFORTABLY IN MY LIVING ROOM WHEN SUDDENLY IT CAME TO ME THAT I DID NOT DARE GO INTO THE KITCHEN—THAT IF I WENT INTO THE KITCHEN I'D GET BEAT UP.



SO I SAT THROUGH ALL FOUR LATE SHOWS THINKING MY PROBLEM OUT. AND AT FIVE IN THE MORNING I FINALLY CONCLUDED THAT IT WASN'T ANYBODY ON THE OUTSIDE I WAS AFRAID OF. IT WAS ME I WAS AFRAID OF!



THAT ACTUALLY THE ONLY PERSON WHO REGULARLY BEAT ME UP WAS MYSELF!



SO I AROSE WITHOUT FEAR AND WENT INTO THE KITCHEN. AND NOBODY BEAT ME UP.



AND I PUT ON MY COAT WITHOUT FEAR AND WENT INTO THE STREET. AND NOBODY BEAT ME UP.



FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS I FELT ALIVE! I KNEW I WOULD NEVER BE AFRAID AGAIN!



I FELT SO GOOD THAT THE FIRST COUPLE OF PEOPLE I SAW I BEAT UP.

