

Bob Hurt  
Editor

John Weatherly  
Executive Editor

Davis McAuley  
Managing Editor

Bob Carter  
Business Manager



Associate Editor ..... Katie Koellner  
Feature Editor ..... Bobby Douthitt  
News and Features: Joyce Davis, Patti Hart, Kaye Wells, Cathy Roberts,  
Judy Kennerly, Ed Simmons, Nancy Preston, Mary Payne, Sandra  
Faulkner, Anne Johnson, Jerry Wigham.

## SGA Drought

After a long drought in SGA activity there are now some signs of relief. SGA president Nathan Deal announced several Fall projects for the organization are more ambitious than some whole years of SGC activity.

The list includes the traditional Rat Week activities, a Fall concert series and a freshman dance. SGA vice-president Tommy Faircloth announced the erection of a bulletin-board in the Student Center to carry items of interest for students.

One of the issues in past SGA presidential elections was whether or not a first-year law school student could do justice to the office. Whether or not this controversy has affected Deal's program is not known, but the SGA'S projected activities at this point would seem to vindicate Deal from the charge that he cannot keep up with law school and give the SGA the time it deserves.

Any active and working student government is an indispensable part of a fine liberal arts school such as Mercer is supposed to be. And the SGA has been woefully deficient in recent years. It is hoped that the signs of life that the SGA is now showing do not prove to be false. The activities begun so far should only be a preface to larger and more worthwhile projects from the student government on the behalf of the student body and the university.—By Davis McAuley.

## The New Direction

Registration is no more than a rather black memory now, something not to be worried about again for at least a couple of months. A long first week of classes has ended and a resemblance of routine is returning. Quietly and without fanfare Mercer has slipped into her 130th year of teaching students. The returning sophomore, junior, or senior probably does not notice any great change.

But though it is not apparent at a surface glance, there is something different about Mercer this year. The change is important, probably as important a thing as could happen to a university. But it is not a change marked by a distinct event or development. Rather it is the result of several small changes, and these changes have now mounted into what can be recognized as a new attitude assumed by the school. Basically, this new direction or attitude is one of expansion. What will mark this year as the year Mercer assumed this direction is the recent series of announcements of building plans and intensified efforts at a stronger faculty.

A new library, one of the university's greatest needs, and two new dormitories will be constructed by 1965. When these physical additions are completed they will amount to a physical expansion of more than \$2 million. And in sight, officials say, is a million dollar science center.

Of course physical expansion will not make a university a good school. Academic standards and superior faculty are the measure here, and a building program will not satisfy either of them. But we can see a change at Mercer in this direction also. All faculty additions in the past few years have generally been of high quality. This quality has been made possible by intensive recruitment and higher salaries, and this progress is a part of the new direction of Mercer.

When these things are combined—a growing physical plant and high quality faculty—the happy result is easy to anticipate. Time, of course, will decide the accuracy of this definition of events. But it takes no Cassandra to realize if Mercer's new direction continues, a decade from now this will be a much larger and much improved university.

BOB HURT

## Outline of a Cluster

It's traditional for the editor of the Cluster to start off the academic year with a brief outline of his plans for the paper. So rather than buck Mercer traditions, here goes.

As anyone who has read his Student Government Constitution knows, the Cluster is his official publication. Be it good or bad, it is totally the work of students, with no intervention from faculty or administration. Students do the news writing, editorializing, ad selling... everything but run the presses. But students in general tend to be a rather sorry lot, given easily to conceit, haste and superficial work. Unfortunately the Cluster sometimes reflects these traits. I, as all Cluster editors before me, hope to improve things.

Probably the greatest fault of the paper is that it has too little news concerning the behind the scenes activities of students. This is primarily because this type of reporting demands a relatively large and hard working system of reporting, and a Cluster staff is a rather loosely organized sort of thing. We hope to make improvements in this type of reporting, but it can only be done with the help of a good many people. All social organizations will have to participate in the paper more directly so that news of their activities will not be overlooked.

The best way to insure news coverage of your group or organization is to let the Cluster staff know about a newsworthy event well in advance so we can plan for the story. All copy for the paper must be at the printers no later than Wednesday, and most stories going in on this day must be anticipated to allow a space for them in the paper.

The policy of the editorial side of the Cluster this year will be much as it has been in the past. All editorials are an official expression of the staff of the newspaper and all columns represent the opinions of their authors only. No opinions expressed in the Cluster are necessarily those of the university administration. All letters to the editor must be signed, but a name will be withheld from publication if desired. Whenever space permits all letters to the editor will be published. Any decision not to print a letter because it is judged to be in bad taste or offensive will be made by the editorial staff of the paper.

Thankfully, the Cluster seems to be a Mercer institution that can endure most anything. I believe that with a little luck, and if the editor and his staff can stay in school, you will see a good newspaper this year. Anyway, we'll soon find out.

DAVIS MCAULEY



## An Easy Image?

It seems that there has been a lot of talk recently about the "Mercer image." The question seems to be, what should the "Mercer image" be? Just what all discussions among administration and faculty have or will include. I do not know. But at this point I would like to inject one ill-informed opinion about Mercer's image, present and future.

Dean Spiro's convocation address on Tuesday is relevant at this point, though "truth" and the search for it in all disciplines is far more often an abstraction to which only lip service is paid—at Mercer and most colleges. It is not too difficult to make fine speeches about truth, which may account for the subject's popularity. But the question that most speakers and writers on the subject shirk is how can we get at truth, or whatever education is supposed to get at.

The answer that I shall propose is by no means conclusive or complete, but it is, I think, at least one step closer to the aims of a university and education than the pursuit of the abstraction "truth."

I think it is no accident that many of man's advances in the arts and sciences have come when active minds were closely in contact with each other. The Golden Age in Greece comes to mind, as well as the English and Italian Renaissance, Paris in the '20's and the "Fugitive" group at Vanderbilt in the '30's. The men and thought in these groups has shaped much of our contemporary world. Though the "truth" that a university seeks for may not coincide exactly with the sorts of activity that these groups concern themselves with, I suspect that this is the sort of task many speakers have in mind when they talk of a "search for truth."

It will seem that, at this point, I have wandered

far from my subject of Mercer's image. But I think that all this is very much to the point. And it is simply that the university's more immediate concern should be with attracting the best possible minds and challenging them with a stiff program of liberal education. This, of course, is not new or original. Nor is the task easy. But well-trained and creative instructors should not only be sought but demanded. Instructors, however, are only half of the task. Students need to be attracted on the basis of high academic demands. The student should ever demand more and more of the instructor; he too must be challenged.

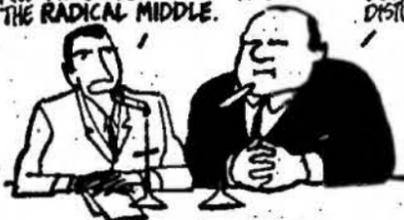
In this sort of ideal situation it is possible to stimulate minds to ever greater endeavors and creativity. This, in turn, should promote the university's stated aim of "truth." To collect the best minds available seems to be the primary aim of liberal arts college. Should this ideal situation ever arise Mercer's image would take care of itself.

To manufacture an image of the university that will sell to prospective students and benefactors has a false ring to it, as do all products sold by Madison Avenue methods. I am not saying that Mercer is trying to sell itself by Madison Avenue half-truths, but simply that the danger and temptation is present.

Mercer should concentrate upon improving the school itself so that its image will be pleasing rather than improving the image so that the school will get on better—that would be confusing the means and the end. It is only fair to note that some constructive steps have been taken. Admission standards have risen some, though possibly not enough. Some of the new faculty appointments are encouraging. And certainly the outlook for Mercer's physical plant is good.

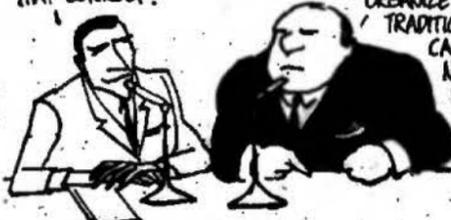
Pfeiffer

WITH US TONIGHT TO GIVE HIS VIEWS ON THE CURRENT RACIAL CRISIS, IS A SPOKESMAN FOR THAT GROUP WE HEAR MORE AND MORE FROM THESE DAYS—THE RADICAL MIDDLE.



VERY SERIOUS. EXTREMELY GRAVE. DEEPLY DISTURBING.

AS I UNDERSTAND YOUR GROUP, SIR, IT ADVOCATES AN IRRESPONSIBLE MIDDLE POSITION. IS THAT CORRECT?



YES AND NO. FOR INSTANCE IN THE FIELD OF LABOR WE HAVE TRADITIONALLY RECOGNIZED THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE WHILE BEING TRADITIONALLY CRITICAL OF THE NEED TO STRIKE.

OR, IN THE FIELD OF CIVIL LIBERTIES, WE HAVE TRADITIONALLY FAVORED THE BILL OF RIGHTS WHILE BEING TRADITIONALLY CRITICAL OF ITS ACROSS-THE-BOARD IMPLEMENTATION.



AND SO, TODAY IN THE FIELD OF CIVIL RIGHTS, WE TRADITIONALLY RECOGNIZE THE NEGROES' RIGHT TO PROTEST WHILE BEING TRADITIONALLY OPPOSED TO LEGISLATIVE CONCESSIONS WON BY PUBLIC DEMAND.



THEN SIR, YOUR ADVICE WOULD BE—

CONCILIATION RESPONSIBLE MODERATES FROM BOTH SIDES SHOULD MEET AND MEET UNTIL THEY NAIL DOWN FIRM PROPOSALS ON WHICH ALL MEN OF GOOD WILL CAN UNANIMOUSLY AGREE.



BUT SIR, ABOUT THAT "TWO YEARS?"

I CAN ANSWER!

