

## State News

### Amendment for Providing Funds to Private Colleges Proposed to Georgia Leg.

By Tom Cauthorn

The Senate's University System Committee of the Georgia General Assembly approved a proposed constitutional amendment to the Georgia Constitution that will allow the State Board of Regents to make grants to private colleges.

Meeting on Thursday, February 12, the committee's approval put the proposed amendment on the floor of the Senate for action later in this current session.

According to Sen. Battle Hall of Rome, "The private institutions are finding it difficult to keep up" because of the vast amounts of state financial assistance being funneled in the University System schools.

Sen. Lamar Plunkett of Bowdon, another sponsor of the proposed amendment along with Sen. Hall, said the state will actually be getting more education for less money if the amendment passes. The proposed amendment would allow the State of Georgia to make financial grants to students wanting to attend private colleges and universities.

Sen. Plunkett further stated that if the costs of the private schools keep going up it will make their attendance prohibitive for some students. He said that the net result of the rising tuitions will be to crowd the lower tuition University System schools.

## Photo Club News

Jay Mesbahee, president of the Mercer Photo Club, today announced that final decision on the location of the club's darkroom and photo lab was made last week, and after several meetings with the school officials it was agreed to use the Green Shutter for the club's activities and the photo lab.

## SGA NEWS

Despite the absence of fifty percent of the SGA, the seventeen members present reviewed a revised constitution proposed by the Constitution Committee Tuesday, February 12. Tom Cauthorn, chairman of the constitution committee (other members: Martiel Babbitt, David Hudson, George Leake, and Ed Bacon) read the entire constitution, pausing frequently for corrections or to answer questions. The Constitution, shortened somewhat, was the main item of business of the meeting, lasting from 9:30 until 11 p.m.

Debate between members of the SGA resulted on the question of whether to include the **PLUCKED DULCIMER** in the Constitution or have it an amendment, which will be voted upon separately from the adoption of the proposed Constitution.

Because of the ambiguity of the present Constitution concerning who is governing body and of which body, the SGA or the Senate, a quorum should be considered, no satisfactory vote was taken, leaving the entire matter to be voted upon again at the next SGA meeting.

There were nine members excused of illness or mid-term exams. Those unexcused absences were Janie Jones, Roger Anderburg, and Marty Leverett.

## Wonderful Wednesdays A Circulating Letter:

February 12, 1968

Mercer University  
Macon, Georgia

Dear Sirs:

This letter is being sent to you by a group of interested students to recommend the idea of "Wonderful Wednesdays" and to encourage your promotion of this program to be a part of our campus schedule.

The subject of "Wonderful Wednesdays" came up three weeks ago in our group in a casual way: at the end of last quarter, among the topics we had suggested and voted on to discuss was "Mercer: Where?" The program committee chose to approach it from an educational standpoint. "Wonderful Wednesdays" generated much enthusiasm and response as a part of this discussion, and a committee was assigned to further investigate it as a possibility for our campus. From our group, Martiel Babbitt, David Hudson, and Dean Trimble visited Emory to see the program actually working. After careful consideration, the committee and the discussion group decided to give the idea of this program at Mercer our support and to recommend that it be given a trial period on this campus.

The following aspects should be considered as to the benefits of "Wonderful Wednesdays" — whereas only ten minutes a week in a class would be lost, a whole day of uninterrupted time would be gained; the change of a fifty minute a day per class schedule to a sixty minute a day per class schedule would cause class lectures to be re-evaluated and tightened, making for better lectures; no fraternity, sorority, or committee meeting for either faculty or students would be scheduled on Wednesday — all participation on Wednesday would be entirely voluntary; cultural events such as concerts could be scheduled on Tuesday nights to enable more to attend; Wednesday would be an excellent time for voluntary field trips such as landscape painting by art students, or for instance, the trip taken to Atlanta by Mrs. Wilder's class; it would be hoped that some faculty members might make themselves available to students on Wednesday mornings, yielding better student-faculty relations and perhaps enabling mutual work toward education not to be gained in a classroom; Wednesday could be used by the faculty as a day to do research; "Wonderful Wednesdays" would relieve academic strain, whereas all would not be as highly motivated as to employ the day to the most educational profit, those who would, would benefit, and the others certainly wouldn't lose anything by it — in fact, they might benefit by catching up on their rest and making friends, which would produce a better condition of the student body; finally, adoption of this program would underline Mercer's image as a progressive university.

We trust that you will seriously consider our recommendations concerning "Wonderful Wednesdays", and will be watching with interest to see the results of your deliberations.

Respectfully,  
Kay Johnson  
AD HOC COMMITTEE  
For Thursday Discussion  
Group

Copy:  
Dean Taylor  
Dean Trimble  
Dr. Nordenhaug, Chrm. Guidance Committee  
Dr. Ebey, Chrm. Curriculum Committee  
Dr. Harris  
Mercer Cluster

## A New Prospective '68

by Gary L. Johnson

The change in management of the cafeteria services has in turn produced a drastic change for the best in food service offered. The student body on a whole has shown favorable attitudes and reactions toward the changes that have been made. The variety of food has increased. A food committee also has been established as a line of communication between students and cafeteria officials. A suggestion box has been set out for the students to register complaints and helpful advice. Among some of the new services offered have been (1) the continental breakfast, (2) the ice dispensary system, (3) milk has been offered at every meal and, (4) a much needed renovation of the cafeteria hall atmosphere.

One of the lacks noted in the present system is that there is no line of communication from the cafeteria management back to the student body and the understanding and cooperation between students and cafeteria officials is poor. Also lacking has been the student help in the cafeteria. Mr. Krakow, manager of the cafeteria, has expressed the desire to see more students in some of superintendent positions of the cafeteria and to see a better organization of student help as a whole.

Overlooking some of the minor faults of the cafeteria, an excellent percentage of improvement has been achieved in the food service.

## Calendar of Events

Tonight, February 20  
8:00—Basketball, Bears vs. Tampa, HOME

Wednesday, February 21  
Trust Co. of Georgia Interviews.  
Conn. Mutual Life Insurance Interviews.

7:30—Campus Sing, Chapel

Thursday, February 22  
10:00—Chapel, Dr. Otto

Friday, February 23  
10:00—Chapel, Dr. Otto

7:30—Movie, "Lust for Life," 314 CSC.

8:00—Basketball, Bears vs. Jacksonville, HOME.

8:30—Concert Series, American Folk Ballet

Alpha Phi Omega will sponsor a Heart Fund Drive for the entire week beginning Wednesday, February 21, in the Snack Bar. Awards will be presented to the social organization that contributes the most money. Tuesday, February 27

The Cluster

## Pass-Fail at Mercer?

by Cynthia Beasley

The mind is fickle, boisterous, strong, and obstinate; and to restrain it is as difficult as to restrain the wind. But suppose an individual needs a C+ or a B+ average and is majoring in medicine, law, or English. The med student desires to expand his understanding of philosophy, the law student would like a basic grounding in physics, and the English student is curious about biology. But all shy away from these fields because of the threat to their grade average. It seems that a low grade is immi-

nent for students branching into a foreign field lacking previous preparation. All that's needed to restrain the mind is our grading system.

To encourage students to elect courses for their own benefit, a new grading system has been discovered that will let the student either fail or pass. It is often referred to as the proposed fail-pass grading system. Schools that have given their consent to this improvement usually limit the number of hours that can be taken under this system and

limit option to Juniors and Seniors and according to grades. This usual type education program allows students to expand and to broaden without fear.

Mercer has decided that this will not be instituted and no alternate approach has been brought to light. This will encourage courage and daring in upperclassmen who decide to try for broader education at the risk of their grade average qualifications for graduate school. Gambling future specialization for present education is too serious a threat to some individuals.