

Ernie Robinson

Correspondent Rather Reviews International News Events

Dan Rather, CBS White House correspondent, spoke to a congregation of individuals at the Monument Room of the Macon Coliseum on April 22nd. Although Mr. Rather was sponsored by Macon Junior College, the floor seemed to be dominated by Mercer students and faculty. Some attempt was made to gain insight into the background of the news and, as Reporter Rather admitted, a shakey effort to predict some future actions was tried on several occasions.

Speaking of President Nixon, Mr. Rather underlined the suspicion that he was by nature an "extremely cautious politician", the slowest since Taft to ask for a legislative program. After becoming acclimated to the Washington environment which was described as similar to an enemy army

ROTC Sponsors Award Ceremonies

MACON, Ga. The annual Awards Day ceremonies for the Mercer University Cadet corps will be conducted on Monday, May 12. Lt. Col. Robert M. Brambila, Jr., Professor of Military Science, said activities will begin at 10 a.m. on the parade grounds with a battalion ceremony under the command of Cadet Lt. Col. Thomas M. Crook of Stuart, Florida.

Macon Mayor Ronnie Thompson will be the speaker and reviewing official at the parade. Activities will be highlighted by a presentation of awards and decorations for individual and unit achievements by officials of local organizations and military units.

Following the pass in review by the cadet battalion, the cadet drill team will demonstrate some of the drill maneuvers and manual of arms which caused them to be one of the university units to be invited this year to march in the Mardi Gras parade at New Orleans.

This performance will be followed by a demonstration of counter-guerrilla operations by the cadet counterinsurgency unit, the "Mercer Mauauders."

The public is invited to attend these activities. Refreshments will be provided by the department of Military Science on the parade grounds.



Speaking of the men near Nixon, correspondent Rather noted that these gentlemen are not yet entrenched since their worth cannot be clearly ascertained until some major crisis is due. Currently John Mitchell, Attorney General; Robert Finch, Secretary of HEW; William Rogers, Secretary of State, are Richard's Nixon's closest advisors. Regarding their influence on the President, the speaker interestingly enough quoted Rather's Law: "In Washington, power is in direct relation to proximity."

Most questions that were raised came from the Mercer community of scholars. Those regarding funds for education were not met by optimistic replies. According to Mr. Rather we can expect a long period of contraction in the field of Federal education support. Answering Jim Jaffe's query on a program for Latin America, Mr. Rather instantly stated that there was none. Gov. Rockefeller had been sent to evaluate the situation and Mr. Nixon himself seemed to have an especially good feeling for the statistics of the area.

A question on Spy-ro Agnew brought a few moments of laughter. A congressman recently returned from Disneyland where he found Mickey Mouse had a new Spiro Agnew watch. Actually Dan Rather sees Agnew as a future significant personality of national stature. He has suffered personal pain from the abuse often cast upon him. His engaging quality of directness has gotten him into difficulty more than once, but it is an admirable characteristic. The Vice President is earnestly studying to become more involved in areas calling for authoritative leadership. Agnew has risen fast in the political ring and does seem to exhibit potential for growth.

vacating a command post during any presidential transition, leaving behind all the destroyed documents and bobby-traps, Nixon is ready to suggest a dome.

Building trust among America's youths and Blacks is considered to be the second important plank in Nixon's program. The president is being sincere in his efforts to abolish the draft in favor of a volunteer army. This cannot be achieved in 4 years, but then Rahter reports that Mr. Nixon is anticipating a second term, so that in the interim a modified lottery system will be used whereby healthy nineteen year olds will be placed once in a hat. Those not chosen will be free unless a crisis similar to WW II develops. This system is viewed as being more equitable than the current one that places a predominance of lower socio-economic classed youths on the front lines. Ultimately we will resort to a voluntary army, with estimated costs ranging from seven to twenty billion dollars. Dan Rather seems to doubt the benefits of a volunteer professional military. Later he noted he was a Marine during WW II.

To improve his image with the nation's Negroes, the President intends to eliminate hunger in America. Owing to our farm surplus and ability to adsorb the distribution costs it is a genuine shame that anyone of any race need go hungry. Nixon clearly expects to be remembered as the leader who ended famine in his country.

Speaking on the international scene, Mr. Rather definitely sees that secret negotiations are in progress in Paris and either Laos or Cambodia. Further, he believes that at least 100,000 troops will be brought home before next fall.

RWGA Report

On April 23, after a brief business meeting, Beth Daniell, the outgoing president of RWGA, installed the new

executive officers and the newly selected members of the Judicial Council. During the business meeting, Carol Bishop

announced that the rules committee is working on the new handbook. RWGA is planning to select an outstanding senior woman to be honored May 10 at the Honors Day Program. Preparations for the banquet to be held on Tuesday, May 13 in honor of the graduating senior women are being made.

Applications for the Big Sister program may be obtained through Miss Stewart's office. All interested girls are urged to apply. The deadline for these applications will be announced later. The hall representative were asked to encourage their hall residents to participate in Spring Cleaning.

The new members of the Judicial Council are: Beth Ansley, Julie Hulsey, Judy Senkbeil, and Jane Sipe. The Chairman of Judicial, Joanne Searcy, was installed with the officers elected earlier this month. After a few comments regarding her year in office and

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SGA

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A Men's Judicial Committee to encompass the dormitories for male residents presented the greatest headache to the Committee. Rules are not extensive, but are adequate. The Committee would not have the power to suspend or expell student violators. Jacob praised the RWGA for their profressive efforts and noted that several of the suggestions for that body had already been implemented.

A Uniform Judicial Procedure for all student judicial committees is suggested on the basis of the Honor Council. The pattern is not a strictly legal format, but does guarantee the rights of the individual.

Uniform punishment and sanction penalties are spelled out. Expulsion may be appealed, as now, to the President of the University. A new aspect of the appellate procedure is the establishment of an Appellate Review Board to insure against the current arbitrary appointment of an

administrative assistant to investigate a written appeal.

Somewhat unique is the recommendation for an Ombudsman, or, in the case of Mercer, a faculty member associated with the administration to hear student complaints regarding the administrative, social, or academic dimensions of the University. This individual would be charged to direct these complaints through the "red tape" for efficient investigation.

Discussion on the Judicial Review Committee's report will take place in a later meeting after the Senators have had an opportunity to evaluate the material.

Members for the seven proposed standing committees were announced. The individuals will be notified by campus mail of their appointment. An objection was made, and later withdrawn, concerning the appointment of an individual not a Senate member to chair a committee. It was pointed out that the Constitution does not require a Senator to head a

committee and that anyone can come before the Senate to make a report; however, it would require a Senator to move the adoption of a report.

The Senate voted to withdraw our affiliations from the Southern University Student Government Association (SUSGA) and to investigate the possibility of joining the National Students Association. SUSGA has proven to be a regionally orientated body governed largely by behind-the-scenes college administration personnel.

Glenn Kirbo read a resolution to form a Student Steering Committee for a three year period. Of the fifteen members, ten would always be re-appointed from the prior year. The current report of this year's Committee will be forwarded to the newly established one.



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SHAKES

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Carl Sanders speaks on Student Activism . . . Insight Program, May 2.