

Georgia Baptists Hear Report

A report from the Mercer University Board of Trustees will be a highlight of the Georgia Baptist Convention which will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at the Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta.

The report will be given in the afternoon session Tuesday by a trustee, the Rev. Ches Smith of the First Baptist Church of Tifton. It will explain the position of the board in applying for federal grants to assist in the construction of a performing arts auditorium, physical education building and infirmary.

On February 7 the Mercer trustees voted unanimously to apply for the federal grants authorized by the Higher Education Facilities Act of 1965.

The Executive Committee of the convention meeting at Toccoa April 1 requested the

trustees of Mercer to report to the convention at its annual meeting explaining their action in authorizing applications for the grants. The convention in 1966 and 1965 failed to approve Mercer's request to build the science building with the aid of a low-interest government loan.

As a result of the convention's vote, the university was forced to borrow funds for the science center at a commercial rate of 7 percent while the government loan would have been made at 3 percent. By this action the university will have to pay additional interest of \$125,000 over a period of 15 years.

Dr. Walter L. Moore, pastor of Vineville Baptist Church of Macon and a member of the university's Presidents Council, is president of the convention which will represent some one

million Baptists in the state.

Recommendations from the Executive Committee which will be voted on by the convention, expected to attract more than 2,000 messengers from over the state, are:

A record budget of \$5,648,000 for Southern Baptist and Georgia Baptist missionary, educational, and benevolent causes.

An expansion program for the Georgia Baptist Hospital at an estimated \$11,800,000 to be financed in part by a loan of not more than \$6,000,000 from commercial lending institutions.

A proposed counseling and referral ministry for Baptist pastors as an expanded service of the Georgia Baptist Hospital.

A statement of purpose of Georgia Baptists in giving support to Baptist colleges.

Provision for equal ministerial education funds for all students preparing for church vocations. Currently, students for the preaching ministry receive \$100 per quarter, while students preparing for ministries in music and religious education receive \$50 per quarter.

Proposed constitutional changes, which would increase maximum number of messengers churches may send to the convention from eight to 15; retain the minimum of two messengers from each cooperating church; permit one additional messenger for each \$1,000 contributed through the Cooperative Program (Current provision is one additional messenger for each \$50 given to Convention causes.)

Another constitutional change would reduce the maximum service for convention

president from three years to two years in keeping with actual practice. Tradition has limited presidents to two one-year terms.

A proposed by-laws change calls on all boards, commissions, and committees of the convention to submit audits prepared by certified public accountants. (Current by-laws call for audits.)

A proposal for all institutions to submit "unqualified" audits to the convention annually.

Keynote speaker for the three-day meeting will be Dr. W. A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church from Dallas, Tex., and president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Other speakers include Brooks Hays, advisor to Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy

and former U.S. Congressman from Arkansas, currently director of Wake Forest University's Ecumenical Institute; Dr. William Holmes Borders, pastor of Wheat Street Baptist Church in Atlanta, and National Baptist leader.

Also Dr. Warner Earle Fusselle, president of Truett McConnell College in Cleveland, Ga.; Dr. Millard J. Berquist, president of Mid-western Baptist Technological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

Rear Admiral James W. Kelly, chief of Navy chaplains, will address the convention's youth night service. Wednesday at Georgia Tech's Alexander Memorial Coliseum. The Rev. J. David Fite, returned Cuban missionary imprisoned by the Castro regime, will also be featured on the youth program.



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Members of the cast rehearse in preparation for the production of MacBeth to be given November 13 and 14.

Special News Report

New Library Hours

The Library Committee, after meeting with members of the Student Library Committee, has recommended to the librarian that regular Library closing time be changed to 11 P.M. Sunday through Thursday, and 5 P.M. Friday and Saturday. The last three weekends before finals the library would be open to 11 P.M. on Friday and Saturday.

It should be noted in this report that often student suggestions as the above are shelved by a Faculty or Administration Committee, but the students owe a thank you to Mr. Metts, the Librarian, for his response to student suggestions was complete and swift cooperation. Mr. Metts hopes that students will take advantage of the later closing hours of the library.

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Wednesday Is In Jeopardy

The Wonderful Wednesday Committee is alarmed at the pattern of irresponsible behavior which is becoming increasingly evident on Tuesday evenings. Chairman Dean Trimble said that the committee is especially concerned about the behavior in the area of the men's dormitories and fraternity lodges. He said some of the personnel officials feel that there is more disorder and frivolous activity on Tuesday evenings than on Friday and Saturday evenings combined, and there is little doubt that this is adversely affecting re-

sponsible use of Wednesday. Trimble said the committee will probably have no alternative but to recommend that Wonderful Wednesday be discontinued if there is not immediate, dramatic improvement in this situation.

Trimble added that the committee has been pleased with student use of the library on Wednesday and with the sizeable number of students working as volunteers in community agencies. However, he said, participation in free university classes and other forums seems to have decreased.

Debate Team Opens Year with two wins

The Mercer Debate Team has started the year out with two big tournaments. The first was at Auburn, the latter in Winston Salem, N. C. sponsored by Wake Forest University. The trip to the Wake Forest Novice Tournament was attended by 6 Mercer representatives. The coach who acted as a judge, and Bill Cragg, the President of Mercer Debate Club, served to encourage the other four. The four man team was made up of people with little debate experience. The Wake Forest Tournament is annually the foremost Novice Tournament in the country. The four novices attending were John Pafford, Julian Gordy, Bob Thompson, and Ted Kandler. Accompanying were Mrs. Gerri Price and Bill Cragg.

Leaving Winston Salem; the team stopped in Atlanta to see the famous Peachtree Debate Finals, sponsored by Emory University. The knowledge acquired by seeing this portion of the tournament was a great help to all members of the team. Harvard and UCLA debated in the final round.

On Nov. 14 & 15 the debate team will attend the Southern District Tournament sponsored by Delta Sigma Rho - Tau Kappa Alpha (the national honorary society for forensics). Thirty universities from throughout the South will be represented. Debaters going: Larry Finklestein, Bill Cragg, Julian Gordy and Dan Thigpen (president of the local DSR-TKA Chapter).

Send Questions To Action-Man Ted Kandler

P.O. Box 29

In the weeks that Action Line has been in operation for the purpose of giving the Mercer Community answers to questions that are of concern to the campus, I feel that it has been successful in a number of ways. If it is to continue to be of interest to the members of the community, it will be necessary for people to ask questions. All questions are welcomed. Please send them to Ted Kandler, who will try to give the best answer possible to every question.

Concerning the question, I find that there are few, if any, who are willing to a parity of fraternity. Why? Are we not to be equal blacks as I have been told? C.H. Am...

...and attitudes allowed to remain on the campus while discriminating against black students is concerned? J.J.D. ...of these questions, I decided it would be better to answer them both at once. Several people who have asked these questions, their answers follow. ...of the S.W.A., answered in this manner: "It is the responsibility of the community that members of the community have a right to know the truth about the situation of their people. ...this committee should be ...the ..."

Bobby Kelly, President of the Interscholastic Council and Kappa Sigma, gave the following answer: "Mercer University, though supported by the Church, is also a Southern institution. The majority of the fraternities on this campus were founded in the South when 'White Supremacy' was the undisputed rule, and up until recently all fraternities had clauses in their National Constitutions excluding Negroes. Presently most National Fraternities will permit Negroes to be members. As far as Mercer is concerned it is a tradition that will be slow to change. I would not say that black students will ever be in a fraternity on Mercer, but I would say that it is something that will not happen overnight."

Bobby Johnson, President of the S.W.A. and a Sigma Nu, responded to the question: "Although we are all the same people, we are not all the same. ...of these questions, I decided it would be better to answer them both at once. Several people who have asked these questions, their answers follow. ...of the S.W.A., answered in this manner: "It is the responsibility of the community that members of the community have a right to know the truth about the situation of their people. ...this committee should be ...the ..."



Members of the team prepare for debate. Left to right are John Pafford, Julian Gordy, Bob Thompson, and Bill Cragg.