



# THE MERCER CLUSTER

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"The Pacesetter of the Seventies"

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## Debate Takes Honors

by Brian Murray

Emory University, U.S. Naval Academy, the University of Virginia, New York University, The Citadel, and Stetson University are a few of the twenty-five colleges the Mercer Debate team defeated this year in nearly fifty rounds of debate.

Mercer has two debate teams the varsity and the novice. Members of the varsity team are Bill Cragg, president, of Clayton, Ga., Dan Thigpen, Quitman, Ga., Ted Kandler, Augusta, John Pafford, Jacksonville and Allen Wallace, Dalton, Ga. Members of the novice team include president Robert Thompson, St. Petersburg, Julian Gordy, Newman, Ga., Robert Sorenson, Philadelphia, Barbara Russell, Rockmart, Ga., and Bill Dodson and Lynn Davis, Eatonton, Ga.

The Mercer debate team has travelled widely this past year. They attended the Wake Forest University Invitational Tournament, the Regional Delta Sigma Rho-Tau Kappa Alpha Tournament at Valdosta, The Gulf Coast Invitational Novice Tournament in Panama City, Florida, the Florida State University Tournament, the Catawba Invitational Tournament at Salisbury, North Carolina and the National DSRTKA Tournament at the University of Alabama. Six to eight colleges were represented at each meet. Mercer defeated approximately half of these colleges.

Allen Wallace of the varsity team was elected speaker of the Student Congress of the National Debate Tournament in Alabama. He received a trophy for superior achievement. Novice Bob Thompson also received an award for extemporaneous speaking in the Novice Tournament during the Gulf Coast Invitational.

Participation in various tournaments often entails missing several days classes. Some part of the team is on the road almost every weekend. Under the coaching of Mrs. Jerre Price, the team spends fourteen to twenty hours per week working on cases and topics during the tournament season. This year has been devoted to rebuilding the team.

The topic for the year is "Resolve that the federal government should grant annually a specific percentage of its income tax revenue to the state governments." This topic will be debated on campus before the end of the year.

Among the activities sponsored by the debate team are intramural debates on campus, high school workshops and the debates of issues of campus and community concern. Partial scholarships are offered to outstanding members. Also on campus there is a chapter of Delta Sigma Rho-Tau Kappa Alpha, the national fraternity honoring students who are outstanding in forensics.

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Photo by Bob Johnson

A surprised Miss Gail Sturm reacts to the announcement that she has just become Miss Mercer 1970.

## Floridian is Miss Mercer

Miss Mercer 1970 is Miss Gail Sturm of Sarasota, Florida. Gail and her court were named during festivities in the Macon Grand Opera House. First runner up is Miss Terry Meadors of Orlando, Florida, sponsored by MIMA. Second runner up is Miss Shara Baker, sponsored by Kappa Alpha fraternity and Miss Congeniality, Linn Dillard, sponsored by Chi Omega sorority. Gail, sponsored by MIMA fraternity, was chosen from twelve semi-finalists in bathing suit, evening gown and talent competition.

Circle-K Service Organization sponsored the pageant with Jimmy Owensby, producer, Marianna Moore Adams, director and Rocky Wade, business manager. Music and entertainment between scenes was provided by the Hines Causey Orchestra.

In the talent competition Miss Mercer sang the blues spiritual "God Bless the

Child." She designed and made the gown in which she performed her selection. Gail intends to major in English and humanities and eventually teach in the secondary schools. She is a member of Phi Mu sorority at Mercer.

The final phase of the contest was the question and answer session. Gail was asked: "What do you consider to be most important to health, beauty and intellect?" Her winning answer was that "one of the most vital qualities of being intelligent is to keep an open mind at all times. Also, being unselfish and able to place yourself in another's situation and feel as they feel."

Concerning her reign as Miss Mercer Gail stated "My life isn't significantly different since winning the title and I appreciate the opportunity to meet new people. I want to thank Circle-K Service Organization and its president Charlie Newberry for sponsoring the Miss Mercer Pageant.

## Robinson, Bowen Win In SGA Elections

Ernie Robinson became the new S.G.A. president as he defeated Tommy Maddox by a thirty-nine vote margin in the run-off election last Tuesday, April 14. Robinson received three hundred and eighty-eight of the seven hundred and thirty-seven votes cast in the run-off election.

Danny Brogden, the third presidential candidate, was eliminated in the primary election on Friday, receiving 193 votes.

Robinson emphasized his familiarity with campus leaders and administration officials throughout his campaign. He cited the decrease in quality professors as the most crucial problem facing the university at present. Maddox gave his campaign a more liberal slant, underscoring the importance of a strong S.G.A. Maddox presented a comprehensive, detailed platform which spelled out his position on several issues.

In other races decided Friday, Charles Bowen defeated Ted Kandler for vice president of the S.G.A., Johnny Turner defeated Rocky Wade for Cluster Editor, and Paul Howell won the position of Freshman Advisor over Joe Cook. Bowen and Turner are both rising seniors while Howell is a rising junior.

Running unopposed were Linn Dillard for the position of Secretary of the S.G.A., John Lowery for the position of Cauldron Editor, and David Bottoms for Dulcimer Editor.

New senior senators (in order of votes polled): George Leske, "Packy" Cable, Hilda Greer, Leigh Montgomery, and Mike Moorhead.

Junior senators for the coming year are Sandy Jones, Jimmy Linn, Betty Cavallo, Janet Hogue and Wayne Gullatt.

Rising sophomore senators are Bill Adams, Truett Ashley, Bruce Gandy, Tom Gordy and Glenda Copeland.

Senators at large are Julian Gordy, George Henderson, Betsy Jones, Gail Kline and Marcy Hobbs.

## Faculty Adopts Course Changes

Cluster News Capsule:

Curriculum changes passed by the faculty last week at their meeting of April 14, 15, were the following:

- I. English II is required of all students.
- II. A. Four courses may be chosen from the following:
  - History 11, 12, 50,
  - Christianity 12, 51, 100, 136, 151.
  - Philosophy 51, 52, 140, 150.
- B. Four courses may be chosen from the following:
  - Biology 11, 12, 13
  - Chemistry 11, 12, 14,
  - Physics 11, 12, 13,
  - Math 14, 50, 51, 52
  - Geology 11
  - Foreign Languages 11, 12, 51.
- C. Two courses may be chosen from the following:
  - Political Science 50
  - Psychology 51
  - Sociology 51
  - Economics 50
  - Black Studies 51
  - Psychology and Sociology 100
- D. One course may be chosen from group I and two courses may be chosen from group 2.
  1. Music 50, Applied Music, Art 51, 52, 164, 165, 166 Applied Art., Speech/Dramatic Art 50, 54.
  2. English 51, 52, 53, 54,
  - Greek 157
  - French 158
  - Foreign Languages 52

There were 96 faculty members at the meeting on Tuesday, the largest turnout in several years. In other business, the minimum requirements for graduation were lowered so that a student can now graduate from Mercer with a 1.5 grade point average, 180 hours, and 360 honor points.

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photo by Joe Cook

The Mercer University choir, conducted by Mr. John Van Cura, performed the Brahms Requiem on Sunday, April 12 and again on Monday, April 13.