

# The Mercer Cluster

VOLUME XXXVI

MERCER UNIVERSITY, MACON, GA., MARCH 9, 1956

No. 17

## Council Rules Committee Power For Extension of Voting Is Legal

### Constitution Voting Ends At 3 Today

By Zelma Yarbrough  
Voting will close at 3 PM this afternoon in the special election called for the purpose of ratifying or rejecting the proposed constitution.

The election, originally scheduled to close last Tuesday at 5 PM was extended by the elections committee of the Student Government Association. Their decision to do so was upheld by the Honor Council following a hearing on a petition contesting the action before this group on Wednesday afternoon.

A two-thirds vote of the student body is required before this can be a valid vote. Voting is being held in the Co-op today between the hours of 10 AM and 3 PM.

There was no voting on Wednesday, but balloting was resumed yesterday morning and continued until 5:30 PM yesterday afternoon, and will continue through 3 PM today. Original plans called for three polling places, Sherwood Hall, MEP, and the Co-op. With the extension was "in order to get a valid election."

### BSU Slates Work Week This Month

The first week of next quarter will find Mercer engaged in its annual "Work Week." This week is promoted each year by the BSU in order to give students an opportunity to give a day's work to the support of missions.

This summer college students from all over Georgia will be employed as "summer missionaries" throughout the home mission field. As student missionaries they will be supported by students.

Mercer's goal to contribute to the program is \$500. To supplement outright gifts and offerings it has been the policy to sponsor this "Work Week."

Each student who has part time employment is encouraged to give, in the spirit of love, one day's salary to the program. Mercerians who do not have jobs are also urged to cooperate in this manner. Through the local business many odd jobs—such as painting, yardwork, baby sitting, etc.—will be arranged. Students will be paid by the hour for such jobs and will be able to give in this way. Other money might be made by setting up shoe-shine stands, polishing fellow students' shoes, or any way which requires personal effort.

"Work Week" begins March 22 and continues through March 31. Anyone able to donate should contact Marcus Leger, leave their name at the BSU office along with which afternoons they can best serve.

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FROM THE EDITORS

### Be Sure to Vote On Constitution!

Voting on the proposed constitution will continue through 3 PM this afternoon. This is in accordance with a proclamation issued by Jerry Walker, chairman of the Elections Committee of the SGA, and confirmed by the Honor Council Wednesday.

All students should be vitally concerned with the matter before us. Our existing constitution is out-moded and inefficient. The need for replacing it has become obvious. Work has been completed on the new document after five months work by a special committee. This new instrument deserves the serious consideration of every student. Read it carefully. Copies are available. After reading it, vote according to your convictions on the matter.

It is the considered opinion of this publication that the new constitution deserves a "yes" vote. We feel that it will provide a more adequate and efficient student government set-up for Mercer students. However, whether you agree with this or not, it is your privilege, right, and obligation to vote—be that vote "yea" or nay." Just vote!

### FINAL EXAMINATION SCHEDULE

The final examination schedule was released this week by the Registrar's Office. No deviations from the schedule should be made without the consent of the Dean of the College.

The schedule is as follows:  
Tuesday, March 13,  
9 AM—2nd period  
2 PM—3rd period  
Wednesday, March 14,  
9 AM—4th period  
2 PM—1st period  
Thursday, March 15,  
9 AM—5th period  
2 PM—6th period

### ROTC Unit Has Program For Kiwanis

By John Kaufman  
The Mercer ROTC Band and several cadet officers presented a program before the Kiwanis Club of Macon last Tuesday. The program, similar to a previous Chapel program, carried the theme "Formula for Leadership."

Col. William D. Smith, Jr., PMS&T of Mercer, made the introductions. Cadet Col. Sam Wilburn acted as coordinator, and introduced the three speakers; Lt. Col. Marion Liles, Lt. Col. Jerry Walker, and Captain Sidney Johnson.

The Band, under the direction of Sgt. Bill Malambri, opened their group of selections with "America." "El Capitan" and "The Washington and Lee Swing" were intermixed with the speeches, and "Dixie" closed the program.

Col. Smith said that the idea of this type program was to give the cadets training in appearing before the public.

Col. Smith pointed out that the civic clubs of Macon were supporting our ROTC Unit by the interest they show every spring when awards are presented to the winners of the competitive drill on ROTC Day.

### Cadets Honor Prexy, Deans With Parade

By John Kaufman  
The Mercer ROTC Unit, at its regular drill period Monday, held a parade honoring the deans of Mercer. Also in the reviewing stand was Brig. General Richard J. Werner, chief of the Georgia Military District.

Those being honored were Dr. George B. Connell, President, Mercer University; Dr. Spright Dowell, President-Emeritus, Mercer University; Dr. Otis Knight, dean of the Graduate School; Dr. Malcolm Lester, dean of the Liberal Arts College; Dr. F. Hodge O'Neal, dean of the Walter F. George School of Law; Dr. Hansford D. Johnson, dean of the Roberts School of Christianity; Dr. Richard C. Burts, dean of men; Miss Louise Brown, dean of women.

General Werner, who became chief of Georgia Military District in January, 1955, was here to inspect the ROTC Cadet Corps and Mercer Military department facilities. General Werner has previously been professor of military science and tactics at Clemson College in South Carolina.

### Science Groups Select Officers

Beta Beta Beta biological fraternity and the Alembic Club have elected officers for the coming year.

R. William Scarbrough Jr. was elected as president of the Beta Beta Beta biological fraternity. Other officers are Lehman Lindsey, vice president; Claranel Hobby, secretary; Eugene Temple, historian and editor of the fraternity publication.

Jerry S. Sutton was chosen to serve as president of the Alembic Club. Others elected to serve are: Hugh Gibson, vice president; Margaret Ann Wade, secretary-treasurer.

### Unanimous Ruling Backs Walker in Validity Battle

By Nancy Yates

The Honor Council of Mercer University handed down a unanimous decision Wednesday authorizing the Student Elections Committee to extend the election for the ratification of the proposed Constitution revision until 3 PM today.

The decision came as the result of a two-and-a-half-hour Council session in the Moot Court room of the Walter F. George School of Law Wednesday afternoon.

Presenting the case for the petitioners were Earl Jones, Paul Montjoy, John Holley, and Don Guest. The first three named were the petitioners.

Fred Hasty was counsel for the defense.

The special session of the Honor Council was called by Chairman Roy Thornton Tuesday evening after the petition protesting the extension of voting on the proposed new constitution of the Mercer Student Government Association was submitted to him.

The petition was filed when the petitioners learned of a decision by the Student Government Elections Committee, of which Jerry Walker (president of the Senior Class) is chairman, and Sid Johnson (SGA President) is an ex-officio member.

Walker and his committee had decided to hold the polls open until 3 PM Friday because the required percentage of students (two-thirds) had failed to vote, making the entire election invalid.

During the Wednesday "trial," Jones and his partners charged that the committee action was "unwarranted" and "without authority."

Walker and Johnson testified that they based their authority on Article II, Section 5, b, of the Existing Constitution and the ratification clause in the proposed new constitution, Article XIII, Section 2. Although the specific power to extend elections is not granted therein, Hasty contended it was "implied."

Walker said, in answer to questioning by Jones, the thought had never occurred to him that he might be "usurping authority."

Hasty also cited the ratification clause of the Constitution of the United States, showing that it sets no limit for time of ratification. "This Constitution," he declared, "set a precedent for all future constitutions." He also noted the expressed "supervisory powers" designated to the Elections Committee and its chairman in the Existing Student Constitution.

Walker stated: "There are no specific written election rules in this constitution. I acted in what I considered the best interests of the University."

Hasty's contention was that since the constitution vote was a "special election," it was not bound by precedent. "We submit," he told the Council, "that this (from Wednesday till Friday) was a reasonable time extension. It's up to you to decide whether it was or not."

Both Johnson and Walker stated that their only motive for the time

extension was "in order to get a valid election."

The argument of the petitioners was that extension of voting could possibly be used for the purpose of "compelling" students to vote and perhaps allowing a committee to "run roughshod on established custom and precedent."

### Clay Manley Nominated BSU Prexy

Clay Manley has been nominated by the nominating committee to be president of the Baptist Student Union for the next year.

Nominated to serve with him are Marcus Leger, first vice-president;



Manley

Leger

Jane Cobb, second vice-president; Jim Meloney, third vice-president; Betty Langford, recording secretary; and Carol Cobb, corresponding secretary.

Other receiving committee nominations included Elmer Whitaker, extension director; Jackie Walters, Gauntlet editor; Alfred Perkins, treasurer; Bob Croom, publicity chairman; Charles Carter, promotional chairman; Jerry Vines, music



Cobb

Meloney

chairman; Shelby Royal, Sunday School representative; Sherrill Law, Baptist Training Union representative; and Dick Post, librarian and film club chairman.

Voting on officers for the coming year will be done in Vespers on March 22. Those named above will be placed in nomination by the committee. Nominations will be accepted from the floor.

Members of the nominating committee included Betty Beasley, chairman, Nancy Bruner, Frances Carnes, Bill Young, Alfred Perkins, C. C. Lynch, and Jim Meloney.