

Bates Is New President; Daniel and Bellamy Win

Election Fills Committees

The Cooperative party swept all but two of the positions on both the Student Appropriations Committee and the Student Publications Committee in Tuesday's election.

The victorious candidates of the Student Appropriations Committee were: Dan Boone (C) 554; Richard Davis (C) 528; Tom Bowdon (C) 501; and Sinclair Shingler (i) 455. The defeated candidate was Tom Bennett (C) 381.

For the Student Publications Committee it was Lynn Bradley (C) over Mary Durlen (i) by a vote of 455 to 284; John Kaufman (i) over Terrill Ruis (C) 417 to 310; and Judy Williams (C) over Duane Shropshire (i) 369 to 287.



Photo by Betsy Meriwether
SLOWLY BUT SURELY, VOTES GET COUNTED
Bob DeJarnette (L) and Noel Osteen (R) Work on Ballots

Fast-Working Elections Committee Counts All Votes In Record Time

by PATTYE LITTLE

"Bates, Daniel, Long," "Smith, Sandifer, Bellamy," "Smith, Sandifer, Long."

Three groups of the election committee spent the hours after polls closed Tuesday calling the names of the candidates and tallying them on the three sheets used in the final countdown.

The ballot boxes were carried to Room 109 of the Humanities Building, opened in the presence of the committee members. Ballots were unfolded and divided into thirds and the counters set to work shortly after 6:30 p.m., when polls closed.

Noel Osteen, chairman of the committee, gave out the official tally sheets, procured from the Bibb County Courthouse last week. The committee was subdivided into groups of three, one to call names, one to tally, and one to check and replace either of the others.

The count proceeded rapidly and efficiently. Osteen made a count of the number of voters and announced shortly before the first count was taken that approximately 727 students had voted in the election.

At 8 p.m. Osteen visited the three precincts to get the first results. The early totals showed the field about equally divided between Cooperatives and Independents.

In the SGA race, Bates led with 176 votes to Smith's 108. Daniel, Bellamy, Voyles, Burkette, Williams, Cooper and McDaniell led in their respective races at this point in the count.

After a short Coke break, the tellers returned to their tally sheets and the poll continued.

Osteen commented after the final results were in that there "was the least amount of block voting that I'd say that had ever been. There was as much independent block voting as there was Co-op."

Unofficial counts by the members of the committee from time to time showed that Bates led all the way. "This is the biggest upset since I've been at Mercer," was the comment among the upperclassmen.

The unofficial tallies showed definitely by 9 p.m. that Bates had won the race for president. Cluster and Cauldron officials, who had come to cover the event for their respective publications, managed to get Bates into the building and got a picture of him as he learned of his victory for the first time.

Osteen said that he was surprised to have had as large a turnout at the polls as they had. "We expected about 500-550," he said. "This was one of the largest votes since I've been at Mercer, considering that about half the candidates were unopposed."

Members of the elections committee were: Richerdean Hatcher, Eleanor Jones, Camille Adams, Bob DeJarnette, Charles Deal, Sam Daniel, and Noel Osteen, chairman. Daniel disqualified himself since he was a candidate. Helping also were Jerry Vanderhoef, Norman Burnes, and Bill Willis.

CLUSTER NOTICE

There will be no issue of The Mercer Cluster next week, the week of April 24. This was the regularly scheduled time for mid-term exams, and budget plans would not allow the addition of another issue. The next Cluster will be out May 1.

Cooperatives Lose Where Opposed

Bev Bates, a candidate without a party, won a sharp, decisive and upset victory over Jerry "Snuffy" Smith for the presidency of student government in the general elections Tuesday.

Bates, running without party affiliation, won over the Cooperative nominee by a final and official tally of 136-275.

Other winners in SGA races were: Sam Daniel (i) over Wayne Sandifer (C), 404-273, for the vice-presidency; Linda Bellamy (C) over Virginia Long (i), 352-213, for secretary-treasurer; and Jim McKinney, unopposed Cooperative candidate for freshman advisor.



Daniel Bellamy
Thus in the three top student government posts, independent candidates scored victories over the Cooperative party, heavy winners in 1957 and 1958.



Photo by Betsy Meriwether
A VICTORY SMILE
Bev Bates Learns He's Won

Bates jumped off to an early lead in vote-counting Tuesday night and increased it as the night continued to take the office. Sam Daniel led all the way for the SGA vice-presidency. The race between Miss Long and Miss Bellamy was close most of the night, until Miss Bellamy pulled away to win.

Seven out of 12 independent candidates who were opposed for office won.

The Cooperatives were opposed at 11 spots on the ballot and won five of the offices. This does not include the Student Appropriations Committee, where three Cooperatives and one independent won.

For a list of unopposed candidates, see elsewhere this issue.

Bates Assures Students Of Regular S.G.A. Report

Student body president-elect Bev Bates says he plans to make major state-of-the-school addresses to the student body concerning student government at regular times.

Bates said he would speak every month or every quarter, as necessary. This, he said, would be part of his work "to keep students in contact with workings in student government."

This was one of the major planks of the platform of independent candidate Bates.

The new student president also said late Tuesday night that he would endeavor to hold student government forums on major campus issues.

Concerning the abortive campus political situation, Bates said that "competitive spirit must be maintained, whether by a new political party or a new mode of selecting candidates."

He would not rule out the possibility he would form a new political party, which presumably would take the place of the recently defunct Progressive party, but he said he would announce any definite plans later.

On Honor System matters, Bates said, "I want to take some definite action with tangible results." He said he did not plan at the present time to call for a

student vote this quarter on the often proposed and often defeated amendment to the Student Constitution requiring students to report cheating.

Bates said, "I want to express my appreciation to the student body for their confidence in my ability to stimulate campus interest in politics. I will consider this as the primary purpose of my administration."

Voyles, Williams Win Class Offices

Two independent candidates won the presidency of both the junior and sophomore classes. They were: Bobby Voyles (i) over Olin Thompson (C) 28 to 26 for the presidency of junior class; Charles Williams (i) over Larry Owens (C) 176 to 36 for the presidency of the sophomore class.

Others elected were: Jerry Cooper (C) over Hunt Sanders (i) 125 to 77 for the vice-presidency of sophomore class; Barbara Burkett (C) over Anna Watts (i) 90 to 48 for secretary-treasurer of junior class; and Olive McDaniell (i) over Genie Green (C) by a vote of 125 to 81. Marshall Reeves (C) was unopposed for the office of vice-president of the junior class.

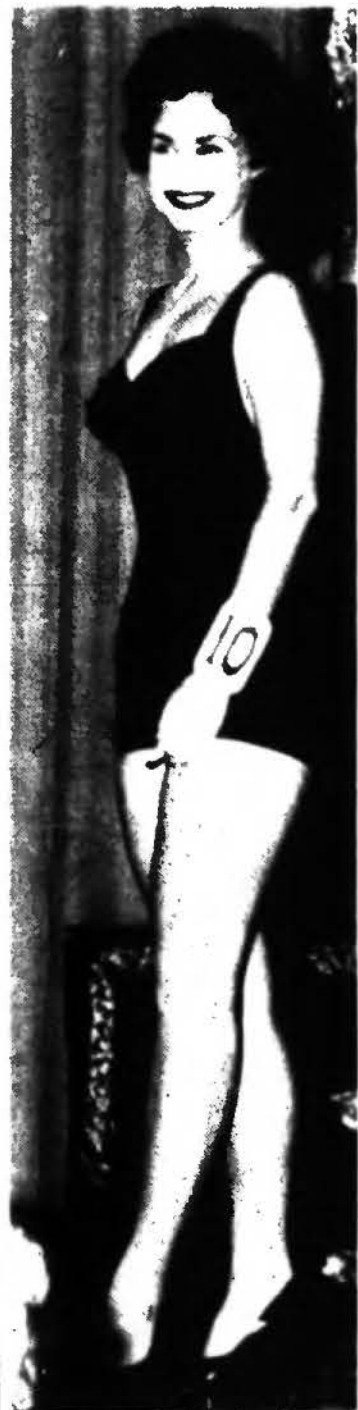


Photo by John Robinson

LINDA WINS—Mercer's Miss Linda Watson became Miss Macon of 1959 last week at the annual contest here. The event was based on beauty and talent. Other Mercer entrants were Miss Carole Avery and Miss Ginger Jones. For more pictures, see page 3.