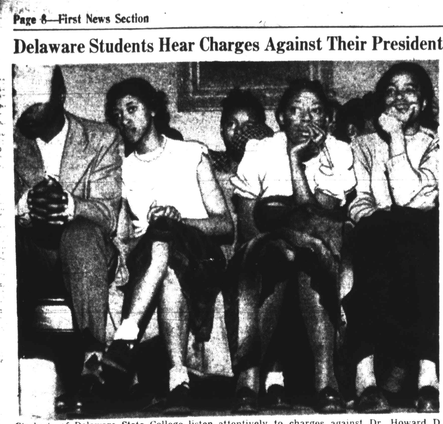
Delaware Students Hear Charges Against Their President



Students of Delaware State College listen attentively to charges against Dr. Howard D. Gregg, president, in the State House at Dover on Monday. A student strike last month, said to have been instigated by a few faculty members and outsiders, touched off investigation. After listening to one of State's key witnesses on the stand for two hours, Monday, observers were of the opinion that the State's case would collapse. The hearing may last all week—(AFRO photo by G. Marshall Wilson.)

Gregg Ouster May Fizzle

(Continued From Page 1)

It would give up the fight to have Dr. Gregg removed.

Opening of the hearing was delayed more than three hours by what was termed guided "rowdyism" of the student body.

The scene was shifted from the college campus to the State House in Dover after students jammed noisily into the room in the administration building originally selected for the hearing and could not be quieted.

At one point, Judge Elwood F. Melson of Wilmington, president of the board, threatened to call in State police.

When this did not work, he did put in a call to the Governor, who reportedly refused to send State police but agreed to use of the State House for the hearing.

9 Charges Faced Gregg

The investigating body, set up by the Governor after the student strike last month, filed nine charges against Dr. Gregg, ranging from use of college property to benefit himself and his family to failure to properly delegate authority to members of the faculty.

Included also were a series of grievances compiled by members of the student body who led the strike.

Young Blasts "Rowdyism"

The accusation that student unruliness was directed, came from H. Albert Young of Wilmington, counsel for Dr. Gregg, who told the board, as it seemed undecided about where to conduct the hearing.

"Dr. Gregg wants the public to hear his refutation of these charges which he denies categorically as various, without foundation and truth. The air should be cleared once and for all.

"But we can't clear the air with the immature rowdyism exhibited here and which was probably planted to stir up just this sort of trouble.

"I say I will not subject Dr. Gregg to the rowdyism in this room.

State Police at Hearing

Judge Melson then ordered a recess while the board considered the next step. This was at 10:45 a.m. A few minutes later, Melson opened the door and announced the hearing would be held at Dover in the State House.

The board chairman said he wanted it understood that he was responsible for the selection of the small room.

When the hearing opened in State House, two State policemen were seated inside the rail, just in front of the trustee board. There was no further trouble, after Judge Melson told the audience he would have anyone ejected who caused a disturbance.

Some 300 persons, the majority of them students, but many citizens from as far distant places as Wilmington, listened to the proceedings.

Maintenance Man Testifies

First witness called by Houston Wilson, Georgetown attorney acting for the Governor was Gilbert Smith, chief maintenance man at the college. It was around Smith's testimony that the State apparently hoped to build a large part of its case.

Questioned by Wilson, the witness said he had constructed four chicken houses on a farm near the school known as the farm property. He said the materials had been transported from town in the school truck, but always when he was on a mission for the school.

Smith said he was not sure who owned the chicken houses which had a capacity of 2,500 chickens each, but that it was his understanding they were operated by the president's son, Howard D. Jr., and a brother-in-law, Nathan Hart.

He testified that when materials were bought they were always charged to Dr. Gregg. Asked why, Smith said neither young Gregg nor Hart were well enough known in town.

Did Work in Off Time

Smith said that he had supervised the plumbing job for an old house on the Jason property. Asked if he had ever been paid for any of the work, he said no, but that he "expected to."

Under cross-examination by Young, considered one of the best trial lawyers in the State, Smith testified that all the work had been done during his free time and during his vacation period.

It was also brought out under cross-examination that the maintenance chief did work for neighboring farmers. He said that two members of his six-man crew that helped him with the chicken houses, also worked on their off time.

Gas, Coal Use Questioned

Over an objection by Young, the State's attorney questioned the amount of gasoline used at the school between Feb. 23 and March 8, 1949.

Pointing out that there were only two keys, one in the custody of Dr. Gregg and the other in Smith's possession, he asked the witness how many gallons had been obtained for administrative purposes "under your key."

Smith said he would estimate roughly "600 gallons." Young asked if the key given to Dr. Gregg was always in his possession. The witness said he couldn't say. "Sometimes," he testified, "the key was left in the office."

Wilson asked if coal to heat the chicken houses was ever brought from the college. Smith replied that this was done only once and that about three or four bushels were brought over.

The person who did it, the witness testified, had not been instructed to do so and acted "on his own."

Property Status Settled

After Smith left the stand, he was followed by a defense witness, William C. Jason Jr. of 641 N. 56th St., Philadelphia, son of a former president of the college.

Jason, a postal worker, testified that the property in question was the estate of his father, now dead, and that he has title to the land in question. He said the property had been leased to Dr. Gregg.

The president had stated he wanted to set his son up in business, Jason said, but he insisted on Dr. Gregg signing the lease because he didn't think the son was legally old enough to do so.

Jason, who was graduated from the school in 1916, said that in his opinion the school has a higher rating than it ever had and that he credited the improvement to Dr. Gregg.

Junior Defends Prexy

The postal worker was followed to the stand by James Scott, 24, of Felton, Del., a junior at the school. Scott said he worked for Dr. Gregg, taking care of the chickens from November, 1948, to February, 1949.

He was paid for this, he asserted, by Hart. Asked his opinion, he said he "thought" Dr. Gregg had an interest in the chickens.

He said that he killed the chickens and on occasions delivered them to the dining room. He knew nothing about the weighing or how they were paid for, he testified.

The poultry was dressed on the farm sometimes and in the dining room sometimes, the witness stated. Asked if he had eaten the chickens served in the dining room, Scott said "yes." Asked if he had noticed any unpleasant odor or taste, he said "no."

One of the charges of the investigating group is that the chickens had not been killed right and that they were not fit for consumption when served.

Farm Produce Charges

On Tuesday, the State called as witnesses, Felmon Motley, a maintenance man, and Herbert Fisher, poultry farm worker at the school.

Montley said he had been promised $350 to work on the chicken house and that he had been paid $75 so far. Fisher was identified as the man who brought the coal to the farm from the school. He said he was not told to do so.

Near the end of the second day the States attorney produced another major witness who testified that Dr. Gregg had over-used the amount of school farm produce he was allotted.

The witness was William R. Winder, director of the agricultural department, who said his records showed a total of $876.14 worth of farm produce had been used by Dr. Gregg from July, 1947, to June, 1948.

The college head was allowed $350.00 worth a year, Winder stated. He admitted under a sizling cross examination that he did not know whether or not Dr. Gregg had paid the difference.

Revenge Testimony Hinted

The president's attorney than asked Winder if his testimony was not prejudiced, because Dr. Gregg had warned him about immorality with women, including a student on the campus.

Winder said "no." His questioner then asked him if it wasn't true that a teacher (named by the attorney) who had been discharged charged he was responsible for her being pregnant.

The witness denied this, and declared, instead, that his differences with Dr. Gregg stemmed from the dismissal of Dr. Thomas Frazier, dean of the college in 1947, and who is now on the faculty at Morgan.

Some Resentment Felt

After the dean was fired, Winder said, the president called him associate with Frazier, who was described as unfriendly to the school and Republicans.

Winder said he resented this and also that Dr. Gregg did not want him to send his child to a school where Frazier's wife taught.

In addition to Judge Melson, other members of the trustee board hearing the charges are Mrs. Beatrice Berryman, Wilmington school teacher, Vice-President Clarence Polk, Samuel N. Culver, Caleb Wright and Earl D. Willey.

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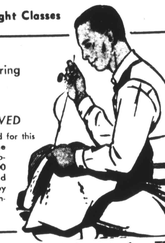

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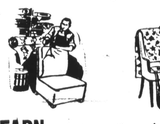

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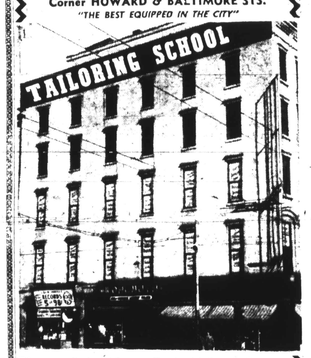

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Some of the city's most outstanding talent have been solicited to furnish amusement and to aid in raising funds for a scholarship for a medical student. The affair is scheduled to be held at the Baltimore Gardens on Easter Monday night.

Prizes for Best Dressed

The best dressed ladies selected from among the audience by the judges, will be awarded prizes. Several games and contests in which the audience may compete for prizes, have been scheduled on the program.

Highlight of the evening will be Smith Thomas and Mrs. Irene Dotson who are to feature ballroom dancing. Mrs. Vera Cole and her troupe are expected to hold forth with creative and interpretative dancing.

Several talented local groups are scheduled to furnish vocal and instrumental music. Models from Valentine's Shop will display the latest in spring and summer fashions.

The Mask and Wig Club of Douglass High School has volunteered its services in helping with refreshments. Dr. Bernard Harris is to be master of ceremonies.

Mrs. Augusta T. Chissell is chairman of the affair, and Mrs. Catherine Adams, president of the organization.

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Chick Webb Center Charm Class

Here are some students of the Charm Class conducted each Saturday afternoon at Chick Webb Recreation Center by Clarence Carter, (left) advertising man. Standing (left to right) are Misses Evelyn McKinnon, Iris Mondoweney and Shirley Newton. Seated (left to right) Misses Joan Simmons, Janet Jettaway, Doris Henson, Shirley Mondoweney, Shirley Roberts and Vivian Lane. Class members not shown are Misses Dorothy Wood and Azilee Daniels.

Among the Baltimore Clubs

ARCH ST. SPORT, CHARITY—Officers elected recently were John Rice, president; Martha Smith, vice president; James Scott, financial secretary; Thomas Young, treasurer; Beatrice Smith, recording secretary.

Tousom R. Scott, assistant secretary; George Hawkins, chaplain; Annie Gross, business manager; Mary Thompson, sergeant-at-arms; Hattie Roberts, marshal; Ida Tilghman, reporter.

Plans were made for a bus excursion to Asbury Park, N.J., on June 26.

GOLDEN GLOW SAVINGS CLUB—met at the home of Mrs. Beatrice Gross recently. After the business session, refreshments were served. Next meeting was to be at the home of Mrs. Lula B. Hunt, 533 N. Carey St. Miss Mary Dursey is president.

JOLLY JAYS SAVINGS— Miss Doris Curtis, vice president, was hostess recently at her home, 1721 N. Franklin St. Other officers are Mrs. Shirley Fox, president; Miss Mary Hall, secretary; Melvin Moore, editor.

LUCKY SEVEN — Mrs. Doris Adams of 818 N. Central Ave. entertained the club on Saturday.

GAY SENORITA—Mrs. Hattie Baker of 807 Pennsylvania Ave. was hostess to the group. Plans were made for a supper, Apr. 22, at the Pride of Baltimore Elks Home. Mrs. Harriet Winder is president.

PROGRESSIVE PARAGONS — Mrs. Emma Johnson, 506 Bethel St., entertained the club last week. Mrs. M. Mattison, 601 Caroline St., was hostess last Tuesday.

NINE EXCLUSIVE — Mrs. Lillian Melvin, 1625 Mosher St., entertained the group last week. Mrs. Dorothy Braxton was given a surprise birthday party after the business session.

Guests were Mrs. Lucy Warden, Ida Johnson, Mildred Mills, Hattie Jackson, Thomas Melvin, James Wise, Virgil Freeman, Charles Price and Thomas Green.

Mrs. Bernice Rubio is president; Mrs. Lillian Melvin, secretary.

HEART TO HEART MISSIONARY CLUB—will meet at the home of Mrs. Odell Blockman, 808 W. Mulberry St. on Thursday, April 7. The club is planning to give a tea. Mrs. Hattie Frierson is president; Mrs. Margaret Wilson, financial secretary; and Mrs. Odell Blockman, recording secretary.

LES FEMMES — met recently with Mrs. Mary Robeson in Cherry Hill. Plans were made for a dinner party to be given on April 30 at the 15 Club Hall, 1360 Calhoun St.

JOY SEEKERS—met on Wednesday with Miss Marie Brittingham at the home of Mrs. Pauline Hood, 1800 Madison Ave. Plans were made for an excursion to Coney Island, New York, in June. Refreshments were served. Officers of the club are Lloyd Croxton, president; Mrs. Iristine Craxton, secretary, and Mrs. Mattie Johnson, business manager.

LEMAC SAVINGS CLUB—organized on March 12 with Lorenza Howard as president. Next meeting is scheduled for March 26 at the home of Mrs. Edna James, 1806 Lorman St.

MARYETTE SAVINGS CLUB—met at the home of Mrs. Sallie Butler on Monday and made plans for a bus trip. Miss Lucille Burley of 304 N. Mount St., will be host to the club next. Mrs. Jeanette Lee is president; Mrs. Viola Jones, chaplain.

WEST BALTIMORE LADIES—met at the home of Mrs. Lillian Wells, treasurer. Reports were made on the social event held on Feb. 18. Octavia Branch is president; Elsie Perry, secretary, and H. Lockom, editor.

Harris New Head of Ushers' Union

Marion S. Harris was recently elected president of the International Usher's Union of Maryland.

Other officers are:

Huntley Bixby, Blanch Garris and William Adams, first, second and third vice-presidents, respectively; Mrs. Lottie Brown, Clarence Wycoff and Elijah Dorsey, recording corresponding and financial secretaries.

T. B. Chase, assistant financial secretary; Mrs. Roberta Savage, Mrs. Annie Sorrell and James Posey, treasurer; advisor and chaplain; Calder Jones, James Kent, James Gaither, marshals.

Mrs. Alice Gray is junior State organizer; and Mrs. Rosie Mc Gowan, acting treasurer.

Association of Clubs Elects New Officers

The Association of Clubs met Friday March 11, at Mt. Olive Hall, 1224 Myrtle Ave. Officers elected were: Virgil Freeman, president; Mrs. Blanche Jeter, vice president; Charles Mason Zod, vice Chaplain; Mrs. Dorothy Braxton, treasurer; Mrs. Mamie West, recording secretary, Miss Margreite Lyles, financial secretary.

Mrs. Robinson

Mrs. Florence Robinson, assistant secretary; Ernest butler, sinking fund treasurer; Mrs. Ida Johnson, business manager; and Mrs. Mildred Henson, sergeant at arms.

Mrs. Lillian Melvin is chairman of the board. Mrs. Blanche Rusk and Mrs. Sarah Collins are board members. Ranking committee members are Charles Collins, Mrs. Beatrice Sollers, David Manning and Ernest Butler. Mrs. Ruby Banks is social editor.

Meetings are held the second Friday in each month.

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Coming Events

(Continued From Page One)

Council of Madison Ave. Presbyterian Church, 2100 Madison Ave. —5 p.m.

Sermon at Emmanuel CC Church, Lanvale St. and Carrollton Ave.; Bishop Alexander P. Shaw, speaker—11 a.m.

Membership meeting of the Northwest Community Council at Emmanuel CC Church; Mrs. Vivian Spragga, speaker—4 p.m.

Meeting of Hampton Alumni Association at the Madison Ave. YWCA—8 p.m.

Monday

Payne Memorial AME Church conference, Lanvale St. and Madison Ave.—8 p.m.

Registration begins for Iota Day Care Center at the Poe Homes, 204 N. Fremont Ave.—2 4 p.m. and 8:30-10:00 p.m.

Tuesday

Weekly meeting of the Frontiers Club at the Druid Hill Branch YMCA; speaker, Dr. Harry C. Byrd, president of the University of Maryland—12:30 p.m.

200 Attend Musical Tea at Lexington St. Center

Over 200 persons crowded the Lexington St. Recreation Center on Sunday attending the musical tea which it sponsored jointly with the Negro History Club of Wheatley Schools Nos. 110 and 110-A.

On the program were the Lexington Singers, the "Polly Pigtails" choral group from Poe Homes and its rhythm band.

Dances, Reading Given

Dance poses were offered by Miss Helen Carroll's group; and dramatic readings, by Meadames Florine Washington and Frances Stafford of the history club, whose members served as hostesses for the affair.

Remarks were made by Mrs. Mae K. Fowlkes, supervisor of the Bureau of Recreation; Samuel Owings, principal of Wheatley Schools; and Christo Walker, director of the Recreation center.

Guests at Tea Listed

Guests included:

Messrs. and Meadames Hanmone Caldwell, James Crowser, Christo Walker, James Wendt, Frank Hill, Clifton Hill, Lawrence Sparks, Henry Ayers.

Meadames Myrtle Millburn, Mae K. Fulkes, Willa Mae Jiggets, Josephine Williams, Laura Hicks, Elisabeth Savage, Pearl A. Tyndall, Vastarte Gladden, Bobby Phillips, Lucetta Jones, Ethel Gaskins, Mae Morgan, Odell Purnell, Ruth Moore, Josephine Dent, Ruth Robinson, Olga Savage, Helen Carroll, Selma West, Stafford, Florine Washington, Rose Hazelton, Virginia Sykes, Allen Morrell, Laura Miller, Eleanor Gough, Dorothea Miles, Mary C. Pierce, Clarine Smith, Celeste Anderson, Etta Lee.

Misses Edith Purnsell, Dorothy Cabins, Dorothy Martin, Helen Etting, Jean Ware, Bertha Carter, Lillian Stewart, Bertha Carter, Mamie Moore, Shaw, Phyllis Clinton, Messrs. Calvin Williams, Jonas Gaines, John Williamson, William Lewis, Thomas M. Boone, Amos Burns, James Hill, Harvey Hunt, Otis Wallace, Shepherd Burge, George Jackson, William Hall, Calvin Roach, Bassett B. Owings, August Milbourne, Lawrence Dixon, William Stafford and Clarence Martin.

Alphas Sponsor Talk on Rights

The Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity of Morgan State College will hold its fourth and final lecture in a series of lectures on Human Rights for the Peoples of the World on Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. in the Morgan Christian Center.

The speaker will be Mike Masaoka, whose subject will be "Human Rights for all Americans."

Mike Masaoka is one of the country's most honored veterans. He was the first person to volunteer for the United States Army's now famous 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the all Japanese American unit.

Editor's Note: In Tuesday AFRO it was stated that the final lecture was held last Sunday. This was an error.

He was appointed in 1941 as national secretary and field executive of the Japanese American Citizens League, a national organization of American citizens of Japanese ancestry and other Americans of good will.

Garnett School No. 103.

The Rev. Reginald Daniels is pastor; Miss Florence A. Dennis, Young Adult Council president.

Girls Choir to Take Part in YAC Affair

The East Baltimore Girl's Choir will be among participants on the "Words and Music" program to be presented at 5 p.m. on Sunday at Madison Ave. Presbyterian Church by its Young Adult Council.

Miss Reba C. Brooks is chairman of the program committee. Participants will include the saxophone choir of the Baltimore Institute of Musical Arts, Oliver Travis, baritone; Miss Marian Seay, pianist; and William T. Cooper, organist of St. Phillips Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.

Elocutionist Also to Speak

Also to be featured will be Miss Edith Howard, elocutionist, who is a senior at Morgan State College, and the choral speaking group of

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