

Alabama closes student government after violence



TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP) — For decades, the way into student government at the University of Alabama has been the Machine, a shadowy collection of white fraternities and sororities highly effective at getting its people elected.

Few people have been able to overcome the power of the Machine, which has backed many student leaders who later made their mark in politics, including a number of congressmen.

Even a leader-to-be like George C. Wallace was no match for it. Wallace, the four-time governor and presidential candidate, ran for a student post in the 1930s without Machine backing and lost.

But after a non-Machine candidate for

student president reported being beaten, administrators shut down the student government.

While school officials say there's no proof the Machine is to blame and leaders of the coalition deny any role, administrators and many students say it's time to start over.

"When the contests are marked by violence, that's just a clear indication that something has to happen," said Harry Knopke, vice president for student affairs.

Minda Riley, a non-Machine candidate for president of the Student Government Association, reported that a man entered her home Sunday night, bruised her cheek, cut her face and told her she was allied with the wrong people.

Two months earlier, a cross was

burned on the lawn of the white student's off-campus house, and threatening notes with the phrase "machine rules" were put in her mailbox and on her door.

This week, the university suspended campus elections set for next week.

"Reform of student government on this campus has my full support," school President Roger Sayers said Tuesday.

Knopke said that for several months, a number of people have made allegations of threats. Although some blame the Machine, a coalition of members of 27 fraternities and sororities, Knopke stopped short of that.

But, he said, "There is an undercurrent involving the so-called Machine, and it

will be discussed."

Riley belongs to Phi Mu sorority, one of 48 Greek organizations at Alabama

and one of those that make up the Machine. But the Machine endorsed a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

"It was an awful thing. Something definitely had to be done about Machine control," said Laura Smith, who is not in a sorority. "Maybe we'll see a difference in campus politics in the future."

Marlon Trone, a member of a non-Machine fraternity, said the administration "should have investigated the situation a long time ago, who's in the SGA, the way it's been run."

ET ALS

MEETINGS

Circle K International will meet tonight at 7:30 in EMU Cedar Room A. For more information, call 484-0989.

Alpha Phi Omega will meet tonight at 7 in EMU Cedar Room F.

EMU Board will have a public hearing on the EMU budget today from 5 to 7 p.m. in Room 159 Straub.

APASU will meet tonight at 6 at the Counseling Center. For more information, call 346-4342.

Students Against MS (SAMS) will meet tonight at 6 in Room 155 Straub. For more information, call 346-8326.

Global Friends will meet today from 3 to 4 p.m. in EMU Century Room C. For more information, call 343-8036.

Southeast Asian Studies will have a brown bag talk on "Institutional Development in Southeast Asia" by Dr. Ed Price today from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in EMU Century Room D. For more information, call 346-1521.

OSPIRG Legislative Watch will meet tonight at 7 in EMU Suite 1. Also, Hunger and Homeless will meet tonight at 7 in EMU Cedar Room B. For more information, call 346-4377.

Unwanted Sexual Behavior International Issue Committee will meet today from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in EMU Century Room C. For more information, call 346-1091.

Graduate School will have a workshop on "Searching for a Job in the Real World: Non-Academic Career Options for Graduate Students" today from noon to 1 p.m. in EMU Cedar Room A. For more information, call 346-2804.

Incidental Fee Committee will have a budget hearing tonight at 6:30 in EMU Century Room A. For more information, call 346-3749.

Honors College Student Community Board will have David Boyes Fireside on "Computer Involvement with Mayan Research" tonight at 7 in Room 303 Chapman.

RELIGION

United Methodist Ministry will meet for Liberation Bible Study on Book of Amos led by Rev. Adele Hustis today from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Also, there will be reading/discussion group on Henri Nouwen's "Life of the Beloved" tonight from 6 to 7. Both events will take place

at Wesley Foundation, 1236 Kincaid St.

MISCELLANEOUS

Career Development Internship Program will have an orientation for spring internships today from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in Room 221 Hendricks. You may sign up for orientation and interviews in Room 247 Hendricks. For more information, call 346-6011.

F.A.C.T. (Federation for the Advancement of Conservative Thought) will meet for planning today at 11:15 a.m. in Room 121 Law.

Student Employment will have a Summer Employment Workshop today from 9 to 10:30 p.m. in Room 12 Hendricks. For more information, call 346-3214.

Rubicon Society will have Jean Tate, co-chairperson of Volunteers for Extension, speak on "What the Lane County Extension Does for Lane County Residents" today at noon at DeFrisco's in the Atrium, 99 West 10th Ave. For more information, call 485-4809.

MOYER THEATRES

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