

Foreign Students Like Meredith

Students from China, Finland, and Panama Compare Their Countries with the U.S.

There are many new students at Meredith this year, but three are exceptional in that they have come from other countries. They are Martha E. Martellari, from Panama, Marjotta Saikkola, from Finland, and Jeanne Tong, from Singapore.

Martha Martellari has close ties with our vicinity because her mother is from Dunn, and her father went to George Washington University.

The climate of the Republic of Panama is much different from ours. They have no spring or fall, and their summers are much hotter than ours. Schools run from May until January because of the humid, rainy winter.

In Panama girls are not allowed to go anywhere alone with a boy unless they are engaged. A relative who acts as a chaperone must always be present. Martha described how mothers and grandmothers would go with their daughters to dances and sit around the room while they danced watching them.

Most of their movies have Spanish titles but there are also many French, Italian, and German pictures. Panama has no television yet, but hopes to have it soon. Swimming is one of the favorite sports because of the climate, and bowling is well liked.

The population of the Republic of Panama has not reached a million yet, but has almost reached that number. Spanish is the spoken language, but about 90 per cent of the people can also speak English. About 95 per cent of the people are Catholic.

Martha has traveled over Central America and Europe and is not new in the U. S. With a major in business, she hopes to get a job with an Insurance Company in Panama.

Marjotta Saikkola is our foreign student from Finland. She plans to teach English and German in her homeland after college. Already she knows Finish, Swedish, Latin, some Italian and French, and is now taking Spanish.

Here, Marjotta said, our schools teach more racial subjects, while in Finland, languages are the main curriculum. There are no residential schools in Finland, therefore, Meredith is completely new and strange to her. However, she likes the U. S. and our school system very much. In Finland the people are much quieter than here. We are inclined to be gay and lively.

Marjotta was surprised at the amount of make-up worn by American girls. In Finland, school girls are not allowed to use make-up. Also she said girls were older when they started dating in her homeland.

There the holidays are much as



Enjoying a chat by the fountain are Marjotta Saikkola, Martha Martellair and Jeanne Long.

ours. Christmas includes Santa Claus, a big dinner, and almost always snow. School is out for almost a month for this occasion.

When asked about recreation Marjotta replied that it was much as in the U. S. The theater and ballet shows are favorite forms of amusement, and dance music can be heard at almost any time.

There are not enough school buildings in Finland. They are being built, but at the present only about 60 per cent of the youth can go to high school.

Jeanne Tong from Singapore has been in the U. S. since the summer of 1953. Last year she went to San Francisco College for women in San Francisco, California.

Originally from Shanghai, Jeanne left in 1946 just before the Communists entered. Her home now is in Singapore.

Singapore has but one University and they refuse to recognize a graduate of a Chinese high school at this University.

Jeanne says that the American girls are more sociable and independent than the Chinese. The Chinese girls are prone to be shy and un-talkative. She had much to learn when she came to the U. S. Having had servants at home, Jeanne had to learn to iron, make beds and do many other chores that she had never done.

In China the climate is much as in the U. S., but Singapore has a tropical climate. New Year's Eve is celebrated one month later than

here, but Christmas is much the same.

Movies and badminton are favorite forms of recreation in Singapore. Jeanne is unsure about the future, but she may go back to teach with a major in Home Economics.

MEREDITH WE'RE HERE

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you literally fly out of class at 1:00 to scramble for another line in order to put that recital to an end. In the lunch line, while upperclassmen are reading movie magazines, we are loyally studying the "Alma Mater." But of course we could just learn that in our spare time.

Now that we have been here for some time, things have more or less fallen into routine (mostly less). We have discovered that the professors do not bite (at least between meals), and there are a few times a year when one can work into one's schedule an afternoon in town or a ballgame. We have realized too late that we should have brought a fold-up cot from home for those who spend rather late hours in the library. Most of our families have been up at least once, only to swim home in our homemade floods. We have learned that mail plays a very important part in our lives (as we hear one girl speaking tenderly of her lover, "I'm going to kill him if he doesn't write . . .").

Yes, our first days at Meredith have been trying ones, and maybe they included some of these thoughts and ideas; but for the sake of your beloved hide, don't tell it, Nellie, or you'll get shipped.

WHERE MEREDITH AND STATE MEET

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Hark, the Angels Sing

Leah Scarborough, Music Editor

A new semester always brings to Meredith many new faces, and to the music building it brings new voices and sounds that soon blend into the medley of organ, piano, and voice practice. We are happy to welcome twenty-three freshman music majors and eight transfers. Of these, eight are majoring in piano, seven in voice, seven in organ, and nine in music education.

Do you remember the excellent Chamber Music concerts of last year presented in the Meredith auditorium? Two of the groups appearing last year will return this year, the Budapest String Quartet and the New Art Wind Quintet. Student tickets for this Chamber Music Series are now available for \$2 from Mrs. Phyllis Garriss in room 111 of the music building. The program for this year includes the following groups: Duke Chamber Orchestra, October 23; Quintetto Boccherini, November 20; Budapest String Quartet, January 29; New Art Wind Quintet, February 26. These con-

certs offer a form of enjoyment not to be found elsewhere in Raleigh.

As we enter a new musical year—the last here for some of us and perhaps the first year of a musical career for others—I leave with you a thought expressed by Charles Kingsley in the hope that when you think music has ceased to be celestial, you may think of these words:

"There is something very wonderful in music. Words are wonderful enough: but music is even more wonderful. It speaks not to our thoughts as words do: it speaks straight to our hearts and spirits, to the very core and root of our souls. Music soothes us, stirs us up; it puts noble feelings in us; it melts us to tears, we know not how:—it is a language by itself, just as perfect, in its way, as speech, as words; just as divine, just as blessed. Music has been called the speech of angels; I will go further, and call it the speech of God Himself."

GIRLS FIND EUROPE

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Europe will return with a greater awareness of God. After you have lived through a storm at sea you will realize the insignificance of man, and as you view the natural beauties of Europe you will be drawn closer to the Almighty. My feelings are well expressed in a prayer I read in St. Paul's Cathedral in London.

"Heavenly Father, as we view the many beauties of Thy universe, help us to look beyond these earthly things and see Thee. For it was written long ago, 'Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: Thou shall see the land which is afar off.'"

REGISTRAR RELEASES

(Continued from page one)

Roberts, Nina Ruppelt, Alstine Salter, Leah Scarborough, Ellen Scofield, Jo Ann Selley, Betty Louise Smith, Dorothy Elizabeth Smith, Effie Sneedden, Mary Olive Spivey, Barbara Leigh Stanley, Mary Louise Stephens.

Evelyn Taylor, Shirley Taylor, Phyllis Lou Tribble, Margaret Tucker, Mary Ellen Upchurch, Rebekah Upchurch, Elizabeth Vance, Celia Wells, Shirley West, Adair Whisenunt, Barbara White, Dorothy White, Rebecca Wicker, Hortense Wiggs, Janis Elizabeth Witherington, Carolyn Marie Wood, Ada Lou Worth, Nancy Young.



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