

# Speaking Out

By MARGARET HALL

Have you ever screamed "We're going to win Cornhuskin!" until you were red in the face and not felt the least bit embarrassed about exhibiting the abandon of a ten-year-old maniac rather than the sedate countenance of a young woman?

Have you ever romped around the athletic field with professors on Play Day and been shocked by the knowledge that deans laugh, the president plays softball, several male members are surprisingly adept at hopscotch, and that even people with doctorates sometimes win three-legged races?

(If you answered no to either of the above questions, then you definitely need to read the following article.)

As the school year begins, one hears various resolutions and reflections coming from all directions on the campus. "This year I'm really going to buckle down and hit the books," is one determined exclamation. "Shut up and deal!" an old friend shouts back over the blare of a hi-fi.

From another direction comes the remorseful statement, "Last year I stayed too close to my studies. I really didn't get to know many people. I know I should have helped with Cornhuskin' but THEY didn't seem to need me and, besides, I had a quiz that week."

Across campus another one-sided discussion sounds something like this: "You would not even believe how wonderful John is! He says he's coming to see me every weekend. I guess by the time I study, watch all the soap operas, and write him every day, I won't have much time for extras this year."

From this random sampling of Meredith voices do you hear anything that sounds familiar? Yes, I should imagine that everyone on this campus could have expressed one or more of these sentiments at one time or another. Of course studying is important. And certainly a little relaxation around a bridge table or in front of a TV is essential for keeping one's sanity when college life begins to seem like an unending academic rat-race. And heaven forbid our leaving the male sex out of the picture!

But whatever your main interest at the moment—whether it be books, bridge, or boys, may I urge you to find time in your years at Meredith to participate in student government,

# What Is a Beauty Pageant?

By BETH KING

A beauty pageant is many things—smiles, interviews, press conferences, butterflies, and more smiles. These are the experiences of Beverly Scarborough and Tina Lutz, who represented their home towns in the Miss North Carolina pageant held this summer in Greensboro.

For their beauty, figures, talents, and poise they were selected by the panel of five judges as semi-finalists.

Beverly's reaction to being named one of the top ten contestants was excitement—in fact, she was so overcome that she had no immediate thoughts.

By Saturday night, performing on stage had become routine. Beverly's talent consisted of a piano arrangement, society, and club activities.

Every year the same complaints about student apathy are aired. There always have been and perhaps there always will be people in this school who never take time to vote in an election, or dress-up for Cornhuskin', or get splattered with paint while making sets for Stunt. Others may think Christmas caroling childish and Religious Emphasis Week a shameful waste of time.

I can well understand how such attitudes sometimes develop. How can one expect students to get excited about activities in which they have never taken part? But whose fault is this? The blame sometimes may lie with the leaders who do not encourage different people to participate in various activities, or it may lie with students who always have excuses when they are asked to participate. Also there are many times during the year when lists are posted asking students to sign up for the committee on which they would most enjoy working, but these lists hang for weeks with few names. Others cannot be expected to know all one's interests or her talents, so why not volunteer for what you would like to do most and see how it feels to substitute WE for THEY!

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The purpose of this column is to allow members of the student body, faculty, or administration to speak out on issues which are pertinent to the Meredith community. Any person who wishes to express his opinion on campus issues or national or international affairs is asked to submit material to the editor.)

ment of Chopin's "Polonaise," "Autumn Leaves," and the "Maple-Leaf Rag."

Before going to the coliseum for Saturday night's performance, Tina checked her mail box. To her surprise and dismay the tape of "Snowfall" by Billy Vaughan to which she danced had been returned. When named a semi-finalist, all Tina could think about was, "How will I dance without music?"

This was easily explained: a master tape of all the music needed had been made. The next obstacle to her performance occurred when she began to dance on the stage. Concentrating so hard on the middle section of the routine, Tina forgot the first part! Ad-libbing, her memory returned and she gracefully completed her talent presentation.

Have you ever walked in front of thousands of people in a bathing suit? Tina, having mastered the art, won first place in the swimsuit competition for her group.

One of the main differences between the local and state pageants, according to Beverly, was that on stage in Greensboro the lighting was so arranged that one could see the audience. "You know," she said, "it's much easier to smile at a face than at a void of blackness!"

As for impressing the judges, Beverly succeeded in tripping over one of the female judges and landing in her lap in a hallway after an evening on stage.

Chosen as one of the top five finalists, Tina was asked this question: "Since you are a religion and sociology major, if you could witness one great religious event in history, which one would you choose?"

Her choice was the coming of Jesus Christ. As she answered her question, Tina said, "It didn't feel like me talking at all." Being named fourth runner-up, she received a trophy and scholarship.

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