

# "Help Overcome Prison Environment Is MCA Project Goal

The MCA has recently added to its list of activities Project H.O.P.E., a special ministry to the residents of the North Carolina Correctional Center for Women. The name of the project and its meaning, "Help Overcome Prison Environment," came from one of the center's women, demonstrating the mutual awareness of the need for such a project by both the girls at Meredith and the residents at the center.

According to Brenda Upchurch, the project's head, the aim of Project H.O.P.E. is "to bring as many honor-grade women as we can to Meredith's campus for fun, recreation, and refreshments." The group meets every Tuesday evening in the Hut from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m., unless something special is planned. The women are brought in cars, and the number of participants from the center ranges from 23 to 32 women each week. The ages of the visiting women vary, usually providing a cross-section of the center's residents, whose ages range from 16 to 78 years.

The usual activity centers around music and refreshments in the Hut. But the women also attend Meredith events such as the "Merchant of Venice" production and the Student-Faculty basketball game. On March 28, the MCA held an Easter party and egg hunt here on campus for the women. Future plans include a spring tour of Raleigh ending here on campus in the amphitheater and a wrap-up picnic with the women who have attended the project. But as Brenda noted, the music provided in the Hut remains the favorite activity, as at the center they are not allowed to play radios without earphones.

Although the project started March 14, planning began last September with Mrs. Juanita Baker, superintendent of the center. Miss Ann Peaden, the MCA advisor, has taken a very active part in Project H.O.P.E. and assisted with the initial planning. Cooperation between the center and the girls of the MCA has been evident from the start.

Recently Mrs. Baker wrote Brenda,

thanking the MCA on behalf of the center's residents for Project H.O.P.E. According to her letter, the women in the center were getting along better among each other with much less tension. The women were also trying harder to be good residents during the week so that they will be able to attend the meeting, for Mrs. Baker said that the project was the main topic of conversation among the center's residents.

That Project H.O.P.E. has meant a great deal to the women is evident from what they say and do. They have begun to speak of Meredith as "our school," and disappointment is keen when one cannot attend the project. On leaving the cars at the center, the women continually hug and thank Brenda for the meetings. One woman looks on Project H.O.P.E. as the answer to her prayers for the nine years she has been at the center. Others can hardly believe the experience is real. When one woman remarked in the Hut, "I feel like I'm dreaming!" another replied, summing up the feelings of the women, "If it's a dream, honey, you better hope you never wake up."

# Alaskan Senator Mike Gravel Sends Anti-War Plea to College Campuses

Dear Editor:

On March 23, 1972, I introduced in the Senate legislation to halt immediately further U. S. bombing in Indochina and to require the total withdrawal of all U. S. military and paramilitary (e.g. CIA) personnel from Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos within 30 days after enactment.

The U. S. air war over Indochina has escalated steadily during the past several months, in direct contradiction of President Nixon's public assertions that the war continues to wind down. Due to public pressure American ground troops are slowly coming home, but they are leaving an automated war behind. Computer technology and a small number of troops manning aircraft and artillery are creating a U. S. destructive presence that may literally hover over Southeast Asia at all times because the planes are based in Thailand and on aircraft carriers in the Gulf of Tonkin.

At the same time that the President is stepping up the bombing, he is imposing ever more serious strictures on the release of information about the air war. Newsmen have never been allowed to go out

on bombing raids outside of Vietnam, and all information about the air war except gross tonnages and sorties has been kept from the public by classifying it secret. Official statistics released on the air war are now more bare-bones than ever, and press briefings are designed to accentuate the positive rather than provide hard facts on the continuing U. S. role in the war. Most recently, for the first time since bombing of North Vietnam began eight years ago, the U. S. Command in Saigon refused to give out figures on the number of planes flying missions in the North.

In the face of this news blackout on the air war I want to encourage you, as the editor of your school's newspaper, to provide your readers with candid information on this issue, and thus to join me in this election year to force an end to the war. Students have been leaders in pointing out the tragedy and mistake of Vietnam, and their help will now be vital in turning out of office those politicians who will not join us in ending the war.

I hope that those Americans throughout the country who are concerned about the immorality of the war will attend political meetings wherever there is a candidate, and ask him this very simple question: "How do you stand on ending the war?" If the candidate does not stand for ending the war as provided in my simple and clear proposal, then I hope the American people will not vote for him, for he does not deserve to occupy a high position in the government of this country.

S. 3409 now has fifteen cosponsors in the Senate, and identical legislation introduced in the House of Representatives is supported by 44 members of that body.

If you need further information on the legislation, please contact my office or the National Student Lobby, which is coordinating efforts on behalf of this bill within the student community.

Sincerely,

SENATOR MIKE GRAVEL  
(Dem.-Alaska)

# H.E.L.P. Aids Black Children

Healthy Environment for Little People, familiarly identified as Project HELP, will be sponsored again at Meredith during June 5-July 28. Children from ages 6-13 living in the Method Housing Development, a low income black community, will take part in the summer day camp. The program is under the direction of Mr. Don Songer.

Camp activities will be organized on a small group basis, with eight or nine campers under the guidance of one counselor throughout the day, from 9:00 until 3:00.

Activities will be carried out by a staff including four Meredith students: Leary Davis, Jenifer Miller, Celeste Till, and Cathy White. Three males, two high school students and one man supported by the Baptist State Convention, will also serve on the staff.

It is hoped that this year's Project HELP will expand to an eight week camp session with a capacity for sixty campers. Fund raising efforts for \$4,800 needed to support this expansion are underway. \$3,200 have been pledged so far. Meredith students and faculty are asked to contribute to Project HELP.

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