

THE TWIG

MEREDITH



COLLEGE

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Letter from Johnson Hall

Gratitude and goodbyes

To My Meredith Angels:

I have been overwhelmed for the past several days with your marvelous letters and other gestures of friendship and I leave Meredith with a grateful heart.

For the past 11 years, you

have been my reason for being. You have been the purpose of my work here and I have thoroughly enjoyed all of you. It is often said that he who serves youth, serves well. I who have been served by youth, have found a fulfillment beyond mere

words.

With sincere appreciation for these Meredith years, I again thank you for permitting me to share your wonderfully glorious zany life. With you I have grown.

Fondly,
Mrs. Thatcher

SREB appoints task force on quality of education

ATLANTA--Donald J. Stedman, acting vice president for research and public service programs for the University of North Carolina General Administration, has been appointed by Governor Bob Graham of Florida, chairman of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), to a 17-member task force that will recommend priorities to help the 14 Southern states forge closer links between schools and colleges.

In his invitation to government and education officials to serve on the SREB Task Force on Higher Education and the Schools, Governor Graham said: "Closer collaboration is needed between colleges and school systems to address certain areas of mutual concern. Examples of such areas are the preparation of teachers, their continuing education, and articulation between the secondary and postsecondary schools in vocational education and education of the talented."

The nation's oldest interstate compact for higher education, SREB has made numerous studies of teacher manpower trends and of changes in teacher education

and certification. At its meeting last month, the SREB Executive Committee asked Governor Graham to appoint the task force, in light of growing concern for the quality of education at all levels.

The task force will be chaired by Kenneth H. MacKay, Jr., an attorney from Ocala, Florida, who was instrumental in developing educational legislation in Florida in the 1970s. The group is composed of elected public officials, representatives of state boards of education and of higher education agencies, leaders of teacher education programs, and elementary and secondary school officials.

The group will meet during the next six months to draw up the priorities statement in time for consideration at the Board's annual meeting in late June. The statement will include a dual agenda of questions requiring further investigation by states and the SREB staff and of actions that states could take immediately to address specific problems. The topics the task force will consider include:

+ How can more math and science teachers be attracted

to the high schools to reduce current shortages of instructors in these fields?

+ Has there been too much specialization by fields in the certification of teachers, leading to a dilution of the basic elementary and secondary school curriculum?

+ Are tighter admissions standards to schools of education leading to better qualified teachers? Are minimum competency tests working to improve overall teacher quality?

+ Are current in-service efforts effective in improving the skills of already practicing teachers?

+ Is vocational education in the high school adequate for students who may never go beyond that level of education? How can coordination between high schools and vocational-technical institutes and-or community colleges be increased?

+ What amount of coordination is there between high school and college curriculum? What is the role of the colleges and of the high schools in teaching basic skills? What are the basic academic skills that might be expected at a minimum from a high school education?

From the editor

A humorous God

Last Monday a week ago, Meredith College was entertained by Christian humorist Grady Nutt in a special 10 o'clock convocation which served to kick-off Religious Emphasis Week. Grady (somehow "Mr. Nutt" does not seem quite appropriate) was a roaring success, as any member of the attentive and appreciative audience, who probably left Jones Auditorium in stitches, will be willing to vouch. I myself came away completely refreshed with a slightly different outlook on leading a Christian life.

As a Methodist in a Baptist College, I especially appreciated some of the slightly colored barbs Grady made. At one point, he was telling us about the church he grew up in: "the pot holes in the parking lot were so big that you could baptize in them. Of course, the Methodists just need a crack in the sidewalk." Grady did not leave the Baptists untainted either. Trying to prove that God has a sense of humor, he commented, "After all, he created Baptists." I loved it.

Grady's message was conveyed through examples as well as his speech, for Grady tried to show us that just as God has a sense of humor, we, too, as Christians, can and should have a sense of humor. He took the story of Abraham from the Bible and made a hilarious tale of the ordeal showing how God and Abraham both had a sense of humor. Particularly amusing was Grady's use of the Biblical phrase "I know not of"; God lead Abraham to the place "I know not of" through the valley "I know not of" and up the mountain "I know not of." Throughout, God kept His sense of humor and Abraham his faith.

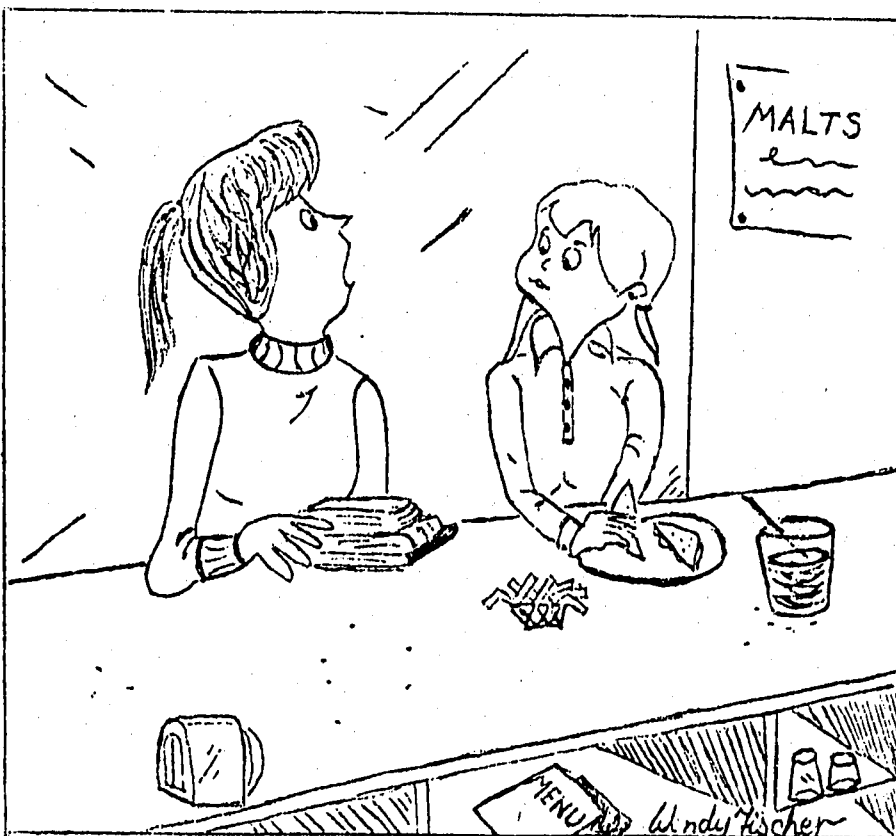
In contrast to Grady's message, this week I read James Joyce's novel *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, which included pages and pages of hellfire and brimstone sermonizing which I heard more than once as a little girl during revivals (yes, we Methodists have those) or at summer camp. Quite a contrast indeed was this view of an angry God to Grady's portrayal of God with a sense of humor.

Personally, I think that, although the thought of an angry God who will damn all evil souls to hell may scare more people into salvation, the image of a kind, loving, even humorous, God is more apt to foster an atmosphere of Christian love, growth, and fellowship. And the latter atmosphere is that which is more often found in the Meredith community. Christianity is not forced on students, but many faculty members and students set Christian examples. Also, growth groups, Bible studies, and Christian fellowship are easily found. Meredith should be proud of this atmosphere. I, with many other students, am appreciative.

D. B.

The TWIG needs reporters and layout staff for both part-time and full-time help. Anyone interested, please contact Sonya Ammons (832-9948) or Deborah Bartlett (821-7027).

ANGEL



Homework must be getting tougher. It took me twenty commercials to get it done last night!