



Official Organ of The Student Body of Meredith College

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EDITORIALS

It appears that the whole student body is talking of leaving Meredith! But, of course, commencement is only around the corner.

The word which seems to be in constant use among certain groups on the campus is "Kant." It's too late now, girls! There are only four more weeks.

The teachers must be pleased at the rapidity with which the students are at work again after a holiday. It seems that they recover more quickly at Easter than they ordinarily do.

ORIGIN AND OLD CUSTOMS OF MAY-DAY

The May-Day festival is one of the oldest of which we have any record. Most authorities maintain that this festival originated with the Druids.

In their worship of the god Bel the Druids made immense fires upon the cairns on May first, making merry with song and dance.

The Romans welcomed the first of May with a joyful celebration, and there is reason to believe that this festival is of a more ancient origin than we find recorded.

It is also thought that the May-Day festival is identical with the Phallic festival of India and Egypt, which in those countries took place upon the sun entering Taurus, to celebrate nature's return to fertility.

Whatever its origin may have been, it grew out of the natural joy and ecstasy of the masses welcoming spring and its beauty after a long winter. The very nature of the festival suggests a people joyous and happy at the passing of winter.

The fact that May-Day has been always the favorite festival of the European peasantry, who would be the people to suffer most the hardships of winter, seems to bear out this contention.

In England the May festival was one of the greatest and most

important events of the year. A time of great revelry and rejoicing, when a king and queen were chosen to preside over the gay peasant dances. Green, being regarded as a symbol of rebirth, was used for decorations.

It became customary in the fifteenth century for the royal family to have a May-Day dinner served in the woods, and another old custom which was popular for a long time was to wish one's friends "A Merry May," just as we say "Merry Christmas!"

The ancients believed that May first was the boundary day between summer and winter, and that on this day a war took place between the two seasons to determine which would prevail.

It became a tradition to stage a mock war between two people representing summer and winter, and somehow summer always managed to win and was promptly crowned King of the May.

In triumph he held aloft green branches decorated with May flowers and sang an old folk song the thought of which seemed to have been, "I have won, I bring you summer."

The branches and flowers were later interpreted as the May pole. At first a young tree was cut down and decorated with ribbons and flowers. This was set up in the village and everyone danced around it.

The Druids, incidentally, worshipped the tree, and it is possible that the May pole originated with them.

Long before the time of Charles I of England the tree had given way to the pole. Huge poles were planted, decorated gaily with green and flowers. Long streamers were attached to the top, and each dancer held on proudly to his or her ribbon.

In America May-Day was never popular. A Puritan preacher is quoted as saying, "If Moses was angry when he saw the people dance around a golden calf, well may we be angry to see our people dancing about a post."

Even now we think of it as a celebration belonging only to the schools and colleges, when the prettiest or most popular girl is elected queen.

There are a number of interesting old May-Day superstitions. One is that to bathe one's face in dew before sunrise on May morning is to have an excellent complexion. Even Queen Catherine and her ladies in waiting "went out to seek the May-Day dew bath."

An Irish superstition was to go forth at sunrise on May-Day, gaze down into a well, and see the reflection of one's lover, making a wish. This superstition extended to Scotland, and wishing wells were built.

From all these customs and traditions a beautiful festival has come down through the years which we hope may always be cherished and celebrated with simplicity and joy.

BUSY?

What a mad whirl is ahead! Already everyone seems to be always absorbed in last-minute preparations for something. The

play, "Lady Windermere's Fan," is to be given Saturday night. May-Day comes Tuesday, May 6, and after that it seems that the calendar is entirely filled with various sorts of activities. And not so far away loom exams! The senior exams are only three weeks away, and after that week, the rush of commencement begins. Practices of all sorts are in progress at odd moments, and everyone is collecting costumes and accessories. What fun it is to be in the midst of it all!

SPRING PEP

Spring, with all its verdure and freshness, has brought with it an attendant spirit of renewed activities here at Meredith. The rush of the last few weeks of school has begun again! The gym has been the scene of busy preparations for that most lovely of spring festivals, which is almost here — May-Day. The classes are vying with one another to prepare dances worthy of presentation before the Queen of the May. The sophomores have begun practicing for the important event of carrying the daisy chain, their final tribute to their big sisters. The seniors themselves, blissfully aware of the glory of "senior privileges," and realizing, too, that the end is fast approaching, are bustling about, rounding up last-minute details of studies and social duties. The splendor of spring, the seriousness of study, the sense of gratitude for the successes of the past year, fill all our hearts. And over it all is the mingled feeling of love and gratitude and loyalty for our Alma Mater.

Track Season Closes With Class Meet Sat.

The track season will close with an inter-class track meet Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock. This will include contests in broad jump, high jump, hurdles, hundred-yard dash, javelin and discus throws. Although track is an entirely new sport at Meredith, it has been met with an unusual amount of enthusiasm, and Saturday will be one of the big events of the athletic year.

Tryouts in tennis singles began this week, and the tournaments will be played in the near future. Baseball equipment has arrived, and although it is too late in the season to organize regular teams, those who wish to play may go out each night after dinner.

Miss Iden Discusses Field of Journalism

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special branches of newspaper work which often prove attractive to girls aside from the regular work of a reporter and city editor. The advertising department and the activities of the social editor or feature-story writer hold opportunities in this line. Special feature photography also offers interesting work.

Miss Iden's presentation of her profession gave evidence that she has experienced the genuine call of printer's ink, and placed this work in a new light as a definite calling for the consideration of college girls.

New B. S. U. Officers

Accept Office Regalia

(Continued from page one)

candles unlighted, marched down the left. They took their places on the stage in two semicircles. After the reading from memory of the Sermon on the Mount by Vida Miller, Dr. J. B. Turner, pastor of the Hayes-Barton church, led in prayer.

Marguerite Mason, president of the B. S. U., told of the work of the B. S. U. this year and challenged the incoming officers to live up to the ideals and carry on the purpose of the organization. She placed the regalia on the new B. S. U. president, Mary Currin, and lighted Mary's candle, saying, "Even as I have received the light, so give I it unto you." After Marguerite's light had been extinguished, Mary responded, "Even so do I receive the light and shall endeavor to keep it burning." She said that she accepted the regalia of office and the light of service "as a sacred trust, a welcome responsibility, and a joyous privilege," adding that she would have to depend upon the cooperation of all and the "strengthening hand of our Heavenly Father." Then she lighted the candles of the general B. S. U. officers.

Alma Dark, incoming president of the Home Service Band, sang, "I Would Be Thine," after which the presidents of the unit organizations handed over their regalias and lights to the new officers, following the same formula as the general officers used.

Rev. E. Gibson Davis, pastor of the Tabernacle Baptist Church, delivered the challenge to the newly installed officers, emphasizing the seriousness and the sacredness of the trust which had been placed in their hands. After this the officers sang, "Take My Life," as a consecration hymn, and then marched out singing, "Follow the Gleam."

The newly elected general officers of the B. S. U. and its unit organizations are:

President of B. S. U., Mary Currin; first vice-president, Vida Miller; second vice-president, Kathleen Young; secretary, Oregon Bostick; treasurer, Nelda Wilson; publicity director, Prue Choate.

Director of Sunday School Department, Sarah Elizabeth Jenkins; associate director, Anne Harris; secretary, Annette Donavant.

President of Y. W. A., Mary Lee; vice-president, Elizabeth Stevens; secretary, Bessie Lee Rogers.

Director of B. Y. P. U. Department, Velma Preslar; associate director, Georgia Cowan; secretary, Gertrude Bostic; pianist, Lucille Hamby; chorister, Alma Dark; "pep" leader, Pat Abernethy; reporter, Mae Campbell.

Leader of Home Service Band, Alma Dark; assistant leader, Arline Daniels; secretary, Minwal Cates.

Leader of Foreign Service Band, Lucile Ward; assistant leader, Norma Lee Phelps; secretary, Rachel Price.

Manager of B-Hive, Pearl Hodges.

Retiring heads of organizations are: President of B. S. U., Marguerite Mason; director of Sunday School Department, Emma Hartsell; director of B. Y. P. U., Ruth Preslar; president of Y. W. A., Kathleen Durham; leader of Home Service Band, Mabel Beeker; leader of Foreign Service Band, Gladys Blaylock; manager of B-Hive, Elizabeth Apple.

"Watch me shake this thing," said the elephant, coming to a suspension bridge. — Wisconsin Octopus.

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