

**"FIGHT POLIO"**

The story of Franklin D. Roosevelt's battle with polio and his rise to world leadership in a wheelchair is already a part of history. The story of the fight of countless other polio victims is not history; it is a part of the present. It is, in fact, so real today that you yourself know someone who has been stricken with the disease.

Poliomyelitis hits all ages, all racial, social, and economic groups, killing eight per cent of its victims and crippling forty-two per cent of them. One of America's greatest scourges, polio, is also one of the world's most expensive diseases to treat. Four out of five who are stricken cannot afford the treatment needed for their recovery.

During the month of January, you will be asked to contribute to the annual fund-raising campaign for polio treatment, the March of Dimes. You will want to give generously because you will recall having seen a child walking with braces, a young woman in a wheelchair, a picture of an old man in an iron lung. You will want to give a little more when you remember that polio knows no boundaries; it may strike someone very close to you.

**NO CUTS EXCUSED HERE**

The words of the popular song, "Don't do something to someone else that you wouldn't want done to you," might well apply to a common practice here on our campus.

Some of us go to the dining hall with the intention of finding a friend in the front of the line and then boldly step into place. Or, worse than that, there is the practice of one person going down to the dining hall early and saving places for as many as a dozen other girls. No wonder the line never seems to move!

The next time you start to step in front of someone, look at the end of the line, think how long the others have been waiting, remember that they are in just as big a hurry as you are. Then go to the end of the line and wait your turn.



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The Twig is the college newspaper of Meredith College, Raleigh, North Carolina, and as such is one of the three major publications of the institution—the other two being *The Acorn*, the literary magazine, and *The Oak Leaves*, the college annual. Meredith College is an accredited senior liberal arts college for women located in the capital city of North Carolina. It confers the Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Music degrees. The college offers majors in twenty-one fields including music, art, business and home economics. Since 1921 the institution has been a member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. The college holds membership in the Association of American Colleges and the North Carolina College Conference. Graduates of Meredith College are eligible for membership in the American Association of University Women. The institution is a liberal arts member of the National Association of Schools of Music.

**DIET CHANGES WELCOMED**

During this school year, Meredith has undergone many changes. Among these is a very recent one that has not gone unnoticed by a single Meredith girl. I am referring to our new dietician—Miss Mabel Gladin.

For the few weeks that Miss Gladin has been with us the differences in our daily menus have been quite apparent. We no longer go to the dining hall, sit down to eat, and gripe about the food. The conversation has shifted to the pleasanter topic of how attractive the food is, and how much better prepared.

And we do appreciate these changes! Isn't it nice to read the menu for the day? (In case you haven't noticed this menu yet, it is posted on the cafeteria bulletin board.) Also, in the food department, we no longer have one lone bean drowning in our "vegetable" soup. Now our soup is less "soup" and chocked full of vegetables. The salads have also undergone a change. We now have a bigger variety; and they all look so pretty, that it is hard to choose among them.

Everyone realizes that living in a school community like Meredith, it is impossible to expect "home cooking" every day. Food is too expensive now to permit the purchase of many foods in great amounts. Then, too, it is impossible to please everyone. Also, it is Meredith's responsibility to include the necessary vitamins and calories in our diet that are needed for the school day.

**COLLEGE WOMEN AND WORLD SECURITY**

"The Marines have landed and have the situation well in hand!" That quotation can apply here at Meredith as well as any other place, as evidenced by the new paint job on the water tower.

Can we omit that word *marines* and supply *college women* and have it mean the same in application to the present world situation? The college woman has the opportunity to apply her knowledge in the political field but often doesn't for various reasons, and by these reasons indicates a lack of interest in issues which affect the entire public.

The January copy of *Mademoiselle* issues a challenge to today's college women in its article "Have College Women Let Us Down?" It says in substance that young women of the present day want security but have no burning desire to work for causes and movements to promote it.

"In a nation in which security has become an obsession," the author, Howard Mumford Jones, says, "the result is, naturally enough, that kind of genteel self-absorption, that waning of civic spirit characteristic of the present generation of young American girls in college." Nor has this girl "the foggiest suspicion of the truth that to maintain the security she takes for granted, she may have to do something more about it than she does."

"She wants a job but not a career. She wants a white-collar husband, but also a ranch house, 'interesting' neighbors, and an income of \$10,000 a year ten years after college. She gets her lessons without applying her mind. She is not one whit interested in the world around her in modern art, literature, music or philosophy."

The changing world, dominated by the atom bomb, has caused the college girl to become pessimistic and confused, but still unwilling to act in its behalf. Mr. Jones feels that the only way for the individual girl to clear up her confusion is by working for those things which she still believes are basically right. He goes on to say that "neither the nation nor the colleges can live indefinitely in negativism."

Are we as college students preparing ourselves to take a leading part in public issues or will we, when the time comes, sit back and wait for someone else to do the thing which we could have done so much more efficiently? It is vitally important to the high standing of our nation that we be interested, informed, and then take an active part.

**Letters to the Editor**

Dear Editor:

There are a couple of matters which I think should be brought to the attention of the student body as a whole.

The first of these concerns the recent scare about George. Everyone has played the game of "Gossip" and has seen how a little thing can be expanded into some monstrous tale, so there is no need for me to say that rumors grow as they travel. But, I would like to say that, on good authority, George isn't out to harm any of us and that every precaution is being taken for our personal safety.

I can't say that I haven't been scared also, because it wouldn't be true. However, plausible explanations have been pointed out to me about the rumored journeys of George throughout the dorms and perhaps others would appreciate hearing them, too. Mr. Martin, our night watchman, in making his rounds sometimes goes through the first floor halls using his flashlight to light the way. An explanation for the George who goes walking through early in the morning is that some of the people who work in the dining hall and the post office often have to be at their places quite early and can't help the sounds that come from walking past the door of an only half-wakened student.

You see, the people who told me George was in the building hadn't actually seen a stray male wandering around, they just heard him. Still, I got scared and I guess quite a few other people were equally as scared as I.

Then there is that matter of manners creeping out again. It seems that quite a few don't remember that not too many weeks ago we had that significant week which we called Social Emphasis Week. During that time it was evident that everyone was becoming conscious of their manners and that they were trying to improve them. Since then, however, there has in many incidents been a decided slipping back to the old ways. I believe if we, each and everyone, tried to be as "mannerly" and courteous to people as we would like them to be to us that there would be a steady improvement of campus manners.

Sincerely,  
Beth Morgan.

**Views From Other News**

If I were a freshman again. . . . As exams draw nearer the present crop of frosh already anticipating June, 1955, smile wryly at the frequent nostalgia that seems to accompany current graduating classes. This unbelief grows as their first college exams breathe down their worried—and inexperienced necks.

Seniors at many colleges such as Appalachian are impatiently watching frosh take the hard route through a freshman year that could easily be simplified. After taking an overall perspective of frosh stumbling up the first notches of the academic ladder, they have come up with some definite suggestions. As most upperclassmen are openly admired by frosh who sometimes marvel at their "getting that far along," the Twig editors are printing a few of them here.

"If I were a freshman again," they say. . . . I should take part in more social activities. The common bookworm never achieves great things. Although study is important, it is not so all-important at the expense of friendship and the development of a better-rounded personality. Learning to work, and to play, with others is a necessary stepping stone to happy, purposeful, successful living. I believe that social life has a definite place in high school training, and if I were given the opportunity, I should participate in more activities of this sort.

I would look toward the future and plan my life's work so that I could work toward that end. Like so many others, I did not think seriously about the future. Time after time I would dismiss the thought from my mind, and before

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**Fooling Phyllis**

My column is a little different this time. Most of us should think more about the more serious side of life.

While reading "The Younger Generation," in the November 5 issue of *Time*, I was jolted into thinking how each of us should think seriously about our present day situation.

*Time* asks the question, "What of today's youth? Some are smoking marijuana; some are dying in Korea. Some are going to college with their wives; some are making \$400 a week in television. Some are sure they will be blown to bits by the Atom Bomb. Some pray. Some are raising the highest towers and running the fastest machines in the world. Some wear blue jeans; some wear Dior gowns. Some want to vote the straight Republican ticket. Some want to fly to the moon.

"Youth today is waiting for the hand of fate to fall on its shoulders, meanwhile working fairly hard and saying almost nothing. The most startling fact about the younger generation is its silence. With some rare exceptions, youth is nowhere near the rostrum. By comparison with the Flaming Youth of their fathers and mothers, today's younger generation is a still, small flame. It does not issue manifestoes, make speeches or carry posters. It has been called the 'Silent Generation.' But what does the silence mean? What, if anything, does it hide? Or are youth's elders merely hard of hearing?"

The article in *Time* characterizes us as being "grave and fatalistic." To back up his definition of youth, the author writes of the tenseness of the Korean situation and the effect it has upon our lives today and on our future.

"I think the draft has all the fellows upset. . . . They can't start figuring in high school or even in college what they want to do. . . . First thing you know, Uncle Sam has tagged them off base.

"The boys are upset about the Korean business because they can't tell from one day to the next what they are going to be doing, going into the Army or what.

"Sure, the boys say, 'What's the use? I'd just get started and whammo, I'm gone.'

"It's hard to get married when you don't know what the deal is. Maybe your husband is called to Korea or somewhere, and there you are!"

These quotations can be heard in almost all of the college bull sessions. There are serious problems that demand the consideration of us all. What can we do?

Not only is the youth of today "grave and fantastic," but it is "conventional and gregarious."

"Perhaps more than any of its predecessors, this generation wants a good, secure job. But youth's ambitions have shrunk.

"This cautious desire to be 'well fixed' and a little more has many causes; the war, the lingering shock of the Big Depression (which this younger generation felt or heard about in its childhood); and the hard-to-kill belief (still expounded in some college courses) that the frontiers of the United States economy have been reached."

But the most serious problem to us here at Meredith College and all of the female sex is this: "American young women are, in many ways, the generation's most serious problem; they are emotional D.P's. The granddaughters of the suffragettes, the daughters of the cigarette-and short-skirt crusaders, they were reared to believe in woman's emancipation and equality with man. Large numbers of them feel that a home and children alone would be a fate worse than death, and they invade the big cities in search of a career. They ride crowded subways in which men, enjoying equality, do not offer them seats. They compete with men in industry and the arts; and keep up with them, Martini for Martini, at the cocktail parties."

There are many, many more serious problems—such as our confusing morals and the like. We of today are responsible for each of those faults, and it is our duty to remedy them, each person in her own way.