

## ARE WE OVER-ORGANIZED?

One glance at the college calendar is enough to cause one to wonder at the number of meetings which fill nearly every week night during the school year, often with three and four club meetings per night. What purpose can such a number of meetings serve for a student body composed of some five hundred girls? Are the numerous clubs on campus a response to the need of each of us to feel important or to belong? Are they there to serve a vacancy in the school curriculum? Are they the result of an effort on the part of students to keep themselves occupied in social or academic pursuits outside of the classroom or the library? Most likely they are all of these things; but could they not also be a network of independent growths which, to function more efficiently, need a purposeful and intelligent weeding?

Granted that clubs are a vital part of any campus life: that they serve for work and play contacts among students and thus create a better school atmosphere; that good club programs often are informative in areas beyond those of class discussions, lectures, and reading assignments; that they give each interested student a chance to grow in responsibility and initiative in fields of her own greatest aptitude—could not the same part be played by a reduced number of integrated organizations?

One example of the overlapping interests of many of the departmental clubs is the number of small clubs here dedicated to the aim of promoting better relations with foreign peoples and for understanding the inter-play of world affairs. Is it not reasonable to suggest that the enthusiasms of each of these clubs be channeled into a single organization? The same principle could be applied to many of the other clubs at Meredith—and perhaps if it were applied we would hear less complaints about the often terrifying number of obligations in the extracurricular field that many girls find thrust upon them within a single week.

JO ANN SELLEY.

## IS MEREDITH READY FOR DANCING?

The time has come to begin planning again for the Junior-Senior Banquet, and again we think how nice it would be if we could have a dance. Those of us who have been to the Junior-Senior remember the program that we could hardly see or hear, the lack of fellowship with anyone besides the three couples at our own table, and the let-down feeling when, about 8:30, the party was over and we had nothing to do.

We ask what is wrong with sponsoring a dance, when we may go to dances on other campuses. What's more, we say, Wake Forest (our fellow Baptist institution) gives dances.

The answers to these queries take the form of two main arguments. First, a major part of Meredith's financial support comes from the Southern Baptist people, through the Co-operative Program, and many of these people frown on dancing. As for this, we wonder if the majority of Southern Baptist people today really do disapprove of dancing.

The second argument is that there is a likelihood that Meredith's whole social life would become centered on dancing, and this would be unfortunate for girls who do not dance. (In a cynical mood, we might ask "What social life?") Certainly, no one would want to give up our "Meredith family get-togethers"—Huskin' Bee, Christmas Caroling or Play Day. But except for such occasions as these, it seems that our social life is already centered on other campuses. We would like to have some events at Meredith in which we could include dates.

We are not certain that a recommendation in favor of dancing will ever reach the trustees. We have less hope that the recommendation would be accepted. But we feel that in an institution where changes become impossible, deterioration will result.



## SheNANigans

By NANCY JOYNER

(SheNANigans is proud to present this week a guest writer, Betty Bennett. Betty has previously written on such distinguished papers as the Baylor "Lariat" and the Emory "Wheel." She is a junior transfer and hails from Asheville—the best town in the State.)

Gee whiz! It's almost time for ye old bridge tournament (pardon me, profs, I mean exams). Everyone is practicing like crazy and studying like mad (on Goren and pointing systems of various types and Blackwood systems). This year, however, there is a small difficulty. The glare from the "diamond set" has caused an undue amount of eye-strain and some of the Merrey Women of Bridge will be incapacitated for the tournament. This is indeed a sad blow. However, the rest of us will bravely attempt to carry on with the true Merrey spirit. We will bid high, fiance (I mean finesse — this after Christmas spirit has got me down) and do our best. It would be awful to lose our rating to the girls of St. Merry's.

It's really too bad that dating, TV, movies and such (the "such" is referring, of course, to those "Dix Deluxe" papers required during the week) will keep the Merrey Women of Bridge from their labors part of the time, but some of that is neces-

sary lest we should become what the unlearned call "fiends."

So that ends that subject. What shall we talk about now . . . the price of banana skins in Lower Slip-over-u? They are at present, so I understand from the Raleigh "Views and Unobservant," at an all time high because in the Middle Eastern question everyone is trying to slip something over on somebody. (It may seem peculiar but nobody seems to care who they slip something over on, or what the "something" is.) Uncle Sam at this point has paid the highest price (or so it seems) in the bitters' race with our Red brethren. World opinion seems still to be that our "rose colored" fiends (ahem — friends) will eventually slip on their own skins and end up "bottoms up."

Other world events are shaping up to what should prove a good improvement. Elvis Pressley is A-1. (Which reminds me of a quotation I heard the other day: "There should be fewer unsung heroes and more unsung songs.")

In closing, I am forced (Nancy is standing behind me with an axe) to say "KEEP SMILING."

## Musical Notes

By PAT GREENE

Well, the "Musical Notes" sort of got lost in the Christmas rush, you might say, but since one of my New Year's resolutions is to periodically and promptly convey to the outside world happenings in the music department from hence time forth, here are a few odds and ends gathered from here and there. (Mostly there!)

First of all, Annette Lee Kahn is practicing away (like "mad," really) on her recital, which is to be given on February 9. She says, and I quote, that "it is going to be quite a something-or-other," and that "you must all come!" Annette's piano recital will be the first of a long series of junior and senior recitals which will be given almost every week during the months of February, March, and April.

Since applied music exams are coming up pretty soon now, there has been a decided increase in the amount of practicing and number of performances for student recital. Wonder why??

We are very proud of our "Jeanne," who was among the 200 chosen to go to New York and audition for the Fulbright Scholarship. Someday we can say, "We knew her when. . ."

The S.A.I.'s are busily preparing for a very important night coming soon, now: the initiation of the three new pledges into Sigma Alpha Iota. The pledges have passed the second milestone now; they took the National S.A.I. Pledge test last week. (The worst is over now, "neophytes!")

It is my opinion that all the people in the music department had an enjoyable and profitable holiday . . . especially the faculty. We're glad! (Oh, for two more weeks of "rest"!)

Enough of this small talk; I'm sure I'll really have some news of importance next time . . . maybe. Anyway . . .

## Magic Moments

By KAY JOHNSON

Dancing is the loftiest, the most moving, the most beautiful of arts, because it is not mere translation or abstraction from life; it is life itself.

The Dance of Life  
Havelock Ellis

The Dance is a form of art through which a person may express himself. The Dance as referred to here is the form of dance primarily at the "entertainment end." Ted Shawn in his *Dance We Must* sets forth some good ideas for the layman to read. His book was originally a series of extemporaneous lectures which were transcribed and edited. The book, illustrated richly with many photographs of eminent dancers, is of interest not only with emphasis on the Dance, but also in other ideas it embodies.

Some of the topics covered by Mr. Shawn are "The History of the Dance," "The Dance as Magic," "The Dance and Religion," "The Relation of Dance to Drama and the Theatre," "The Use of the Human Body for Emotional Expression," "The Relationship of Music to the Dance," "The Dance as a Language," "The Creation of Dances," and "Constants — What Constitutes a Work of Art in the Dance."

In discussing these topics, Shawn brings in the foremost dancers. This book will be helpful for an understanding of the dance and will be quite enjoyable.

Nietzsche gives an interesting idea about dancing in his *The Twilight of the Idols*. He says:

"Dancing in all its forms cannot be excluded from the curriculum of all noble education; dancing with the feet, with ideas, with words, and need I add that one must also be able to dance with the pen?"

## The Green Room

By DONNIE SIMONS

All is quiet on the Meredith dramatics front. Plans for the spring production have not yet developed, but Miss Gorsage is considering *The Cradle Song* as a possible play for the Meredith Playhouse. About five hundred miles north of Raleigh, however, drama is far from being quiet. Playwrights, actors and actresses, production people, well-known, rising, or beginning — these are all having a part in the extensive Broadway season which ranges from *Macbeth* to *Merman* and includes something for nearly everyone. In addition to the more than twenty-five plays and musicals currently being produced are several openings scheduled for dates in the near future.

It is significant that during the season which opened in the centennial year of his birth, Shaw is the best represented playwright on Broadway. Plays include *The Apple Cart*, *Major Barbara*, *Saint Joan*, and a musical version of *Pygmalion*, retitled *My Fair Lady*. Maurice Evans has the leading role in *The Apple Cart*, which is, according to reviewers, a minor Shaw play. *Major Barbara* has perhaps more familiar players than most productions in quite some time. Our own Playhouse president saw it, and thought the play quite well done, with Charles Laughton giving a particularly fine performance. Other well-knowns in the cast are Cornelia Otis Skinner, Burgess Meredith, Glynis Johns and Eli Wallach (also in *Baby Doll*, now showing in Raleigh). Siobhan McKenna, "the brilliant young actress from Dublin . . . offers a glowing portrait of the Maid of Orleans." Of *My Fair Lady*, one reviewer says, "Shaw's great and funny *Pygmalion* has been made into a great, funny, beautiful musical by Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe. Rex Harrison and Julie Andrews are magnificent as the London *Pygmalion* and the flower girl he turns from drab to belle of the ball. . . . It's a delight to the eye, ear, and mind, and all hands deserve deepest felicitations." In addition to these words of praise, *My Fair Lady* received the 1955-56 Drama Critics' Circle Award. Meredith's bit of Shavian wit for the season was *Androcles and the Lion*.

Mac Hyman says this is *No Time for Sergeants*, but the opinion of this columnist is it's truly a wonderful time for theatre goers.

## From the Biblical Recorder Custodian Retires

Not many people can boast that they have stayed on one job for 35 years, and especially if that is only the second job they have ever had, but such an achievement is part of the record of Will Nichols, Meredith College custodian, who recently retired after more than a quarter of a century's service to the school.

Nichols came to Meredith in 1921 after having worked at the Salvation Army in Raleigh over a period of 18 years.

"I've spent more than half of my life at Meredith," the 65-year-old Raleigh native says. The three things he remembers most about his years at Meredith are the mud in '26, the class of '36, and an infirmary fire.

In 1926 when the school moved from its down-town location to its present site, Will helped move the furniture.

"I've never been stuck in the mud so many times in my whole life as then, but the most excitement of my stay at Meredith occurred around 1923 when the infirmary at the old location caught fire. I helped six or seven girls down from the top floor and out of the building. It was a mighty big fire and so bad it ruined the inside of the building. Nobody was hurt, though."



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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.

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