

A PUZZLEMENT

It is standard procedure for the older generation to shake their heads sadly and ask "What is this younger generation coming to?" In the past the problem was the fact that the youth was a wild, reckless, unheading group. Nowadays the tide has turned, and our elders are sighing over the fact that we are too conservative. Polls show that college students want, above everything else, security. The reason for this attitude seems to be the two wars we have lived through and the ominous threat of world disaster. We are accused, among other things, of being too polite to disagree in classes, too scared to think, too worried to assert our individualism.

So, there have been reactions. When we are faced with the talk of conservatism we do several things. One attitude is to throw up our hands in bland acquiescence and say "We admit it. We're scared. Let's all find a rose-covered cottage far away from the turmoil and forget it." But no one will really let us take this head-in-the-sand policy.

Another reaction is "If they like us wild, let's be wild. Twenty-three skidoo!" In a few northern colleges (especially Columbia) there is a movement to start a national fad. It seems there has not been such a fad since the record-breaking, gold-fish swallowing era of our parents' day. These schools have sent out literature trying to organize clubs to play the grand old game of Russian Roulette (played with blank guns, of course). Russian Roulette! Can you think of anything more unusual? Can you think of anything more inane?

These two extremes do not limit the field. There are others manifestations. Pseudo-intellectualism, for instance. Bohemianism, for example. Walk into a room where modern pictures plaster the wall, where Stravinsky is being played on the hi-fi, and the treader-clad occupants are sitting in the middle of the floor smoking and reading Jeffers by the light of a single candle stuffed in a wine bottle from Gino's, and there you have it. In order to get along in cultural circles one must keep abreast, whether one knows what he is talking about or not. Yet there can be no worse enemy to real thinking than false intellectualism.

It's obvious that these attitudes don't fill the bill. Viewed from such a perspective they all seem half-cocked. So the problem remains. We have a bad reputation because we conform, and when even an attitude of rugged individualism is the trend, there is very little room to turn. What is the proper behavior and goal of the modern college student?

Any ideas?

N. J.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor . . .

We appreciate all criticism—favorable or otherwise—voiced concerning the 1957 Fall issue of the *Acorn*. Two things are needed if the publication is to continue and progress—critics and contributors. Speak what you feel. Write what you think. We try to be broadminded!

Editor and Art Editor, *Acorn*

P.S. The above signed take full responsibility for all contributions both in the past issue and forthcoming ones.



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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.

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ARE YOU MISSING OUT?

College days are brimming over with opportunities — opportunities which offer us growth and enrichment in the realms of the mind and the spirit. Alas, how often we pass them by, either not realizing or not caring what they have to offer, not knowing that they seldom come again.

Founders' Day, 1957, brought an alarming number of unoccupied seats in Jones Auditorium as the birthday of our college was celebrated in the finest of ways. The program showed evident signs of the efforts of a number of people to make it a memorable service. Even the smallest ounce of school spirit—or, more precisely, school appreciation—should have brought us in to fill those empty seats. The

service was for all friends of the college. Where were we?

Another opportunity passed us by when, on November 3, the annual Reformation Day Service was held in Jones Auditorium. The churches of Raleigh sponsored the community-wide service. One of America's leading thinkers in the field of religion was brought to Raleigh just for the service. The chance to hear such a noted speaker does not come our way every day, but, like Founders' Day, the service wasn't required, so we didn't go.

Perhaps it is often difficult for students to attend when something is held on the other side of town, but these opportunities were right in our own front yard. And we didn't even bother to go. N. M.

Make Us Truly Thankful

By MARGARET PARIS

Unfortunately, Thanksgiving has become to many only a word which calls to mind a group of Pilgrims making their way through snow-covered woods—or some meaningless phrases about "being thankful," "counting our blessings," etc. The importance of this holiday lies not in the food-laden tables of the first Pilgrims or their brave march through the woods to church. These were in a sense only symbols of something more basic. To understand this "something more basic" we must briefly review historical, sociological, and—if you will—even religious occurrences and stimulation. The Puritans came to America for freedom to express their religious beliefs. Their feast, which has been shamefully commercialized and over-emphasized, was a symbol of gratitude to God, not a display of plenty and of solitary man's products. As with many traditions and customs that have roots in an expression of basic Christian beliefs, only the skeleton remains today.

We hurriedly mumble trite phrases—"make us truly grateful" so that the feast may begin, the main fault of which lies in our complacent satisfaction with the status quo, the feeling that the world is really all right, and maybe God should be included somewhere. The extreme pessimism of saying World War III is just around the corner is not necessary, but we cannot afford to smile slyly at God or nudge Him, as if to say: "Guess we made it, uh?" There are too many Little Rocks and Budapests to relax on our couches, eat our grapes, and let the rest of the world go by.

It is in America that we find truest expression of freedom. The Thanksgiving "Thanksgiving" is, therefore, active rather than passive, for with our blessings comes the responsibility—not to democracy so much as to God—to insure the continuance of freedom. The "freedoms" of America are based ultimately in the freedom of the believer in his relationship with God: a freedom of will, but under the eternal absolutes of God.

Lou's Remarks

By LOUISE WHITE

Up until this year there were many Meredith students who could say that they had never been in the infirmary. However, the number of people with such a record has dwindled considerably and will no doubt continue to do so. In view of this fact, it seems appropriate to discuss infirmary life and bring out the hidden side not shown by reading the rules or even visiting sick friends. It is only fair to say that infirmary life is not all bad. Everything centers around YOU, the patient. Your breakfast is home-cooked and hot, and all meals are naturally served in bed. The only hitch is that nobody is hungry, you are well enough to go to class. Another advantage is that the infirmary is well stocked with magazines; old magazines to be sure, but still magazines. When people are sick, they certainly cannot be expected to study, but can they ever read magazines! Being infirmary-confined really takes a load off the conscience. Unfortunately, there are no more advantages that I can see. Once in the place you are trapped until you have no fever. That can take days. You are forced to take red pills, little white pills, big white pills, and cough syrup at frequent intervals. As far as the nurses are concerned, Saturday and Sunday are just as good infirmary days as any other, and consequently a girl's social life can really suffer. Also, there are peculiar temperature changes in the infirmary. First it is cold, and then suddenly with a bang and a clang the temperature rises twenty degrees. Of course, that is a method of always keeping patients on hand. All jokes aside, let's wear coats, eat right, and give the poor infirmary a rest.

FROM THE Contemporary Scene

By MARGARET PARIS

Turning in the contemporary scene to poetry, the names of T. S. Eliot and John Ciardi are two that can hardly be neglected. T. S. Eliot stands as one of the outstanding contemporary poets, one whose name will surely find a place in history. John Ciardi stands as the champion defender and critic of modern poetry. (Mr. Ciardi is the poetry editor of *Saturday Review*). Mr. Eliot has recently published a book entitled *On Poetry and Poets*,

Musical Notes

By JOYCE SKILLMAN

Among the highlights of the concerts given in Raleigh each year is the Chamber Music Series. The first concert in the 1957-58 season presented the Hungarian Quartet on November 1, in an excellent performance. These concerts are given in our auditorium on various Friday nights throughout the year. The programs are outstanding and are worthwhile for every student. Make a point to attend the next one and you will be well rewarded.

Congratulations to S.A.I. pledges, Lee Pass and Margaret Morgan. These girls were pledged into the fraternity on Tuesday night, November 5. Speaking for all of the old members, we are looking forward to the initiation service when you will become full-fledged members.

The members of the Chorus have been working hard to learn music for several performances. They sang in chapel several weeks ago and again at Founder's Day. They also presented some of the music for the Reformation Day service, held in our auditorium on Sunday night, November 3. There will be other opportunities to hear the Chorus at the State Baptist Convention, in chapel, and at their Christmas concert.

in which he takes the role—not a new one for him—of critic and interpreter in seven essays on poetry and nine on poets. As has been pointed out by one critic Mr. Eliot is the "hard-thinking craftsman" in this book, having matured considerably since he expressed his earlier opinions about poetry and poets. This is perhaps because of the change in climate which has occurred in his life. One reviewer (*New York Times*, Sept. 15, 1957) has summed up this change by saying: "A generation ago it seemed proper to attack impressionism and the over-emphasis of enjoyment in criticism, and to stress the need of understanding. Now the danger is in over-explanation and in treating criticism as a service, 'which it can never be.'" In Mr. Eliot's own words: "What matters most, in reading an ode of Sappho, is not that

B. S. U. PLANS PARTY

The Baptist Student Unions of Meredith and State College invite all students to an evening filled with fun on Friday, December 6. The party will be held in Society Hall from 8:00-11:00. A delightful program of entertainment, including some square dancing, has been planned, and of course, refreshments will be served. Circle this date on your calendar, and be sure to come. You'll get some of that Christmas spirit early.

