

Search and Pursuit A Sermonette

As we enter the last month of the school year, the new officers are preparing to assume their various campus positions. Those of us who are relinquishing our posts have, as do most outgoing officers, a few remarks to offer on the subject of "citizen responsibility." To the new officers we would say that your office does not belong to you; it belongs to Meredith College. Yours is the privilege and the responsibility of producing for Meredith the expected result of your leadership. The expected result may be a publication, an effective student government, or a meaningful Baptist Student Union program. Whatever the responsibility you have accepted may be, you will be obliged to work. There will be, however, much personal pleasure in the work. It is the joy of the task that often makes one think that the office is her property. One thinks so because she wishes that it were.

It is easy to see that the major officers are responsible to the school and not to personal whim. What is often difficult to see is that those who help the major officers are also responsible to the school in the execution of their tasks. When one accepts a position in any organization (in the case of student government, every student fills a position), she is accepting a share of the organization's responsibility to the school. When an individual fails to fulfill her responsibility, the extra work to other people is incidental to the fact that Meredith College is not receiving what it deserves. All of us have grabbed with greedy hands what we want from Meredith. In return, we should be eager to give the little that Meredith has allowed us to give of our time, energy, and thought.

We do not, those of us who are leaving forever, wish to leave you with a memory of us "in the pulpit" and nowhere else. We have had fun in our work. We hope that we have not indulged too many of the previously mentioned personal whims. And, above all, we know that we will miss you. Every change is difficult and painful. Perhaps the most difficult thing for us to realize will be the fact that we can no longer plead youth as an excuse for our foolish actions. We are now supposedly "women grown." Please wish us well. We thank Meredith for allowing us to try our wings within her protecting walls.—L. W.

VALEDICTION

Seek excellence, for it is a jewel without price. Few attain it; all can admire it, respect it or profit because of it. Excellence is a divine gift, yet, like faith, must be earned the hard way. As a concept, excellence is a thing to itself—a treasure to be cherished and protected. And like faith, excellence must serve through works, good works in the interest of all. More than that, excellence, the highest and best that man thinks, does, and believes, is like a good prayer of gratitude to a loving Creator above.

Avoid as you would the plague the twin half-gods; mediocrity and conformity. The mind that feeds on triviality and banality becomes trivial and banal; the mind nourished with excellence takes on the attributes of quality. The person who deserts the pursuit of excellence to conform to notoriously low group standards has sold his birthright as an individual for a mess of pottage known as status and acceptance. Learn to discriminate, to select, to reject, however painfully, as you face the choices of life. Pursue excellence as you would happiness, for such is your privilege.

What do you get out of all this? Perhaps little of the world's goods. On the other hand, you will be a better, more worthwhile person. As you consider excellence, the step to contemplation of perfection in God is short. In return for such contemplation, your growing awareness of the spark that is in you can revitalize your heart and mind, making possible better and more effective efforts to save a corrupt and foundering civilization. Think on these things, as the academic year comes near its close. May you be inspired to renew or intensify your search for excellence.

—QUENTIN OLIVER MCALLISTER.

...BACKSTAGE...

By SUE MATZNER

This will be my last writing of "Backstage" since next year's officers take over in May. The Playhouse chose Lee Pickard to write the drama column for the coming semester. She is a rising sophomore and should provide a welcome change from the usual senior who writes it. Other Playhouse officers were also chosen at our last meeting. With Lelia Davenport leading them they are Elsa Cooler, vice-president; Suzanne Sault, secretary; Zelma Green, treasurer; Ann Rackley and Anne Peters, social chairmen.

Speaking of socials, the Playhouse voted to have a social of some kind for the May meeting. All you members, watch the bulletin board for a notice of what, when, and where. I can say the one last year was lots of fun.

Since this is the last time I will be able to reach all of the student body (I flatter myself in thinking all of the student body avidly read the drama column), I would like very much to say a few things that have been on the minds of all the members of the Playhouse this year.

Do you like plays? Most students attend movies so it stands to reason they enjoy plays. Why, then, are Meredith plays things to be shunned? I am not scolding or griping. We all really want to know. They cost the students nothing to attend. They are given two nights and students are even encouraged to attend dress rehearsals. There are posters all over campus announcing them. The few people who do come like the plays and some of these people are students who reflect the taste of the student body.

Maybe you don't like the plays? The Playhouse would welcome any suggestions as to the type of play or even better a specific play you would like.

Maybe you think the productions are for the Playhouse members only? The Playhouse is not a closed organization. Granted you are not a member on entering Meredith, like the A.A.; but anyone who has enough interest to work on one production no matter in what capacity is automatically a member of the Playhouse. It may be a major role or curtain puller. Both of these jobs earn full membership.

But I am digressing. I wrote all of this as a prelude to a plea. Please support the Playhouse and the people who work so hard to entertain you. Next year reward those people and in doing so reward yourself. You will find this sacrifice is a pleasant one. Thank you for listening to me now and all this year.

The Music Box

By MARGARET HURST

As the lid to the music box opens this time, we find spring recitals on the program for April and May. Giving a junior recital will be Glenda Pressley, Barbara Smith, and Ruth Young on the 16th of May. Scheduled for May 15 is the senior recital of Sylvia Maynard. Gunnar Johansen will give a piano recital on April 20 as a part of the lecture and concert series here on campus. All of us look forward to hearing this wonderful musician.

The chorus is busy working on music for the Spring Concert to be given on Saturday night following the May Day festivities on the afternoon of May 2. Featured on this program will be melodies on the lighter side, including a number of favorites. The chorus will also be a part of the May Day program, and we are looking forward to the two performances. We hope that you will be in the audience for both of these programs.

Overheard in the Music Building: Complaints about unmemorized exam pieces — sophomore theory students wondering if they will ever master the dominant ninth chord — strains of "Hello Young Lovers" as ambitious chorus members rehearse — freshmen wondering how they can possibly survive another year of theory!

Piano Ensembles

The Raleigh Piano Ensemble and the Raleigh Junior Piano Ensemble, under the direction of Mr. James Clyburn of the Meredith College music department, will present a concert Tuesday, April 21, at 8:15 p.m. in the auditorium of Josephus Daniels Junior High School. Mr. Stuart Pratt of the Meredith College music department will be soloist. No admission will be charged.

SAI PLANS FASHION SHOW

On Friday, April 24, the Beta Zeta chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota will present a fashion show. The theme of the show is "Bridal Wonderland," and clothes will be furnished by MacJoseph's. Models, chosen from the four classes, are as follows: Marcie Briley, Kathryn Godwin, Pat Hight, Martha Ann McKeel, Betsy Thomerson, Donna Cowles, Virginia Padgett, Diane Watkins, Sadie Sue Worthington, and Jean Edwards. The show will be held in Jones Auditorium at eight o'clock and tickets are fifty cents.

THE EYEBALL

By NANCY WHEDBEE

Just for fun from *Kids Say the Darndest Things!*:

"I'm glad to see someone whose teeth are so white and shining. Do you brush yours three times every day?"

"No, sir, Just once. But I use Clorox."

"If you could change school any way you wished, how would you fix it?"

"Burn it down."

Recently *Time Magazine* featured an article on Paul Tillich and his complicated theology. In a letter to the editor one confused reader replied:

Sir:

In one sense he is like the peace of God, for he passes all understanding.

(Reminds me of some of my recent quizzes.)

Bare Facts:

In a discussion recently on *Paradise Lost* the suggestion came that the book featuring Adam and Eve in their paradise setting would be good to present on the stage. After a moment of reflection the reply came, "Perhaps the censors would take too much out!"

A word to the wise. . . .

Be sure to see the Art Museum's current feature, "Masterpieces of Art." The paintings come from several periods covering two floors of exhibition space and illustrating art history from its beginnings to present time. The paintings are representative of the major galleries in our country and Canada with one from the Louvre in France. Just fantabulous and another excellent opportunity to take advantage of fine experiences offered by the Raleigh area.

From Pat Brice's diary:

"Have you ever wished to be dead?"

"Yes."

"Afraid of death?"

"Never!"

"Then end it."

"Not I . . ."

"Why?"

"Dante's INFERNO."

My mind responds to learning as an unconnected electric cord to its purpose. Often have I resolved to enlist the aid of shock treatment."

Shocking what some Meredith girls come up with. . . .



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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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Campus Comedy

