

# Editorials

## A Christian College Acts

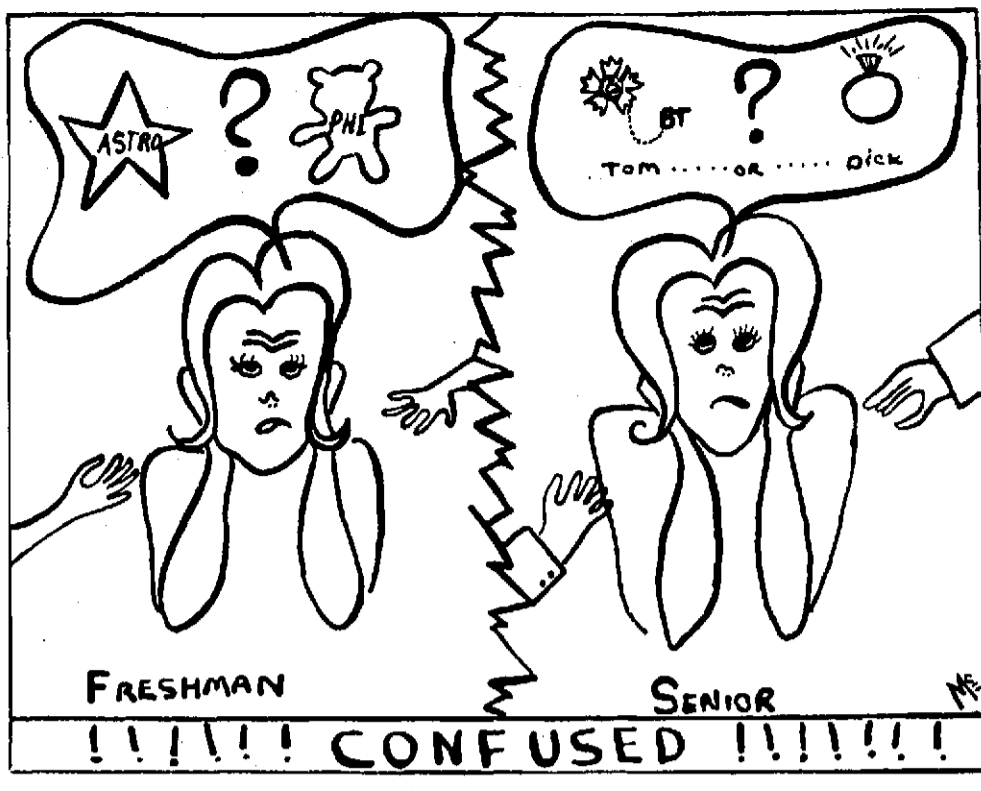
The recent decision of the trustees is one of which we all should be proud. With Mississippi staring us in the face, we can be grateful for moderation and good will.

A professor said in class last week, "I'm glad Meredith is finally becoming a Christian school." He has a point. How can a school be considered a true Christian institution if racial barriers exist. Such barriers are in opposition to every principle Jesus taught.

The decision was not one which was made in a "follow the leader" fashion after two other Baptist colleges lifted their barriers. The trustees discussed and considered the prospect for several years before making their final decision last September 25. Upperclassmen will remember that several years ago questionnaires were sent to them to be filled out and mailed to the head of the committee which was working on the issue. The men and women of the board spent hours deliberating all aspects of the problem. We, the students of this college, owe it to ourselves and to the men and women of the board of trustees to face the issue with a Christian attitude and to avoid making hasty judgments.

## How Do You Stand?

Living in such a rapidly changing and exceptionally exciting world on both the local and the national levels, every citizen of the United States, every member of the Meredith community, and every thoughtful person is faced time after time with the decision to decide or not to decide. Yes, we have the right to become so absorbed in the traditional problems of daily living that we are oblivious to the challenging ideas exploded by present day rebels. We also have the right, the opportunity, and the responsibility to investigate our own beliefs, to define our reasons for such beliefs, and, most important, to take a stand. We not only can take a stand and support what we believe, we must take a stand. We must do so because only as we decide what is right can we support what is right, and only by our support can right ever hope to conquer. During the past several weeks, our lives have been bombarded by the repercussions of actions which resulted from the courageous stands taken by men and women who dared to speak out for what they believe. The Mississippi crisis, the space advances, and the lifting of the racial bans at our own college are pertinent examples. These are issues needing our support now, for tomorrow they will have become the past as new problems take their place. We cannot afford not to decide, for our causes need our support—not merely nominal support but wholehearted, self-involving support deepened by insights gained through investigation and leading to action.



## Former Meredith Girl Is Prominent Writer

By CARROLL HICKS

Bernice Kelly Harris, noted author and dramatist, stands out as a prominent Meredith graduate. Her novels and plays are widely read and enjoyed. An alumna of the class of 1913, Mrs. Harris has led a life of especial interest to our college community.

### Homesick Freshman

Upon her entrance to Meredith, Mrs. Harris became discouraged as do most freshmen, for she studied hard to receive only average grades. Richard Walser, in his study of Mrs. Harris' life states that the ambitious student wanted to go home very badly. In a letter to her parents, Mrs. Harris wrote that she was going to have typhoid fever and it would be necessary for her parents to take her home immediately. Her far-sighted parents replied that the school doctor could take care of the situation.

### Campus Leader

While a student at Meredith, Bernice Kelly was a member of the *Acorn* staff, vice-president of S. G. and the Phi in the same year, and class poet in her sophomore and senior years. Several of her poems, sketches, and short stories appeared in the *Acorn*. Among them are "A Leap Year Tragedy," "A Trick of Fate," "Dickens' One Nice Young Lady," and "The General Assembly of North Carolina during Proprietary Government."

### Teaching Career

After graduation, Mrs. Harris began teaching. In later years she wrote back to Dr. Julia Harris, head of the English department here: "I am proud to be numbered among Meredith majors in English and to have been a student of Elizabeth Avery Colton." Mrs. Harris states that early during her teaching career she desired to produce plays that "real writers had written." While doing post graduate work at Chapel Hill in 1919, her interest in writing was encouraged by Dr. Frederick Rock.

### Ca'line

Married in 1926, Mrs. Harris and her husband moved to Seaboard where Mrs. Harris tried to interest the women in writing and producing plays. It was at this time that she wrote *Ca'line*, her first play. Throughout the years, Mrs. Harris continued writing.

### Purslane

Her first novel, *Purslane*, was given favorable comments by a number of critics. In 1939, she became the first woman to receive the Mayflower Society Cup, and *Purslane* became "the first novel about North Carolina people to receive a literary award anywhere." Since then she has added *Portulaca*, *Sweet Beulah Land*, *Sage Quarter*, *Janey Jeems*, *Hearthstones*, and *Wild Cherry Tree Road* to her credit.

### Varied Interests

At the present, Mrs. Harris continues to write and does some proof reading for publishing companies. Her hobby is cooking, and although she has a cook, Mrs. Harris prepares all the elaborate dishes herself. She is a very gracious hostess and insists upon artistic table arrangements. Her garden supplies her freezer with vegetables which she enjoys the year around. Mrs. Harris is quite active in church work attending all services and programs and teaching a women's class. Perhaps her greatest love is children. Mrs. Harris visits all the children in her family as often as possible and is fondly called "K-K" by them. The children are delighted when she comes to visit, for she plays with them and tells them stories. Recently one little boy was told that he could not rush out to greet her until he had his much-hated bath. He replied to his mother, "Mommie bathe me quick so I can go love K-K!" Mrs. Harris is described as having a calm, sweet disposition with a great devotion to her large family.

### Raleigh Editor Praises Harris

Sam Ragan, executive editor of *The Raleigh News and Observer* and *The Raleigh Times* recently said: "Bernice Kelly Harris is a very wise person, and anything she says on any occasion is worth traveling to hear. In my opinion she has portrayed Eastern Carolina, which is her home, with as much accuracy, sympathy, and understanding as it is possible for a writer to do."

## Dorm Presidents Head House Council Aided By Proctors

By BETTY HOOKS

For the first time in the past several years, the dormitory house council is an active organization in each dorm. Meetings are held regularly and are conducted by the dormitory president, who serves as chairman. The council is composed of hall proctors and assistant hall proctors, the latter elected by individual halls. The house council is provided for in Article X of the constitution and is one of the set duties of all elected dormitory officers.

At the meetings, problems or other business of the dormitories, concerning both the physical plant and the government, are discussed. Often business arising there is referred to one of the three student government boards. Dormitory-wide activities are planned also and are directed by this house council. Such activities as play day and dorm meetings, whether for business or for parties, come under the direction of the council. Through such meetings, officers are able to work more consistently and effectively in managing the dormitory.

# GLIMPSES

By BARBARA JONES

Tranquility had just settled over the sultry, summerworn earth. Suddenly through the calm came the gush of an eager wind. It roared and whistled causing much activity. Leaves swirled madly in all directions seeking to entangle any and every victim.

Creativity was foremost as each leaf tried its best to outdance all the others.

In close accordance a few shades of emerald remained as a fading remembrance of an already-forgotten summer. Soon to be replaced by magnitudes of color, green leaves clung desperately to their branches in order not to incur a premature death.

A crispness in the air had replaced the stickiness of summer. In fact, laughter had even changed the places in which it might be found. All the world seemed to have donned its new autumn garment.

And here, too, at Meredith is that inescapable autumn atmosphere. Like wind-swept leaves, freshmen scurry from counsel groups and dorm meetings to English conferences, never seeming to have time for any of them. Some may be pushed into going to fraternity parties for which they have no time. Others will be so tired after Rush Week that they will long for anything stable (preferably peace and quiet).

Lastly autumn will have come to Meredith as illustrated by an analogy of the turning leaves. Each person may be compared to the green leaf when she first comes here. She may enrich her life and grow in understanding and become more broad-minded about life itself.

Then she may find here a many faceted life, rich and mature as the once-green leaf now turns a golden red.

## LETTER TO EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Over the past month, I have become increasingly concerned over the use of the Thursday chapel period. It is not that I object to the students being allowed to express their opinions during this time, it is the way in which they are voiced. There should definitely be a time when we can vent our emotions and our gripes. During my freshmen year, chapel on Thursday was conducted by the presidents of S.G., B.S.U., and A.A. in a formal manner. Having chapel conducted in a casual manner, encourages us as students to participate in the discussion. This is good, but we are not making the best or fullest use of it.

Instead of listening when someone is presenting an idea, we are looking at our watches, talking to our neighbor, or just plain day-dreaming. Then when someone asks a question, there is a general buzz all over the auditorium and the students return to reality. The rest of the period is spent in senseless chatter. The same questions are asked again, always receiving the same answer. The tiniest points are magnified to proportions that would cause an outsider to think the fate of the universe was the topic on the floor instead of a prepositional phrase which doesn't make any difference one way or the other.

When the 11 o'clock bell rings, Jane frantically screams "Are there any announcements?" and hands begin to fly up. The students are half in and half out of their seats, and no one hears anything.

I don't want to change the basic idea of Thursday chapel, but I certainly think all of us would like to see a change in the way we students respond. I know a lot of us feel that maybe the whole Thursday chapel period is a waste, because so many of the things we want are never considered. But, since we are required to attend, let's try to act civilized.

ANN NOOE  
Class of 1964



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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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