

Whites Lead MCA Forum; Image of American Woman

On December 4, Dr. and Mrs. W. D. White held an evening forum, sponsored by the MCA, discussing *The Feminine Mystique*, by Betty Freiden. Mrs. White, who had spoken to the student body earlier in chapel, discussed the first three-fourths of the book. The attempts of the American woman to conform to the "image" our society has produced, and her frustrations when this "ideal" state still leaves a desire for more meaning to life, were the primary topics.

In popular literature, especially magazines for women, the "ideal" woman has changed with the times. woman in 1949, the housewife, and in 1954 the woman who brought about "togetherness" in the family. In every example the woman has been seen as one trying to conform to a ready-made identity, not one try-

girl of today who tries to identify herself only in the light of her biological role, finds life boring and purposeless. To think of one's self in the physical role alone is to dehumanize one's self, said the author. The woman merely plays a role, never allowing herself to become involved.

Dr. White then took over the discussion, dwelling primarily on the theological implications of the role of woman. A woman, said Dr. White, must realize and affirm herself as a person or die inwardly. If woman is not aware of her depersonalization today, or if she is not willing to make the struggle to overcome this depersonalization, one is no longer a self. The problem of the American woman is her ability to adjust to the "image." The American woman is so dead that she is unaware of depersonalization, and placidly accepts



Freda Hartness chats with Dr. and Mrs. White at a social gathering after the forum.

ing to find and realize her own identity. Mrs. Frieden rebelled against the Freud and Mead concept of woman's role. The biology of woman, which Freud and Mead stressed, is indeed different, said the author, but woman is more than a biologically functioning organism. The college

her role. Man finds himself, or his purpose, in his work. Woman must find herself in her relationship to others, but always identifying herself as a person in these relationships. Dr. White's main criticism of the book was the failure of the author to see man as a worshipping creature as well as a working creature.

Switchboard Operators' Problems

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persons who want to know the "four-lettered word for a Tibetan lamb or the French word for water."

It is thought by some persons that the Meredith operators have the answers to all the questions.

Ruth Ann Sloop recalls the night a freshman called to say that she had arrived at the bus station two hours earlier than her clothes and books were to arrive. She said, "I have to study — what can I do?" Asked by someone in the stables what the "strange noise at the end of the line" was, Judy McDuffie replied tactfully that it was the busy signal. Sarah Louise Carver reports that someone called her recently to find out the names of all the girls from Goldsboro, North Carolina. She has also been asked to name babysitters and "twenty girls who want dates tonight."

The new operator discovers that names can be a real challenge. Julie Miller remembers the time that Dr. Ralph McLain wished to call Penelope Senter. Julie searched the phone book frantically for the Penelope Center, hoping that such a place existed uptown. Jane Kinche-loe remembers "the day that I looked through faculty and student lists for a nonexistent Mrs. Mitchell Dones."

Springfield or Vann?

The names of Meredith College dormitories assume strange shapes in the mouths of strangers. Eva Mae Foxworth says that "Stringfield is never Stringfield, and Vann is often 'Vonn.'" Stringfield becomes "String-bean," "Springfield," and "Spring-er." According to Lyn Harris, "They still ask for the New Dorm." Diane Daugherty has been asked to call "second Fairfax" and "third Ida." Sarah Louise Carver has placed calls to the "Hoss Barn" and to

the "Kitchen Department."

Verona in a Dither

There are those persons who call girls and think it quite unnecessary to know which dormitories they live in. Verona Chow was confronted one night with the request for a call to "who lives in the back, I think." Betsy Evans remembers the call from a boy who wanted to speak with a girl on "first floor." When asked "first floor what?" the boy replied "Just first floor."

Catastrophe

Certain events in the switchboard room almost join the rank of "catastrophe." As it is quite a simple matter to plug one of the many cords into the wrong hole, disconnections are commonplace. Sara Gwynn Bryan says, "What is so embarrassing is to disconnect someone like Dr. Campbell." Betsy Evans remembers "accidentally warning Mrs. Smith to limit her call to five minutes."

Work at the switchboard has its busy seasons and its slack seasons. Betty Bass reports, "You can really tell the difference between I.F.C. week and December 1-7." Verona Chow's hours are heavy after chapel and on Saturday "from 11:00 in the morning on."

First Brewer and Second Faircloth Never Answer

Needless to say, the switchboard operators' hearts go out to the benevolent persons who answer the phones. Verona Chow laments, "Second Brewer and first Faircloth never answer the phone." Asked what she does when nobody answers Verona replied, "I usually let out one long ring."

Meredith switchboard operators soon learn to add a grain of salt to whatever they hear.

Fashion Features

Freshmen Emily Lay and Ann Berry are thinking ahead for the annual

Christmas dinner at Meredith. As the event calls

for semi-formal dress, Emily and Ann have wisely chosen from Mac Joseph's collection

of cocktail dresses. For the Christmas affair, Emily will

wear a new dress which consists of a glittering gold and silver brocaded satin

skirt and a black velvet bodice. The stunning bodice

features a scooped neckline and an empire waist.

Ann will look impressive at the banquet in her red, gold,

and silver lamé three piece dress, which may serve as a

cocktail frock as well as a theater suit. In contrast to

the vivid colors, Emily and Ann noticed Mac Joseph's

exquisite black "after six" dresses in ever-popular

fabrics of matte-jersey and crepe. These "seasonal"

frocks feature high and low necklines, low backlines,

and empire waists. Both girls agree that Mac Josephs has

"just the dress" for the season's social whirl.

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