

"Come Weal or Come Woe . . ."

In a chapel talk earlier this year, a speaker jokingly threw out the phrase, "Come weal or come woe, my status is quo." At the time, students laughed at this statement and then, for the most part, disregarded its implications. Status quo is nice; it connotes stability, security, and tranquility. Yet who can feel stable, secure, or, least of all, tranquil, within the revolutionary nature of society today? This revolutionary character of society requires a great deal of the individual—adaptability, understanding and concern for ideas and events, and an interest in the goals of change.

To bring the idea of revolution or change down to a personal level, radical alterations are occurring in almost all aspects of life at Meredith College, Raleigh, North Carolina. New attitudes toward education are evident as course requirements become stricter. A proposed symposium here next year shows individuals' concern for intellectual expansion. Plans for future construction of campus facilities reveal a desire to better the tangible assets of the college. These and other changes are good, yet there are always voices of complaint and dissent. Students become infuriated at changes in course requirements which require more work and a little more effort. The reality of a successful symposium can only be achieved if students and faculty have the interest and desire to prepare for topics of discussion and are willing to attend the sessions. Finally, the step from blueprint to bricks for such facilities as the proposed library can only be made if members of the Meredith community are willing to sacrifice some of their own time and money to show that they want better facilities. A dismal reminder of what appears to be lack of enthusiasm for such sacrifice was the talent show held a few weeks ago. Did poor attendance then indicate lack of concern on the part of both faculty and students? If so, perhaps we had better forget about trying to build a library because if we, the Meredith community, aren't really concerned about such things, then how can we expect others to be?

Next year will be a crucial one in the development of Meredith College. With major changes in administrative personnel, there will be an even greater need for concern and interest on the part of every person associated with Meredith. It will be especially important for students to voice their concern about policies and decisions. We, as members of the college community, can look to new administrative officials for leadership, but will not those officials be looking back to us for a response that will make their leadership effective? MIH

Climb Every Mountain

"Climb Every Mountain"—these three words have become familiar ones since the *Sound of Music* became a part of Raleigh. These words offer a special message for those of us who have not yet encountered many "mountains." Probably, most of us are eager to meet those mountains and to begin the climb. But it is important also that we do not overlook the "hills" around us now. The graduating seniors are almost ready to tackle the heights, and by each girl some private mountain has probably been sighted and surveyed with excitement and, undoubtedly, a tinge of fear. But the equipment for conquering that mountain has been collected during the past years, and the success of the ascent will depend in a large degree on the quality of that equipment. Experience in conquering smaller hills will also be valuable to the climber.

Opportunities abound for all who have the privilege of being introduced to the world's vast store of knowledge and of being exposed to people who have conquered mountains. It seems to me that one mistake we often make as students is underestimating our own brains. We can too easily convince ourselves that we are not capable of some particular assignment or task. For that reason we often look for the easy way out—of courses, of a curriculum, of college itself. We forget that "I shall not pass this way again," and we pass up opportunities that may be ours for the last time. The hills we accept as challenges and as opportunities to learn about life now may prepare us to face the mountains of tomorrow. PAL



"Iota Subscript"

By BETH PEACOCK

The entrance to this garden was impressive. On either side of the drive leading to this utopia were two plaques on which the name was engraved. I was anxious to walk these fields which at first glance I mistook for wild flowers, for there was so great a variety in color and shape. I spied a lovely lake couched in rolling hills and was informed by a passerby that although the area had once been pleasing after sundown, I must now hurry if I would enjoy its beauty, for the path which had once been lit was now dark. Such a shame, I murmured, until the stranger informed me that in the evening people who lived nearby stole down to pluck the flowers. All well and good, I thought, but must I be penalized for their misdoings; I shan't pluck the flowers. My dismay heightened as I chanced upon a sign which read: "In accordance with the high ideals of this garden, no flower shall be permitted to drink of contaminated water, nor shall a flower be allowed to bend beyond thirty-five degrees, for in such case, although it be growing, it is neither conforming to, nor striving toward the prescribed pattern." Evening was drawing nigh as I departed. I might add that I took with me a feeling of uneasiness. Weeks passed. I resolved once again to venture into that garden which, although only a short distance from the teeming city, was like a world unto itself. That day, to my surprise, I found the flowers, whose colors now seemed deeper and richer, freely swaying with an abandon which made me think that I had heretofore been deceived. I was free from my image of dimstore counters piled high with artificial flowers. But alas, my joy was short-lived, for suddenly the sky darkened and . . .

The rain to the wind said,
"You push and I'll pelt."
They so smote the garden bed
That the flowers actually knelt,
And lay lodged—though not dead.
I know how the flowers felt.

—Robert Frost

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The attitudes and practices of Meredith students concerning the present drinking policy at Meredith have been a controversial subject since I have been here. On February 24, 1966, a poll was submitted to the student body in an effort to study these attitudes and practices. The results showed the following implications as indicated by those who participated:

1. About half of the students drink socially when not under the jurisdiction of the college and are permitted to do so by their parents.
2. Students drink while under the jurisdiction of the college.
3. More than half of the students disapprove of the present penalty for violation of the drinking policy.
4. More than half of the students have seen other students violate the present drinking policy and very few have either confronted or reported the violators.

Judging by these implications it is obvious that the behavior is not in keeping with the present drinking policy or with the honor code. Needless to say, a change is in order. It is true that when students come to Meredith College they sign a pledge of honor and judging from the poll, this honor is frequently violated. But I do not think that we can simply say that a third or more of the student body has no self-respect or integrity because of this. Rather, I think that we should examine the reasons behind the students' actions and ask ourselves if the present policy is a good policy and in keeping with the times.

The attitude of society has become somewhat liberalized toward social drinking in the past few years. As indicated by the poll, many girls are permitted by their parents to drink at home. Therefore, how can they be expected to think that social drinking is evil when they come to Meredith?

Many students are also opposed to the present policy because they are being denied the responsibility of making their own decisions concerning drinking. Why are we mature and responsible enough to decide on a future career, to choose the men whom we will marry and who will father our children, but not mature and responsible enough to make decisions about social drinking? And is it not better to be able to make this decision while guidance is available than when we are, all at once, on our own with not only decisions to make concerning social drinking, but other things as well; for sooner or later, most of us will be confronted with this matter.

It has been said that social drinking is evil. If abused, I agree that

it can be very tragic indeed. But when most things are abused, such as driving a car, the end result can be very sad. But being able to limit oneself in social drinking, eating, or whatever, is part of the responsibility that goes along with the decision made.

I am not advocating that Meredith College serve cocktails in the dining hall before dinner or set up bars in the dormitories. I am only asking that it be realistic and examine the facts. Mature ideals are essential, but often times they become too unrealistic. Policies regulating individual conduct should be based on a valid analysis of society today and its implications for personal development rather than on an idealistic proposition.

Barbara Watson

Dear Editor,

On April 2 and 3, the 1966 Carolina's Conference was held at the Betsy-Jeff Penn 4-H Center near Reidsville, N. C. This conference, sponsored by Student YMCA's, YWCA's, and SAC's in North and South Carolina, invited representatives from colleges all over the Carolinas. Colleges represented were North Carolina State University, Guilford, Queens, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, A and T College, Shaw, St. Augustine, Johnson C. Smith, and Meredith.

The scheduled topic for discussion was "A Reappraisal: Student Values in the Age of the Multiversity." Students and faculty members who attended examined the multitude of ideals and goals which are presented to those involved in college life. The first session dealt with working for grades or knowledge or both. The second, and further discussions, centered about bases for decision-making in the life of the student.

Graduate students from Chapel Hill gave the seminar presentation, "Resources for Making Ethical Decisions," which was a lead-off for further considerations. Reid Huntley presented a theological point of view; George van Glohn, a philosophical viewpoint; and Jim Smith, a sociological view. Before sessions had ended, such subjects as "the new ethics and campus realities," "what's wrong with the church today," and "the use of a college education," had been covered.

Students from A and T College produced a very stimulating and entertaining play for the conference. "The Public Eye" was the title of the drama which evoked laughter and tears before its conclusion.

Attendance at the conference was low, as only about 40 students and 20 adults attended, but participa-

tion was excellent. Sandy Flynt and I represented Meredith.

The interaction of the conference group was the most exciting aspect of the trip. The majority of delegates were Negro. This fact seems to indicate the desire of the educated Negro to be involved with the development of his generation in American society, not just as a Negro, but as a Christian citizen. The racial issue was not a topic, nor did it receive any more than brief mention, at the conference. The discussions dealt with man's strife for human dignity and true Christian witness in our world. What matters to a student? Does one "let himself go" in Christian love? Well, how far?

Sandy and I enjoyed the moments-in-between scheduled events on the program. We had a chance to meet and converse with students who shared their problems with denominational bias influencing their campus life, with apathy on campus for religious focus weeks, with the social conflict of school rules and present accepted social conduct.

It is certainly hoped that Meredith will have more representatives at this conference next year. It is sad to think that Meredith girls are so "conferenced-out" by the spring-time that they miss worthwhile meetings like the Carolina's Conference. Yet, the sparse attendance Meredith had indicates that this situation prevails. Meredith students, wake up! Do not "tune out" when an initial statement in Thursday chapel does not strike your fancy. You may be missing an opportunity which will prove far more profitable than it appears to be.

Macki Rudisill



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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 of 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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