



Meredith College

Raleigh, N. C., May 11, 1967

Purpose of the Press

What is the purpose of a newspaper?

Some students treat the college newspaper as they do a chapel talk. Just as they listen to the opening words of the speaker before settling into a brief nap or a period of concentrated study, they also glance quickly at the headlines of the newspaper before tossing it aside. For others, who line their wastebaskets with an unread printed page, a newspaper can be nothing more than a handy paper towel.

However, for some others, it can be a meaningful link between students, faculty, staff, and administration. It is, in essence, the only vital means of communication in the Meredith community, and, as Mr. Coffey explained in his address on the Honor Code, "There can be no community without communication."

We, the 1968 TWIG staff, ask only for a chance to communicate as we gather and interpret the news of the college. However, communication is a mutual, two-way process that also involves a student's reaction to that which is reported. By encouraging dialogue and communication, we hope to stimulate both writers and readers alike to follow Shakespeare's advice, "To speak what we feel, not what we ought to say."

LJL

Case Closed?

As is evident in results, the student government this year has centered its efforts in making Meredith more realistically like the "outside world." That is, they have sought to fulfill one of the official purposes of the college, "to prepare for intelligent citizenship." These attempts have further integrated Meredith into surrounding communities so that gradually it is ceasing to be the "island off Hillsboro Street."

For example, Directions '67 brought a much-needed intellectual challenge to the campus and an awareness of the problem of automation, which we face. The recently considered filing system will hopefully motivate qualified and interested students to seek responsible leadership. Delegates to both the State Student Legislature and Model United Nations acquired a knowledge and understanding of the process of true self-government.

However, in practicing what they have learned from others, the students have failed in one respect. Recently, the Legislative Board defeated by a large majority a proposal to initiate geographical representation on the Board, as is done in federal systems. The bill would allow for each of the representatives to be elected by her hall; therefore, she would be directly responsible to those who elected her. The hall proctor would serve in a more judicial role and would continue to be elected by the entire student body.

The reasons for the enactment for such a bill are, of course, evident. Besides being more democratic, the plan would enable more students to participate in government, thus allowing for a wider exchange of ideas and a fairer ratio of representatives to constituents. A representative would be responsible to one specific group and, therefore, the ambivalence of attempting to serve the entire student body, who elected her, would be eliminated.

Hopefully, the defeat of this one proposal will not end the Progressive Era in our student government on campus. Now that student leaders have assumed their positions for next year, perhaps the "new blood" will reconsider the proposal and recognize its value. However, the bill has been defeated and the case is closed—or is it?

LJL

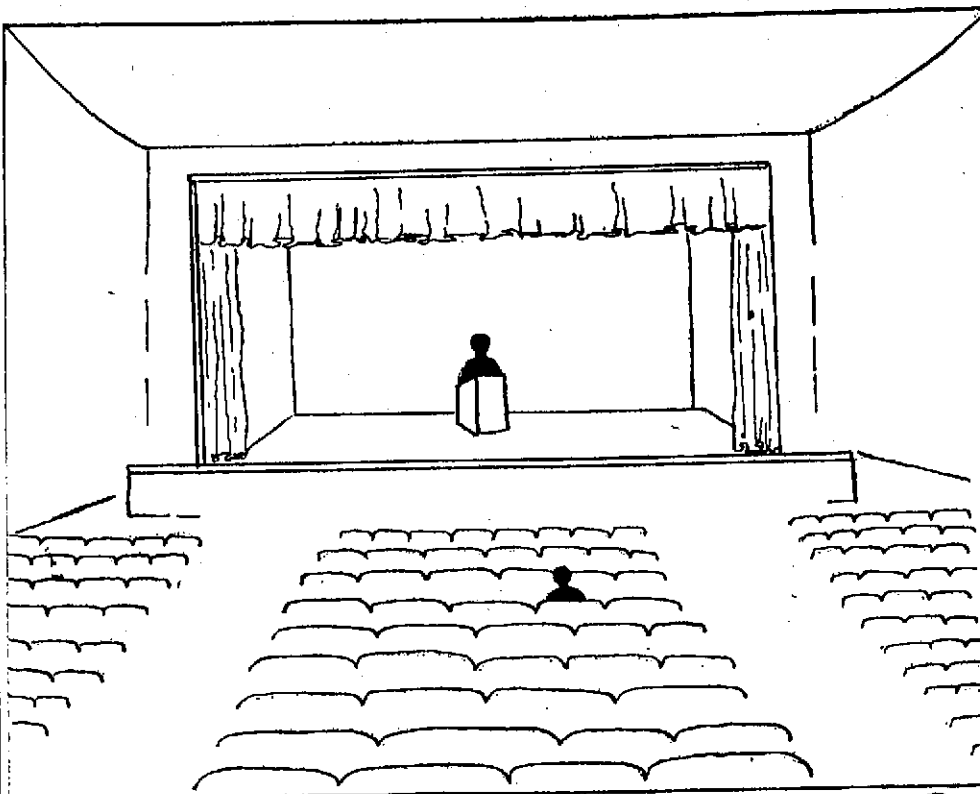
The Power of Suggestion

As new student leaders have taken office recently, a general desire for study of some major college policies has been brought into the open. In the past, many of us have sighed wistfully, "Oh, for a weekday without chapel," or "What if we didn't have Saturday classes. . .," never pausing to think that considerations of such measures might be made. However, we have noted this year an openness to suggestion in the current administration of the college and have instigated within the student government some study of these two Meredith traditions. It is encouraging to note that no one has advocated hasty and wholesale abolishment of either daily chapel or of Saturday classes. The movement is for a re-evaluation of both to see if they are accomplishing the purposes for which they are intended.

Could we not approach in a similar manner the possibility of altering the college calendar? We have complained about the substitution of an Easter break for a spring vacation and are daily lamenting the prospects of being on campus until after the first of June. This scheduling issue arose last year, with the result that the beginning of fall semester was delayed one week later than usual. Now, in mid-May, with exams still two weeks away and our one short semester vacation far behind, it seems that another solution to the calendar problem is desirable.

It would be needless to qualify a statement that students would like more holidays and an earlier commencement date; they undoubtedly would. Some colleges have met this problem by starting classes earlier in September; others have decreased the number of class days per semester. What is best for Meredith can be determined by students, faculty, and administration working together toward the best interests of all. The calendar for next year has already been drawn up, but evaluative study now could lead to improvements in the future.

EAS



AND IF CHAPEL WEREN'T REQUIRED?

NEW LEADERS

(Continued from page 1)

tions while at the college. If the guest violates a rule, her hostess will not be liable for her penalty, but a letter will be written to the guest's college informing them of her offense. As Carolyn McGrady, chairman of the Judicial Board said, "This is for the protection of our students from an irresponsible guest." In order to facilitate the work of the secretary of the Judicial Board, the sophomore representative will be responsible for handling parking tickets and pink slips.

The Student Activities Board, headed by Patsy Burks, also has many new ideas. With the initiation of weekly meetings, the Student Activities Board plans to broaden its program. One of the main aims for next year, as Patsy stated, is "to have better and more personal relationships between students and faculty."

Some of the plans of the Student Activities Board are to improve and to increase the number of mixers with North Carolina State dorms, to continue Directions '67 through the Concerts and Lectures Committee with a student representative to this committee, to improve orientation, and to propose the possibility of a coffeehouse on the campus.

The Nominations and Handbook chairman, Hope Glover, expressed hopes for changing the election procedure. Much work has gone into plans to institute a filing system which would eliminate the nominating committee except as an official elections board. The committee hopes that by next year it will be possible for qualified students to file for election and to run in a primary, thereby allowing only two candidates to run in the election. Two slates would still be used.

According to Jeannie Sams, SGA

president, orientation will be one day shorter. The general culture test will be omitted, and the campus tour will be replaced by a map and a slide tour. New plans are also being made to improve the formal reception and the mixer with the State boys.

The MCA has also made definite plans for next year. With a student worship chairman and Mr. Henry Coffey as Dean of Chapel, the chapel program will include more student participation and worship services led by members of different religions.

The MCA council members have as President Susan Chapman said, "committed ourselves to greater awareness of students as personalities and realizing ourselves as part villain and part angel and working from there." An enlargement of the MCA extension projects; the increase of international student sharing; the possibility of an ecumenical seminar with Catholics, Protestants, atheists and others debating; and greater participation in cultural events with other schools are also on the MCA agenda for next year.

On May 21, homemade ice cream, made and sold by the M. R. A. to raise needed funds, will kick off the year for their new council. The association also has definite plans for orientation. A booklet with a map of Meredith and floor plans of the classroom buildings and library will be presented to the incoming freshman instead of the traditional campus tour. Parents will be introduced to Meredith traditions through slides and a tour.

Other plans of the M.R.A. council include a new equipment room and a Play Day similar to the one held this year. Lynn Dodge, president of the association, also said that consideration should be given to presenting two stunt nights since "Stunt is like homecoming at Meredith."

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THOUGHTS ON TRADITIONS

By JUDY KORNEGAY

The idea of doing away with one or two days of chapel at Meredith next year has provoked much comment about the value of this five-day-a-week institution on our campus. After interviewing many students, some faculty members, and several members of the administration, I have come to the conclusion that perhaps it would be a good idea for each of us to consider the purposes of chapel and possibly re-evaluate our views about it.

One of the chief values and appeals of small, church-related, liberal arts colleges is that they afford students opportunities and privileges which it is impossible to make available to those who attend larger colleges and universities. The close-knit community organization of Meredith is one of its most distinguishing assets, and the gathering of the whole Meredith family for a half hour of worship or meeting each day is one of the traditions that helps most to foster the community atmosphere here. Chapel is a time when everyone meets to share school business, matters of community or world interest, or meditation. It is a privilege that we are not only allowed to participate in school government, but that we also have a time and place to regularly gather to tend to our affairs. It is a privilege that we can hear speakers from the Raleigh area and all parts of the world because this gives the Meredith community the chance to relate to the outside and makes the outside aware that we are a part of the world community. It is a privilege that we can take out thirty minutes of a busy day for a religious message which furthers the purpose of our school, "to develop in its students the Christian attitude toward the whole of life."

Chapel has many purposes other than just to present several sermons a week to a captive audience. It is an invaluable part of our total education. The people we hear daily in chapel give us varied views on many controversial issues. Often a chapel speaker helps us to form opinions—opinions which we may carry through life with us. We are now having the opportunity to hear speakers, many of them important and distinguished people, whom we may never be able to hear again. Sometimes we fail to appreciate the time, often unpaid-for time, in which these people share their ideas and experiences with us.

Chapel has great potential as an instrument for student ideas and participation. One day a week is set aside for the voice of the student body, Student Activities Board, to have chapel. This time can be used to present us with ideas and information on topics which interest us and are not a part of our regular academic or religious education. The recent appointment of a student Worship Chairman further increases the student participation in our chapel programs.

It is obvious that there is discontent with our chapel system as it exists, but it is important that in our criticism of our chapel system we realize that this tradition is an integral part of our education. It is our duty and our privilege to try to improve our chapel with such aims as getting better speakers on a wider variety of subjects, allowing more student involvement and planning of programs, and possibly beginning a system of evaluating chapel on a basis such as the past teacher evaluation. Our emphasis should be upon improving the quality of our chapels, whether they be three, four, or five times a week, rather than upon merely eradicating thirty minutes required assembly from the day's schedule.