

THE TWIG

Meredith College

December 14, 1967



Presidential Greetings

To Students and Other Members of the College Community

Let me take this opportunity to extend to each of you my warmest personal good wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

It is only natural at the close of a year to review and evaluate what we have and have not done. I believe we can all be reasonably proud and gratified with what we as a total family have accomplished. No one of us stands alone in our ambitious plans for the future. Our major financial effort is to begin early in 1968, and there is every reason for us to be encouraged—even excited—over developments thus far.

I am less involved with students than I would wish. Actually, the matter of time works both ways. Your time and energies, as well as mine, are taxed by numerous requirements which are urgent at the moment. I look forward to the time when I can spend more time "on the home front" with students, faculty, and staff; but in the meantime, every one of you has been more than adequate in keeping the college in appropriate balance.

I hope you will enjoy to the fullest the Christmas holidays, and that you will be back on January 3 with renewed vigor toward your plans and hopes. I also wish you a safe journey wherever you go.

Merry Christmas to each and every one of you. Be assured that the Heilman family is merry and blessed because of its association at Meredith.

E. BRUCE HEILMAN

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MEMBER Associated Collegiate Press. Entered as second-class matter at post office at Raleigh, N. C. 27602. Published semi-monthly during the months of October, November, February, March, April and May; monthly during September, December, and January. The Twig is served by National Educational Advertising Service, 18 East 50th Street, New York, New York. Subscription Rates: \$3.45 per year.

Friday Lecture Is Second in Series on Censorship

Ropp Reviews War, Role of News Media

By CATHEY RODGERS

Dr. Theodore Ropp, professor of history at Duke University, author, and advisor on military subjects, spoke Friday, December 9, as the second speaker in the Meredith lecture series on censorship.

Dr. Ropp discussed the role of the news media during war. He presented the thesis that news from radios, movies, and television had not purposely incited war.

He emphasized that all three media have been criticized for carrying out their natural functions. For example, in the Vietnam war, advocates of war say that wide, explicit television coverage hurts their support by depicting too much of the horrors of war. Those opposed to the war condemn the coverage and say it has a brutalizing effect on the public.

That the news media cannot hold a large responsibility for the public response during war is the result of one main concept of democracy in which Dr. Ropp believes, the power of the audience of our society to know the news.

Dr. Ropp finds censorship posing no serious threats. The fault has lain not with the media, but with the interpretation of the ac-

cumulated facts. Ropp cited Pearl Harbor, the Egyptian-Israeli crisis, and the Vietnam war among many examples.

In addition to defending the media, Dr. Ropp expressed an affection for them, especially television. He commented that television compresses reality because of the limitation of the screen, and thus "gets you back to the epic tradition; one man stands for a larger

view of reality." This, Dr. Ropp pointed out, may be one reason Shakespeare "goes over" so well on television. "In a certain way," said Dr. Ropp, "the television is a very poetic medium."

Thus Dr. Ropp created a strong case in defense of the media, allying himself with Marshall McLuhan. He was able to get his message across to his audience with clarity, simplicity, and humor.

New THOUGHTS on TRADITIONS

By JUDY KORNEGAY

In light of renovating rooms and rules at Meredith, this may be the opportunity to re-evaluate one of our older policies which seems out of step with the times. The present regulation forbidding dancing on campus is comparable to old statutes forbidding "horseless carriages" within the city limits. Yet, little thought has been given to this policy, the purpose behind it, or how to change it.

At one time social dancing was considered morally wrong by many, but in 1967 social dancing is recognized as a wholesome and acceptable form of entertainment (and exercise!). Since Meredith girls are allowed to dance at approved off-campus events, the validity of the present Meredith dance regulation should be questioned.

In the past only a few couples could have danced in the parlors, and a society or class would have had little room to dance in the Hut or Society Hall. With the pros-

pect of a college union there may be ample space for dances and other social events, such as the Junior-Senior dance and banquet. It might be cheaper to have such social functions on our campus rather than rent space in town. Class dances and related social events would have more Meredith community spirit if held on campus rather than elsewhere. Perhaps our coffee-house could have a juke box to be played for dancers and listeners when student entertainment is not being provided.

Many people, young and old, enjoy listening and dancing to music; Meredith girls are no exception. If we are to be allowed to enjoy this form of social entertainment on campus, initiation of a request for change must be made from the student body. I propose that all interested students notify their Legislative Board representatives that they would like to see appropriate legislative measures taken to abolish this policy.

HOLIDAY WISHES

Dear Students,

I would like to wish everyone at the college a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Pops Herndon

Letters to the Editor

Student Demonstrates Against Draft

Dear Editor,

Monday morning, December 4, I participated in an anti-draft, anti-war demonstration in front of the Raleigh induction center. Although it took a great deal of courage for me to take a public stand for the beliefs I have often talked about, it was a rewarding experience.

Michael Smedberg, a member of the resistance movement, has

visited our campus twice. Friday, December 1, he talked with a group of approximately twenty girls. Although some were "hawks," some "doves," and some neutrals, I feel as if all benefited from this exchange of views, opinions, and facts. The purpose of the demonstration was discussed, and I feel many girls left the meeting wiser and more appreciative of differing opinions.

Personally, I am glad that I participated in what I feel was a very worthwhile cause. However, I am not advocating that each Meredith student march in protest or support of a cause. I do encourage more students to exchange their ideas about issues basic to our world, and then to present in some manner their beliefs to the public.

Mary Watson Nooe

APPRECIATION EXPRESSED

Dear Editor,

Co-operation was the key to making this year's Parents' Weekend a success. Even though the weekend immediately following Thanksgiving may have been inconvenient for many people, I feel that it was a success.

I would like to thank all the people who "went an extra mile" to plan and carry out this weekend. A special thank you goes to the members of the Parents' Weekend Committee, who were Diane Parker, Bonnie Sparks, Sue Hammons, Gail Van Doren, Ruth Anne Walters, Evelyn Carter, Jan Joyner, Betty McNeill, Brenda Carole Jones, and Judith Alexander.

Other students whose help I appreciate are Patsy Burks, chairman of the Student Activities Board; the students on the Student Activities Board; the chairmen of the junior and senior stunts; the girls who were on stage and backstage; the ensemble; and the students who helped with the Sunday reception.

I especially would like to thank all the faculty members who were in their offices Sunday afternoon to visit with parents and the administrative officers who were at the reception.

(Continued on page 3)

Anomaly, by Ginger Hughey

Ode to Student Teachers

Some people say a teacher is made out of steel;
 Their mind can think, but their body can't feel
 Iron and steel and hickory tea,
 Frowns and gripes from nine to three.

You teach seven full hours, and what do you get?
 Another day older and deeper in debt;
 You buy your lunch and this and that,
 Then for twenty-nine days your billfold's flat.

I was born one morning when it was cloudy and cool.
 I picked up my register and headed for school.
 I wrote eighty-four names on my homeroom roll,
 And the principal said, "Well, bless my soul."

I got eighty kids and forty-two seats.
 Some sixty are talking while twenty-four sleep.
 I can hardly get them through the door
 And if I don't watch out, they'll send me more.

The last bell rings and I head for the door.
 My head's a'ringing and my feet are sore;
 I taught seven full hours and my day is made,
 But I still have three hundred papers to grade.

You teach seven full hours and what do you get?
 Another day older and deeper in debt.
 I'll go to St. Peter, but I can't stay—
 I have to come back for the PTA.

(NOTE: The above poem was written by Becky Bell of Chattanooga, Tennessee, on January 25, 1963.)