

THE TWIG

Meredith College

March 7, 1968

Paradoxes

Paradoxes currently seem to be the rule rather than the exception here at Meredith. Students say that chapel checkers are opposed to the honor code; however, without checkers the students themselves do not adhere to the code. Students presently can drink in Burlington (if not returning to the college) and can not in Raleigh. The line between thirty-five and thirty-six miles from the college is indeed becoming grayer. It is also paradoxical that we emphasize such trivia as call downs, dorm cards, and campuses while forgetting that a world exists beyond the campus.

Such matters hardly seem worth our concern when we broaden our outlook. For example, on Monday Dr. Lillian Parker Wallace pulled our minds out of the mire of trivialities and focused them on the important. Students were told the basis of the Vietnam situation and realized that such things as geography and differing languages are often overlooked as causes of war. For one half hour our minds were raised above the trivia and centered on people other than ourselves.

LJL

Running Scared?

If chapel attendance seems to be improved during the current week and the next one, chances are it is not because of any sudden revival of respect for the honor system. Rather, the student body must be naturally reacting like any individual or group threatened with the loss of a privilege: running scared.

Anyone who wants a true picture of "the extent to which Meredith's honor system is being upheld in this matter" need not initiate any special study. The results might be a prime example of "how to lie with statistics." A glance over Jones Auditorium during chapel on any day during the last six-and-one-half months would show that the honor system in this matter is being taken very lightly by a sizeable percentage of the student body.

Perhaps we are being given a second chance to make chapel without checkers work. If this is the case, we should be appreciative, for in most instances, six months is ample time for a mature person to prove he can handle responsibility.

All in all, it is not this two weeks, but those which came before and those which will follow, which should more truthfully determine how effective the present system is.

EAS



Thoughts on Traditions

Do Societies Have Purposes?

By JUDY KORNEGAY

Change dominates the face of Meredith these days. We might consider the role of our societies in light of the changes contemplated and under way.

Our present societies had their origins in Literary Clubs founded at the turn of the century. These clubs met on Saturday nights for their first twenty years, giving students of Baptist Female University entertainment and education while pursuing literary interests and promotion concern about current events. Activities ranged from chapel programs and debates to publishing the *Oak Leaves* and *Acorn* (which was a monthly!).

Without undermining what the societies are doing or are planning to do, I think that something is missing. In spite of the fellowships, friendships, and services which these two groups foster, there is a basic year-long spirit and enthusiasm which is not exhibited by the majority of Meredith students for their societies. Rush and society functions call out the dormant spirit

which most of us feel for our sisterhoods, but this is all too sporadic.

Many suggestions have been made about society activities. Last year Mimi Holt, editor of the TWIG, recommended that Play Day be competition between societies rather than dorm or class competition. Considering the flagging interest in this school function, society rivalry might be the best way to inject new enthusiasm into the event.

The societies might well become political parties. While we would lose the friendship-making and service-rendering side of the societies, we would gain a system of government in which there would be organized channels for expressing student opinion, there would be competition to have two or more candidates with definite platforms for each office, and voters could make choices based on issues.

Although the original purpose of the societies was in part literary, this aspect remains on shaky grounds. Both groups give a literary award to the best essayist in the society on Awards Day, but this generates little interest. Because our campus publications seem to be having trouble in getting writers, the societies could be helpful by encouraging writing contests with awards for the best articles, essays, poems, or features published in school publications. Perhaps the societies could sponsor an essay contest dealing with the symposium topics of the Concerts and Lectures Committee. This is done successfully at Randolph Macon by making the contest open to students in colleges and universities all over the country, thereby promoting inter-institutional cooperation.

Society debating teams could contest in chapel, and the best debaters of the two teams could combine to represent Meredith in matches with other schools.

The societies could make known their need for separate, permanent meeting places and ask for rooms in the future College Union. Planning and decorating these areas could be a major society project and service. When not in use for meetings, these rooms could be used as club rooms for society members to socialize and date in.

Our societies have proven that through cooperation and service they can be dynamic forces on our campus; however, there is still much untapped potential.

Anomaly

By GINGER HUGHEY

Dear Freshmen, Upperclassmen understand that you are in the second semester ritualistic throes of insomnia-causing, ulcer-producing, gray-hair-resulting English term papers. In the interests of your continuing sanity, they would like to console you.

Things could be worse. One term paper is nothing compared to what they hit you with during your next three years. Term papers are professional plots designed to undermine the spirit of procrastinating students. If recognized and accepted as such in your "youth," you stand a better chance of finishing college: your work and studies can be centered in combating the corrosive influence which is impinging on your basic rights as an individual (right to date, play bridge, nap, etc.).

However, this is not to say that all hope is lost, for within four years you should have developed some interests and your subsequent paper will reflect them. By your senior year you should adequately be able to handle *Mrs. Custer and the Indian Relief Fund*, or the *Geopolitics* found in *Valley of the Dolls*.

T. C. Parramore

Letters to the Editor

CHAPEL ATTENDANCE

Dear Editor,

I have only one thing to say concerning the present condition of chapel attendance. Many times I have looked out over the audience only to see most of the same seats empty that I saw empty the day after seats were assigned.

In particular, I call to mind the day that we voted on the new system of elections. Before we began the procedure, we looked out over the audience to see barely a quorum.

It seemed so ironic that all year long we had been telling the faculty committee how able the student body was to accept responsibility. Then it came time to vote and we barely had the quorum. Responsibility? I cannot say that I would blame the administration or faculty for not supporting our wanted changes on the grounds of our "responsibility."

Jeannie Sams

ELECTIONS SYSTEM

Dear Editor,

After many long years of planning and work the student body finally put into effect a filing system. Of course, in any new system there will be "kinks," but the apathy with which the new filing system met was appalling. Many major offices were uncontested. The dorm discussions were virtually unattended. But the epitome of it all was that some of the candidates themselves did not even have the interest to attend the discussions.

Students are constantly clamoring for more responsibility. The new social standards consideration will place a large burden of responsibility on each student. I wonder why we think that we can accept responsibility in one area when we show we cannot in another!

Mary Watson Nooe

NEWSPAPER RAPPED

Dear Editor,

As a new staff prepares to take over the TWIG, the time is right for a reappraisal of the role of our campus newspaper and its responsibilities toward the public it serves. The writer would like to propose certain ideas for the consideration of the incoming staff as a basis for such a reappraisal.

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