

# THE TWIG

Meredith College

September 26, 1968

## The Meredith Lady

The Meredith Lady is quite a creature. Dr. Heilman described her as "intelligent, wise, friendly, discerning, cordial, considerate, cultured, and provocative in appraisal of circumstance." She, as an image, is doing well, but what about as an individual? Is she doing any more than accepting a place in a mold?

The form drawn for this lady is an admirable one, but "discerning" and "provocative in appraisal" call for more than being grouped. There is no homogeneous unit involved; instead, there is a combination of individuals who, while sharing the common interest of making a college community, must also be allowed to be themselves.

Discovering one's own individuality and identity is not in opposition to any image. How can enlarging herself do anything but contribute to an even greater Meredith Lady?

Dr. Heilman stated that "One of the more significant things about the human being is his capacity to learn without actual involvement." True, a human being is able to learn that way, but involvement is the real issue here. To make the image real as well as ideal requires individual action. There should be no one set line to success. We would like to be considered "mature and responsible," but unless we add the courage to make judgments and decisions of our own, how can we deserve that description?

Instead of silently slipping into a picture that is, admittedly, flattering and ideal in words, each individual needs to first appraise herself and her own idea of the Meredith Lady. Honest, rational opinions are respectable; bold, constructive ideas are mature; considered, useful action is intelligent. Freedom is needed to analyze and to keep the Meredith Lady from being merely a paper doll.

S.A.J.

## Road To Involvement

The restless generation is "in." They shun hypocrisy, search for a meaning-oriented society, and effectively challenge outmoded social and academic policies. They support a presidential candidate.

Will Meredith students be among these restless ones? At present we think not. An embarrassingly meager response to a recent TWIG questionnaire concerning the relative force of two campaign issues in determining voter preference in the 1968 Presidential election is indicative of a lack of political concern on the Meredith campus. Ignorance of the political alternatives is a flimsy excuse; apathy is no excuse. Yet many students retort, "Youth had a candidate—Eugene McCarthy. He psyched out the real situation—campaigning was exciting. Then came Chicago, the riots, and brutality. McCarthy lost and youth lost their voice. Why bother now?" To throw in the political towel is a defeatist attitude, quite paradoxical to the activist philosophy of the restless generation.

The solutions are not intricate. The road to involvement must begin on our campus where the Young Democrats and Republicans Clubs can become effective liaisons between the collegiate and national parties given significant support. A third party campus organization is also needed. Political activism should extend farther to the community where volunteer student work at local national campaign headquarters is effective evidence of support. Participation in an organization aimed particularly at recruiting student energies in solving national problems, the "Student Coalition" within the Youth Division of the United Citizens for Nixon-Agnew, is yet another vehicle for student action.

Fulfillment of an activist philosophy requires active political involvement. Will Meredith students be a part of the restless generation?

M.O.C.

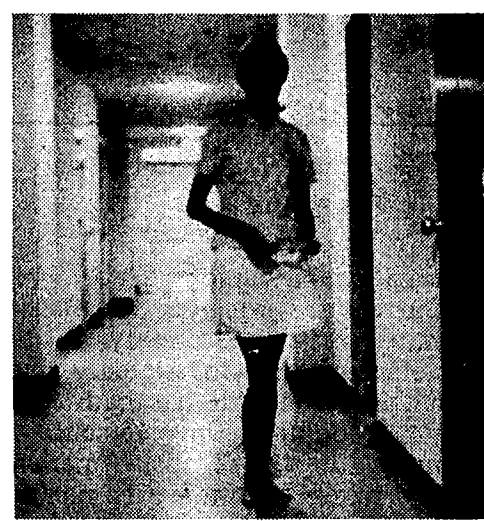
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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

When we returned to Meredith this year we came with high hopes of many changes in student life. One of the foundations of these hopes was the previous effort by students to initiate changes in policies governing students and to inform faculty and administration of student thought on these policies. If we can interpret from President Heilman's speech in chapel on September 18 that he as president of this institution is satisfied with the status quo in relation to student policies such as the drinking rule and bachelor's quarters rule, we as students fear that past work and that which we anticipated this year will be futile.

In the speech the President intimated that there were more important realms and issues to be sought beyond changing the apartment rule or the drinking rule. Some students are self-seeking in their desire for change. When the presence of the policies, however, causes a girl to question her sense of personal honor or integrity and brings the breakdown of the Honor System socially, it seems that the policies should be examined and altered. No radical change is called for here, simply one which could both represent the change which has taken place in society and yet maintain the ideals toward which a girl at Meredith strives and for which the college is known. There is a problem when a large number of the student body find their value of honor inhibited by two policies. A sense of responsibility is the answer to living under the Honor System as it is now, but this obligation hardly helps a girl change her habits or moral convictions.

A few years ago the need for a dialogue among students and between students and the faculty and administration was seen by our director of religious activities. This need has become even more urgent. The frustration that students feel when they cannot communicate their ideas and sense of values to faculty and administration is worsened when they feel there is an effort to regulate even their dress and their display of affection with the opposite sex. This criticism of student life was a vague but major theme of President Heilman's speech.

We as students feel even more disturbed when faced with proverbial "Meredith image." In the classroom we are taught to be individuals, to think for ourselves. Yet in other areas of college life conformity is the only accepted "lady-like" behavior. How can we have personal integrity when we are not given the opportunity to be individuals and to think through issues for ourselves and act accordingly?

We, like President Heilman, seek and value freedom — not a freedom which runs from that which it fears or from troubles or responsibility. We want a freedom to be ourselves and to find what we truly believe in for it is only through finding and knowing yourself that you can be free to give the best and most honest part of yourself to society, the world, and to God. Malcolm Boyd in *Free to Live, Free to Die* said "I want to be free. Free to laugh, to cry. Free to die, to live. Free to be responsible, and care and dig in. Freedom." Can we find freedom this year? **Judy Campbell and Susan Hout**

## Nixon, Humphrey Backers Take Election Stance

*Editor's Note: In active campaigning for their presidential choices, the presidents of the Meredith YRC and YDC have stated their reasons for supporting Richard Nixon and Hubert Humphrey. Any discussion of their views or the election in general is welcome.*

I support Richard Nixon because his platform is forceful and includes a definite stand on all the major issues. He hopes to stop the war in Viet Nam, and not to encourage future aggression. He has proposed means of educating and preparing those on the now too lengthy welfare lists for jobs. Mr. Nixon believes the present federal government is much too large and has taken over control of areas that should be handled by the state or local government. He wants to separate these powers. One of his prime concerns is to regain the respect of other nations. Richard Nixon's policies are far more realistic than those of the present administration, for he promises no extravagant measures that would benefit only one class. For these reasons, I support the candidacy of Richard Nixon.

**Carolyn Langhorn**  
President,  
Young Republicans Club

As the 1968 Presidential election draws near, I would like to express my views on the candidates. After much thought and thorough study, I am actively supporting Hubert Horatio Humphrey.

Since the platforms of the Republican and Democratic candidates are very similar, the question a voter should ask himself is: "Which candidate has the ability and is in the position to best execute his program?" Humphrey is my choice for the Presidency because of his continual role in politics and government over the past 20 years. From 1949-64 Humphrey played a vital part in the Senate, and then in 1965 he became the Vice-President. This record of Hubert Humphrey's contrasts sharply with Richard Nixon's who has been absent from the political scene for the past-eight years. For example, take Vietnam, the major issue of this campaign. Both candidates as well as the American people, have expressed a desire for a settlement as soon as possible. Humphrey is in a better position than Nixon to achieve this goal because he has been personally involved in the governmental decisions concerning the war and knows firsthand the political and military background.

Although the present administration is under a great deal of criticism, I feel that under the circumstances, Johnson could not have acted differently with the interest of America at heart. Humphrey could have attempted to alienate himself from the present administration, but his loyalty is admirable and courageous.

**Betty McNeill**  
President,  
Young Democrats Club

The opinions expressed in the editorials and columns in the TWIG are not necessarily those of the administration, student body, or the entire newspaper staff.