



Letters to the Editor

CHAPEL BEHAVIOR

Dear Editor:

As a result of behavior observed in chapel over the past few weeks, I feel compelled to comment to the student body.

The amount of noisy rudeness to the speakers on the part of the student body seems to be increasing at an alarming rate. The validity of its very existence is certainly questionable, but its present volume and direction is my present concern.

In short, students do not cease talking and moving about when the moderator begins speaking. Frequently they don't stop when the guest speaker starts, but it has been observed that the student body has a particular tendency to be rude to any speaker who is a member of the student body, faculty or administration. Opening remarks — often announcements of general interest — are lost because they can't be heard as a result of the chattering still going on.

I realize that we students are hostile towards chapel — and attend only because attendance is checked — and that we enter chapel with apprehension about the "interest" of the program — but this is no excuse for the rudeness exhibited toward those in charge.

Since chapel is required and, admittedly, some of the programs aren't worth listening to (although we have had several excellent ones) it is almost excusable for students to engage in activities other than listening. Studying is at least quiet! But I can find no excuse for talking 5-10 minutes after the program begins and then intermittently — at length — throughout the program — with one's roommate — even though you've not seen one another for all of two hours! Certainly lengthy comments can wait.

As a senior I am particularly aware of talking going on in my area, but I've seen the "heads together" in other areas that indicates conversation among other students. Besides that, it's hard to ignore the dull roar that accompanies the first few minutes (not seconds) of each chapel program. This is trying for the speakers, even if they do realize that we are "captive." It is also trying for those students who are trying to give the speaker — or film — a chance. Many people couldn't "tune in" to the first few minutes of the Ashley Montague film because of the chatter around them, and hence missed several important points of an interesting film.

This is simply rudeness not only to the speakers, but also to other students. If my discussion of rudeness has not raised any feelings on the part of the guilty parties, let's look at it this way: suppose you were trying to study — but couldn't concentrate because of the whispering behind you — wouldn't you wish they'd be quiet? So ladies — if you won't curb your chatter out of respect for, and courtesy to, the speaker, do it for your fellow captives, who are trying to study!

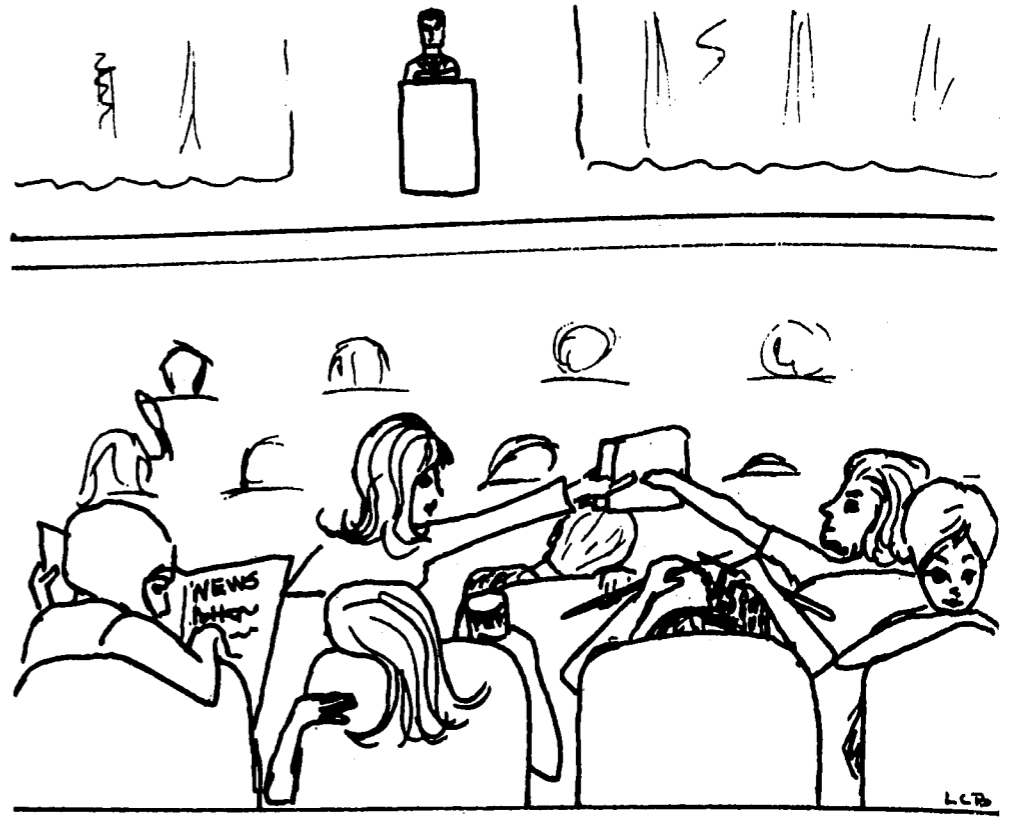
Sincerely,
Donna Gant

HUMPHREY BACKER

Dear Editor:

I realize that this article will have no real affect on the outcome of the presidential race; however, I feel compelled to state my position.

I feel that Vice-President Hubert Humphrey is the man we need to



You know, I can get so much more done in chapel now that it lasts an hour.

lead us in these troubled times. Again and again Humphrey has been attacked for his position with Johnson and the "great Society," but why? Humphrey is the individual running for office, not President Johnson, and therefore he should be allowed to run on his own merits. It is true that in his position as Vice-President, he was an active participant in the new legislation, but even more than this is the fact that he has been the initiator of some of our finest programs such as Medicare, aid to education, and the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

People claim that they want a change, a new stability — but the word change itself connotes action. Do we, therefore, want progressive action, or do we want to go back where we were twenty years ago? Do the supporters of Mr. Nixon, in their ardent desire for a change from the Democratic party and a new stability, think that the ever-moving world is going to let us have a breather from our responsibilities in order to stabilize our present policies through inaction?

Vice-President Humphrey has been endorsed by the *New York Times* in a very strong article published on Oct. 6, with which I adamantly concur. In this endorsement, Humphrey was recognized as very superior to Mr. Nixon in three very critical areas. In foreign affairs, Humphrey initiated the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and other such programs toward a desire for peace while Mr. Nixon took no initiative toward disarmament. In the domestic affairs Humphrey sponsored the Medicare program and actively worked to solve the other urban problems such as better housing and quality education for everyone, whereas Nixon in the past has either vetoed such proposals or publicly condemned them by announcing his non-support.

The *New York Times* also qualified Mr. Humphrey on his personal capacity for leadership and firm convictions as opposed to Nixon's past evasions on the pertinent issues and indeed his pervasiveness. Mr. Nixon has refused to debate the essential issues of the campaign, and his professional integrity has been dimmed somewhat by the allusion to political deals and the nickname he bears of "Tricky Dick."

In this case who presents the best political image? Whom do you want to be your leader for the next four years? The election is already a fact, and I will give my support to that candidate elected by the majority of the people because this is necessary in maintaining our democracy; but will our nation con-

tinue to be a leader by being able to adapt to change or must we wait, become apathetic to ideals in the interest of stability, and become stagnant?

Under the Democratic party, the U. S. has been able to tell a story of progress. Look closely at the records of each candidate. Humphrey had achieved significant goals for rich and poor alike, educational and occupational opportunities, and the support of the common man as opposed to big business. That's our story — what will the next edition bring?

JoAnne Crook

RESPONSE TO EDITORIAL

Dear Editor and Associate Editor:

While I am glad to see you take a clear and firm stand on the presidential election, I am bound to take strong issue with one of the reasons you give for supporting Nixon. You say that "stopping foreign aid to nations who won't help us in Vietnam" is one of the policy changes which Nixon can be expected to initiate. You may be right. But is this not the clumsiest and most malevolent possible course we might follow in foreign aid?

Consider these prospects. Nixon's policy would perhaps buy for us the grudging support of peoples who, agreeing with many millions of Americans, think we are in the wrong in Vietnam. It would put us in the position of trying to purchase from other peoples their right to think for themselves. It would earn for us the resentment and indignation of both those states that yielded to our intimidation and those that did not.

More specifically, I think of Yugoslavia, a nation that cannot be expected ever to support us in Vietnam but which must have our aid in order to remain free of Soviet domination. I think of France, a nation that sacrificed for years, for the most part without help from us, to keep communism out of Vietnam, only to decide at length that her own policy was wrong. Should we now denounce 200 years of Franco-American good-will? I think of India, a nation which regards our Vietnamese policy as tragically mistaken. Would you hold for ransom the lives of millions of starving Indians existing on our wheat in order to force the Indian government to support a war in which it disbelieved? I do not think for a minute that you would advocate these things. May I harbor the hope then that your statement on foreign aid was merely an ill-considered snap-judgment?

Sincerely,
T. C. Parramore
Dept. of History

A Curious Reversal

"Victorian" and "conservative" are descriptive student tags for the faculty, while "contemporary" and "liberal" most frequently describe students in their own self-evaluation. Yet no longer can we uniformly categorize the faculty and the student body, particularly in social policy decisions. The faculty committee has made a surprising reversal—the case in point being the apartment ruling. A vote to eliminate the present apartment ruling was cast by the faculty committee; a vote to liberalize, yet qualify the present ruling, was cast by the legislative board.

While the faculty and student approaches are fundamentally in agreement on the need to liberalize the present apartment ruling, they are at odds on one point, specifically on the need to restrict freshmen and sophomores from visiting bachelor's quarters at their own discretion. It is our belief that this point is of utmost importance, for two main reasons. First is a fundamental distinction in the level of maturity and responsibility. Juniors and seniors by the age of 20 or 21 and with two years of college are more capable of assuming the responsibilities involved in visiting bachelor's quarters than freshmen who, at 18, have just been removed from close parental supervision. Indeed, it is our observation that freshmen and sophomores see the apartment restriction as a welcome crutch. Secondly, juniors and seniors have few upper class privileges, with the exception of car access. Gaining the right to visit bachelor's quarters for the juniors and seniors would therefore provide such a distinct reward.

If the liberal faculty committee stance and the conservative legislative board stance are a curious reversal, this is perhaps a healthy sign. It is our hope that the dissimilarities in outlook will not jeopardize a rule that is a most effective means toward developing in Meredith students a responsibility toward the "whole of life."

MOC

Little Things

This week a man accepted a great responsibility. Whether or not we originally favored him, we now recognize the need to support him in his four-year task. In his term of office, the president must fulfill a myriad of duties that constitute his overall responsibility. We certainly can see the complicity of the president's duties, but can we see our own?

Our four-year task is as a college student. This role involves the areas of study, recreation and community living; each of these phases is a responsibility with responsibilities. Study and recreation are more individual matters, but community living, obviously, involves other people.

In general, Meredith girls handle the group life well, but there are some evidences of inconsiderate actions too. On the halls, how many people are careful with recording telephone messages and keeping the chain system going? How many think about anyone but themselves when they feel like making noise? In the lunchroom or beehive how many think how long others have waited in line when they want to get in? How many remember to thank the servers for the food or to help the cafeteria staff by returning trays? Around the campus, how many put trash in a receptacle instead of carelessly tossing it on the ground?

When there are inconsiderate actions, however small, there is irritation. For a real community one must remember the little segments, for large responsibilities are made up of smaller ones.

SAJ

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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.

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.