

THE TWIG

Meredith College

March 6, 1969

Ballot Power

The ballot box can be a powerful tool. Its potential rests upon the quality of its implementation. And like any tool, when used effectively, its worth in carving a well-designed, carefully planned structure is invaluable.

As a tool, the ballot box at Meredith is not meeting its potential strength. Registration records clearly indicate that many students neglected to register for the March 3rd primary, thus forfeiting their voting privilege. Although apathy too is an input of the election system, those very students who failed to register and vote are the ones whose chronic complaints can be heard campus-wide. If students do not become involved by exercising voting privileges, how can they expect to demand greater freedom with its inherent responsibility from the administration?

The strength of the ballot as a tool for effective leadership is further hindered under the filing system. It need not be. Whereas the method of nominating officers resulted in competition for all offices it lacked the freedom students demanded. With the potential to place ourselves in nomination, the results, while satisfactory, are far from applaudable. The situation is familiar. The number of candidates for SGA President is commendable, those for MRA tolerable, and those for Judicial Board chairman and TWIG editor deficient.

Excellence necessitates a competitive choice of candidates. Without competition, the ballot box is a completely sterile tool. If two of the most influential jobs of campus are repeatedly non-competitive, this suggests either a need to return to the former nomination method or a re-evaluation of the nature of these undesired responsibilities. The latter is the only feasible answer.

The ballot box on Meredith campus is potentially a powerful tool for selecting competent campus leadership. The importance of a forward-looking group of student leaders can not be overemphasized, particularly in light of the recent statement made by the Board of Trustees, indicating a willingness to extend a spirit of trust to the student body and a recognition of student ability to make many campus decisions.

MOC

After the Newness

After the newness wears off—what?

Chair cushions ripped; ink stains on the rugs; initials on the desks; crumpled paper on the floor . . . a dreadful fate for a library as beautiful as the new one, isn't it? Of course, the scene can be different.

The library which has been a dream so long is now a functional reality. The countless swings of the front door indicate the wide use students are already making of the facility, but, while the building is used, it also needs care.

The physical plant of the Carlyle Campbell Library is not only conducive to study with its soft rugs and individual desks, it is also attractive to the eye. Trash and defacement quickly mar the beauty, however. The new library will become as worn as the old one too soon, unless students are careful.

After the newness wears off—keep the library *looking* new anyway.
SAJ



Leaders . . . Rising Seniors

Carries House Unanimously

Meredith SSL Proposal Passes

By SUSAN HOUT

The North Carolina State Student Legislature met Feb. 26-Mar. 1 at Memorial Auditorium and Sir Walter Hotel. Meredith had eight participants: Barbara Wall, Ann Henry, Jo Ann Blackburn, Susan Hout, delegates; Louise Watson, Elaine McNeill, Kay Kennemur, alternates. Nancy Hinson was elected secretary of the Senate.

Wednesday was registration and a reception that night with delegates from all the colleges at Chancellor Caldwell's home. Thursday morning presentation of the bills began with East Carolina University's bill to set up regulations for transplanting vital organs.

The Meredith bill to establish the legal paternity of a child conceived by artificial insemination was presented in the House Thursday

afternoon and the Senate Friday morning. It passed both houses with little opposition.

The legislation this year was stimulating, including a bill to legalize liquor-by-the-drink and a bill to hold presidential primaries in North Carolina.

The black delegations were most active this year. There was a new insight and, at other times perhaps consternation as they found grounds for racial bias in an enormous number of the bills. Their votes were cast as "hello" (strong affirmative) and "hell-no" (strong negative) of which Meredith received 2 "hellos" in the Senate.

Working in the machinery of legislative politics was a fascinating experience, but, just as much of a learning experience, was working with students from so many other colleges.

wednesday reaction . . .

Dear Editor:

Having just come from the chapel program of the year I have two strong feelings to express. First, I am a Senior who has struggled for three years and a half to uphold rules I do not approve of—merely because they are rules of the institution of which I am a part. I have seen undue frustration caused by these rules, and I have watched as concerned student leaders fought tooth and nail, literally giving their all to see these rules changed—changed, of course, in recognition of a new spirit of love and acceptance of one another—a school spirit that need not be upheld by written rules. As such a Senior, then, I sympathize with the animosity and frustration expressed in chapel today. I cannot see how student leaders can say *more*; it has all been said. I cannot see why these rules and hopefully this spirit (which I believe has to follow rather than precede change in the rules) can not change *now*. I mean today, tomorrow, this weekend.

However, I feel another emotion now. I feel, quite bluntly, that the student body was too short sighted, too concerned with a relatively minor matter to give thought to the tremendous significance of Dr. Heilman's message. We have waited three years to see these changes. Now we know that in one semester they will definitely come about and perhaps—if we respond maturely—in a matter of weeks. We have been granted a tremendous concession, maturity. Can we not grant a small one and give Dr. Heilman and others who work constructively a short time to preserve what is good about this school and to insure that, with the change, will come what we all talk about but have not yet achieved, community?

Sincerely,
Carrie Frampton

EDITOR'S NOTE: We know the result of the subject of the first paragraph of this letter. What about the second?

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.

Enforced Chapel Risks Emptiness

EDITOR'S NOTE:

In light of the current chapel controversy on our campus, we include this editorial from the "Charlotte Observer."

It is axiomatic that worship can't be coerced, even though a requirement for student attendance at chapel may be enforced as a matter of school policy.

That is a truism where Queens College is concerned, but it is not a complete definition of the problem that prompted a large number of students to stage a sitdown strike last week against compulsory chapel attendance.

Queens, a church-related institution, has maintained the chapel requirement out of the belief that it is important as a function of the collegiate community. The chapel tradition speaks of the institution's Christian antecedents and draws the student body together on what is deemed to be common ground.

The argument for required chapel attendance goes this way: that since Queens is an institution grounded in a particular religious faith, its character and nature are a matter which involves every student, ergo every unexcused student must be on hand when the chapel doors open.

This is a high-sounding theory but is it really faithful to the idea of community? In its realistic sense, community stands or falls to the degree that its citizens make enough of the right choices from the multiple choices available.

Many parents send their children to church-related institutions in the hope and belief that religious values will not only rub off on them but that the institutions will act *in loco parentis*.

But it's not only becoming more difficult to educate the likes of Queens students in isolation from what is permitted at other institutions of higher education. It also is questionable whether a greater sense of community is being cultivated when compulsory chapel becomes—as it became at Davidson College—a display of boredom, resentment and disrespect.

In the long run, the tradition of chapel belongs to Queens College, but the conscience, the civic-mindedness and the religious convictions of the students do not. Authoritarianism can move a community and even make it better in a mechanical sense. But it can become a sterile community in the process.

In this instance, Queens students chose to use their weapon of protest before they had exhausted other means of satisfying a grievance through channels. A student-faculty committee reportedly has been slow to recommend a solution to the administration, but perhaps the choice of strike was made without all the facts.

Queens trustees obviously will be called upon to act on this problem and possibly other non-academic matters soon. With sound and informed counsel from students, faculty and the able president, Dr. John Smylie, these decisions should strengthen rather than weaken the Queens community.

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