

Meredith Welcomes Traude, Pirjo

By GENI TULL

One good thing about attending a college with 999 other girls, you can find variety in the student body.

We can pick out girls outstanding for their distinctive characteristics. Some are known for their clothes, others for their beauty, many are noticed for their exceptional abilities in the fields of music, art or writing. Still others are renowned for their wit or qualities of friendship.

Yet this year Meredith boasts two dorm students who are known for their hometowns. Some of us are from towns so small and insignificant that we claim the nearest city when someone asks, "And where are you from?" But these two students are from towns located outside the United States, and if only we could pronounce them they would be on everyone's lips.

Hailing from Tikkurila, Finland, is freshman Pirjo Kantelinen. Pirjo is enthusiastic about her new surroundings and friends and she enlightens us on her own home.

Pirjo has studied English for seven years in Finland and has spent much time in England, so our speech was not much of a barrier to her. Yet, she still complains that sometimes she can not understand everything she hears, and has to consult her dictionary.

Meredith's other foreign student is Gertraud Pichler, a junior from Wolfsberg, Austria. Traude, as she prefers being called, has had less instruction in English — only four years. But although she too meets with difficulty on occasions she has managed to get along quite well.

With our difficulties in our own foreign language courses, not to mention our native tongue, we can envy both of them in their lingual accomplishments.

Traude came to Meredith on a scholarship provided by the Rotary Club as a part of its International Living Program. She is a Home Economics teacher in Austria and is studying here to better educate herself so that she can return home to help Austria.

Because of friends in New York, Richmond and at Meredith, Traude has seen much of the Eastern United States since her arrival in mid-August — more than some of us Americans have seen.

Pirjo came to the United States to learn about American life and to better her English, she says. Earlier, Meredith sophomore Elizabeth Triplett had visited Pirjo's family in Finland. Pirjo's father had always promised her that she could go to school in America for a year and hearing about Meredith from Elizabeth, she decided to come here. For her career, Pirjo hopes to use her linguistic talents in some type of international service.

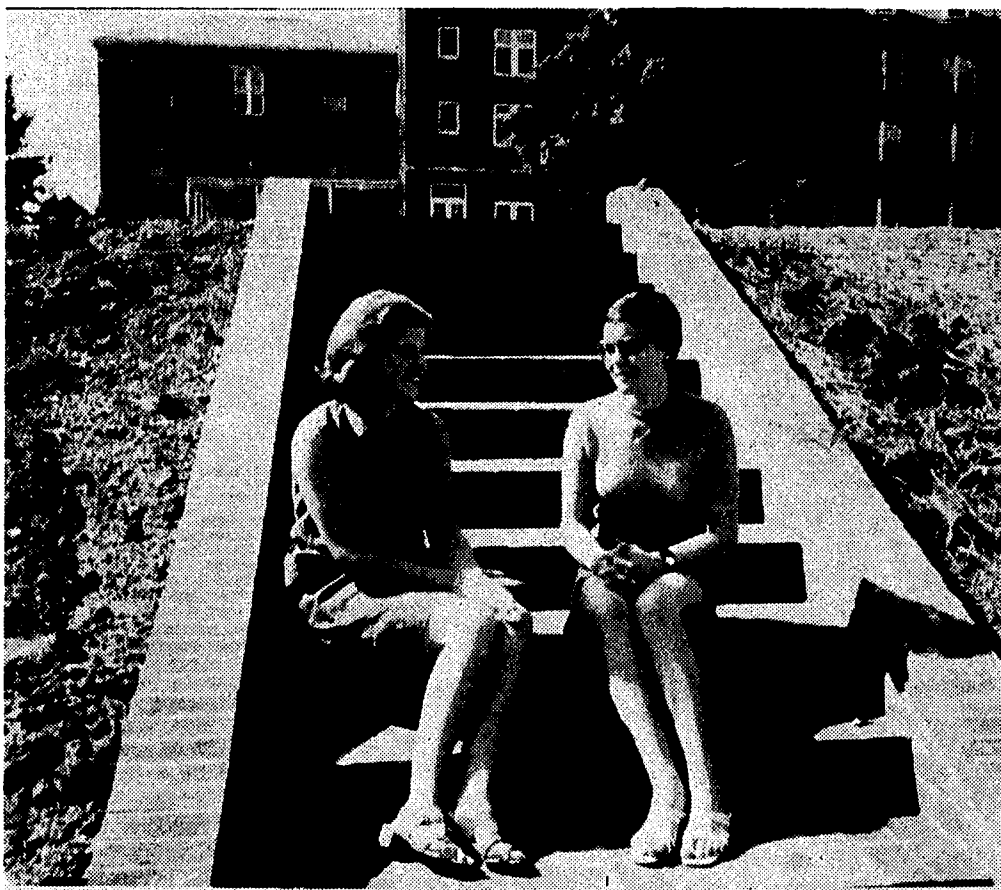
Both girls have comments to make about some of our customs. Amazed by the American practice of "blind dating," Pirjo and Traude point out that in their hometowns, they date only boys they know.

Traude states that our clothes, in comparison with Austria's, are mod. Mini skirts are just becoming popular there and the simple date-dress we wear is uncommon. "Grub-clothes" are unheard of!

Pirjo points out that our clothes are less fashionable than those in Finland. Finland skirts are much shorter than most here and she is amazed that some American girls wear bobby-socks!

Pirjo reports that in Finland it is perfectly acceptable to call a boy for a date, but Traude tells us that no such thing occurs in Austria.

Both girls note that American popular music is common in their countries. In Austria, says Traude, sometimes that words are translated into German. Austrians, however, do not see many American movies whereas Finlanders do. Finland also has many American TV shows. Aus-



Traude Pichler (left) and Pirjo Kantelinen talk over life in their native countries.

tria's TV is quite different, according to Traude. Not all the homes have TV, for one thing, and the viewing doesn't begin until the afternoon. And bliss!! commercials are saved until the end of every program.

As far as foods are concerned, Traude says that basic dishes are common to both Austria and America, although methods of preparation differ. Two foods were new to Pirjo — peanut butter and corn! By the way, she likes peanut butter!

Used to the lax mores in Finland, Pirjo feels some of our rules for freshmen are unnecessary, but Traude thinks the rules at Meredith are very just.

Both girls are somewhat confused over the standards of weights and measures, because in Europe the meter system is used. Pirjo laughs, "Usually I just ignore them!"

Both girls comment that religion seems more important to Americans than to Europeans. Traude explains that we "work at" our religion, whereas Austrians, partially because of a hated church tax, don't work at theirs. Furthermore, each girl reassures us of the prestige the United States holds abroad. Despite our political blunders, they note, the United States is still seen as a power-

Alumnae Association Holds Fall Meeting

On Saturday, October 4, 1969, the Meredith College Alumnae Association held its Fall, 1969, executive committee and council meetings. Mrs. William Simpson, the former Edith Stephenson, presided.

The executive committee consists of the association officers and committee chairmen. The council is made up of the association officers, the committee chairmen, the chapter presidents, and the class agents.

From 9:00 until 10:30 a.m. a program entitled "A Look at Meredith — 1969" was presented. A panel of three students: Cindy Griffith, Jane Kiser, and Lou Pearce, along with Dr. E. Bruce Heilman, Dean Allen Burris, Mr. Joe Baker, Mr. John Kanipe, Mr. John Hiott, Dean Marie Mason, Miss Mary B. Josey, and Dr. Roger Crook, and Mrs. Lib Reidar, alumnae trustee, were present. The administrative members briefly discussed their roles on campus, after which they conducted question-and-answer periods.

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ful nation and respected by most European nations.

As for Meredith, both girls say they are impressed by students and faculty alike for their friendliness and eagerness to help. When asked how she likes her life here, Traude exclaims without hesitation, "Oh, very, very much!"

The girls will return home during the summer, taking a little bit of Meredith with them. But in return, they will have left us with a wider knowledge of other places and people. The most shocking fact of all is that no matter where your hometown is, you're still a person very much like all the other people you have known.

Wednesday Chapel On Moratorium

In connection with the nationwide scheduled Vietnam Moratorium, the Student Government Association will hold a "talk period" on Vietnam at its regular SGA day in chapel Wednesday.

Says SGA president Cindy Griffith, the program will provide students with the opportunity to discuss the Vietnam situation and air some of their views.

The moratorium has been conceived of as a day on which students and other citizens should take the day off from classes or business to "ring doorbells" for peace in Vietnam.

Other Raleigh colleges have previously adopted the moratorium for October 15 through Student Government Action.

Students are urged to take part in the chapel discussion.

FRESHMEN!!!

Want the chance to show your hand in the journalistic field? Well, one place to start is the TWIG. The TWIG is your school paper and it needs your help. If you are interested in helping as a member of the TWIG staff, contact Brooks McGirt on Second New Dorm or Helen Wilkie on Third Poteat. The next issue will be published on October 23, so now's the time to join!

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Two Stylists to Serve You

Women's College Has Place, Says Dr. Elizabeth Koontz

Women's Colleges a thing of the past? Not so, says one expert in the area of both education and women.

The role of the women's colleges in today's society continues to be an important one, believes Mrs. Elizabeth Koontz, director of the Woman's Bureau of the Department of Labor.

Mrs. Koontz, who spoke here recently, says, "I think one thing the women's college has is the opportunity for all the members of this sex to be perfectly honest."

She notes that this aspect leaves women "free to discuss things" without being deterred by the presence of young men." Young men, she adds, tend to make women dishonest because they are afraid of seeming "too" smart or too opinionated.

Another advantage the former president of the National Education Association sees in women's colleges is "the opportunity to bring to the campus and to the group persons who can devote their interests to the purpose seen by the single sex group." On the other hand, she explains, in co-ed institutions, things must be presented for both sexes.

"In fact," she says, "men are missing a great opportunity when they are not here to hear these things . . ." which can take place in a women's college. "Some men are continuing certain attitudes and are not aware of changes that have occurred."

She continues, "For instance, many girls want the relationship to be different between the sexes, but they don't have the opportunities to communicate their true feelings."

What all this leads up to in Mrs. Koontz's reasoning is woman's increasing importance in the labor force, as a skilled, competent and educated worker. Whatever subject she starts on she invariably ends up speaking of women's rights in today's working society.

For instance, on the matter of non-communication between the sexes she cites the example of the woman, who, dissatisfied with her life at home, constantly nags her husband for extra attention. "Secretly he wants her to get a job so she could have a new interest," she asserts, but both husband and wife are afraid of communicating their dissatisfactions.

The man is particularly handicapped in situations like these, Mrs. Koontz adds, because often a man feels intimidated by the idea of "a man who is a man who is a man takes care of his family." If the wife goes to work, she goes on, "it is saying in effect, 'OK, buddy, you are not a man!'"

In this connection she says, "I think the women are going to have to do something about this — they are going to have to stop apologizing for having to go to work."

On the other hand, Mrs. Koontz notes, the men who just want a housekeeper and cannot realize their wife's dissatisfaction with this role. Asks Mrs. Koontz, "Did you marry a woman first of all to make a housekeeper of her?" She adds vehemently, "You don't need a college graduate for that!"

Mrs. Koontz feels strongly about this idea of the woman finding fulfillment outside the home — if that's where her interest lies, as those who heard her chapel speech will agree. But she does not kid herself. "Most wives are working today because they need to," she notes and points out that figures show 50 per cent of middle class families would fall below the poverty line if the wife didn't work.

"This tells us something," she adds.

But she also realizes that with technological advances and also the fact that women today tend to have their children in a shorter span of time, there is more free time left to the woman — free time which may be wasted and useless. "Some women have gotten into a rut from which they don't know how to escape," she says and points to increasing percentages of women alcoholics.

Children are also affected, she notes, saying, "If the woman feels 'locked in' she may take it out on her children."

What can the woman do to escape the emptiness which Mrs. Koontz feels is liable to touch her? "Thank God for continuing education," she exclaims.

And of course she returns to the idea of getting an education in the first place — a role for which she thanks both co-ed and women's colleges, as both continue to have a place in her scheme of life fulfillment for the women.

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