

THE TWIG

Meredith College

October 1, 1970

The Case of Vanishing Volumes

As the late afternoon sun stretches itself across the library floor, students pack up books and go hungrily to dinner and, after a skirmish of footsteps and voices, all is quiet. Stealthily a lone straggler creeps among the shelves, making no noise but disrupting the sunlight and casting an ominous shadow over the volumes before her. She is alone and now is her chance to strike. With a glint of evil in her eyes, she "cases the joint" and surveys the "loot"—books of all shapes and sizes, covering every subject imaginable. Her mind, though, is set on one particular book assigned to her class for a special report. Suddenly the object of her search comes into view, and with pick-pocket grace and speed, she snatches the book from the shelf and tucks it under her arm. Then, assuming the nonchalant demeanor of a regular library visitor, she descends the stairs, smiles at the librarian, and slips out the door. Another library caper has been pulled.

The preceding scene and the cartoon are perhaps a bit over-dramatized. We believe Meredith does not have such criminal types as this culprit. Yet, the fact remains that books are continually disappearing from the library, and, unless books become animate after hours, these books are being carried out by library visitors.

This problem has grown over the years. Last year alone, several dozen books with cards still in them were found stashed away in dorm rooms in trash cans, closets, under beds, or simply left lying on desks. In comparison with other schools, this number of missing books is relatively small, but one missing book is one too many when it is needed by a student and searched for by librarians for months.

With student enrollment on the rise, this problem is likely to worsen unless we take a little time to forget ourselves and to acknowledge the removal of a book from the library. That is the least we can do for others and for a library staff that is working doggedly to build up the number of volumes.

If those among us who see no need to follow library regulations persist in letting books slip out of the library, the inevitable solution will be closed stacks. No one wants this as it will mean additional labor by library workers and additional waiting time for students. The closing of the reserve stacks is already being discussed because of the many books that are pilfered each week. Upperclassmen who experienced the disadvantages of closed reserves will testify that such an arrangement consumes both time and patience.

Closed stacks would not be designed to punish us but to protect us from ourselves. In a sophisticated college environment, such a measure would be an insult for which we would have only ourselves to blame.

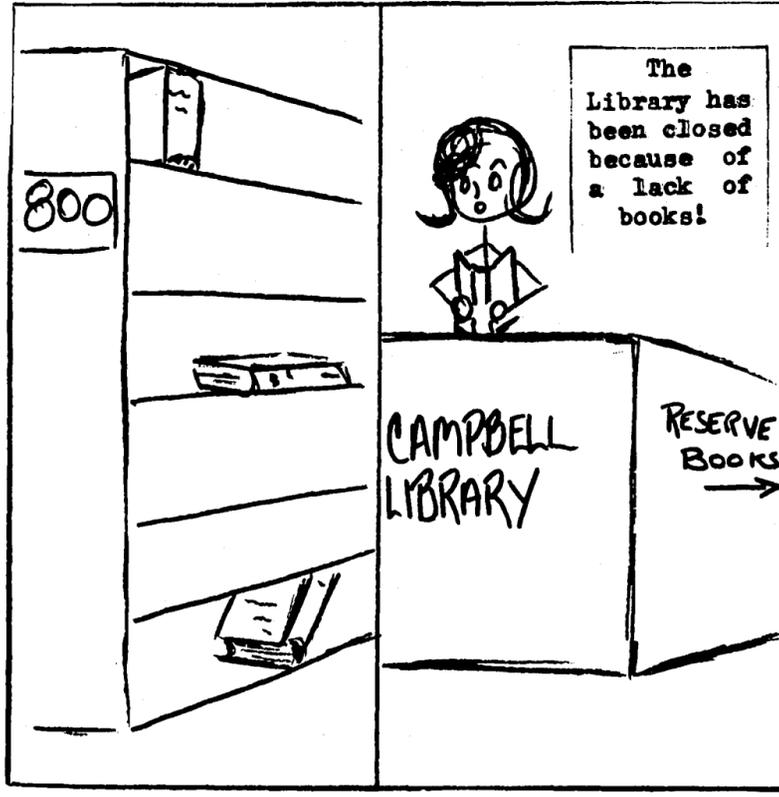
The solution of the problem thus lies with us. If, for example, a student becomes so wrapped up in her studies that she accidentally carries a book out of the library, she is urged to return it immediately. She will not be penalized for her mistake. Whenever a book is taken from the shelf for study in the library, it should be returned to the desk or left on a shelf designated for book pick-up. The library workers had much rather put books back on the shelf than search for a misplaced book.

And, those few of us who with premeditation pick up books without signing for them are urged to think of their fellow students or of their own possible dilemma if they were to need a book that is missing because of someone else's theft.

A few minutes of consideration are all it takes to keep our stacks open and to spare ourselves much added inconvenience.

The year is still young, people. Let us work hard to maintain a clean record. We are the ones to benefit.

—NBA



Inquiry

By Phyllis Willets

As was stated in the preceding column, political activism on college campuses seems to be a major issue this year. Pessimistic prophets foresee a year of even greater student unrest. And the recent bombing at the University of Wisconsin, which took the life of a young researcher, hardly gives grounds for optimism. However, it is hoped that such an act will not set the tone of student dissent.

Senator George McGovern, in concern over violent protest, particularly the bombing at the University of Wisconsin, recently wrote a letter to congressional student interns with an attached statement called "The Folly of Undisciplined Radicalism." In the letter and the attached statement, Senator McGovern stressed his opinion that action through the political system—for all its inadequacies—was far preferable to violence. He pointed out that such action most often does not accomplish its objectives, but provokes a counter-reaction that leads only to more conflict and repression. He also noted several weaknesses of radical doctrine: 1) They see only the weaknesses of our American political and legal system. They use the freedom that system affords to condemn it. 2) They naively imagine that their revolutionary society will live up to its lofty ideals, never realizing their idealism is possible because of the affluence and relative security of the present system. The senator contends that antics such as displaying Viet Cong flags, disrupting classrooms, and shouting obscenities at political leaders provoke a so-called "hard hat" reaction to peace efforts. It may be well to note that Senator McGovern was one of the backers of the amendment to end the war—which did not pass—yet he still advocates reform within and through our political system.

It is rather far-fetched to think that violent protest would occur at Meredith, but loss of faith in the American legal and political system is hardly so rare. It results in a feeling of apathy and lack of ability to do anything constructive when we feel the need for social or political reform. This is 1970, and student dissent is an accepted phenomena. But we owe it to ourselves and the general good of humanity to try and accomplish our objectives — be it ending the war in Vietnam, demanding more student voice in school policy-making or whatever—through peaceful channels with the accepted framework.

our campus this fall. We are very excited at the prospects of bringing together both doctors and clergymen to inform us of the physical, psychological, and moral aspects of this issue. We feel that this effort will be of great benefit to all of us and hope that it will be supported by each member of the Meredith community.

Cathy Anderson,
Diane Robinson,
Chairmen-M.C.A.
Forum Committee

Letters to the Editor

ENDOWMENT OF PROFESSORSHIPS

Dear Editor,

In three years at Meredith, we have seen the progress made by the Advancement Program in the form of new physical facilities. This advancement should not stop with the culmination of this five-year program.

In the midst of this growth, we have also witnessed innovations in and evaluations of our curriculum. Meredith has traditionally maintained high academic standards; however, to survive as a private liberal arts college, she must continually raise her standard of education. To achieve this end requires not only fine physical facilities and a flexible curriculum, but also increased support of our faculty. If we are to sustain our emphasis on individual instruction, the student-faculty ratio will have to remain small. Our faculty members need more time and encouragement for professional research. If we are to retain the fine faculty we have and attract professors of the same high standards, initiatives must be taken to insure their employment.

It seems to us that the endowment of professorships would be one excellent way to reach this goal. Friends of Meredith have given generously for physical improvement. If people are properly informed of the need, it seems certain that funds would be made available for academic enrichment also.

Positive steps should be taken now in the anticipation of these needs. A plan similar in design, scope, and support to the Meredith Advancement Program should be initiated. Any program of smaller stature would betray Meredith's heritage and promise.

Sincerely,
Jane Alligood
Anne Bryan

CHAPEL PROGRAM

To the Students,

On the morning of Sept. 25, we were exposed to a plot to undermine our spontaneity and involvement by a subjective utilization of reverse psychology. Our chapel program literally stank and it was *OUR* program, for us to be informed on *our* activities. And now we know what *our* activities are—

1. A kindergarten recitation of what to wear and when.
2. A plea to please "wear nice dresses" for the trustees so they will get a good impression and a plea to

come to the dedication.

All this is quite ironic after the excellent movie by the United Fund encouraging us to be involved with our community and have the responsibility of others who share the human experience with us. If Meredith (and we are Meredith) does not trust us with the responsibility of ourselves and our actions, how can we expect to respond to the responsibility of life????

I think we should individually be entrusted with knowing our personal limitations and having the respect for our friends and the self-respect to be able to judge for ourselves what is acceptable. I resented the inference that attending the dedication was an unpleasant task — the Weatherspoons should be hugged. They have trusted us with their gift, why can't we trust them with our appreciation? Must we be railroaded and cajoled? Are there really people at Meredith who cannot accept these simple responsibilities or are these rules and insipid pleas really necessary? Why do we have these rules in the first place? Rules are only a reflection of the people to whom they apply. It is easy to criticize the administration, but where are *WE*?????

Barbara Curtis

SEX EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM

Dear Editor,

In response to the letter in the last issue of the TWIG concerning the distribution of the sex information booklet on our campus, we would like to agree that this type of information should be available to Meredith students. Although we live in an atmosphere of Christian religious emphasis, we cannot ignore the problems that do exist within our community at the present time. It is time to face these problems with a mature and responsible approach giving thought to both the practical and ethical issues. We cannot generalize by saying that all of us on the Meredith campus have made our decisions concerning the current moral questions. Therefore, in light of the fact that we are a Christian college, we feel that it is necessary to offer not only the factual information presented in this booklet but also religious and ethical opinions which may influence those of us who have not had the opportunity to explore this area.

Because of our concern that immediate steps be taken to inform our student body, the forum committee is presently planning a sex education symposium to be held on

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor.....Helen Wilkie
Associate Editors.....Nancy Ausbon, Abigail Warren
Managing Editors.....Geni Tull, Anna Vaughan
News Editors.....Emory Farris, Susan Van Wagenen
Feature Editor.....Percy Beane
Copy Editor.....Susan Shipp
Assistant Copy Reader.....Lynne Bogguss
Columnist.....Phyllis Willets
Reporters.....Patsy Brake, Susan Coleman, Beth Credle, Cindy Giorgis, Doris Heustess, Teresa Holt, Carolyn Lewis, Carol Lindley, Lura McCain, Pam Odell, Suzanne Pomeranz
Cartoonist.....Sue Sherlock
Photographer.....Tina Vaughn
Faculty Sponsor.....Dr. Norma Rose

BUSINESS STAFF

Business Manager.....Joyce Little
Advertising Chief.....June White
Mailing Editors.....Nancy Barnhill, Elaine Dawkins
Circulations Managers.....Linda Ehrlich, Penny Gallins
Typists.....Marie Braxton, Martha Jane Legget
Faculty Sponsor.....Dr. Lois Frazier

Member Associated Collegiate Press. Entered as second-class matter at post office at Raleigh, N. C. 27611. Published semi-monthly during the months of September, October, November, January, February and April; monthly during December and March.

The TWIG is served by National Educational Advertising Service, 18 East 50th Street, New York. Subscription Rates: \$3.70 per year.

PRESIDENT'S DINNER

This evening, the students of Meredith College are invited to attend the first President's Dinner, which hopefully will become a monthly affair. The dinner is to be held in Belk Dining Hall.

There will be no program or speeches in Belk Hall. After dinner, however, a program will be presented in Jones Auditorium by President Heilman concerning his summer trip to the Orient. Slides will be shown, and all interested students, faculty, staff, and trustees are invited.

Attendance at this program will count toward a free chapel absence.