

THE TWIG

Meredith College
April 8, 1971

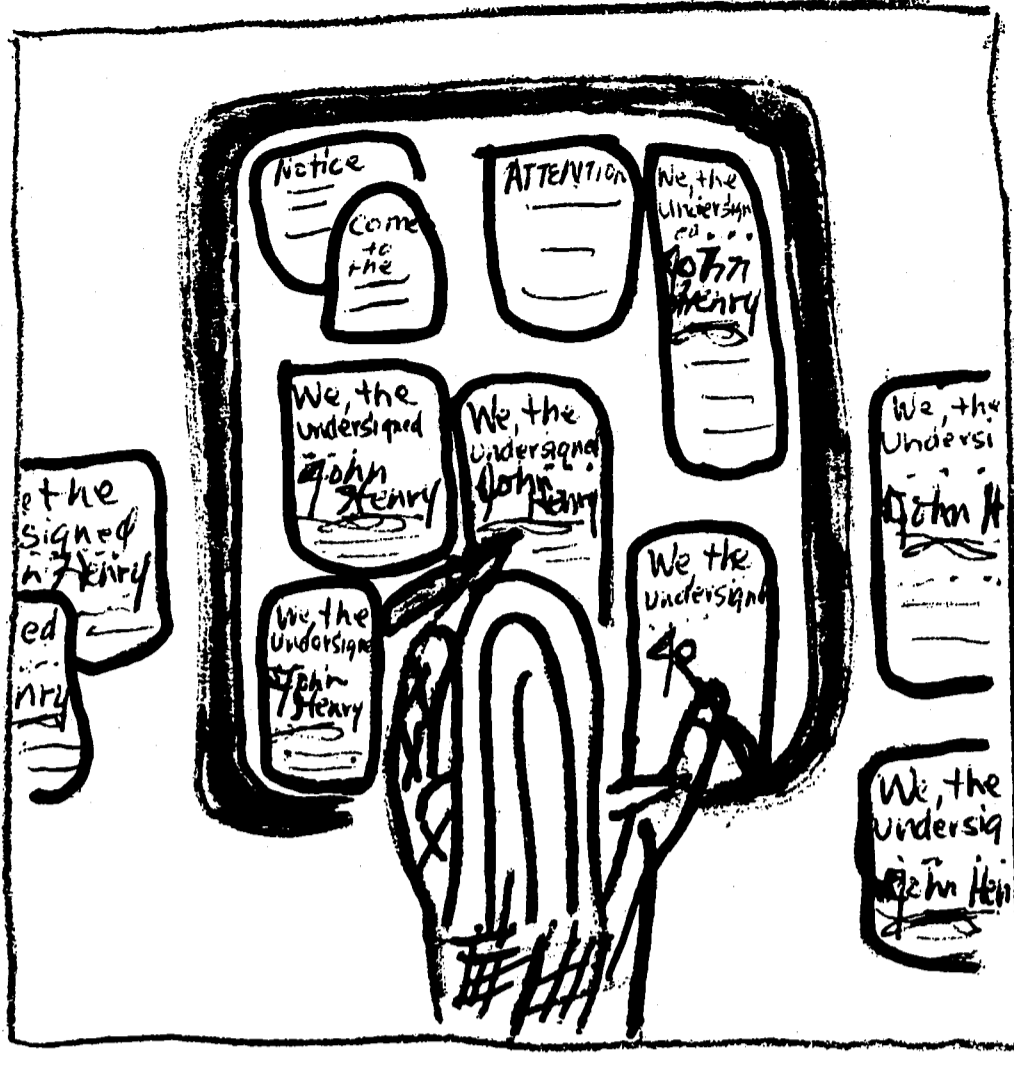
Petitioning — Protect Yourself

Any Meredith student who has left the four walls of her dormitory room within the last two weeks has undoubtedly noticed the large number of petitions circulating about campus.

Petitions concerning the release of prisoners of war, the case against Calley, and even the cancellation of classes on Good Friday have been posted everywhere on the Meredith campus. I believe that before students sign such petitions, they should know who started them and where they are to be sent when completed. Perhaps even more important, students should have a knowledge of the matter in question before putting down their John Henry for the sake of seeing it on the cafeteria door.

Hey, you with the pen—stop and think before using the ink!

I propose a petition against April showers.



Who Should Our New President Be?

President Heilman's recent resignation came as a surprise to the majority of those connected with Meredith College. May his search for greater "personal satisfactions and professional rewards" be successful at the University of Richmond.

In the meantime, another search is being conducted—a search for the new president of Meredith. In this time of campus unrest, a college presidency is not an ideal position. The selection committee has a difficult job ahead in finding a successor for Heilman who will suit Meredith College.

Heilman will be looked upon in future years as the president who boosted Meredith's financial position to a stable level. His predecessor, Dr. Carlyle Campbell, is noted for his concentration in establishing Meredith's high academic standards. What will our next president be?

Although Meredith is not floundering in debt, our situation could become just that if we do not obtain a president who will continue Heilman's policy in college economics. And none of us are dodards (we assume), but the time has come to re-evaluate our academic life. Some changes have been made during Heilman's administration, but evaluation needs to continue.

Some students have expressed their desire to have a president with whom the student body can have a close relationship (I hope he's single, if this is the case).

Is there a man—or woman—available to us who will meet our needs? Suggestions will be welcomed by the Trustee Presidential Selection Committee and the Presidential Advisory Committee.

Letters to the Editor

Admission's Rebuttal

Dear Editor:

The letter of Sally Davidson in the last issue of THE TWIG concerned my interview with a student who was asked to come for an admissions conference because of our concern about her preparation for the academic program here. Miss Davidson's report of gross intimidation on my part does reveal, I can see, the way the student must have perceived the interview. Short-lived but complete exasperation on my part would perhaps be a more accurate description of what took place.

In interviews requested for the purpose of obtaining a better understanding of a student's academic strengths and weaknesses and for advising her about our program, questioning is a necessary part of the process. This particular student's lack of real response to any questions, her failure to initiate any conversation, and the absence of any vocal expression of intellectual interest led to my making in sheer exasperation a comment similar to the one quoted by Miss Davidson in her letter. I regretted during and after the conference the irritation I exhibited at my inability to establish communication with this student — one who obviously finds communication with strangers most difficult. (The other two members of the admissions staff — one several months earlier and one on the same day as my interview — experienced the same problem.) I can understand and regret that this particular student would have been intimidated by my obvious vexation. That this is not my usual manner in a conference will be known by the enrolled students with whom I have had pre-admissions interviews in the past.

To speak to the primary concern expressed by Miss Davidson — that of my trying to create a false impression of the College — I would assure her and the entire Meredith community that neither I nor any member of the admissions staff ever knowingly gives a false impression of Meredith. Our personal integrity and our professional responsibility to the students we serve take precedence over our responsibility to the College. We are also keenly

aware that our responsibility to the College, which we do not take lightly, could not be truly fulfilled by presenting Meredith as other than it is.

During the particular interview in question, I did make a comment similar to "... Meredith students KNOW the world issues and the questions to ask and are searching for answers. ..." The statement — uttered out of sheer exasperation, regrettable as it was — was made, however, in an effort to explain what we have always looked for, expected, and hoped to find in enrolling students: an inquiring spirit that seeks guidance in the continual search for answers. I certainly did not intend to comment on the degree of intellectual interest within the student body, only on the desirable qualities of prospective students.

It is ironical that the admissions office be admonished for perhaps giving a false impression of the intellectual climate prevailing among students here. The irony is that ours is the one office at the College that has accumulated and called attention to objective data pointing out the very intellectual void that Miss Davidson so effectively described. The Admissions and Retention section of the *Self-Study and Planning Report* published in the summer of 1969 contains our findings. This report, copies of which are available in the Carlyle Campbell Library, warrants the careful reading of every member of the community. As recently as January 14, 1971, I sent a memorandum to all members of the faculty and administration again calling attention to the situation, enclosing additional data to support the thesis that intellectual interest outside the classroom does not generally prevail among our students, and subtly pleading for administrative-faculty leadership to reckon with the situation.

Perhaps, however, the initiative for analyzing the causes of this form of intellectual dearth and for proposing possible remedies could and should come from the student body. Miss Davidson's observations and an earlier letter to the editor from Mary Stuart Parker suggest that some members of the student community are aware of voids in the

(Continued on page 4)

VOICE of the SGA

By Penny Gallins

Beginning with this issue of THE TWIG a regular Student Government Association column will be printed. The purpose of this column is to help inform the student body of the activities of the Executive Committee, Legislative Board, Student Activities Board, and other branches of the student government.

Also included in this column will be a "Box Score" showing the attendance at Legislative Board meetings. This is to show you whether you are being represented by your hall proctor and class representatives at the weekly meetings.

Monday, April 5, the members of the Executive Committee, Legislative, Judicial, Interdorm, Student Activities and Elections Boards were installed. Dr. Roger Crook spoke on community living and community government.

The Executive Committee will recommend students to serve on several college committees. These committees have a minimum of five members and consist of students and faculty. The committees and the proportion of students to serve on them are: Admissions and Student Aid, one third; Cultural Affairs, one half; Curriculum, one third; Interinstitutional Co-operation, one third; Instruction, one third; Library, one third; Social, one third; Teacher Education, one third. Final approval of membership on the committees is made by the Dean and College President. Any student interested in working on these committees should see members of the Executive Committee.

If you have any suggestions concerning this column please see the members of the Executive Committee: Gail Knieriem, Penny Gallins, Elizabeth Triplett, Jenny Seykora, Lynda Bell, Jean J. Brown, Gail Knapp, Carol Swarr and Mary Allen Pickett.

Some Things to Groove On

Dorton Arena

April 16, 17 — Second Annual Carolina Designer Craftman's Fair. April 16, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. April 17, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Adults — 1.00. Students — \$.75.

April 23 — Grand Funk Railroad 8:00 p.m. Tickets; \$4.50, \$5.50, and \$6.00.

Meredith College

April 16, 17 — "The Chalk Garden", Jones Auditorium, 8:00 p.m. Open to public. No admission fee.

April 24 — Kalabash Corporation. 8:00 p.m. in court. Open to Meredith students and invited guests.

North Carolina State University

April 16, 17, and 18 — All Campus Week-end. Featuring on Friday — Goosecreek Symphony; Saturday — Badfinger; Sunday — Judy Collins. NCSU student and a date — \$4.00. Other — \$7.00.

April 15 — "Hamaya's Japan," Gallery Exhibit.

April 18 — Mr. Joel Andrews, University Concert.

April 19, 20 — The London Bach Society. Friends of the College.

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HELP!

Like to ride around town? Meet people? See THE TWIG editors about helping to get ads! Call 828-1390.

SENIOR ART EXHIBIT

Janet Traynam, Elena Bennett, Betsy Hearn, and Doris McIwain will present their senior exhibit in Joyner Hall April 13-21.

NOTICE

The next issue of THE TWIG will be published on April 22. All contributions should be brought to 301 Potent or 411 Vann by Friday, April 16.