



October 21, 1971

Dr. Weems Holds Potential For Successful Leadership

How wonderful it is that in approximately six months Meredith College has already secured the services of Dr. John E. Weems!

Upon viewing Dr. Weems's credentials, one may see a great similarity between his background and the background of past president E. Bruce Heilman. Surely sincere appreciation and gratitude should be shown towards the Selection Committee for their diligent efforts.

Having not yet interviewed Dr. Weems, we can not conjecture about his administrative policies. His announcement during convocation that he would visit the campus several times prior to January 1 indicates to us that he will make a sincere effort to meet and talk with the Meredith community.

We hope that the present administration will encourage Dr. Weems to establish a definite time during these visits when students can talk with him. Perhaps a designated (and well publicized) coffee hour in the Hut or Student Government office would attract students to meet the new President and express their ideas to him.

All too often, the president of an institution is seen by the students as an unapproachable personage—someone too busy in the administrative affairs to listen to their minor complaints or suggestions. Dr. Heilman dispelled this myth for those students who worked with him; Dr. Weems seems to exhibit this quality of openness as well.

Dr. Weems has pledged his energies to the continued success of Meredith. We can help him take the first step in this direction by opening the channels of student-administrative communication.

SVW
CJE

Proposals Evoke Comment

Jenny Seykora, chairman of the Judicial Board, recently distributed a letter to faculty members requesting comments on her proposals for Judicial Board policy alterations and additional suggestions.

Below is a copy of the said letter from Miss Seykora. Following it is an open reply from Dr. Parramore, Department of History.

To all faculty members:

In the course of the August faculty meeting, acting as Chairman of the Judicial Board, I made two recommendations. The first concerned policy enforcement and dealt with the professor's role in cases of plagiarism. The second concerned the possibility of restructuring the Judicial policy such that academic rather than social punishment would be served to those determined guilty of academic infractions.

Interest in such a policy change has been expressed by faculty and students alike. At this time I am interested primarily in two things: first, is there a need to make such changes? Is the present procedure which serves "social" restrictions for both social and academic infractions (see Handbook) generally unsuited to our needs and perhaps unfair to students who under this system can suffer both academic and social consequences? Secondly, what alternative courses of action are open to us? How can this consideration be implemented both in procedure and practice?

The very nature of our Board serves to tie our hands. We are not a policy making group, nor do our recommendations carry weight in the decision making of individual professors. Because we are so removed from your situation, we are very much interested in any suggestions which you might have. We are also very much aware that it is only with your cooperation that any such alteration can be made. We feel the need and are eager to work with you in meeting it.

Sincerely,

Jenny Seykora
Chairman of the Judicial Board

Please return any suggestions to me through the Intercampus mail by October 18, 1971.

Raleigh, N. C.
October 13, 1971

(From Tom Parramore, Dept. of History.)

This is an open letter to Jenny Seykora and the Judicial Board.

Dear Miss Seykora: I am very pleased at your invitation to respond to your views concerning the Judicial Board and its jurisdiction. Obviously this is a phase of our life that needs continual and thoughtful re-examination and I think you are wise to remind us frequently of the necessity.

I write to you from the standpoint of one who would be extremely reluctant to permit the Judicial Board to handle a case of academic

dishonesty on the part of one of his students. A rather traumatic thing happened to me in my first term at Meredith when four seniors were kicked out for sharing a bottle of liquor in a dormitory room. I was shocked at the time that the community could so far depart from the teachings of Christ as to treat the offenders in this way and I remain shocked today even though I think the infraction might be less severely dealt with now. But it is not only this and other similar illustrations that would perhaps deter me from reporting a case of academic dishonesty in one of my classes. On principle, I am inclined to regard academic dishonesty as poor scholarship and without particular moral significance. I would not hesitate to fail a student on a particular assignment if I knew she had cheated or ask for it to be redone if I had strong reason to suspect her dishonesty. But it seems to me that recommending her case to the Judicial Board would be tantamount to throwing her to the wolves. In spite of commendable improvement, there yet remains in our institutional life a measure of moral rigidity and a punitive fervor which appear to me alien to the message of Jesus.

Your letter of October 12 to the faculty, with its stress on "punishment," reawakens the chill I felt in my first term here. I plead with you and your board, with the community generally, to work toward creating a judicial system more nearly reflective of the attitudes and teachings of Jesus. I do not know intimately the mechanics and mode of procedure of the Judicial Board, but I have had reason in the past to suspect that it embodies fewer and less reliable guarantees for the accused than would be found in a criminal courtroom. I have the impression that the right to confront one's accusers, the right to a presumption of innocence, the right to representation to a unanimous verdict are or have been among those principles of Anglo-Saxon jurisprudence which are susceptible of being waived at the discretion of the Judicial Board. Assurance that this is not now the case would be welcome but would not, of course, overcome all my doubts about the nature and function of our judicial system. On the other hand, these minimal safeguards, if not fully guaranteed by our present system, indicate some constructive paths we might follow in the kind of reappraisal you invite—as does the New Testament.

Thanks for the opportunity to make this response. I would be pleased to explore this whole question more fully with you.

Sincerely,

Tom Parramore

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The Meredith campus transformed into a community celebration at the Phi Auction on October 12, 1971.

The auctioning of the UNC basketball players provided a great excitement for all of us, but above all, we as a community were able to reach out beyond ourselves and love the cerebral palsy children. Not only were we able to help the children of the cerebral palsy center through tangible methods, but the genuine joy of the faces of the children who attended reflected a type of help that transcended the monetary assistance. Everyone of those children expressed a sincere "thank you" for the effort, and it became a worthwhile endeavor. YOU—the students of Meredith—raised over \$570 for the Rehabilitation Center, and YOU deserve the credit.

On that Tuesday afternoon, we proved to ourselves that people do need one another to learn, to grow, and to love. To learn and grow in love is the goal of the Meredith community.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Ellis and
Elaine Williams

Dear Editor,

I was shocked to see the utter apathetic nature of the reaction of Meredith students to the speakers from NC-PIRG in chapel on Friday, October 15. It was utterly repulsive. Here is a group of students trying desperately to stimulate student activity on campus and three-fourths of the student body leaves for class. We complain about the social situation at Meredith and in the community and turn right around and walk out on somebody who is trying to do something about it.

These students from NC-PIRG are not advocating that their outsiders come in to solve the problems at Meredith (or create more as the sentiment seemed to be among some); rather, they are trying to get students involved financially (at the small rate of \$3.00 a year) so that confrontations can be legally made to polluters, discriminators, and the like. This is the easy way out for the student—let the others take the incentive—and yet the average Meredith student still would not stay and hear NC-PIRG out.

If Meredith students are going to complain about social problems in the world as well as in this environment, it is high time they started listening to the people who can help them start getting active through the proper legal channels.

Janice Sams

Be Creative and Benefit

Creative writing does pay off—in cool green cash!

First step toward one set of awards is easy: simply submit your poem, essay, or short story to the *Acorn*. Thanks to the N. C. Arts Council, impressive checks reward from eight to ten *Acorn* contributors whose work is judged best for the year.

In addition, there is the Hubbell award, an annual cash award to encourage sustained effort in writing. To apply, just turn in three or more of your best creations, together with a brief autobiography. No problem!

The person to see is Mrs. Helen Jones, in 120 Joyner. She will help you edit and prepare your work for Awards Day in April—but first you have to start writing. Get busy now, for a green harvest this spring!

A box for your contributions to the *Acorn* is waiting on the door of 120 Joyner.

Kappa Nu Sigma and Silver Shield Societies Induct New Members

September 27 Kappa Nu Sigma inducted new members during a special convocation.

Ellen Barney Williams, Becky Hance, Betty Ann Haskins, Susan Hutchins, Nan Kutulas, Helene McLean, Kathy Moore, Watkins, Lynne Pullen, Holly Schertz, Lee Simrell, and Glenda Tie joined old members, Martha S. Brown, President; Mary Jo Sheridan; Linda Kimbrall, Mrs. Jewel Finch, and Jean Jarmen Brown.

New members elected to offices are: Glenda Tie, Vice-President; Susan Hutchins, Secretary; and Lee

Simrell, Treasurer.

Also including new members was the Silver Shield Society, which held a special induction convocation on October 11.

Senior inductees are Elizabeth Triplett, Jean Brown, Peggy Incerto, Jenny Seykora, and B. A. Haskins. Junior Associate members are Lynn Moore and Rita Richie.

Old members of the club are Ellen B. Williams, President; Patsy Johnson, Vice-President; Margaret Person, Secretary-treasurer; Lynda Bell, Gail Knieriem, Penny Gallins, and Bonnie Barber.

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