



FEBRUARY 10, 1972

What Did You Think of REW?

What can you say about a Religious Emphasis Week that was not fully participated in? That it was a lot of work that was not appropriately appreciated? That it was embarrassing for the individuals who did attend because of the scanty attendance?

We have supposedly buried apathy at Meredith. Have we really buried it? Participation in Religious Emphasis Week was, to say the least, kept at a minimum. Is it proper to invite outstanding speakers if no one is to listen to them? Oh well, Stunt is quickly approaching. *Maybe Meredith* students will participate. . . .

S V W

Apology

Sincere apologies are in order for Carol Lindley, a junior here at Meredith. Carol's article, "A Progressive Regression, Cariska, the Future Polis," appeared in the last issue of THE TWIG unsigned. It was an inexcusable oversight. Thank you again, Carol Lindley, for an excellent article.

S V W

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor.....Susan Van Wageningen
 News Editor.....Coleen Erdman
 Feature Editor.....Eleanor Hill
 Faculty Sponsor.....Dr. Norma Rose
 Staff.....Glenda Currin, Mary Owen, Janice Sams

BUSINESS STAFF

Business Manager.....Anna Vaughan
 Mailing Editor.....Meredith Elam
 Circulation Managers.....Jane Lewis, Susan Query
 Typist.....Marcia Miller
 Faculty Sponsor.....Dr. Lois Frazier
 Cartoonist.....Susan Redding

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.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

It is extremely sad that one of the final courses our teachers undergo is infused with racial, religious and sexual bigotry. We are referring to a recent test of one's sense of humor where the testee was required to complete the so-called joke. We find some of these jokes to be offensive and belittling to one's religion, race and sex. Out of twenty jokes, we find five which we consider defamatory to marriage and the female sex, four alluding to ethnic personalities and one disparaging to fundamentalist religious views. It is an extreme pity that one must seek the depths of stereotypes and demeaning vulgarity to attempt to satisfy a sense of humor. Our society has proven that it is vital to progress to higher levels of respect for the individual his personality, culture and background. In a Christian and progressive college, we find it appalling to discover these isolated incidences of biased and ridiculing levity. Our social and moral responsibility is not enhanced by condoning or even passively accepting such remarks as we have read. Although this entire incident may seem picayune, it is only through thorough respect for another's heritage and personality that we can establish a more stable society.

Carolyn Lewis
Karen Voelker

Dear Editor:

Since NC-PIRG has been petitioning in the past week many questions have arisen which need to be cleared up. In order to make PIRG a beneficial organization these questions need to be answered early so that all involved will understand what the organization stands for.

One of the main points brought up has been that of PIRG's affiliation with Ralph Nader. It must be understood that, although the idea was initiated by Mr. Nader, he definitely does not and will not control either the funds or the organization itself. PIRG remains completely student-controlled and supported, particularly (if one still questions Mr. Nader's role) when one realizes that if he feels the money is not being properly controlled he may easily ask for a refund.

Another point in question, particularly here at Meredith, is, "What can PIRG do for me?" Even though we at Meredith have relatively few problems concerning off-campus housing rental conditions, we must still be aware of problems that do and will concern us. For instance, when we shop for meat at the grocery store, we want to be sure that it weighs the amount indicated on the label; or when we go to buy children's toys, we don't want to get one that could injure or kill a child. Instead of trying individually or arguing about these issues without having the necessary backing, NC-PIRG could finance the full-time staff necessary to research and protect the consumer interest. As a concrete example, in Rosemont, Minnesota, where M-PIRG has been operating for 2 years, a sewage treatment plant has been researched and rebuilt from a struggling and inefficient plant to a working, beneficial one. Student support caused this change to be made. Students and professors here at Meredith could even apply for and receive funds to research environmental problems, so that the educational value of PIRG is of interest.

A third point of dispute is the fee increase. A statewide organization such as PIRG could not operate without a guarantee of funds. Few

professional staffs are willing to risk their jobs on the salary coming from a car-wash, a pancake supper, or even from voluntary donations. The fee assures the staff of a set sum with which they work, so that when the three weeks are over and any refunds granted, the staff will have a

The final point in question is, concrete, working total of money. "How can we be sure that the money goes for problems we want worked out?" First of all, since PIRG is statewide and student-controlled, there would be a state student governing board composed of representatives from each participating colleges. These students would, with the backing of their schools, determine where the funds need to go, so that for the first time students can actually have a voice along with professionals in environmental and consumer interests. The ultimate control, of course, comes from the overall students themselves, for if 50% of the students ever ask for a refund, the organization will not continue. Since PIRG is non-profit and tax-exempt, the college itself does not have to worry about any legal changes in administration; in fact, no Board of Trustees has ever turned down the establishment of a state PIRG, and PIRG type organizations are now being developed in 21 other states.

We hope that a few of the questions concerning the mechanics of PIRG have been answered, but we are open to more questions or suggestions at anytime. We feel that PIRG gives the student a chance to be constructive instead of destructive, so that much-needed changes can be made by professionals with student backing and funding.

Janice Sams

Wake Group Encourages Registration

The Wake County Campaign for Young Voters, a non-partisan effort to register those newly enfranchised by the twenty-sixth Amendment, is stepping up its activities in the Raleigh area.

As the final date of registration for the primary, April 7, draws near, the Wake group is concentrating in three areas.

First, the group is encouraging the local board of elections to go into area high schools and register eligible voters. The Wake group is attempting to inform the high school seniors about voter registration prior to the coming of the registrars.

Second, the Wake County Campaign for Young Voters is attempting to register non-students through registration drives centered on local shopping centers. Registrars will be in shopping centers in the different sectors of the city each week-end until the closing of the books, April 7.

And finally, the group is conducting registration drives at individual apartments, trailer courts, and in some precincts where large numbers of eligible voters have not been registered. Saturday, February 5, the group assisted in a registration drive in Precinct 26.

The Wake County Campaign for Young Voters has many active volunteers from the Meredith community who are not only assisting in the Raleigh voter registration drives, but who are helping to staff the state office of the Campaign for Young Voters.

For more information call 828-7578 or come by the state office at 714 West Johnson Street.

Riabikoff Is Given Concert Review

George Riabikoff's piano recital at Meredith on January 24 was notable in several respects. One expects, even demands, technical virtuosity today, and all younger pianists possess it to a remarkable degree. However, when this is the goal rather than the servant of the music, the business world loses some spectacular typists. Riabikoff always used his tremendous technique to project his musical ideas rather than virtuosity for its own sake.

He is an unashamed romantic, but he never allows his playing to degenerate into the freakish and tawdry sentimentality that was prevalent early in this century when the romantic school was in full bloom.

Taking technique for granted, the remarkable aspect of Riabikoff's playing is his unusual tonal range and control from a barely audible (but projecting) pianissimo to a thunderous fortissimo. In addition, he is able to make the logical musical form apparent to everyone in the audience. (Fortunately, we finally succeeded in getting the Steinway rebuilt during the Christmas holidays after suffering from its nasal twang for years. Without this improvement, even Riabikoff could not have produced such tonal beauty!)

When I saw the length of his program, I had misgivings that there would be no audience after the intermission. I was surprised agreeably that Meredith can take a two-and-a-half hour recital and still demand encores by enthusiastic applause. This was a tribute to the audience's awareness of Mr. Riabikoff's artistry.

In addition to his own arrangement of the Bach choral prelude,

"Ich ruf zu dir, Herr," and shorter compositions by Beethoven, Chopin, Ravel, and Prokofieff, the program offered four works of major proportions: the Bach-Busoni "Chaconne"; Scriabin's Sonata No. 5; "Islamey" by Balakireff; and the Liszt "Don Juan" Fantasy. "Islamey" and the "Don Juan" Fantasy are works that few pianists attempt to play, but Riabikoff conquered them with flying colors. I doubt that "Islamey" had been heard before in Raleigh. The "Don Juan" was played at Meredith in the 50's by Gunnar Johannsen.

In this centenary year of Scriabin's birth, it was fascinating to hear an authentic performance of his mature Sonata No. 5. After being neglected or maligned for years, the interest in his music has revived. He was certainly "way out" for his time, and, to a degree, the present time. Mysticism, cosmic urge, Messianic belief, and psychedelic involvement have all been used to describe Scriabin. One reviewer called him the first "flower child." In any context, his mature works are among the most fascinating developments in a century of musical creation. We can expect many articles on various facets of Scriabin during the coming months. They have already appeared in some music journals and fine arts sections of metropolitan newspapers.

In the *News & Observer*, Bryan Haislip summed up Riabikoff's recital perfectly when he said, "It is not virtuosity alone that makes his performance compelling. Rather, it is a tempestuous lyricism, an unabashed delight in the music's poetic content."