

Black Needs at Meredith Stressed in Interview

What can the Black student at Meredith find to relate with? Surprisingly little, as discovered in an interview with Equilla Minga, a sophomore chemistry major at Meredith. At a time when Black history and culture is such a controversial topic, the only Black studies course at Meredith has been the Freshman colloquium of Negro Poetry. Although the hiring of a Black faculty member would involve increased costs, many of the students would be interested in seeing this happen. The "Beehive" has just recently begun carrying Black make-up. Even the library lacks any of the popular Black magazines. Bus service for church is provided for the large predominately white churches in Raleigh, but the Black student desiring to attend a Black church in Raleigh is presented with a transportation problem, according to Equilla.

Changes are slowly being made to benefit the Black student. Dr. Crook is currently working on the structure of a Black cultures course

to be open for all students. Plans are under consideration for bus service next year to several of the Black churches here in Raleigh. The Admissions Office has plans to take a Black student along on some of their College Day recruiting trips. This is in hopes of encouraging more Black students to attend Meredith.

When questioned as to why a Black student would want to stay at Meredith, Equilla stated that there are three main reasons to remain. First that other students might feel that a Black student left because she could not stand the pressures of Meredith, that the "best way to combat white supremacy is to put yourself in the middle of a white situation," and lastly, to contribute new opinions and ways of thought to Meredith College. The exchange between White and Black students is an education process that is valuable not only while at Meredith, but also in the working world after graduation.

What's Happening With Grades?

"College grades are rising steadily and perhaps at an accelerating rate on campuses across the country, although teachers and professors do not agree on the reasons why." This observation was made by a college official in the March 13, 1972 edition of *The News and Observer*.

In the study of colleges and universities including the University of Wisconsin, Northwestern University, and Harvard, the over-all undergraduate quality-point average rose from 2.4 in 1960 to 2.56 in 1969. Southern institutes of higher learning showed a slower rate of rising grades than any other block of the nation.

If students are not getting any smarter, what is happening? Any or none of the following theories may be true. First, perhaps college students are becoming more serious about their studies. Or, teachers may no longer have such strict standards which they require their students to meet.

The use of Pass-Fail grading eliminates some low grades from a student's average. Perhaps, even, some young professors are giving better grades to defy the system of measuring the scholarship of students.

Neither North Carolina State nor Meredith College had this type of grade information in their files.

"The Marshall's in Abilene," in Harry, Godfather, Others

It's a hoary cinematic tradition. The marshall is delivering a criminal to the jail at Abilene and there's no one around to put down Jed Grimes and his bully boys. So John Wayne-or-whoever constitutes himself "The Law" in these parts, methodically cuts down Jed's boys from sundry rooftops and, finally, rubs out Jed himself in a dramatic showdown in front of the saloon as the sheriff rides into town.

The idea was that the frontier environment was so wild as to license a certain amount of flouting of the law in the name of justice. Mr. Wayne was forced to take the law into his own hands because Sheriff Cooper couldn't. I must have cheered through a hundred Saturday afternoons like that.

Now, it is certainly true that life may, on occasion, confront us with situations where the legal niceties must be ignored in order for justice to be secured. But the motion pictures of recent years have progressively enlarged for us the sphere in which the law may be bypassed and the citizen may seek his justice through extra-legal means. So far has the ethical situation been muddled that a common cutthroat need only wear the uniform of an army lieutenant in order to find thousands of champions of his misdeeds.

I have particularly in mind two recent motion pictures: "The Godfather" and "Dirty Harry." Both are great action films and the former beautifully acted and directed as well. But both present us with situations where the marshall is out of town, so to speak, and someone must do his work for him.

In "The Godfather," the Sicilian vendetta is coupled with transparent corruption of the metropolitan police to produce a situation in which the law is virtually meaningless. We stamp and applaud as crooked old Richard Conti is riddled into confetti and the Las Vegas gambling man takes a slug through the right eye. How else is justice to be done? The marshall is in Abilene.

In "Dirty Harry" it is the criminal-coddling courts and preciously fastidious police who create the situation. Clint Eastwood satisfies the demands of justice by killing the heavy and then emphasizes his contempt for the law by tossing his badge into the same pond with the bloody corpse. He might as well be standing in a gook hamlet playing his tommygun across the naked bellies of ignorant peasants. He's in a moral no-man's-land that legitimizes any sort of barbarity.

"The Dirty Dozen" was a film of a few years back that cast a group of American murderers and rapists in a situation where they were licensed to kill several scores of women at a dance. The legitimacy of the act derived from the fact that there was a war on and that the women were wives and girlfriends of German officers who were also being killed. That the victims were trapped and unarmed was incidental. They were, after all, Rotten Kraut Scum by accident of birth and the marshall was in Abilene for the duration.

The James Bond films and Mike Hammer novels, among others, provide endless variations on this theme. But "Godfather" and "Harry" take us even further along the road to ethical anarchy than previous efforts. They are not set in the West of a hundred years ago or in wartime Germany. They both unfold in a modern urban America where police cars cruise the streets and the courts open promptly at 9 a.m. Even under these conditions, it seems, the marshall may still be away in Abilene.

So how are you and I to conduct ourselves? The cops are on the take and the judges don't know a rapist from a missionary nun. It ap-

parently behooves us all to seek our justice in the ranks of the vigilante squads.

Surely there must be some sanctuary between the conflicting fanaticisms of those who admonish us to support our local police drunk or sober and those who imply that every slant-eyed coolie is a potential Red and better of dead.

"Godfather" and "Dirty Harry," I believe, lean too far toward the cheering prospect that justice is obtainable without law. It is true, of course, that law and order can prevail without affording justice. But only the society that strives to achieve both order and justice is likely to experience either for very long. Hollywood needs to give more thought and footage to the problems of establishing a just order and less to how things are managed while the marshall is in Abilene.

—TOM PARRAMORE

SENIOR ART EXHIBIT

Miss Libby S. Knott and Miss Nancy M. Liesfeld are now presenting their Senior Exhibition in the Joyner Art Gallery. The exhibit will continue through April 5.

Tilley Service Held

Memorial services for Dr. Ethel Tilley, 78, professor emerita, who died March 4, were held on Sunday, March 19, in Jones Auditorium.

Dr. Tilley served as chairman of the Department of Psychology and Philosophy until her retirement in 1967. She joined the faculty as an associate philosophy professor in 1951.

She was a member of the Wake County Phi Beta Kappa Association and was listed in "Who's Who in America" and "Who's Who in Education." Dr. Tilley also wrote for the "Upper Room," "Guidepost," and two national Methodist publications.

Tennis Matches Held

Students and faculty members will combine to participate in a doubles tennis tournament which begins on April 5. Matches will continue through April 21. The team of Cochran and Whitehurst drew the bye and will meet the winning team of the match between Allen-Carter and Thomson-O'Leary. All matches are open to public viewing. Spectators will be welcomed.

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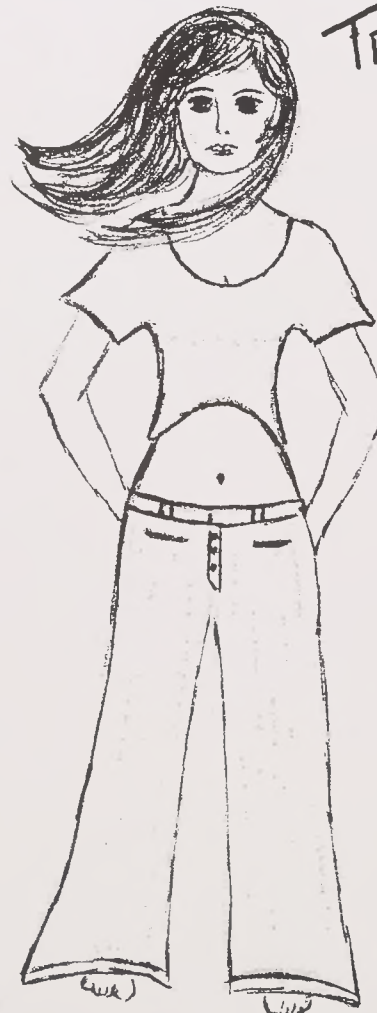
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