

THE
MEREDITH



TWIG
COLLEGE

Letters to the editor

A big thanks to Dr. Weems

An important step in the realization of women's rights as persons was taken this past week in the North Carolina Legislature when Dr. John Weems, the only male among 14 women, formally endorsed the Equal Rights Amendment. As women who are striving to be given equal opportunity, we at Meredith owe a great debt to Dr. Weems for this heroic deed which will undoubtedly bring him various criticisms from those who are opposed to the Amendment.

Realizing the risk of criticism, Dr. Weems spoke up for something he believes in -- treating women as persons and not as objects and offering them equal opportunity. Upon taking this risk, Dr. Weems showed his commitment to the importance of Meredith College as an educational institution for women. We all owe him a very big "Thanks" for his constant belief in and support of our attempts to be recognized as thinking, creative, and active individuals.

JFS

BVU activities challenging

Black Awareness Week has been an enlightening and challenging series of activities which helped to stimulate both whites and blacks to a better understanding of themselves and each other. It is rare that such a week at Meredith can bring together different peoples, as this past one has, to frank discussions of their cultural similarities and differences, and the Black Voices in Unity are to be commended for their striving to make the week an impressionable one.

Although the week's activities evoked a variety of responses from the white students at Meredith, they did at least bring about a response. Whether positive or negative, these responses brought us into an awareness of our situation at Meredith, whether we be white or black, faculty or student, male or female. When this type of awareness is encouraged, personal growth can take place, and when personal growth takes place a community growth can develop. Black Awareness Week was not, I think, a stress on black separatism; it was rather a stress on what we as people must continually strive for if we are ever to relate as human beings to each other. Human relations and communications involve everyone, not one race or another. The last line of the song we sang in chapel is one which we must all heed-- "March on to victory." The victory here is one which I think was stressed in the week-- it is a human victory, not a black or white one, which we must achieve if we are to continue as brothers and sisters in one world.

JFS

Commitment needed

The problems in making the Honor Code a reality at Meredith were stressed in the panel discussion at the February meeting of the faculty. Perhaps the inconsistencies which are presently causing problems can be cleared up in future recognition of the importance of making the Code understood by freshmen and transfers at the very beginning of their existence at Meredith.

The Honor Code is a way of life which must not merely be stressed in student orientation meetings in August; it must also be stressed by faculty and administration in their dealings with students. It is by its very nature a way of life which must be acted and not told, proved and not taken for granted. These statements do not mean to imply that faculty and administration are not doing their jobs in emphasizing the Honor Code or that students are being oblivious to it; it is to suggest that the success of the Code will depend not entirely on one faction or the other. If Plagiarism is the problem at this school, then plagiarism is what we as a community need to work on, not merely what the Judicial Board or the English Department need to stress.

If we are to realize the personal responsibility of the Meredith Honor Code, we must ALL take the responsibility of making it work. It is time we quit letting the Judicial Board be the bearers of the life-styles we, ourselves, must learn to accept. This responsibility involves not only academic honesty, but also personal commitment to the rights of others -whether it be in observing quiet hours in the dorms or in coming in on time at night. Whatever the situation, we are, like it or not, responsible for our actions. An Honor Code such as ours can mean little without this individual obligation to make it work.

JFS

Newsbriefs

(Continued from Page 1)

Students will be excused from classes. Deadline for signing up and for payment will be February 15. See Vivian Craig or Mr. White for payment and/or questions.

Dear Editor:

This is a letter of disgust. For four long years the senior music majors have suffered under the abuse and inadequate facilities provided by Meredith College in the Wesley Norwood Jones Auditorium, or more commonly, the Music Building. How often have music students been deprived of practice hours and even lesson times by the scheduling of various events by either on or off campus groups in either the Recital Hall or the Auditorium? Such inconveniences would not be necessary were there a Fine Arts Building for music faculty and students. As it is, all practicing must cease during any meeting, lecture, or other event -- practice time that is paid for additionally by the music student. Although this situation has been worse in the past, the fact that it exists at all shows a definite need for some immediate change. Not only is this unfair to the music students but also to the college community as a whole, who use the same auditorium for such events as Cornhuskin', Stunt, and REW. Granted, we have a new auditorium in the College Center, but it is not equipped with instruments for musical performances and definitely cannot seat the entire student body.

As for inadequate facilities, Meredith's Music Department must be number one. However, the blame should not be placed on the music faculty -- they are the only advantage Meredith has in the field of music. True, Meredith has several good pianos and the two Austin organs. However, even

these instruments feel the effects of an inadequate heating and cooling system within the building. Check out a few of the practice rooms for good pianos. The number is low. Try room nine with the Wurmlitzer organ that was added due to practice overload, or even the Kilgren organ. What organ student does not shrink at the thought of practicing on that "thing"? Or what about the dead acoustics in the auditorium itself?

We have heard rumors that a new Fine Arts Building is in the possible future for Meredith. But exactly how far in the future? At the rate that the music department is growing, can Meredith really afford to wait for three, four, five, or more years to improve on the disastrous situation? We think not. It is our hope that one day in the very near future, Meredith will have a far better place for its growing number of music students to practice, to learn, and to perform.

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Dear Editor:

As members of Black Voices In Unity, we would like to express our sincere appreciation and thanks to everybody involved in helping to

make our plans for "Black Awareness Week" to materialize. We hope the week's activities were educationally beneficial as well as enjoyable for everyone. Our major purpose behind the presentation of this week was twofold: to help others gain a better understanding of our culture and heritage, while we too, learned more about it. The promotion of a better understanding of our culture is evident in our theme, "Biography Illuminates the Black Experience," because it is through a biography that we learn about the people, which makes it a lot easier to understand their movements, events, institutions, and, most important, all the people themselves and their heritage. This realization can be presented in a variety of forms; art, music, speech, etc. -- all of which are basic forms of communication. Also -- thanks to the faculty, administration, and students who attended our programs and who helped make it a success.
Joyce Martin
Chairman, BVU

Important Notice

The Colton English Club asks all faculty members to contribute any extra books for the March 1 Book Auction - Club members will be checking faculty offices through next week. The Auction will begin at 4:45 in the Court. Proceeds will go to different club projects, including the service project at Glenwood Towers.

Statement made by Dr. Weems in support of the ERA

The struggle to establish Meredith College indicates that North Carolinians in the 1830's faced the same issues being presented today concerning the Equal Rights Amendment. It took almost 60 years from the time our school was proposed before it was agreed that a college should be founded. Educational opportunities were not readily available to women and basically the same arguments were used to suggest that women did not need academic training and were, in reality, better off without it. Meredith College has spent 74 years proving to the State of North Carolina and the nation that women have great contributions to make when allowed to do so. All of society has much to gain from these contributions, not just our women.

The framers of our Constitution, perhaps the most legal document in the world, did not see fit to grant the voting privilege to anyone who was not male, white, and a property owner. It has been just under 100 years that the black man was allowed this right of citizenship. It has been but about 50 years since women were removed from this abrogation of rights and granted the vote. And, of course, it has been only one year since the 18-year-olds were granted this phase of citizenship. History will show that granting of rights is progressive. Double and false standards inevitably erode the confidence of the governed. In my opinion, we have a distinct moral responsibility to give all of our citizens equal protection under the law. It is an old, illogical and irrational idea that someone can

be protected by abridging their rights. Democratic principles demand equal protection in every way.

I am totally convinced that all of society, both men and women, will benefit from a social system that offers total justice to all of its constituents. Dr. Ralph Scales, President of Wake Forest University, discussed this matter with me. He wanted it made clear that he stands with us and feels that all citizens with a concern for justice should go on record. He feels very strongly that the Equal Rights Amendment should be passed, emphasizing that the amendment is for the liberation of men as well as for the removal of discrimination against women.

Women's sights are being lifted. Meredith College, as an educational institution, is dedicated to this specific pur-

pose. The woman of today is intent on seeking self-fulfillment and being independent and self-directed. Fifty percent of all women in the employment range of 18 to 64 years are in the labor force. Nine out of ten women will work some time during their lives. The average work-life expectancy of a woman in the United States is 25 years. The average work-life expectancy of a single woman is 45 years. The productivity of our 32 million women in the labor force has much to do with the high standard of living in our country. Because of this contribution, women deserve total justice, equal protection, equal opportunity, and equal responsibility. This can only be accomplished by taking this final step that is long overdue and passing the Equal Rights Amendment to our Constitution.

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