



## Twig responds to suggestions with realities

Elsewhere on this page is a letter to the editor which probably warrants some explanation. The Publications Committee is composed of the editors, business managers, and advisors of the TWIG, ACORN, and OAK LEAVES. Rather vaguely defined in the faculty handbook as an advisory committee, this body generally tries to stay informed about the situations of the three student publications. At the first meeting of the committee this year, it was agreed to schedule a called meeting on September 27 in order for all members to present definite ideas for improving the three publications.

Among the ideas presented for the TWIG were a number now being considered or implemented as a result of the meeting. It was suggested that TWIG reporters use a standard style sheet, which we feel is a good idea. It was also suggested that a forum type debate begin in the TWIG to stimulate reader interest and response. These and several other suggestions are receiving attention and consideration by members of the TWIG staff.

It was further suggested that the TWIG keep regular office hours, a point we are definitely considering. However, the suggestion was for keeping the office open four to five hours daily, which would be an ideal situation, but is somewhat unrealistic in the face of staff size.

Further, it was advocated that the TWIG go full size, which means equal in size to a daily city newspaper. This, it was argued, would allow for more advertising space and more attractive layout. The increased revenue from the additional advertising would be used to purchase syndicated columns, comic strips, etc. I responded to this suggestion by saying I would check on the cost of printing a larger size newspaper. My reaction was also that, since a weekly TWIG is usually four pages, a switch to a larger format would mean a single sheet printed on both sides. It is my opinion that this would be awkward and less readable. As for the increased revenue from the increased advertising space, I do not believe that the purpose of a weekly TWIG is to announce to Meredith students as many commercial events as possible.

For this kind of advertising, the students can rely on the daily newspapers. The TWIG publishes advertising concerning near-campus businesses and advertising for businesses with a particular appeal to college-age females, such as from retail clothing stores. Having operating monies allocated by the school to the student publications allows the TWIG to publish weekly without relying heavily on advertising revenue. I feel this is a distinct advantage over school newspapers who have to sacrifice copy space for advertising space in order

to sell enough advertising to support publication.

I also responded to a suggestion that stories in the TWIG improve in quality. Naturally, no editor would disagree that news stories should be as interesting as possible. I would like, for instance, to make some arrangements with administrative offices, so that the TWIG would be allowed to "break" Meredith news whenever possible. This situation would, of course, be ideal.

However, constructive criticism and suggestions aside for the moment, I have to deal with the realities of the situation. We are a student newspaper, relying on interested volunteers to publish a weekly edition. These volunteers are also students with other responsibilities. When ten girls manage to cover two stories a week, written and delivered by the Friday deadline, and when two or three of these girls agree to give three or four hours on Sunday afternoons in order to do layout work, I simply am not going to ask these same girls to donate much more of their time. Working without the stimulus of a class in journalism, these volunteers do well in producing what they do.

Finally, dealing with one on the last points of debate, I made the statement during the committee meeting that in a school this size, and considering Meredith's own particular situation, I feel that the TWIG has to exercise a certain amount of restraint in publishing certain stories. This does not mean that I shirk any responsibility in publishing what I feel to be news concerning Meredith. However, I am not going to print an article simply because it will stir up controversy for controversy's sake.

I appreciate the interest shown in the TWIG by faculty members, and I appreciate those who offer constructive criticism, however idealistic. And so, Dr. Parramore, if you would like to man the TWIG office five hours a day, I would more than welcome your help on a volunteer basis.

EEH



# LETTER TO the EDITOR

The Publications Committee held a called meeting on Thursday, Sept. 27 and reached almost unanimous agreement that the TWIG should retain its dinky little format and that the ACORN function mainly as an organ of the English Department.

The Thursday meeting was called after Prof. Bellyache, at the first meeting two weeks ago, complained at length about the committee's intention to meet only twice during the semester. Bellyache proposed that the committee take some initiative and exercise some leadership toward revitalizing campus publications at Meredith. As was brought out at Thursday's meeting, Meredith is a girl's school and parents to not send their daughters here to be revitalized.

The called meeting was several times interrupted by Prof. Bellyache who persisted in trying to introduce irrelevant considerations into the discussion. He advocated at one point that the TWIG go full size instead of half size, that it sell more ads and use the added revenue to get syndicated column, comic strips or other special features for the paper. Miss Finishing School observed that a dinky little paper is easier to read and Miss Participle stated that a dinky little paper is easier and cheaper to lay out and publish. Miss Anxious pointed out that Meredith is not, after all, N.C. State University and that girls are not boys. Bellyache begrudgingly acknowledged the justice of these

observations.

There was added wrangling, again initiated by Prof. Bellyache, over whether the TWIG should publish controversial or embarrassing material such as controversies that arise in faculty meetings. Miss Anxious commented that the editor is under a good deal of "pressure" not to publish such things and would undoubtedly be "called on the carpet" if she did so. Miss Finishing School pointed out that girls are not boys and that Meredith is not N.C. State University.

The purpose of the meeting was "to discuss definite ideas for improving

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## Indian consul addresses luncheon group on Sept. 25

Dr. Ashok Ray, consul general from India to New York, was on campus Tuesday, September 25, as a special guest of Dr. Rosalie P. Gates, director of Asian studies. Ray's visit, which fulfilled a promise made to Dr. Gates some years ago, marked the first college campus visit made this year by the Indian diplomat. Speaking to a luncheon group composed of President John Weems, visiting deans, and history students from Dr. Gates' classes, Ray reflected on the contemporary situation in South and Southeast Asia. Noting that almost all the countries within this region now have their independence, he emphasized the "intense pride" of these countries in their independent state. Ray further pointed out that while independence was a major step forward for the region, economic independence must follow, and these countries must organize themselves into a viable society. Since these countries have "a vested interest" in remaining independent, Ray stated, each must decide which political system "will make the country go". Ray continued by remarking on the different types of governments in the South and Southeast Asian countries, which include monarchies, parliamentary democracies and other systems. "These societies are under tremendous strain," Ray explained. The eras of independence have created a "demand for improving the quality of life" in these nations, he said, and, "unsolved problems produce pressure."

Ray then moved on to international questions considered in the light of his Asian sphere. "What are the big powers up to?" is a factor of major consideration for his area, Ray stated firmly. There are several possible theories, according to the Indian diplomat. Possibly the big powers are working for a distribution of powers, or a means of "dividing the Asian area into three spheres," Ray suggested. Or perhaps the "big three" are favoring a business-management policy for international affairs. Ray felt the first possibility was impossible and the second theory not pleasing to the South and Southeast Asians. Ray declined to mention a third possibility, which he apparently believed in personally.

The Indian visitor's bearing was at all times the dignified, almost courtly manner usually associated with high ranking diplomats from abroad. His rhythmic voice was an appropriate accompaniment to a career diplomat who faces the difficult task of maintaining courtesy and temper while fielding delicate international questions.

Emphasizing that India endorses a policy of non-alignment (as opposed to neutrality), Ray defended this political diplomacy as "viable

code of action." Noting that too often international order has resulted in a "tragedy of good intentions", he concluded on a hopeful note by expressing a desire for a "fifth act."

## FRANKLY SPEAKING... by phil frank



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Managing Editor	Rebecca Askew
Reporting Staff	Norma Heath, Chrystal Riviere, Cathy Rodenberg, Catherine Stover, Allyn Vogel
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