

THE
MEREDITH



TWIG
COLLEGE

Should student leaders be appointed by a nominating committee?

With spring elections not so very far away, it has once again been suggested by several members of the Meredith community that our election system be changed to include a nominating committee. This would mean that the process of self-nomination or self-filing would be deleted in favor of, for instance, a faculty-student committee which would submit nominations to the student body for the various SGA offices.

I think it a reasonable assumption to say that those who favor this committee procedure are, in effect, indicating their dissatisfaction with present and past SGA officers who were elected by the self-nominating process. If those who favor a nominating committee think they will obtain better student leadership with their procedure, then they are dead wrong.

The present SGA officers are a good group; they get high marks in, among other things, co-operation and willingness to work. These girls filed for their respective offices, indicating interest and willingness to serve; the caliber of their leadership is the best proof that the self-nominating process can, indeed, work.

This is not to say that every problem at Meredith has been effectively dealt with by the SGA officers. This is quite literally an impossibility. More than anything else, the effectiveness of their leadership depends on the co-operation they get from the student body in finding, defining, and eliminating problems here. If there is a problem area in some part of campus life, then it is a joint responsibility of both SGA leaders and student body members to help alleviate it. No group of leaders can do much of anything if the student body is unwilling to help. If a nominating committee expects to nominate what they believe to be more responsible leaders, they will discover this fact soon enough.

I can't help wondering exactly what such a committee would achieve by selecting candidates for SGA offices. Power to dictate to these student leaders?

Formation of a campus intelligence ring? Obviously, these are extreme possibilities, and I seriously doubt that Meredith students would tolerate anything of the sort. But in conclusion, I do think that the whole suggestion of a nominating committee is a downright insult to the present SGA leaders. THE TWIG would be interested in hearing from those who favor the committee procedure; we are especially interested in the specific reasoning behind such a suggestion.

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".... IT VANISHED QUITE SLOWLY.... ENDING WITH THE GRIN, WHICH REMAINED SOME TIME AFTER THE REST OF IT HAD GONE."
— LEWIS CARROLL'S CHESHIRE CAT

Letters to the editor

Dear Editor,

Due to several incidences during registration on Monday, January 14, we have been prompted to write a letter concerning an infringement of students' rights. Some students were made to pay a late registration fee because they failed to receive information concerning registration procedures which was distributed in grade reports. At this point, the five dollar fee is not the issue but rather that students were treated disrespectfully as well as having been taken advantage of. It is not our purpose to degrade the administration but we do feel that students should not pay the price for mistakes made within the registrar's office. In the future we hope that administrative offices will be able to admit their mistakes more freely.

Donnell Peeler
Myra McCachren

Dear Editor:

During last semester I received a request through the Student Government Association suggestion box to

comment in the TWIG upon the tenure policies of Meredith College. I have now found time to do that.

One of the most important personnel decisions a college can make is to grant tenure to a member of the faculty. In so doing the college says, in effect, that this particular teacher is so good that we want her-him as a permanent part of the teaching staff. This could mean a commitment of the next thirty years, depending upon the age of the person. Why should a college make such a commitment? The fundamental reason is the concern of the college to build and preserve a community of learning and free inquiry. A lively, intellectually inquisitive cadre of teachers is the essential factor in such a community. A teacher must have a reasonable degree of security in order to function as a free and productive member in the process. Tenure can help to assure that security. With tenure a professor cannot be dismissed at the whim of the Department Chairman, the Dean, or the President. Adequate cause must be

established through due process which includes the judgments of the Department Chairman, the Dean, the President, the Faculty, and the Board of Trustees.

Tenure is not a cure-all. Some critics assert that tenure too often protects the non-productive faculty member along with the productive. I expect that such a criticism is sometimes true but until a better system evolves, or is invented, Meredith is committed to a judicious use of tenure as a necessary part of her effort to preserve academic freedom and to provide an atmosphere within which true learning can thrive.

If any student wishes to examine the details of how tenure is granted and under what conditions, I refer them to the Faculty Handbook, pages 22-23. For a statement on Academic Freedom, pages 23a-24 will be helpful. I or almost any faculty member will be glad to make the Handbook available.

Allen Burris
Vice President and
Dean of the College

Jack Anderson's

Weekly special

WASHINGTON -- The oil squeeze has caused world oil prices to skyrocket. The increase will add an estimated 175 billion to the price that oil-consuming countries must pay for their economic lifeblood.

This is simply more than most nations can afford without inviting economic disaster.

World leaders have been communicating secretly over how to cope with the oil crisis. The United States has taken the lead in urging the oil consumers to join together in planning a common strategy.

Behind Mills' Offer: House Ways and Means Chairman Wilbur Mills, probably the most powerful member of Congress, has offered to introduce legislation granting President Nixon immunity from prosecution if he will

resign. Here's the story behind this extraordinary offer:

Mills is conducting the investigation into President Nixon's tax returns. This was requested by the President himself to determine whether he owes more taxes. The central controversy is over the \$576,000 tax deduction he claimed for giving his vice presidential papers to the government.

Mills' investigators have now established that the deed, turning over the papers, was backdated to make it appear that they were donated before July 25, 1969. Thereafter, tax deductions were no longer allowed for historical papers.

The investigators have also uncovered the Ralph Newman, the appraiser, didn't even select which papers should be donated until November 1969 - four months after the deadline.

The use of a backdated deed to gain more than a half-million dollar tax deduction could indicate possible fraud

and tax evasion. The Nixon tax returns, of course, were signed by the President and the First Lady who are legally responsible for the statements therein.

It's the possibility of tax fraud that prompted Wilbur Mills to seek immunity from prosecution for the President in return for his resignation.

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SNACK BAR HOURS

The Student Center snack bar hours for this semester are:

Mon. - Thurs 8 A.M. - 9 P.M.
Friday 8 A.M. - 8 P.M.
Saturday 9 A.M. - 2 P.M.
Sunday 5 P.M. - 9 P.M.

The grill, however, closes one-half hour before closing time.

Many new items have been or will be added to the snack bars menu this semester.

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