

# Foreign observer blasts America for lack of internationalism

Helene Bremond's is a familiar face on the Meredith Campus. Here for a semester as an assistant in the foreign language department, Helene speaks French to two classes and does some individual tutoring.

Helene who is from Marseilles, France, had previously met Dr. Katelin Galligan, an instructor in the Meredith foreign language department. Her trip to America and to Meredith was arranged by Dr. Galligan.

Helene's visit to the U.S. is certainly not a financial venture. But even though she is not paid for her efforts, she is able to live here and experience the "American" way of life, while taking a break from her university studies.

Since she arrived in the U.S. in January, Helene has been able to make some keen observations on America and Americans. She notes many differences in American and French students, saying that here at Meredith she has noticed that students seem to group together. More independence is shown by her classmates at home.

Although she is not actually taking courses here, Helene asserts that French university examinations are more difficult than American ones, perhaps because they are all standardized and are administered by the government.

As a foreign observer, Helene has also been able to take a good look at our governmental system. The similarities between so called "liberals" and "conservatives" in America are very evident to her. The policies of both groups according to Helene are very much the same and are not nearly as extreme as their French counterparts.

Much disagreement with American foreign policies is evident in her homeland especially over the situation in Vietnam. She explains that

perhaps this disagreement stems from French involvement and withdrawal in Indo-China. She also expresses her belief that President Ford is not capable of being a strong leader for America.

Perhaps the most biting remark from Helen concerns the selfishness she sees in Americans. There is no real affinity between America and the rest of the world, she asserts, saying that we do not possess an international concern. She suggests that the egotistical America she has observed is perhaps in part

due to the fact that modern Americans have never fought a war on their own soil and therefore are far removed from the suffering and poverty of much of the world.

Americans are always smiling and appear to be quite satisfied with their lives Helene says, but she suspects that such is not the case, that all the smiles are only superficial.

In general, Helene says that she likes being in America, but that she is not overjoyed to be at Meredith. In any case, Helene Bremond has given us a chance to "see ourselves as others see us."

Debbie Doss



Helene Bremond

## Movie Review

### "The Great Waldo Pepper"

"The Great Waldo Pepper", another fading hero flick for Robert Redford, turns out to be a satisfying movie only for stunt plane freaks and Redford lovers.

For the latter sector of filmgoers, perhaps the best moment of the film is when Redford to his disappointed girlfriend who would have married him before the war when he was cute says, "I'm still awful cute." Other scenes show him as an ace barnstormer and stunt flyer in Nebraska in 1926 when flying circuses are on the way out. Redford as Waldo Pepper boosts his popularity with a

highly romanticised but phony tale about outwitting Ernst Koestler, the Red Baron in a dogfight during World War I. When his rival, Axel Ollson confronts him with the lie, saying it was another pilot who outwitted Koestler, Redford innocently says, "It should have been me." We see later that this is the controlling ideal in Waldo Pepper's life.

Besides being a Redford movie, "Pepper" is a tale about American ingenuity and competition. It shows an interest in technological advances: Pepper's buddy, Ezra Stiles perfects the monoplane

so that Pepper will be able to do the "ultimate stunt". The movie also shows that the drive to do this "ultimate stunt" is a struggle to attract an audience bored by standard stunts. A last resort is - you guessed it - sex. Alex Ollson's girlfriend riding on the wings of a biplane with her clothes whipped off gives Redford (or more truthfully his stuntman) a chance to come to her rescue, but ultimately this crass exploitation ends in a tragic death for the girl and grounding for Redford.

The movie also makes much of the individualistic heroes flying in the face (pun not intended) of bureaucracy and regulations. Waldo Pepper is unable to accept the newly developing commercial uses of airplanes, insisting that he is a flyer, not a chauffeur or a mailman. Permanently grounded, he

makes for Hollywood to get a job as a stuntman. He eventually gets an offer to pilot a World War I plane in a recreation of the dogfight against Koestler which he knew so well. It becomes a compulsion for Pepper to fly that part of the war which should have been his and he takes to the air again under an assumed name.

The technical aspects of the movie are fine. The costumes by Edith Head are colorfully, sometimes shabbily rural. Redford is appropriately and becomingly filmed against backgrounds of blue sky and green fields. The stunt flying is at times breathtaking.

"The Great Waldo Pepper," while not a great movie, is great escape and entertainment. It is, at best, a pleasant release into Redford's world of heroism.

Maggie Odell

## Morals (Continued from Page 1)

He emphasized, though, that "patterns of action should be sufficiently flexible to take care of extraordinary situations."

He continued explaining that, since "in most instances we do not violate our standards because we think it is the most loving thing to do but because we have got ourselves into a bad situation and are looking for the easiest way out", rules can be used "to prevent us from making decisions on the basis of self

interest rather than of love."

In addition, rules "help avoid the undue influence of emotions" which, within reason are "an important part in the decision making process."

Rules, Crook said, are advantageous also because they are "an excellent way of preserving the wisdom of experience. They help us incorporate in future actions what we have learned from our own mistakes and own successes."

Also, rules "protect the rights of other people" by helping us to "identify the rights of other people."

In defense of rules, he concluded "some regularity in our day-by-day conduct, however, some pattern of behavior, some norm by which we can vary when love so dictates, is essential. Rules carefully arrived at by deliberate consideration, made our own by personal acceptance and-or commitment, and used conscientiously under the discipline of the spirit of God can be indicators of the way love leads us to act."

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