

# THE TWIG

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## Communication is major Mid-East problem

One of twenty-four outstanding American women invited to participate in a recent study trip to the Middle East, Dr. Sandra Thomas of Meredith spoke enthusiastically of her participation in a "women's interreligious study dialogue for peace."

Because the Middle East is perhaps the most critical area of our modern world, Dr. Thomas saw her recent sojourn in Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and Israel as a particularly valuable experience.

According to Dr. Thomas, the group itself, whose composition was one-half Jewish, one-quarter Protestant, one-quarter Catholic, offered a real opportunity for dialogue among Christian and Jewish women varying in occupation and social backgrounds, as well as in religious beliefs.

In addition, the group was able to act as a fact-finding group for peace in interviews with government and religious leaders, she said.

"We began our interviews and seminars with two premises which we agreed upon as a group," Dr. Thomas noted, "First, that the state of Israel has a right to exist, and second that the Palestinians have a right to self-determination."

### Desire for peace

In talks with government officials such as Mr. A. Bashir, an assistant to Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, and Dr. Hussein, former Egyptian ambassador to the U.S., these two concerns were expressed.

Bashir related that Egypt sees itself as a peace-keeping nation giving no

support to terrorism. A general desire for peace was evinced in discussions with several political leaders of the Middle East, said Thomas. Yet she noted that Arab and Israeli leaders are not communicating this desire to each other.

### Mrs. Rabin

In an afternoon session with Israeli women leaders at the home of Prime Minister Yitsak Rabin, the women, led by Mrs. Rabin, indicated that women do have an important role in peace-keeping, but that Arab-Israeli women are not in dialogue with each other. "A mother's bereavement in losing a son to war in Israel is no less an Arab mother's

bereavement," Dr. Thomas said.

Discussion with government leaders was an important aspect of the trip, but according to Dr. Thomas, visiting schools, villages, refugee camps, a kibbutz, and women's organizations, Christian, Jewish and Moslem, was very helpful in gaining insight into the situation in the Middle East as it affects the people of the area.

"We witnessed the tragedy of war," she said, vividly recalling the sight of Lebanese refugees crowded into a hotel in Damascus. The nearness of war was evidenced by the presence of mobilized troops in the Syrian and Jordanian deserts

through which Dr. Thomas' group passed and by the deserted city of Quimetra visited by the study group. Once a thriving city of 60,000, Quimetra, noted Dr. Thomas, is now completely destroyed. The group also visited the Suez Canal Zone in Egypt and traveled to the Golan Heights and through the UN buffer zone.

### Women's Role

Interested not only in the Arab-Israeli conflict, Dr. Thomas also paid particular attention to the decision-making role of women in Israel. She discovered in a meeting with Parliament members that despite the leading role that women have played in the building of the

Israeli state since its creation, only 9 out of 120 members of the Israeli Parliament are women.

"The prospects for peace are not very apparent," Dr. Thomas remarked, suggesting that there is hope only where there is dialogue among people on all levels, not just governments.

"Peace is going to mean the acknowledgement of one country by another and the recognition of its struggles," she said. "At present neither Israel nor the Palestine Liberation Organization recognizes the other, making peace dialogue impossible and hastening the involvement of major powers."

Debbie Doss

## "Alice" will be presented by faculty

A nameless writer once wrote, "Trying to understand Alice In Wonderland would be like trying to dissect a soap bubble."

Lewis Carroll's beloved nonsensical story will be presented by the Meredith faculty on Thursday, February 26 at 8:00 p.m. in Jones Auditorium. Admission will be free. The play is a 52 year old tradition and this year marks its' thirteenth presentation. Produced every fourth year for "the bemusement and bewilderment of Meredith students," the play has been presented to every college generation since its beginning in 1924. According to college historian, Dr. Mary Lynch Johnson, the faculty has never missed a generation.

"The play was started by Miss Ida Poteat, an art teacher, and Miss Sorrell, a P.E. instructor," said Ms. Helena Allen, this year's director. "It was presented as a means of allowing the faculty to let their hair down and do something for the girls."

This year marks Ms. Allen's second directing stint. She has co-directed once and is currently being aided by two co-directors, Dr. Clara Bunn and Mrs. Marie Capel. Ms. Allen, played in various minor roles in previous performances of the past 24 years.

"In a way, it's kind of formal," continued Ms. Allen. "Each time we do the play, we have to take a vote. Needless to say, it's almost always unanimous. I have never known a faculty member to refuse to participate unless they had a convention or something equally pressing."

The three act play plus two extra acts involves approximately 56 roles. About 25-30 more jobs, including lights, publicity and ushers, are filled by faculty and staff members. Traditionally, the casting of the play is a carefully guarded secret to surprise the students. Some cast members assume the same roles for years at the time.

"We try to keep publicity at a minimum because of our lack of seating. The production is not open to public," Ms. Allen said. "It is for faculty members, their families, and students. We ask that girls do not bring dates."

Faculty members solicit outside help with sets, costumes and make-up. Art classes are currently helping with scenery, and some costumes are being made by home economics students.

"We try to keep as many sets and costumes as we can store," said Ms. Allen. "The girls working on costumes have no idea for whom they are making them."

Mrs. Nancy Truesdale's production class will aid with make-up. Some cast members, especially veterans of a given role, do their own costumes and make-up. No costumes are bought from outside sources.

This year's production will be highlighted by special

dance sequences choreographed by Mrs. Frances Stevens and some new music written and selected by Dr. Peter Klausmeyer. Mrs. Phyllis Garriss has taken responsibility for an orchestra, an added musical attraction.

"We had nine practices last semester," grinned Ms. Allen. "We didn't have any in January, but have four planned in February, including a dress rehearsal. Most practices have been in the gym, but the rest will be in Jones."

"I have had such wonderful cooperation from the faculty and staff! This play is one thing, as Dr. Norma Rose says, on which 'the faculty works in harmony.' Not that we're not harmonious, but we do have our differences about

curriculum and such. It's good to get together and have a good time," concluded Ms. Allen.

Kim Farlow

## Seniors honor ten

The seniors elected ten members of their class as Outstanding Seniors on Tuesday, February 3.

Honored were Carol Grant (graduated), Ginger Kimball, Bethany Langdon, Cindy Lee, Kay Martin, Doris Taylor, Janet Tysinger, Lynn Wellons and Sally Zeigler, according to Pam Watson senior class president.

Election was made from a ballot of twenty names. The ballot was drawn up from nominations made by the individual seniors. Each senior was asked to submit a list of names. The names receiving the most nominations were placed on the ballot. All seniors were eligible for nomination except those who had previously been elected to Who's Who, according to a decision made by the class at a meeting earlier this year. Each senior class determines its own election criterion.

**Brian's Song**  
Brian's Song has been scheduled as the College Center Association (CEA) February movie. This Emmy Award winning play will be presented in the College Center Auditorium Sunday, February 8, at 3 and 8 pm. Individual performance tickets may be purchased at the door or season tickets may be used. The movie stars James Caan, Billy Dee Williams, Jack Warden and Shelley Fabares.

**Toys for Tots**  
The United States Marine Corps has sent a certificate of appreciation to Meredith College for the college's support of the 1975 Toys for Tots program, according to Meredith Christian Association (MCA) President Nancy Pentecost. The MCA which sponsored the project

sent over 100 toys to the Raleigh Marine Corps for them to distribute to local children, she said.

**CCA meeting**  
February's general meeting of the CCA will be Wednesday, February 4 at 5:30 p.m. in the CEA. All hall representatives and other interested students are strongly urged to attend this important meeting, CCA president Fran Stroud says.

**Feelin' Good**  
The Black musical revue, FEELIN' GOOD, will be presented Thursday night Feb. 5 at 8:00 p.m. in Jones Auditorium. It is open to the public free of charge.

**Correction**  
In an article in last week's TWIG on social regulations, it was noted that SGA could no longer be required. Page 75 of the Handbook, section C, notes

that the President of the SGA can still require meetings.

**Barber Science Club**  
Dr. Pat B. Hamilton will address the Barber Science Club on Wednesday, February 11, at 7:00 pm in 107 Hunter. Dr. Hamilton is a professor of poultry science and microbiology at N.C. State University. He will be speaking on his work with aflatoxins, which are among the most carcinogenic compounds known today.

Dr. Hamilton received his B.S. degree from Northeastern College, and his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin.

All members of the Barber Science Club are urged to attend; faculty and students who are new, or non-members, are also invited. Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

### Thigpen receives psychology honor

Ms. Jenny Thigpen has been chosen by the Psychology Department to be the Teaching Assistant in Experimental Psychology for the Spring Semester of 1976. Teaching Assistants are chosen on the basis of aptitude and scholarship from a number of applicants, and to be selected is considered a departmental honor, according to Psychology Department chairman Dr. John Huber.

### Drama

Auditions for THE PRIME OF MISS JEAN BRODIE will be held on February 8 and 9 from 6:00 to 9:00 P.M. in 202 Jones. There are 15 female parts. Reading scripts are available in 206 Jones.

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