

Campaign trail '76

Carter's image dulls on second look

by Alice Simmons and Phyllis Burnett

In November many Meredith women will vote in their first Presidential election. At present the jumble of candidates and issues is enough to confuse even a veteran of many national elections.

This is the first of a series of articles which will explore

each candidate and where he stands in an attempt to bring some semblance of order to the rubble. The first of these articles concerns Jimmy Carter, the current front-runner in the democratic race for convention delegates.

Carter has surged from virtual obscurity to national prominence in a few months by convincing thousands of

Americans that he is the "middle of the road knight in shining armor" they have been hoping and praying for. He was undoubtedly helped along the way by his Kennedy-like smile and the fact that he was not George Wallace. For many Americans, especially in the South, a vote for Carter was really a vote against Wallace.

It is time, however, for Americans to cut through the political hogwash of philosophical labeling and to stop looking for a "pretty boy" and to look at how each candidate stands on the gut issues--if you can get any kind of commitment on the issues.

Jimmy Carter has managed to convince the American people that he is a moderate without really taking a definite stand on any important issue. His only stand on the economy is a vague promise of new jobs through the development of solar heating units, preventive health care programs, and pollution control. These areas are important and should be developed but the new employment created by this expansion could scarcely

be sufficient to make a dent in the present unemployment problem. If Jimmy Carter is elected he will have to find an overall solution to unemployment elsewhere. As for tax returns, I would like to know what reforms he has in mind.

If Carter's economic viewpoints are unclear, his beliefs concerning foreign affairs and national security are virtually unknown. He says he wants to cut military spending overseas and to be friendly to smaller countries. He would also like to begin eliminating nuclear weapons.

Cutting military spending and eliminating nuclear weapons would be wonderful, if there were no aggressive nations in the world. But the United States must maintain a balance of power with the USSR. To do this we cannot cut military spending.

Carter also lambasts secrecy in foreign policy making. He feels that the people have the right to know what is going on, but unfortunately what the people know our enemies also know. It is necessary in foreign policy to move swiftly and silently.

Jimmy Carter would like the attorney general to be appointed for a specific term in an attempt to keep politics out of the Justice Department. Hurray, Jimmy Carter! He also favors capital punishment in limited cases and registration of hand guns.

Mr. Carter looks on himself as a representative of the "new South" which still preserves the good things from the past but is moving ahead into a future of progress without discrimination.

In an issue pertinent to all Meredith students, women's rights, Carter vows to be for full equality of the sexes. He supports equal pay, equal education, and an end to the indoctrination of children to believe that women are subservient to men. Once again--Hurray, Jimmy Carter!

Mr. Carter's lack of specific stands on many issues may be attributed to the fact that a party platform has yet to be adopted. If Carter is the nominee, he will undoubtedly make his stands somewhat clearer. In the meantime we as Meredith students should keep our eyes and ears open to any profound evaluations.

Editorial

SGA's Honor Code

On the SGA's second try of getting a quorum to vote on its most important bill this season, the honor code was changed by unanimous vote--without a whimper, it seemed. There was no discussion, no debate. The rumble of ayes was almost mundane: either we all felt the change was long overdue or we didn't care one way or the other.

If anybody has cared about the change in the honor code, it has been the Executive Committee of the SGA, and it deserves our praise. Last fall, the committee brought in Dr. Charles Whitebread of the University of Virginia to speak on the effectiveness of college honor codes in general. The SGA followed his excellent discussion with a campus wide survey of student opinion regarding the effectiveness of Meredith's code. Finally, after several months of debate and discussion, the committee came up with a change which reflected student needs and attitudes.

While the honor code no longer covers social regulations, it still covers "life at Meredith College." We will have to live with that paradox in exchange for the good the code brings. For the first time, the honor code defines what constitutes a Judicial Board offense and what must be handled in Interdormitory Board. It eliminates the senseless, almost silly referrals of petty offenses from Interdorm Board to Judi Board.

The new honor code does not say that unpopular social regulations will be flaunted or ignored. To be sure, the opportunity for disregarding regulations is there. But that opportunity exists even now. If the SGA acts as responsibly in future situations as it has in the making of this bill, we will always be directed by a strong system of academic and social honor.

As Rebecca Askew said in her farewell speech at the installation ceremony Friday, there will always be criticism of new ideas, for there is always the feeling that old ways are the best ways and that change inevitably means loss. It is comforting, though, to know that no one expects students to promise to "do the right thing" in every situation. It is also reassuring to know that Meredith student government leaders expect to bear to awesome responsibility of possibly being wrong. That they have been this mature is perhaps an indication that their change in the honor code has been the most respectable change they could make.

MSO

Letter to the editor

Dear Editor:

As chairman of the department of psychology I was pleased to no small extent with the selection of professor Lyn Aubrecht for the award of Outstanding Christian Teacher. It is not, however, as a colleague, but as a student, that I wish to write this letter.

For the past semester, I have participated in Lyn's class, physiological psychology, as a student. I have attended (almost) all of the lectures and have taken the mid-term examination. From a student's perspective, I feel that Lyn's selection was more than well deserved. Despite the fact that most of my adult life has centered on scholastic endeavors, I must confess that as a class period draws to a close, I have always been ready to retreat with alacrity. In honesty, I can say that my natural propensities have not been as evident in his class. In

essence, I want to state in public: Well done, good colleague and teacher!

Sincerely,
R. John Huber,
Associate Professor and
Chairman

by Vivian Keasler

Hamlet was presented at Stewart Theater April 8-10 by the new Shakespeare Company of San Francisco. The company is directed by Margrit Roma and is a non-profit organization.

The characters were portrayed with varying quality. Kevin Gardiner as Hamlet was enchanting and believable. His anxiety was well conveyed to the audience as was his usual sense of humor hindered by depression. His soliloquies were not speeches set apart from the rest of the play, but were simply points in which a confused young man became lost in his own thoughts. Also, with his pretended "mad" remarks he managed to make other "sane" characters such as Polonius look stupid.

Polonius himself was funny and convincing as a slow-witted and ridiculous old fool. However, other characters were not so well portrayed. Ophelia, after losing her sanity, was obviously disturbed but not convincingly insane. She floated about the stage giving flowers to everyone but would often burst into tears. If the intensity of her grief over her

father's death and Hamlet's treatment of her had caused her to abandon reality, then she should in doing so have been able to abandon grief as well. If she could not, she did not completely lose touch with the reality of grief, and therefore must still have been sane.

King Claudius was another character poorly portrayed. Both his movements and lines were wooden with little sign of emotion. The scene in which he attempted to pray for forgiveness for murdering the King Hamlet, a scene which should show an emotionally torn man, was played as if he were saying, "Now I lay me down to sleep. . ." before going to bed.

Special touches helped in emphasizing desired effects. Polonius' death was seen in silhouette when Hamlet stabbed him through the arras. Also, a white cross on one of the banners was illuminated in front of Claudius as he attempted to pray to God.

The set was very simple, a series of black steps and platforms decorated only with two banners. This simplicity was an effective background for the colorful costumes of the actors. Polonius' green and blue velvet robe, Claudius and Gertrude's royal red and black velvets, and the multicolored costumes of the players were pleasing to the eye.

Hamlet hits N.C. State

History Department takes look at American Dream

by Allyn Vogel

According to one it is time for an autopsy; another hopes for a reaffirmation. The question for the evening was "The American Dream: Dead or Alive?" The faculty of Meredith's History Department discussed both alternatives in a forum Wednesday, April 7 at 8 p.m.

Dr. Sarah Lemmon, history department chairman, in opening comments, defined the American Dream in its historical perspective.

She noted that the European immigrant visualized America as the only nation with the chance of becoming the "ideal" country--a land of equal opportunity and democracy as well as a nation with a mission to be the "guardian angel" of the world.

This sense of mission, she said, was finally lost in the 1960's after the nation had, in several challenges, failed to


"applaud uprisings of people against oppression."

Dr. Rosalie Gates, associate professor of history, stated that the humanitarianism expressed through America's policy of "internationalism in nationalism" is keeping the American Dream alive.

Dr. Thomas Parramore, assistant professor of history, said that the American Dream died in the early 1900's when America began to determine foreign policy in "greed and power terms." The nation was more concerned, he said, in keeping the world balance of power static than in "making the world safe for democracy."

Dr. Parramore pointed out that the American Dream should be discarded as the myth which it is; it should not be a consideration in determining U.S. foreign policy. We should not, fight the "communist menace" abroad;

(Continued on Page 3)

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