

THE
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Are we racist?

In the October faculty meeting, a panel representing both faculty and administration open the question of minority students at Meredith with an impressive degree of candor and concern. Primary issues explored were the needs of the black students at Meredith, Meredith's commitment to education for minority students, and Meredith's ability to meet its goals for minority students with the standard of excellence that is traditional here.

The college may well be proud of its history of racial understanding. Jones Auditorium was open to members of all races long before other major public auditoriums in Raleigh opened their doors to blacks. During the civil rights movement, at least one faculty member took a personal stand on the issue of church integration by resigning from a local pastorate which refused to support his belief in equal rights.

In 1971, people here were beginning to feel assured that black enrollment was a good thing for all students. That was a time when Meredith experienced the largest enrollment of black students in its history.

Since then, however, the attitude has changed. Black enrollment has declined until the number of blacks here is no longer a positive factor in recruiting new black students. Those who do come here are the ones who have the guts to stick it out for whatever reasons they have. These students are few indeed: only two members of this year's freshman class are black.

In the faculty panel, inadequacies of the Meredith situation were very sensitively explored from an administrative and professorial point of view. But it is clear to me that the faculty will get nowhere in its probe for solutions unless the students go through a similar kind of questioning, with the same kind of sensitivity and willingness to face unpleasant facts about life for black students here.

The inability of admissions to recruit black students may indeed say some negative things about the nature of white students here. Almost all of us have experienced court-ordered busing, either by avoiding it or accepting it. Some white students may have opted for private, segregated schools. Others may have avoided full integration by being placed in college prep tracks. Others, of course, bear all the scars of teenage turmoil, anger and hostility in seeing old traditions changed with the drawing of a few lines and blaming inadequate preparation for college on integration.

How many of us came to Meredith, a private, mainly white institution, because we hated what court-enforced busing and integration did to change the nature of public education for whites?

Whether this was a conscious motivation or not, we have indeed found Meredith to be a sheltered environment in which to nurse our imaginary or real wounds. But what has such isolation done for our understanding of the best meaning of integration? Not much. And the sad fact is that the majority of Meredith students—those working toward teacher certification—will have to re-enter public education with not much more awareness and certainly no more practical methods of dealing with the problems of interaction among races. All of us, not just prospective teachers, lack decent preparation to enter a world of many colors but one humanity.

What can students do about it? We have an advantage that we did not have in high school: We can choose to lead ourselves out of this voluntary segregation. The first step is for student organizations to engage in dialogue with faculty, to think seriously about the nature of education and life here at Meredith, to compare the situation here with what we know is waiting for us on the outside. Deciding whether Meredith can and should provide the best education possible for minority students is a question that must involve the students as well as the faculty.

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Watergate's effect tragic

by Phillis Burnett

In less than a week Americans will go to the polls and select the first post-Watergate President. Discussion of the Watergate scandal by either candidate has not been an extensive but the campaign has definitely felt the repercussions of Watergate. The effect of other current Washington scandals, such as the Elizabeth Ray affair, and Watergate on this election and other elections to come may be one of the greatest tragedies to come out of these affairs.

Many Americans feel totally apathetic toward the elections and candidates. This apathy will undoubtedly result in a low voter turnout. This in itself is a great disaster when a great number of the American populace sacrifices their sacred privilege to vote.

A perhaps greater consequence of the political scandals, however, is their effect on the issues most important to the average voter. Issues concerning the nation's security, economy, or social well being have taken a back seat to moralistic issues that will have little effect on the winning candidate's performance in office.

Instead of placing priorities on such issues as unemployment, governmental interference in big business, national health insurance, and nuclear arms limitation, the American people and press seem more concerned with the candidates' religion or stand on abortion.

In the course of the campaign we have learned that both Carter and Ford children have smoked pot, that President Ford played a few games of golf, and that Carter accepted a free plane ride.

Carter has been accused of being morally degenerate for telling Playboy that he had committed lust of the heart and using the words "screw" and "shack-up".

In the Ford camp the degenerate isn't Ford but rather his wife, who told an interviewer on Sixty Minutes that she thought her children had smoked pot and that she hoped her daughter would tell her if she decided to have an affair.

The reaction to these interviews showed that Puritanism and Victorianism are not dead after all. Or perhaps it just indicates that Americans have a double standard and that a man

running for the Presidency must be flawless.

None of this relates to whether the candidate will be a good chief executive or not. Americans need to face up to the fact that our President cannot be some kind of superman. I think it is time that Americans stop worrying over minor moral issues and concern themselves with more pertinent matters. I'm not saying we should close our eyes to the morals and ethics of a potential President, but I do think the morals issue can and has been over-emphasized.

How the candidates stand on the important issues should be found out. It is our responsibility to vote for the candidate on these important issues and not the sensationalism of trumped up charges of immoral and unethical conduct.

Americans have always been influenced by sensationalism, but Watergate has blown this tendency to gigantic proportions. Watergate was an American tragedy and we should learn from it. But we cannot allow this tragedy to become the dominant force in American politics.

Letters to the editor

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the Meredith Young Democrats Club and all active Meredith Democrats, I would like to congratulate the College Republicans for a job well done regarding Jack Ford's visit to our campus. Considering the short time for preparation, both parties made a fine showing and most assuredly rose to the demands of the occasion.

While working with such a tight deadline was indeed hectic, it added an air of excitement and stimulation which is so vital to American politics. I feel endeavors on the parts of both parties were something we as voters, and as Meredith students, should be proud of.

Mr. Ford's visit to our campus was a new and unique experience for Meredith College. The event allowed a diversity of young women to become involved in the mainstream of politics, if only for a day or two. We can only hope that Mr. Ford's visit will set a precedent for future speakers and that Meredith women will continue to work in our political system, adding yet another valuable dimension.

In closing, I am sure all Republicans join me in urging you to vote on Tuesday, November 2 for the candidate of your choice.

Sincerely,
Kim Farlow

Chairman-Meredith College
Jimmy Carter Campaign '76

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the President Ford Committee, I would like to thank the Meredith community for its participation and involvement regarding the Jack Ford Rally.

I think that it is such an honor for Meredith College to be chosen as the only college campus in North Carolina on which a member of the First Family was to speak.

This election year has seen a greater youth involvement than other recent elections and we, today's students, are indeed fortunate to have the opportunity to be involved in politics at all levels. Involvement is the key to a successful political awareness and youth involvement plays an instrumental role in all aspects of the political spectrum.

Whether you consider yourself a Republican or a Democrat — I urge you to be aware of both parties' beliefs and ideals and challenge you to become involved, not only for yourself, but for America's freedom.

Sincerely,
Carol Lancaster
President Ford Committee
Youth Coordinator

Dear Editor,

I wish to commend the Meredith community for its support of the Bloodmobile visit to Meredith on Tuesday, October 5th. A total of 99 pints of blood was donated, excluding 42 students who were deferred due to various medical reasons.

These volunteer donors constitute an approximate 10 per cent response from our faculty, administration, and student body. This year we had a record number of first time donors with the greatest number of donors belonging to the freshman class.

These first year students should be especially proud of themselves, as is the rest of Meredith College. However, may none of us be guilty of drowning in a song of our own praise, but rather, realize that the Bloodmobile visits offer advantages of reciprocal proportion.

Not only do we benefit others by our blood donations, but at the same time, we enhance the image of Meredith College as a growing institution for concerned

citizens in a world that demands concern and cooperation for survival.

May our concern only continue to increase in response to the Bloodmobile visit in the spring on March 2, 1977.

Sincerely,
Hazel Browning
Bloodmobile Co-ordinator

Dear Editor,

Everyone has heard about the tight job market, but I would like to take this opportunity to point out to Meredith students and faculty that there are many, many magnificent opportunities "out there" for the inquisitive person who is willing to keep her options open.

I invite you to come in and explore some of the information available in the Office of Career Planning. We probably have more information on internships than any other one office in the state of North Carolina. A few of the publications just received include:

DIRECTORY OF UNDERGRADUATE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS - 126 pages of undergraduate internships all across the United States. An example is an Urbanarium Fellows Program at Rochester, N.Y., funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The program is designed to be interdisciplinary and urban oriented. Interest areas might include human services, social work, the arts and humanities. It offers four undergraduate quarter credits, and a stipend of \$600.

DIRECTORY OF WASHINGTON INTERNSHIPS.

Spend an hour, half-day, or a day exploring the information here on your own campus about the wonderful opportunities available to you.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Marie Capel
Director, Office of Career Planning

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