

# THE TWIG

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## Admissions applications on the upswing

by Debbie Doss

A variety of contributing factors indicate that admission to Meredith College for the coming year will be somewhat more selective.

At the present time, reports Mary Bland Josey, director of admissions, applications for admissions are running 67 per cent ahead of the number usual for this time in the recruiting season.

This substantial increase in the number of applicants is perhaps indicative of a greater interest of students in obtaining admission at all colleges. However, Miss Josey suspects that the increases at Meredith are "dividends from last year's Junior Visitation Day in April and the open days program.

If the interest continues at this level, the abundance of applicants (including 130 students seeking Early Decision admission) should offer the admissions staff an opportunity to be more selective in admitting next year's freshman class.

In spite of increased applications the SAT scores of present applicants will probably tend to be no higher than those of students who have matriculated in recent years. In fact, over the past decade average SAT scores have dropped almost 100 points at Meredith as well as throughout the nation.

The average SAT score of the present sophomore class is 950 with only about a third of the class having scored above 1000. Scores range from as low as the 700's up to the 1300's. While almost a third of the class of 1979 scores less than 900 on the test, only 13 students achieved a score of 1200 or more.

Because of this decline in SAT scores nationwide, the admissions staff relies more heavily on the high school record of applicants in determining who will be admitted.

"We have never operated on minimum SAT scores," Miss Josey comments. "The more discriminating factor is the secondary school record."

Determining the academic potential of each applicant is further complicated by the "grade inflation" that is rampant on today's college campuses, including Meredith. Because grade averages have jumped in recent years, more and more applicants seem to be able to do college level work and to receive adequate grades.

Miss Josey explains, "The minimum credentials for admission depend on the performance of the present freshman class. Ten years ago the average QPR for a freshman at Meredith was 2.1, while this past year it was a little

over 2.6.

Thus, more and more entering freshmen seem capable of achieving high grades in college work.

This is not to say that everyone who applies for admissions to Meredith College will be accepted. Of 625 freshmen applicants last year, 90 were denied admission.

The role of the admissions procedure in strengthening academic procedures at Meredith then, is a com-

plicated one.

"Basically, we are prepared to take weaker students," Miss Josey explains, "for on the whole secondary students do not have the stiff college preparatory work that they did even five years ago.

"However, in the recruitment process, our staff definitely attempts to emphasize the academics of Meredith. Certainly, we talk about what a wonderful community it is to live in, but

is that what students pay \$14,000 for?"

Perhaps this year's very encouraging flood of applications can lessen the possibility of having lower ability students at Meredith.

Miss Josey, however, raises the question of what holds greater responsibility for the academic strength of Meredith. She asks, "Is it the academic and entrance credentials we require, or is it what is expected of them when they get here?"

### Black Voices in Unity project

## Bazaar funds Awareness Week

by Nancy Newton

This past week, the Black Voices in Unity held a Christmas Bazaar in Cate Center to stimulate campus awareness as well as financial support for the club.

The purposes of the Black Voices in Unity, according to president Faye Wilkerson, are "to expand black identity and awareness to campus, to work with the administrators to recruit other black students and to make suggestions that will benefit the entire Meredith community."

The intention behind the expansion of black identity on campus has a double purpose, "to help the black student to develop a better understanding of her own

culture and heritage, and at the same time to introduce black culture to other students on the Meredith campus."

The club, in fulfilling its goals, sponsors many activities and projects throughout the Meredith and Raleigh community. Along with the bazaar, the club annually conducts Black Emphasis Week which will be held this year during the week of February 9th.

The February program is designed for all Meredith students. The guests and lectures for that week include Donald Bogle speaking on the topic of "Mammies, Mulattoes, Toms, and Coons" in Jones Auditorium at 8 p.m. on

Tuesday, and the Reverend Leon White along with the St. Augustine Gospel Choir at the worship hour on Wednesday. On Thursday, Mrs. Courtney Mulliner will speak in the CEA at 8 p.m., and the week will be culminated on Sunday with Dr. Ben Jochannan speaking.

Another project supported by the club is visitation, parties, and programs which they have taken to prisons, rest homes, as well as a tutorial program.

In closing, Miss Wilkerson expressed her thanks "for the campus support of the bazaar and the club." She also offered the invitation to all Meredith students to take part in the club.

## Society taps twelve

Silver Shield, the honorary leadership society at Meredith, inducted nine new senior members and three junior associate members into its membership last Wednesday night.

The new members are: Debra Coates, Sara Cotey, Debbie Doss, Betsy Blair Gunn, Millie McLaney, Robin Morgan, Maggie Odell, Cathy Pickett, and Diana Swann.

The junior associate members are: Cindy Allen, Julie Kicklighter, and Sue

Vehorn.

Organized in 1935, Silver Shield elects seniors to its membership on the basis of Christian character, constructive leadership service to the college and scholarship.

Other members of the society are: Hazel Browning, president; Mary Kay Allsbrook, vice president; Virginia Norton, secretary; Kathy Frazier; Menda Sue Godfrey; Beth Leavel; Betsy Rowlett; Phyllis Smith; and Beverly Steen.

## RSW funds club projects

by Miriam O. Victorian

The Program for Raising the Sights of Women (RSW), under the directorship of Dr. Sarah Lemmon, has set up a policy for financial aid proposals from various Meredith organizations.

A detailed memo has already been sent to the faculty, administrative offices, and student leaders.

The memo outlines procedures for making a proposal to the RSW Executive Committee.

The committee requires the following information: the name of the organization submitting the project; brief statement describing the nature of the project; and name of student responsible for the project.

Also, the report to the committee should include: the characteristic (i.e., leadership, creative) of the RSW

program on which the project focuses; its contribution to the development of the characteristic; and the ways in which the greatest number of students will be helped by the project.

Students will also need to submit a budget, showing total financial needs, funds available from other sources, and net amount requested from RSW.

### Faculty retreat

The Meredith College faculty is planning a retreat for the weekend of November 12-13 at Camp Caraway in Asheboro, N.C. The theme of this two day conference will be "Exploring Our Roles as Members of the Faculty in a Christian College."

The retreat will open Friday evening with a keynote address by Dr. Joseph Browde, chairman of the

education department, followed by a group discussion led by Mrs. Betty Brewer, Dr. Ione Knight, Mr. Eugene Sumner, and Mrs. Evelyn Simmons.

Saturday's program will consist of a panel discussion by Dr. Lyn Aubrecht, Mrs. LaRose Spooner, Mrs. Marie Capel, and Dr. Allen Page, moderated by Dr. Jack Huber. The retreat will be wrapped up by Meredith's

president, Dr. John Weems, in a closing address.

Members of the planning committee for this retreat include Dr. Roger Crook, Mrs. LaRose Spooner, Dr. Jack Huber, Dr. Clara Bunn, Mr. Eugene Sumner, and Mr. Larry Williams.

According to Dr. Bunn of the planning committee, "this is the nicest thing we've ever done." It is expense free to the college because of an

anonymous donation specifically for the retreat, and is completely voluntary.

### Teacher ed applications

Current juniors planning on teacher certification should complete formal application for admission to teacher education programs now. The forms are available from the Department of Education, Joyner 124. Miss B.J. Yeager, faculty secretary, will have them available.



Members of Black Voices in Unity examine their wares at their recent Christmas bazaar. Joyce Montgomery, left, and President Faye Wilkerson, right, helped sponsor the sale which will help finance the group's February Black Emphasis Week.

## IN THE NEWS