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# Letters Letters Letters

## Dishonorable enforcement

One week it's hundreds of students singing "Beer, beer for old Senior Class," and the next it's a member of the Executive Committee in your room saying, "This is a check for alcohol." Who wanted the dorm check? What brought on the "show of force," as one member of the Executive Committee called it? What good did the check do? If one were honest, one would have to conclude that last week's dormitory check for alcohol showed the weakness of our judicial system rather than its strength.

One of the primary weaknesses of the system is that it bowed to the guilty ones in granting the search. Twelve freshmen were caught having a party on their hall. When they were turned in for interdormitory board action, they complained that they were not the only ones violating the regulation. They assured the interdorm board chairman that if a check were made, at least a hundred more offenders would be found.

Well, that may have been true, but when was it ever decided that the guilty ones could establish their terms of trial? We may know that hundreds of other students are violating the alcohol policy, but we are obligated to punish only those who are caught.

This condition of justice is not unique to enforcing social regulations at Meredith. Ask any policeman: he will tell you he catches only a fraction of drivers who are guilty of breaking the speed limit. Such inefficiency is not a weakness but a strength, for it protects the innocent from undue harrassment.

Another weakness of the dorm check is that it violated all rules of fairness. If the committee's concern had been merely the removal of alcohol from the dorms instead of catching offenders, then another means of action could have been found. For example, a special mandatory hall meeting could have been called to alert all students to impending action by the interdormitory authorities. Such notification would be a gracious way of allowing offending students to reform honorably while also alerting all students simultaneously of the legality of dorm inspection. Such a procedure would have corrected the grossly unfair condition of last week's check, when those who were checked first did not have the time to dispose of their booze like those who were checked later.

Another violation of the rules of fairness occurred when the committee checked every person's room, regardless of whether she was suspected of having alcohol or not. Such behavior is unconscionable: no student should have to undergo a room search unless she is suspected, beyond the shadow of a doubt, to have stolen or prohibited goods in her room. If room checks must be used, the SGA must devise a system of requesting warrants for such checks.

A third weakness of the system was in the necessity of having a dorm check at all. Before social regulations were removed from the jurisdiction of the Honor Code, it was assumed that students would be honorable enough not to have alcohol in their rooms. Now that it is clear that the SGA will enforce the alcohol policy, it is also clear that the SGA feels it can no longer rely on the honor of the students.

Clear also is the fact that the SGA will have to use dishonorable means to enforce such a policy. If dorm checks such as the one conducted last week continue, every student will be considered dishonorable until a check of her drawers, closets, and trash can proves otherwise. In a college which prides its student government on integrity and maturity, such a lack of honor on the part of its officers is sad indeed.

MSO

Dear Editor,

Meredith? Big!  
Meredith? Beautiful!  
Meredith's faculty? One  
Black token  
Meredith's Black students?  
Tokens

Meredith holds one big office for Blacks in one aspect and that is in its employment—employment of maintenance workers, maids, and cooks, that is.

Meredith may have its door open, but it is not letting enough Blacks in.

Being a prestigious school, Meredith has to fulfill certain things. These things are:

- (1) Satisfying the parents which support the school (majority white).
- (2) Having a few tokens to keep everybody happy.

The things that Meredith has done just aren't enough. Why should this school be happy about its historical background when all of the other prestigious white schools have their token

Blacks, too? I commend that one faculty member who stood up for the Blacks on the issue of the church.

There are a lot of Blacks here receiving aid from Meredith, but I do not feel this should be an issue as to why more Blacks are not accepted. And I do not feel that the ones receiving aid should sit back and be satisfied. I say this because a lot of white girls are getting aid, too.

Many white students who refuse to take on the responsibility of working in the Black community and with Black children are suffering from a lack of knowledge about the problems and ways of the Black people. Not knowing about Blacks and their ways and needs is a fault of the parent. Being taught as children to shy away from Blacks causes a blank in the mind when it comes down to getting along.

The only solution to this problem is to stop trying to make us believe that we should be happy with the situation as it stands. If we could have an open mind and work together, not against each other, things would work.

I do not want to be treated as a token, but as a student who has the potential to do the work put before me, to enjoy college life on campus and graduate, to say I really enjoyed my years at Meredith, instead of saying that Meredith was a disappointment.

S.V.H.

### FRANKLY SPEAKING...by phil frank



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## Jimmy Carter's game plan

by Jack Anderson  
with Joe Spear

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WASHINGTON — We've checked with sources close to Jimmy Carter to find out what to expect after he takes over the White House.

They say he'll give urgent priority to developing new energy sources. He is worried about our dependence on overseas oil. He is also nervous about nuclear energy. He's afraid of radioactive leakage.

He'll put immediate emphasis, therefore, on coal production. But for the long term, he will develop solar energy, shale oil, hydrogen power and other energy possibilities.

As President, Carter will also press for tax reforms next year. We talked to House Ways and Means Chairman Al Ullman, who is in charge of writing tax legislation. He said he'll move at once to strip the corporations of their special tax privileges.

Our sources say Carter is also determined to cut military spending. He believes this can be done without impairing America's power. He will most likely cut back B-1 bombers, flying command posts and the Defense Intelligence Agency.

Another of Carter's top priorities is government reorganization. This may not turn out to be as easy as he had hoped. Some private studies by the Brookings Institution indicate that the President's authority to restructure the executive branch may have expired. This could mean a battle on Capitol Hill just to get his authority back.

Carter won't find Congress easy to manage. Their common Democratic bond won't necessarily unite them. For example, he won't have House Speaker Carl Albert and Senate leader Mike Mansfield. They have been pleasant, placid leaders who would rather accommodate than fight.

Their places are likely to be taken by Rep. Thomas "Tip" O'Neill in the House and Sen. Robert Byrd in the Senate. They'll be more difficult to get along with. Sen. Hubert Humphrey, a power in the Senate, also told us that he intends to bring pressure on Carter to consider Humphrey's views.

On the House side, Rep. Mo Udall, who gave Carter a close race in the presidential primaries, told us the same thing. Udall said he'll pressure Carter to break up the Big Oil companies and other conglomerates. As Udall put it, "I'm going to use all the influence I have in the Carter Administration."

Our sources say that Carter won't forget his debt to the blacks who voted so heavily for him. He'll definitely appoint blacks to his cabinet. The two most likely possibilities are Rep. Barbara Jordan of Texas and Rep. Andy Young of Georgia.

But Andy Young said he'd prefer to stay in the House.

Meanwhile, "Bellowing" Bella Abzug, the Congresswoman from New York, has let it be known she wants to be Secretary of Transportation. But she probably won't get the job. She's considered too abrasive for the Carter people.

PESTICIDE PERIL: There

are 45,000 pesticide products now on the market. Most of them effectively kill insects. But scientific studies have also linked some commercial pesticides to cancer, birth defects and gene mutation.

Yet the government has relied on the chemical industry's own tests to determine the safety of pesticide products. Some of these tests have turned out to be inaccurate and unsound. This has disturbed Congress, which has now called for a thorough re-registration of pesticides.

It will take trained pathologists to analyze the effects of these chemical compounds on animal tissue. There are more than 200 employees in the Pesticide Division of the Environmental Protection Agency. Yet only two of them are pathologists, and one will soon be leaving.

PLAIN JERRY: President Ford will exit the White House as unaffected by power as the day he entered it. A good illustration is the day his dog made a mess on the Executive Mansion floor.

During a Christmas dinner, the Presidential pooch, Liberty, had an accident on the White House rug. A dozen stewards rushed to clean up the mess.

But Ford waved them aside. He said no one should have to clean up after another man's dog. Then the President of the United States got up from his Christmas dinner and cleaned up the mess himself.

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