

From the Editor

Looking back

to the year 1978

Thumbing through some past issues of The TWIG last week led me to consider the students and campus as it appears to have been in 1978. The students were as young, as active, and as idealistic about their future as students are in 2028. Their future is the present in 2028; many never knew 2028 since the average life expectancy for a woman in 1978 was around 70. Those that have survived the past 50 years probably remember their Meredith years fondly. Remembrances may include snatches of cornhuskin; "The Bathtub Ring," fried chicken night, your Junior-Senior formal, late night studying, "Roy's," comma splices, a daisy chain. . . "We salute thee". . . Each generation harbors its own special memories.

As for campus concerns in 1978, it seems to have been a year of cautious progress. There were no male visitation hours then, and the established week night closing hours for dormitories, midnight, was in question. The community seems to have been examining its purposes on social policy and student government actively participated in this examination. There was even an upshoot movement to change the name of the newspaper!

There were some unprecedented courses included in the curriculum of 1978, interdisciplinary in nature. Art and dance, literature and politics fused ideas, allowing students to synthesize their knowledge of these disciplines. Innovative thinking seemed to be encouraged in courses dealing with science fiction and consciousness in the future.

Exploring levels of consciousness was a new idea on college campuses and Meredith was a forerunner of the study.

A proposal to establish a radio and closed circuit television was introduced in 1978, and a "writing laboratory" was proposed to assist students in different writing skills. There were no journalism courses in 1978 at Meredith. It was a year of stabilizing roots of the community at a time when fresh, uninhibited buds of creativity and freedom began to speckle the community. Community growth was a sapling, potential was blossoming.

A movement to de-isolate the academic community thrived on the Meredith campus in 1978. Students were involved in internships, jobs, and volunteer work. Perhaps, as a christian institution, the community sensed a responsibility to be involved outside its institutional boundaries.

Because of its active involvement, the Meredith community was undoubtedly affected by dynamic social movements in 1978. An emerging national interest in citizen participation was reflected by campus activities. For example, volunteer sign-up days, a committee for social concerns, and individual service projects involved many students, even before the movement strengthened at the national level.

Probably the most valuable movement which Meredith recognized in 1978 centered in examining basic human rights. Endorsed by President Jimmy Carter as a

"clear, decent expression of what our country stands for," Meredith focused on human rights in a community forum on campus. A drama, BLOOD KNOT, commenting on the oppression of blacks in South Africa during the seventies, also increased awareness of oppression in 1978. Meredith students, perhaps unconsciously, gained a tolerance and empathetic understanding of different peoples as they became conscious of the importance on insuring human rights.

Our progressive women's college was undoubtedly affected by the women's movement. It was during the 1970's that many people still questioned whether "equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex." The question of the United State's genuine commitment to basic human rights was especially linked to this issue.

Students in 1978 witnessed the women's movement burst the stereotypical boundaries of narrow, radical feminism to convoke social concerns and provoke "consciousness-raising" in every socially concerned human in an attempt to "form a more perfect union." The college, as an illustration of its growing commitment to promote leadership, was represented at the National Women's Conference in November, 1977. Meredith seems to have felt, and is still feeling the vibrations of this social earthquake intensely.

The Meredith community, of 1978, assessed the value of these movements and also remained deeply committed to scholarship. They tried to resist the rising grade inflation problem prevalent in academic institutions of the day.

Overall, many of the traditions and policies of the college of 2028 were protected or founded in the college of 1978. The student of 2028 and the student of 1978 are not drastically different. They both love their families, enjoy good friends, and wonder about the future. A young child, a spring flower, and a vivid sunset excite any generation of sensitive humans. The human heart remains unchanged. The student of 2028 is inherently linked to the student of 1978 through a common search for the value and meaning of human life.

MVJ

THE
MEREDITH



TWIG
COLLEGE

Editor
Assistant Editor
Reporters Janet Surles, Kristy Beattie, Nancy Newton, Meg Holman, Miriam Victorian, Carolyn Morton, Renee Keever, Sonja Ammons, Allisa Allen, Jean Simpson, Jacque Lawrence, Becca Gullion
Sports Editor
Photographer
Cartoonist
Business Manager
Advertising Manager
Faculty Advisors

Vicki Jayne
Annette Gregory
Darla Stephenson
Rhymer Shaw
Geri Deines, Beth Wicker
Nancy Garrett
Melea Madden
Dr. Tom Parramore
Mr. Bill Norton

Member Associated College Press. Published weekly except during holidays and exams. THE TWIG is served by the National Educational Advertising Service, 18 East Street, New York. Subscription rates: \$3.70.