

# THE TWIG

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## ERA supporters rally, regroup

### Proponent discusses ERA strategy in N.C.

by Marlene Debo

Marilyn Miller, from the Wake County League of Women Voters, spoke at the January 12 Non-Resident Student Meeting on the League's ERA strategy for the 1979 legislative session.

Three more states must ratify the Equal Rights Amendment by 1983 for it to become a part of the Constitution. North Carolina is one of the states targeted for 1979 by ERA proponents.

"We expect the vote to come up around March 1, so we only have two months to try to change some minds. A lot of people think we're going to lose again but we plan to give it our best try," Miller said.

"This year the League is concentrating its letter-writing campaign on the legislators and administrators who have been favorable toward ERA in the past and those that continue to waver in their sympathies," Miller explained.

She provided these names and addresses, as well as stamped envelopes, post-

cards, and stationery to those persons interested in writing letters.

Miller gave a brief summary of the status of the Equal Rights Amendment in North Carolina. At the last legislative session the amendment was passed in the House and defeated in the Senate by two votes. The League feels that the amendment's chances for passage in the Senate are worse after the recent elections. But several legislators are still uncommitted, according to Miller.

"ERA North Carolina is the headquarters for the ERA campaign and they have lots of work for volunteers. We welcome any help—even if it's just one afternoon of stuffing envelopes," said Miller. The ERA NC office is located in Room 521 of the Insurance Building at 336 Fayetteville Street Mall. The phone number is 828-6540.

For more information write to League of Women Voters of Wake County, 3825 Barrett Drive, Raleigh, N.C. 27609 or call 781-5736.

## Rally features Alda

by Ann Stringfield

Television star Alan Alda and several state and local dignitaries including Mayor Isabella Cannon appeared before an enthusiastic crowd of ERA supporters at the ERA rally at Scott Pavillion, Sunday January 21.

Assuring the audience that "the time is now," Beth McAllister, NCUERA (North Carolina United for ERA) president, spoke as a curtain raiser for the afternoon's program.

Ms. McAllister was followed by the Reverend Maria Bliss who said that she hoped that this year will be a "most ratified of new years." She also added that North Carolina has been first in many ways ("first in freedom") and that she hopes this will hold true with the ERA issue.

Grace Rohrer, Secretary of Cultural Resources, 1973-1978, stated that she no longer felt "called upon to defend the inclusion of women in the Constitution of the United States."

Alan Alda addressed himself to several issues including the protective labor laws which he said would not be affected by ERA. Alda stated that the pregnancy sick-leave issue is ridiculous since it is universally

recognized that men cannot have babies and denying women of their biological rights would be cruel.

On a lighter note, Alda said, on the issue of unisex bathrooms, "When ERA is passed a man will not find a woman in a public restroom unless she's fixing the toilet."

Alda quoted statistics on salaries of men as opposed to the salaries of women. According to these statistics, not only do men in professional jobs make about \$5,000 more than women in the same jobs, but the male high school dropout makes over \$1,000 more than the average female college graduate. Alda commented that "even if they have the opportunity to get an education, they have no place to use it."

Although Alda supports women who choose to be protected by men, he asked, "where is that woman going to be when her protector dies, or leaves to protect someone younger."

In a dramatic moment, Alda said that he owed his life to a woman who "won her fight in sexism." As a child, Alda contracted polio. His life was saved due to the research efforts of Sister Kenny, an Australian nurse who stood up in the face of stout male opposition.



National Players enact tragic climax of William Shakespeare's ROMEO AND JULIET in Jones Auditorium on Wednesday, Jan. 17. (Photo by Susan Kellum.)

## News Highlights On Campus

### "Successful Images"

The Business and Home Economics Departments of Meredith College are co-sponsoring "Successful Images" on the campus at Cate Center on Thurs., January 25th at 7:30 p.m. The program will consist of a fashion show, interviewing techniques, and body language, all based on research done to help women make substantial gains in business and in their social lives. This program is open to all Meredith students and faculty, and to the general public. There is no admission charge.

### Trip to Spain

Madrid, Seville, and Cordova are a few of the highlights of the trip to Spain sponsored by Meredith and scheduled for spring break (March 4-12). The traveling group will be led by Dr. Sandra Thomas, and is open to all Meredith students, faculty

and staff. Interested persons are urged to apply in the Office of Student Development immediately.

A unique aspect to this trip is that there will be an orientation seminar in February. The session will touch briefly on areas such as Spanish art, music, geography, and current political affairs.

The group will travel through the countryside by motor coach. Special optional tours are available out of Madrid.

### Tour of Italy

Sponsored by Meredith College and the American Institute of Foreign Studies, Blue Greenberg, Meredith art history instructor and Durham Herald art critic, will be taking a group to Italy to travel and study at the University of Perugia from June 18 - August 12. Courses taught by Perugia University faculty include Italian, or in

English, studio painting, sculpture or art history. Academic credit can be earned. \$1550 includes transportation between New York and Perugia, room, board and instruction for six weeks. Not included is two weeks independent travel and transportation between your hometown and New York. For more information call Blue Greenberg, Jones 241 or Durham 489-7688.

### Home Ec Meeting

The Home Economics Club had its first meeting of the semester January 15 at 7:00 in the parlor of Hunter.

This semester some of the activities planned include a Floral Art Demonstration, a Bridal Fashion Show, a tour of the Governor's mansion, a career panel discussion, and parents' weekend bazaar.

## Schedule change opposed

by Ann Earp

A large percentage of Meredith students voted against a return to the traditional schedule in a recent survey conducted by the Instruction Committee.

On the traditional schedule, once used by Meredith, fall semester began in mid-September and spring semester ended in early June. Exams were about three weeks after Christmas, with a one-or two-day reading period following them. Spring and Easter breaks were combined into a week-long spring recess.

The traditional schedule would allow students more time to prepare for exams during Christmas break according to Dr. John Holt. The period between Thanksgiving and Christmas would be more relaxed. Another strong point is that the expense of running air conditioners in May is less than running them in August.

Although a majority of the faculty is opposed to a change, the traditional schedule would involve a number of advances for them. They would not have to grade exams during Christmas vacation. Also, the

traditional schedule fits more closely with the schedules of public schools.

The break in the semester's studies caused by Christmas vacation would be the main disadvantage, stated Mr. John Hiott, Registrar. Most area colleges use the early semester plan and it is highly unlikely that Meredith will change unless cooperating Raleigh colleges do.

## REW to feature Burhans

Religious Emphasis Week (REW) is Jan. 29 - Feb. 2. This year's theme is "Love .... Becoming and Doing." The guest speaker of the week will be David Burhans. Recently, he has been the chaplain to the University of Richmond in Virginia. Dr. Burhans conducts counseling sessions at the University for couples or

individuals.

The REW concert will be given by Mike Blaylock, known already by many Meredith students from his concert held in the fall and by his work with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Programs are available in Cate Center.



David Burhans