

THE
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Europeans work to realize a long-held dream of unity

by Regine Nickel

In the four consecutive days from June 7th to June 10 180 million Europeans are going to directly elect a European parliament. Belgium, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Eire, Italy, Luxembourg, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands, all these countries under one European flag. It sounds like the dream of a united Europe come true. It is not all as rose-coloured as that, but the direct elections constitute a valuable step in the right direction. The United States of Europe or the Confederate States of Europe, whatever it will finally come to be, are within reasonable grasp.

Of course there is dissent. The stage Europe is now in is comparable to the birth pains of the American nation; states rights versus federalism, and the frailty and danger this brings about for the future of a new nation. America made it, and Europe will make it as well, in due time.

The dream of a united

Europe was born on the battlefields of World War I. The bloody trenchwar, Ypern and Verdun and the realization that there were no winners, but only losers in this war, gave way to this ideal.

Aristide Briand and Gustaf Stresemann, two great European minds, dedicated their lives' work to this ideal. Sir Winston Churchill also endorsed it, only he saw England set apart from Europe. Even a man of his vision could not shake off the ties of his 19th century nationalistic upbringing and foresee the rapid disintegration of the British Empire.

In the twenties and thirties the European movement perished in mistrust, hatred, and escalated nationalism; in the intellectual decadence of Hitler's Germany and Mussolini's Italy.

It took another war and the postwar power games of the super nations to finally make Europe realize its interdependence. In 1954 former West German chancellor Konrad Adenauer said: "The

unity of Europe used to be the dream of a few. It became the hope of a great many. Today it is a necessity for all of us." That was the ideal. History had shown that ideals alone don't work. Europe's nations needed a feasible incentive; an incentive that could be felt by the voting population. An idea that could make the budget thrive becomes a reality. The first step to a united Europe was therefore the Common Market, developed from loose economic agreements in 1950 to the European Common Market of the Roman treaties in 1957.

1979 is the year of Europe. Economic pressures propelled the elections - it could be said that inflation and unemployment are the godparents of a united Europe - and they are going to increase in the future. Maybe economic necessities are one sure road to a political European community.

The greatest European, Robert Schuman, had hoped for a united Europe by the year 2000. Maybe it is not too late yet.

Let's complain!

True, it's nice to be nice, but sometimes being so kind and polite can be detrimental to one's health. That seems to be the case over the infirmary issue, at any rate. While I have heard complaints and horror stories ever since I was a freshman about the Meredith medical care, I know of no one who has voiced a complaint either to the administration or to the infirmary itself.

At last one disgruntled person had the nerve to speak out. Her vocal complaint led to many vehement agreements, among the student body, and one more letter to the newspaper. But we all know that there are more than two people on campus unhappy over the infirmary. I think it's time we all found our voices and quit worrying about whose toes we'll step on or how many ripples we'll make in Meredith's placid surface.

It could be that all the fears and questions over methods and ability are just so much dust in the wind. Perhaps the various students who seek medical care at the infirmary, not being medically trained, misunderstand the quality of treatment they get. After hearing of so many bad health experiences from friends, perhaps we are now ready to put almost anything down as poor quality care. If our horror is unfounded, the best way to discover that is to scream our complaints and give the infirmary a chance to answer for itself.

I don't think the administration or the infirmary is fully aware of the infirmary-phobia that has reached epidemic proportions on campus. We all agree that something should be done, and I feel certain that the administration would do something about the problem if they knew how strongly we feel. So let's voice our complaints, loud and clear! It's definitely time that something be done, either for the health care we're getting or the reputation the infirmary has gained.

K

Campus Paperback Bestsellers

1. **The Women's Room**, by Marilyn French. (Jove/HBJ, \$2.50.) Perspective on women's role in society: fiction.
2. **My Mother, Myself**, by Nancy Friday. (Dell, \$2.50.) The daughter's search for identity.
3. **The Thorn Birds**, by Colleen McCullough. (Avon, \$2.50.) Australian family saga: fiction.
4. **Doonesbury's Greatest Hits**, by G. B. Trudeau. (Holt, \$7.95.) Mid-seventies revue of cartoon strip.
5. **Centennial**, by James A. Michener. (Fawcett/Crest, \$2.95.) Epic story of America's legendary West: fiction.
6. **The Amityville Horror**, by Jay Anson. (Bantam, \$2.50.) True story of terror in a house possessed.
7. **All Things Wise and Wonderful**, by James Herriot. (Bantam, \$2.75.) Continuing story of Yorkshire vet.
8. **The Immigrants**, by Howard Fast. (Dell, \$2.75.) Italian immigrant's rise and fall from Nob Hill: fiction.
9. **The Dieter's Guide to Weight Loss During Sex**, by Richard Smith. (Workman, \$2.95.) Humorous take-off on sex and diet manuals.
10. **Julia Child & Company**, by Julia Child. (Knopf, \$8.95.) Recipes being featured on her new TV series.

Letters to the editor

Dear Editor,

I'm writing this letter in regard to the termination of the announcements presented in Belk. I felt that the announcements were a welcome valuable and informative method to relay messages to the student body. I hope to see the announcements reinstated in Belk. Perhaps a broadcasting system would be more effective than the previous system.

Thank you,
Jeanne Vivona

Dear Editor,

I have written this letter because I feel that a certain member of your staff needs to be made aware of the reactions her weekly stories receive. I enjoy the writing style and basic story line of Ms. Stringfield's feature stories, but I find her caustic remarks and negative comments slightly overwhelming. I'm not saying she's not entitled to her opinion but what this campus needs is an optimistic viewpoint to touchy subjects, not blatant criticism. I hope she will take this letter constructively and not as a degradation of her

potential writing ability.

A reader

Dear Editor,

I am writing in concern about the situation in the Meredith College infirmary. As a freshman, I became ill with a bad case of mononucleosis which was diagnosed by the doctor as bronchitis. I was extremely ill for a full month before my family doctor rediagnosed my problem. Not only did Dr. --- give me the wrong medication, which made me worse than I should have been, but through his error my hall was also exposed to the mononucleosis. I definitely feel that the infirmary staff should be re-evaluated, and in some cases replaced. Not only was this a tremendous added expense, but it also destroyed my confidence in the medical services offered at Meredith College.

Unsigned

Dear Editor,

Allow me some comments on some of the points made the editorial "Civil Preparedness."

1. In our age of nuclear overkill both NATO and War-

saw Pact have enough - and 10 X more than that - bombs to blast our entire blue planet into oblivion. The earth will not be temporarily uninhabitable, it will be gone. What good will fallout shelters do then, but calm down the populace in the eye of destonation?

2. A nuclear attack will most certainly be preceded by a period of international tension. Although popular belief has it otherwise, Pearl Harbor was preceded by a great deal of tension, not the least of which was the great working relationship the Royal Navy (at war with Japan) and the U.S. Navy (neutral to Japan) had in the Pacific - before Pearl Harbor. 3. It has apropos ratsin fallout shelter; they should provide a valuable source of protein and thus add greatly to water and crackers - that is no joke!

4. Instead of worrying the Meredith community about a nuclear holocaust, shouldn't we ask the question what to do in the event of a tornado? Now that is really likely to happen without warning! Maybe even this evening.....
Regine Nickel

The Meadowline Tales

by Ann Stringfield

"Now exactly what is this with the Chinese?" Nan asked, sitting upon her bed in room 303.

"What do you mean?" I asked quizzically.

"Well, here the U.S. is, supporting Taiwan for years and suddenly we drop them like a hot potato and chum around with the Communists. I mean really. What is this? Aren't we supposed to be making the world safe for democracy?"

"Not only do we chum around with the Communists over there. We also bring them over here and let them play in our spaceships and everyone thinks they're just great. I can see a new TV show on the horizon: "My Favorite Communist."

"Well," I choked out, convulsed with laughter, "Carter has outlined several

reasons for what we're doing, but I think the real one is that there's oil in them thar shores off China. And since Iran is no longer supplying oil..."

"A soap opera. This is an absolute soap opera with foreign countries in the leading roles. You still have your cheating husbands, incestuous children, etc. It's worse than "The Young and the Restless."

"Is that the soap of the day around here?"

"That and 'General Hospital'. You see, Jill..."

We are interrupted by the phone. Nan, directly beside the phone, waits until it has rung twice before answering, saying, "I don't want to seem too anxious."

"Hello!?" she practically screams into the receiver. "Oh, hi mom. No, I don't have a date with Steve tonight. What? I don't know why, ask him. Hmmm? The

dog chewed your biteguards? That's interesting. Say what? The sherriff arrested Mrs. Richardson's boarder? Because she what? Oh. Hey, Mom...MOM...MOTHER!!! Listen, can I call you back? Yea, okay, I love you too, Bye."

"Anyway," Nan continued, "foreign policy is getting unreal, don't you think so?"

"Well..."

"And it's not any better at home what with breast-feeding firefighters and rich bankrobbers... The world is nuts."

"Yes," I agreed, "But..."

"Sorry, I have to go and study French so I won't be too embarrassed if Dr. Holt calls on me. He's so crazy. He even imitates Mork. Can you imagine, a Harvard graduate imitating Mork?!? Eezba?"

This is Allison Robinson until next time. Hello.

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