

# THE TWIG

Newspaper of the Students of Meredith College

VOL. LIII, NO. 18

MEREDITH COLLEGE, RALEIGH, N.C.

APRIL 5, 1979

## Huber delivers lecture

by Mary Katherine Pittman  
Dr. R. John Huber, Associate Professor of Psychology and Chairman of the Psychology department presented the Distinguished Faculty Lecture last Wednesday. His lecture was entitled "Alfred Adler and the Evolution of Humanity."

Dr. Huber began his lecture by speaking on his interest in social orientation as is evidenced in animal behavior. He stated that his talk was "an amalgamation of the comparative psychology of Adler and animal behavior."

Dr. Huber explained the theories of Adler by stating key concepts of Adlerian psychology. "First, man is always striving for superiority. We are always incomplete in the face of what we could be. Man, by nature, is always growing. Secondly, that the schema of apperception is important with the idea that 'we behave according to our opinion of the world.'" And, according to Dr. Huber, the most important part of Adler's theory is the idea of man's social interest or man's "trying to achieve harmony with the entire universe."

According to Dr. Huber, students encouraged him to reconcile Adlerian social theories and Darwin's studies on evolution. He searched through classical and modern literature "to see how ideas on natural selection fit the modern humanistic theory."  
"Contrary to popular

opinion, natural selection is not all 'tooth and claw.' Something akin to social interest is part of our evolutionary heritage, and is consonant with Darwin's natural selection and Spencer's 'survival of the fittest'. Many Neo-classical theorists and Neo-Darwinians relate social interest (Adler) to survival."

Dr. Huber further stated that Holmes' 1945 study favors social living and altruism in the evolutionary process. He elaborated on a number of contemporary theorists whose research proves that group cooperation and altruism is indeed evolutionary. "Selection favors any behavior by appeasement selection."

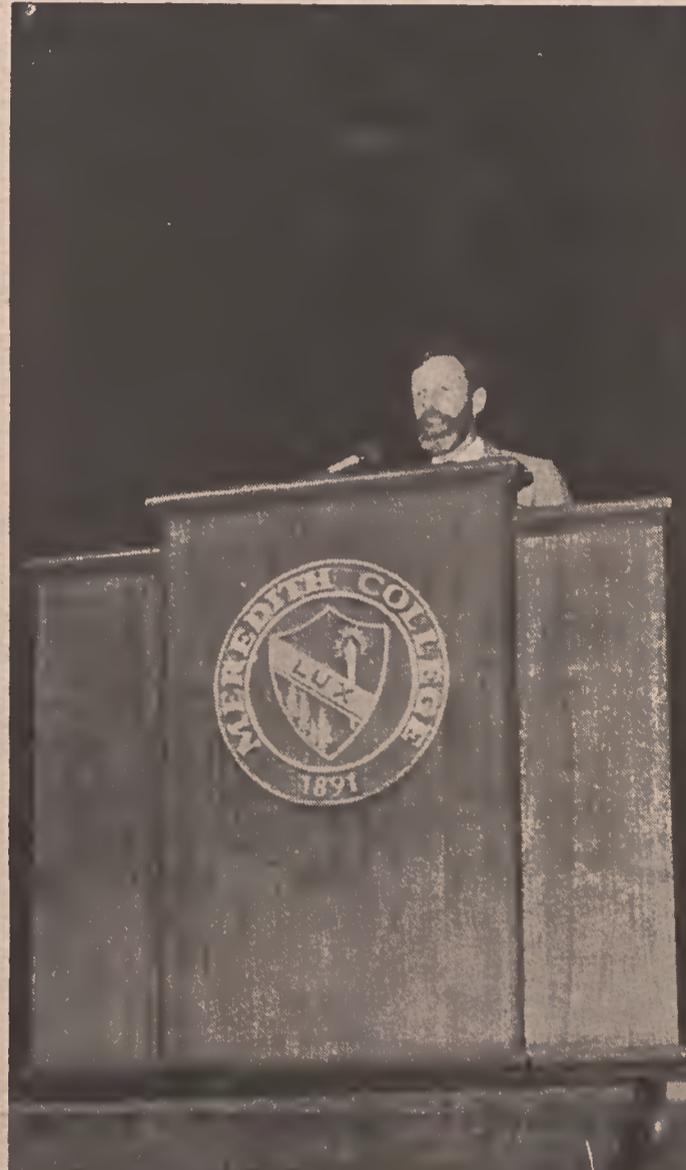
According to Dr. Huber, "this current emphasis on socialization is not surprising, considering what we find being written about animal behavior. Dr. Huber offered specific examples of animal cooperation in survival, pointing to such studies as that on group solidarity among baboons, and on the female fly's sacrifice of protein for her young. "If we assume the continuity of phylogeny, we see that animal behavior is a fertile field for humanistic psychology."

Dr. Huber further included three major ideas from Adler's social-interest hypothesis: (1) advantages of group living, (2) cooperation, and (3) empathy. "The majority of animal work deals

with advantages of group living and (2) cooperation. Dr. Huber went on to explain the advantages of group living, elaborating on the long recognized advantages of group hunting, protection from predators, and the lessening of anxiety for individual animals in a group. "The evidence that animals survive better in a group is overpowering."

Drawing for numerous studies on the behavior of certain animals, Dr. Huber pointed to Adlerian Socialization in communication between embryonic quail, symbiosis between insect colonies, and modeling of food-getting techniques among certain species of fish. Dr. Huber concluded that group interest in others is in fact genetically coded, and added a quote from Alexander Pope: "Dost God and nature linked the general frame, and bade self love and social be the same."

In closing, Dr. Huber stated that "I think the assertions made by humanists like Adler are valid, that man is gregarious by nature and is born with a deep-rooted tendency toward socialization. From the very beginning of life, organisms were very aggregate for survival. Many theorists have agreed with Adler that something akin to social interest is part of man's ancient evolutionary heritage."



Dr. John Huber delivers lecture.

## Johnson lectures on Christian suffering, grief

by Renee Keever Davis  
L.D. Johnson, chaplain and professor of religion at Furman University, presented the annual Staley Distinguished Christian Scholar Lecture Program on "A Christian Interpretation of Suffering" March 26-27.

In the first of the three-part lecture series, "Evil and the God of Love," Dr. Johnson who enjoys his dual role as pastor and teacher, dealt with the difficult question of goodness vs. Godness, or "How can (one) believe in a good God in a world like this?" After presenting many historical and traditional ways of avoiding confrontation with the concept or issue of evil, Dr. Johnson illustrated some explanations of the meaning and im-

plications of evil, especially as viewed in the reward-retribution doctrine of the Old Testament.

He concluded, however, that God is not removed from man's tragedies, but "lovingly participates in (man's) suffering and grief."

"God works with us to take the torn, burnt fabric of our lives and weaves it back together to make something of our brokenness," Dr. Johnson said.

Monday evening, Dr. Johnson discussed the grief process which is set into motion in "response to disruption which enters (one's) life through any significant loss," in the second lecture, "The Nature and Uses of Grief." As a result of his own experience of death in

his immediate family, he suggested ways that one can help other people deal with their grief and loss.

Despite the tragedy involved, there can be some positive aspects of grief, according to Dr. Johnson. It may help man adjust to the changes in his life, teach him more about himself, and make him a "wounded healer," able to help others.

In the final lecture, "What Christians Believe About Death and Resurrection," Dr. Johnson noted that while modern man seeks to deny death and many contend that death is the end, Christian

theology offer the "good news" of life after death.

There can be no Christian denial of Resurrection, according to Dr. Johnson. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus Christ "put death in its place," he said. "Death is seen in light of resurrection... Christianity affirms life... That is what Christianity is all about."

Before becoming Furman's chaplain and professor of religion in 1967, Dr. Johnson was pastor of the First Baptist Church in Greenville, S.C. Previously, he served as pastor of the First Baptist Church in Danville, Va. from

1942-1959 and as chairman of the religion department at the University of Richmond in Virginia from 1959-1962.

Dr. Johnson, who earned an A.B. degree at George Washington University and the Master of Theology and Doctor of Theology degrees at Southern Baptist seminary, has written several books and continues to write a weekly religious (newspaper) column.

The Staley Distinguished Christian Scholar Lecture Program is sponsored by the Staley Foundation. Dr. Johnson presented the sixth of the series at Meredith.

## Convocation on China

When Richard Nixon made his historic trip to mainland China in 1972, Ross Teuill prophesized that U.S. relations with China would be normalized by 1979. Everyone laughed then, but they are not laughing today.

Dr. Teuill, an authority on China, will be the convocation series sponsored lecturer April 9th. Teuill will be speaking at 10 a.m. in Jones Auditorium on the topic

"China after Mao."

Dr. Teuill has written several books and has also been widely published in political science journals and other periodicals. In 1972 he was awarded the National Magazine Award for Reporting Excellence and also the George Polk Memorial Award for Outstanding Magazine Reporting. His most recent book *The Future of China: Without Mad*, was published in 1978.

The 1979 Carolinas' Psychology Conference, April 6th and 7th, is co-sponsored by Meredith College and North Carolina State University. This year the conference is to be held on the NCSU campus.

Dr. Jerome Singer, Social Psychologist, will be the keynote speaker. The topic that Dr. Singer will address is "Stress, Control, and Coping," and he will discuss questions such as: What is stress? Why is it harmful?

How can you cope with it?, and who becomes stressed?

Schedule of Events:

Friday, April 6th - 7-11 PM  
(1) Registration--NCSU Student Center. (2) Social-Pack House, (3) Films--2nd Floor, Student Center

Saturday, April 7th - 8:15 AM  
(1) Registration--NCSU Student Center. (2) Presentation of Under-Graduate Papers. (3) Films  
10:30 AM - Keynote Speaker

- Dr. Jerome Singer  
1:00 PM - Presentation of Undergraduate Papers and Films.

3-6:00 P.M. Panel Discussions: (1) Psychology in the Courtroom: Criminal Insanity as Defense. (2) Getting into Graduate School. (3) Finding a Job with a BA in Psychology.

The public is invited to attend the conference. Your interest and support will be appreciated.

## Carolinas' Psychology Conference announced