

THE
MEREDITH



TWIG
COLLEGE

Perfection..... Dream or Reality?

The ideal of the perfect newspaper is the dream of all new editors. I, like previous TWIG editors, envision my reign as a year in which the student newspaper will reach an excellence never before attained in years past. Yet, these high hopes for perfection have caused me to question the actual potential of The TWIG. How good can we be, in view of our limitations?

Even the wildest ambitions of a new editor cannot make The TWIG equal to the publications of major universities. We are a small newspaper operating on a limited budget and with a limited staff. Still, in view of these particular limitations The TWIG can hold true to its original purpose - to be a newspaper "of the Students of Meredith College," despite financial or personnel restrictions.

Essentially, The TWIG's excellence lies not in its length or publication staff. The highest standard of achievement which The TWIG can possibly reach is its ultimate ability to fully serve the Meredith student body. Through increased student contribution and response, The TWIG increases in quality - a characteristic which is a prime factor in any form of excellence. The quality I speak of is a reality only if Meredith students are willing to utilize their newspaper as a vital source of campus communication.

Perhaps the first editorial of all editors is essentially the same, consisting of an evaluation of the present TWIG with subsequent plans for improvement. And perhaps 'this pattern' exists because we all dream the dream of excellence. Yet, this dream becomes reality only with active student involvement. Turning the "Impossible Dream" to vivid reality is our task.

MKG

The Technician

In the last week, The Technician, N.C. State's student newspaper, has begun to circulate on Meredith's campus, which appears to be a new or temporary delivery point. While some concerned TWIG staff members may wonder if competition for readers will result, I think that there may be some distinct advantages. First of all, the larger, better-equipped staff of The Technician are able to produce larger, more frequently published papers which cover N.C. State news and events as well as upcoming events in the area. This can be quite informative and interesting. Also, reading The Technician points to a fact many have known for a long time -- the interrelationships of Meredith and State students. (To confirm this just check the front page of the April 6 issue.)

and while The TWIG is the only student newspaper devoted to covering exclusively Meredith news, events and people, any economy-conscious student can certainly enjoy those Technician cutout coupons for movies, pizza, steak and Roy's.

Renee Keever Davis

Soviets propose elections; deemed "political experiment"

by Regine Nickel

Election in the Soviet Union? Certainly! After all, the CCCP is a socialist democracy!

According to the laws regulating the Soviet electoral process, "social organizations," such as workers' collectives, army units, and the like, have the right to nominate candidates. The little catch is, that the local electoral offices, responsible for the approval of nominees, only admit one candidate per office. So far this has always been the party's champion...

The West German weekly DER SPIEGEL (the mirror) reported in a recent issue that a group of Moscow dissidents has announced the nomination of their own candidates for the 1979 elections. Two outstanding dissidents have been nominated by the group for the race for two seats in the Soviet parliament; the historical Roy Medvedev and the engineer Ludmila Agapova.

Elections in the CCCP could better be described as the party's bureaucratic process of appointing outstanding citizens, naturally

party members, to political positions. This is an honour - almost like the Lenin medal.

Medvedev and Agapova, if they will be allowed to run, will have for their opponents Natalja Bussmertnov, ballerina of the Bolschoi theater, and Lev Smirnov, Head of the Soviet Supreme Court, respectively.

State and party have already induced sharp measures against the group, which - according to DER SPIEGEL - calls itself "Election 1979." But the dissidents have not flinched. They quoted premier and party leader Brezhnev who in a recent speech called on all Soviet citizens to actively participate in the "socialist democracy." The dissidents claim that it could only be beneficial to "the further perfection of socialist democracy" to nominate two candidates. They further keep in touch with Western journalists and write letters to foreign politicians. DER SPIEGEL also claims that the group has founded an illegal union and is spreading underground pamphlets.

Not all dissidents agree on this line of action. Famous

physicist Andrej Sacharov called the action "utopical" and refused to go along.

However, historian Medvedev still believes that the idea is at least "an interesting political experiment." According to the West German magazine's source another such electoral group has been founded in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius.

So far all the groups' candidates have either been refused nomination or their applications have been slowed down to a grinding halt in the bureaucratic process, a favorite communist way of dealing with unpleasant applications to - anything!

It can plainly be seen that such elections mean nothing. Any country can have them. It is unfortunate for the democratic idea to allow the liberty of so many angles of interpretation. This case in Moscow shares a case of state directed elections, one interpretation this democratic process. The dissidents are to be commended for the courage of so obviously choosing such a radically different approach from that of the party, in a country ruled by the party.

JACK ANDERSON WITH JOE SPEAR

WEEKLY SPECIAL

Capital Comics: Washington's big-name politicians are now giving their material a Hollywood touch. Not only are they sharpening their performances for the TV cameras, but they are also using Hollywood script writers to help with their speeches.

Hollywood gag writers are in heavy demand by the top presidential contenders. President Carter recently demonstrated what can happen when a politician tries to write his own humor. His ill-fated "Montezuma's Revenge" joke in Mexico caused acute embarrassment from Mexico City to Washington. No one laughed.

It has now leaked out that Carter wrote the line himself. Hereafter, his humor will be screened more carefully; image-maker Gerald Rafshoon will decide which jokes the president will tell.

Vice President Walter Mondale sought the help of Mort Lachman, the executive director of the hit comedy series, "All in the Family." Lachman rounded up a few of Hollywood's best comedy writers, who conferred privately with Mondale about supplying him with one-liners.

Former President Gerald Ford hired humorist Bob Orben as a speech writer. Overnight, the quick-witted Orben improved Ford's image as a speaker.

Of course, some politicians are comics without intending to be. Others have a sense of humor. Senate Republican leader Howard Baker of Tennessee, for example, ad libs most of his own jokes. And Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., is quick with off-the-cuff remarks.

The sharpest wit on Capitol Hill is probably Sen.

Bob Dole, R-Kan. Yet even he sometimes has help from a gag writer. He uses Richard Smith, an alumnus of Harvard's Hasty Pudding Club.

Garbage Power: As much as one-fourth of the steam power needed to heat downtown Harrisburg, Pa., is provided by the burning of the area's garbage. With the help of some federal funds, a pipeline was installed which links the municipal incinerator to the local power plant. Steam is transferred through the pipeline and used to turn the plant's generators. The pipeline has been operating successfully for two months,

and now other city governments are considering harnessing garbage power to cut back on oil consumption.

Endangered Elephants: Inconsistency on the part of the federal government may be contributing to the extinction of the African elephant. Last June, the Interior Department placed the elephant on the endangered species list. But at the same time, the government allows nations who trade in endangered species to export ivory and other elephant products into the United States. Indeed, the United States is currently one of the largest importers of ivory in the world.

Campus Paperback Bestsellers

1. **My Mother/Myself**, by Nancy Friday. (Dell, \$2.50.) The daughter's search for identity.
2. **The Women's Room**, by Marilyn French. (Jove/HBJ, \$2.50.) Perspective on women's role in society: fiction.
3. **The Silmarillion**, by J.R.R. Tolkien. (Ballantine, \$2.95.) Earliest times of Middle-earth fantasy world: fiction.
4. **Bloodline**, by Sidney Sheldon. (Warner, \$2.75.) Thriller about heiress who inherits power and intrigue: fiction.
5. **Final Payments**, by Mary Gordon. (Ballantine, \$2.50.) New Yorker's problems in rebuilding life after her father's death: fiction.
6. **Coming into the Country**, by John McPhee. (Bantam, \$2.75.) Voyage of spirit and mind into Alaskan wilderness.
7. **The Insiders**, by Rosemary Rogers. (Avon, \$2.50.) Life and loves of beautiful TV anchorwoman: fiction.
8. **How to Flatten Your Stomach**, by Jim Everroad. (Price/Stern/Sloan, \$1.75.) Rationale and exercises.
9. **Backstairs at the White House**, by Gwen Bagni & Paul Dubov. (Bantam, \$2.50.) "Downstairs" view of 8 administrations: fiction.
10. **Gnomes**, by Wil Huygen. (Peacock, \$10.95.) Fanciful portrayal of gnomes, color illustrations: fiction.

This list was compiled by *The Chronicle of Higher Education* from information supplied by college stores throughout the country. March 26, 1979.

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