

THE TWIG

MEREDITH



COLLEGE

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Cherry trees for roses

To the Editor:

As Valentine's Day approaches, I am reminded of the good fortune of so many Meredith students, to receive such beautiful displays of affection as those I have seen on past Valentine's Days in Johnson Hall. I have been especially impressed by the beauty of the roses, which seem to be the most common species of flower given. But I must say that the Valentines' roses have not impressed me as much as the flowering cherry trees along the front drive have, despite their fewness and their decay. I have thought how beautiful the drive would be with flowering cherry trees lining it on both sides, especially in the spring. Roses are beautiful, but cherry trees in full bloom lift the spirit in a way, I think, that no number of roses could. Roses last a few days; flowering cherry trees, I have been told by a local nursery, live an average of 15 years with minimal care. A dozen roses will cost this year, a local florist tells me, \$25 to \$35 a dozen, depending on length of stem. A flowering cherry trees would cost slightly over \$15 for a four to five foot tree, and slightly over \$20 for a six to seven foot tree.

Instead of a dozen roses, would not some students prefer to have two trees to enjoy for 15 years along the drive, two trees to add to the attractiveness of our campus and to share with everyone? Some students already have expressed interest to me in such a project. I would like to speak to anyone who is interested in it, and perhaps provide some information in the next issue of The TWIG on what students who wish to have friends and family participate in the project instead of sending flowers should do. Thank you for this opportunity to propose this project.

Cordially,
D. C. Samson

JACK ANDERSON

WEEKLY SPECIAL

By JACK ANDERSON
and JOE SPEAR

WASHINGTON -- Congress comes back to work next week in a grim, demanding mood. The legislators want some tough answers from Jimmy Carter on Iran and Afghanistan.

Since the seizure of the hostages in Tehran and the Soviet takeover in Kabul, Congress and Carter's potential White House successors, Republican and Democrat alike, have observed a reluctant cease-fire while Khomeini and the Kremlin have treated him as a pygmy president.

They've been patient as he's pursued a course of caution through the United Nations and economic pressures that were scoffed at by the captors of the hostages in the embassy and the Soviet leaders who overran Afghanistan with raw armed aggression.

The political sands are running out on Carter at home in a presidential elec-

tion year. When Congress reconvenes on Jan. 22, questions will be asked on the Senate and House floors about the caliber of his leadership and his advisers.

Members of both the Senate and House Intelligence Committee are preparing for early top-secret hearings. CIA and administration officials will have to explain the Iranian fiasco starting from the precipitous White House decision to allow the shah to enter this country for medical treatment.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee is also anxious to investigate the handling of the crisis. Our sources say the prestigious committee wants to know why intelligence agencies failed to predict the shah's entry would touch off the violent response by Ayatollah Khomeini's henchmen; why no adequate response to the outrageous embassy seizure was forthcoming and why no one in Washington knew who was really calling

Afgan takeover summarized

by Regine Nickel

The 1970s were rung out in violence and blackmail by one small nation - Iran, which took international law and molded it according to its own liking. The new decade began with an equally ominous bang; the Soviet Union militarily seized another country - Afghanistan - for the first time since World War II, a country strictly outside the traditional sphere of influence. What happened in Afghanistan?

On New Year's Day West German national television broadcasted its weekly discussion on international affairs, featuring five journalists from five different countries. That day the main attention was focussed on the representative of TASS in West Germany. He told the audience the "facts" of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan; the oppressed and persecuted Afghanistan patriot Babrak Karmal had telephoned his loyal allies in Moscow and asked them for help against the imperialistic and fascistic forces of President Amin. Naturally the Soviets were morally obliged to comply with this desperate request... (the moral of this "story" being, don't let a potentially communist fellow-citizen get near a phone).

What astonished Western journalists and observers the most was President Amin's fall from grace. Only two months ago the East German party paper NEUES DEUTSCHLAND (New Germany) had hailed Amin as a friend of the Soviet Union and had published a letter of congratulations for work well done, a letter which had been written by East German party leader Erich Honecker himself. What, then, really happened in Afghanistan?

In April of 1978 Amin and a group of communist, Soviet oriented men had gained power in the backwards, almost feudal, mountainous country. An internal power struggle soon developed and Amin's colleague Karmal was

forced to flee the country. With despotic and cruel methods Amin consolidated his power, focusing more and more on his own influence, less and less listening to the Soviet advisors in the country. Karmal, then, found open arms in Moscow.

Then the Amin regime turned on Moscow fiercely, blaming internal trouble and the unrest in the military, which had tried a coup in July of 1979, on Moscow. Thus, openly ridiculed Moscow had to act. The invasion was the drastic consequence.

Saving face could not be the only reason for Soviet intervention. Western ob-

servers see a great potential of danger for Pakistan and Iran. The Iranian oil wells are desirable, but surely there is no Soviet oriented faction in Iran. However, there is a lively communist party in Pakistan. What could Pakistan offer the Soviets? Pakistan would be the corridor to the Indian Ocean and bring the Soviet Union to the fulfillment of the old Czarist dream of an all-year open warm water port, and the control of the oil routes out of the Persian gulf.

The world reaction to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan will be covered in next week's column.

Food for thought

The recent survey submitted by A.R.A. food services has been the subject of much student discussion in the past week. Complaints on the quality and the variety of the food served in Belk Dining Hall have been expressed verbally as well as in the form of written petition.

We as students certainly have the right to request better food quality and variety. A certain part of the tuition we pay per semester goes to food costs and provides salaries for cafeteria employees. Because we in fact support the cafeteria financially, we naturally expect the dining hall staff to comply with our wishes by serving us the best food available for the lowest possible price. Besides supporting the cafeteria financially, we also support the efforts of the dining hall staff by attending meals and special events they prepare for us. Because the cafeteria is supported by the students, we are responsible for making known any grievance or dissatisfaction with food or service in general.

In making our complaints known, we must remember that the cafeteria operates under certain limitations. Rising food costs make purchase of expensive cuts of meat and gourmet items impossible. The budget does not allow for extravagance on a daily basis so that only on special occasions can we expect country ham and roast beef. Furthermore, the dining hall staff cannot be expected to prepare perfectly seasoned food or fry eggs "once over lightly."

The very fact that the students were surveyed indicates the dining hall staff's interest in student opinion. So, let's make our complaints reasonable and suggest realistic improvements.

MKP

Food and medicine for hungry and sick CAMBODIAN REFUGEES



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Help
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CAMBODIAN REFUGEES \$

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(MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CARE.)

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