


THE

MEREDITH



TWIG

COLLEGE

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Editorial

# The Olympic Spirit

The long and painful journey, battling, fatigue and disappointment, concentrating when the odds are against you and distraction comes from all sides. This is the Olympic Spirit - the driving force behind the athletes performing at Lake Placid this week and those in training for the 1980 Summer Olympics. This spirit is the mindset that enables athletes to overcome surprising obstacles, whether physical, as in the case of Phil Mabre, American downhill skier, who won a silver medal in the slalom competition with a steel plate and four screws in his ankle, or mental, as in the case of Eric Heiden, the American speedskater, who maintained remarkable calm and won five gold medals despite publicity and pressure prior to competition. This same drive to achieve played a major part in the unprecedented victory the young U.S. hockey team won over the Russian team. Talent is surely a factor in the successes, but the undeniable dedication it takes to achieve these victories is by far the more important element.

The Olympic Spirit need not be solely associated with athletes and an international competition held every four years. This same drive that motivates amateurs to become champions exists within every person who strives to achieve to the fullest of his or her potential, despite failure, sickness, or other set-backs that may occur. The Olympic Spirit is the ability to come from behind in business or academics and the goals achieved by those who exhibit such determination are no less than the medals won by the victorious athletes.

MKP

## THE TWIG Looks At Its Roots

Since Founders' Day is an occasion for celebrating the heritage of our college, a bit of history is offered here on The TWIG and its origin, according to Mary Lynch Johnson's, A History of Meredith College:

"The accounts of College happenings and the alumnae news were somewhat flat by the time they appeared in the literary monthly, the Acorn: hence the College newspaper, the TWIG, was a welcome addition to the student publications. Three issues of the newspaper appeared at irregular intervals in the spring of 1921 under the joint editorship of the editors-in-chief of the Oak Leaves and of the Acorn, Lidie Penton and Evelyn Bridges. Beginning with October 7, 1921, with Ann Eliza Brewer as editor, it appeared first as a weekly, then as a biweekly. Doubtless the idea of a Meredith newspaper received an impetus from the North Carolina Collegiate Press Association organized in 1920 'for the betterment of college magazines and newspapers.'"

Happy 59th Birthday, TWIG!!

MKP

## International scene looks gloomy

by Regine Nickel

The latest reports from Afghanistan don't at all point towards a stabilization of the political situation in that country. The picture in Iran is grim also. It seems that neither the students holding the hostages, nor the government of Iran are willing to release the hostages unless the Shah is returned for trial immediately. The special United Nations Committee is thereby degraded to rather a farce.

As if these problems to world peace were not enough, there is another trouble-spot looming ahead. Marshal Josip Tito, the President and dictator of Yugoslavia, is apparently dying. The news of his constantly declining health has already prompted the President of the United States to send a none too gentle warning to the Soviets. Carter

let several journalists know that he would feel obliged to react militarily in some manner if the Soviets dare intervene in the Yugoslavian struggle to adjust politically after the death of the ailing Marshal. Most European governments share the President's worry over Yugoslavia. There is, however, some concern about the severity of the President's suggestion. After all, Yugoslavia is regarded as solidly communist in much the same way that Canada is regarded solidly democratic. That there is great potential danger for conflict in that line of thought is rather obvious.

Meanwhile Josip Tito is hanging on. He defied Hitler and Stalin as well as Truman, Johnson, and Adenauer, and all other aid with strings attached. Now, at age 87, he is trying to defy the amputation

of a leg, heart ailment, kidney failure, and pneumonia. It is as if Tito realized that his brand of 'Titoian' communism can't exist without him. Tito has planned for a committee of five senior party members to succeed him. After his death these men are supposed to rule the country jointly. Nobody knows how well they are going to succeed. Yugoslavia is a country split into many sections and the council reflects this situation. The political preference of the members are known to range from conservative Soviet communism to almost Western, liberal socialism.

The future of Yugoslavia is very much uncertain. Especially now that both the United States and the Soviet Union have made the future of this country an almost national interest.

## NUCLEAR POWER FACT AND FICTION

The purpose of a nuclear plant is to produce electricity - energy in a form people use daily. In fossil (coal, oil) or nuclear plants the process of generating electricity is basically the same: a heat source turns water into steam, the combined system of a turbine (engine) and an electric generator converts the steam pressure to electricity.

The Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant, being constructed 20 miles from Raleigh, will use a pressurized water reactor, a light water reactor consisting of three water circulation cycles. 1) In the 1st cycle, the reactor cycle, atoms of uranium in the reactor core (A) split producing heat.

Water circulates through the core (B), heating to a very high temperature. This water is kept under enough pressure to keep it from turning to steam. This water is pumped through tubes inside steam generators (C) where it gives up its heat and returns to the reactor core to be reheated. This water does not come into contact with anything else. It runs through this cycle indefinitely.

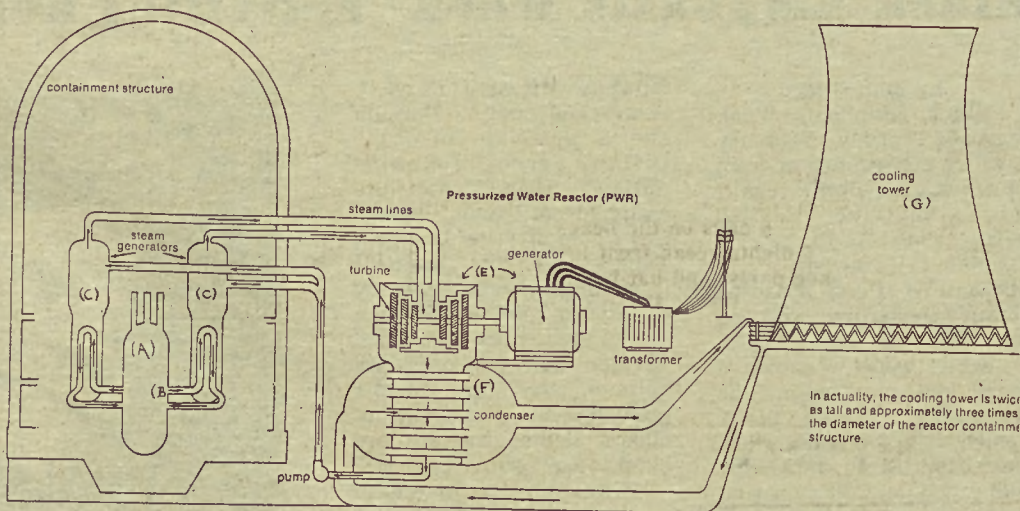
2) In the steam cycle water on the outside of the tubes in the steam generator is turned to steam by the heat transferred from the reactor cycle. This steam drives the turbine generator (E) and produces electricity. The used steam goes into a condenser (F) where it is cooled, con-

verted to water, and returned to the steam generators where the cycle begins again.

3) In the cooling cycle water from the cooling towers (G) is piped through the steam condenser to absorb the heat from the steam. That water then flows back to the cooling towers where it is sprayed across slats and cooled by the circulating air in the towers.

The three cycles of the Shearon Harris Plant are: 1) the reactor cycle, 2) the steam cycle, and 3) the cooling cycle. These behind-the-scenes cycles are not as complicated as they may first seem, but there is a lot of activity to keep the cycles running smoothly.

Next week: What dangers of nuclear power?



## Stringspeak

by Ann Stringfield

What has happened to American youth over the last decade? We used to be such a lively bunch of humanity - marching, rioting, sitting-in and writing letters to the editor. The counterculture was always protesting against the injustices of the American system. Are the injustices

gone now? There is still prejudice, discrimination, vast economic inequality and recently the possibility of being drafted. So why the reticence?

Oh, there are a few protests here and there at places like Berkley. The

protest marches at NCSU about the Iranians were indeed a step in the right direction. Carolina has even managed to get some of the student body riled about the draft. They even burned hand-made draft cards. Yet overall, the majority of American youth are complacent. The establishment is, indeed, quite pleased with our quieter

nature. Yes, the youth of America have joined the establishment. This seems almost blasphemous to all we stood for in the sixties.

This is not to say that the sixties were exactly nirvana. Cult heroes such as Timothy O'Leary are no longer attractive. Mind-expanding drugs, we find, are not the answer. Yet mind expansion

of some sort would be a welcome change.

What we need is a mantra. Then we can "let the sunshine in," ushering in the new "age of aquarius." We've got life, man, so let's show it. Let's rise up against the Ku Klux Klan, the Russians, the draft - anything to show that we have a voice - one harmonious voice. Groovy, man.