

THE



TWIG

MEREDITH

COLLEGE

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Stringpeak

by Ann Stringfield
I've got writer's cube. I don't think it's fatal. My doctor, Ernest Fitzgerald Stein, says it's multi-faceted but well-contained. His nurse, Alice, agrees.
I asked him about the strange dream I had last week. He says it's perfectly normal to dream that a white bull asked me if I knew he drove a volkswagon.

"Just about everybody's driving small cars these days," he said.
The cardinal dream still worries me. You see, there was this male cardinal perched atop a bush. He told me that he wished he were pope. I told him to pray and he said, "Only blue jays prey."
Confused, I left the cardinal and walked until I came to a volkswagon. The white

bull was in it. He offered me a ride, but I declined.
Dr. Stein says that the cardinal dream has a meaning in that it has no meaning. His nurse, Alice, agrees.
I asked him when I could expect to be over writer's cube.
"When the bull drives a Mercedes."
His nurse, Alice, agrees.

Politics '80

by Cindy Rinker
There are other executive offices, besides that of the President, with which one should be familiar.
The man or woman who acts as Vice-President must be ready to assume the office of the President if it should become vacant. This and his or her position of presiding officer of the Senate are the only constitutional functions of the Vice-President. However, attempts have been made to make better use of his

or her talents and to better prepare that person for the Presidential position. The Vice-President is invited to attend Cabinet meetings and is considered to be a top advisor and consultant. Congress made the Vice-President an "ex officio" member of the National Security Council, which is the top level committee dealing with foreign affairs and defense policy. The biggest determinant of the Vice-President's role is his or her relationship to the President. The Vice-President receives a yearly salary of \$75,000 and \$10,000 for expenses.

Traditionally, the Cabinet should be the chief advisory body to the President; but in practice, major decisions are made without consulting the Cabinet. Thus, Cabinet meetings are not often the place for major decisions. Cabinet membership does, however, bestow prestige and since it does meet regularly, it does have a direct line to the President. The heads of the 13 executive departments form



the Cabinet, each receiving an annual salary of \$66,000. The 13 departments are organized around a major function and new departments emerge as the federal government turns its attention to new areas (i.e. Energy Department).

From the Editor.....

Yesterday marked one year that American citizens have been held as hostages in Iran. Over the past year Americans have experienced tenseness, anger, frustration, hopelessness. That a government, stronger than any other on the face of the earth (as we have been taught since third grade), should be defenseless against a small Third World Nation led by a government which has been trying to rebuild itself from shambles during the past year, is frightening.

To many Meredith students, this may be the first national crisis they have really lived through. For me it is.

Sure, I lived through Vietnam, but when the soldiers came home, I wasn't sure where they were coming from or why they had been there. I remember the day Kennedy was killed, but somehow, at that age, I was always getting him confused with the weatherman on Channel 2, Captain Kangaroo, and God. Watergate was an interruption from the soaps. I guess you might say I haven't always been politically conscious.

After my sophomore year at Meredith, I decided I needed to develop as a "total person," so I started reading the newspaper. I became fascinated with a new fanatical leader in Iran who hated dancing, alcohol, and music. I clipped every article, editorial, and political cartoon I found on the subject. My favorites, a cartoon showing a firing squad aiming at a Wurlitzer piano, and another with the Iranian leader shouting, "Roll over Beethoven and give Tchaikovsky the news" claimed the star role on my bulletin board for months.

In November of my junior year, I learned that fifty Americans were being held hostage by Iranian students and that the comical little religious leader I had been watching approved the action. I wasn't sure how serious this was, but I clipped the article out of the paper so I'd have it for my kids if it were anything important.

During the next few weeks, the hostages stayed in the headlines, but they didn't come home. In History 100, I learned the significance of the incident and began to follow it with more and more interest. I started thinking seriously about the possibility of war, and I felt a tightness in the pit of my stomach I'd never known before.

As spring came, there didn't appear to be any hope of a soon release. Late one Thursday night, it was announced on the radio that there had been an unsuccessful attempt to rescue the hostages. I cried when I heard the news.

The Administration then decided it was best to keep the hostage issue at a low key. The front page of the newspaper was filled with Afghanistan and the presidential campaign, but there was little news of the hostages.

Still American patriotism had been stirred by the crisis. Americans wore tee-shirts and arm bands in protest of the Iranian action. At Meredith, students tied yellow ribbons around the oak trees on the front drive, vowing to leave them there until the return of the hostages to their home.

A year has passed since the original overtaking of the U.S. Embassy, and the hostages are back in the news. This time I am not moved by patriotism; nor do I feel excited or relieved that the hostages may be coming home soon. I feel disgusted.

Why is it that after months of quiet in the best interest of the hostages, it suddenly became beneficial to discuss their release at election time? By some coincidence, two governments which have been unable to make any significant progress toward a solution to the problem seem now to be closer to an answer -- just in time to have an influence on yesterday's election. Some believe that Carter has given in to the Iranians in order to be re-elected.

If this is true, the fear associated with news that we will supply Iran with weapons is not the most frightening aspect of this new development. The exploitation of the hostages in campaign strategy seems representative of a trend in thought throughout the nation as a whole. Misfortune is a very versatile thing and can be modified for almost any use. It is excellent material for emotionalism and propaganda. We can band together to have anti-Iran rallies, and we can tie yellow ribbons around oak trees. Both make a good show. But when the show is over, what happens to the problem?

The yellow ribbons are no longer seen on the drive in front of Johnson Hall. The ribbon ceremony gave a short term impression to outsiders of a concerned, politically interested student body. Similarly, recent discussion of a release of the hostages has boosted Carter's image among at least some Americans. Meredith students apparently tied the ribbons without considering the responsibility which follows such an emotion-stirring action. It appears that Carter may bring the hostages home without considering the consequences which will follow in the Iran-Iraq conflict. When the hostages are safely home -- but forgotten like the ribbons along the drive to Johnson Hall, the moment of glory may seem unimportant in relation to the price we will pay for exploiting the hostages for personal uses instead of seeking a calm, responsible solution to the problem.

S. A.

Letter to the editor

Dear Editor:
The SGA Executive Committee would like to express its concern over the apparent possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages on campus recently. We understand that each student must decide for herself whether or not she will drink, and we respect her right to make that choice. Nevertheless, this freedom of choice must be exercised in light of the College Policy concerning Alcoholic Beverages which states, "The College strongly discourages the use of alcoholic beverages by Meredith students. Students shall not possess or consume intoxicants on the campus, or at College-sponsored functions. Meredith students are expected to represent the College with dignity at all times." Although one, as an individual, may see nothing morally wrong with

either possessing or consuming alcoholic beverages, each student is bound by the Honor Code to abide by this College Policy. Not only is each student personally responsible for her own conduct, she also is responsible for insuring that her fellow students are not violating the Code.

Although we realize the value of personal privacy and would hate to have to resort to drastic measures, we would like to remind the student body that the Student Government Association reserves the right to institute dormitory checks when circumstances warrant. (Meredith College Student Handbook, SGA Constitution and By-laws: Article VIII, Section 1, D.)

Sincerley,
The SGA Executive Committee

The TWIG needs photographers for both part-time and full-time help. Anyone interested in taking pictures and/or developing, please contact Sonya Ammons (821-7031) or Deborah Bartlett (821-7027).

