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Musical farce in works

by Linda Sellers

Dauntless. Queen Aggravain. Lady Larkin. Name sound unfamiliar? These names and others are characters in the musical farce, "Once Upon A Mattress", to be presented by Meredith on October 2, 3, and 9, 10.

Rehearsals are now being held in various parts of Jones Auditorium each week night. Mr. Bob Wharton of the Meredith Drama Department is in charge of the production.

"Once Upon A Mattress" is a comedy based on the "Princess and the Pea" story. Participants in the production are Meredith students and members of the Raleigh community.

A peep at a rehearsal for the musical farce provides one with the feeling that she has entered into a mass profusion of activity. A major

part of the rehearsal is devoted to blocking, a term used to describe the spacing of characters on the stage.

As the characters busily jot notes on their scripts, Mr. Wharton occasionally jumps on the stage to act out a part and direct the actions of the characters.

In other sections of Jones, rehearsals are being held for the musical and dance portions of the production. Ms. Deborah Whelan is in charge of the dance and Mrs. Tom Lohr is handling the music.

Wendy Purvis, a sophomore voice major, is portraying the role of Lady Larkin.

"It is important to have a definite character in your mind to put across anything to the audience," she explained about the rehearsal. She listened intently as Mr. Wharton explained something

to the rest of the actors.

This is Wendy's first year being involved in a Meredith drama production. "I think

the audience will respond well to it," she said.

Anyone interested in working with props, crew,

publicity, or other aspects of the production of "Once Upon A Mattress" should contact Mr. Wharton in 243 Jones.

SGA focuses on awareness

by Shirene Hritzko

Meredith's Student Government Association has a variety of interests and programs designed to enhance our student body this year. The main emphasis is on awareness which will encompass health, political, spiritual, women, and community aspects.

For community awareness, Meredith students will contact the Department of Traffic and Safety to raise a

petition to get a railroad crossing sign on the tracks on Royal Street.

For women's awareness, a representative from the Rape Crisis Center will come to Meredith to speak and evaluate the campus for unsafe areas at night. A crisis group will also be organized on campus in case of an attempted rape.

Not only will SGA be encouraging Meredith students to become aware of

surrounding events, but also put students into action to better themselves as individuals.

Throughout this fall and next spring, members of the Board of Trustees will be explaining some of Meredith's unquestioned school rules and policies.

Cindy Sellers, president of SGA, is enthusiastic about this year and encourages the student body to get interested and involved.

Skvarla proposes unique donation program

Meredith, a small private women's college, receives donations from less than 33.6 percent of its graduated alumni. The main reason for this low percentage of donations is that not many people can afford to send lump sums of money to an institution and sending a small sum of money would seem meaningless. Although everyone wants to preserve the reputation of the college they graduated from, most people do not feel they have the means to do so. Because of low donations, some small private institutions are in financial trouble and as the economy tightens so will the noose on the necks of private institutions.

Meredith's Business Law professor, John Skvarla, has suggested a way to lessen or even eliminate the financial problems of private institutions by each alumni leaving \$10,000 or more to the institution. This would be made possible through a group-term life insurance policy. The policy would work like this: All incoming freshmen would be required to join the group and maintain that status until graduation. The price of the policy would be approximately twelve dollars and fifty cents a semester and would be added to the semester charges. After graduation, if one wanted to stay with the group, Meredith would bill each one for the premium amount due every six months. If one continued the plan throughout their life, one would be able to leave Meredith as the beneficiary to this policy. Alumni would also be able to join this group and students' parents may even be able to obtain reciprocal coverage under this policy.

This insurance policy has a tax advantage also. One could be able to count this policy as a charitable

donation on income taxes and get estate tax benefits. Since this policy is a term policy, it would be reviewed periodically (about every 10 years) with minor rate increases.

The regular patterns of donations created by this policy, would cultivate the idea of giving, so that when one graduates one would continue to be a member of the policy. If, however, one should drop from the policy after graduation, there would be no disadvantage to the member except the loss of the premiums paid while in college.

If Meredith utilized this plan, she would be a pioneer in this type of donations and would probably receive much beneficial publicity, but the biggest benefit would be the incredibly large income Meredith would be able to operate on. This income would be many times larger than the income Meredith operates on today.

John Skvarla is a part-time professor at Meredith. He received his A.B. from Manhattan College of New York and his J.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Skvarla is a Senior partner in the law firm Skvarla, Boles, Wyrick and From located in The Bernard House on Hillsborough Street here in Raleigh.

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Campus Dialect chronicled at UNC-Greensboro

by Shelby Bateman

Airhead, dork, all-nighter, brewski, wired, snaking, break bad, space cadet.

If these terms sound strange, chances are you've not been around many college students lately. They are examples of what anthropologist Dr. William L. Coleman calls campus dialect, a vocabulary common to the social and cultural settings of college life.

For example: If this rap is a mainstay, don't get freaked out or pull an all-nighter cramming. Mellow out and you may begin to catch the drift of this off the wall rap.

Translation: If the conversation is a problem, don't panic or stay up all night studying it. Relax and you may begin to understand these strange words.

"It's not slang or jargon; it's a dialect," said Dr. Coleman, an assistant professor at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. "We generally think of a dialect as being geographical, but there are sociocultural dialects. You'll find the campus dialect here similar to that spoken at other schools."

As part of a course on the interaction of language and culture, Dr. Coleman earlier had his students compile a list of almost 500 examples of campus dialect. The following terms and definitions are a part of that list:

- +Airhead: Someone with no common sense.
- +All-nighter: Staying up all night to study or write a paper.
- +Bama: A person behind in the styles.
- +Space cadet: Absent-minded or lacking in common sense.
- +Blow chow: Throw up.
- +Break bad: To act tough.
- +Brewski: Beer or brew.
- +Catch my drift: To understand what I am saying.
- +Crash: Go to bed.
- +Dip or Dork: A stupid, unattractive person.

+Double-parked in the Twilight Zone: A spacey person with no common sense.

+Cool out: Lay back, relax, take it easy.

+Jammin': Sounding great.

+Eat someone's face: To kiss.

+Grubbing in public: Kissing in public.

+HDR: "Heavy, deep and real," a heart-to-heart talk.

+Invest in someone: To take time to really get to know someone.

+Juicer: A person who drinks a great deal of beer.

+Mainstay: A problem, as in "What's your mainstay?"

+Off the Wall: A weird person; something that doesn't make sense.

+PDA: Public display of affection.

+Party hearty: Exclamation meaning to have a wonderful time.

+The Pits: A very low emotional state; a boring event.

+Snaking or Scoping: Looking at members of the opposite sex.

+Spend the night with Jack: To spend late hours studying at UNC-G's Jackson Library.

+Wired: To be zombie-like; under the influence of drugs.

+Z-out: To fall asleep.

"One of the primary purposes of that course is to look at the interaction of language and culture," said Dr. Coleman, who has made a study of sociolinguistics.

"The campus constitutes a community where students interact on different levels—shared values, ideas, especially attitudes and, in particular, language patterns," he said. "Social class tends to disappear in campus dialects because the main commonality is that they're all college students sharing similar experiences."

As painful as this campus dialect may be to some people's ears, Dr. Coleman says it can't be stopped and

it's only one of many such dialects in every society.

"There are even professional dialects. In the medical field, for instance, there's a dialect of its own. And I'd say part of becoming a medical professional is learning to use the language pattern in that particular social setting," he added.

"There's nothing wrong with that. Language is not static; it's dynamic. Everything about life is dynamic. So it's going to change and no one's going to stop it, not even Edwin Newman (journalist and author of popular books on language)."

As people become adults and grow older, they tend to resist the continuous changing of the language around them, Dr. Coleman said.

"The change is always picked up in the younger generation. So, you find grandmothers and grandfathers talking to their grandchildren, saying, 'I don't understand what they're saying.' But neither do the grandchildren know what their grandparents are saying. They have different language patterns," he added.

The campus dialect vocabulary list will change from year to year as some words drop out and others are added. Dr. Coleman admits that many of the words on the list he had never heard before. College faculty members, however, tend to understand more of the words than the general public simply because they're around the students more often.

Included in the almost 500 words that his students compiled, Dr. Coleman found quite a few nicknames for faculty members.

"I didn't divulge any faculty memers' names," he said with a laugh. "But I've got them on cards."