

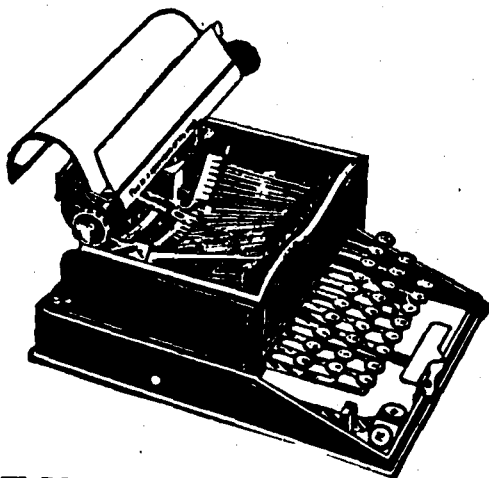
# THE TWIG

meredith college

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA 27611

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The TWIG welcomes comment and will give prompt consideration to any criticisms submitted in writing and signed by the writer.



## Guest Editorial

### Right To Life Or Right To Choose?

By Kellie Farlow, Junior  
Psychology Major

In keeping with the 1981-82 Student Government Association's theme of "Awareness," I would like to encourage all Meredith students to be aware of the current status of legal abortion in this country. The fact is that Congress is very close to passing a constitutional amendment which would ban all abortions — under any circumstances. Think about this for a moment. This amendment, which is being lobbied for by so called "Right to Lifers," would strip American women of their constitutional right to choose, which is supposed to be "the great American way."

I think that every woman should have command over her own body; therefore, I am "Pro Choice." We all know that abortions will be performed, legally or illegally. Why should any woman have to entertain the tragic thought of a "back-alley butcher?" I feel that this country would be making an unforgiveable mistake if such an anti-abortion amendment is passed. I urge each of you to read more about this possibility and to write to your Congressman stating your opinion. Unfortunately, Washington is flooded with very wealthy and powerful "Right To Lifers." Your Congressman is hearing only one side of this highly emotional issue. Please, join and support those of us who believe that every woman should have the right to choose the very real option of abortion. For more information on the legal aspects of abortion, write to: Reproduction Freedom Project, American Civil Liberties Union Foundation, 132 West 43rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036. As women, it is our duty to stay abreast of this issue.

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## Meredith's Dress Code

"But they told me Meredith doesn't have a uniform..."  
No, Meredith doesn't have a uniform — here there is a choice. One can be Jane Prep or Jane Slob. This dress code exists as unwritten law and most students comply willingly. Actually the dual-uniform code works quite nicely — I'm really surprised no one has initiated it for use where a written code is followed. A Jane Slob uniform is extremely useful when one has an eight o'clock class. As one can see in the description following this article, the Jane Slob uniform is simple to assemble in the early morning when one's mind is not up to its full performance level. As well as being easy to put on, the Slob uniform requires none of the extra frills that are necessary with the Prep uniform. There is no need to comb hair, put on make-up, or wear jewelry when one plans to wear the Slob uniform. The Prep uniform is more common after noon, after one has had time to wake up and properly coordinate the various parts. This uniform becomes more popular when women need brownie points in a class, take courses at State, or are on their way to meet a man. In order to distinguish between Jane Prep and Jane Slob winter uniforms, consult the following lists:

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## By Land Or By Sea

By Stephen A. Cambine  
Dr. Cambine is an Editor  
at Public Research, Syndicated.

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Syndicated, 1982

The Reagan Administration's plans to modernize and improve the combat capabilities of the nation's armed forces have given rise to a dispute between the Army and the Navy over which of them ought to receive the greater share of an increasing defense budget. The outcome of this dispute is likely to determine the course of American military strategy for the foreseeable future.

The dispute has been engendered by two separate, though related, changes in the military-strategic balance between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R.

The first is the change in the military balance of power in Europe. As a direct consequence of deploying some 250 SS-20 missiles, the Soviets have gained theater nuclear superiority over NATO.

The second is the change in the global strategic balance. Soviet politico-military operations in Africa, the Middle East and Southwest Asia have placed Moscow in a position to cut off at its source the supply of oil and other raw materials vital to the West. Moreover, the growing capability of the Soviet Navy is making it increasingly difficult for the U.S. to approach those regions by sea in order to oppose those operations.

Both changes have important implications for American strategic planners. In Europe, the Soviet nuclear advantage upsets NATO's fifteen year-old defense plan to make early use of nuclear weapons to equalize the Warsaw Pact's historical superiority in conventional forces. A number of proposals have

been put forth to redress the nuclear imbalance, but a balance is the most that NATO can hope to achieve given the current political climate in Europe.

A nuclear balance, however, is far less than NATO once enjoyed. While it may serve to deter Soviet use of nuclear weapons, it will not restore to NATO its option to use nuclear weapons to offset the Pact's conventional superiority. Consequently, NATO will be forced to expand its conventional forces.

From the Army's point of view, the very least that will be required of the U.S. under these circumstances is a significant increase in dollar outlays for newer, more advanced weapons with greater "first-shot kill" capabilities. Beyond that, the U.S. might find itself compelled to increase the number of tactical air squadrons deployed to Europe, improve its command, communications and control systems, increase the mobility of its troops by providing more helicopters, armored fighting vehicles and tanks, and to increase the amount of war material prepositioned in Europe.

For their part, Navy planners do not deny the dangers posed to Europe by the Soviets. What they do deny is that Europe ought to be the principal theater of U.S. concern. They contend that the Europeans are capable of providing all of the additional conventional forces needed for their defense.

Rather than become more deeply involved in Europe, Navy planners argue that the U.S. should turn its attention to meeting the challenge posed by the Soviets to the West's vital political and economic interests in Africa, the Middle East, and Southwest Asia. As events in Angola,

Iran, and Afghanistan have made plain, the U.S. is without the means for meeting that challenge.

More specifically, the Navy is arguing that the fleet should be expanded by one-third, to 600 ships, and its amphibious warfare capability improved. Taken together, these efforts would enable the U.S. to oppose Soviet interventionism in peacetime and to destroy the Soviet fleet in wartime. After the periphery of the U.S. and Europe is protected, and after American control of the seas is secured, the U.S. might then be free to again focus its attention on Europe.

Thus far the Navy seems to be winning the dispute. Press reports indicate that the Navy's shipbuilding budget will more than double in 1983.

More importantly, it has been reported that the Secretary of Defense has directed each of the service secretaries to prepare their five-year budgets so that the force structure and war plans of the Army and Air Force will be in support of the Navy's strategic plans.

The Army, and its supporters in Congress, have not resigned their position in the dispute as a result of this directive. With respect to Europe, it has been objected that to reduce the U.S. commitment to NATO now, at a time when America's reliability is already being questioned by some of its allies, would be the height of political irresponsibility. Moreover, a lack of American interest in Europe might tip the political balance in some

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