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## Indian ambassador visits Meredith

By Linda Sellers

Mohandas Gandhi was "a great and charming human being," according to K.R. Narayanan, ambassador of India to the United States, who spoke at Meredith College April 19.

Narayanan met the Indian leader in 1945 on a day when Gandhi was on a "silence fast." Gandhi replied to all questions in a written form.

"Gandhi believed that all people are a mixture of good and evil," said Narayanan. "He wanted to strip away the legal

and moral clothing that violence has (and show it as) sheer evil."

The ambassador said that he had watched the movie "Gandhi" and that it was a "wonderful movie and faithful representation of Gandhi."

Narayanan's visit to Meredith was a follow-up to an

Indian trip last summer sponsored by Meredith College for professors from Raleigh colleges and universities.

Mrs. Evelyn Simmons, Meredith business professor, organized the trip, which was funded by a Fulbright-Hays grant.

Narayanan, who called Gandhi a "very shrewd politician" said that some people seem frightened by the idea of peace represented by Gandhi, but he added that men of peace have always aroused great opposition from the people.

Indians of Gandhi's time looked on him as a freedom fighter, Narayanan said. Thousands of ordinary Indians (often peasants) followed Gandhi because they believed his non-violent methods would bring India independence.

When asked about U.S.-Indian relations, Narayanan said that relations had often been indifferent between the two countries, but lately had become better. He noted that there were no bi-lateral differences between the two nations, just differences in their approach to the rest of the world.

"(U.S. and India) have much in common, but global issues come in-between," he said.

Reflecting on the policies of India, Narayanan said, "The basic principle in Indian society has been toleration. If you have toleration, every aspect of life becomes gentler."

He said that although India has a history of a philosophy of peace and toleration, Indian people have the same inclinations to violence as other people.

Narayanan noted that even though India had the technology to make nuclear weapons, the government favors a nuclear freeze.

According to Narayanan, India has progressed from a "starving nation" to a basically self-sufficient one. India now has the third largest trained manpower force and is the tenth largest industrial society in the world.

"As a result of all this," Narayanan said, "the average expectation of life has increased from 33 years in 1957 to 56 today."

Narayanan said that India still has tremendous problems to deal with, but the country has managed to operate a democratic system through free elections throughout the years.

Narayanan was appointed as Indian ambassador to the U.S. in 1980. He has also served as the Indian ambassador to Thailand and the People's Republic of China.



K. R. Narayanan, ambassador of India to the United States, speaks at a press conference during his visit to the Meredith campus on April 19. His wife is pictured in the background. [NORTON PHOTO]

## Two women speakers featured at Meredith College graduation

Two female speakers will highlight commencement exercises at Meredith this year. The Rev. Paula Clayton will present the baccalaureate sermon at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 4 and Dr. Betty Siegal, President of Kennesaw College, will deliver the commencement address at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 15.

Rev. Clayton is a 1977 graduate of Meredith College and 1981 graduate of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. She is presently the pastor of Mintz Baptist Church in Roseboro.

Dr. Betty L. Siegel became President of Kennesaw College in September 1981. She is the first female president in the 33-unit University System of Georgia.

Dr. Siegel was Dean of the School of Education and Psychology and Professor of Psychology at Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, from 1976 to 1981. She was the first woman academic dean in the 90-year history of that institution.

She was Dean of Academic Affairs for Continuing Education at the University of Florida from 1972-76, Professor of Psychological Foundations

in the College of Education and an Associate in the Institute for the Development of Human Resources. At the time of her appointment to the Deanship in 1972, she was the highest ranking woman administrator in the State University System of Florida.

Dr. Siegel received the Ph.D. degree from Florida State University, the Master's degree in education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the A.A. degree from Cumberland College, and the B.A. degree from Wake Forest University. She also has done two years post-doctoral study in clinical child psychology at Indiana University.

Before joining the Florida faculty in 1967, she taught at Indiana University and Lenoir Rhyne College.

Dr. Siegel has served as President of the Southern Council of Teacher Education, The National Commission on Programs and Projects for the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education, and the Executive Council for the Teacher Education Council of State Colleges and Universities.

In 1969, she was selected from more than 2,200 University

of Florida faculty members as one of three recipients of the Standard Oil Award of \$1000 for Excellence in Teaching. In 1973, she was honored by Mortar Board, National Women's Honor Society, as the first recipient of the *Women of the Year* at the University of Florida. In 1979, she was chosen as the Outstanding Educator of the Phi Delta Kappa Western Regional Chapter; that same year she was named as Outstanding Alumna of Cumberland College. In September, 1982 she was awarded a Distinguished Service Citation from Wake Forest University.

Her area of specialization is Life Span Development Psychology. She speaks to groups frequently on these topics: Early Childhood Education, the Middle School



Dr. Betty Siegel, President of Kennesaw College, will be the commencement speaker for Meredith when the Class of '83 graduates at 10 a.m. Sunday, May 15.

Child, Invitational Education, The Economically Disadvantaged, the Aged, Life-long Learning, and the Concerns of Women.



Logo for the  
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