

International association hosts luncheon

by Abeer Ahmed Mustafa

Every year the Meredith International Association (MIA) hosts an international luncheon for the faculty and staff of Meredith College. MIA students cook delicious native food from all different parts of the world.

They start preparing for the luncheon at the beginning of the spring semester and as the day approaches, they work even harder to present their finest efforts. The day before the luncheon they spend the entire evening cooking, either in their own homes, the residence hall kitchens or the home economics kitchens. They gather to cook and enjoy the spirit of friendship which flies among them as they help each other.

Wednesday, March 20, they hosted the annual International luncheon.

Dressed in traditional clothing, they presented a colorful and beautiful collection of international clothes. Entering the President's Dining Hall, diners were met with wonderful international music that filled the room. A special decoration was made by international students who greeted the professors and staff members and made sure that everything was in order and

everybody was happy. They also went around the tables and socialized with everyone.

The students introduced themselves in the middle of the luncheon.

In MIA and especially on this day, different cultures, customs, religions, and languages don't become barriers, but rather they bring the Meredith community closer together. The International luncheon is a way for MIA to thank the Meredith community for taking care of them while they are away from their homelands and families.

MIA wishes to thank the home economics department for the use of their kitchen and special thanks to Dr. Mary Thomas and Dr. Sandra Thomas, MIA advisors, for the big help and for their continued support. Thanks also to the international students who participated and helped make this luncheon a great success.

MIA officers for the spring semester are: Katherine Gu (China) president, Neha Vijas (India) vice president, Kazuko Ito (Japan) secretary, Abeer Mustafa (Palestine) treasurer.

The Many Moods of Nico Castell

by Leigh Ann Perkinson

Sunday evening, March 17, brought culture and laughter to Meredith's campus. Nico Castell, renowned tenor with the Metropolitan Opera, sang various selections in five different languages. He was accompanied by Eytan Pessen, accomplished pianist and composer.

The performance ranged from sombre to light-hearted. Though the translation for each piece was printed in the program, the audience was not dependent on it. The mood and general meaning of the selection could be inferred by the skillful interpretations of the musicians.

The Portuguese selections celebrated beautiful women, mourned lost love and revelled in drunkenness.

All four German pieces were by Kurt Weill. Two told of war and the destruction of man; the others revealed

a light-hearted look at the capitalistic system and the art of composing music.

Following intermission, Castell introduced a special segment of songs arranged by Pessen. The pieces were sung in Ladino, a language which originated in the Mediterranean by Spanish Jews and included Greek and Hebrew terms. These songs had the nasal quality typical of Mediterranean music. The French selection was slightly rirqué. The songs dealt with the hollowness of haughty people, secret love, and squandered money.

The program closed with a song of harmless indifference towards several aspects of life, including performance itself.

The performance was brought to Meredith through the Fletcher School of Performing Arts.

Health Week

by Hannah Simonds

This past week, March 18-22, was Health Week at Meredith College.

On Monday and Wednesday, students visited Cate Center and had a representative from the Spa Health Club test their body fat percentage. At 10:00am, students gathered in the courtyard for aerobics, which was followed by a "Bagel Break."

Tuesday offered information and education on the dangers of skin cancer. Beth Hines, Susan Howard, Susan Liles, and Michele Roberts treated us to a swimwear fashion show, just in time for spring. Flyers containing startling information about skin cancer and sunscreen lotions were distributed.

On Thursday, the Nutrition Club offered a personal menu analysis, and information was passed out in Belk Dining Hall about current women's

health issues. Students had the opportunity to sign in support of "legislation to require that health insurance providers include coverage for screening mammograms and Pap smears as part of their basic benefits package in all health insurance policies and contracts." Thursday concluded with a "Health Walk" to TCBY for some low-cal yogurt and goodies.

Health Week proved to be very informative. It was a joint effort, sponsored by Meredith Recreation Association, Meredith Health Association, the Nutrition Club, and the Psychology Club. These organizations did an outstanding job of arranging interesting and helpful services and events.

Opinion

Distribution of Power

by Ruth McDaniel

For the past few weeks a horrid case of police brutality that occurred in Los Angeles has received a great deal of media coverage. The media coverage has resulted in a public outcry against such appalling examples of the effects of racism. Many organizations concerned with social justice have made public statements calling for the resignation of the L.A. police chief and a national investigation of police brutality. A few days ago a national network covered the story of a soldier who, shortly after returning from Saudi Arabia, was shot by car thieves. The news story stated that for black males the risk to their lives was greater in the United States than in the war zones of the Middle East. Civil rights groups have rightfully condemned these conditions and called for policies that improve the status of the suffering black males.

But there is an unfortunate result of these statements that attempts to bring about justice. The implication is that the black male is the only one suffering at the hands of a society that is not color blind. Where is the suffering of the black women in these reports? Yes, you see her as a grieving mother, but do you see her as a single mother living in poverty? Are there pictures of women trapped by inadequate education and a welfare system that does not offer a way out?

Where are the women who far are more likely to die of pregnancy complications, breast cancer, and cervical cancer than their white sisters? Why aren't they on the national news? Why aren't social justice organizations holding press conferences insisting that something be done for these women?

Civil rights organizations, as well as every other socially responsible person, have an obligation to demand that strident efforts are made to improve the lives of all citizens. This includes media coverage that is representative of the needs of our society, not the people who control access to resources to meet these needs (yes, I am talking about sexism—in case my tact slipped that accusation by unnoticed).

Women make up slightly over 50% of the population, but they control very few resources—even control of their own bodies is under fire. An equitable distribution of power will be achieved only through an outright battle with those that are not willing to relinquish their unjustifiable control over the lives of so many.

(Sources: Coates et al. Race, Nutritional Status, and Survival From Breast Cancer. Journal of the National Cancer Institute, vol. 82, no. 21. November 7, 1990. "Dismayed NC officials aim to halt cervical cancer deaths" News and Observer, March 6, 1991.