

COMEDYSPORTZ™

AT MEREDITH COLLEGE

November 13, 1991
7:30pm in Belk Dining Hall

"It's better than Charlie Goodnight's,
and it's free!"

Mocktail competition will be at halftime

cosponsored by SGA, MCA, MEA, MRA, MIA, & ABA
as a part of Alcohol Awareness Week.



MEA Announces Its Winter Semi-Formal

The White Iris Ball

Friday
November 15
Raleigh Civic
Center
9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Tickets on sale
November 11 thru
November 15 in
Belk Dining Hall,
and November 12
and 13 in Cate
Center

Centennial Corner

research by Kelley Nicholson

This week we celebrated one of our oldest traditions—Cornhuskin'. In the 1990's everyone talks about Cornhuskin' as a big event, but in the 1940's it was just an "Annual Party for Students" (*The Twig*, Friday, October 27, 1944); sort of like a mixer. Back then Palio and Stunt Night were the big events.

"Stunt Night, first held in 1915 at the suggestion of Bertie Brown, class of 1916, consisted of humorous skits. Beginning in 1916, the stunts or skits were required to be original and interest was developed by keen competition and the attempt for each class to keep its ideas secret" (*The Twig*, Friday, October 27, 1944).

"In 1935, at the suggestion of Miss Marian Warner, of the Physical Education Department, who had seen the Palio festival in Italy, Palio was combined with Stunt Night" (*The Twig*, Friday, October 27, 1944). "Palio, an adaptation of the ancient festival in Siena, Italy, was a unique tradition at Meredith. Each class competed with the others in parades up the front drive, the formation of the class numerals, horse races, bicycle races, the frolicking of clowns, and original class songs. The class winning the parade was awarded the Palio banner; the class having the largest number of members participating in Palio won reserved seats for the stunts" (*Student Handbook*, 1946-47, p.108-9).

In the years from 1950 to 1952 Stunt Night and Palio separated. Where as from 1950 to 1951 Stunt Night was in the evening and each class would give an original stunt of skit and the winning class was awarded a silver loving cup, from 1951 to 1952 Stunt Night was held in the spring. Palio was still celebrated in the fall.

In 1954 to 1955 Palio was no longer being mentioned in the Student Handbook under Traditions but another tradition was. Cornhuskin' was first mentioned then as a "Cornhuskin' Bee," put on by the Athletics Association. "Strange looking creatures would appear for an evening of festivities! The faculty and students would dress in costumes of their own creation and appear at dinner to enjoy the skits given by each class and the faculty. The folk dancers would entertain at this time also, and after the evening meal, the entire group would join them in folk dances. There were contests such as hog-calling, chicken-calling, and, of course, cornhuskin'. Recognition was made of all the winners and of the two most original costumes" (*Student Handbook*, 1954-55, p.48).

This event was first called Cornhuskin' in 1968 and over the years it has become one of the favorite traditions of Meredith students. Today Cornhuskin' takes place on the first Thursday in November. "Each class presents for competition a parade, a tall tale and a hog-calling skit, all of which are related thematically. The four classes are judged on these performances as well as on apple-bobbing and cornhuskin'. The faculty also participate in the night of fun" (*Student Handbook*, 1991-92, p. 95).

Our Cornhuskin' of today is a combination of the Palio and Stunt Nights of long ago. Cornhuskin' creates special memories for us all, students, faculty, and alumnae. As they say, "The Tradition continues..."