

Soccer Team Travels to D.C.

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This past weekend the Meredith Soccer Team took a trip to our nation's capital to play in a tournament hosted by Catholic University. The team left Friday morning in order to get to the field and prepare for their game under the lights, later that night at 7.

The Angels first opponent was Marymount University of Arlington, Virginia. The team was excited to play a game under the lights, as many of them did back in high school. With one great opportunity would come another hindrance. Meredith would also be playing on an artificial turf field, instead of grass. Many players had not experienced playing on a turf field before, and were anxious to see what it was

like.

Playing on a turf field is by far a tough task. The speed of play is increased times two versus playing on a regular field. The ball moves at a quick pace, so that means each player has to be ready and quick on their toes. With Marymount accustomed to such a field, it would possibly pose as a challenge for the Angels.

Both teams were pumped and ready to go. Each team played at incredible speeds. The first half was full of fast passes and runs off the ball. Meredith played tough and overcame the challenge of the turf field. Many began to like the new, soft field and it showed through. Marymount was a tough, fast team, but as was Meredith, who then took control. Nicole Boucher scored the first and only game of the night,

dribbling down to the left corner flag, and then pushing the ball back to the middle, in order to set up a shot for herself. She had a great look on goal, and netted one for the Angels to put them ahead 1-0.

Freshman Charis Hill went down with a knee injury in the first half, after a long fight to win the ball against a Marymount defender. She was sidelined due to a sprained LCL (lateral collateral ligament) and was unable to play the rest of the tournament. Meredith continued their strength of play throughout the second half, giving Marymount hard-fought competition. The soccer team held off Marymount 1-0.

Saturday was a day of site seeing for the girls. They traveled in groups to D.C. in order to visit the various mu-

seums and works of art that Washington D.C. has to offer. Many went to visit such places like the Holocaust Museum, The World War II Memorial, and the Washington Monument. Meredith students also got to witness a war protest, which was taking place on Constitution Street, right at the heart of D.C. They also visited less historic places like the mall, where they were able to spend quality time with each other, some with their families, and others just relaxing and touring other various places.

Sunday the ladies would face off in the championship game against host school Catholic University of America. The Angels were ready to make their record 7-3 and come home with another tournament victory. Catholic University was a

strong, well composed team. They passed well and ultimately set up a perfect shot for their midfield, putting them ahead 1-0. The Angels played strong and made many attempts at a goal, but were unlucky. In the end, luck was not on Meredith's side, but they did not go out without a well-fought battle. They played a hard game and took 2nd place at this year's Catholic University Soccer tournament. Congratulations to the Meredith Soccer Team for a great performance this past weekend.

Catch the Angels next home game, this Wednesday at 4 against Ferrum College.

Help cheer them on to victory!

Review of "The Inept Witness"

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Günter Grass immediately catches the reader's attention by creating a sense of anticipation of the meeting and interaction of two great literary authors, Erich Maria Remarque and Ernst Jünger. The title, "Witnesses of An Era," alludes to the idea that Grass is going to offer insight into the authors' famous literary works, *All Quiet on the Western Front* and *The Storm of Steel*, or capture the two gentlemen's stories as they reminisce of their past experiences during World War I. Grass conveys the men's relationship accurately. However, the essay is disappointing as it lacks detail and insight from the two gentlemen and aimlessly discusses seemingly irrelevant issues.

The object of Grass' research that she makes reference to in the first paragraph

is unclear, causing the purpose of her essay to be indistinguishable. She never explains her purpose in getting these two literary novelists together. Not only did Grass fail to address this central issue but the ending dropped off with no conclusion, creating even more confusion as to the main idea.

One sentence used near the beginning of the essay captures the essence of what the story should have focused on. "They laid their evidence, their once hotly debated novels, on the marble table between the croissants and the cheese platter" (108). This is the perfect sentence to lead into the story that she has seemed to set up but not delivered. After so many years had gone by, these two insightful men have gathered to share one table and share their experiences of WWI. It seems that the Swiss researcher had at her disposal two of the greatest resources of that era and

didn't utilize her time wisely. Her writing would have been more captivating had it explored intriguing details of their personal accounts or their own insights into their novels and not on their opinions or comments about the weaponry or protective gear used during the war. We are given a taste of the stories they have lived, like when Jünger recalls that, "even after the war showed its claws, I was fascinated, during the raiding parties I led, by the idea of battle as inner experience" (107). She gives us enough glimpses into their lives to want to hear more about their raids, for example. Then she switches to a dry subject like why Jünger liked a certain kind of helmet, instead of writing about a moving experience he had. There is something magical about men of an era gone by who get together and casually reminisce. Grass had an opportunity to capture that magic and she failed miser-

ably.

Grass was successful, however, as she showed them relating to one another and the comments that were made between them. The connection was established early in the essay when "first Remarque, then Jünger hummed the haunting, melancholy melody, and both knew the lines that brought the refrain to a close: 'Flanders is in danger./ Death is there no stranger'" (106). Later, Grass conveys the conflicts between the two men as she quotes Remarque when referring to Jünger's novel, *The Storm of Steel*, as a "hymn of war," as though Jünger glorified the idea of war (108). Describing the two gentlemen drinking together also allowed for the connection to be shown between the two of them, while at the same time reiterating the detached roll of the Swiss researcher as she never shared a drink with them. In the first paragraph she introduced the idea of the dynam-

ics of the two gentlemen's relationship and successfully depicted these dynamics through their interaction. Grass did this by establishing the distinction between their opposing views, while still managing to show how they connected by experiencing the same horrible event and past hardships.

Günter Grass failed to capture Remarque and Jünger's emotive stories from their past. Had she written more about the intriguing, personal tales of war, readers would have been more riveted. As it were, the essay skips around to a great extent and neglects to fulfill readers' expectations. Although she successfully portrayed the two men's relationship with one another, Grass seems to have chosen a bad angle to portray her experience with the two men.