

# BARBARA BEACH ON HOWARD EXCHANGE

(Barbara is giving her report on the experience at Howard, this Sunday at the Nine-Thirty Class, Hunt Rec Room, at 9:15 a.m.)

I went to Howard University last semester as an exchange student. Howard is a Negro school of 7000 students in Washington, D.C. I went to Howard with the belief that differences between the Negro and Caucasian races are physical only. This belief was confirmed at least a thousand times while I was there. I have believed this for as long as I can remember, but living in America has made the belief difficult. Because of segregation, I had had very little contact with any Negroes; and I also had been exposed all my life to the stories and beliefs about Negroes which abound among white people. Although I did not believe these stories, I felt that constant exposure to them could not help but have an effect on me. Since I had no opportunity to meet and know any Negroes, I felt unequipped to avoid this effect. Therefore, when I heard of the Howard exchange program, I decided to apply.



I am so glad I did. At Howard I was part of a Negro society. I was welcomed warmly and sincerely. People were very friendly, and accepted me as myself rather than as a white girl. No one tried to impress me, nor did anyone make me feel uncomfortable because I was different. In fact, before long I forgot I was different. My experience showed me that colored people are more willing than white people to overlook color differences and consider someone as a person rather than a preconceived image.

No one was embarrassed to talk about the race situation (except me, at first). Race problems were not a main topic of conversation, but neither were they avoided or ignored. People were moderately optimistic but realistic and relatively unemotional about the problem, treating it as a fact of life which must be faced and adjusted to. For example, Negroes know that many people they meet wherever they go will not be happy to have them or will consider them as outsiders. They must consider, when planning a career, if there is room for Negroes in the field of their interest. Their choice of a home where they are welcome is limited. Many trips were very inconvenient, because service in restaurants, service stations, and motels was limited to whites (the Civil Rights Bill has recently changed much of this). These and countless other considerations unknown to white people are commonplace to Negroes.

Campus and social life is very similar at Bucknell and Howard. The main differences I noticed were differences of degree. Fraternity and sorority membership seemed to be more important at Howard. Membership in a Greek organization has high prestige value, both in school and in adult Negro society. The pledge period is long and very difficult, and members are very loyal and

proud of their group. Another difference is that there are very many queens at Howard. Every fraternity, fraternity pledge class, ROTC unit, and many other organizations have a queen and several girls on her court. I think the great importance attached to these social practices comes from the almost total lack of recognition of Negroes in our society. To make up for this, Negroes honor and recognize each other.

There are some noticeable differences between Howard and Bucknell. Howard has many deficiency courses, required for freshmen who do not meet minimum standards of achievement on their entrance. These courses are a necessity because of the inferior education available to Negroes in many parts of our country. I think the average Bucknell student receives a better education than the average Howard student, although a good education is possible at both schools. The textbooks and course requirements are similar in both schools. The difference is due to the denial to Negroes of cultural opportunities which broaden and deepen men's awareness of their world. Professors cannot give their students what they themselves do not have.

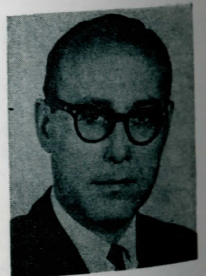
The deep-rootedness and complexity of our country's race problem makes feelings of uncertainty and hostility in people toward those of the other race hard to escape. However, we as college students have been given the opportunity to see our world more objectively and realistically. This opportunity brings with it the responsibility to analyze our own feelings and keep them from holding us from the truth. To overcome our feelings may not be easy for some of us, but we should try our hardest. It is very important that we do.

## MEMO TO THE STUDENT

Take time out of busy day to look at the scarlet leaves of tree in front of the Music Building; watch the squirrels burying their nuts for winter famine; notice the workmen's progress in the sem.; cheer the Bisons at the Stadium; enjoy the brisk fall air---before the snows come!

## COLLOQUY (continued from page 1)

The second Colloquy speaker of the season will be sure to stir widespread interest. Professor E. William Muehl, who is coming on November 1 and 2 (two days before the election), will be concerned with politics in general and also with a Christian's role in politics. Tentative plans have been made to have a four-man panel (including Muehl) which will hash over opportune political topics.



Professor Muehl is a Professor of Practical Theology at Yale University Divinity School. He received his A.B. and L.L.B. from the University of Michigan. Although he is a lawyer by training, he has had a lifelong interest in religious movements and is considered an expert in homiletics, the art of preaching.