

EDITORIALS

FRATS: Getting Over Stereotyping

by Cynthia L. Church
Co-editor

Whether we're saying that all Yankees are rude or all Toyotas are bad cars, we are all guilty of stereotyping. Sometimes it takes just one incident for us to categorize everything in that class to be just like the others. That's not good.

I was like that with fraternities.

It started my freshman year when I hit the row and found all fraternity guys to be 'too cool for life.' They were all humanless snobs. When my best friends became little sisters I merely shook my head and wondered why they wanted to be a part of that plastic world. Then, when they started dating those guys, I gagged.

My unfair stereotypical view of fraternities has changed over the years — not because of a close encounter with the

frat kind, but because I understand what a fraternity is now.

When we enter Meredith, we are housed with girls according to a likeness in personality, interests, etc. . . . Usually the whole hall has similar characteristics. There always will be those who are a little quieter and those with wild streaks. But that's what makes every hall unique, every girl unique. And, it's these same traits that makes each fraternity unique.

Because the fraternities choose who can be a pledge and later a brother, you usually find more similarities in a frat than on a hall at Meredith. Brothers are closer in some ways and often this tightness is mistaken for snobbery.

Through the years, some fraternities have gotten reputations of all kinds. Yet, just because they have that hanging over them doesn't mean the brothers fit that

mold. I remember going to a fraternity on the row that's reputation was good — all the guys were gentlemen, real nice. Well, I found differently. I didn't find one guy I'd trust on a deserted island or in a packed elevator. I cruised out of there quickly.

I've found that when it comes to fraternities, like everything in life, you have to be open-minded. You can't judge 40-50 people by one person. Everyone deserves a chance.

I never thought I'd enjoy going to a fraternity party or even speak to a brother longer than it takes to say "excuse me" while making a mad dash to the nearest exit. But, one of the nice things about getting older is getting wiser. I've changed my mind about a lot of things and I'm glad my attitude towards frats and frat guys has been changed over the years.

Don't think I'm urging you to rush to frat row, date a fraternity brother and-or become a little sister. I only want you to look at things objectively. There is more to college life than going to classes, studying and eating. If you sit around and collect dust you won't learn as much about life. It's important to get out, maybe go to a fraternity party. Experience it. Who knows you may enjoy it. Then — you may not have a good time. But either way, you'll learn a lot about others and yourself.

Remember the nice things people say about Meredith girls like being snobs, prissy, etc. . . . ? Why not help break those stereotypical thoughts in others. And while you're doing that, work on stopping yourself from stereotyping others.

Cynthia L. Church

Conflicting Views

Not Giving Out Students' Phone Numbers

Give me privacy or give me no phone

by Beth Blankenship
Co-editor

Privacy is a rare and valued thing in these modern times. Robert Frost had the right idea about fences making good neighbors. Everywhere you look now you see tall buildings, apartment complexes, and houses so close together that they share the same yard. We share our rooms and sometimes even our clothes.

Meredith has recently chosen to give students some of that valued privacy by not giving out telephone numbers. Each girl is assigned a private personal number, to be kept just that way — private.

My family, as do many of our friends, has an unlisted number. This helps to keep the unwanted magazine salesmen and insurance salesmen from calling and trying to push their product on you.

Now let's mention the perverts who call and breathe and tell you their darkest fantasies over the phone. It would be a very slim chance that they could reach your number if it was unlisted.

Now I ask you to think about those

whimpy guys you meet at a bar or a party. If you're the type of girl who just can't lie about your real name, that means a total stranger and his friends now have a way to call you — often.

Students could be given the option to fill out a card giving Meredith permission to give out their number. However, if this were done the 829 code at the beginning of every number is exposed.

Meredith is not trying to "shelter you within its walls from the real world by refusing to give people your number. It is simply offering you a chance for a little privacy. I don't think Meredith wants to be responsible for the weird disturbing calls. To the people who are close to you or those you meet and you want to give them your number; go for it! A private number helps you to weed out the undesirable calls. If there is an emergency and someone must get in touch with you, they can call security and explain the situation.

I'll offer you a solution. Have your number put in the phone book if you want it to be public knowledge. As for me, I'll take my privacy any day.

'Big Brother' system cuts students off from the world

by Cynthia L. Church
Co-editor

"Hello. May I speak to Alice?"

"Who?"

"Alice."

"I'm sorry, Alice doesn't live here anymore."

"Is this Meredith College?"

"Yes, but she doesn't live in this room this year."

"Sorry."

"No problem."

That's the understatement of the year. Alice's friend will never get in touch with her because if she calls the switchboard, they won't give her her number.

Oh, please, what next?

First we have the freshman and sophomore cars being held under lock and key. Then, we have the boot immobilizers being chained to our cars. Next we are cut off from the world when it comes to

calling long distance and information. Now, the outside world can't get into us because they can't get our number.

When I asked one security guard, Ida Donaldson, why the system was enforced, she said because several girls had problems with obscene phone calls. My heart goes out to these girls. I mean, they were so disturbed that they had to resort to such extreme measures as taking their phone off the hook. I wonder what these girls plan on doing upon graduation. Will they be able to answer the phone in a room by themselves? I mean, who knows who'll be on the other end. Maybe they can have an unlisted phone number.

I feel these are isolated cases. Why should the entire student body suffer because a few girls can't handle the reality that there are weirdos in the world. And what possesses people to listen? Why

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Letter to the Editor

YES, WE ARE PEOPLE, TOO!

Oh, what a day! And tonight I have to work dinner in the cafeteria!

"Boy, it sure is hot back here! Only 45 minutes left to go. 'Hello, what would you like . . . that's fried chicken . . . in a bowl or — and a roll? . . . I'm sorry, I didn't hear you.' Now, I'm going to clean up tables. Oh, shoot fire, look at the mess."

Note to non-cafeteria workers: After a

long day of classes and a long hot 2 hours of hot work in the cafe, it is hard to be pleasant to you when we know that we will have to pick up after you. Does it take that much effort to pick up the napkin you dropped, or take up your Heinz 57 bottle? Be considerate to others and BE NICE TO YOUR LOCAL CAFETERIA WORKERS, WE ARE PEOPLE, TOO.

Teresa Burton

Any articles for The TWIG can be placed in the TWIG Drop Boxes located at 105 & 226 Heilman, English Alley, Johnson Hall, and Cate Center. Deadline, Mondays at 12:00.

Well, at least now there is a good reason that from UNC hasn't called — my number is unlisted.

