

Cornhuskin' videotape causes controversy

by Julie Bell, Features Staff

When freshmen come to Meredith in August, one of the first things they are bombarded with is Cornhuskin'. The Meredith Recreation Association is in charge of Cornhuskin', and it is up to the members to educate the freshmen through the appointment of an advisor. In past years, the junior class has taken on the responsibility of explaining and advising the freshmen of the true meaning of Cornhuskin'. If explained poorly, the freshmen react with apathy.

Rhoda Sowers, student activities director, said "The junior class' explanation of what Cornhuskin' is has gotten worse over the years. From this, complaints have always risen, because questions were never answered. Since Cornhuskin' is highly competitive and supposed to be kept a secret, it makes it harder to explain without giving 'secrets' away," said Sowers.

The class that wins Cornhuskin' knows how to favorably impress the judges. Four years of experience and practice are generally needed to perfect a parade, a tall tale, and a hog callin'. Other classes enjoy watching freshmen perform Cornhuskin' and seeing improvement year after year.

Because Cornhuskin' was explained

poorly this year, the freshmen complained. Sowers and the MRA decided to show last year's Cornhuskin' videotape to the freshmen.

"Only 15 freshmen showed up to watch excerpts for the sole purpose of seeing costuming, seeing what words look like in a parade, and seeing that the tall tale has only one person reciting a memorized monologue," said Sowers.

"It was unfair to show it," said Laura Cochrane, a senior Cornhuskin' representative. Freshman Wendy Brechtelshaven said, "It was helpful to get an idea of what Cornhuskin' is, since we had no way of knowing what it is."

Among MRA members, there were

mixed emotions over the showing of the tape.

"Tapes of any Cornhuskin' in the future will not be shown to any freshman class," Sowers said. She also told students to "look for showings of these videos after Christmas with possibilities of the tapes being sold at a later date."



Seniors enjoy their last Cornhuskin' at Meredith

Srs. take Cornhuskin'

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place, juniors; 3rd place, seniors.

Apple Bobbing: 1st place, seniors; 2nd place, freshmen; 3rd place, juniors.

Cornhuskin': 1st place, seniors; 2nd place, juniors; 3rd place, freshmen.

Class Song: 1st place, juniors; 2nd place, seniors; 3rd place, sophomores.

Tall Tale: 1st place, sophomores; 2nd place, seniors; 3rd place, freshmen.

Hog Calling: 1st place, juniors; 2nd place, seniors; 3rd place, sophomores.

Parade: 1st place, seniors; 2nd place, juniors; 3rd place, freshmen.

Censorship policy questioned

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On Top."

Third Brewer had a similar encounter when their original sweatshirt portraying a Saint Bernard dog with a keg around his neck was instructed to be altered. Sowers recommended their slogan, "The Third Brew Crew," be accompanied by a design with witches stirring some brew.

Lisa Ashley, third Brewer's designer, said, "I was upset she didn't approve it,

but I wasn't surprised."

Sweatshirts are not the only focus of close examination or, by definition, "censorship." Banners have also been targeted.

A letter from Sowers was sent to all association, organization and club presidents explaining the guidelines to be followed when making and displaying a banner in Belk Dining Hall. The letter said, "We will be monitoring these banners closely. Our office will remove any banners not properly hung." (See accompanying article entitled *Guidelines for Banners in Belk Enforced.*)

The censorship policies at Meredith College had not been questioned until *The Twig's* investigation. Concerning this, Sowers said, "Maybe it's time we came up with a policy and put it in the handbook."

Editor's Note: A late telephone call, after this article was submitted for publication, was received by Dean Dorothy Sizemore's office requesting that this article include a statement that complaints from two students prompted her request that Rhoda Sowers approve all banners, posters and sweatshirts.

Meredith plans for disaster

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Mills said that, in the past, notices were issued on each dorm room door about the procedures to follow during the threat of a storm.

This procedure involves going to the lowest area of the dorm. Each student then lines each wall, while sitting in a crouched position with her head tucked between her knees.

Dan Shattuck, chief of security, said, "It would be nice if there was a definite plan of action set up for everyone to follow in case of a severe storm."

According to Shattuck, his men know what to do in case of a disaster, but as it stands now, "the students are on their own in case of a disaster and my men are here to help in any way possible."

Shattuck said that as soon as a warning was issued for a disaster in this area, he would get together with his men, the business manager, and the manager of the dining hall to make sure there would be adequate food and other supplies.

This would take care of students who were not able to get home before the storm hit.

The security department also has handheld bullhorns which can be used in the dorms themselves to give instructions as to where to go. In addition, loudspeakers run by batteries can be used to arouse people.

According to Shattuck, the fallout shelters would be the safest place for the girls to go, because they are reinforced with concrete.

Harry Simmons, superintendent of buildings and grounds, said it would be good to let the students know where these shelters are, but the doors to get into them must remain locked at all times.

"The tunnels are locked for the protection of the girls, because if they were left open any stranger could hide down there and come up into the dorms and attack unsuspecting students," said Simmons.

According to Jerry Bynum, manager of environmental services, the fallout

shelters are no longer used for the purpose of war preparation.

The maintenance department uses the shelters to gather and empty the trash, in addition to other tasks, so in fact they are now "mechanical tunnels," said Bynum.

During World War II, when there was a threat of bombs being dropped, fallout shelters were established. In this area of Raleigh, Meredith College was to be used as a shelter in case of an atomic war.

Russell Capps, of the Civil Defense Unit of the State of North Carolina, said that his department attempted to clean out the tunnels last year, but that it does not have enough space to store all of the cans. Capps decided to leave the cans at Meredith until a location for them can be found.

"The cans that are empty were never filled, because the threat of an atomic war went away," Capps said.

According to Capps, the cans that contain a substance do not pose a threat to Meredith students.

Banners in Belk

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back into the dining hall, with the stipulation that certain guidelines be followed. These guidelines are outlined below.

1. Banners may be up to 12 feet in length.

2. Banners must be approved by the Student Activities Office for neatness, creativity, and correct information.

3. Only 2 banners per end of the dining hall and hung on the wooden strips. These 12 foot wooden strips were placed in the dining hall for the purpose of hanging banners; therefore, no banners should be hung from the wall itself. Tacks should be used and not tape. Two banners may be hung on the same strip, therefore allowing up to 4 banners per end. The strips of wood are 12 feet. If two banners are hung, they must be no longer than 5 feet each, to allow for space in between the banners.

4. Major campus event banners will have priority over club banners. If 2 banners are scheduled to be put up at the same time, a major event takes priority.

5. Request forms to hang banners must be filled out in the Student Activities Office. These forms may be picked up at the Box Office. Banners may be hung only 3 days prior to that event and must be taken down by 10:00 a.m. the day after the event.

6. Banners must be of official length, neatly and clearly lettered or drawn, and of course, in good taste.

7. Banners may be hung in the dining hall with the stipulation that the administration or dining hall staff may take (them) down if there is a special dinner or banquet in the dining hall."



Cans line the walls of the fallout shelter