

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

By choosing to live off campus we were unaware of the events that occurred surrounding the TKE fraternity serenading the underclassmen dorms on campus. We lived on campus our first two years at Meredith and when serenades occurred it brought cheer to our sometimes hindered spirits due to the mid week stress of classes and schoolwork. Seeing that the boys do not serenade but twice a year this is a usually welcomed non college sanctioned tradition. Before coming to Meredith, we heard stories of Cornhuskin', Stunt, and even the serenading boys. Some of these stories came from Mrs. Monaghan, Katie's mother and graduate of the class of 1975. She told us of the famous PIKA fire truck that would circle the Meredith mile honking, and the singing boys of other greek fraternities pinning their sweetheart. The key phrase for the recruitment of new MC angels is "you just have to experience it." Does that phrase not mean experience all that is Meredith, college approved or not? In the almost thirty years that has past, the Meredith community has worked very hard to open our campus to the community and link ourselves with North Carolina State University through the CRC program. If we are not going to open our campus to them, as mundane as a serenade may be, why should they allow us to participate in NCSU activities? The moment a male drives through the front gates of Meredith he becomes a minority on our campus. With current push for diversity and unity should we not be open to ALL minorities present on campus? If you do not like boys or fraternities, what makes your opinion more important than anyone else's? Traditionally Meredith has been regarded as a sisterhood, which, though not bound by greek letters, is very similar to the brotherhood of any fraternity. We do not want this tradition to die due to the actions of one individual. If our children choose to go to Meredith we do not want them to miss out on a tradition that we and many other students and alumnae hold so dear. Even though we were not on campus when this event occurred, we will be writing a letter of apology to TKE for the rude misrepresentation of Meredith College and its students. Katie Monaghan and Jennifer Smith (2005)

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter in response to the three letters written in the October 29, 2003 issue of the Meredith Herald about the water-throwing incident. I am appalled at the entire situation. However there are a few things that bother me more than others.

First, there is a mention by one of the students that frat boys singing at her dorm room was something that she didn't want going on, quote, "on my campus". I would just like to say that this campus belongs to more than just ONE person. It belongs to all the girls that attend this college, all the professors and everyone in the community that would like to enjoy its beauty. Secondly, it may annoy some people that the TKE boys come to Meredith to sing, but it is a traditional thing at Meredith that happens every year. AND it lasts all of ten whole minutes. BIG DEAL!!! The frat boys coming to sing to us is no supposed to be made into that big of a deal. You don't have to listen, and you don't have to participate. If you are annoyed by it...don't come out of your room! It is simply innocent fun. It isn't a promotion for sexual harassment and binge drinking. If you are against binge drinking and sexual harassment, do an article on those particular things. Don't ruin a simple tradition that goes on at Meredith just to prove your point. Also, it is totally fine if you are against binge drinking. That is your opinion and as a matter of fact so am I, however.... TKE doesn't come to Meredith with the idea, "lets get some girls to come to our parties so we can get them drunk and sexually harass them." Yes, they want people to come to their frat parties.... but what fraternity doesn't. They come here and sing b/c it's funny to have guys come to an all girls' school and embarrass themselves by singing. The entire thing is meant to be funny and AGAIN not that big of a deal. Yes, sexual harassment is a HUGE deal.... but, it takes two people and no one holds anyone down and MAKES them get drunk!! So don't put it all off on frat boys as if they are setting out to do this.

Next, I personally don't think that the water was thrown because the girl who threw it was gay. However I do believe that it is the most immature thing I have ever heard of. This is a women's college and we are supposed to be women...not immature teenagers. We are supposed to be grown up and know how to

act. And if we don't know how to handle a situation that we disapprove, and don't won't on campus, better than throwing water on people than we have a lot of growing up to do. I think that everyone was surprised by what happened because a lot of people, including myself, were just amazed that someone would do something like that when we are college students...not third graders that don't know how to handle our problems. I mean, I personally don't want a Spectrum club at the college that I go to. I feel like it promotes and stands for things that I don't believe should be promoted, but you don't see me taking a cup of water and throwing it at the members of the club. I treat everyone the same and even though I am "annoyed" by certain things that the club stands for, I don't discriminate against any member of that club. And I certainly don't do immature things to speak out against them. I have my opinion and express it in a mature way. I feel about the Spectrum club, the way that the people who wrote that letters to the editor feel about binge drinking and fraternities. The big difference though is how the two opinions were handled. And let me add that the priorities at Meredith are not a problem!! The frat boys singing takes up at the most ten minutes of your college life. And certainly, ten minutes shouldn't affect us becoming educated aware women at Meredith College.

Lastly, I would like to wrap up by saying that this entire situation is stupid to waste so much time on. There are so many more things in our lives that we should be worried about. My mom was recently diagnosed with breast cancer, and ever since the reality hit that I could lose my best friend in the entire world to a disease that doesn't discriminate, I have learned that the some things just aren't worth stressing over. You want to be annoyed? Try going through an entire year of chemotherapy and radiation and watch your best friend lose all her strength and feel like dying. That's annoying and stressful, not a ten minute singing session in the courtyard. You should enjoy things in life that you take for granted, and take advantage of them why you can. Don't waste your time stressing your life over something like frat boys singing for ten minutes in the courtyard. When something small like that annoys you just think about how much worse things could be, smile, and thank God that you

are here today, healthy, and able to enjoy all the little things in life.

Sincerely,
Casey Lynne Wilson

Dear Editor,

I wanted to write to voice my support for "Bothered in Brewer". I am a member of Spectrum and I did not feel offended by her letter. No where in the letter did it directly attack homosexuals or the Spectrum club. In fact, if you recall, she said that the "club" was "vital to Meredith's campus". I feel like what was said was distorted by the response letters. The problem had nothing to do with any student's sexual orientation, it had everything to do with the stereotypes made against frat boys.

The water thrower said, "Heterosexist in assuming that everyone wants them", and "the fraternity participates in underage binge drinking during their rush week and they come to recruit freshmen to come to their parties and participate in underage binge drinking." She said that TKE doesn't necessarily embody these traits but she still took action based on the assumption that they did. The definition of a hate crime is "a crime motivated by prejudice against a social group." In my opinion, stereotypes were made about the fraternity and actions were taken based on those stereotypes. Isn't that a hate crime? The main problem was that the act occurred, not the sexual orientation, race, or ethnicity of the people that did it. It was also said that "the reason why it was done was because they stood up for the common belief that fraternities should not be on campus at that time," and "it was making a small statement against something I did not want on my campus." First off, the frat boys coming to serenade has been a Meredith tradition for several generations. It is an important tradition to many girls just as Cornhuskin, Father Daughter Dance, Charming Evening and Ring Dinner are. Secondly, just because I don't want something on our campus does not give me the right to resort to name calling and inappropriate, juvenile actions. Thirdly, it is not only one persons campus. Over 600 students live on campus. It is their campus too. People do enjoy them coming. It is not fair for one student to ruin something that many other students enjoy just because "they do not want them here." Just because you get annoyed at something does not

give you the right to take action against it. Welcome to college, you're not always going to have peace and quiet, things won't always go your way. Get over it and grow up.

Spectrum Supporter

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