

# Freshmen Give Good Advice, Helpful Hints About College Life to Incoming Students

By ELIZABETH NIEUWENHUIS and MARY HAVERSTOCK

Hi New Student,

You don't know how excited I was when I received your letter saying that you want to come to Meredith. You couldn't have chosen a finer place. I'm glad you asked about coming for a visit; a few days spent on campus is the way to make the best final decision. I remember that the weekend I spent here made me surer than ever that Meredith is the place for me.

### Food Is Grand

You wrote that you are going to start taking advantage of your Mom's cooking because you will miss it next year. I'll agree that your Mom is a swell cook; but take it from me, the food here is out of this world! I mean it! I have already gained ten pounds; if I were you, I wouldn't start gaining weight yet.

I'm not joking; the work is really challenging. The main trouble is not that the work is outrageously difficult, but that there is so much of it. However, I seem to get satisfaction out of working hard and long. My father keeps writing me that I'll get out of school what I put into it; that saying keeps me going sometimes. Though this advice may seem strange, I suggest that you enter any essay contests or writing competitions that Miss Inman recommends. And, most important, *read, read, read!* I'll never be able to emphasize reading enough. In English you may feel that you bump your head against a brick wall each class period; but you can't imagine how understanding and helpful these teachers are. Also practice your oral foreign language as much as possible. We Meredith girls work very hard now, but when we graduate we will have

mean a lot to them and to you. Practice being patient with your sister, because it takes a great deal of patience to tolerate a difficult roommate. This problem of roommates is usually avoided here, however, because the girls are well placed.

### Helpful Hints

If I am not mistaken, your birthday is coming up soon. I know you are spending a lot of money getting ready for next year, so I'll list a few little items that will be helpful. You might pass these hints on to your parents as ideas for birthday gifts. First of all, don't get a pillow-seat. It is nothing more than an invitation to take a snooze. If you already have sheets and towels, you can begin gathering such extra things as a hand mirror, coffee pot, sewing box, a sponge or two, dust cloth, clothes brush, clothes pins, trash can, and a score of other small articles. Last year my brother gave me a box with a collection of shampoo, soap, safety pins, toothpaste, hair pins, and shoe polish. This seemingly ridiculous gift proved to be most helpful during my first semester here. Buying these little necessities early makes the financial problem much simpler in August. Don't forget about those name tags, and you'd better believe that you have to sew them on all four corners of your linens.

### Date New People

I have just one other bit of advice and then I'll close. I have saved this part for the end of my letter because I knew if you read it sooner, you would probably discard the remainder of my letter. Here goes — the suggestion is that you and Mike don't continue to go steady when you leave home. You just don't know what some of the girls on the hall are missing because they have a boyfriend at home and refuse to date anyone else. It is really quite an experience to date various types of new people.

My books are calling me, so I must say good-bye. As you can tell, I am very enthusiastic about your considering Meredith. You're a smart girl! I hope to hear soon about your definite plans to visit here.

Love,  
Liz

Dear New Students,

I was very happy to get your letter yesterday. It brought back memories of the good times we had when we were both working on the high school annual. I certainly do miss all the people that I worked with last year, but there are many

wonderful people to work with here, and there is certainly plenty of work to do.

I really am enjoying my work at Meredith; therefore, I am glad that you asked me to tell you about college life.

"College life" is a pretty broad term and means different things to different people. Some of the girls here live lives which are completely different from mine. The life you lead next year will probably not be like mine. Nevertheless, my life is the one that I know most about; so I will be on safer ground telling you about it.

### Adjustments

First, you will have to adjust to some changes. You have heard about the "big adjustment" that you will have to make when you enter college, but really the changes are not so great as you may expect. One change may be that you will not have parents or teachers to tell you what to do; what you do will be by your own initiative. Perhaps you have been on your own a good deal already, and there will not be much change, but to some people there is. And some people in college still rely on their roommates to tell them to get up or to study. Assignments are made, but only your conscience or your zeal will make you do them. If you have a bad memory as I have, you may forget appointments and conferences with professors; but the empty feeling that you will get in your stomach when you realize that you have forgotten will cure your bad memory sooner or later.

### More Free Time

Another change is that you will have a lot more time that is "free" for you to use on things you want to or should do. You will probably be in class about sixteen hours a week, but the rest of the time will be yours. Fortunately, we have had thorough instructions about how to schedule our studies, classes, social life, eating, and sleeping to the best advantage. However, it could be very easy to let social life and "study breaks" take most of the study time. I had a little trouble at first, because I spent too long on my assignments, and I did not know how to do them. I am still having a little trouble and have not yet reached the perfection that was described to



Mary Haverstock prepares her history lesson in freshman reading room.

us during orientation week. Several speakers during that week described to us a study schedule in which we would get all our work done so that there would be an afternoon, an evening, one hour a day and all day Sunday for rest, recreation, and freedom from study. I was skeptical about such a rosy picture; and I am glad that I was, because the schedule is for regular assignments, which are to be two hours each. It does not include special book reports, tests, papers, and the like. In addition, I often want to spend more than two hours on my daily assignments. Perhaps I will be more able to achieve perfection later.

### Many Rewards

In spite of the fact that I paint a picture of drudgery, there are many rewards that make every minute of

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Elizabeth Nieuwenhuis, center, takes time out for a coffee break with Louise Stokes, left, and Becky Reich, right.

Mother wrote me that your exams are over and that you were disappointed because you were exempted from only three of your exams. I know exactly how you feel; you could just scream, couldn't you? When you get to Meredith, there will be no such word as exemptions; we even had to write a paper on the values of examinations. Feature that! Believe it or not, the writing of this paper helped me to realize that our high school does an injustice by allowing exemptions.

### Work Is Challenging

Speaking of school work, I'd like to tell you what work is *really* like; Franklin High School students have no earthly idea! I study as hard for a test at Meredith as I studied for an exam at home, and

a diploma and an education to be truly proud of. Don't be discouraged, Connie; although the competition is much stiffer in college, you will find yourself more willing to work.

### Take Advantage of Family

I'm sure you're interested in the girls and the rest of our Meredith family. Even though each of us is different, we still have mutual interests and purposes in life which create an intensely close bond among us. Coming from a close family, you will appreciate the atmosphere as much as I do. You and I are fortunate to have grown up in a home with such wonderful families. Connie, take advantage of your family now, for you'll really miss them next year. Spend as much time with them as you can; it will

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