

THE TWIG

Meredith College
December 11, 1969

We've Been Bitten!

Talk about biting the hand that feeds you!

In passing the ordinance requiring students whose cars have North Carolina license plates to purchase a Raleigh city tag, the Raleigh city council have pulled the biggest "hand-biting" act in quite a while!

Of course, the ordinance is worded carefully to exclude any mention of students as such, but merely notes that 60 days' stay in Raleigh is sufficient for establishing vehicle residency. But its intent is clearly aimed at student-owned cars, and the extra money that the sale of the \$1 tags will bring the city.

What the city council seem to be forgetting, however, in their haste to increase revenue is the tremendous amount of good the colleges have done the Capital City.

First there is the amount of business these students provide Raleigh merchants. Year after year, students pour hundreds of thousands of dollars into the pockets of Raleigh businessmen. The money spent by students in movie theaters in itself must be staggering!—not to mention clothing stores and restaurants!

The colleges have also meant an increase in Raleigh's population, outside the students themselves, as their very presence creates many new jobs—teaching positions in the various schools, to take the most obvious example.

And this increase in population has had a effect on Raleigh, as well. As new businesses keep springing up to fulfill the needs of more people, more new jobs are created, providing positions for still more people and consequently raising the standard of living of the city. The cycle continues as increased living standards mean a greater demand for services.

Moreover, as living standards increase and new jobs continue to open up, more people move into the Capital City, bringing more businesses and more population. This is a self-perpetuating process and one which council surely chose to overlook in its action requiring the purchase of city tags by students.

We doubt that the \$1 price of these tags will cause any student to move away and take his business with him. But, the price really is unimportant—what is important here is a principle: if a students is considered enough of a resident to have to buy a city tag, but is not enough of a resident to vote in city elections or have anything to do in the city's administration—then the student is in effect being punished for having a car.

We hope that Raleigh's city council will take a second look at this issue, being sure this time to give closer attention to the great contribution Raleigh students have made to the growth of this town. And then ask themselves—"Is this something to be punished for?"

Maybe then they'll stop biting the hand that feeds them.

RBM

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Letters to the Editor

EMBARRASSED

Dear Editor:

We were thoroughly embarrassed and ashamed by the inconsiderate and infantile conduct of some members of our faculty in chapel on Wednesday the 12th of November. Dr. Benson was invited to come and present his views to us, thereby making him our guest and, as such, his right to express his opinions should have been respected — not challenged — whether or not those opinions were necessarily the same as our own.

The opportunity to hear from people whose ideas may differ from our own should be a part of the broadening experience of a college education. If, however, certain faculty members continue to unattractively display their lack of good manners it will become increasingly difficult to find anybody willing to speak to us in chapel.

No one, and certainly not the faculty, is forced to sit and listen to something he simply cannot accept. In such a case, it is his prerogative to leave quietly — not to rudely heckle the guest speaker. We feel that this kind of behavior is insulting, not only to the speaker, but to the rest of the Meredith community upon whom it reflects. Narrow-minded rudeness is just not a part of the "Meredith Image" we so often hear about from these same faculty members!

Regretfully,

Linda Mumma
Mary Jane Hyatt
Judy Tripp

TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS

Dear Editor,

The time has come to bring to the attention of the student body, faculty and other interested persons a need which has not received the attention it deserves. As was made evident by a conference sponsored by the North Carolina Learning Institute in Rocky Mount a few weeks ago, there is an up-and-coming trend to tie the campus more closely to the community, a move which is due our greatest attention if we believe that the community is not an island by itself. In every department of the college curriculum professors are being encouraged to find ways of adding field learning experience to their studies. As this move is being made, Meredith College can be proud of its already-established field study programs in the departments of sociology and business. At the same time, it can

boast about the effectiveness of its extension projects sponsored by the Meredith Christian Association.

While much can be learned from work for credit, the real meaning of service to the community by Meredith students comes about on a voluntary basis. This year almost 100 students are serving the Raleigh community on a voluntary basis in the blind school, tutorial projects, Method Day Care Center, and Dix Hospital. So what is the need?

The need is the practical one of getting students to and from the locations of service. The vast majority of participants in these projects are without cars or sufficient time and energy to walk the distance of one to twelve miles from campus to community project. Since the transportation is unavailable among the participants themselves, the Meredith Christian Association confronted the powers that be in the administration of this campus. In every instance, they turned a deaf ear, the excuse being that there were many more important matters to be financed. With this result, the Association then went out into the community and courtesy cars to three or four other campuses in the area. In July he promised a car; that promise is as yet unfulfilled, and every recent inquiry has been merely another put-off. When the Association council let it be known that they intended to seek help from another car dealer, they were asked not to do. Why? Because, they were told, Meredith needs financial help from every possible source, and if a car dealer gives transportation service, he may think he has fulfilled his obligation to the campus and therefore not give financial help. The question now is where do we go from here?

Several people on this campus have spent many agonizing hours with this problem and have succeeded only in becoming more despondent. It would seem that the service provided by extension projects in the Raleigh community is not important enough to warrant help in a practical manner. Perhaps, then, it would be just as well for all efforts to be abandoned. Maybe Meredith should become an island. Maybe Meredith students should not be encouraged to become involved in anything outside the "holy acre." What is the answer? Shall we give up, or will someone help us find transportation on a permanent — or at least a consistent — basis?

With concern,

Ellen Webb, Social
Action Chairman
MCA

WITHHOLDING OF GRADES

Dear Editor:

As a transfer day student in her final year of undergraduate study, and as one who is in dire need of a scholarship to complete this study — in other words, to some extent grades and quality points determine my fate — I question the logic of Meredith College's policy of withholding grades in courses taught on the "block system" until the semester is over. If a college is willing to send out what I have heard called D slips and F slips at mid-semester, why will it not release grades for courses completed at mid-term at the same time? I think that a student is entitled to know whether her work was acceptable in a completed course of study, and if her professor does not post grades, to whom does she turn if not to the Registrar? Is a student's transcript so confidential that the student is not even allowed to know her grade? There must be some reason for the Registrar's office not releasing a grade to a student other than "We just don't." What is the reason? Furthermore, I am not saying that all professors make errors when turning in grades, but I have known of such occurrences — this once happened to me — and I think it is a little late in the day in January to try to correct a mistake made in November. I do not think I am being unreasonable when I request that either "block course" grades be mailed at mid-semester or that the Registrar's office release a "block course" grade to a student upon request. What do you think?

Anne Matheny

"THE IDEA"

Dear Editor,

Once upon a day in November, a couple of Meredith students became excited about the Idea. They shouted and leaped and talked about it until two more students became infected with the enthusiasm. And, those four shouted and leaped and talked and walked and made telephone calls until fifty people were excited by the Idea.

The Idea was to get together, to get involved in a unique creation, to try to break down the walls between all college students in Raleigh and say something to one another in the form of a literary magazine. We need to know one another, we think; but to know one another, we must break down walls — the walls that literally or figuratively enclose us within separate campuses, separate ways of life. We need to share.

We will try to share the Idea, and build from it the Book which will attempt to represent the Attitudes, the Loves, the Fears, the Feelings that are closed behind the walls of college communities in our city. The excitement grows. We have high hopes, and we are bold because we know that we can do something that has never been done before in Raleigh, and, as far as we know, never in a college consortium in the U. S.

The four people can't do it alone, as hard as they might try. The enthusiasm won't last when we find we're riding high on those hopes alone. Without encouragement, the boldness will melt and turn into apathy. Without work the Book won't ever do its barrier-breaking job and the Idea will die with no more of an epitaph than "It sounded pretty good." If you have something to say, thoughts to share, and you want to say it straight and say it to a whole city-sized audience of students, help us. And if you don't want to write or draw, but you're hungry for a taste of a unique creation; find Donna Armstrong or Jane Cromley and we'll give you a job. And if you can't do that, but you're enthusiastic about our venture, a pat on the back will be appreciated.

Jane Cromley
Donna Armstrong

