

THE MEREDITH COLLEGE TWIG

Students cut their own throats with judi bill

In sending the recent judicial board reform measure to the Student Life Committee for passage, students at Meredith have hurt their own cause. Rather than asserting our right for increased self-government, we have actually deprived ourselves of student involvement that we now have in the judicial process.

The measure which passed S.G.A. last Friday would change the appeals system to the effect that all inter-dorm board and judicial board appeals will be channeled directly to Dr. Weems and the Board of Trustees. Present judicial board appeals are first handled by the executive committee, comprised entirely of students.

Why do students seek this decrease of their own role in the appeals system? According to Suzanne Martin, chairman of the judicial board, who presented the proposal to the student body on behalf of the executive committee, there are several logical reasons. Close examination of these reasons and alternative courses of action, however, reveals that they are not sufficient justification for the implementation of this measure.

The first of these reasons is that we need to be consistent: since inter-dorm board appeals now go to Dr. Weems, then likewise should judi board appeals be directed to him. Consistency is fine, but might it not be just as well served if inter-dorm board appeals were directed to the executive committee as judi board appeals presently are?

One then asks if the executive committee has time to handle these appeals and, indeed, whether the executive committee has other pressing duties that it might not better attend to. This is a question of some merit. The students on the executive committee are already swamped with business, and perhaps it is unfair to ask them to take on the additional load of inter-dorm board appeals.

There is another alternative to Dr. Weems, however, which will maintain student involvement at more levels of the judicial process. Why not create a special appeals court composed in part, at least of students?

Martin, as chairman, feels that the judicial board conducts thorough investigations and provides a fair trial to offenders through a process in which students participate. She understandably anticipates and fears that an appeals court would undermine the worth of original judicial board decisions.

This undercutting need not necessarily happen. I would certainly agree that judicial board does a good and fair job; occasionally, however, there may be a case where there is cause for a "mistrial," new evidence is found, or valid justification for appeal of the judi board verdict arises. But such cases would be rare, and if standards are set which clearly define what constitutes an appeal, then I can foresee nor run on an appeals court. Since very few are likely to qualify, there is no need to

worry that the judicial board will be undermined.

On the other hand, those few girls who do merit reconsideration of their case deserve to be heard out before someone other than Dr. Weems. Indeed, they deserve no less than a retrial by their own peers. For students to deprive themselves of this right makes no sense at all!

How can we in good conscience ever again gripe to the administration for increased privileges to run our own affairs when we rob ourselves of a power that we already have? I cannot urge too strongly that the students on the Student Life Committee work to defeat this bill and send it into oblivion where it belongs.

G.R.

Thanks to registrar!

Our sincere thanks are extended to Mr. Hiott and the registrar's office. For the first time since this Meredith co-ed has been here, fall pre-registration will not be held on a Saturday (more specifically, on the afternoon of the Duke-Carolina football game).

We will follow the same procedure that was used last spring in which students pick up cards at conferences with their advisors and then check by the registrar's office for confirmation. This means no loss of precious Saturday morning sleep, no hassle and pushing while waiting in line, and no missing the football game and settling for the radio. Thanks for letting us keep our priorities in order, Mr. Hiott!

G. R.

YDC will aid in voting

by Ann Wall

So you live in Glenwood or Elizabeth City. That's just too far to drive on election day, now isn't it? Besides, politics is crooked and they'll just stuff the ballot boxes, and you don't want to sully your pretty little uncorrupted hands by voting for someone that's made a mistake. Never mind that you've made mistakes, too; we're talking about politicians now, and you know that if you'd had a parking ticket you would have been charged twice as much as that politician had to pay.

Balderdash! If you can't get home on election day then, by all means, VOTE ABSENTEE. T'ain't hard 'tall. But, if you do live within a reasonable driving distance of Raleigh, plan to go home that day and vote. The YDC will be setting up a special election day ride board to help you out.

Election Day is not a Play Day. Election Day Recess is a chance for the Meredith Student Body to prove to faculty, administration and ourselves, that we are indeed ready to take on some of the responsibilities that come with our increasing

privileges.

Voting absentee is not difficult. The majority of Meredith students will find the most appropriate method will be to do everything by mail. The Meredith Young Democrats Club will provide you with an "absentee ballot request form" which you will fill out and return. YDC will stamp and mail it for you.

A week or so later you will receive your ballot in the mail (but you must have been registered to get it). Follow the instructions given for filling it out; then don't forget to take it by Johnson Hall and get it notarized. Watch for signs designating notary publics. Stick it in the mail and you're done.

The completed notarized ballot must be received by your county Board of Elections by Monday, November 4, 1974 at 6 p.m.

There are other ways to vote absentee: a relative may pick up an application for the absentee ballot for you; you may go to your Board of Elections in person and vote while you're there. The last day to get your ballot is October 30, 1974 - 6 p.m.

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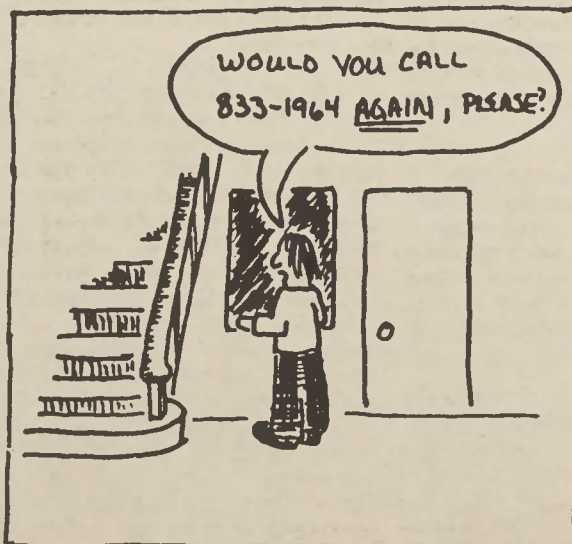
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A TYPICAL NIGHT IN JOHNSON HALL



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