

THE TWIG

meredith college

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The TWIG welcomes comment and will give prompt consideration to any criticisms submitted in writing and signed by the writer.

Rationale for Open Trials

The Student Life Committee is continuing the review of the Honor Code. Part of this review concerns the Judicial Board and Mediation Panel. As I sat at the Student Life Committee meeting last Tuesday, I realized how little I knew about the Judicial System here at Meredith. The only mention I've ever heard of the judicial process is through the grapevine. I'm not sure what I heard was true because I don't know what type of cases are heard before the Board, what types of punishments are given for breaking the honor code, or what type of choices an accused person has when taken to the Board. I would like to learn more about the Judicial System but I don't really know how to find out about the process. I think a lot of girls here at Meredith probably know less than I do about the system. I assume that it is a lot like the courts of the state, but one difference that I know of between the state's court and Meredith's is the closed door policy of Meredith's.

I assume the rationale of the closed door policy is in effect to protect the student accused when pleading guilty for reason of school and personal reputation and when pleading not guilty for the embarrassment of being falsely accused. I understand these points but I am not sure I agree with them.

In November I received a letter from Dr. Tom Parramore, of Meredith's History Department, who is a member of the Judicial Board. This letter contained rationale for open trials. His reasons were as follows:

1. Would make for more effective law enforcement since the prospect of a public trial is a more impressive deterrent to wrongdoing than the prospect of a closed trial.

2. Would allow for critical feedback from the press, Legislative Board and other campus institutions whose functions relate in one way or another to the business of the Judicial board.

3. Would give the Judicial Board an "up front image, instead of the suspicious one that accompanies secret sessions, thus enhancing public respect for its deliberations."

4. North Carolina law states that "whereas the commissions, committees, board and other governing bodies ... exist solely to conduct the people's business, it is the public policy of this state that the hearings, deliberations and actions for the same reason, it should acknowledge its public character by public trials."

5. Would serve an invaluable educational function by exposing many students to the judicial process as it functions on our campus and, in many respects, throughout our society.

6. Would constrain the Judicial Board to adhere to Handbook regulations and other official guidelines.

After careful consideration of Dr. Parramore's reasons, I have come to the conclusion that I agree with him. Maybe, it is not just me who wants to know more. There seems to be a lot of closed doors around Meredith and I think it is time to open up a few.

LAH

Conversing with plants

by Kathleen McKeel

Every time I see one of those California avocado ads, the cute ones with the girl talking with her avocado plant, I feel ill. I always wonder why a plant that intelligent is hanging around her. Truthfully, the picture of that nice, healthy, lush avocado plant just rubs a raw nerve. Every time I walk into my room, I am faced with the dismal reality of my own brown thumb.

I've tried talking to my plants—but chit-chatting with them daily and calling them by their names (and sometimes others). I have tried to provide an atmosphere which would encourage them to grow. To this end, I have tolerated music stations from WYYD to WSHA and tv shows from

sitcoms to educational specials. However, my efforts seem wasted. "Give them time," friends keep telling me. "They will come around ... eventually." But all of them have rooms that look like small, tropical forests.

Some experts have informed me that the key factor is not the room's atmosphere, but the intensity of the sunlight. This theory introduces the controversy of direct vs. indirect and morning vs. afternoon sunlight. Living in Poteat has eliminated the need for choice, since there is no direct sunlight at any time of the day. However, I do try to compensate by rotating my plants in hopes that whatever small quantity of sunlight filters into the room will reach them. But one look at my jade

plant will illustrate how my good intentions have gone astray. The jade now looks like an alpha helix—the stems curve around themselves making it look like a green slinky. Well, I have tried.

Being the eternal optimist, I will keep trying. My problem is, how will I rationalize their condition next year when I am no longer living in Poteat? What will happen when I graduate, and my suitemate, who can raise plants from the dead, will no longer be there to revive them?

As I see it, I have four choices. (1) pray

(2) marry a florist

(3) become wealthy and hire someone to take care of them for me.

(4) chuck the real thing and start buying K Mart plastic.

Adventures in New York

by Ann Stringfield

The church chimes fill the air with joyful music. Lincoln Center looks calm and quiet as churchgoers pass by. Unable to break weekday habits, they hurry even on Sunday.

Traffic noises are more subdued, perhaps calmed by the music.

Sunday in New York City.

Several times this past week I have succumbed to the temptation to "Reach out.

Reach out and touch someone." This is getting quite costly. Could someone please reach out and touch me?!

I often find myself defending the south, Meredith, and Southern Baptists. I have never before been the object of prejudice. It is an extremely edifying experience. Southerners also have stereotypes, but I feel that our stereotype of the Northerner is vastly more

accurate than the Northerner's stereotype of the Southerner. I'm beginning to feel like I'm from a Third World country!

I've come to a startling realization: Life is short. Yes, I have my whole life ahead of me, but I can already see the finite quality of life. We are not immortal. That fact is scary.

Nine to five ... so this is real life. How interesting.

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