

## EDITORIALS / LETTERS

### Master's degree will not lower standards

Meredith is always growing and exciting changes are at hand for the not-so-distant future. At a recent meeting of the Board of Trustees, authorization was given to the college to grant the master's degree.

This is an exciting step for Meredith. Because the job market is so competitive in the United States post-graduate education is as necessary today as an undergraduate degree a generation ago. I feel that Meredith has a great potential in this direction. Meredith's location in the research triangle area and its high academic standards will give a great number of women incentive to further their education and broaden their career options.

If the master's degree programs are allowed to expand slowly and carefully there should be no reason for them to lead to a lower of standards in the undergraduate departments. Instead, the postgraduate and undergraduate studies should work together for a more comprehensive education.

With this in mind, I think the administration, faculty, and Board of Trustees should be congratulated for their efforts on this endeavor. Their philosophies on women's education at a small-college level prove that bigger is not always better!

ELC

Letter to editors

## Honor Code threatened

February 23, 1983

Dear Editor:

I am writing to express my concern over the apparent dismissal of the Honor Code by students. I am not sure wherein the problem lies. Do students not understand the validity and importance of the Honor Code at Meredith?

From my first day forward at Meredith, I have been involved in evaluating and re-evaluating our Honor Code as the basis of our system of self-government. What is the Honor Code? Surely, it is more than a list of rules and regulations, do's and don'ts! The "honor" comes into

play as a basic link for community trust on this campus.

When a violation occurs, it is not the violation per se that breaks the trust of the community. Rather, it is the integrity of the community which is at stake. With every violation, the link of trust on which the Meredith community is based grows weaker and weaker.

Some argue that our rules are a bit outdated, not up with the times. If this is the case, then I offer you the course of civil disobedience. Accept the responsibility of your disobedience. It is only through organized efforts that rules will be changed. I would like to refer you to Mr. Coffey's speech

which is reprinted in the Honor Code Booklets that each student received at the beginning of this year.

We must support our Honor Code at Meredith. Without it we would be reduced to a police state wherein a list of regulations would dictate our actions, as opposed to the responsibility of maintaining our community trust and dependence on each other.

We have chosen self-government—it is our RIGHT, not our privilege!! With that right, we must accept the responsibilities placed upon each of us in order to make things "work" at Meredith. How do we instill honor? This seems to be the fundamental question!

Sincerely,  
Elaine Jolly

Chairperson of Honor Code Committee

### Diagramming valuable for learning grammar

To the editors:

I am writing in response to Cynthia Church's letter in the February 14 issue of *The Twig*. After reading her letter, I am not surprised that Miss Church made a "D" in English III. Her attitude toward the course, especially the diagramming section, disturbs me because, unfortunately, she represents the opinion of the majority of Meredith students. Miss Church believes that diagramming is a waste of time. Unfortunately, she does not realize how valuable a tool diagramming is in learning grammar. Perhaps diagramming is boring to most students, but it is valuable because it teaches the relationship between parts of speech. Diagramming teaches students to think logically by making them determine how a sentence is constructed. Thus, if a student can diagram a sentence correctly, she proves that she understands grammar.

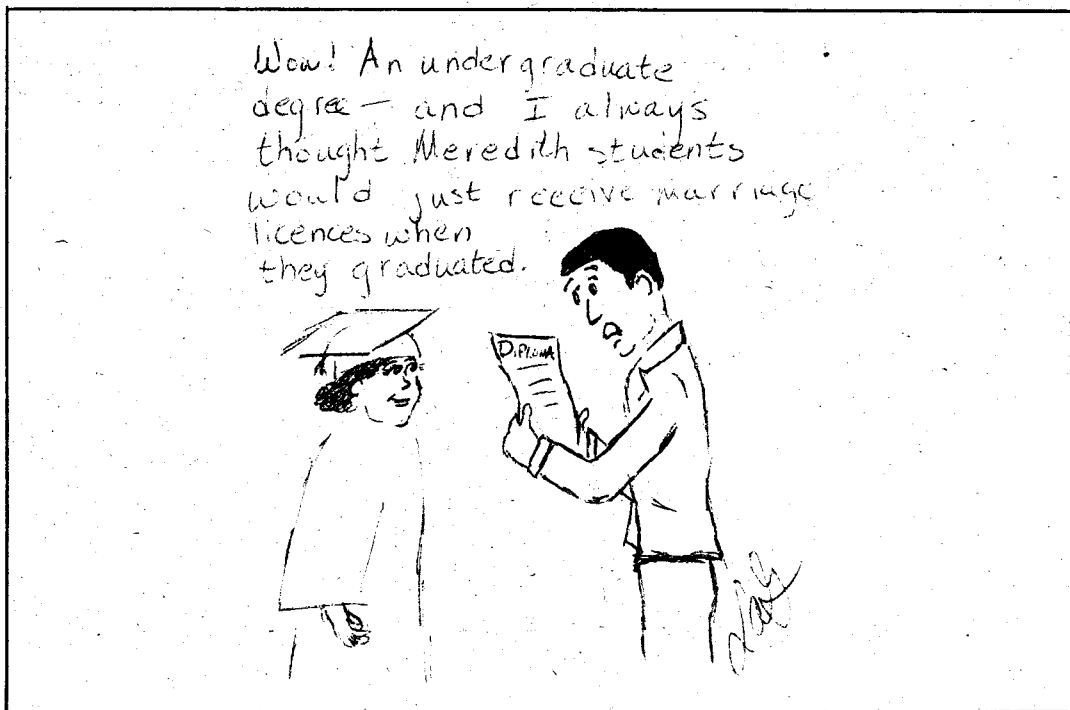
Even Miss Church stated that "we, as Americans, should use correct grammar."

Yes, diagramming is difficult for some students. Because few schools still use this technique, many students encounter diagramming for the first time in English III. Yet, it is unfair to place the blame on our English department. The English professors still teach diagramming NOT because the department "keeps with the tradition of being old fashioned," as Miss Church stated, but because diagramming is an excellent tool for learning grammar. The English professors teach diagramming because the department wishes to maintain high standards for itself and for the students. Contrary to popular belief on campus, the English department did NOT invent diagramming in order to torture students. The department believes that diagramming will HELP the students. Yes, the English department DOES have a heart! The professors are picky because they want to challenge the students to do their very best.

Miss Church was correct when she stated that no employer will ask a prospective employee to diagram a sentence, but an employer WILL expect a prospective employee to know English grammar and to use the language correctly - this is the purpose of diagramming.

I am glad that our English department still teaches diagramming, I am glad that it still maintains high standards, and I am proud that I am associated with Meredith College's English department. Sincerely,  
Melody V. West  
Senior English major

*The Twig staff encourages and welcomes letters to the editors. The staff also accepts newsworthy articles submitted by students. Feel free to express your views. Letters cannot be published unless they are signed. Stories and letters may be submitted at any time.*



## 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.

MARCH

### Campus Paperback Bestsellers

1. **Items from our Catalogue**, by Alfred Gingold. (Avon, \$4.95.) Spoof of the L. L. Bean catalogue.
2. **A Few Minutes With Andy Rooney**, by Andy Rooney. (Warner, \$2.95.) Humorous essays by the TV personality.
3. **When Bad Things Happen to Good People**, by Harold Kushner. (Avon, \$3.50.) Comforting thoughts from a rabbi.
4. **The Restaurant at the End of the Universe**, by Douglas Adams. (Pocket, \$2.95.) Successor to "Hitchhikers Guide."
5. **Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy**, by Douglas Adams. (Pocket, \$2.95.) Companion to the PBS TV series.
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8. **The Dean's December**, by Saul Bellow. (Pocket \$3.95.) The latest novel by the winner of the Nobel prize.
9. **Love**, by Leo Buscaglia. (Fawcett, \$3.50.) Inspiration from a Southern California professor.
10. **Real Men Don't Eat Quiche**, by Bruce Feirstein. (Pocket, \$3.95.) A hilarious guide to masculinity.

### New & Recommended

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- **How to find work**, by Jonathan Price. (Signet/NAL, \$3.50.) The step-by-step guide to landing the job you want whether you're just out of school or re-entering the work force.
- **Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant**, by Anne Tyler. (Berkley, \$3.50.) Three children caught in the toils of their parent's past.