

# EDITORIALS / LETTERS

## Editorial

### New impersonal room process

The computer age has definitely arrived on the Meredith campus, and it has arrived with a bang. For the first time, rooming arrangements will be done this year by computer.

Some say it is a sign of progress and change. A computerized assignment system may be just that, but is it what Meredith really wants and needs?

Many problems could result from this new room assignment process. Being such a small college community, many Meredith students know each other and have developed many friendships along the way. At the same time, some students have very definite personality conflicts that are best avoided. If some of these students got on the same hall, it could be a very unpleasant year for all the parties involved.

The former way of choosing rooms based on a priority system would limit the student displeasure that could possibly result in many room changes next year. Choosing the room you want to live in allows friends to live together and enemies to keep apart. It provides for better hall unity and spirit.

Meredith has always been a highly personal college, always ready to meet the needs of the student. Unfortunately, a computer will not be able to measure a student's needs as well as an individual. Many rising seniors feel deprived because they will not be able to spend their senior year with the friends they have made through the past three years. Hopefully, the computerized room assignment process will be carefully looked into before it is used again next year.

MLS

## What is a "Custom-Made Text"?

A "custom-made text" is an individualized anthology of reading materials prepared for classroom use. Sometimes a representative from a copy shop will approach a professor and offer to assemble a "textbook" by copying and combining excerpts from previously published texts and journals as well as complete articles. Some professors seem to like the idea of providing their students with "customized" textbooks, and the apparent cost is relatively low...generally, just the copy center's fee for reproducing the materials.

There's just one thing wrong with this: Copy centers that offer this service bypass the proper copyright clearance procedures and directly violate U.S. copyright laws.

The concept of the custom-made text is relatively new, but it has "federal case." In 1980, several book publishers with the support of the Association of American Publishers, brought legal action against the Gnomon and Tyco copying shops. The publishers charged

that the shops were creating anthologies of copyrighted materials for classroom use without seeking prior authorization from the copyright owners. Under court ordered consent decrees, these commercial copying centers are now prohibited from "anthologizing" when permission has not yet been given by the copyright owners of the works involved.

A similar case was filed in December 1982 against New York University, nine professors at that university, and a nearby copy shop. This is the first instance of a university and professors being charged with copyright violation. At this writing, the suit is still pending.

Why must copyright owners be so vigilant? Because authors and publishers are entitled to see their efforts rewarded. The licensing and publication of anthologies and similar collections is vitally important to many authors and publishers; for some, it is their principal source of income.

Copy centers that publish illegal anthologies muscle in on the market of legitimate publishers and deprive them of, in some instances, their main source of livelihood.

In conclusion, the wise student will be cautious about using photocopies of copyrighted materials in the classroom—whether they were photocopied by the student, the professor, the library, a copy center, or whomever. Some materials, incidentally, may be reprinted for classroom use under certain conditions without prior authorization from the publisher; but where this is not the case, the student should beware.

## Thank you from First Stringfield

The students on first Stringfield would like to extend our many thanks to Joe Baker and to all the ladies in Housekeeping that made our dream of getting new furniture in our parlor become a reality. We really appreciate this gesture. Because our parlor welcomes all the visitors, we feel all the girls in the dorm will benefit from the furniture. We hope every first floor parlor will have the same opportunity we were able to have.

Thank you again for this tremendous gift. We all sincerely appreciate it.

Many thanks,  
The Girls on  
First Stringfield

Cynthia L. Church

## Does the cafeteria cramp students' style?

When was the last time you went to a restaurant such as the K & W or the Piccadilly and had to sit on the floor or had to eat so close to some unknown being that every time you lifted your fork to eat, you hit that person with your elbow? If you haven't experienced this when dining out it is possible that you have repeatedly experienced this when eating in Belk Dining Hall. I have nothing against sitting on floors or meeting people but I, as well as others, would prefer to do both under different circumstances.

I, by all means, do not object to outsiders using our cafeteria to have banquets, but I do object to these people taking up the students' seating area. I think it is wonderful for people to have the divine opportunity to dine in Meredith's cafeteria, but I feel that they should do so after we, the students, have eaten. We all pay a substantial

amount of money to be able to eat in the cafeteria and I believe the students should have first priority for cafeteria privileges, and outsiders second.

I understand that it takes time to "set up" for outside groups to eat and I can see why our diligent cafeteria workers see a reason to prepare the tables before the lunch and dinner rush hour; however, I feel that these luncheons and dinners should occur after our eating hours to allow enough seating spaces for Meredith students. If the guests were asked to schedule their feasts later, I honestly believe they would not mind if they put

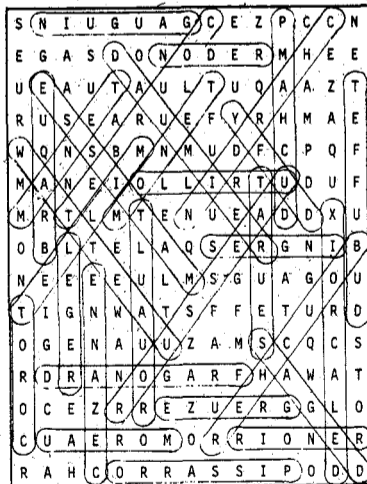
themselves in our position. The guests must feel awkward when they look around and see how much they inconvenience us students and probably feel worse when they hear the unfriendly comments that are made about the guests being here again.

I feel the students' attitude towards the visitors would be more positive if the guests' dinners didn't interrupt and conflict with our regularly scheduled meals. Not only would I appreciate this change but I know many of the people

who have had to sit on the floor and knock elbows with people would appreciate the change too.

I am interested in hearing how you feel about this situation and request that you write *THE TWIG* and express your feelings on this subject.

Cynthia L. Church



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- 2) Count every word in the article and place at the top of the page.
- 3) Leave a phone number of a person who can be contacted if there are any questions.
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*The TWIG* appreciates any articles of interest to the college community.

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