

# EDITORIALS / LETTERS

## Editorial

### Twig needs your help

You may have noticed that this issue of *The Twig* contains many articles that are not related to Meredith. Some of the articles are about other college campuses across the country.

It should not have to be this way. Articles about other college campuses are interesting, but it is not the purpose of *The Twig* to deal primarily with these articles. The purpose of *The Twig* is to accurately report the news of Meredith.

Unfortunately, in the past few years *The Twig* has had problems with getting and maintaining a sufficient staff to put out the publication. Working for *The Twig* is a volunteer job - no credit is given and for the most part workers are unpaid. Therefore no incentive is given to students to contribute to the paper.

But there are many advantages to working for *The Twig*. There is the satisfaction of seeing something you have written in print, or seeing the hard work you have done with advertising or layout come to life. Working for *The Twig* is a job full of responsibilities, which is good experience for the working world. As a matter of fact, working for a college newspaper can look very good on your resume.

Clubs and organizations can help out with *Twig* coverage. The Student Life Committee just passed a resolution suggesting that clubs and organizations elect someone to regularly report to *The Twig*, beginning next fall. But it does not have to wait until next fall. *The Twig* could be much more interesting if that could begin now.

*The Twig* staff is doing its best to bring you adequate coverage of campus events. But it can only do so much with four part-time reporters. So we are asking for the cooperation and help of all students. We feel *The Twig* is a good publication, but if we keep decreasing our coverage of events, it might not stay that way.

MLS

*THE TWIG* welcomes letters to the editor and contributions of columns to the editorial pages.

All contributions should be typed, double spaced, and are subject to editing.

Column writers should include their majors and hometowns; each letter should include the writer's name, address, and telephone number. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Bring letters and columns by *THE TWIG* office, or 305 Barefoot.



## Letters to the editor

In re: Room checks of November 8, 1983

Dear Editor:

Article 7, Section 1-D of the SGA constitution and by-laws states "When the circumstances warrant, a member of the SGA Executive Committee may institute a residence hall check." This privilege was executed on Tuesday, November 8, 1983, on Second Heilman. The Honor Code was violated; alcohol was found. Those who are guilty accept that fact and are willing to suffer the consequences. The issue we are addressing, however, is the manner in which the search was conducted.

There are no stated guidelines regarding room checks in the Student Handbook. Having no school policies to conform to, we have no choice but to consult U.S. Constitutional guidelines. We feel that our rights were grossly violated. To begin with, every member of the hall was ordered into the parlor. We were told of the plans for a room check and made to stay in the parlor until the search was completed, approximately a two hour period. Members of the SGA Executive Committee were responsible for searching the rooms; some of them, we believe, took this privilege to the extreme. Certain rooms were searched much more thoroughly than others - the techniques used were not uniform. Some students were allowed to sort through their own personal

belongings, with an Executive Committee member looking on.

In some instances, however, the officers did the actual searching. Some rooms were ransacked and left that way. Prescription drugs were emptied and questioned, as were baby oil and talcum powder containers. Pocketbooks were searched, cosmetics were checked-even drains were smelled. However, not everyone on the hall was subjected to this thoroughness. We question the inequity of the searching techniques. Were the members of the Executive Committee well informed as to what they could and could not do? We believe not.

Not only were our rights violated, but our studies interrupted. Students who had tests the next day were not allowed to get books and study during the two hour captivity. Yet they were still required to take these tests, while members of the Executive Committee who conducted the search were excused. We feel that this entire search would have been better conducted by someone other than students - too many personal aspects were involved.

When the summons were issued to those accused, the unorganization of the entire operation was revealed even more. There was misinformation as to who searched each room and as to what was found in each room. These mistakes just went further to show the

unprofessional and ridiculous manner of the search.

We realize that our hall was the guinea pig used to get alcohol off campus. We are trying to do you and other future Meredith students a favor by saving you the humiliation and anger suffered by Second Heilman. The Executive Committee has asked anyone interested on our hall to express their concerns about the search if there ever be need for one again. We just cannot help feeling persecuted and upset that such guidelines were not established prior to the unorganized search in our hall. If such rules had been, there would not be the hostility that exists now on Second Heilman and parts of the rest of the Meredith Community. We think everyone involved hates that this ordeal had to happen - we just hope that our actions will improve the way in which a search will be handled if it ever has to happen to you.

Kathy Wagoner, Clare Lynn Brock, Tricia Perry, Susanna V. Lee, Lisa Engstrom, Kathy Gerald, Jan Drach, Angela Mahaffey, E. Anne Carter, Emily C. Craig, Tracie Taylor, Nancy Lassiter, Lisa Foushee, Mary Beth Joyner, Wendy Wilder, Denise Cobb, Carla Gray, Jane Harrell, Lori A. Teachey, Susan Fetzer, and Quincy Foil

## THE TWIG

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

To the Editor:

I hope everyone watched ABC's "The Day After" on Sunday evening, Nov. 20. It was a scary, but realistic movie on the effects of a nuclear war. We, as Americans, should do everything in our power to prevent such a Holocaust from happening. It could be our generation that has to deal with this situation. Since the danger of a nuclear war is there, we should also do everything in our power to survive. Does anyone know that Meredith College offers the protection of fallout shelters?

Meredith College does have fallout shelters, but they will not do anyone any good. The supplies are rotten and rats have gotten into the food supply. Who is responsible for the upkeep of these shelters? When was the last time the shelters were inspected and updated? World War II? The purpose of the fallout shelters are defeated, because someone has failed in the upkeep of them. It is sad that we have to discuss our survival from a war, but it is even sadder that our means of survival have been abandoned.

Kelli Falk

