

# EDITORIALS / LETTERS

## EDITORIAL

### There's a place for you

Getting involved in college is something most people want to do but often don't. Students are afraid to make a commitment they can't keep. They are afraid too much time will be demanded of them if they do make a commitment, and their time is too valuable to waste on something that may not benefit them.

The organizations on the Meredith campus offer every student a chance to get involved. Whether you want a major or minor role, the opportunity awaits you.

Next year *The Twig* is going to expand. There will be a spot for every interested individual. There are unlimited positions to be filled and *The Twig* needs your participation.

For those of you interested in writing, there are writing positions to be filled. *The Twig* will need reliable reporters to cover local and campus events. If you don't like to write, you can proofread the paper and correct the errors the writers overlooked. These jobs would be ideal for English majors.

For you political science majors, *The Twig* would like for you to brief the students on the coming elections. You could cover local debates and speeches and could write strong editorials supporting your favorite candidate. Of course, you do not have to be a politics major to handle this job.

If you like sports, why not exercise your interest by covering Meredith's sports? *The Twig* will need weekly coverage of every game and will also need someone to interview *The Twig's* "Athlete of the Week." We need someone to interview our coaches and players and help support Meredith's athletic program.

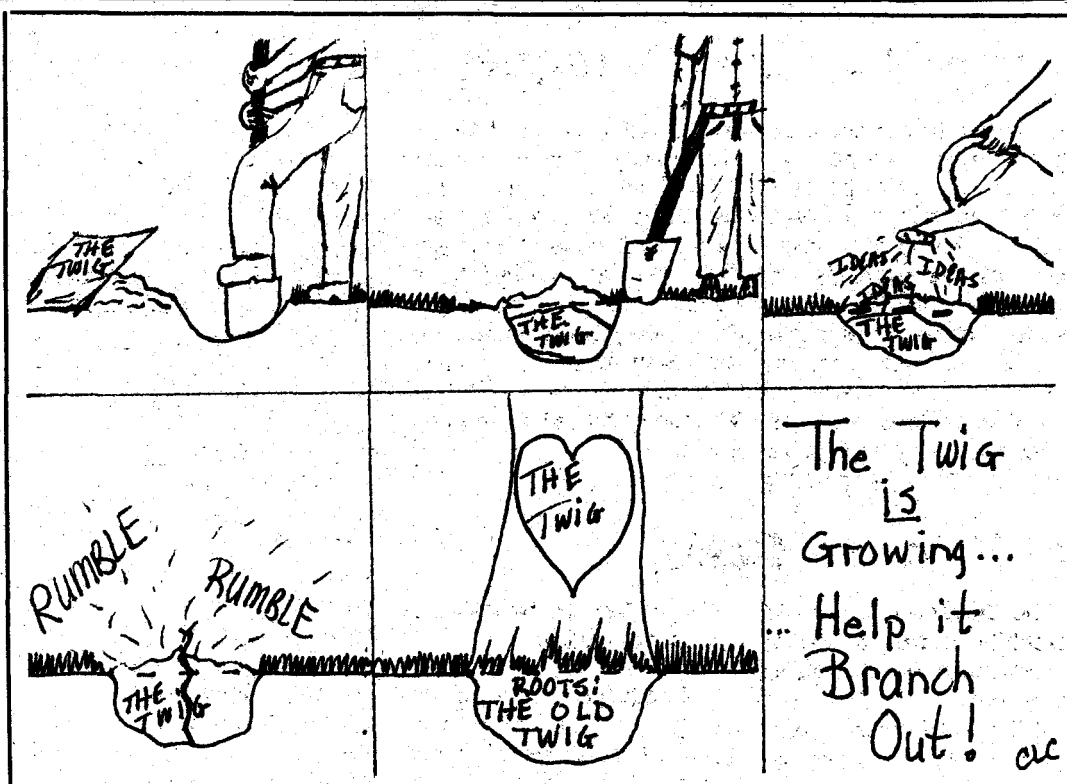
Hey, Joe Photo, we need you, too. *The Twig* needs photographers to cover every event on campus. We need you to cover the sports, features, hard news and entertainment. If you have your own camera, great! If not, *The Twig* will supply one to share among those without a camera.

If nothing interests you so far, maybe advertising will. *The Twig* needs students to help interest places around Raleigh to advertise in our paper. You could even design your own ads and have the companies, eating establishments, etc., purchase your ad to run in the next issue of *The Twig*. You could benefit from this in several ways.

Entertainment, if all else fails, may grab your attention. *The Twig* needs you to write book, movie, concert and restaurant reviews. This page will inform every reader about what to read, what to see, who to see and hear and where to eat.

*The Twig* also needs artistic students to draw cartoons for the various pages. Such cartoons would be sports, feature and editorial. We could use your help.

Once *The Twig* is complete, it is necessary for the paper to be delivered. We need students to distribute *The Twig* to various buildings on campus and need you to spread the word.



## Tuition on the rise

(CPS)—Tuition at many schools next year promise to go up much faster than the inflation rate, according to scattered recent announcements by administrators around the country.

Schools as diverse as Loyola of Maryland, Metropolitan Community Colleges of Kansas City, and the universities of Missouri and Rochester have already announced price hikes for next year that are more than double the current annual inflation rate of 4.6 percent.

New Hampshire, the State University of New York system, Syracuse, Lehigh, the Georgia State system, Miami, Kentucky, DePaul, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Bismarck Junior College, Stanford, and the California community college system, among many others, recently have unveiled plans to raise tuition for the 1984-85 academic year by more than 7.5 percent.

The hikes, moreover, follow years of double-digit increases for students.

For example, it costs 12 percent more to attend a four-year public college this year than it did last year, according to the College Board's annual college cost survey.

Four-year private college tuition went up 11 percent, while two-year campus tuition increased by nine percent, the survey found.

Though national averages for 1984-85 school year tuition hikes won't be compiled until next fall, recent announcements by individual colleges suggest the upward tuition spiral will continue.

Administrators say the increases are necessary to compensate for the federal and state budget cuts of the last four years, to make long-delayed salary increases to faculty members, to restore and build facilities put on hold during the budget crunches, and to try to recover from the sky-high interest rates of the recession.

"Colleges got killed when interest rates were 18 percent," explains Dr. Gary Quehl of the Council of Independent Colleges in Washington, D.C.

"We have not caught up with budget cuts," adds Dr. James Quann, Washington State's registrar. "We've not yet recovered."

Pondering why tuition rates should exceed the inflation rate, Meredith Ludwig of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities says "speculation is that (the increases are) to take care of things that have been put off for a long time."

One long-delayed piece of housekeeping is faculty compensation. Recent studies illustrate college teachers' buying powers are now lower than they were in 1972, thanks largely to a decade of high inflation touched off by the Arab oil embargo of 1973.

"Faculty salaries haven't kept up with inflation," Quehl observes. "We're playing a catch-up game."

"Our salaries are basically in the cellar by national standards," says Richard Rhoda of the Tennessee State University and Community College System.

To bring them up, Tennessee colleges hope to hike tuitions by as much as 10 percent for next year, while the state legislature ponders increasing state higher education funding by 12 percent, Rhoda notes.

Nationwide, state support for colleges has risen 14 percent over the last two years, according to Dr. M. M. Chambers of Illinois State's periodic surveys of state higher education funding.

But those average increases apparently have not been enough to compensate for severe cutbacks in the amount of money campuses received from the federal government since 1980.

Consequently, many schools are now asking their students to pay a higher per-

centage of what it costs to educate them.

Administrators figure it's "reasonable" for tuition to cover about 25 percent of the cost of education, with state, federal and private monies paying for the rest, explains Joseph Marks of the Southern Regional Education Board.

But recent audits in 14 southern states, for instance, found tuition covered only about 19 percent of a student's annual education costs, Marks says.

The study convinced many southern schools to raise tuition rates rapidly.

West Virginia students now pay 73 percent more in tuition than they did three years ago, although their rates were relatively low at the time, Marks says.

The University of Georgia has imposed 15 percent tuition hikes for three straight years, Marks reports, and Louisiana State has hiked tuition 38 percent over two years to bring student contributions up to near the 25 percent mark.

Yet at Washington State, students already pay 33 percent of the costs of their education.

"You can really look at this in two ways," suggests Dennis Martin of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

"You can look at it as raising tuition at two or three times the inflation rate, and you can wonder how people figure what the inflation rate is," he says, "or you can see that the percentage (tuition) increases for next year are much lower than last year's."

But no one is predicting increases will stop altogether in the future, even when faculty salaries are improved and budget cuts are mended.

"I don't think that's going to happen," says Robert Lytle, comptroller of Northern Arizona University. "The costs of educating students are continually going up."

## THE TWIG

### meredith college

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