

# EDITORIALS

## A Growing Pain

Growing up can be a painful experience. Death, divorce, breaking-up with boyfriends and going to school all cause many of us to suddenly grow-up. Many times we are challenged by these situations and must learn to deal with them as individuals. Yet, during these crisis' It is comforting to know that reassurance is just a phone call away.

Dealing with the new Meredith phone system has been a challenge to us all. When a crisis occurs we are often forced to work it out by ourselves because all the outside lines are tied up.

E.T.'s command, "Phone home" suddenly becomes one of the hardest things to do. The phone system becomes our greatest enemy. Our tears, tantrums and cursing express our sincere feelings toward this system.

What many students don't realize is that Meredith College is experiencing growing pains through the phone system also. The school is pushing to keep up with the times and the phones are a stepping stone to the future.

Last year, President John Weems expressed an interest in obtaining a versatile phone system that could be used for more than just talking on. Our system could one day enable every student to have a computer in her room. This would be made possible due to our phones having four wires opposed to AT&T's two.

For 600 phones there are 20 Direct Inward Dialing (DID) lines. Plans are, however, being made to triple this amount. Over the Labor Day weekend 13 additional calling out lines were added. The need for incoming lines is still present and Charles Taylor said plans are being made to install those.

"There was a rush in the beginning but we feel it will die down," Taylor said. "We've had an unbelievable amount of calls."

The calls coming in and out of Mere-

dith are being watched hourly. A computer print out is circulated so that the administration is aware of the busiest hours.

When the rates go down at 11:00, placing a long distance call becomes a problem. Students need to use the 'ring again' or 'cueing' (number 11) so when an outside line becomes available the phone will beep repeatedly.

Also students need to take advantage of using only the LAST FOUR numbers when dialing on campus. If you dial seven digits an inside and outside line are tied up.

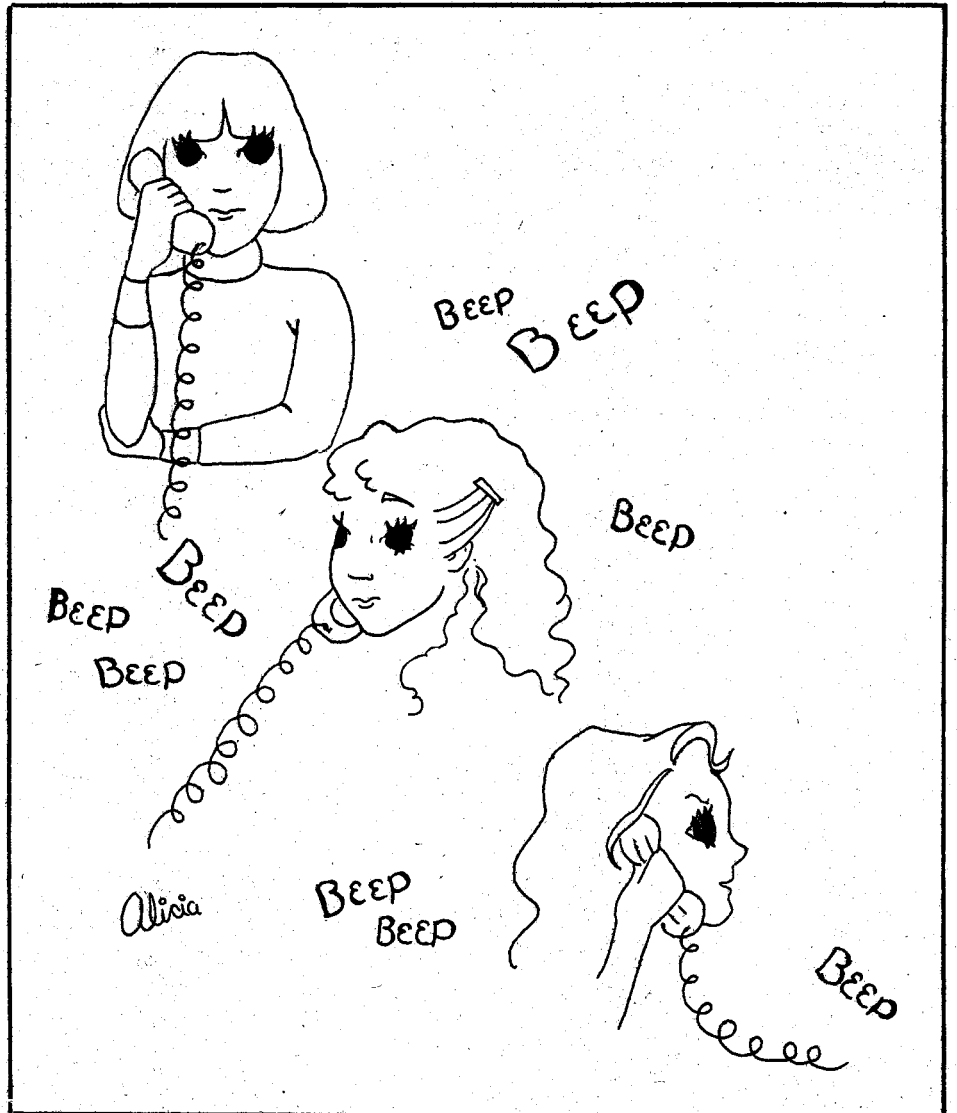
"By next Fall, long distance should not be a problem," Taylor said.

During the next hall meetings information about the phone system will be presented. Students will be informed on how to correctly use the system.

Mr. Charles Taylor, Meredith's Vice President of Business and Finances, pointed out that there were financial reasons for obtaining a college phone system. Taylor explained that the students, as a whole, are saving about \$42,000 from installation charges alone. Our phone system has eliminated that installation fee and has cut the cost of long distance services.

Locally based in Cary, N.C., Southern Tel is supplying Meredith's long distance services, Call Saver, which will "reduce (our) monthly telephone bill up to 35 percent." Betsy Steinert, a representative from Southern Tel, explained that a 2½ minute call to Danville, Va. would cost students \$1.24 with Southern Bell and only \$.85 with SouthernTel. This would be a 31 percent savings.

Up to this point everything sounds satisfactory; however, problems do exist. Just small problems though. Problems like not being able to make local calls, long distance calls and not being able to receive calls because all the circuits are busy. Yet, and from these, the new phone



system is fine.

"I'll be the first to admit that we made a mistake in the number of lines needed," Taylor said. "We misfigured."

Taylor added that the administration is aware of the problem and "nobody here is ignoring it."

While we all are suffering and struggling with the new phone system, we need to keep something in mind. It is important for all of us to be patient (something I have a problem doing) and give the phone system a chance. Things will get better once we have more lines and learn all the

tricks to operating the phones.

In the long run, this phone system is going to pay off. Now, we all have to rearrange our phoning schedules until the growing pains are gone. This is one time when we'll have to grin and bear it. Let's work together with this and try to make the best of it.

I suppose we'll have to hang-up our hopes of winning the G105 cash call for a while.

Cynthia L. Church  
113 Hellman, 7881

## Founder's Day: A big success

by Marva Watkins

Monday, August 27th was Founders' Day 1984 and excited seniors wore their graduation caps and gowns for the first time. A packed crowd of students, parents and faculty gathered in Jones Auditorium to hear Dr. Adele Scheele's address, "Getting the Most Out of College."

Dr. Scheele has a Ph.D. in management and career strategies. She is a noted speaker and author. During her address,

she compared professors and writing papers with our lives. A strange analogy maybe, but Dr. Scheele pointed out that they are very important aspects of life.

Founders' Day 1984 was an event that will not soon be forgotten. Both students and faculty were impressed with the convocation and, to the seniors, it marked the beginning of great things to come.

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