

EDITORIALS

"Get me to the church on time"

Going to church is a pleasant experience for me. As a child I was led hand in hand into the church by my parents. At home and at church I learned the importance of prayer, the value of the Bible and I found pleasure in singing hymns. Being a part of the church was one childhood activity I never outgrew.

My parents no longer take my hand in theirs and lead me to church. That is something I take into my own hands and do. Unfortunately, many college students find it difficult to get up on Sunday mornings and attend the worship service of their choice.

When the erection of the church on campus began, I automatically assumed it was being built to cater to the religious needs of the Meredith students. I assumed worship services would be held on Sundays and eventually, if there were enough students interested, Sunday School classes would be held.

I envisioned students being involved in the services - reading scripture, leading prayers, making announcements, singing, and playing instruments. I hoped that the sermons would be on a college level so that students could relate to what was being said. I thought it would be nice if a casual dress code was accepted. This way if a student woke up late, she could throw on jeans and a sweatshirt.

What a let down.

It seems that more off campus activities, such as weddings, take place there than student related activities. Of course, worship is held every Wednesday at 10:00, but what else? You would think a church would open its doors on Sunday for worship, not shut them.

Many students dislike the idea of

going to church alone. An unfamiliar place filled with strangers doesn't go over well with some, even though a common interest is shared by all who worship. If, however, services were held in our chapel, I believe students would be more inclined to go by themselves because familiar faces would be in view.

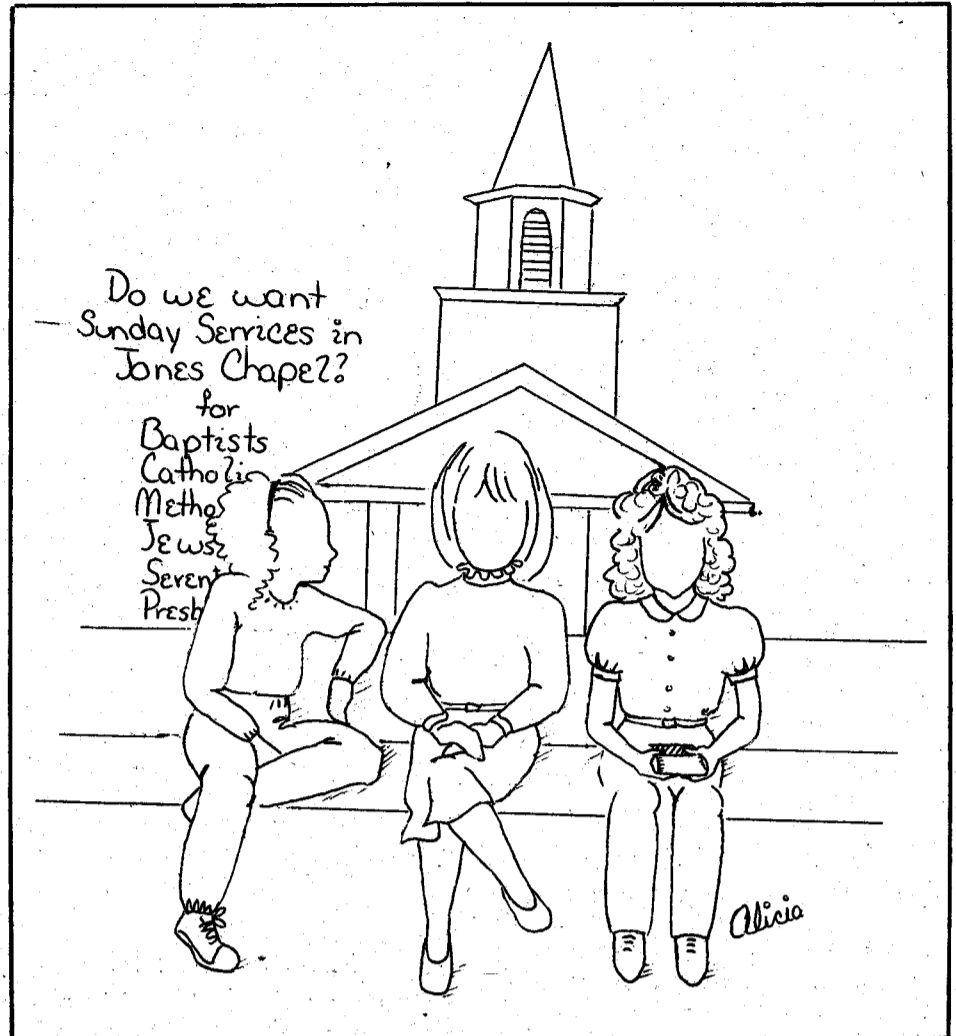
Being a Baptist school, Meredith should make total use of her religious facilities. Religion is the backbone of this school and when it should be strengthening that aspect, it tends to push girls off campus.

The fact that students attend and support local churches is a possible reason that no services are held on campus. Some students might decide to worship on campus instead of elsewhere. Shouldn't students be given that choice, or is Meredith going to dictate over that decision, too?

If neighboring churches get upset over a drop in Meredith attendance and discover them worshipping on campus, I don't think they would mind. Students attending services should be their main concern, not where.

A full-time preacher could be another reason our chapel is not open for Sunday worship. Sam Carothers can only do so much and it is not in his job description to hold Sunday worship services.

My suggestion is not to have a full-time preacher. We don't need one. What would be nice is if we had different "preachers" from different denominations and religions every week. One week we'd have a Baptist, the next an Episcopal, a Methodist, a Jewish Rabbi, a Catholic priest, etc. This way students' knowledge of religion would grow. Every service



would be a worship and learning experience.

It does disturb me that Meredith's facilities are not being used to their fullest. Why even have a church if it's not going to be used? Why bake a cake if you aren't going to eat it - just for the sake of

baking it?

I urge all students to write a letter to the editor expressing your feelings on this topic.

Cynthia L. Church
113 Heilman, 7881

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

It is common knowledge that some colleges are called "suit-case colleges". Meredith does not have this reputation, but many students do go home on the weekends. More students might stay on campus if Meredith offered more of what is sought. Some students may go home to work, see a boyfriend, or even get a decent meal. Many students, however, go home in order to go to a familiar church and be in a comfortable church fellowship.

I think that if Meredith offered a church service on Sundays, many more students might stay on campus. A service could be held at ten o'clock and would give students enough time to get dressed and eat breakfast before going to the Chapel. It would give students a good chance to get involved in more on-campus activities and possibly get involved with MCA. It seems such a shame to have a beautiful, new chapel and only use it officially on Wednesday mornings. It would also give the students a chance to hear the pastor

speaking, instead of a student. Meredith has the facilities and the staff needed to fulfill the need. It is a shame that they have never been utilized and are going to waste.

Sincerely,
Shelley Smith
Student

Dear Editors:

Three weeks ago on a hot August day, the freshmen began following an exhausting and hectic orientation schedule. All the freshmen were overwhelmed by the pace set for us during the next six days. The four two-hour long seminars were emotionally draining as were the many other required meetings we had to sit through. We were in meetings all day every day from eight o'clock in the morning until after eleven at night. It was as though we were being forced to grow up in just a short amount of time - a process that should not be enforced upon anyone.

I would like for you to consider altering the freshmen orientation program. Having such a demanding schedule thrust

upon you your first day here is almost frightening. I would like to suggest that the program be more relaxing so that one could be eased into college life... not thrown into it.

Sincerely,
Kathryn Oakley

Dear Editor:

I would like to make you aware of the problems faced during Freshman Orientation. Although this was an exciting and memorable experience, there were definitely too many activities planned in such a limited amount of time. Being a non-resident student, I was required to arrive at the scheduled time of 11:00 on Thursday morning, although there were no activities scheduled until 1:00. From 1:00 onward, I found myself constantly rushing around trying to decipher which activity I had to attend next. Although these activities were extremely useful and helped acquaint me with the campus, I had very little time to acquaint myself with my new classmates.

I would very much like to see next year's incoming freshmen enjoy Orientation Week, so I hope the administration will consider these possible suggestions.

Although it is important for students to familiarize themselves with the campus facilities, it is equally important for them to get acquainted with their roommates and suitemates; therefore, the evening hours should be set aside for this purpose.

The time for all of the orientation definitely needs to be minimized: orientation should take fewer days, it should contain fewer required meetings, and the meetings should be shorter. Another helpful factor would be placing more emphasis upon getting to know one another, putting more social activities into the schedule for next year. Please consider these possible suggestions for an improved Freshmen Orientation Week.

Sincerely,
Laura Marino

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