EDITORIALS

AN ISSUE OF SECURITY

by Beth Blankenship Co-Editor

A young college girl is asleep in her room. She awakes because she feels a cold breeze in her room. She hears the noise of rattling blinds. She sits up quickly and turns toward her window. There in the dark she sees the silhouette of a man crouching on her window sill. She tries to scream but fright has taken her ability to speak. She finally manages to yell out her roommate's name. The intruder leaps from the window and runs into the night.

This sounds like something out of a horror movie, but this event is true. That frightened young college girl was me. About two weeks ago a man broke into my window.

This editorial is not to get your sympathy or to scold those of you who do not lock your windows at night. I want to talk to you about Meredith Security and my situation.

Because my thoughts were muddled that night, it was my suitemate who acted quickly in calling Campus Security. They came immediately in response to the call and managed to find the intruder; however, he managed to escape.

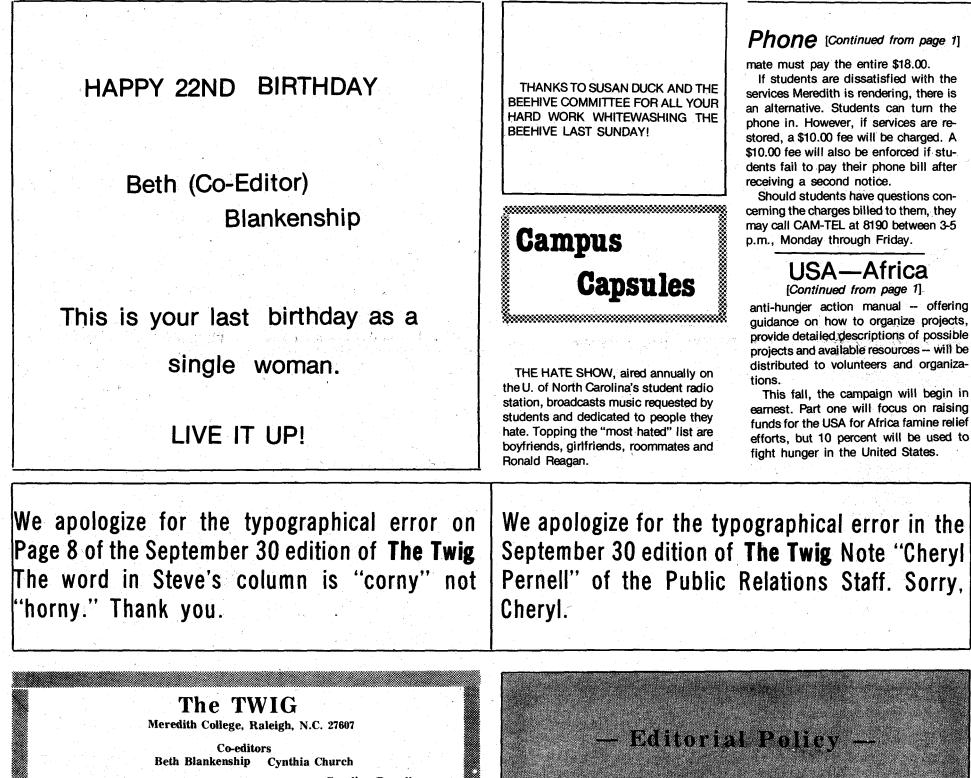
I commend Security for acting quickly. I actually did feel more secure and was able to eventually fall asleep again that night. However, I do have a few suggestions that I feel will benefit us as students at an all-girls school and make the job of security easier.

Self-defense. It's one of the categories under self-preservation. Meredith needs to have a course in self-defense either offered through the P.E. department or through a special six- or eight-week program. I believe that there would be enough interest to make this a successful idea. What better way to feel secure than to be able to protect yourself.

Secondly, I would like to be driven to my dorm from *THE PIT*. Any conceivable character could hide in the adjacent wooded area or behind a car while security patiently waits at the top of the hill. I think the one incident which now prevents this procedure was an isolated case.

Last, I've noticed security guards are getting younger; therefore, they are more physically able to protect the students. I would, however, think it in the best interest of the guards and students if they attended self-defense classes as well as take agility tests at least twice a year. The end result being failure to pass the test - failure to maintain a security position due to inadequate skills.

I have seen a great improvement in security this year and only hope the improvement continues.



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