

EDITORIAL

Do not believe everything you read: find out for yourself

What I am about to write may sound strange to many of you coming from the newly-appointed editor of the *Meredith Herald*. I want to encourage all the *Herald* readers to be skeptical of what they read. Do not rely on the printed word as gospel; especially, words written on the editorial. (I am not necessarily referring to the opinions below.) Be skeptical, ask questions, find the answers that will satisfy you. Sure, it will take time, but in the end, the reward will deem greater than the effort.

The biggest story in the news at Mer-

dith recently has been the controversy over Title IX and the admission of men into the graduate program. I encourage all of you to seek out your own sources of information to determine what your stand will be. Do not rely on the administration, alumnae, faculty, student leaders and even the *Herald* to form your opinion for you. This issue could very well determine the fate of our college. Your input is valuable.

Another concern of mine, which also relates to not believing every word you read, involves the *Herald* itself. Although the staff consultants encourage us not to editorialize about the paper, I find it necessary in this case.

In the last issue of the *Herald* Cynthia Church resigned as editor, leaving the students under the impression that the administration, faculty and students were "apathetic and showed no enthusiasm" toward the paper. Perhaps this was true. I, however, have not found that to be the case.

Since I assumed the position as editor, I have had surmounting disadvantages to overcome. (No sympathy please.) But, with the help and support of the administration, faculty and students especially, we managed to put out two issues with relatively little experience under our belts.

Notice I wrote we, not me, in the last sentence. Church pointed out in her resignation that the *Herald* is the students' newspaper. I totally agree. And, since it is the students' publication, the

students (plural) should put it out. I will never even attempt to take on that task by myself.

For the past few weeks that I have been editing the *Herald*, I have watched the new staff grow and the enthusiasm build. I asked for help and I got it, but not only from the students.

Few of you probably realize the financial straits the *Herald* is in now. I inherited this problem and plan to deal with it, although I think it quite unfair to ask my staff to bear the burden laid by our predecessor. In order to continue distributing issues of the *Herald*, we must finance the paper solely on the sale of advertisements each week.

Once again I asked for help and I received it. Mr. Behrman, professor of marketing, sales and advertising in the business department, enthusiastically replied to my plea for help, "I'll do whatever I can to help." He agreed to involved his sales and advertising classes in the ad sales campaign. The Publications Board, consisting of faculty and students, when informed of our financial distress, pledged their support to recruit ad salespeople.

I encouraged you earlier not to believe everything you read and I hope now you will ask questions, get involved and find out for yourself what you believe to be true. Sometimes it is necessary to read between the lines.

Betsy Short
Editor, *Meredith Herald*

MEREDITH HERALD

Editorial Policy

The *Meredith Herald* is published weekly by the students of Meredith College during the academic year. The paper is funded by the college and through advertising. The *Herald* will not print material containing personal attacks, insults, ridicule or libelous statements. All letters to the editor must be signed unless discussed with the editor.

The opinions expressed on the editorial page do not necessarily reflect those of the college administration, faculty or student body.

The *Herald* welcomes criticism and will respond promptly to any submitted in writing and signed by the writer.

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The *Herald* office is located on the second floor of Cate Center. Address correspondence to: The *Meredith Herald*, Box X133, Meredith College, Raleigh, N.C. 27607-5298. Phone (919) 829-8599. Advertising rates available upon request.

Submission Policy

The *Meredith Herald* welcomes articles and letters to the editors from any student, faculty member or administrator. We will print articles and letters, but we adhere to these guidelines.

1. We require all articles/letters to be in one of the *Herald* drop boxes by 8:00 p.m. on Sundays.
2. We require all articles/letters to be signed by the writer and to include his/her title, if representing an organization. This should be in the upper right hand corner of the first page.
3. We require all articles/letters to be neatly written or typed and double-spaced.
4. We require all writers to count the number of words in the article/letter and place it on the first page.
5. We reserve the right not to print material that:
 - (a) functions as advertisement;
 - (b) does not follow the Editorial Policy;
 - (c) does not meet the above requirements; and
 - (d) lists minutes to meetings held.

LETTERS

Dear Editor,

Criticism is easy to give out. Working for change is difficult. There are policies, ideas, and practices with which each student at Meredith disagrees, and the officers of your SGA have the perspective and determination to make changes where we see the need.

As an elected officer in SGA I have worked for changes that hopefully benefit Meredith and her students. Not only am I actively working for change, I take my position very seriously. There is a lot of responsibility involved in being a part of SGA, Senate, Honor Council, SLC, and the other Executive Committee branches. I came to Meredith to get an education, but my sense of responsibility for our system of student government got me involved.

The Meredith Honor Council has recently come under criticism for being unfair. I believe that the Honor Council is an integral part of Meredith and any corruption in our judicial system would show in many areas of student government. Without a student-led Honor Council, the Honor Code would not be able to exist. The Honor Pledge is taken by every Meredith student when she enters the College, and she hopefully takes her commitment seriously. Our honor system provides the Meredith community with mutual trust and creates within each individual personal honor and a sense of responsibility. Because of the individual honor of the system, a student Honor Council is even more important. As we grow into our adulthoods, the role of faculty and administration changes from total control to a position of nurturing us.

As a student and a student leader I support both the Honor Code and its place in the Honor Council. I am not so naive as to think, however, that our student government system is perfect. Because of my belief in student government and my sense of pride and respect for Meredith, I have chosen to spend my four years here not just as a student, but as a part of student government. By working together we can make Meredith, and ourselves, better.

Nan Henry
SGA Vice-President

A uniform grading scale needed: student opinion

With the exception of Meredith, most Raleigh colleges including St. Mary's, Wake Tech, NCSU, and Shaw University have a uniform grading scale. Since Meredith does not have a specified grading scale, the teachers must create their own.

Meredith's grading methods are inconsistent. The math department is on a ten-point scale, whereas, the English department, with the exception of Dr. English, is on a seven-point scale. Dr. Bird's economic class is graded on a ten-point scale, but Mrs. Simmons grades her economics class on a seven point scale. Dr. Grubbs uses the plus/minus system in his grading, while his wife, a professor in the same department, considers a 94 to be a B.

The grading system at Meredith tends to cause conflict between students and instructors. Students tend to choose professors according to the grading scale they administer. For example, most would prefer to take Dr. Thomas for Spanish and receive an A for a 90, than Dr. Leonard and receive a B for the same number grade. In many cases, several classes are taught by the same professor, and why some

system appears when you interview for a job. When a recruiter is presented with your transcript (which shows letter grades instead of number grades), he will not know what the B on your transcript means. For example, I received a 90 in economics and a 90 in management. How is the interviewer to know that my management class was on a ten-point scale and that my economics class was on a seven-point scale. All he sees on my transcript is a B in economics and an A in management.

He will not be aware that I did equal amounts of work in both classes. If by error, he might compare my transcript to another student's transcript. This student may also have earned a B in economics, but received an A in management. Students should be graded on a comparable work. Meredith should have a uniform grading scale. This system has been followed by every other college in the system. A uniform grading scale would eliminate the confusion of grades, the conflict between students and faculty, and the unfairness of the current system.