

# EDITORIAL

## Is Meredith prepared for emergencies?

With the recent bombing of Libya, I have recently begun to wonder how Meredith students could be protected in the event of a military attack. It may seem like a far-out thought, but realistically the time may come. Even if we are never attacked, Raleigh is not immune to natural disasters. Hurricanes and tornadoes destroy land, homes and lives. So far, Meredith has been lucky, but why rely on luck? Why not prepare for such calamities?

I hate fire drills at 2 a.m. as much as the next person; but, you can bet I'll be out the door when the alarm sounds. I don't take chances when it comes to gambling with my life. I wonder how many students would know what to do if a tornado were expected to touch down at Meredith — few, no doubt. I hesitate to suggest it, but perhaps a tornado drill is in order. Sure, we had them in high school, but that was a long time ago for most of us. If a tornado drill is too radical, then a simple

information sheet explaining what to do and where to go in case of such an emergency would suffice.

Meredith already has bomb shelters in the older dorms. I wonder how they are being used. Maybe it's time to start upgrading them as well. Since we already have the space provided, why not take advantage of it. Meredith is expanding academically and culturally. It only seems right that it should also take steps to provide protection for its students. Obviously

the administration thought it necessary to provide in such a way when the first buildings were constructed. I realize this construction was underway during national strife. That is what we are facing today.

I do not mean to come across as a pessimist, only a realist. I, for one, would rather be "safe than sorry."

Betsy Short  
Editor, Meredith Herald

## CAMPUS CURRENTS

### SGA forum provides insight into parking fee increase

by Betsy Short, Editor

A SGA forum was called by the SGA executive committee Friday, April 11, to assess information about the parking permit fee increase. Chairperson of the Student Life Parking Subcommittee Fran Stroud, and vice president for business and finance Charles Taylor spoke.

Donna Elliott, chair of honor council, called the meeting to order.

Stroud reviewed the proposal recommended to and approved by Taylor. The proposal recommended that only juniors and seniors be permitted cars on campus, as well as a limited number of freshmen and sophomores with need of a car. The intent of the proposal was to maintain the pastoral appearance of the college and clear the front drive.

According to Stroud, the proposal recommended that a student committee be formed to review freshmen and sophomore requests for parking permits.

The committee would determine who is eligible for a permit based on the follow-

ing priorities: freshmen and sophomores with medical problems which necessitate the use of a car to go to and from medical appointments, and sophomores with off campus jobs or internships necessitated by financial need.

Taylor said the attention the problem had been getting "raised the consciousness of the problem" from students to parents to the Board of Trustees. After some discussion on the administrative level, the Board of Trustees appointed a subcommittee to review the parking problem, Taylor said. Judge David Grigg chaired the subcommittee.

According to Taylor, once the board began investigating the problem, students were "at the mercy of their decisions."

Taylor said the subcommittee discussed the effect access to cars had on grades and academic performance.

The subcommittee concluded that the Board of Trustees should "look toward providing space for everyone to have a car," Taylor said.

The question remained of how to provide for the extra cars. The board decided

to "raise money through those who would use the product," according to Taylor.

Taylor noted the current parking permit fee of \$20 was not consistent with other college and university fees. The Board of Trustees proposed and approved the increase to \$80.

According to Taylor, the additional income from the fee increase, which is expected to generate an additional \$50,000 in revenue per year, will be used solely to increase and improve parking facilities by way of graveling and lighting the present and future parking areas.

When asked why paving the presently gravelled lots was not a priority, Taylor said "paving detracts from the appearance of the campus" while gravel lots are less noticeable and blend into the landscape.

While Taylor said he does not foresee the expansion being completed next year, he said a landscape artist has already surveyed the campus for less exposed areas that would be conducive to parking.

Although the attendance at the forum was low, approximately 30 people came,

those present had definite opinions about the fee increase.

Students asked why the fee was not raised gradually over a period of years. Taylor said a gradual increase would not provide enough revenue to make substantial changes.

Another student asked if the increase could be incorporated into tuition. Taylor said that would not be a fair business decision since not all students have cars on campus.

Taylor stressed that the parking policy will remain the same next year with the addition of the \$80 fee. Only juniors and seniors will be issued permits based on desire; a limited number of freshmen and sophomores will be issued permits based on need.

Taylor summed up the discussion by saying, "If it is worth it to you, you will pay. If it is not worth it, you will make an economical decision."

Stroud said a questionnaire concerning the parking situation would be issued to all students at the Monday night hall meetings.

### Uniform grading scale determined undesirable

by Mary Ellen McKown  
Contributing Reporter

On November 12, 1985, a recommendation proposed by the Academic Affairs subcommittee was passed by the Student Life Committee. The recommendation read: That the Student Life Committee not pursue recommending a uniform grading scale.

The rationale read as stated, "After talking with all department heads, the subcommittee feels that, as it is stated on page 71 of the Meredith College catalogue, 'Absolute uniformity would be impossible and perhaps undesirable.'"

Because of the great variety of offerings and disciplines, having all teachers, in all

classes, use the same scale would be impossible. Some courses require a much more subjective grading than is done on a letter basis only (for example, art). Others require more objective grading which can be done on a point scale (for example, math and business).

To require any more uniformity than the descriptions of what is A-F material (as stated on page 71 of the catalogue) simply cannot be done.

We also feel that such a requirement [even within a department] imposes on the academic freedom of instructors who should be able to grade in the best way for their particular course, for their particular groups of students, [and for their own standards of what A-F material is]."

### Alcoholism: sustained metaphor

by Betsy Short, Editor

Alcoholism is an electrical storm. You never know when, where, or who it is likely to strike. It creeps up slowly building force behind the black clouds of doom. At first it starts with a trickle, bathing and burning the back of the throat. Then it begins to drizzle lazily, as clear liquid dribbles slowly along the sides of the mouth and streams down the chin. Pretty soon the clouds part and drunken stupor becomes heavy sleep. Thunderous clanks and resounding booms echo throughout the brain once the downpour has ceased and the body is dry. Then

BOOM, another cork is popped and white lightning streaks again through the entrails leaving only the smoky residue behind. Instead of a dead tree limb is a damaged liver and brain. Electrical storms are unpredictable and frightening as is alcoholism. It can simply knock out your lights for awhile or permanently maim you. It can create terror and chilling pain or lull you into peaceful slumber. The aftermath of such a storm is horrific. Broken lamps, turned-over chairs, upset bottles strewn everywhere. And when you awaken, you haven't a clue as to how the mess appeared. Then reality, the storm, strikes again. And again.