

Meredith Herald

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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.

Submission Policy

The *Meredith Herald* welcome articles and letters to the editor 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 the *Herald* drop box located in 114 Heilman by noon on Fridays.
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 on a 55 space line.
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 those of the college administration, faculty or student body.

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editorial

As a victim of a would-be rapist, I beg to differ with Marsha Hardee's opinion that *Extremities* lacks realism. The film is not "outlandishly violent." It is extremely realistic as only one who has been attacked can know.

If you want to be scared to death, forget *Aliens and Jason*. Go see the author William Mastrosimone's screenplay, effectively translates the off-Broadway thriller of a women's revenge against her attacker to the big screen. Both Fawcett and James Russo as the psychotic stalker searingly recreate their roles from the original play.

The film deviates from the play as it begins in a shopping center parking lot at night. Every woman's nightmare becomes reality as the camera adopts a subjective point of view and you see through a rapist's eyes as he stalks first one woman, then another, then finally Marjorie (Fawcett). "You scream and you die — understand?" the hooded stranger whispers as he slips the leather belt tighter around her neck. A sense of claustrophobia pervades the film to the conclusion, effectively allaying some critics fears that the feeling so evident in the play would be lost on celluloid.

After escaping the initial attack, Marjorie, battered and shaken, attempts to file

charges only to be asked, "Ever been picked up for prostitution before?" She is told, "It's your word against his. He gets off." This exchange sums up "the after-effects of the crime." This story is not about what happens after a rape occurs, it's not even about rape per se.

The degradation of Marjorie does continue entirely too long after the rapist enters through the conveniently unlocked front door of her home. Marjorie deliberately deadbolted the back door. Why *didn't* she check the front door? The rapist taunts Marjorie, forcing her to invite him in, to undress and dress in black silk. Then he makes her beg for sex. He physically abuses her and threatens to crush her face into a pan of sizzling butter.

As far as Hardee's criticism of the lighting and length of the film goes, the time is "real time," the time it would actually take for such events to occur. Natural light is used to promote the feeling that these events are really happening and to encourage a feeling of dread; artificial lighting would have been too obvious in the house they filmed in. It would not have been realistic to have more lights on than Marjorie already did, and unless a film is shot on a soundstage or during a darker time of

day, natural light (sunlight) is all that is needed with the film cameras and film now in use. The camera work and lighting far exceed the characterization, which were weakly written though not weakly performed by Fawcette & Russo.

Even though the vicious rapist and the revenge-crazed Marjorie are equally sickening, their intensity acts as a magnet, holding all eyes on the screen. Roles are completely reversed as the rapist becomes target and victim becomes tormenter. Who is madder? Momentum is never lost, although Marjorie's capture of the rapist is unrealistic. After all she's been through, Marjorie still has to deal with her roommates Terry (Diana Scarwid), a Valley Girl, and token black liberal social worker Pat (Alfre Woodard). They say, "You don't have a case." Marjorie replies, "That's why I have a hammer!"

Go see *Extremities* if for no other reason than to learn various ways to fight off an attacker. Self defense courses don't cut it. I know because I'd had one of those courses before the attack on me. *Extremities* is like liver; it may not please your tastebuds, but it's good for you.

Vanessa Goodman
Editor

letters to editor

To all Meredith students:

We would like to thank you all for your responses to our Letter to the Editor concerning apathy on campus. Although most of the responses were negative we are just glad to know that you all care. We are genuinely sorry that we offended so many of you. That was not our intent at all. We are sorry we hurt your feelings, but ours were hurt too, which was the reason for the letter. We wanted a response, which is

definitely what we got, and we thank you.

We want you all to know that the letter was not meant as a personal condemnation of anyone. We all know that we have our faults and weaknesses and do not claim perfection. We just want to serve you, the students of Meredith College, in the best possible way.

Yes, Meredith there will be future events for us all to enjoy. We will continue to do our best to serve you. All we ask is that you try to support our events and help us by letting us know how you feel.

Thank you all for coming.
Elizabeth Heilman
Lori Lamm
Carmel Swanson
Sharon Almond

To Whom it may Concern:

The cancellation of the Student Activities had distressed me deeply. It is noted that a vote was taken before the entertainment on Thursday, 16 October. I have some questions concerning such a vote. How many people came in late? How many people were unable to attend because of meetings, such as myself? How many people *wanted* to attend and could not because of various other reasons?

Granted, some people are unsocial and do not attend such events, but why should the rest of us be "punished" because of the inaction of a small handful? I have attended just about all of the movies except the horror film. My roommate and I even saw *The Breakfast Club* twice! I had already planned my evening for the Winter Formal! Does that sound like someone who does not support the Student Leaders?

"We completely support these organizations and their presidents..." YES, WE DO! Has anyone considered that it might not "take" anything to boost attendance to these functions except some time and possibly a little rescheduling? This is something I feel very strongly about and I know for a fact many others do as well.

Lori Lamm
Meredith College

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WANTED: An energetic hardworking Meredith student to fill a staff position on *The Meredith Herald*. The staff needs a new editor for the Arts & Entertainment section of the paper. If you have experience or would be willing to try, please contact Vanessa Goodman, Editor.

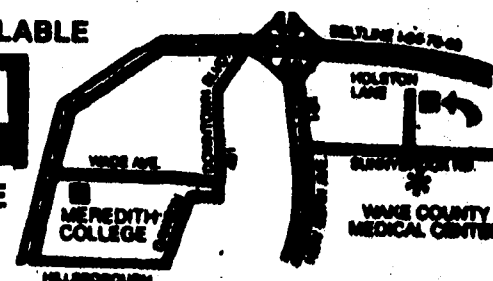
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