

1953-1967

Edited by Nicole Rivshank

After removing her daily blouse and skirt attire for her morning classes, a Meredith student quickly changes into an appropriate dress with matching gloves and hat. She is getting ready for her date tonight. The student has already asked for the special permission from the Dean of Students allowing her to attend the play in Durham. She leaves at 6pm, and makes sure her date brings her back to Meredith before the "lights out" call at 11:15pm.

The previous scenario may sound a bit strange to those who are currently involved in Meredith's campus life; however, in 1967, attending Meredith College was an incredibly different experience than it is today. From the time preceding 1953 to the days of 1967, our college contained strict laws on dancing, telephone calls, chapel attendance, daily life at Meredith, and dating off campus.

1956 RULES

(1) all students must go directly to the dance and may not leave the dance before it is over, except to return to college

(2) if attending dance, in Raleigh or elsewhere, a 48 hour advance notice to Dean of students is required.

(3) students required to wear hose from time they change fall wardrobes to spring clothes.

(4) no sunbathing on campus grounds except between dorms (no sunbathing on Sundays).

(5) a senior could have a car at Meredith if she is in good academic standing and has permission from her parents.

(6) students expected to be in their rooms from light bell (11:15pm) to rising bell (7:15am); to spend night elsewhere then student's own room required special permission from hall proctor.

PROPER ATTIRE

The handbook also explains the appropriate wardrobe for classes: a skirt with matching sweater or blouse and hose.

ROOM-CHECK SYSTEM

All students' bedrooms and bathrooms had to be clean and in order by 10:00am every morning.

DORM CARDS

Even after the late sixties Meredith students were required to keep dormitory cards. These cards had to be signed before the student left her hall, upon returning to her hall, and were turned into the "hall proctor" by six in the evening on Mondays. The 1967 handbook students had to sign their names and the visitors' names, as well as, when they were leaving.

DANCING

"Students do not give dances at Meredith, and no dancing with men is permitted on the campus," states the handbook of 1966. It seems Meredith students still had great fun dancing at State College fraternity parties, chaperoned by their house mothers, of course.

PRIVILEGES

1. After getting permission from home and checking with the Dean of Students, a Meredith girl could...

-take an overnight trip

-drive outside the thirty-five mile radius surrounding Raleigh

-stay at a frat house past approved hours.

2. A new privilege in 1967, students could stay out to 1am Friday and Saturday nights. They gave a 48 hour notice to the Dean of Students, and if the party was not outside Raleigh boundaries.

3. Freshmen, after Thanksgiving, and upperclassmen could go "single dating" (go out with just herself and her date).

IT'S OUR MOVE

excerpt from editorial, May 1966 Twig

We who are Baptists have been considerably disturbed by the furor caused by the Baptist State Convention. The dancing question is not particularly important, although no amount of legislation will induce us to believe that dancing *per se* is in any way "demoralizing."

