

The Buck Stops Here

Friday's edition of the *News and Observer* included a front-page story about the demise of East Carolina University's yearbook, *The Buccaneer*. It appears that the college's 12,000 students were too apathetic to show up for yearbook photos (only 2,000 did) and attrition left the remaining staff members with an overload that became too much for them to handle. Not only will ECU be without a yearbook this year, but its equivalent of Meredith's Publications Board decided to scrap the 1991-92 yearbook as well. How sad that a university of that size won't have a record of two years of its history for the students to look back on in years to come. Meredith should count itself lucky that the Oak Leaves editors have continued to plug along throughout the year despite their own dwindling numbers.

Yearbook editor is arguably one of the most difficult and challenging of Meredith's over 300 "leadership positions." While other campus leaders enjoy the fruits of their labor by celebrating such events as Cornhuskin', Spring Fling, Stunt and Play Day with their fellow class members, senior yearbook editors and staff members toil throughout the year and into the summer to create a book that won't even appear until after they graduate. Their efforts go largely unnoticed and the results of their labor provide a too-swift moment of pleasure. Please take a moment to personally thank Shelly Robuck and Debbie Carrara and the Oak Leaves staff for their work this year.

ECU's story could be found on any college campus. In the real world, too, it often easy to sit back and let someone else to the hard work—someone always does. The fact that many of the positions in this spring's campus-wide elections went unchallenged should give us pause: what if no one had stepped forward to run for SGA president? what if the only student who did was a poor choice? why did so few students want to compete for a major campus office? We are lucky that the candidates who did run were well-qualified.

Perhaps Meredith suffers not so much from apathy as it does "leadership burnout." With a plethora of positions to be filled, countless committees to be chaired and mountains of meetings to squeeze in between classes, there is little wonder everyone feels like throwing in the towel when the going gets tough. With that prevalent attitude, who wants to think about running the show next year? Apparently, only a few.

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Letters to the Editor

Teaching Fellows Program Filled with Inconsistencies

Dear Editor:

Although the Teaching Fellows program is a good one, it is not without its faults. For instance, one student feels bombarded by all of the courses and requirements that seem to come up. And still others feel sandblasted at the "small" costs that seems to pop up out of nowhere. For example, each Teaching Fellow had to sign a "Promissory Note and Scholarship Loan" agreement that states that Fellows' books, among other expenses, are to be paid for by the program. However, when the State of North Carolina signed a contract with Meredith College to obtain the program at Meredith, it somehow "disregarded" this stipulation. Nevertheless, in October, 1991 the Forum decided that Meredith would not be required to pay its Fellows' books, ignoring the protests of the Meredith Fellows.

Although many students are grateful to the program and Meredith College for all of the "goodies," they surely abhor the malcommunication and lack of foresight that has seemed to have taken over North Carolina and the Fellows program. The program may be Governor Martin's "baby," but the North Carolina Teaching Fellows certainly are not anyone's "babies." Each Fellow worked hard throughout high school to earn this scholarship, and they have entered into an equal agreement with the state. Time and again the Fellows have met the requirements of their ends of the deal, but time and again the state has failed to meet its end of the deal. The Fellows owe nothing to anyone, except, perhaps, four years of teaching in the state school system or pay back \$20,000. Respect for human dignity should not have to be taken; but, if it must be taken, seize it with both fists clenched!

Karen Nipper

Off-Campus Dances

Dear Students,

Each year after the spring dances, there is discussion in the Student Life Committee and in Class Council regarding the behavior of the students at these dances and in the hotels after the dances. It is very evident from these discussions that a few students because of their behavior, can cause damage to Meredith's reputation in the Raleigh community.

In the fall of 1990, Meredith Entertainment Association decided to hold future winter semi-formals in facilities other than hotels in an effort to prevent further damage to Meredith's reputation. Following the precedent set

by MEA, the Class Council began to discuss this problem. After much discussion over several meetings with representatives from each class, Class Council suggests that every effort be made in the future to hold class sponsored dances in public, non-hotel facilities, such as the Kerr Scott Building or the Civic Center. In the event that such facility is not available, a hotel location may be considered with restrictions on student behavior. This proposal was sent to Student Activities and approved.

Because Class Council is made up of representatives from each class, this decision was made with input from each class. This decision was completely a student decision and was made prior to the formal and semi-formal dances this year.

Any questions regarding this decision may be directed to Class Council.

Sincerely,
Members of Class Council
Christy Sizemore, Chair

Thanks, Mom

by Christy Sizemore

The following is a letter from a Meredith senior who is suffering from graduation stress. She could be any student anywhere at any graduation. Don't forget to remember your mother on graduation/Mother's Day, May 12, 1991

Dear Mom,

I can hardly believe graduation is so near. It seems only yesterday you and Dad packed up that ugly truck and brought me to Raleigh. I remember how difficult it was not to let you know how scared I was and how I was going to miss you. It seemed as if I would never be able to go home again, but I did.

Remember those cookies you sent me? They were only crumbs and chocolate chips by the time I got them. How about the time you and Dad came to get me at 3:00a.m. because I was homesick? Now you are wondering when I will come home again.

I remember how you have helped me over the last four years with your encouragement and understanding. You helped me through four Cornhuskin's, seven semesters of exams and countless other "small emergencies."

Graduation is less than 20 days away (not that I'm counting) and I know you are as excited, if not more so, than I. Graduation is on Mother's Day this year and I wanted to thank you for your support and your constant faith in me. Graduation day is not only my day, but your day as well.

Thanks Mom! Happy Mother's Day!
Love, your 1991 Meredith Angel

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