

# Editorial

## Cornhuskin': A Tradition Meredith Can Afford to Lose

by Jessica Cook, Copy Editor

I didn't participate in Cornhuskin' this year, and I'm glad. In fact, my lack of enthusiasm for and strong aversion to Cornhuskin' activities probably saved me from a rap on the head with a beer can or verbal abuse from overzealous Cornhuskers. Let me explain.

What happened to the spirit of friendly competition? Cornhuskin' this year was characterized by personal attacks and open hostility between the classes. Almost every hallway was decorated with posters denouncing a specific class' theme. Students prevented other students' hall raids; insults were shouted in the cafeteria. The school was divided along class lines that provoked anger, bad feelings among students, and a general atmosphere of fierce, unfriendly rivalries.

The "fun" did not stop at school; based on student accounts, chaos reigned November 7 at the Kappa Sigma Fraternity house. Seniors and sophomores yelled insults at juniors and freshmen; juniors and freshmen returned the lively banter with a charming chant of their own. I'm not speaking about class songs and peppy cheers. I'm talking about offensive and degrading epithets screamed by many of the Meredith women at the party. Meredith students also harassed, pushed, and hurled beer cans at other Meredith students.

Not all Meredith students conducted themselves in this manner; many behaved responsibly and treated their fellow classmates with respect. Before we have another Cornhuskin', however, I implore the Meredith Community to reconsider their attitudes toward this competition. Friendly rivalry and competition between classes is fun and benefits the school and the student body. Open hostility and venomous attacks by students toward students tears the school apart and degrades the spirit of Cornhuskin'. If Cornhuskin' continues to breed this animosity between classes, it is a tradition we can afford to lose.

Mitchell Brown contributed to this article.

## Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

Magic Johnson's shocking announcement to the world on Thursday, Nov. 7, that he has tested HIV Positive should prove once and for all that AIDS is not a "gay disease" or a "drug-users disease" but that it is EVERYBODY'S disease.

"I'm far from being a homosexual," said Magic Johnson the day after his announcement in an appearance on The Arsenio Hall Show. "That's the whole thing is people think it can only happen to gay people and that's so wrong. Even I was naive to think, well, it couldn't happen to me. . .but that's wrong."

Estimates are that perhaps as many as 1 million Americans are HIV Positive and don't know it. Statistics are now showing that college campuses are seeing an increase in the numbers of students testing HIV Positive. This is an alarming fact, and one of the dangers is that a person can go for month, even years, without knowing that they are HIV Positive unless they are tested.

The Meredith Health Center has information on AIDS and the HIV Virus. Also, the Residence Directors will be attending a conference on AIDS next week. If you have questions or concerns about AIDS, utilize these resources or call the National AIDS Hotline at 1-800-342-AIDS. Know the facts on AIDS. It could mean the difference in your life or the life of someone close to you.

Submitted by Becky Bradshaw, Residence Director, Faircloth Residence Hall

### Sexual Harassment Seminar to be Held

by Paige Gunter

A Sexual Harassment Seminar will be sponsored by Meredith's Chapter of The Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) Wednesday, November 20 at 5:30 in 214 Harris. Mitzi Vanlaywhen of Reichold Chemicals will be the speaker.

This topic is extremely important for everyone to learn more about. Therefore, the meeting is open to the entire campus. Call Paige Gunter at 829-8635 if you have any questions.

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### Letters to the Editor Policy

Everyone in the Meredith Community is invited to write a letter to the editor. All published letters must be typewritten with contact name and address and telephone number. All letters must be signed by the author, but names will be withheld from publication upon request. Submissions may be dropped in the *Herald* box next to the Cate Center box office. Deadline for submission is Tuesday at noon.