

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

Last fall I read from page one of the Senate manual the "Purpose of Meredith College":

"Meredith College is a women's college of high quality in the liberal arts — a college in which the Christian perspective is the integrative principle of all that comprises the educational program. The purpose of Meredith College is to provide experiences through which her students will develop the Christian attitude toward the whole of life. In an atmosphere of freedom and commitment. . ."

Yes, I was shocked, too. Yes, I had to reread it, also. Christian perspective? Christian attitude? Where!

From this statement of promise you would think that Meredith College was a Christian beacon of salt and light to the whole Raleigh community. However, her students know differently, do we not? How often do we forget that we even attend a Christian school — oh, of course, until we speed by the Seby Jones Chapel on our ways out of Meredith on a reaper spiritual growth, challenge, and fellowship.

Do not misunderstand me. I think that the founders of Meredith College and many of its students were and have been sincere in their plight to integrate Christian principles into every area of their lives, but let's face it: Meredith College is today failing to keep its promises — and at the expense of every member of the Meredith community.

So, what is the Christian attitude, and what is Meredith College's part in its development? Philippians 2:5 in the NIV says, "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. . ." Yes, although Christ is unique and radically different, Christians are to have a self-sacrificing humility and love for others. Not everyone at Meredith is a Christian, but Meredith is still responsible for the development of Christian attitudes. Why doesn't Meredith offer classes in the basics of Christian living, in the Christ-directed life, in evangelistic training, in cross-cultural ministry, etc.? Historiography is okay, but to equip Christians to live an abundant life on earth, to teach them how to fight the spiritual battles that are constantly raging against them, and to train them how to witness and to disciple by faith in the power of Christ is what is eternally valuable.

Also valuable is an atmosphere of freedom, which means that the students are free to question, to study, to research, to follow, and to fail with the goal of further knowing God and growing closer to Him. That they are free to admit the

fact that the Bible is inerrant and that evolution, humanism, and the "New Age" are nothing more than a new name for an old idol (Baal). An atmosphere of commitment means an administration, a faculty, a staff that is committed to following the Lord and that is committed to raising up willing and committed laborers to fulfill God's "great commission" of Matthew 28:18-20.

I love Meredith College, but I am tired of its active rebellion, its passive indifference, its carnality, and its nominality. This is not a nonconsequential life. We are not in college to get rich. We are here to maximize our potential for serving and glorifying God — and that goes for Christians at any college. I do not want the devil to devour anyone — "saint or ain't."

Dr. Weems, I challenge you; Dean Burris, I challenge you; Dr. Sandra Thomas, I challenge you; Dean Sizemore, I challenge you; fellow students, I challenge you to become the men and women that God made you to be. God bless you.

Until they all know,
Karen Nipper
Junior

To the editor:

The first day of the semester is always one of high hopes and new expectations that is, until I am given my book list. Upon the realization that once again the bookstore will carry few, if any, used books, I dread the short walk to the Cate Center to purchase the ever-important aids to my education.

I loathe buying books, not because I dislike reading but because I fear the monopoly the Meredith College bookstore holds over me and its other students. I have put myself through college for the past three years and living on a limited budget has made me a careful consumer. Experience has shown me that given the opportunity, used books in decent shape are just as good an investment as new ones.

At Meredith there is very little opportunity to buy used books. Students at NC State University, for example, have great opportunity to buy their books from three separate distributors. They have the opportunity to compare prices and conditions of the books they need for classes. The Meredith bookstore does not even allow its students to flip through books before buying them.

I assume most of the used books at Meredith are sold among the students themselves and I admire their smart sense of economics. However, the Meredith bookstore needs to provide some incentive to get the students to sell their books back to the supply store in an effort to
continued on page eight

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Meredith Herald
Meredith College
3800 Hillsborough Street
Box x133
Raleigh, N.C. 27607-5298
(919) 829-2824

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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 upon request.