

Editorial

by Jessica Cook, Copy Editor

Last Monday night, the SGA election speeches were overwhelmingly pointless. What's the use of having speeches when all the offices, with the exception of one, have only one student candidate for election? SGA should not have wasted its time coordinating the event. The low participation of Meredith students in the SGA elections shows they are obviously not interested in student government. In fact, what is the use of having an active student government when the students are so apathetic about its existence?

This is not meant to be a criticism of SGA; the various organizations do an incredible amount of work every week that goes largely unappreciated by the student body. It is miraculous that SGA manages to accomplish anything with the current uninvolvedness of students. With open forums, a genuine commitment to change, and a willingness to persevere until the job gets done, SGA is an organization dedicated to serving students; however, when the students do not respond, students make a mockery of SGA.

Students, including myself, complain incessantly about Meredith's rules. Every year, we fight to live off campus to escape these rules we deplore. Instead of complaining, though, we should get together with SGA and work for the changes many students desire. A powerful student government that is supported by the student body through participation and support can make many changes on campus. Congratulations to those who ran for an office this year; a real challenge awaits you.

Letter to the Editor

To the editor:

This letter is in response to the SGA Executive Committee's proposal on the ban of alcoholic containers on campus. We are in no way debating the seriousness of alcoholic consumption on campus. However, this proposal will not solve the problem of students drinking in their rooms - it will merely disguise the larger issue. As graduating seniors, this is an issue each of us feels strongly about, even though it will not affect us if passed.

As stated in the March 20 issue of Meredith Herald, one of the rationales for support of the proposal by SGA Executive Committee was that allowing students to have alcoholic containers on campus relayed a mixed message to the students. The proposal does not solve the mixed message problem because it too is only one of the ways students are sent mixed mes-

sages. What else besides the display of alcoholic beverages containers "sends mixed messages to students, promotes alcohol consumption as an activity to be displayed, and supports the underage use of alcohol?"

1. The sale of Meredith College shot glasses from the Student Supply Store AND the sale of shot glasses as memorabilia at Meredith dances. Are shot glasses considered student supplies or proper memorabilia?

2. On Cornhuskin' night the last thing students are told before departing to celebrate (whether it is by a student, a speaker, or a faculty member) is to have fun at post Cornhuskin' celebrations but to be careful - drink off campus but do not drink and drive. This is why students in the past have organized transportation to and from parties held at the fraternities. But how does this discourage drinking?

3. Students holding positions in Meredith student organizations are elected representatives of the college. If the rationale behind the proposal is that "the college strongly discourages the use of alcoholic beverages by Meredith students," then why do many of these students fail to comply with this standard?

We are also concerned about the diversity of the student body narrowing because of rules and regulations that have nothing to do with a young woman receiving a college education. There are only a few single sex schools remaining, and how will Meredith be able to attract future students with trivial rules such as this one? How can we fight for the privilege of having male visitation if we are not allowed to have an empty, washed out, alcoholic beverage container in our room? (Yet another mixed message).

Alcoholic containers may be personal souvenirs from a special event, may be incorporated into a still life in the art building, or may be brought by area residents to Meredith to be recycled. This is about to be banned if the proposal is passed. If it is assumed that this proposal is a step toward solving the on-campus drinking problem, we disagree. And how can a rule based on suspicion support an honor code supposedly based on trust? The rule will not make it any more difficult for a student who chooses to break the rule of drinking on campus. Banning alcoholic containers will not solve the drinking problem.

—Submitted by Tanya Brunner and Amy Dobbs

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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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