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cided to let Barbie speak her mind. When Barbie talks, little girls are going to listen, so she needs to watch what she says. I'm sure it was not the intent of Mattel to scare girls away from math, but the wording of a sentence can be very significant in shaping perceptions and attitudes. The designers of the doll should have thought more about the power of Teen Talk Barbie's words before they put her on the market.

Barbie will always appeal to little girls. Teen Talk Barbie was supposedly designed to express the opinions and interests of Little Girl America. In fact, an article I read said that

Mattel interviewed thousands of children to decide what Teen Talk Barbie would say, and apparently no other subject besides math was deemed to be "tough." But I don't think this is justification for singling out math as a particularly difficult subject.

Perhaps the children's other courses of study just aren't as demanding as math, but I'm sure they will be. If you had asked me fifteen years ago if math was my toughest subject, I would have said "Yes!" But since then I have found that other subjects can be just as demanding as math. It would be interesting to hear what College Talk Barbie would say.

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the first line is the lab assistant. There is a schedule of when assistants are working. It's posted on a bulletin board outside each lab. Tell the lab assistant the problem. She will either fix the problem or pass the problem on to me. If there is no lab assistant, notify me. My campus phone number is 2803; I have voice mail—leave me a message OR my office is Harris 217A; there is a bin on my door with pen and paper—leave me note. I will get the problem fixed. BUT don't ask me to load paper. There is a box of paper in each lab. If there is no paper, let me know, I'll get more.

Take responsibility for your computing. It doesn't work is not the answer. If you don't know enough about the printers to put in paper, fix the ribbon or other simple tasks, come to a short (under one hour) session on Thursday, Oct. 15 at 7:00 p.m. in Harris 102. A lab assistant will teach you how to solve these problems so you will not need to rely on someone else. See you there!

Ruth Ann Balla, Director Academic Computing

Researcher seeks information

Some of us have been in situations when we have been vulnerable and when we have been raped. Some of us have been in these same situations, but have managed to avoid being raped. By sharing your experience, you could contribute to research on avoiding sexual victimization. Confidentiality is assured. Please send your first name and your phone number to [redacted] c/o Rhonda Zingraff, Dept. of Sociology and Social Work, Room 216 Joyner.

Student responds to editorial

Thank you Amity Brown! Your Campus Editorial in the Sept. 30 issue of the *Herald* was

of great interest to me. I also belong to that group of unfortunate students who rely on the computer lab. I too have had many bad experiences that have turned into literal nightmares concerning the computer lab.

My knowledge of computers is minimal, but I count on the lab assistants' having at least a little more knowledge than I do. So far I have only seen that the lab assistants have a greater know-how about putting paper in the printer. That is, when you can find the assistant. I could probably count on one hand the times I have seen one "on duty." But their lack of knowledge or presence is not their fault I'm sure.

I would like to know who is in charge of overseeing the lab and why the assistants aren't trained a little better? I say trained because a few weeks ago I typed a 3-page paper only to have the computer eat it. I had no success in recalling it, so the lab assistant tried to help. The only thing she succeeded in doing was deleting the entire program so that I had to start all over again. Any chance of finding the paper had just disappeared.

My complaint is not only with the lab assistants. It is also directed at the lab (or what there is of it). Since the very first day of school there has been something wrong with at least half of all the computers and/or printers. This can be quite frustrating when ten people need to type a paper but only four computers are available. Why aren't the machines maintained? Whose job is it to see that it is done? It is senseless to say that there is another computer lab upstairs. I have been informed by a "lab assistant" this lab is not for Word Perfect. Who is it for?

Last year there were two computer labs available for Word Perfect. Why was one closed? Didn't Meredith realize that with a growing population of students the demand for computers would be greater?

I'm not sure this is important, but I am typing this on Saturday, Oct. 3, which just happens to be a day when many parents are here on campus. It seems very strange to me that not one of the computers have a sign indicating out of service, etc.

Again I applaud Amity Brown for bringing to the surface this issue. Only time will tell if her words or mine are heard.

Wendy J. Chasteen

WINGS meeting..

Monday, Oct. 19

10 a.m. in 214 Harris