

The story begins with a turbaned figure guiding his camel through the sand in time to a faintly Eastern melody. All is magic for a moment ... and then the figure nears: a stock cartoon Arab with a bulbous nose and gargantuan headdress whose comic critique of the setting, Agraba — "It's barbaric, but hey! It's home" — begins a series of offensive gags based on old American stereotypes of the East, including some desperate peddling of such dubious treasures as Dead Sea Tupperware.

The figure's undeveloped ethnicity is, unfortunately, characteristic of *Aladdin*, needlessly spoiling an otherwise wonderful feature. The original tale is Arab, translated into English from an Arabic manuscript first published in France in 1888, and its principal characters are Chinese and Moor — yet little of the rich culture of either people comes through in the Disney version. The Sultan's palace looks

like the Taj Mahal, the characters swear by Allah, the jinn refers to Scheherazade, and the princess wears harem pants; but beyond these if little to mark the story or the characters as anything by American. The characters sing Broadway-style show tunes by the award-winning song team of *The Little Mermaid* and *Beauty and the Beast*: Alan Menken, Howard Ashman and Tim Rice. Robin Williams' spirited genie dons a Hawaiian shirt and baseball cap for

travel; while speaking he transforms into a wide range of American personalities including Ed Sullivan, Jack Nicholson and Arsenio Hall. The hero's face and form are

modelled on Anglo-American Scott Weinger of television's "Full House," who also provides Aladdin's voice. The princess' name is Jasmine with an Ameri-

Laura Savage
English major

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— Letters to the Editor —

This letter is in response to the editorial written by Tracy Humphrey in the last edition of the *Meredith Herald*, regarding the "PITPARKING" for seniors only!

I am currently a senior and reside in the Barefoot dormitory and yes, I do have a car on campus. I want to commend you on an extremely long and repetitious editorial about your concern for the welfare of the juniors. The first word that caught my eye was "pilgrimage." Allow me to give you the Webster's definition for this word: "A journey of a pilgrim; one to a shrine or sacred place." I do not believe the green lot falls into this category. I also do not believe it takes any person on this campus ten minutes to walk to the green lot, let alone any building on this entire campus.

I am concerned about every person's safety on this campus and would like you to be aware that the green lot is lit up like a large metropolitan city and the "pit," like a dungeon. The walkway from the "pit" does not have one light or security phone, while the green lot has several security phones and numerous lights. If you are so concerned for the safety of the juniors, I suggest you contact a security guard to walk you from your car to the "ever-so-far" Poteat dormitory.

I will agree with you that we do not have enough seniors who utilize the spaces. I will not speak for all seniors, but I think we could bend and give you a few of the leftover spaces in the "pit," which is normally half-full on a Monday morning. Then your "pilgrimage" may only be nine minutes instead of 10.

I hope you will reconsider and look at what you were inferring in your editorial, and I would like to correct you in your statement about how "seniors hadn't caught on yet." The seniors had caught on, because it doesn't take us long! I want you to be aware that if ever your wish

comes true and you get your "pit" back, good luck next year when your class is much larger than ours and the pit is so full that you are forced to park in the "horrible spaces in the green lot."

Kimberly Anne Burke

Student questions honor code

I would like to make note of the way Meredith punishes its students for honor code violations. By fining students it does not teach them any sense of responsibility or wrong doing. A student gets in trouble and all she has to do is pay up — that is just not right.

In literal terms, she is buying herself out of trouble. There are several other methods of punishment that could be given in order for the student to realize her wrong doing. One type of punishment is community service on campus. The way Meredith is taking care of honor code violations needs some serious looking at and revising.

Kendra Dillingham

Student complains about cafeteria

I have been a student at Meredith College for a year and a half, and I love it here. I have a great suite, great friends, great teachers, great classes, and a great studying atmosphere. I don't really have anything to complain about, except the cafeteria's food. Like most of the young women here at Meredith, I am fortunate enough to be receiving an education with the help of my father's pocket, considering that I couldn't pay approximately \$10,000 to go here on my own. Since my family is paying enormous amounts of money to put me through college, I would expect the utensils I use in the cafeteria to be clean and the food I eat to be absent of foreign objects. I asked 20 different people, and all 20 said that they had encountered things other than food on their plates during their break-

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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.