

In yet another instance of ineptitude and waffling, the Supreme Court last week ruled that federal judges cannot stop protestors who try to block women's clinics to prevent abortions. The Court, however, maintains this ruling does not interfere with a woman's constitutional right to have an abortion, a right the Supreme Court reaffirmed last June in *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey*.

Without a doubt, the right to peacefully protest and to assemble are basic constitutional guarantees accorded to all Americans. Unlike citizens of many other countries, Americans also enjoy free speech and the power to petition the government for a redress of grievances, as stated in the First Amendment. These constitutional liberties are invaluable; they prevent the abuse of power by government and allow the free expression of opinion necessary for the maintenance of democratic insti-

tutions.

No group, however, has the right to stage a protest that prevents another group of people from exercising their constitutional rights. Picketing abortion clinics is acceptable under the law; physically barring their entrances is not. Imagine the swiftness with which law enforcement would disband protestors blocking voting booths or the entrances to hospitals that performed controversial surgeries. It appears that the Supreme

Court has reluctantly given women the right to an abortion, provided that they are prepared to be psychologically assaulted by abortion protestors and

are ready to break through actual physical barriers to abortion clinics if necessary. Insidiously, the Supreme Court has denied federal judges the power to protect women's constitutional right to abortion; with this incredible injustice, women should feel far from assured of their reproductive freedom in the United States.



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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.

**Letters to the Editor**

*Editors note: The Meredith Herald's letters to the editor policy states, "All letters must be signed by the author, but names will be withheld upon request." We cannot publish anonymous letters, but we will respect the confidentiality of an author. If you have submitted an anonymous letter and you still wish it to be published, please resubmit the letter with a request for your name to be withheld. Thank you. Amity Brown, editor*

**Student complains about suds in fountain**

I am writing this letter in concern to the fountains' being constantly foamed. When it happened the first time last year, it was funny. When it happened this year, it was slightly funny but already OLD. This Saturday (1/16/93), I went outside for a walk, and the front fountain was so consumed with foam that it had spread as far away as the new building that is being built. This is about the fifth time this year that I have seen this happen. I'm sorry, but it was old and pathetic the second time it was done. Yet these girls, whom I don't know, have to be pretty dim-witted if they think that what they do is funny. It is just down right stupid now. These near-sighted, elementary-school-minded little ninnies obviously don't realize that their BORE-

DOM or DRUNKENESS is no excuse for them to destroy our environment! Which it is constantly doing — not only is their prank polluting the water and the soil, but ten to one, it is also harming the animals that live here on campus. The soap is probably even getting into OUR drinking water! I am writing this letter because I love all living things and creatures. It makes me SICK to my stomach when I see pollution of our earth on Meredith's campus. Especially when I realize that these pathetic excuses for human beings that did this are going to keep on doing it just because of the juvenile thrill they get from doing something bad without getting caught. That is all I have to say, but for the sake of the animals I hope what I had to say will bring positive results as to the end of the fountains being foamed. Thank you.

Mary Moore

**Student defends private schools**

I would like to say that I came away for Hollis Hayworth's article about Chelsea Clinton attending private school offended and angry. I attended a very good private school in Virginia and not for one moment do I regret it. I feel I benefitted greatly from the personal attention and relatively calm

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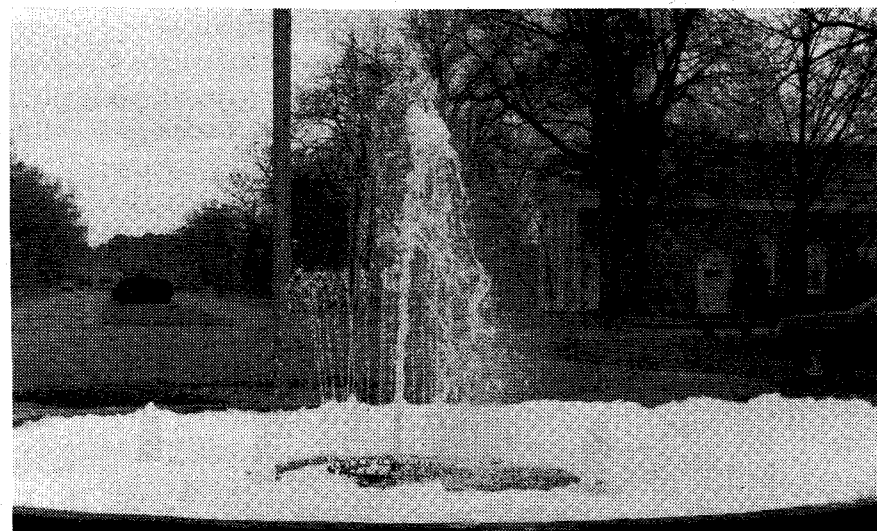


photo by Mary Moore  
On January 16, the fountain in front of Johnson Hall was filled with soap.