

Letters to the Editor

In my mind, two of the finest traditions that have endured at Meredith College throughout its impressive history are commitment and leadership. They are actually two of the defining characteristics of our community of students, faculty and staff.

You're probably saying to yourselves about now, "What does that have to do with everyday reluctant heroes?" My answer to that is: everything. Without commitment and leadership on the part of the members of our community, the community would surely cease to exist as we know it. And those everyday reluctant heroes ensure that these strong traditions carry forth.

Why have I called them everyday reluctant heroes? In my mind, a hero doesn't have to be a super-human individual like those depicted on Saturday morning cartoons. Heroes are people who stand up for their convictions; people who help or positively influence others; people who are not concerned with recognition or glory.

Heroes are those people who are willing to take what can sometimes seem like an unpopular stand, such as accepting the responsibility to report an honor code violation when others around them turn their backs. They are willing to uphold the high standard of the community because they have the strength of their convictions.

Heroes are usually pretty ordinary people. People you meet in everyday life. And if you approached these people and called them heroes, they would undoubtedly be very reluctant to accept

the title. Everyday reluctant heroes. I'm sure each of you know many. Probably many of you are heroes.

But I think I'm safe in saying that none of us here has ever encountered a talking, burning bush. And, like Moses, we have probably all from time to time questioned our abilities to handle certain situations we find ourselves in. But when we stop and take the time to listen to our hearts and

hear that spirit within us leading us, we become more willing to take action against an injustice, to help someone who is

reaching out to us, or to take on a position of responsibility in our community.

I don't know about you, but I find the most rewarding experiences I have in life are the ones in which I am a participant, rather than just an observer. For example, I love the theatre and I enjoy going to plays, but I get much more enjoyment out of participating in a play — going to rehearsals, studying the characters and understanding what the playwright was trying to say.

In addition to participating, each and every one of us must assume responsibilities within our community. Those responsibilities range from small, seemingly insignificant roles, to large important jobs. There is something for everyone. We just have to be willing to heed the call and accept the responsibility.

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Becky Bradshaw
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Director

A student responds

Is cultural diversity addressed at Meredith?

The answer is a resounding NO! On a campus where statements such as "Buckwheat's Holiday" are accepted as common terminology for MLK's Holiday. In an environment where notations of "Malcolm X Rot in Hell" and "The KKK Lives" are clearly carved onto a biology class desk for all to see and benefit from. Somewhere where fellow students would rather scrape the walls than risk an "accidental" brush against an African-American person as we pass in the hall. No, someone hasn't done their job! I dare to say, however, that Meredith College isn't the only culprit. Each individual student plays a role in the "difference ignorance" that runs rampant through our college community.

In my opinion, it is not chiefly the college's job to expose and educate students to the different people represented on campus. That job lies more with the individual because the attitudes that were demonstrated above were personal. No amount of textbook prodding or "special" programming would alleviate those. Book knowledge is often lost after a test and we all know the degree of attendance and attention special cultural programs get on our campus. Many ignore them because they have no bearing on their white world.

These types of attitudes and ways of thinking can't be remedied through an institution alone. I challenge fellow students to take on the job of handling cultural diversity themselves. Through reading about and talking with those who differ from you, so much difference can be made in our community at large and here at Meredith in particular. You never know — one day in your "perfect" world you may be enlightened by a person from a "non" group (non-white, non-rich, non-heterosexual, non-youthful, non-female, non-handicapable). It will definitely be YOUR JOB to deal with them. The question is, how will you?

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Meredith Herald

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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.

CORRECTION...

In a play review in the last issue of the *Herald*, an actor from the Meredith Performs Play *Toys in the Attic* was incorrectly identified. We are running the review of the play again, with the name corrected. We regret any inconvenience caused by our error.