

Editorial: Miss America

by Addie Tschamler

Much controversy has arisen in the past, and especially today, over the country's most recognized beauty contest, the Miss America Pageant. Lately many questions have come up concerning the image Miss America reflects to the world.

Personally, I have been disgusted with the public making such a complex matter of the pageant. Miss America is not just a beauty queen prancing down the runway in a swimsuit for people to drool over as many uninformed people may believe. Miss America is the representation of a woman who is versatile and well-rounded (not in reference to her figure). She is beautiful, intelligent, talented, confident, and deeply concerned about social issues that affect our world.

I'll admit that in the past things

weren't exactly this way. In Miss America's early years, beauty was the most significant factor in the pageant. As women's roles changed, however, so did the pageant's style and organization. Women became more educated, a bigger percentage joined the work force, and it was no longer solely the woman's responsibility to keep house and raise kids. With this transition taking place across the country, the Miss America Pageant began to make some changes.

Today, I don't believe many valid statements can be made concerning Miss America's resembling an air-headed, full-figured "gal." She can't be! She has to speak to the world about AIDS awareness, homeless victims and education. It doesn't take a lot to establish that Miss America

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—Letters to the Editor—**Freshman comments on Orientation**

I am writing to you to express a complaint which not only I but many other freshmen students feel should be known to the Meredith administration. We feel that freshmen orientation should not be held on the days directly prior to school starting. Orientation should be held earlier during the summer to get the students more prepared for a whole new way of life and of thinking. During this year's orientation, I heard many complaints on this matter, and I felt that for the sake of future freshmen, we need to voice our concerns now.

First of all, students have no idea of what to expect about the school work, the classroom setting, or the dorm life. Just being dropped off six days before school starts, with no security in knowing what is about to come, is too much of a shock. Orientation

needs to be held earlier to get the new students prepared. Freshmen will be less stressed, therefore, less homesick.

For example, registration is a very important part of orientation. This process is also very stressful. When I couldn't get the English class time I needed for my schedule to work out, I wanted to sit down on the floor of the library and cry for my mommy. One of my friends actually did! The pressure of registration, orientation, and mommy-elimination all at once is just too much too much to handle.

I realize that Meredith allows various organizations to use their during the summer, but couldn't just a few days be set aside for their own students? After all, shouldn't we be their first priority? We hope the Meredith administration takes our concern to heart, and makes moving to college easier for future freshmen.

Cheryl Turner, freshman.

Meredith Herald

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Letters to the Editor Policy

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