

Editorial: Re-entry vs. Traditional age students

by Terri Kohman

There is a slight undercurrent of tension on this campus between the re-entry students and those of traditional age. Re-entry students occasionally dismiss younger students as "just kids," whose opinions are of little value. Traditional age students, especially those who live on campus, often make woman over twenty-three feel like unwelcome guests at an exclusive party. It's only a slight tension, not open hostility. I don't expect to see Meredith women come to blows in front of Cate Center, but a problem still exists. An "us versus them" attitude helps no one.

I am a re-entry student. It follows that I am somewhat older than the average Meredith student, a bit more

experienced in that shadowy, imprecise location known as "the real world." It does not follow that I am better, smarter or more insightful than anyone else.

Recently, I caught myself stereotyping an intelligent, insightful young woman as "just a kid." I went to the Writing Center with a draft of my first English paper. I confess that I was shocked and perhaps a bit dismayed by the extremely youthful appearance of my tutor. After a few moments and some useful suggestions, I began to revise my opinion. When I used those suggestions to help produce a successful paper, I felt ashamed of my initial attitude.

Re-entry students can learn from my mistake. Don't dismiss someone's opinion simply because

of her age or background. Acknowledge that pursuing an education is hard work at any age. Many residents students (and traditional age commuters) carry heavy course loads, participate in campus activities and even hold down jobs.

Traditional age students can help create harmony as well. Please don't roll your eyes and mutter about misplaced priorities if someone can't attend an evening meeting for lack of a baby-sitter. Acknowledge that juggling classes and off-campus duties in the home and workplace is difficult.

The Meredith campus is not big enough to accommodate a school within a school. We all need to cooperate to maintain a strong, unified college community.

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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**Student frustrated with Camcard; offers solutions**

As a returning student to Meredith College, I am pleased with the Camcard concept of a cashless society. However, I find it to be frustrating to see that the proponents of this system have replaced the dollar changers with Camcard scanners in every vending machine on campus. While this may seem trivial to some individuals, the opinions I have observed on the soda machines in Cate Center relay to me that I am not the only one has this concern. Limited change facilities create a problem for visitors on nights and weekends; in addition, inconvenience is a problem for those visitors with limited time restrictions that may not have the time to drive off campus for a snack.

I do not think the Camcard installers considered the value of "non-students" when they replaced all of the dollar changers in the vending machines on campus. Not only do

they use Meredith College for many community functions, but they also use it because they consider it to be an intimate, friendly and resourceful educational facility. In consideration of their rights as well as the rights of those who may not always have change in their pockets, I offer a pair of reasonable solutions for all sides involved. Since many of the vending areas on campus support two soda machines, I feel that it would be fair to keep the dollar changer in one machine and install the Camcard reader in the other machine. Another solution would be to invest in a change machine to be located in Cate Center, the hub of visitor activity. Perhaps this could be an idea for any of the organizations on campus as a fund-raising project that would benefit the Meredith community and their visitors.

Shelly Hudson

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