

## Editorial: Youth Today

by Elizabeth Rihani

Ever since I worked in Washington, DC. this past summer, I have tried to avoid television news altogether. It just got to be too much to hear an impassive newscaster tell me night after night who had died, which small country had been blown off the map, and what precautions I should take when I ventured out of my home. After two weeks of forcing myself to endure an hour of death and destruction every evening, I decided to buy the *Washington Post* for appearance's sake and open it directly to the comics. I got all the news I needed from *Doonesbury*.

In watching the news for that short time, however, I noticed something that really disturbed me—the criminals wanted for murder, robbery and drug charges had gotten really young. I mean really young. A

ten-year old kills his four-year old sibling. Several middle schoolers are busted for cocaine possession. An child in elementary school is discovered with a loaded weapon. A couple of teenagers are arrested for heaving a heavy object off an overpass, killing an innocent woman in her car. I could go on and on, but I don't want to. I just want to know why and how this all came about.

I guess we could blame inattentive parents, broken homes, violence on television, or evil messages in rock music, but I don't think any of those are the one and only culprit. In fact, I have no idea how society has gotten so out of hand even in the ten or so years since I was little. The heaviest lecture we got in elementary school was on the dangers of smoking or what to do if our houses caught on fire (stop, drop and roll). Now even the youngest children are being

warned against drugs, guns and careless sex. That teachers even have to warn small children about AIDS is frightening.

Well, I don't have any answers, but I do wish our society wasn't so desensitized towards all the horrible, horrible things going on these days. I

think if we all woke up from our media-induced stupor and actually heard and saw what was being said in the movies, on TV and on the news, we might realize that what is going on is not normal and should not be normal. I'm just glad I'm not a newscaster—I'd be crying through the report every night.

## Letters to the Editor

I am writing in response to the October 27 article "Letters to the Editor" that appeared in the *Meredith Herald*. It was an article talking about how Meredith College should offer self-defense classes — I strongly agree. Meredith in the spring usually offers a karate self-defense class taught by Mr. James Emory which has proven to be helpful to Meredith students in the past. I know this because my sister took the class here at Meredith in 1992, her senior year. It was such an asset to her that after graduation she joined the Emory Karate School. Well, it has come to my attention, "through the grapevine," that Meredith is not offering the regular karate classes this spring. Yes, I know it is in the 1994 spring schedule, but Meredith has decided

to take the classes away from Mr. Emory and the Meredith students. I feel that Mr. Emory's karate classes can only be an asset to Meredith students and add to what Meredith security is trying to provide. I don't know the reason behind the removal of the karate classes, but I hope it is not because of the rumors about him. I realize that Meredith College does all they can to protect Meredith students, but in my opinion I feel Meredith should allow us to decide whether we want to participate in the karate classes. I attended the October self-defense seminar where Mr. Emory was a guest speaker and I would like to see Mr. Emory's karate classes accepted back on Meredith campus this spring.

Jennifer Collins

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#### Editorial Policy

The *Meredith Herald* is published by the College throughout the academic year. The paper is funded by the College and through advertising. The *Herald* retains the right not to publish materials containing personal attacks, insults, ridicule or libelous statements. All letters to the editor must be signed. The opinions expressed in editorial columns do not necessarily reflect those of the college administration, faculty or student body.

#### 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.

## The 1993 Yearbooks are here!

Yearbooks will be distributed to all **undergraduate** students who were registered **full-time** during the 1992-93 academic year. Distribution will take place in the Student Leadership Conference Room (located in Cate Center), according to the following schedule:

Thursday, Nov. 4	9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Seniors ('94)
Friday, Nov. 5	9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Juniors ('95)
Monday, Nov. 8	9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Sophomores

If you are unable to pick up your book at the scheduled time, you may pick it up Monday, Nov. 8 between 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Freshmen and part-time students may buy a yearbook for \$10 at the Office of Student Activities starting Tuesday, Nov. 9 through Nov. 12.

If you have questions, call the Office of Student Activities and Leadership Development.