

Editorial: The month before Christmas

by Tracey Rawls

When I was home Halloween weekend, the phone rang early Saturday morning. It was a coworker of my dad's. My parents were out of town, so I asked if I could help her. She wanted to know where the Christmas tree farm that we go to every year is located. I asked her if they were going this weekend. She said yes; they were going to pick out their Christmas tree that weekend.

Wait a minute. I looked at the calendar. It was October 30. Had I missed something? Did they move Christmas? I realized that I was the one who was different. Everyone else sees Halloween as a pre-Christmas Eve. Thanksgiving used to be pre-Christmas Eve. As this rate Valentine's Day will be pre-Christmas Eve next year.

I went to Crabtree Valley Mall Saturday afternoon to buy a birthday card for my aunt. I thought I would

park in the new parking deck. I started out on the top level. I could not find a space. I progressed through the second and third levels. I still could not find a parking space. The entire deck was slam full of cars. I could not believe it. After driving around for 25 minutes, I finally found a space in front of Belk. Actually, it was more in front of the post office. (If I had been going to the post office, I would have been pretty happy with the space.) However, I wanted to go to the Hallmark store, which is clear across the mall from Belk.

I went into The Body Shop to see one of my friends. I thought maybe she could offer some insight as to why I could not find a parking space. I thought maybe The Gap was having an awesome sale, and I was the only one who had not heard about it. My friend said, "Tracey, people are Christmas shopping." Christmas shopping? Wait a minute. I just got through Cornhuskin', and now I am trying to finish the many projects I

have due before Thanksgiving. Who has time to worry about Christmas shopping?

Christmas seems to come earlier every year. Even before Halloween, stores were putting up Christmas decorations. The fact that stores are already in the Christmas spirit just goes to show how commercial Christmas is: I do not see stores putting up Easter decorations in February. Yet both holidays are honoring the same

person — Jesus. We practically ignore Thanksgiving because we are so excited about Christmas. Thanksgiving is not a time to prepare for Christmas. It is the time to give thanks for our family and friends. It is a time to get together with family that we do not see often enough.

Everyone needs to slow down and enjoy the few moments before the Christmas rush. Oh, before I forget, Merry Christmas.

Letters to the Editor

Recently I have found myself being asked the question, "Why aren't there more African American women enrolled at Meredith?" I cannot speak for all African American women, but I think I have a general knowledge of the factors that tend to influence the African American woman's decision not to come to Meredith.

At the top of the list is money. Contrary to popular belief, all African American women are not on scholarships; in fact, Meredith does not offer scholarships to minorities. There is not a black woman at this college who is here because she handed a full scholarship on the basis of her skin color. If Meredith is sincere about recruiting African American women, it would consider offering minority scholarships; there are academically competent African American women who want to come to Meredith, but their parents don't have \$40,000 to invest in a college.

Another reason African American females decide not to come to Meredith is that African American faculty are virtually non-existent. Believe it or not, there are students who actually take the time to research the history and statistics of their prospective colleges. The African American student needs role models; it is discouraging when there is not a single professor in your major who you can relate to—someone who has been exactly where you are. Out of approximately 120 full time professors, only two are African Ameri-

cans (and this is their first semester teaching at Meredith).

Yet another reason the African American female may choose not to come to Meredith is the limited course offerings on black history and culture. Here's the scenario: the student has taken African American Writers and African Dance—the only two classes offered at Meredith in African American studies. It has been suggested to the student by an authority figure that she look into taking a couple of classes at St. Augustine or Shaw. The student heads to the registrar's office only to find that there are no updated bulletins from Shaw of St. Augustine's in the registrar's office. Therefore, the student has to go out of her way making phone calls to obtain information that should be easily accessible at Meredith. Anytime \$10,000 is being paid to attend a school, this should not be the case.

There are a few who try to overlook the statistics and come to Meredith anyway. Do not look through us as if we do not exist. Do not brush our opinions aside as if they are not important. Being a minority at any college is not always a bowl of cherries. We are not here because of the multitude of African American professors, and we are definitely not here because of the

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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.

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