

# MEREDITH HERALD

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## Off-campus housing policy to be more flexible

by Christina Peoples

Meredith juniors and seniors have a new, more flexible off-campus housing option available to them for the 1994-95 school year. This new policy is only a one-year trial program.

"This is something we have been working on for several years. The new policy reflects what the students have been asking for, and we hope that it will meet their needs," said Janice McClendon, Office of Residence Life. "We do, however, wish that the students would remain on campus."

The new policy has no set limit on the number of juniors and seniors that can live off-campus. The lottery system of choosing the students has been replaced by an application and a letter of request from the students' parents.

The applications can be picked up from the Housing Office in Cate Center, and they must be completed and returned by February 28.

"If this new policy works for the majority of the students then it should become standard procedure, but if it doesn't then we should go back to the lottery system," said Cathy Garrett, a rising junior applying to live off-campus.

Financial aid is available for dependent

students living off-campus for additional expenses that may occur.

Some things to keep in mind if considering the off-campus option are:

- what area of town do I want to live in?

- do I want a roommate?

- what can I afford?

- am I close enough to campus, shopping and public transportation?
- where will I study best?

- do I need housing for the nine-month academic year

or for 12 months?

- does the location provide safety and security?
- what should I budget for food, living expenses, utilities, renter's insurance?

The cost of apartments around Meredith can range from \$310 to \$870 per month. Some have six-month leases and others have 12-month leasing options. Students should begin looking now for apartments for the fall.

There are benefits to living in the residence halls. Out of the 2,200 students at Meredith, 1,200 of them live on-campus.

Living on campus is convenient. The \$3,100 per year spent on room and board covers rent, three meals a day, health center services, telephone, cable television, utilities and security.

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**Janice McClendon, Office of Residence Life.**

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## Meredith community comments on image

by Erica Balmer

The following comments were taken from the graffiti board that was entitled "What do You Think About the Image of Meredith?"

### Academics and departments

"From speaking with members of the business community as well as teachers in my home town and other college professors, I believe Meredith has a strong and positive image for graduating confident professional women that anyone would and should be proud to hire."

"This college has been the most wonderful experience of my life. But I think we need to stop improving some departments at the expense of others: English (10 faculty), Politics (2)."

### Environment

Some students discuss Meredith's environmental image.

"I think the image [of Meredith] to the outside world is fine right now. But we are going to get a big negative on the

environmental image if we don't get rid of the Styrofoam in the dining hall anytime soon."

### Diversity

The topic of diversity was highly debated by students. While some feel that Meredith should work to create a more diverse student population, others argued that there is little to be done.

"I believe Meredith gives a negative impression to prospective minority students."

"It's like a southern plantation almost. Mexicans outside, black maids, white leaders."

"Meredith College needs to be brought up in time: i.e. the 20th century would help! We need more courses on the diversity and a more diverse population that would promote a global community."

"You can't force people to come here. Diversity comes by people's choices."

"This school is a college of little over

2,000 students. It is not a major university. Besides, it is traditionally a Baptist women's school, so how much diversity do you think there is going to be?"

Transfer Students

"I think Meredith sounds like a great place at first, but coming in as a transfer student is very hard. Although some people may not see it, Meredith tends to be very cliquish like high school. More open people and friendlier people, especially in the dorms, would help a lot. We transfers may have gone to college before, but this is worse than starting

over as a freshman."

### Need for Complaints

"I don't understand why we are always asked questions like, but none of our concerns are ever evaluated. It doesn't matter what we say because nothing ever changes!"

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### Today's Forecast

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