

## Editorial: Politically correct

by Alicia Morris

The other day I overheard a conversation in the first floor parlor of Barefoot Residence Hall. A group of students were discussing a sociology assignment and one student stated, "The problem with the black population in America, or is it the African-American population?" One of the other students replied, "I think African-American is politically correct." This is the only part of the conversation that I overheard, and yet it disturbed me that a group of educated women were debating over a "politically correct" label. While several articles and books have been published on how to be politically correct, is it necessary to place Americans into these separate categories? It seems as though politically correct is the thing to be in today's society; however, I disagree.

The issue of politically correct seems to suggest that there are minority groups who have been put upon by

the majority, and therefore, deserve a special classification. As I understand the Constitution and the way this country is supposed to work, everyone is given certain freedoms and with these come responsibilities. Because one group differs from the mainstream does not grant this group any more freedom or responsibility than another. Also to suggest that America's minority groups are the only ones who have ever suffered is to ignore history.

One can trace different races or religions throughout history for evidence of mistreatment: Catholics in early Rome, Jews during World War II, Indians in colonial America, or the Irish in their own country. And yes, the list continues. For centuries the lowland Scots, a white Protestant population, were being transported to northern Ireland to work on English plantations. These people were stripped of all they owned, and yet they conquered odds placed before them. Another example of the mistreatment of people

can be observed in our own country's history through indentured servants.

Indentured servants were people who agreed to work off their passage-way to America. According to past records, this passageway was worth seven years of unpaid work. Records also indicate that most of these indentured servants were white Anglo-Saxon Protestant males, the same group that is in the majority of the country today. The list goes on and on as to the suffering and mistreatment of people; mistreatment has affected all races. Groups of people have suffered throughout time, and groups of people have also

prevailed, which brings me back to the practice of being politically correct.

Politically correct is a philosophy excusing the responsibilities of certain groups because of real or perceived slights in their past. People need to get past these incidents and accept the responsibilities and freedoms provided in this country. Learn about your own history. Absorb this knowledge and grow from it, but move ahead. Once we stop worrying about being politically correct which subdivides groups of Americans and unite as one, we can move forward to face other issues as opposed to rehashing the past.

## — Letters to the Editor —

### Admissions office expresses thanks

We wish to express our appreciation to everyone in the Meredith community who assisted us with Experience Meredith on Saturday, April 9. Students, faculty and staff made many contributions to the planning and implementation of this event, and we could not have done it without your help. Our guests sensed your enthusiasm and excitement. From the moment of arrival on campus to the last farewell of the day, you truly made the Meredith experience come alive for the students and families who attended. We simply cannot thank you enough

for your help and support.  
The Admissions Staff

### Senior commends hard work

I would like to make a brief but large thank you to all the people who worked so hard on the weekend of April 8-10. Thank you to MEA for a great Spring Fling and formal on Saturday. I think having Open House and a picnic that Sunday helped to make the weekend perfect. I hope these activities will continue for next year's students and those students will take advantage of them.

Jennifer Davidson, senior

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#### Editorial Policy

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#### 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.

### Art Department Open House Sunday, April 24

2-5 p.m.

- Annual Student Art Exhibition
- Senior Student Fine Art Exhibitions
- Presentation of Senior Graphic Design Portfolios
- Continuous Slide and Audiovisual Showings