

Editorial: The Lake, a Meredith Treasure

by Melissa Massengill

I was actually excited to return to campus this year.

Especially since I spent a rather large part of summer navigating the beltline.

After months of dodging orange barrels, workmen and bulldozers (I had a nearly perfect record), I needed to find peace in the comfortable and familiar atmosphere of school.

I knew Meredith would return the last threads of sanity that I had lost somewhere between Glenwood Ave. and Six Forks Rd. over the course of the summer.

I realized I was even smiling as I turned into the main entrance.

That was when I saw the first sign of trouble.

Hoping that the flash of bright orange in the corner of my eye was just a flashback of my days in the work zone, I made a beeline for the lake.

A few moments later, dazed and confused, I stumbled down to the orange fencing that kept me from my little spot of heaven.

My lake was nearly destroyed.

After a few days of thinking, I realized the administration made its decision to drain the lake based on the condition of the lake.

Over 30 years old, the island and the amphitheater were in desperate need of repair.

The water in the moat began to rot the wooden posts surrounding the island.

The bricks of the seats began to shift and loosen because of inadequate drainage.

Dirt under some sidewalks eroded away, making the concrete unstable.

The damage was bad.

So bad that it caused safety hazards.

People could trip and fall on the bricks, or the sidewalks could possibly fall apart under someone's feet.

The administration had two options: They could drain the moat, make a concrete bottom and replace the poles, or they could drain the moat and fill it in and remove the poles.

Creating a concrete bottom and refilling the moat seemed to be the

best solution, until the administration discovered the cost would be large.

Too large, in fact.

So they took the latter option.

Filling the moat with dirt up to the amphitheater seats will have some advantages.

With more space, the island can accommodate larger productions of plays and other events.

Performers will have more room in which to work, and even more room for technical equipment and props.

Also, performers as well as the audience will lose the feeling of isolation that the presence of the moat gave as it separated those on the island with those in the amphitheater.

People can now walk up and interact on a more intimate level with those in the seats.

I can understand the administration's dilemma.

The amphitheater will be usable for Cornhuskin' and by graduation we will have grass on which to walk.

But somehow I still can't admit the administration made a good decision.

When I look at the lake, I can't really see the advantages or the logistics of what they've done.

My vision is blurred by the other things I see in my head.

Myself as a child—standing on the island, looking at the turtles popping their heads out of the water.

Wondering how deep the moat really was.

Bringing the ducks bread to eat.

Telling myself that when I was big and strong, I would be able to jump over the moat to the other side just like Wonder Woman.

Standing on the island just last year and realizing that sometimes isolation can be good.

Reliving the memories now and wishing I had time to make more.

Meredith Herald

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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.

Raleigh community wants you!!!!!!!

Tuesday, Sept. 6 at 8:00 p.m.
Dogwood room (BDH)

Everyone is welcome.
You can make a difference.

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