

**Editorial: Denied Access**

by Clarky Lucas

With each new year, it never fails that students dining in the cafeteria must face the transition from those home cooked meals to the standard bagels and chicken. This usually causes slight frustration for many, but we understand that no one will be able to prepare dinner like Mom.

Instead of the quality of the food that has me peeved, it is the way the cafeteria is operated.

I understand the need for a record of the number of students who eat at the cafeteria, but things have gone a little to far with our beloved camcard.

On Friday morning the week before last, I locked my keys in my car, and unfortunately, my camcard was attached to them. I decided not to panic because a friend from home could bring a spare set of keys to me that night.

I went to my 11:00 a.m. class and then to lunch. That's when the problems started.

I waited in line, and when I finally got to Thad O'Bryant in his usual stance behind the scanner, I explained my

predicament. Without cracking a sympathetic smile, he informed me in a less than congenial manner that I could not eat unless I went to the camcard office and had a new camcard made. In disbelief I repeated my situation. He still wouldn't budge, and there was no way I would have time to have a new card made and return to the cafeteria before it closed.

I started steaming and headed to Traditions to buy a bagel with the only dollar I had.

My mind began to whirl with anger as I thought about being denied a meal my parents had already paid for because a piece of plastic was accidentally locked in my car. Not that I would die of malnutrition because I skipped a meal, but if this happened to someone who was diabetic, on a special medication or had some type of illness then they might actually suffer physically. It is also necessary for students to eat in order to effectively function in a classroom setting, which is why we are all here.

I know the cafeteria needs some form of identification to be able to

determine who is a resident and who isn't, but there has got to be a better way than just turning students away who have run into a problem with their camcard.

Instead of acting like the camcard police, the cafeteria staff should be a little more flexible with students who

fall into special circumstances, which would make it impossible for them to present their card.

Maybe the Meredith community could work together to find a better way for the cafeteria to handle this problem that would benefit both students and the cafeteria staff.

**Yearbooks are here!!!****Seniors pick-up****Thurs. Sept. 22,  
10-4****Juniors pick-up****Fri. Sept. 23,  
10-11 and 1-4****Sophomores pick-up****Mon. Sept. 26,  
10-11 and 1-4****Make-up day****Thurs. Sept. 29,  
10-4****Pick-up your yearbooks in the Student Leadership  
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Sheraton Imperial, Research Triangle Park  
Cost : \$50.00 per person

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