

Letter to the Editor: Questioning our security

Dear Editor,

I am writing to complain about the conduct of the security services, at certain times during this fall semester. I am not saying that I do not respect the job that the security services do, as I personally feel safe living on a campus with security. Something I have never experienced before, living on an English campus. Yet another thing I have never experienced before, the way that I have here, is racism.

I am white, and I happen to be dating a black male from NCSU. I have experienced several different instances since I have met this young man, some which I am not respectful of, I am talking of the inconsistent attitude of some members of the security staff.

Often when my date brings me back to Meredith, often before the 1 or 2 a.m. deadline, we are followed by the security, who proceed to sit behind us while we talk. This can often be for as long as 30 minutes at a time. If I was being dropped off after deadline, then I could respect the security staff for doing their job, but the fact is we are allowed visitors on campus until 1 or 2 a.m.

Another situation I am confused about, is the taking of IDs after hours. At the beginning of the semester, I assumed that only the ID of the driver was taken, then that every male ID was taken. But, one evening my date brought me back to Meredith after the deadline, and the other male in the car was white. The ID was taken off my date, who was driving but the other male did not have any ID and security allowed him to come to my dorm to drop me off. Last night I came in with my date and another black friend, who did not have any ID. He was made to wait at the front gate. If the security services are told to take ID of all male visitors coming in after hours, then why are they being openly racist and prejudiced in the carrying out of this task.

There are many other times that I could relate, but I do not want to bore you with them. I do not want people to think that I do not respect the job of the security staff, I do. The one thing I do not respect and refuse to ignore is blatant racism, especially in the 1990's.

I do not wish to presume, but I feel that I am not the only individual on campus to experience this, and I refuse to stay quiet for wish of not causing a fuss,

If I am wrong in my presumption that the cause of these instances is racist, then please accept my apologies. If not, please do something to stop these inconsistencies happening in the future.

Sincerely,
Lyndsey A. Downs

The Visual Merchandising
Class

is presenting their
fall Christmas and bridal
fashion show
"Holiday Fantasia"

Wednesday, Nov. 16

7:30 p.m.

Carswell Auditorium

Tickets cost \$1.

***reception immediately
following

MEA Comedy Night...

Thursday, November 10, 1994

8 - 10 p.m.

Belk Dining Hall

Featuring Buzz Sutherland and Eric Golden

Free admission!
Wings and a drink \$2.00.

CUP A JOE

continued from page nine

old or the new one). "Dave, the owner, stresses quality in the drinks and in the service," said Hendrick. "We never serve anything mediocre."

This time I had the cherry-vanilla Italian soda (\$1.50), and Christina had a special Milky Way latte (\$1.50). I thought the soda was pretty good, but the hot chocolate is much better. Christina raved about her latte and said there was really no way to describe it in her words (so she described it with their words). The Milky Way latte is a blend of espresso, chocolate, caramel, and steamed milk (available with skim milk). For the third anniversary of the Hillsborough Cup a Joe, they are currently running a special to get a triple-size drink for a double-size price. Christina was quick to take advantage of that deal.

We thought there were several positives and negatives in comparing the new Cup a Joe with the old one. The bathrooms are wheelchair accessible; it is easier to breathe, and better for quiet study and conversation.

The negatives can easily be fixed and don't pose problems (it is just a "preference thing" for us): lights too bright, some annoying music (caught in a Harry Connick Jr. warp), farther from school, and no good conversations to eavesdrop on. I wondered how we ended up on Franklin Street because the atmosphere felt like Chapel Hill — quiet, serious, and kind of yuppie-like. The view is not very exciting — people coming out of the movies yawning and picking popcorn from their teeth.

We both agree that the Hillsborough Cup a Joe feels more like home, more "true to heart." The new Cup a Joe has

great potential, and in time, we feel it will find some regular customers and maybe cut loose.

You don't have to be a certain kind of someone to come to Cup a Joe. Everyone has at least the love of good coffee and beverages with good conversation in common. Both of the Cup a Joes are places where you leave your prejudices at the door, places to question reality, and places where nobody knows your name and doesn't care to. The philosophy we figured out for Cup a Joe is a great one — you be yourself, and I'll be myself, and we'll leave each other in our mutually exclusive domains.

SENIOR

continued from page eight

it marked and end of an era. It reminded me all of the good times that we have shared and that those memories will last forever.

Our theme, "the final countdown," is such an appropriate one. Not only are we sad to see our final moments go, but the anticipation of "landing" ourselves into the real world is exciting as well. I look forward to everything that lies ahead, and experiencing Cornhuskin' for the last time is another step we must take in order to reach the goals we all came here to help ourselves achieve. Once upon a time, we came to be the few, the proud, the Meredith angels; but now, it is the final countdown until we are moving right along, again.