

Campus Opinion

Editorial: Meredith needs to improve visitation policy

by Arinn Dixon

Maybe I shouldn't sign my name to this because I don't think there are many out there who would agree with my opinion. Nevertheless, I feel I need to say something. So here goes.

I wrote an article last week about the Programming Board. In that article, I quoted Board Chairperson Catherine Davis as saying that one purpose of the group was to keep Meredith students on campus during the weekends. Well, I think that until we let males on this campus (that means in our dorms) students will continue to leave the campus. We don't stay at Meredith because we go off to see male friends and boyfriends. That is an unarguable fact. We go home, to friend's or boyfriend's apartments, or over to State, Carolina, and Duke.

We should have male visitation in our dorms on the weekends. Maybe something like 12:00pm to 5:00pm on Saturdays and Sundays. Each dorm could vote on times they wanted

(within a limit) or if they wanted guys in the dorms at all. Every male would have to be escorted at all times to make sure boys couldn't just walk in. My opinion is that if boys came on campus for even the afternoon, maybe we would stay here, and Meredith wouldn't be so deserted the minute classes are over on Friday.

The fact that we leave the campus contradicts the most important aspect of the Meredith community: safety. We have many security personnel who have their hands full during the week with patrolling the campus, checking people in after hours, and so forth. I must say that on weekdays they do their jobs well. And I'm sure they would love to do their jobs on weekends, too. But they can't. And why, you ask? Well, I'll tell you. They can't do their jobs on weekends because no one is here. I would wager that not more than 200 girls stay on this campus on Fridays and Saturdays. How can we be protected if we are not even here? If

we had males visit, security would have a better chance of keeping us safe since we would be on campus and not over at some guy's apartment off of Hillsborough St.

I know that we have Open House one Sunday a month, but I just don't think that is enough, not to mention the fact that we have only had three since school started in August.

My boyfriend lives in Chapel Hill, and I get mighty tired of driving over there all the time. When he does come here, we have to sit in the lobby of my dorm with ten other couples who are doing the same thing. I personally would like a little privacy. No, I don't want privacy so we can do things my mother would object to, but just so we can spend some time alone together.

Seriously, though, I think having guys in our dorms is a perfectly reason-

able idea. I lived in an all-girls dorm last year at ASU. We voted to have male visitation from 12:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. on weekdays and 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. on weekends. Every male had to have a female escort at all times. I lived there for nine months, and there was not one case of assault, rape, or anything of the sort. Girls took it upon themselves to call security if they saw an unescorted male or saw a male after visiting hours. We looked out for ourselves and our safety.

I'm sure this subject has been brought up a thousand times, but it's just too important to let die. I am addressing it again because since I dealt with it last year at ASU, I know that we can have guys in our dorms and still be safe. It is a very feasible idea. And if we want it badly enough, we can make it happen.

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