

Letter to the Editor: Conflicts need resolving

Dear Editor:

In response to Kimberly Debus' letter addressed to SGA and printed in the February 28, 1996, edition of *The Meredith Herald*, we would like to clear up some misconceptions concerning commuter students, resident students, and the function of the Meredith College Student Government Association.

We have made numerous efforts this year to improve communication with and among all undergraduate students. Two newsletters have been published this year. These newsletters include information about the executive branches and whom students should contact if they have questions or concerns. The annual SGA/Student Life Committee sponsored "Free Your Mind Forum" was held early in the Fall 1995 semester. All issues brought up at the forum have been addressed by the various SGA executive branches. The burgundy colored Student Life Committee sug-

gestion boxes have been placed in all the classroom buildings, residence halls, and Cate Center to facilitate a more effective process for receiving and addressing student needs. In addition, SGA Executive Committee meetings are open to any person who wishes to attend. We have also utilized *The Herald* throughout the academic year by submitting articles pertaining to student issues. Each week, *The Herald* contains the "SGA Corner" which contains information and announcements concerning upcoming events and updates.

As an SGA of the 90's, we realize that the student populations at Meredith and other academic institutions are becoming more diverse. As a result, we have sought new and more effective ways to meet the changing needs of our constituents. We feel that it is important to foster open communication and to develop a sense of unity within the student body.

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Editorial: What is the big deal?

By Wendy Kelly

As we move quickly into the 21st century, I am proud that the trustees of Meredith College are willing to give us students more control over our own lives and listen to our demands. An overwhelming majority of Meredith students voted to implement a male visitation policy, and the trustees responded with a trial run this fall for seniors in Barefoot.

Before this concession was made, the general opinion seemed to be for male visitation. But, recently I have been hearing rumblings from juniors that are not at all pleased with the new policy. The usual statements is "You knew Meredith College was a women's college when you came here." Yes, I did know that, but I don't understand how that theory translates from the classroom to the dorm room. I don't need another parent through the rules of Meredith College, I already have two wonderful parents, thank you. Another rationale of those opposed to male visitation is that "It's going against tradition." Yeah, well so was desegregation and it was definitely a much needed policy. Then I hear, "Well, that's different!" Really, how? There is a fine line between tradition and progression- male visitation is on the path to progression as men and women's worlds become more integrated. Allowing Meredith women to widen their realm of personal problem-solving is preparing them for adulthood.

When your neighbor and her guests are being loud and bothersome, discuss it like adults and come to a compromise. When your roommate's boyfriend seems to always be around on the weekends, discuss it like adults and come to a compromise. If she is unbending then maybe you need a new roommate. All of the problems that will arise from male visitation to me seems to all be apart of growing up. You figure it out and deal with it.

Meredith College is full of many wonderful people and traditions. Male visitation is not the beginning of the end. But it is the beginning of a new Meredith that gives students more control over our lives as we move ever so swiftly into the "real world." Through male visitation we are being given merely a glimpse into the world of adulthood - maybe now we will be better prepared.

Please give it a chance and I can almost guarantee that by this time next year we will all wonder, "What was the big deal?"

Meredith Herald

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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, address and telephone number. All letters must be signed by the author, but names will be withheld upon request.

The *Herald* reserves the right to place any other article submissions on file until needed or to choose not to print them.

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