

# College drinking not cool

## From the Editor

The front page of this edition carries a story on college drinking which talks about area universities' crackdown on students drinking. A story on the same subject appeared in the *News and Observer* a few weeks ago and the responses I heard about that one were not positive. I heard things like: Everybody drinks, making more rules isn't going to stop it, it's not that big of a deal, it's just what students do.

If that's just what students do, then let me tell you what alcohol does to students. Five students died last year in the Phi Gamma Delta fire; maybe they could have gotten out in time had they not been intoxicated. A letter from the same fraternity to prospective pledges promised almost certain sex with drunk, semi-conscious girls. A drunk UNC student fell to her death while climbing up the side of a building a few years ago. Students are involved in countless drunk driving incidents and gang rapes/date rapes at fraternity parties. Should I go on?

In light of all the horrid things than can and recently have come about as a result of alcohol, I just want to know why getting drunk is such a great thing.

What would happen if students went out on a Thursday night and *didn't* get drunk? They would probably still go get something to eat, still go visit friends and maybe still end up hanging out at someone's apartment. Would they still have fun? Of course, and they would even be able to remember that fun in the morning.

The problem is that people don't know how to have a good time without alcohol anymore. They may not be alcoholics, but they are still addicted to it, and they love it enough to pour their money into it. They have partied so much that they can't have fun without being drunk. And that's just plain sad.

I've had friends tell me some of their great drunk stories: one peed on herself, one almost killed herself driving home, one made a fool of himself by professing his feelings for a girl, one threw up non-stop for 12 hours, one got so dehydrated she had to go to the emergency room, one had sex with some chick he had never met before and didn't even like the next morning.

Are these events supposed to sound glamorous, fun and evoke green envy in those of us who missed out? Too bad, because they don't. They sound stupid and self-destructive.

Having a few drinks socially is not a problem. Celebrating your 21 birthday at a bar is not a problem. The problem comes when you hit the point of losing self-control and having no desire to get it back. And all too often that is becoming the norm.

People read those horror stories about drunken accidents in the newspaper and they sigh and turn the page, positive it will never happen to them.

Yeah. Right. That's exactly what the girl who fell off the building thought the night she died.

## Letter to the editor...

### Rebuttal to "Meredith students are stereotyped"

Dear Editor,

As senior class officers it is our job to help the senior class in their selection of graduation speakers. We have been working diligently since last November collecting suggestions and chasing down leads. Back in May our first speaker choice was Dixie Carter. She is extremely expensive, and we quickly found she would not be an option. The class then decided to try for Barbara Bush with the understanding that a backup speaker was necessary because Bush cannot commit before April. She unfortunately had a previous engagement. Our speaker on hold graciously declined so we could try for another "big name" speaker. Jonna Anderson, senior class president, Dr. Cindy Edwards, convocation chair, Dr. Jo Gugliemi, senior class adviser, and Dr. Weems had a meeting to explore other options. They decided the class should look into inviting an astronaut, as suggested by one of our class members. NASA wrote us back and was unable to even consider our invitation until we sent specific information about the engagement. During this time, we found out there was a slim chance that we could invite Tipper Gore. Since it is so important that the class get a say in the graduation speaker, the officers took the information from NASA and Gore back to the class. The majority of the class voted to pursue inviting Gore with the understanding that this would be the same arrangement as with Barbara Bush with a speaker on hold.

The class of 1997 has had a critical role in all decisions made about the commencement speaker. Since we started this process 12 months ago, we have given the class many opportunities to nominate and vote on a speaker. We have had many suggestions at class meetings, which have been crucial to the information process. Class meeting attendance is very important to ensure the students are receiving all information firsthand. We realize that it is not always possible to be at class meetings, and we have tried to filter this information through newsletters, the *Herald* and the availability of ourselves. We have taken EVERY suggestion into consideration. Time has been an important part of the selection process and we are happy that our class has been so involved. We are here to serve and address all questions and issues. If anyone has further questions or concerns about the commencement speaker for May, please feel free to contact Jonna Anderson at x7891 or any of the other class officers.

Sincerely,  
the Senior Class Officers

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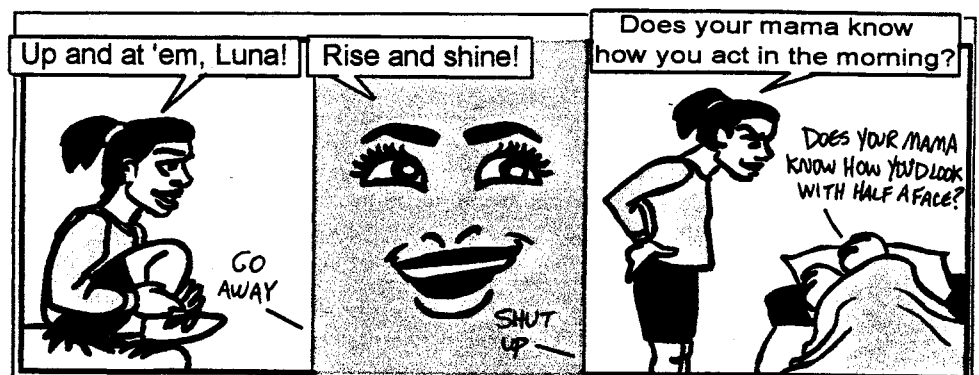
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### Letters to the Editor Policy

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.

## Meredith By Tory Hoke



## JOB INFO

- **Preparing for Job Search**
- Learn skills and techniques to make the most of this important aspect of your job search. Plan to attend! *How to Sell Yourself in the Job Interview*, Thursday, November 14, 4:00-5:00pm, Career Center.
- **Graduate Study Event**
- Don't miss this opportunity to learn...*How to Write Winning Graduate School Applications*, Friday, November 15, 10:00am, Career Center. Presented by Dr. Jean Jackson, vice-president for Student Development.
- **Jobs!**
- Don't forget to check out the job listings and co-op/internship opportunities listed in the Career Center, 2nd floor Park Center.