

# Campus Opinion

## Friendship remains a timeless gift

### From the Editor

Recently I've been confronted with the concept of "friends." And I don't mean "friends" like NBC's Monica, Rachel and Chandler because I think their idea of friendship is whacked. I mean real friends. I mean the kind of friends that will stick closer than a sister. I mean the friends that will let you take gross advantage of them in times of crisis.

I've been confronted with the "friends" concept because of my extreme need for them recently, and conversely, their extreme need for me. It's funny how your friends can all of a sudden be so elemental in your life.

And that invariably happens in the same way every time. You're going along fine, hanging out, doing your own thing, when - BAM! - something hits. Sometimes it's just a scratch, a surface wound, but other times it's a

deep cut, the kind you can't stitch up yourself.

And so you turn to your friends. You run to them and cry on their shoulders. They listen to you babble on, asking the same questions over and over, and then they help you start the healing process. And they are there for you as long as it takes. Half the time you'll probably even forget to thank them. But they know without your even saying anything how much you need them, and how much you appreciate them being there.

A while ago, I had to skip a day of work to help a friend in the middle of a crisis. Needless to say, my boss was far from happy with me for not showing up, although I did give him the courtesy of a phone call. I heard later that he told the assistant manager that "Arinn should not have to deal with her friends' problems." What? Where is that written? Isn't that what friends do? I can honestly say that I feel sorry

for the man, and if he says one word to me about the situation, I'm outta there. It wasn't the best job in the world, anyway. But I digress.

Although this friendship I've found is the greatest thing I've ever known, I think I've taken advantage of it a little too late. In two months, I will be leaving those friends I have come to rely upon so heavily. I will be heading out into the great unknown (namely Washington, D.C.), painfully aware that I am all by myself. No ready-made shoulders to cry on, and no listening ears within the local call range. That really scares me.

But I know that there is no way I can stay here. My time at Meredith College is up. And now it's up to me to go out there and, scary as it may seem, make it on my own. But I'll never forget the Meredith women that I can call my friends.

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### Letter to the Editor: Students should contribute to and appreciate campus publications

Dear Editor,  
 I always read the *Meredith Herald*. When I read the February 26 issue and learned of the frustrations the editor feels about this year and the disappointment that Holly Hester feels about the past year's yearbook, I decided to speak up in support of campus publications.

As many of you know, I've been at Meredith almost two years. Before coming to Meredith, my former position at another college was in leadership development, student activities, and orientation. At various times, I advised the student newspaper and the yearbook. At most colleges these days, student journalists who care to contribute to student publications are few in number. Often theirs is a thankless job. The toughest job of all is being the editor because editors often scramble to finish the publication when some staff members fail to meet deadlines and do not complete their assignments.

The strength of a student publication depends on the dedication and contribution of as many students as possible. These are your student publications. Don't just criticize them. Do your part to contribute to make them even better. If you are already too involved in other activities to write, contribute photographs, etc., you can encourage the staff members, and you can encourage your friends to be involved.


While this year's *Oak Leaver* may not seem as strong as those in some previous years, I do know that it would be difficult to find a yearbook at a college this size that is better. I am sure that if there had been a larger number of dedicated staff members there would have been better coverage of the campus groups, etc.

I want the *Meredith Herald* staff to know that I have noticed the things you have changed and improved this year. I think that it is amazing what you are able to produce with the limited resources and limited number of folks involved. It would also be difficult to find a paper better than the *Herald* at a campus this size.

The staff of the *Acorn* can't be forgotten. They also provide wonderful opportunities for student expressions and creativity.

There are many campuses our size where they no longer have yearbooks and literary magazines and where they have sporadically-published student newspapers. I'd hate to see that happen at Meredith. Yearbooks preserve our history and memories; newspapers keep us informed and entertained; literary magazines support student writers. They are important to the lifeblood of any campus. Don't take these publications for granted. Please do what you can to help keep them strong.

Sincerely,  
 Sharon Cannon  
 Dean of Students

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 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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