

Campus Opinion

Apathy is a problem

From the Editor

The *N&O* ran an article in Sunday's paper about how colleges sell themselves to passionless students who will fall under the spell of videos and glossy advertisements from their marketing departments. The article also said that departments will modify grading systems to accommodate students so they won't leave.

Is this true for Meredith? I don't think so. Over the last three years we have had an increase in incoming students, but there has also been an increase in the dropout rate. Is this because Meredith is too hard academically, or is it because we lack a vibrant college social life?

I like to think Meredith is a tough school. We have one of the toughest English departments in the state. And Meredith has one of the top Education departments.

The thing that Meredith students do lack is involvement in campus organizations and events. The students are supposed to be the driving force behind the college, but it seems that a large percentage of the student body could care less about what goes on at the school. There is a general feeling of apathy on campus. I was disturbed in the turnout at the Free Your Mind Forum last week. The students who did attend were mainly composed of organization leaders, student government, and class representatives. As much complaining that goes around Meredith, it's surprising that more people did not attend.

Also, a couple of weeks ago, the Herald ran a "Point/Counterpoint" article that was derogatory to Meredith students, faculty, and the Honor Code. And we only received two letters of response. I felt like nobody really cared here at Meredith what was said about them.

However this week we have more of a response about the "From the editor" from last week, which makes me think that students might have a voice after all.

Dear Editor:

I am writing in response to your article printed on Oct. 1, entitled "Think Before You Drink." While I understand the argument of your editorial, I believe that you have provided your readers with incorrect information. You simply did not give all of the facts about what happened during the incident in Faircloth dormitory. The real problem was with the pipes and not with the person who "accidentally fell" on them, as stated on the front page of the Herald. According to sources dealing with the incident, problems with the plumbing started long before the Lawn Party. Whether or not the young woman was drunk is irrelevant. Although it helped to support your point, spouting rumors as support has never increased the quality of journalism. Also, you should note that in our small Meredith community, there is really no such thing as anonymous; now the woman you referred to has to pay for your irresponsibility. Maybe next time you should "Think Before You Write."

Beth Boyette

MEREDITH BY TORY HOKE



Letters to the Editor: Students respond to alcohol editorial

Dear Editor:

I have always taken pride in the fact that Meredith boasts a good, solid, factual newspaper. Sadly enough the Oct. 1 edition of the *Herald* changed all that. It made me very upset to see that the *Herald* would sink to sleazy tabloid level by printing stories and columns that were based on rumors and falsehoods. As the suitemate and only witness to the "drunk passed out girl" situation I cannot believe that the column on the flood and the letter from the editor were printed without even checking the true source.

By focusing on the fact that the pipes were broken by a girl passing out on them - which I might add is TOTALLY false - no one even bothered to check with maintenance to see if there had been any previous problems with the pipes. If someone had gone to the maintenance office they would find at least one if not two work orders for the bathroom in suite 321-322. It is not humanly possible for someone drunk or sober to fall on a metal pipe and it bust unless there had been prior problems. I am not a journalism major but I do know that before

you write and publish a story you should have your sources contacted and your facts straight.

Secondly, I think it is a slap in the face of the Meredith community that the writers of the articles did not even focus on the fact that we had an abundance of help from so many different people. Throughout that long and eventful night the girls of third Faircloth lent us their arms for bailing water, shoulders for tears and hugs, beds for us to sleep and most of all support in our time of need. Let me be the first, since no one else did, to publicly say thanks so much for everyone's help.

I think that the spotlight should have been directed on a more positive aspect of the situation. The editor said "You see - we all have to pay for other people's indulgences." You don't live in Faircloth, so therefore you have not paid for anything.

Frankie Epps

Dear Editor:

I was minding my own business and watching television Wednesday afternoon

when my roommate came to show me the editorial containing what had supposedly happened the night of the flood. I could not believe my ears. I was not mad that they had reported on the flood, but that they lied and did not check the facts. I was there the night it happened. I was not in the bathroom, but I was in the next room about to go to sleep. I saw the water gushing out on to my floor. NO ONE "passed out beside the toilet." I did however see the security men come and help us. Also, I saw the five to seven girls who woke up at 3:30 in the morning to help clean up the water. No one got mad or angry, they just all worked together to help solve our problem.

I think that the *Herald* has demonstrated what sloppy journalism is. I thought all true reporters were supposed to report on the facts. Maybe I am wrong.

The report from the Editor was a very good opinion piece, but the last paragraph really bugged me. The beginning of the article was a personal testimony, and then

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