

## Harsh words get nowhere

## From the Editor

My mom always told me harsh words will get you nowhere. She never used foul language when it came to discipline. Now that I am almost an adult myself, I see what she meant: you can achieve so much with so little. It doesn't take screaming, yelling or cuss words to get your point across.

Over the past several weeks, students have grown accustomed to their new surroundings, both in the classroom and in their own dorm room. However, some students still don't feel comfortable because of the imbalance between hot and cold, and they have been placing complaints to maintenance. It doesn't matter on which floor or in which residence hall one lives; the temperatures are all different. So what do we do? Open the windows? No - that lets in all the hot air. Open the end doors? No - that lets in even more hot air. Turn on a fan? Always a good choice. Call maintenance and complain? That lets them know of the temperature change; however, it doesn't make them run to your room any faster.

The people in Facility Services know what they are doing. The College started building a new central chiller for the campus. The central cooler is where the two-pipe system originates for the cool water to cool the air and vice versa. However, the chiller system doesn't always run evenly. Buildings are placed various distances from the pipes that run underneath the campus. Some buildings, like Gaddy-Hamrick, Ellen Brewer House and the Grimmer Alumnae House, run off individual units for those specific buildings.

Now that I have explained all the logistics behind the issue, my real point comes back to the students' need to let maintenance know of every little problem that arises. I'm not saying that you shouldn't call maintenance when you have a problem, in fact I called them last week about a clogged sink. But students need to remember that maintenance gets calls daily from all around campus. If they give you an expected time of completion, understand that could change.

If you have a maintenance related question, first ask your RA. If she doesn't know, then ask your RD. Or you could look at the Meredith Intranet to see if there is an explanation; I bet that it's there. Even if it's not the answer you're looking for, know there's more to come. It takes time.

Have a little patience. Don't be harsh. Don't be abrupt. So what do you do? Stay calm. Show respect to *whomever* you are talking at the time. Everybody on this campus is important, and *everybody* deserves the respect that you would expect yourself. Like my mom said, harsh words and harsh ways get nowhere.

## Meredith Herald

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The *Meredith Herald* is published by the College throughout the academic year. The paper is funded by the College and through independent advertising. The opinions expressed in the editorial columns do not necessarily reflect those of the college administration, faculty, or student body.

MEREDITH BY TORY HOKE



## Christians: Have Boldness in Faith

CHRISTINA HOLDER  
Staff Reporter

"Would you mind turning down the music? We are about to begin Bible study," said Jeremy Donovan to his suitemate who was now leaping over to his stereo to turn down the volume. Two rooms over and down the hall, the ten or so of us huddled in the Carrol Hall dorm room at NC State could hear Jeremy's statement floating from the room ahead. As Jeremy walked back inside to return to our Bible study, Jenny Ellis, one of the leaders, commended him. "Wow, Jeremy, I am so proud of you. You could have just said, 'We are having a meeting,' but you said, 'We are having a Bible Study.' How bold."

You see, the point is sharpened by one single question: How are we ever going to grow in our faith, or strengthen the holds of others' if we are not strong in communicating what we believe? "Please turn down the music" would have sufficed in communicating Jeremy's request. "We are having a meeting" would have been an easily understood addition to further that request. So when he proudly declared, "We are having a Bible study", what exactly were his words connoting? Proudly, simply, easily—Boldness in Our Faith.

Sometimes in our lives we are presented with difficult situations where we tend to refrain

from voicing our opinions because we fear condemnation from others with dissimilar opinions. We become complacent with what we believe, keeping our faith, our knowledge, and our perspectives to the sole enclosure of our hearts. Have you ever wondered why, when we are passing each other by, we tend to avoid making eye contact when the ripest opportunities to smile and offer a congenial, "Hello, and how are you doing today?" are right in front of us, waiting to be used for fellowship? For then, in the uneasiness with which we are presented, our opportunity to be bold, to influence, to care for another has sadly passed for the moment.

Brian Fisher, a regular Bible study attendee, says, "Let's imagine that 50% of the NC State campus are Christians. That means every other person you see is not. Doesn't that make you want to tell them about God? Doesn't that inspire you to be bold? It makes me want to." For, you see, if we are not looking at others, if we are not reaching out and loving others, if we are not proudly voicing our beliefs, our opportunity for the shining light God provides through us, dwindles in the reflection of another's eyes.

"We had to fill out information cards and write down one interesting fact," says Jonathan Ellis, another Bible Study attendee. "So I wrote down Young Life on mine. When my professor intro-

duced me to the class she asked what Young Life was. I told my class it was a Christian Outreach Ministry in high schools, and I was going to be a leader." You see, it is not difficult to be bold, to share the word of God with those who do know Him and those who may not, and to be encouraging of others in their faith.

What would our world be like if we took time to blink into the eyes of another and use our hearts as a springing board for our voice? What if we all proudly proclaimed "Bible Study" instead of "Group Meeting"? What if we never hesitated to say, "I am a Christian, and I want you to be one too"?

So many times, we have the opportunity to be bold, but we find ourselves smothering even the whispers of our faith. Yet the members of this Bible study, with their wonderfully insightful words and sincerity of heart, have taught me not only to be Bold in My Faith, but to be Faithfully Bold. That is, never to compromise my faith by refraining from expressing it whenever I have the opportunity to do so. For it is pure fact that I would never have become a Christian if someone had not been bold in sharing their faith with me. And what's more important in the long run: the justification you try to present yourself with for being silent, or the friend that will be standing beside you in heaven?

## Letters to the Editor Policy:

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Submissions for the  
*Herald* are due  
every MONDAY at  
1 p.m. in the  
box outside of  
208 Cate Center.