

Campus Extras

Letter to the Editor: MC provides all diversity

Dear Editor,

I know that Point/Counterpoint is meant to be one of those editorial features where two writers take opposite points of view. The writer who made the "point" about diversity in the Oct. 21 issue did so with incorrect information. While I can appreciate that the author who wrote the "counterpoint" was meant to provide balance, I still think it is necessary to correct misinformation presented in the "point."

"Lock-In/Block-Out" was not a "workshop with T-shirts and cups." There were no cups and T-shirts. I don't know of any faculty or staff member who has trivialized the issue of diversity in the way that the author implies. I attended "Lock-In/Block-Out," and I didn't observe anyone there who was trying to build a cocurricular resume. In fact, the typical students there were not students who are involved in Meredith leadership activities. I would have liked to have seen more campus leaders.

The students I met on that Friday night were folks who were sincerely struggling with the issues that stem from diversity or lack of diversity on campus. It may be true that most "willing participants are already open-minded," but those students who have some open-mindedness know that dealing with diversity issues is a complex matter and that it takes a lot of continuing growth and education to make sense of the complexities that face us. I heard students speak at the workshop who are trying to "do the right thing." They asked questions as they struggled with how to deal with bigotry in their families. I heard students share stories about prejudice they face on campus because their skin is a different color, their religion is not Protestant or Christian, etc.

Each anonymous evaluation students completed after the "Lock-In" was very positive. Let me share some things written on the evaluations. "I have to tear down all my prejudices. I also

have to help others broaden their horizons." "I am not completely without prejudices. There is so much more I need to open myself up to." A person responded she would recommend the program to "friends whose minds need to be opened or who need comfort in their pain." One person learned that "some comments might be offensive to some that may be a joke to you." A person said the challenge of attending was "being accepting of views that I don't necessarily agree with and having my eyes open to new ways of thinking." I disagree with the author that attempts at diversity education "by an environment as insulated as this college are self-defeating." The participants' evaluations speak for themselves.

The idea behind the "Lock-In" was to give students an opportunity to learn more about themselves and others without the constraints of the typical one-hour session. Most of us know that attending one one-hour ses-

sion hardly makes a dent in the topic. Stephanie Harris had a great idea to provide a different approach. From what I could see on Friday night, those who attended really benefited from the approach Stephanie took.

The author perceives that there is very little diversity at Meredith. She says, "The biggest differences among Meredith students are the choices of silver beads or pearls and different colored Cornhuskin' sweatshirts." If she believes what she says about Meredith's diversity being about "flannel vs. cotton or SUV vs. the two door coupes," surely she can imagine how isolated some students might feel who don't fit her stereotypes. Many who work at Meredith believe that this campus needs more awareness of what the campus can be like for someone of a "different" ethnic/cultural background, color, religion, etc. Many who work at Meredith believe that it is our role as educators to address the topic as a community.

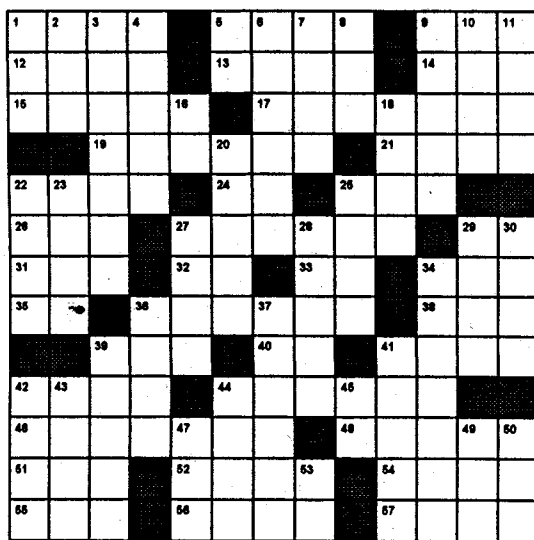
As director of commuter life and special services, Stephanie wears a lot of hats. One of those hats is to provide support to students of color. I chair a multicultural advisory committee of students. Both of us observe and hear of experiences that make us believe continued campus education is important. We would like students of color to feel more welcome at Meredith. In fact, the author's opinions and lack of knowledge on why we need to address issues of diversity have convinced me even more of the need for continued efforts like the one Stephanie Harris made in organizing "Lock-In/Block-Out." Thanks, Stephanie. I found the workshop to be helpful, and I know the students and staff in attendance felt the same way.

By the way, anyone interested in being involved in educational activities on diversity is encouraged to contact me or Stephanie.

Sincerely,
Sharon Cannon
Dean of Students

Crossword, anyone?

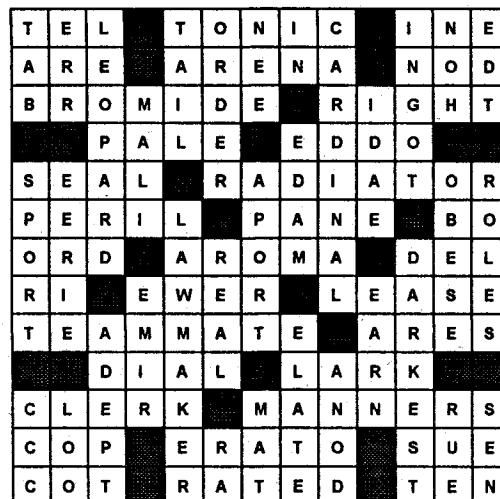
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- ACROSS**
- 1 Mineral springs
 - 5 First man
 - 9 Sleep stage (abbr.)
 - 12 Domesticated
 - 13 Dealer's used car
 - 14 Maria
 - 15 Take as one's own
 - 17 Belongs to same family
 - 19 Sweet grape
 - 21 Continuous mark
 - 22 Instrument
 - 24 Edward's nickname
 - 25 Military post office (abbr.)
 - 26 Flightless bird
 - 27 Occurrences
 - 29 Egyptian sun god
 - 31 Man's nickname
 - 32 Remove (prefix)
 - 33 Impersonal pronoun
 - 34 Cloth scrap
 - 35 One-half em
 - 36 Sable animals
 - 38 Uncle (Scot.)
 - 39 Edge
 - 40 Alternating current (abbr.)

- 41 Record
 - 42 Uganda president (1971-1979)
 - 44 Acid or vinegar
 - 46 Satisfied
 - 48 Aquatic animal
 - 51 Office holders
 - 52 W. Indian indigo plant
 - 54 Ardor
 - 55 Female deer
 - 56 Diplomacy
 - 57 Ever (poetic, pl.)
- DOWN**
- 1 Station (abbr.)
 - 2 Cushion
 - 3 Enamored
 - 4 Leaflike like part of flower
 - 5 Public announcement (abbr.)
 - 6 Mock
 - 7 So be it
 - 8 Molecular (abbr.)
 - 9 Proportional relation
 - 10 Same
 - 11 Native of ancient Media
 - 16 Titanium (abbr.)
 - 18 High mountains

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- 20 Cut
- 22 Distance (pref.)
- 23 Prophetic sign
- 25 Attention (abbr.)
- 27 Cheese
- 28 Daughter of one's brother
- 29 Inclined passage
- 30 Awry; askew
- 34 Person who responds
- 36 Origin of money
- 37 Maneuver
- 39 Remove suds
- 41 Name of article
- 42 Sharp; caustic
- 43 Alone, single (pref.)
- 44 Former copper coin of India
- 45 At
- 47 Dine
- 49 Night before
- 50 Legal point
- 53 Light (abbr.)

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