

Fight for clean water

Until last week, I ate pork. Granted, I did not eat it often, but as a North Carolina native, I sure enjoyed barbecue.

It was last week, however, that I began hearing more about the hog farms so common to Eastern North Carolina.

From the Editor

Murphy Farms, the largest hog farm in the state, is one of the main sponsors for the new arena. Now, Smithfield Foods, one of the largest pork preparing companies in the country, is buying Murphy Farms so that Smithfield can do business without a middleman.

The regulations that the state places on these hog farms are quite hard-to-regulate. That is why huge cess pools, romantically referred to as lagoons, are allowed to build up on the banks of rivers like the Neuse.

When these lagoons build up, and when heavy rains come through and cause flooding, as was the case last week in Hurricane Floyd, the pools overflow into the rivers.

How can we, as North Carolina residents, allow this overflow to occur? Why are we not leaning on the state legislature and government to enforce regulations and increase penalties?

If enough people react to the present conditions, the legislature will do something. That's why they were elected--to listen to their constituents.

In addition to the hundreds of gallons of hog waste currently flowing into the Neuse River, another hog-related problem has resulted from Hurricane Floyd: drowned pigs and other livestock.

Sunday's *News and Observer* ran a front-page picture of pigs climbing and trying to stay alive on top of a barn--they had survived. An inside picture showed a hog farmer trawling for pig carcasses. And thousands of chickens and turkeys also drowned in the floods.

These two pictures highlight the effects of the hurricane on these animals. They were kept too close to conditions that made it possible for them to drown, and these bodies, combined with the cess pools' overflowing, will cause dangerous conditions for drinking water. Even President Clinton, in Monday's speech in Tarboro, emphasized the need for clean drinking water. But the water will not be clean unless the citizens of North Carolina fight for it.

Guarded at the gate

SARA PARSONS
Copy Editor

A few Thursday nights ago, a friend of mine was returning to campus late after a night out. Upon approaching the guard gate, she realized she did not have her CamCard. She was turned away despite the Meredith parking sticker on her car and some earnest pleading with the guard.

She could not get in touch with any of her suite-mates or other friends living on campus to come out to help her. Though, being forced to even try to call on them at such late hours for something so trivial is completely ridiculous.

So, she was forced to drive to her parents' home in North Raleigh, waking them up with an unexpected visit.

To me, this "no CamCard, no entrance" policy is excessive and could put a student in a very dangerous situation. No

policy should ever force a student to drive further than she has to late at night. In addition, not every student lives in a place so nearby or has someone they could intrude on so late. Where would they go? What would they do?

Students should not be turned away from their own residence late at night because they do not possess a plastic card when it is obvious they live on campus. Weren't policies made to keep students out of danger, not put them in it?

CLARIFICATION:

Last week's article on student parking should have said that from 5 p.m. Friday to 7 a.m. Monday, resident students may park in commuter parking spaces.

Only seniors may park in senior parking spaces, and students may not park in faculty, staff, visitor or reserved parking spaces or fire lanes.

All student leaders are invited to the **ETHICAL LEADERSHIP**

RECEPTION.

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

7-8:30 p.m.

Kresge Auditorium

Refreshments and a panel discussion

Freshman Run-off Results:

President:
Taylor Waren

Secretary:
Megan Deane

Already elected officers are:

Vice president:
Amanda Warren

Treasurer:
Kristen Tripp

Historian:
Camden Watts

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How to reach the Herald:

If you have an article idea for the staff, contact the office at 760-2824. You can also e-mail the paper at <maxweill@meredith.edu>. All ideas will be considered but may not necessarily be used.

Letters to the Editor Policy:

Everyone in the Meredith community is invited and encouraged to write a letter to the editor. All published letters must be typewritten with a contact name, address, and telephone number.

All letters must be signed by the author in order to be published.

The *Herald* reserves the right to place any other article submissions on file until needed or to choose not to print them. The *Herald* also has the right to edit submissions for space restrictions, grammar and style.