

Demand less hog waste

Since Hurricane Floyd's appearance in mid-September, hog farms and their wastes have been a major news story.

While Floyd brought out the need for a policy on hog farm cesspools, it caused major pollution to do so.

From the Editor

So when North Carolina Governor Jim Hunt and his administration developed a policy on hog waste management in mid-October, many North Carolina residents

became hopeful.

The policy itself was apparently too stringent for hog farmers, and so the protests began.

The state government gave in to their demands last week, relaxing rules and laws just passes one month earlier. Under these new rules, hog farmers will be allowed to spray waste during the winter onto a larger area of land. In addition, the hog farmers will be able to return their hog count to its number before Hurricane Floyd.

How many times does something like Floyd have to happen before North Carolina learns? We should not accept hog numbers returning to their original levels. We should not accept hog waste sprayed on our land to the point of oversaturation and runoff into rivers and streams.

While these rules are only in effect until Mar. 31, 2000, that date is still five months away. In the original guidelines, the rules were supposed to last only until Dec. 31, 1999. The date was changed because officials have seen evidence that the hog waste cesspools are diluted with rain by about 50 percent.

Still, for most North Carolina citizens, this knowledge is not comforting. We would not want to drink water that is over half hog waste, so why should we accept its place in our state?

To combat hog-waste cesspool pollution, we must get to the fundamental cause of the problem, and the problem is not Hurricane Floyd or the state of North Carolina. The fundamental cause is the ratio of hogs to volume of cesspools. As long as this number is out of proportion, as it is now, North Carolina will never be rid of hog waste and its resulting problems.

Cesspools and such copious amounts of hogs must go. We cannot wait until the next hurricane to shake us up again.

Letter to the editor: Thanks for good times

Dear Editor:

Seems like only yesterday that I turned my Meredith ring with the seal facing the world and celebrated four wonderful years of accomplishments at MC, and it seems like only yesterday that I turned back around and came right back!

Somehow, I ended up on the front steps of ol' MC again, this time as Residence Director of Heilman and Barefoot.

If you haven't already heard, it's time for me to turn around

once more. This time I will be facing south and heading to Columbia, S.C. Yes, I have officially changed my status from Angel to Gamecock. The University of South Carolina awaits me. I will begin working on my Masters of Education in January and will take with me the valuable experience that I have gained here at Meredith.

A big thanks to the faculty, staff, administration and students for their unconditional

love and support. These have been the days of my life, and I have been blessed to have crossed paths with each of you.

Before I leave, I do have one favor: take care of my "Mama Sharon" (Woodlief) and Anne "Precious" Pickard.

I will miss you all, but who knows? Maybe I'll be back in a few years. I'll need a job, right, Dr. Jackson?

Sincerely,

Kelly N. Conkling

Opinion: Lucky to have education

SARA PARSONS
Copy Editor

As the end of the semester approaches and we all become loaded down with projects and finals, I ask that one thing be kept in mind. No matter how hard the work gets or how late the study sessions go, we should all try to refrain from cursing ourselves, our professors and our "miserable lives." Why? Because we are all lucky.

Each woman here at Meredith is lucky to have the opportunity to receive such a top-rate education surrounded by faculty and staff who sincerely care about and believe in her success.

I am not saying we don't deserve it or we got this opportunity by chance. I am sure every student here has worked hard at some point in her life to get to college, to reach this high point.

What I am saying is that we are lucky to have the opportunity to receive this education when women of the past, maybe even our great-grandmothers, were denied it. Though they might have worked and tried as hard or

even harder than we have, they were denied because that was the way society worked.

Even in present day, in some countries, women are still denied a good education because of their gender. These women only know the life of taking care of their husbands and children. They may not even feel the need to reach for higher goals and achievements because they have accepted their inferior positions without question.

Now, I ask how can we, women who have every opportunity in the world waiting at our doorsteps, mope around dorms moaning and groaning about our workload and our mean professors who must want us to have no social life on the weekends? Wake-up!

This is what college is about, and it is why each one of us are here. No one said college was going to be easy. And through our hard work, we will all learn to appreciate even more what we will accomplish at the end of our college years.

After all, we are all lucky to even have the opportunity to receive this education when so many other women, of the past

and present, could and can only dream about it. What we can achieve here at Meredith and in the future is limitless. At Meredith, we will be given the tools, opportunity and the encouragement. All we need to supply ourselves is the desire to reach our dreams. However, for so many women, this desire is all they have had to work with.

So, as I sit around the Thanksgiving table, giving thanks for all the great things I have in my life, my education will definitely be close to the top of the list and I encourage you to remember it on yours. My experience at Meredith is more to me than a burden of a great work load. It is an opportunity that not many women have had in the past. When taking into consideration the rest of the world, it is an opportunity closed to many women even in present day.

And a Meredith woman, contrary to the jokes and stereotypes, is a lot more than a model for ribbons and pearls. She is a woman with a world of opportunities awaiting her. She is strong, smart and confident. And she is lucky.

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