

Egocentricity won't do

Imagine this scene: A large, fast-moving bullet speeds straight down Hillsborough Street, a crowded, full-of-life thoroughfare.

Now picture the same thing happening, only instead of a bullet, the fast-moving object is a large amount of cyanide. And instead of Hillsborough Street, the pathway is the life-filled Tisza and Danube Rivers in Hungary and Yugoslavia.

From the Editor

This situation, however, is not only a picture, an image; rather, it is a reality. The countries in Eastern Europe must now recover from a cyanide spill that overflowed from a dam at a gold mine.

The spill has killed and will kill most or all of the life in the rivers. Already, about 110 tons of dead fish have been pulled from the river.

Unfortunately, this spill will have devastating environmental consequences, yet the American public knows little about it.

In fact, many officials have called the spill, which happened over two weeks ago, Europe's worst environmental disaster since Chernobyl in 1986.

Yet the stories about the disaster reached America only in a minimal way. The *News and Observer's* stories could be found near the back of the front section. Local news stations squeezed the story between an investigation of the sturdiness of vinyl siding and a story of a dog who called 911.

Occurrences such as the cyanide spill are not only issues that other parts of the world must deal with, so why does the American media make them seem so insignificant?

From large-scale to small-scale, environmental disasters affect everyone, and not even the media can ignore that.

The fish killed in the Danube and the polluted waters will both affect populations and pollution levels in other bodies of water.

The cyanide spill should not be of concern only to the farmers, fishers and other Romanian citizens who earn their living from the river or who depend on the river for their drinking water.

A problem like this could happen even in the U.S., even in North Carolina and even in Wake County.

Letters to the editor: students speak

Meredith lacks enough parking

Dear Editor:

I am writing this letter to express my frustration and concern with parking lot regulations.

I have received two tickets within 24 hours from the same officer. I understand that there are certain places that should and shouldn't be parked in.

However, upon arriving to school the past two mornings (once at 11:30 a.m. and once at 9:15 a.m.), I was unable to find a resident parking space available in the B&G lot, where I am supposed to park. I circled the lot twice.

I had class at noon on Wednesday and at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday. I received a ticket on Thursday at 10:49 a.m. I parked my car at 9:15 a.m. and did not get out of class until 12:30 p.m.

It was at this time that I returned to the parking lot and found yet another ticket on my car. I did not have the time to wait in the parking lot in the hopes that someone would leave.

My first obligation to this school is of an academic nature. I have paid \$150 in order to have a parking space for this school year.

I am more than willing to admit when I have parked in a commuter spot for convenience's sake. However, I have not parked in such a space for those reasons the past two times.

I don't think it is fair to expect students to pay the price of a \$25 parking ticket when there are clearly not enough

parking spaces available. I am more than willing to call campus police to let them know that there are no spaces if that is what needs to be done.

Once again, I am more than willing to move my car when a space is available, but I cannot do so if it interferes with my classes. I'm open to any suggestions.

Sincerely,
Sherry Stephens

Campus not diverse by any standards

Dear Editor:

I was going to write a response to the article referring to America as a melting pot ("Is the U.S. still a melting pot?," Feb. 16); I did not agree on all of the author's statements.

Then something happened on Saturday, Feb. 19 that may help the author see where her thinking is flawed.

On Saturday night, someone singled out a candidate who is running for SGA office and trashed her hall. Why is this so surprising? She is the only minority candidate running for any office.

The surprising thing is that you would not know that she was a minority unless she told you. Her name is Chassie Deitz, and she is Cherokee Indian.

I only bring this up because one day, while eating in the cafeteria, I overheard someone talking about the candidates for SGA president and, sad to say, one person said, "You know

she's Indian, don't you?"

America, as well as Meredith, has a long way to go with diversity. Our goal is to be not a melting pot but rather a tossed salad. Each part of the salad retains its own identity and flavor, yet each adds something special. It is so special that there would be no salad without each individual part.

However, at times, people refuses to view things that way. Some may choose to throw out the cucumbers, others the tomatoes and still some the lettuce. Each one refuses to see that when placed all together, it is much more enriched.

The saddest part of all this is that everyone claims to be diverse. Therefore, as vice president for the Association for Cultural Awareness, I challenge each and every student, faculty and staff member at Meredith College to break down these barriers.

I challenge each person to have a meaningful conversation with someone of a different ethnic group. Get to know that person. Find out their background and aspirations. Maybe you will find out that we are all the same.

Sincerely,
Carolina Crumel

CORRECTION:

Last week's Campus Briefs column incorrectly stated the chair of the Inaugural Steering Committee.

The committee chairs are trustees Virginia Parker and Eugene Langley.

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.

Opinions expressed in the letters do not represent the opinions of the editorial staff.

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How to reach the Herald:

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

Inclement Weather Policy

Decisions to change the College's operating hours or to cancel classes due to adverse weather conditions are made by appropriate members of the Senior Management Team. Once a decision has been made, the information is immediately updated on Meredith's inclement weather line, 760-2384.

Notice of cancellations and delays are also phoned in to WRAL-TV 5 (or check the WRAL website at <www.wral-tv.com/contents>) and to other local television and radio stations as time allows.