

## Moratorium should pass

In the next three weeks, North Carolina is slated to put to death three inmates. Protesters are asking the state for a moratorium on the death penalty, in part because of national reports that racial and economic minorities are put to death at a disproportional rate.

### From the Editor

And all three of the inmates fit into these minority categories. In addition, of the 209 inmates currently on death row in North Carolina, 132 are racial minorities.

The first, Michael Sexton, who is black, is scheduled to die on Thursday. And whether Sexton is guilty of his crime or not, the main questions should be if Sexton received a fair trial because of the racial imbalance on the jury: 11 whites and one black.

Moratorium supporters are asking current Governor Jim Hunt to stay the next three scheduled executions, but so far, he has not given in to the protesters.

If there truly is a doubt as to the fairness, the equity of a trial, it seems that Hunt would want to find the truth, to stop the executions, at least for a while.

The death penalty is not fool-proof; innocent people have died under the auspices of justice and will continue to die under those same pretenses.

Indeed, earlier this year in Illinois, the governor issued a moratorium after 13 death-row inmates were released after judges determined that each had been wrongfully convicted.

Thus, the only way to prevent these innocent and uncertain deaths is for Hunt to approve, to support the moratorium. And though ultimately, capital punishment should be made illegal in the United States, a moratorium for the remainder of the year would be a good beginning for such a shift.

The death penalty does not deter crime; the death penalty does not prevent murders or other violent crimes.

Instead, the death penalty takes an act of carnal violence and legalizes it in the name of justice. With that in mind, a moratorium on the death penalty is imperative.

## Campus forum

### Class doll issue should not be race

Dear Editor:

I would like to respond to last week's letter about the senior class doll (Campus Forum, Nov. 1).

To answer the author's question, NO--I do not want the class of 2001 to be known as "the class that excludes or diminishes the value of those who do not look like them."

Yes, there are many races and ethnicities, not to mention sexual orientations, represented in the senior class. Yes, we should honor and respect those

differences in our community. However, having a class doll represent a former member of our class, a single person, is not the answer.

I believe that somehow the issues involved here have been confused. When the proposal to have the doll represent Akie arose, race was not even mentioned. In Lynn Witt's letter to the editor earlier this semester, she urged the class of 2001 to make the doll representative of Akie as a form of remembrance. She was not urging the class of 2001 to break racial barriers or fight inequality on the Meredith campus.

Because the request to have the doll represent Akie was not well received, people have wrongfully decided to make this issue race-related. I do not feel the doll should represent one person. This belief does not make me a racist or a bigot.

If this group of students is changing its platform from "Let's make the class doll represent Akie" to "Let's make a doll representative of multiple races/identities," I will get in line with them. I honestly doubt that such a change is the case.

Sincerely,  
Missy Neff, '01

## Fight for right to exercise

JONI SMITH  
Staff Writer

As society becomes more aware of diseases and conditions that are caused by lack of exercise, many more people are turning off the television, putting away the Nintendos and getting much needed exercise.

More people are obese and have heart problems today than ever before. Doctors say that this can be greatly attributed to more people spending less time exercising and more time enjoying the technological advancements such as video games, television, movies and the ever-popular fast food restaurants.

However, some people are starting to see the effects of fast food and television and are trying to do something about it. There is not a day that goes by that you do not see someone running, walking or cycling down the streets of Raleigh.

Here at Meredith, we are fortunate to have a fitness center free of charge to students, faculty, and staff. However, many students who are trying to lead healthier lifestyles by working out regularly are finding that this is getting harder and harder to do at Meredith.

During this semester, I found that many times, students are asked to leave the fitness center during physical education classes.

These requests that interrupt a student's work-out time cre-

ate a huge inconvenience to students who plan their day around working out in the fitness center.

Sure, the Meredith Mile is always available, but there are several times when running the Meredith Mile is not convenient for students including on cold winter days, at night and on rainy days.

During those times, students who wish to work out are simply out of luck.

Our friends at N.C. State University conduct many physical education classes in their fitness centers, and students are still allowed to work out during these times on their own.

While I understand that our facility is not as big as theirs, I do not understand why, for example, students can not use the exercise bikes when a class is only lifting weights.

I really do not believe the students at Meredith would interfere with classes going on

in the fitness center.

Because students are not allowed to work out during class times, the fitness center is overcrowded when the classes are not there. Anyone who is a regular visitor to the fitness center is definitely aware of the peak hours.

Not only is exercising a healthy habit, but it relieves stress that students may have from tests, papers, homework and peers. Finding a place to work out around campus simply adds to the everyday stresses we already face.

I hope that something is done soon to make working out at Meredith less of a hassle. I do not think the students are asking for much—just a safe, relaxing place to exercise. The people of the Meredith community have always found a way to correct problems on campus, and I hope this situation is no different.

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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, and 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 letters to the editor do not represent the opinions of the editorial staff.

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