

One small win for wildlife

Environmentalists can at last claim a small victory during the Bush administration. The administration, which has one of the most anti-environmental Cabinets the U.S. has seen in many years, announced Sunday that it would no longer pursue oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska.

From the Editor

Throughout his presidential campaign and the first few months of his presidency, Bush and his administration pledged to find more oil, which they hoped to obtain chiefly through drilling in Alaska.

But on Sunday, Christine Todd Whitman, Environmental Protection Agency chairperson, announced that the administration would discontinue its pursuit of congressional approval for the drilling plan.

The plan hasn't been abandoned because Bush and his Cabinet have finally learned to respect the natural areas remaining in the U.S., nor has it been abandoned because environmental activists have finally gotten their message through to Bush and his administrators. But it's been abandoned nonetheless.

In fact, Whitman cited increased congressional opposition as the main reason the plan has been essentially abandoned. But it's been abandoned nonetheless.

Environmentalists can feel good knowing that they've had some impact on members of Congress. They can feel that they've accomplished something, that Bush and his administration will not always get their way.

Though the Bush administration's decision to abandon its demand for oil drilling in the Alaskan wilderness was not made for the sake of the environmental issues plaguing the nation. The decision was made because the plan was, in fact, doomed to fail.

But the plan is virtually dead, and environmentalists all over the country are celebrating though they should not become complacent in this small victory. There are many more battles that environmentalists must fight during the Bush administration, but the

Campus forum

Residence Life director explains room searches

Dear Editor:

I am writing in response to Mary Caudle's letter to the editor regarding room searches in the Apr. 18 issue of the *Meredith Herald*.

Room searches are conducted as a result of suspicious activity and/or actions by residents. Residence Life staff, along with Campus Police, determine whether a search is necessary or not.

It is not the goal of Residence Life staff to search rooms; rather the goal is to help students understand the policies set forth by the College and the Office of Residence Life. But when residents display questionable behavior, a search may be warranted.

One of the more complex issues in relation to what is considered "alcohol paraphernalia" is that of shot glasses, or as some label them, toothpick holders.

Yes, the bookstore does sell shot glasses (which are labeled as such on the price sticker). The College has no jurisdiction over what the store sells because it is managed by an outside contractor.

Shot glasses, whether sold in the campus bookstore or elsewhere are considered alcohol paraphernalia by the College and Residence Life because their main function is to measure alcohol although they can serve other purposes, such as holding jewelry or toothpicks.

Mary is correct in her belief that Crown Royal bags should not be considered alcohol paraphernalia, along with the Absolut posters adorning many students' walls. The bags will be returned.

I have met with one resident who was upset about the condition of her room after a room search, but it seems that there are other residents who have similar concerns.

Even though I am still in my first year as director of Residence Life, I know that there are Residence Life policies and procedures that need to be reviewed and refined each

year. For me to do that, I need to hear from residents who have concerns about Residence Life so that I may gather information on what needs to be changed or clarified.

Without the residents' input, it is difficult for me to understand what improvements need to be made.

If any resident has a concern with a policy or procedure within the residence halls, I would encourage them to meet with me to discuss their con-

cern.

Through the gathering of information, the staff and I can be better prepared for the next academic year.

Sincerely,

Heidi LeCount

Director of Residence Life

Please see CAMPUS FORUM page seven

Submitting to the Herald :

Submissions must be received by 1 p.m. on the Monday before Wednesday's publication.

Submissions can be brought to the Publications Office, 208 Cate Center.

Submissions include letters to the editor, press releases and feature articles.

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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 necessarily represent the opinions of the editorial staff.

Inclement Weather Policy

Decisions to change the College 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.

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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 <maxwell@meredith.edu>. All ideas will be considered but may not necessarily be used.