

## Letters to the Editor

I beg to differ when you claim that Meredith girls are too wrapped up in our own lives to care about others. While the efforts to support Scottie's Place may not have been too successful, I would like to inform you of ways we do care and we do make a difference in this world.

Meredith has 5 service organizations serving this campus and other communities in Raleigh. Not only do these clubs specifically focus on serving, but also there is always at least one group sponsoring some sort of drive for books, toys, baby blankets, etc. I can name at least 50 Meredith students who spent Spring Break 2002 volunteering in clothing closets, homeless shelters, and soup kitchens in the D.C. area and also participated in a homeless simulation experience. The same girls will spend this coming Spring Break in Nashville, Tennessee. Other students choose to go on Spring Break with Campus Crusade doing the same sort of service in Panama City. Operation Christmas Child is a major event that most Meredith students participate in.

There are so many more ways to give to the needy other than money. Just because we didn't sleep in a box doesn't mean that we do not care. If the box sleeping for Scottie's Place had been held in the middle of a week day in front of the library I guarantee that the girls who participated would have received more money. Not that many Angels are around in the middle of the night on the weekend. Please give us some credit, after all we are still earning our wings.

Emily Cochran  
Class of 2003

I am writing in response to the article about the "Box-A-Thon" and the responses from various people either involved in the fundraiser or their friends. I am the Vice President for the Sociology Club and our club co-sponsored this event with the Social Work Club. I was there that night and I was one of the main individuals asking other students and staff, parents etc. for spare change as they passed our boxes that night.

I would say, "Hello, we are staying in our boxes tonight to raise money for homeless children to go to camp. Would you like to give us some money or do you have any spare change?" Those who said that they were sorry and that they did not have any money on them at that moment did not offend me. It was the individuals who hurried away from us and said rude things like, "Maybe if you get a guitar and sing, people might give you money," or those people who simply ignored us like we were not even out there. I think the letter that Joni wrote was aimed at those individuals mentioned above, not the people who came to see us (by the way-they were part of the club) or by people who sponsored us. We appreciated all who participated and helped us out that night. She makes several valuable points about our lack of awareness of those in need and how important it is for us to help others. Even those who were out there were very surprised about how homeless people are treated. The sad thing is that we had security watch over us and people were not nearly as rude to us as they usually are to those who are truly homeless.

I think Joni believes the fundraiser was a success-she never said it was not, but she was saying that more people do need to be involved and have an awareness of others in the world. This is the only way our society can heal. By the way Sociology/Social Work Clubs plan to make this an annual event and we hope that ALL students and faculty will support us in this fundraiser, which is about giving homeless kids the chance to have fun at camp.

I also want to thank those that did sponsor me and the others who participated (teachers, students and staff!), but I am highly disappointed in the way that I was treated by my fellow students that night who simply walked past us. I know most Meredith Students' love children and would never turn away from a child in need, but that night some of you did.

Jenn Schwachenwald  
Class of 2004

### Jobs Continued from Page 4

through a simple mathematical calculation which divides the amount of people that are employed plus the amount of people that are unemployed but seeking employment, by the number of people that have absolutely no work or income, but are actually looking for employment. The current unemployment rate in the Raleigh Durham Chapel Hill area is 4.6 percent. This is significantly lower than the all time high of 5.1 percent last August. According to the *News & Observer*, the job market figures are showing that a recovery might be taking hold, but economists are remaining cautious. It is still moving very slowly.

Although the level of hope might seem faint at this point, Meredith College is working very hard to make sure that its students have the best opportunities after graduation. The Career Center located on the second floor of the Cate Center, is

designed to help students prepare themselves for post graduation employment. Marie Sumerel, director of the Career Center said the Career Center is working hard to create opportunities for students to meet employers in the community.

"We really try to pull our resources," said Sumerel. "One of the things that we have done is help to create job fairs from local businesses in the community."

In fact, Nov. 19 and 20 there will be a job fair open to Meredith students at the Greensboro Marriot. The fair will host over 75 companies looking to hire graduating seniors. There will also be another career fair in the spring.

The Career Center also offers workshops to help students with their graduate school applications, interviews, and resumes. They also have a job book available in the Career Center for students to look through for employment opportunities. "As new positions become available in the community, we try to send

them out to professors and email students to let them know about prospective job availability in the community," said Sumerel.

Another great resource is the career center website. Visit [www.meredith.edu/career](http://www.meredith.edu/career) which will connect you to the website of the career center to be directly informed about current workshops, job fairs and other upcoming events hosted by the career center.

And so it would seem that after investing four challenging, but academically rewarding years here at Meredith, finding a job should be the least of our worries. However the one thing our education cannot buy us is the promise of a job when our country's unemployment rate is a high 5.7 percent. The valuable Meredith degree will help us advance in the workplace, but we have to remain patient and flexible until this recession is over.

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During his two days on campus, Baxter will meet with an American Literature class and a fiction writing class. He will have lunch with some Triangle-area writers and conduct a workshop for women who have attended Meredith's summer writing workshop, "Focusing on Form."

On Thursday, November 21, at 7:30 p.m. in Kresge Auditorium, Baxter will read from his work and answer questions from the audience. The reading is free and open to the public. A book signing will follow, with books available for purchase at the auditorium. Charles Baxter's visit is sponsored by the English department and the Mary Lynch Johnson Chair.

## Corrections

In last week's Editor's Corner it was reported that no Meredith students gave to the box-a-thon for Scottie's Place. However, the *Herald* has been informed that \$18 of the \$1300 raised, a total of 1.3 percent, was donated from Meredith students.

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