

Letters to the Editor

Meredith is a community that includes residents and commuters. According to a recent article in the *Meredith Herald* commuters feel as though "this school caters entirely too much to resident students." Is this assumption really true?

To my knowledge, commuter students have mailboxes just like everyone else. Are only enough handouts being printed for resident students? The writer in the "Remember the commuters when planning campus events" article says that it's not fair that we as residents get reminders slipped under our door. Living on campus has its perks, like getting mail slipped under our door. We who are paying to live in dorms should enjoy the benefits of it. Should we who live here have to suffer because everyone doesn't have a door to slip things under? Many of the handouts slipped under the door deal with hall meetings and room checklist for breaks; commuters don't need that information anyway. Meredith events are not only advertised to Meredith resident students. Flyers are posted in all buildings, class presidents send out emails, and the Meredith Website is full of needed information. Not to mention the Meredith TV that gives all current events. True it may be more difficult to keep up on things when you don't have a dorm to go back to where everyone just asks their suitemates. The point is that people need to take responsibility and not rely on others to tell them information, especially when it posted everywhere.

The article then goes on to say that not only are commuters not informed of events but also events are planned at inconvenient times for those living off campus. It makes logical sense that events would be planned around when the majority of people could attend. The majority of Meredith is resident students. The writer complains about the 40-minute ride back home, but she knew she would be 40 minutes away when she applied to Meredith. She even goes on to say that it is the residents' responsibility to make commuters feel like apart of Meredith. If commuters really feel this way, then perhaps they should create a committee who keeps up on all the current events and inform commuters. The committee could even talk to other Meredith committees about having meetings earlier, or having meetings during the day for commuters.

There are plenty ways commuters can take action and get involved, but blaming the residents is not the way to get anything accomplished.

Nina-Elaine Borum
Class of 2006

After reading the recent issues of the *Meredith Herald*, I have a few questions. We are supposed to be educated young women,, who are preparing ourselves to conquer the world. So why are we acting like immature high school students who don't have the guts to face the real issues that many of us at this school are faced with on a daily basis? I, along with many of my classmates, are struggling to pay for a college education that has turned into a circus of young "girls" who are so worried about Cornhuskin' that they don't see there are real issues in the world that can be addressed. If you want to cause a debate, don't do it in the papers. Stand strong and organize a protest. However, don't do it on issues such as Meredith being a cult. When you are putting ribbons in your hair, do you stop to think that our country is on the brink of war? While you're complaining about the food in the dining hall, do you stop to write a check to organizations that feed starving children around the world?

If you do, however, want to talk about the smaller issues, let me give you some to talk about. Let's talk about why, after five years of being here, I now have to go to another school just to afford the one class that I need to graduate. That's right. For a four-hour class, it is going to cost me \$1700. According to the financial aid office, there is no money left for me. Now, I have to abandon the school that I have loved for the past five years, just because our tuition has been raised to the point that not even the government can afford it.

It amuses me to see that I am paying \$800 per year for computers and printers that never work when I need them to. It's also amusing to see that those of us who need the help the most are not getting it. However, we have a president who drives a Lexus, has a house bigger than those in my dreams, and pays no bills. Is that really what our money is paying for? When I've asked that question in the past, I've been told the tuition had to be raised in order to pay for the new science and math building. Don't get me wrong. I am perfectly willing to pay an increase in tuition for something that will benefit me in the future. But don't give me any more talk about how this new building will give Meredith a more prestigious image.

Until we can have real arguments, or attempt to make a difference in the world, Meredith will never have a reputation that will withstand the cold in the real world. Until we can let go of our mother's apron strings and our daddy's bootlaces, we will never be able to do what students in the '60's did. We will never be able to have a real debate or stand up for a real cause. Let's get together and create a real democracy where individuals question their leaders. Let's figure out why Meredith has gotten so far in debt that the administration is taking it out on the students by hiking their tuition.

If you really want a reputation that will stick with you throughout your life, you must make yourself known. Organize demonstrations or protests for a common belief. Until you as a Meredith community are willing to take a stand and demand answers, your chances of conquering the world are slim. As long as you are arguing about Cornhuskin' or cults, the rest of the world will never notice you, because the rest of the world doesn't care.

Shelly Wilson
Class of 2003



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Corrections

In an article printed on November 20th, the Assistant Director of Study Abroad was named as Sarah West. However, her name is Sarah Milani, and she is located at 123 Cate Center.