

school. Subjects taught in class may offend the prudent sensibilities of some. Yet, we can not be so insensitive as to discount the views of others. Professors cannot teach only for the benefit of the majority.

That being said, our professors are older, wiser, and if they had nothing to teach us, they would not get the job. Our educators have lived longer, seen more presidents, policies, and environmental changes. They have gone into hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt because they care enough to teach us a little bit about the way the world works. Yes, I have been confronted with the world views of my teachers, but this never compromised my principles. Meredith professors are not in the business of brainwashing and perpetrating agendas. I have never been told who to vote for in class. I have never heard anyone's opinion ridiculed by a teacher. What I have heard in class is sound knowledge and food for thought. We are given the tools to research our ideas, but to study our ideas is always to research the ideas of others. This is why we have to write papers from a perspective other than our own. Academia does not recognize formally our opinions until we are published ourselves. Every piece of knowledge we obtain, at Meredith College or any other institution, is a product of some one else's views. All we can hope for is to memorize facts from books unless we listen to the opinions of others. In this case the others may be more educated and liberal than we are.

My advice to this oppressed conservative majority is SPEAK UP! Don't be afraid to write from your perspective! Don't be afraid to be heard in class! That is the most beautiful thing about our Meredith education: that young women find their voice and aren't afraid to use it. We have a reputation for being a formidable force in Raleigh! We can't be afraid to be heard, ladies, but we also can't be afraid to be corrected. When you raise your voice, others may attack you. This is the way the world works. Fight back by knowing more the next time! Do your research, and read the papers, watch the news, listen to the other side. Those we don't agree with still have something to teach us.

Ladies, we have a vibrant, dynamic learning environment at Meredith College. It saddens me to think that our opinions are so tender that we can not defend ourselves in class. I know for certain though, that our professors are not so narrow minded as to arbitrarily grade their students based on personal politics. I believe our professors are ethical, reasonable people who care deeply about the growth and progress of each individual woman. Meredith College professors are human, and they are not above reproach. They certainly have their own personal outlook. Writing a dissertation will definitely shape a person's judgment on an issue. We cannot expect our professors to cower before the conservative tide in this country. Restricting academic thought and censoring professors is prohibited by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America. For students to assume to know the politics of our professors based on a few semesters of contact is ridiculous. To assume that our teachers are capricious enough to discount the views of others is to assert that they are not credible. I have the utmost faith in the faculty that Meredith College has chosen to hire. I do not believe everything they say, but I do put my trust in their ability to foment ideas. We cannot hire more conservative professors, because it unprofessional to inquire about politics in job interviews. Personal politics are not among the Meredith administration's criteria for hiring individuals with doctorate degrees.

To insist that our education---that our hard-earned degree that some of us will pay on for years, with interest--- is a product of a left-wing conspiracy is obscene. Our educators and college administrators are accused of running a propaganda machine. This is ludicrous. I will graduate next spring from the finest institution in Raleigh. I am proud of my Meredith education, and my views have been thoroughly challenged, refined, and sometimes changed here. We must not be afraid to confront our own belief systems. This called cognitive dissonance, and it is a valuable