

Letters to the Editor

Ever since my first visit here to Meredith, I have been excited about the many traditions. One tradition which really excited me was the Father Daughter dance. I could not wait to be a sophomore so I could share the dance with my father. Now, I am sad to say, I am not as excited as I was a year ago.

This traditional dance here at Meredith has undergone a recent name change. It has changed from Father Daughter dance to Guardian Angel dance. I do understand the reason for the name change, please do not misinterpret that. However, I do not understand why students were not informed about this change in tradition.

This is the main point and question of my letter. As students here at Meredith, we receive numerous emails from President Hartford, the SGA, and faculty regarding changes around campus, Vision 2010, and our opinions on these matters. Did the email regarding the name change of the much beloved Father Daughter dance get lost? I feel students are always asked our opinions on matters regarding this institution. So, if that is true, why was the student body not involved in this change here at Meredith or does our opinion regarding tradition not matter?

Meredith Joyner
Class of 2008

I noted in the September 8 issue of the Herald an article titled "Open Letter 'From Your President'", and that the writer's name was "withheld by request". I don't read articles by unnamed writers due to a personal quirk that I think writers of Letters to the Editor should stand behind what they write if they choose to have it published. It is a safe guess that the article was a President Bush bashing piece, which is nothing new—everyone has an opinion, but if someone is afraid of repercussions because of a written opinion in a news forum, they should not write it.

I talked with a Meredith faculty member to determine if there was an across-the-board editorial policy that writers can request their names to be withheld. I was told it wasn't. When I asked how decisions were made about who made the cut, I was given a litany of reasons: This faculty member said her career is at Meredith and sometimes you have to make compromises. They stated I had no idea how hard it was to get a paper out with such a small staff. (I then thought maybe this issue needed a filler and someone was willing to accommodate.) In addition, I was reminded that Meredith is a small campus and I was informed about an incident regarding some lesbians on campus being subjected to hate behaviors. I don't know what this had to do with my question. At this point I think I would have preferred a simple "it's at the Herald's discretion" who gets to withhold their name. I probably would not have liked that response, but the answer I did get raised more questions than it answered.

This article and my response will not be remembered a month from now. My point is if there is discrimination involved in who gets their name withheld, then that is what should be addressed.

Beth Williams
Class of 2006

FMLA: Condoms on Campus

MELISSA STALEY
Finance Chair of the
Feminist Majority Leadership
Alliance

Meredith College has a goal of educating women to excel, which it does with challenging classes, leadership programs, and post-graduate opportunities. But when it comes to educating and assisting women with their sexual and reproductive health, we're a bit behind.

Unbeknownst to many, Meredith College does not offer any way to obtain condoms on campus, not even in the health center. But the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, a new organization that was formed at Meredith in the spring of 2004, is hoping to change this fact but they need your help. On Monday, October 3, 2005, every student will receive an e-mail survey about having condoms available on

campus. The FMLA asks that you please fill out this survey, especially if you feel strongly about pushing Meredith College into the 21st Century. Keep in mind that having these condoms close at hand may prevent sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy in Meredith students. Assuring the safety of sex is no longer in the hands of the man...we too have to take responsibility.

To Make Meredith's Campus Hate Free, I will...

♥♥ Smile more ♥♥ Be open minded ♥♥ Strive ♥♥ Educate and Pray ♥♥ Be more aware of my comments and judgment towards others ♥♥ Not judge others by their appearance, religion or sexual orientation ♥♥ Not say, "Oh my God that's so gay." ♥♥ I will take time out to get to know people for who they are ♥♥ Try to be an example for people who do hate people who are different from me ♥♥ Treat everyone on campus with respect ♥♥ Be open to everything ♥♥ Cherish differences ♥♥ Comfort those who are hurt by those who hate ♥♥ Try to show others that just because something is different than what they are used to doesn't make it wrong ♥♥ Embrace people of different cultures, sexual orientation and political views. ♥♥ I will embrace other religions and understand them as if they were my own. ♥♥ Keep an open mind and try to educate others about not being ignorant and hateful to others ♥♥ Be nice to everyone and treat everyone fairly ♥♥ Support diversity and not encourage or put up with racism, sexism, or bases against anyone ♥♥ Treat every person kindly regardless of what they may look like, think or believe ♥♥ Stand up for others when someone is attacking them because of race or religion ♥♥ Help teach others that diversity is good ♥♥ Help teach others to not discriminate and to show love, not hate ♥♥ Continue to be myself and encourage others to do the same ♥♥ Be less judgmental - especially on appearances ♥♥ Embrace our diversity, accept others, and think before I speak ♥♥ Watch the phrases that I use that are discriminatory ♥♥ Not judge based on race, sexual orientation or religious beliefs, etcetera ♥♥ Respect everyone I come in contact with ♥♥ Respect everyone and not judge anyone ♥♥ Not make judgments or assumptions about people that I do not know in order ♥♥ Not assume that someone is a certain way because of how they dress ♥♥ Show respect for those who are different from me ♥♥ Respect the differences of others and learn about them to end prejudices ♥♥ Do my very best to prevent prejudice attitudes of my own...completely forget them ♥♥ Do what I can to learn to respect more and reach out to people more ♥♥ Be kind to others ♥♥ Not be so judgmental ♥♥ Watch what I say ♥♥ Be careful with my language ♥♥ Object when someone makes horrible or prejudice comments ♥♥ Stand up and say everything ♥♥ Help society see hate crimes are wrong

Submitted by Meredith Students at Campus Dialogue on Diversity:
Journey To A Hate Free Millennium on September 21, 2005.
Sponsored by the Office of Commuter Life and Diversity Programs

You're Invited...to see what our Undergraduate Research Summer Stipend Program research partnerships produced...

to learn about how you can turn your interests into a project and apply for funding from our program.

**Please join us for "A Taste of Research"
Wednesday, September 28th
5:00-6:30 pm
SMB Atrium**

There will be appetizers, desserts, great people to meet and lots of knowledge to share....come and get inspired!!!