

Sororities: Yes No

What is your opinion?

RIENEKE FARROW
Staff Writer

This is the second of a two-part article on the debate on whether to have sororities on campus. This week I talked to women on campus who are strongly in favor of instating nationally known sororities on Meredith's campus.

Lori Dean Cooper and Sandra Utile are two women who are strongly in favor of having black sororities on Meredith's campus.

When I asked the two women why they felt that there was a need for black sororities on campus, Lori Dean Cooper responded that "black sororities would give the black students a feeling of belonging that they don't already have at Meredith."

Utile's reason for supporting sororities is "the sisterhood and being connected to something bigger, something that you can actively take part in."

The two women had many reasons why they supported sororities on campus but these two summed up their reasons the best.

In the previous article, many of the students interviewed were not informed on how the sororities, if

allowed on campus, would be organized and run. The women with whom I talked this week gave a little more insight. As for the question as to who could join the sororities, both women replied that all Meredith students would be welcome to pledge. Just like any other sorority or exclusive club, there would be some standards that would have to be met.

Cooper said that "there are already Greek-lettered organizations on the Meredith College campus, and no one makes complaints about them."

I was then informed that pledges of both sororities that are wanted on campus, Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) and Delta Sigma Theta (Delta), are required to have and maintain a certain GPA and to do community service. According to the websites of AKA and Delta, both organizations strongly believe in unity and not separation as many who are opposed to sororities believe. According to the AKA site, the sorority was founded at Howard University in 1908, and their mission in establishing the sorority was as an "instrument for enriching the social and intellectual aspects of college life

by providing mental stimulation through interaction with friends and associates". Since its establishment, the mission has changed to the following: "Alpha Kappa Alpha is a sisterhood composed of women who have consciously chosen this affiliation as a means of self-fulfillment through volunteer service. Alpha Kappa Alpha cultivates and encourages high scholastic and ethical standards; promotes unity and friendship among college women; alleviates problems concerning girls and women; maintains a progressive interest in college life; and serves all mankind through a nucleus of more than 170,000 women in the United States, the Caribbean, Europe, and Africa."

The Delta's mission statement is very similar. This sorority was also founded at Howard University but a few years later in 1913. The Delta Sigma Theta official website states that the major programs of the sorority are based upon the organization's Five Point Thrust of:

- Economic Development
- Educational Development
- International Awareness and Involvement
- Physical and Mental

Health

- Political Awareness and Involvement

As far as Utile and Cooper are concerned, the Meredith College campus is already divided, and sororities will give black students a place to belong and life long connections to other women, not just in North Carolina or even America but throughout the world. Neither woman feels that attending Meredith without sororities will give them the same opportunity. Some students, who are opposed to having sororities on campus, have asked why students, who want to join a sorority, would come to Meredith knowing that there aren't sororities already instated. Utile said that she did not know, when she decided to attend Meredith, that the college did not have sororities, but as soon as she found out this information she

looked into how she could join a sorority.

Utile said, "I have always dreamt of coming to college and joining a sorority."

Utile has looked into joining a sorority off campus but would like to be able to have the full college experience within Meredith.

Both sides of this debate make compelling arguments for their position. Now it is up to the rest of the student body and the administration to take a look all of the information and make an informed and intelligent decision concerning this subject.

For those of you who are interested in learning more about the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority you can visit their official site at <http://www.aka1908.com> or for the Delta Sigma Theta sorority visit <http://www.deltasigmatheta.org>.

The MEREDITH HERALD Staff

Editor in Chief.....*Maria Santore*
herald@meredith.edu

Managing Editor.....*Amber Littesy*

Layout Editor.....*Megan Rice*

Copy Editors.....*Amy Kay Nickerson*

Rita Hendrick

Staff Photographer.....*Terri Richards*

Business Manager.....*Stephanie Harrington*

Advertising Manager.....*Kristi Arthur*

Faculty Adviser.....*Dr. Rebecca Duncan*

Staff Writers.

Christy Nash.....Rachel McElwain

Rieneke Farrow.....Emelia Dunston

Jackie Bullock.....Lauren Stanfield

The *Meredith Herald* is published by the College throughout the academic year. The paper is funded by the college and through independent advertising. All advertisements should be sent to herald@meredith.edu, attention Natalie Braswell.

The opinions expressed in the editorial columns do not necessarily reflect those of the college administration, faculty, or student body.

Published by Hinton Press

Tired Of Renting?

You can own a new townhome for as little as ⁰⁰\$830 per month*

YOUR HOMETOWN BUILDER



Edgewater

- From the \$100's-\$130's
- All Appliances Included!
- Close to I-440 and Raleigh
- Peak Performance ENERGY STAR® Townhomes Available

919.752.1029



*Based on 30yr, 100% financing fixed loan of \$112,900. HOA not included. See agent for details.

www.AndersonHomesNC.com