

# news

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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.

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

The policy of this paper requires that submissions be made forty-eight hours before publication, allowing time for consultation between staff and contributors; that articles not exceed 700 words; that letters to the editor not exceed 200 words; and that contributors sign all submissions and provide necessary contact information. The editor and staff welcome submissions meeting the above guidelines.

Published by Hinton Press

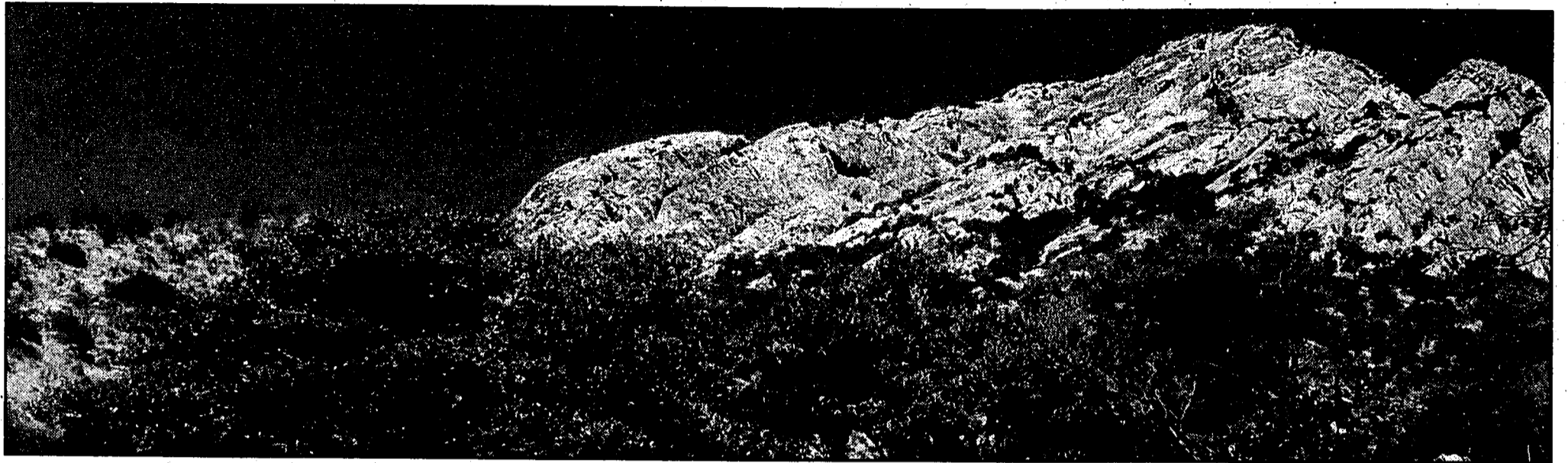


Photo courtesy Amber McKinney

## SPRING BREAK TO FORT HUACHUCA

Amber McKinney  
Editor-in-Chief

While a lot of students pulled out of Meredith heading for Myrtle Beach or Florida on Spring Break, my friend Erin and I left for Arizona. On Saturday morning, we drove to RDU at 4:50 a.m. That's way too early in the morning to be awake, but we got an asiago bagel and some coffee to wake us up before the plane departed. We arrived at Fort Huachuca, Arizona on Saturday afternoon after an hour and a half long drive from the airport in Tucson.

Not to sound overdramatic or anything, but I love Arizona. Besides North Carolina, it's my favorite state, and it's probably one of the most different from NC. Instead of trees and greenery as far as the eye can see, southern Arizona is made up of mountains that seem to appear from nowhere, mesquite bushes and yucca plants and miles of dirt and rocks. It's empty and wonderful at the same time, and there is a lot to do there, especially if you are into outdoor sports. Not to mention that it was 75-80 degrees during the day for most of the week that we were there.

Erin and I spent much of our time in Arizona outside of the house. On Sunday we visited Tombstone, the town where the gunfight at the O.K. Corral happened. It is an odd but fun place. People walk around in cowboy and "ladies of the night" costumes. While we were in Tombstone, we went down on a tour into the Good Enough Mine which used to be a good mine for silver and could be opened for silver mining in the future. Coming back from Tombstone, we stopped at the ruins of an old town called Millville and saw some Native American petroglyphs.

Monday morning, we headed out toward the Mexican border to the Coronado National Forest where we hiked three miles up a mountain to a cave. A

mild spelunking expedition took us deep into the cave without a tour guide. That afternoon, we attended the homecoming of the soldiers of the 40th Expeditionary Signal Battalion. They were supposed to arrive around 1 p.m., but there were delays thanks to some soldier forgetting to turn in a sensitive item. They eventually got to the gym around 7:50 p.m. to the screaming, whistling and shouting of their family members and friends. Erin's dad, Brigade Commander Colonel Frank Huber, gave the shortest speech I have ever heard from a military officer so the soldiers and their families were able to reunite sooner than we expected.

We took it easy Tuesday since we were tired from hiking and caving on Monday, but we ended up going on a hike up the mountains around Fort Huachuca. At first we were going to stop at Reservoir Hill, but we decided to see how far we could go. Eventually we were so high that we would have needed rock-climbing gear to go higher. On Wednesday, we took one of the trucks and drove over to Bisbee, a small town to the east of Sierra Vista. Like Tombstone, it also sports an old mine, but Bisbee is less rough and rowdy and more artsy with lots of little shops and galleries that supported local artists. Thursday was mostly taken up by shopping at the PX and a five mile hike up Huachuca Canyon, and Friday was the early morning flight back to North Carolina.

I had a fantastic spring break in Arizona, and I hope to return there soon, perhaps this summer or the next. I recommend visiting Arizona if you have any sort of interest in hiking, caving, walking or just spending lots of time outside. ■

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### 5) Do the math.

If you cannot motivate yourself to get back into the swing of things after Spring Break, do a little math to put you in the right mood. The cost of tuition during the 2008-2009 academic year at Meredith, according to the Meredith Financial Assistance website, is \$23,550. Therefore, a quarter of the year, which is about what is left right now, costs \$5,887.50. For a student who takes 15 credit hours and receives no scholarships or financial aid, she will pay \$392.50 for each credit hour this semester. To break it down even further, assuming all of a student's courses are three credit hours and each class meets for approximately 40 hours during the semester, each Meredith student pays \$58.88 per hour of instruction. Although these numbers don't apply to every Meredith student, they are still startling figures. So, next time you want to skip class or just spend your fifty minutes on Facebook, consider if the information on the newsfeed is worth \$58.88. ■

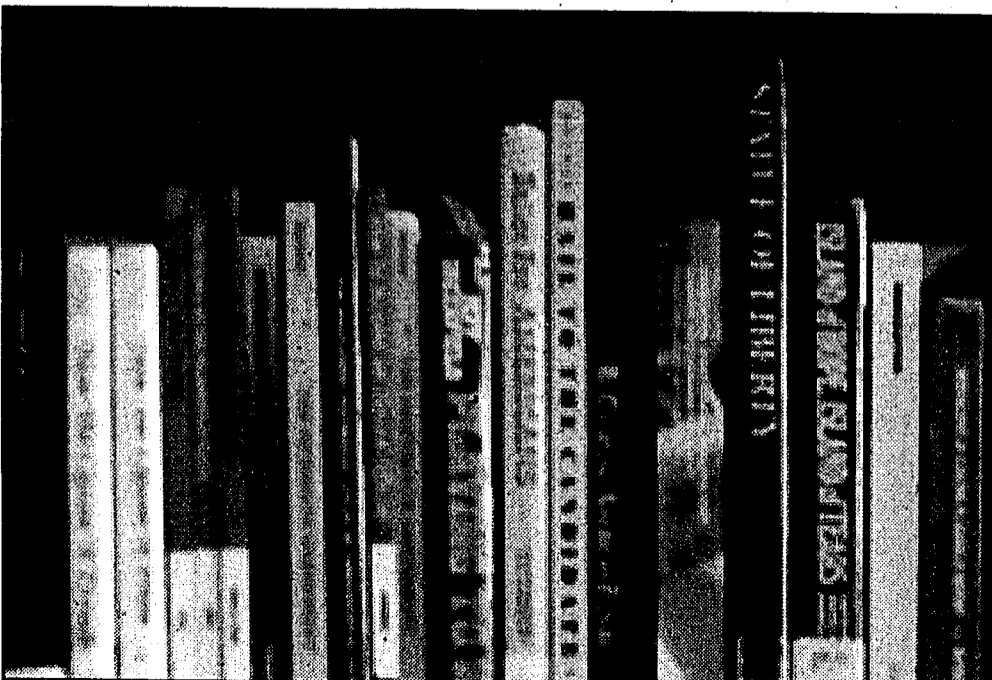


Photo Courtesy www.leeds.ac.uk