

OPINION

Letter from the Editor

Dear Meredith community,

In this week's Campus Life section, *The Herald* features an article on the challenges currently faced by NC State's newspaper *The Technician*. While *The Meredith Herald* may not face the same issues as *The Technician*, it still shares the struggle of finding its niche on campus in a world where the college newspaper is not as integral to campus life as it once was.

This year, *The Herald* has seen many changes. With a new design, new editor, and new ideas, it is poised to reinstate itself as a vital part of Meredith's community. *The Herald* is an outlet for Meredith students to present their opinions, political understandings, fresh ideas, and thoughts on local issues to Meredith's population and to our surrounding neighborhood. It is a chance to share our intellectual prowess in print, and its importance should not be overlooked.

In the past few months I have had the pleasure of reading many submissions from Meredith students on topics ranging from the dining hall to new eras in journalism. I have been disappointed, however, that most of these submissions have come at the request of faculty members and not from individual motivations. Where is the student commentary on the many social and political issues our age group currently faces? Drastic changes in credit card laws and health care requirements have been made in the three brief months of 2010. These issues directly affect college students, but the Meredith student body has remained publicly silent.

Closer to home, budget cuts have slashed majors and faculty members this year, and Meredith's future seems uncertain. I have heard heated comments on this issue in classrooms and public areas on campus, but why have I received so few letters from students or faculty members containing educated opinions on the issue? Is Meredith's educated community satisfied with heated complaints, or are we willing to publicly present our opinions in print? Gossip and complaints have created little change throughout history, but the printed word has yielded revolutionary results. *The Meredith Herald* is here to serve as that revolutionary outlet for Meredith's student body, and I am now asking you to use it. Without support from Meredith faculty, staff, and students in the form of submissions and readership, *The Meredith Herald* will cease to be a thought-provoking, intelligently written newspaper, and it will become a mere campus newsletter that reports only bubbly news on the happenings of Meredith's campus. As a Meredith student, I hope my fellow students recognize that this would give our community members a basis for devaluing the education we receive here and our personal intelligence. We cannot stand for that.

As Editor-in-Chief of *The Meredith Herald*, I am asking for your help. There is only one issue left for the semester, but next fall we will be in dire need of writers, photographers, copyeditors, columnists, business managers, and editors. If you cannot contribute on a weekly basis, then we need your submissions—your educated thoughts, opinions, and ideas. Without the Meredith community, there can be no *Meredith Herald*. I look forward to hearing from you.

Amy Hruby
Editor-in-Chief
The Meredith Herald, 2010-2011

Something's Gotta Give

Kristen Gallagher, Staff Writer

As I come to the end of my freshman year here, I am a little unsatisfied. I am unchallenged and annoyed at the lack of intellectual vitality I see on this campus. I know Meredith has brilliant, interesting, and fascinating students, but everyone seems to be hiding their brains! Meredith prides itself on several of its assets, but its students aren't going as far as they could. We have great professors and programs whose missions are to guide Meredith students to excel, but the problem is that most of the students don't seem to be—or don't want to be—rising to the challenge.

When I visited Meredith in my senior year and the following summer, I was excited about the possibilities I could take advantage of—undergraduate research, debates, lectures, and more. However, when Fall classes got into full swing, I was saddened by what I did not hear. I didn't hear heated debate or thoughtful questions; I didn't hear responses to challenges posed. Rather, all I heard was a

bored and blank silence. I equate that silence with a lack of interest in student's own education—a sad, sad thing to have. A college education is supposed to challenge and nurture us, and how can an education do that if we don't meet it halfway?

How fortunate we are to attend any college at all, really—because statistically speaking, most 18-year-olds (and 18-year-old females, especially) in the world don't get to. Are we not going to take complete advantage of everything a higher education offers? Most of the girls here seem uninterested in classroom debate, answering challenging questions, and voicing concerns. Many students here act as if it were a burden to go to class and participate.

I wish that more students here would open up their eyes and ears and react to what's around them. I would like to ask the student body the following questions, and I welcome your responses. Are you curious to know about

other cultures? Are you satisfied with a basic understanding of the workings of life? Do you feel content with just learning your major? Is gen-ed the extent to general knowledge you want to know? Finally, I'd like to say that if you don't want to be here and don't want to challenge yourself, perhaps you shouldn't stay.

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