

Open House Hours: A Student Forum in Print

Recently, discussion on campus has centered on possible changes in Open House hours. *The Meredith Herald* has gathered student comments and opinions on the topic. Read our open forum here:

Anna Beavon Gravelly: On Tuesday the 30th of March, the Student Life forum featured an open floor concerning the change in Open House Hours. There were a wide range of comments from the major change of allowing boys on the halls during the week to the minor change of merely expanding the hours on the weekends. However, the majority of students felt that the Open House Hours should only be adjusted on the weekends. I feel the slight change advocated by a majority of the students at the forum shows the overwhelming desire to respect Meredith College's tradition and focus on education.

Staci Lee Fulp: Meredith's campus is buzzing with talk about potential change in Open House hours. There are several opinions floating around as voiced at the Student Life Forum on Tuesday, March 30th. Some feel that instating Open House hours during the academic week will take away from the Meredith College tradition. They argue that if Open House hours were allowed during the academic week, then the feeling of a "safe haven" would be gone because female students would have less privacy if

male guests were allowed in dorm rooms during the week. On the other side of the issue, students feel that incorporating male guest hours during the academic week would give a more "normal college experience." I can see where this would come into play when you see other women's institutions with male guest hours and overnight male guest policies. However, changes like these normally take time and gradual implementation to find what will benefit all students. As students, we need to take into consideration the opinions of alumnae as well. As hard as it is to believe that funding could be taken away because of Open House hours, it is a possibility. So, let's start with smaller steps and not expect things to change overnight. I argue that the change needs to begin with extending hours on the weekends and then progressively moving forward. It is a long process, and we need to be considerate of those who are trying to help make this change in policy.

Kristen Gallagher: Many women's colleges and co-ed schools alike have begun to devote specific dorms and even halls to certain interests, living arrangements, and requests. I think that if Meredith started to move in the direction of allocating certain halls or even one dorm to "specific" interests, students here could experience more freedom while maintaining respect

and dignity for all other students. There could be a quiet hall with extended no-noise hours, a hall that didn't allow boys at all (or only at very restricted times), and even halls dedicated to sports fans or "arts" people (with theater, music, and art students living together). In terms of implementing this strategy, Meredith really wouldn't have to do much at all but market the dorm or halls as whatever they've been designated, thus allowing girls more choices when living on campus.

Notes from *Beth Howard*, SGA and RHA representative: Thanks to everyone who responded to the survey! We had close to 500 responses. The results will be sent out soon via email. From here, a normal policy change process will ensue. The organization (RHA) will make a proposal. The proposal will come back to the students for a vote, which is called a referendum. If the students vote in favor of the referendum, then the proposal goes to SGA Senate. Senate will review the proposal and vote in the best interest of the college. If Senate passes the proposed change, then the proposal moves on to SGA. SGA will then review it and vote on the proposal. After SGA, the Senior Management Team will review the proposal and also take a vote. Finally, the proposal may need to go to the Board of Trustees. If each step is passed, then the policy will take effect.

CORE 404 Brings Attention to World Issues

From CORE 404 students: Caroline Exum, Jenny Cowper, Christine Ocampo, Sabrina Yeskel, Molly Timberlake, Shiease Puryear

Did you know...

- 907 million people in developing countries alone are hungry
- Asia and the Pacific region is home to over half the world's population and nearly two thirds of the world's hungry people
- More than 60 percent of chronically hungry people are women
- 65 percent of the world's hungry live in only seven countries: India, China, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan and Ethiopia.

(Source for above facts: *The State of Food Insecurity in the World, FAO, 2008*)

In 2005, almost 1.4 billion people lived below the international poverty line, earning less than \$1.25 per day.

(Source: <http://www.bread.org/learn/hunger-basics/hunger-facts-international.html>)

Ways you can help: Think Globally, Act Locally!

- Sponsor a local food drive
- Volunteer at a food bank
- Get involved with a global org.
- Support a community-run relief effort (in a grocery store or at a restaurant!)
- Take CORE 404 to learn more!

Helpful Resources:

- <http://www.foodbankcenc.org/> (Raleigh Food Bank)
- <http://www.worldforworld.org/index.asp> (Global Organization)
- <http://one.org/us/> (Global Org) <http://www.bread.org> (Global Org)

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Be a Wellness Coach!

If you love working with people and have an interest in health and nutrition, you can make a difference in your community as a wellness coach! PT and FT positions available, email for more information: behealthynow2010@gmail.com

Congressional Acts that Affect You!

Amy Hruby, Editor-in-Chief

On Monday evening, I had the pleasure of meeting with NC District 13 Congressman Brad Miller to discuss the recent Health Care and Student Loan acts that have been passed. Here are a few key points and explanations he provided for students:

The Affordable Health Care for American Act

- Young people are more likely to be uninsured due to lack of income or constant job transitions (as most people currently get health insurance through their employer). New health care laws allow youth to stay on their parents insurance until age 26 or to buy affordable health insurance.

The Affordable Health Care for America Act creates a "Health Insurance

Exchange" which does for health insurance what Expedia did for travel. Now you can do one-stop shopping to compare all insurance plans and choose the best one for yourself.

Student Loan Reform

- The maximum Pell Grant award has been increased to \$5550 this year and will increase to \$5975 by 2017.

- Students can now receive up to \$4000 a year in up-front tuition assistance if they commit to teaching in high-need schools for four years after graduation.

- If students work in public service or non-profit areas for 10 years after graduation and make payments on their loans during that time, then any remaining money owed after 10 years will be forgiven.