

# OPINION

## Editorial: A Response to the Ying Yang Twins Controversy

Kate Noel Naef, Contributing Writer

As the conflict surrounding the Ying Yang Twins' concert at Meredith unfolded, we had many questions, comments, and criticisms tossed our way. Fortunately, many of them are surface-level and repetitive, so we are going to take a few minutes to address these "common comments."

**"If you don't like it, just don't go."**

First of all, this issue isn't as trivial or simple as not caring for the music. This issue goes beyond, "Darn, I really wanted a rock concert and rappers are coming instead." If I simply didn't care for the genre of music selected, I'd be happy to stay in my room watching movies from precisely seven to ten o'clock on the evening of Sunday, September 12th, and then I'd crawl out of bed and go to Cook-Out—but only when I was sure that my ears wouldn't be assaulted with that annoying music that I merely don't care for. Ludacris is coming to NC State. I don't care for Ludacris. I'm not going. Why don't I protest Ludacris? Because Ludacris won't be at Meredith, and at least he also sings about shooting up the ghetto in addition to his sexual exploits. Second, since when is ignoring something the most effective way of dealing with an issue? Examples of the inefficiency of this method range from extreme to irrelevant, but since most students embodying this comment don't appear to enjoy thinking critically, I'll give you a pretty straightforward case in point. You see your fiancé cheating on you. He has invited you on a date tomorrow night, but since you don't like that his tongue was down another woman's throat, you say that you have homework and don't have time to go. You don't tell him the real reason, and then you act like it never happened. Now, did you really fix the problem? In regards to the Twins' presence at Meredith, we didn't feel like it was enough to simply disagree and look away, so we wanted people to know that there are students on this campus who feel that a group that openly writes songs for strippers might be welcome at Pure Gold, but not at a women's college.

**"They're not talking about me in those songs."**

Would you like to bet on that? They're talking about your gender at large in those songs. So now you're not a woman? The registrar's office seems to think you are. The jig is up; you are Shawty, and it's your birthday every day.

**"It's just a song with a fun beat. No one actually pays attention to what they're saying. Besides, do you really know anyone that acts on those songs?"**

If you didn't know what the lyrics were, why were so many of you so willing and able to shout them out at the concert when The Twins tipped the mic your way? You heard what they were saying, and we heard you saying what they were saying along with them. How's that for feigned innocence? On a more serious note, our culture in general acts on media such as the Twins'. You don't believe me? Please do explain 16 and Pregnant and The Bad Girls Club, or at least explain why those television shows are so engrossing to watch. Then explain why the average middle school girl wants crop tops and shorts so short that the pockets hang out. If you need something closer to home and more quantifiable, explain your average NC State frat party and why the minute a woman walks through the door, she's signing an invisible waiver allowing anyone to touch her anywhere and in any way. Say no, and she may wake up in their basement with a headache and no memory of how she got there. Explain away.

**"It makes Meredith look bad to make a big deal out of it like this."**

This one is my personal favorite. The administration and Meredith leaders certainly made a bit of a hypocritical blunder in even allowing the Twins onto the ballot. There was a lot of oversight, a lot of generation blindness, and a lot of



Ying Yang Twins concert, photo by Izzy Bouchard

general ignorance as to what the Twins represent. Within the Meredith community, it really may look like those who objected to The Twins were just giving CAB a hard time. Outside of the Meredith community, it looks like some students took a deeper look into an issue and brought the contradiction into light. Meredith students, thinking critically? Imagine that! Thank benevolence for Prism; it would appear that a lot of us need it. The catch to this is hypothetical: How does this look to the outside community who doesn't know about the letter of dissention, the editorial, the "What's the Rap on Women" forum, and the protest? It looks to all eyes like Meredith's affiliation with a misogynistic boy band is really Meredith supporting those values and behaviors. All the outside would see is that a prestigious women's college with a mission to develop strong, critically-thinking leaders really blew it by inviting performers who generally encourage the idea that women can be rented for men's pleasure. Now, after all the discussion generated both internally and in greater Raleigh, someone can tell those outside of the college community that at least someone tried. And in case you're wondering why it matters what people other than the

students think, just keep in mind that the Board of Trustees is NOT made up of freshman, sophomores, juniors, seniors, WINGS, or graduate students.

If you still don't understand what the big controversy is about, please do read Stripped by Bernadette Barton (the sociology book of the year), Reviving Ophelia by Mary Pipher, and please, in the name of intelligence, at least look up the cliff notes on Half the Sky by Nicholas Kristoff and Sheryl WuDunn. If you don't feel that aspired, then just Google the Twins' lyrics and ask yourself if it's really okay that they said that to you on Meredith College's campus.

**Have an opinion on this issue or any others?**

**Email it to [herald@email.meredith.edu](mailto:herald@email.meredith.edu)!**