

OPINION

Whines & Gripes

collected by Jillian Curtis

Why don't you try to read the rest of the paper instead of just the Whines and Gripes?

I'm pretty sure I'll graduate before the new speed bump is complete.

It's taken you three weeks to grade our midterm. It was multiple choice and on a Scantron. Fail.

To the girl who whipped out the Razor scooter to get to class: That was cool in middle school. Not so cool in college.

Dear Graduation Committee: We know you lied and said the majority chose maroon when we all really chose black. We're sending you to Honor Council. Love, 2012. PS: We all really wanted to receive our diplomas while resembling tomatoes. Thanks for making that dream true.

Who makes videos of themselves and posts them on Facebook?

Please stop stroking your girlfriend's hair in the middle of class. It's distracting.

Didn't realize St. Patrick's Day was National Get Drunk And Puke in The Oaks Parking Lot Day. Classy.

Who was the idiot that started the rumor that senior year was supposed to be easy and fun?

Really, a talent show? That's the best you can do? Just have another t-shirt sale.

If I get two points deducted off my grade for every tardy, I'd appreciate it if you'd make the effort to get to class on time as well. Thanks.

Why does every event at Meredith College have to have a theme?

You must not know how much of a spoiled brat you really sound like when you talk about your lavish spring break and at the same time go on about how bad the homeless have it.

At this point in the semester, I'm ready to take vodka shots in the bathroom on the reg.

Just let it go.

The British are Coming...Again

Kelsey Suther,
Staff Writer

We all know about the first British invasion that included bands like The Beatles and The Rolling Stones, as well as the second invasion that featured The Pretenders and The Police. Now a new wave of British music is washing up on North American shores. This time, rather than rock n' roll being at the forefront of this British invasion, genre blending music takes center stage.

The late Amy Winehouse and Duffy became extremely popular with their throwback beats and big band/swing style music with their singles "Rehab" and "Mercy," respectively. Winehouse's goddaughter Dionne Bromfield, along with Lily Allen, Kate Nash, Eliza Doolittle and Olly Murs are following in Winehouse's footsteps with retro and swing infused pop songs.

British boy bands seem to be making a comeback as well with The Wanted's techno/pop single "Glad You Came" in heavy rotation on American radio, as well as being featured on the winter finale of Glee. British-Irish boy band One Direction is also blowing up

stateside, even being booked as SNL's performing act in April and causing thousands of hysterical girls reminiscent of Beatlemania. The band even beat out Adele for Best British Single at the 2012 Brit Awards and is finding immense international success with their radio friendly pop/rock music. Other British bands like Coldplay, Mumford and Sons, Noah and the Whale, Arctic Monkeys and The Kooks have also seen great commercial success in America since the early 2000s with their alternative/rock music.

Singer/rapper duo Rizzle Kicks are gaining popularity in the UK with their retro sounding hip hop tracks that could easily become popular in North America. Even UK X Factor alum Cher Lloyd raps and sings on her album "Sticks & Stones," which is set for a US debut this summer. Lloyd also performed at blogger Perez Hilton's SXSW party. Singer/songwriter Ed Sheeran exploded in the UK with the release of his certified triple platinum album "+" that features acoustic music laced with melodic rap lyrics. Sheeran, who is

known for his use of loop pedals, also performed at the SXSW music festival in Austin, Texas.

Singer Ellie Goulding rose to international fame after singing Elton John's "Your Song" at Prince William and Kate Middleton's wedding reception, and with the release of her techno/alternative album "Lights." Goulding's debut is similar to that of fellow Brit Imogen Heap who also mixes dance beats with rock influence. Florence Welch (Florence + the Machine) has become the most popular of alternative British females in the US with songs "Shake It Out" and "Dog Days Are Over," which Glee also covered.

British music has once again gained relevance outside of the UK with Brits such as Adele, Leona Lewis, and Jessie J breaking into American mainstream music. This new wave of talented British artists, with a penchant for blending genres, could be seen as the Third British Invasion. A group of fresh talent has definitely come out of England. The British are coming.

The Power of the Written Word

Emily Gamiel,
Editor

Ecclesiastes 5:2 says, "Think before you speak." I suppose that during this time, writing wasn't particularly important or relevant to the majority of people, so the author of this book left out what he surely meant to say next. I'm pretty sure it might have gone something like this: "Think even harder before you write."

When we speak, our words go away in a flash. Our words are heard and interpreted in that moment, and most often discarded from our mental libraries leaving only our own interpretation of what the spoken words meant in our brains. When we write, however, the words are permanent. We can never change them and we can't take them back. Although these words can also be interpreted and analyzed, each letter remains concrete and serves as material evidence.

Throughout the course of this academic year, I can say that I have learned one lesson that I am sure never to forget. I have learned that the written word is much more powerful than many people think. Through writing, we share current events, personal experiences, business deals, and countless other productive and worthwhile tasks. However, it seems that this writing is a rarity compared to the vast amount of words that are published every day. We greatly underestimate the harm

and damage that our words are able to cause. As an English major, I shake my head at the mistreatment of the English language that our ancestors once worshipped. Jane Austen and John Milton would have a stroke if she or he were here with us to witness this nonsense. Words are powerful, and they are meaningful. They can teach, increase understanding, and make peace. They can also damage, offend, and straight up piss people off.

Sometimes when I see some of the blasphemous posts that show up on my Facebook news feed, I am shocked. I know that this astonishment should have worn off by now, but it hasn't. Do people really not think that what they write matters? Are we really so naive that we believe if we remove a post from our page that nobody will ever see it again? Why doesn't anybody care?

The fact is that we are careless. We throw around words like nobody cares. But people do. The words you write will be accessible 20 and 30 years from now. If you have children, do you really want them to see that their mothers wrote terrible things and ignorant statements about others and sounded like morons for half of their lives? When we go to get jobs, do we really want our future employers to see a tweet about some "trashy bitch" we encountered during the day?

In this century, it is so easy to publish our own words. Oftentimes, we forget that when we click "submit," "send," and "post," that we are, indeed, publishing those words all by ourselves. Once the piece of writing is transmitted through our Internet connection and into someone else's possession, the words are no longer ours. They are public and available for anyone to see.

If I leave this college with one lesson learned, it is to think about what I write before I press "save" or "send." You may say that it is just because a great deal of my life revolves around the written word, but the truth is, my advice applies to all of us. Every single person reading this article no doubt has an email account, a Facebook, Twitter, or even a blog. I know from past experience that my audience will praise, condemn, or even fly into a rage about whatever I've written, so I must always remember to write carefully, thoughtfully, and prayerfully. And I need a friend or advisor to review what I've written before I hit "send," not after.

In the book of John, the author says of God, "In the beginning was the Word." How right John was and how soon we forget. The word is powerful. The word is immortal. The word must, therefore, be kind, helpful, and enlightening.