

OPINION

WHINES & GRIPES

I'm tired of this institution upping my tuition but cutting my printing money. How is a girl supposed to write a thesis on only \$10 worth of printing money?!

Why must the geese poop everywhere I need to walk?

Dear underclassmen,
Please stop taking up the whole sidewalk while walking slowly in between classes. You may not want to get to class but I do.
Sincerely,
"I want to graduate" senior

Why doesn't anyone submit Whines & Gripes this year?!

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

As co-editors for the 2012-13 academic year, we welcome and request letters to the editors addressing local and campus issues. We also invite feedback on The Herald as a whole and individual articles. Please send letters to herald@email.meredith.edu.

*We hope to hear from you!
-Amy Hruby and Julia Dent*

WRITE WITH US.

The Herald welcomes current students, faculty and staff to join our team of campus reporters.

TUESDAYS

5:30 PM

JOYNER 128

Let Me Type My Notes: Arguing for Classroom Technologies

Jessica Feltner, staff writer

There are two main tools used to take notes. The first is old-fashioned tried and true note books, used by those who love the feel of paper, the act of frantic scribbling and getting ink all over your hands. After class, notebook lovers tediously decode those scribbles, sometimes recopying them and putting them onto flash cards. The second is for people more like me, who enjoy taking advantage of the technology gifts given to us and lugging our brick-like Lenovo laptops to class.

There is infinite study power at your fingertips when you bring a laptop or iPad into the classroom. You are able to speedily note take in legible type, with the additional ability to synchronize your notes onto other devices. If you need more flexibility than what you can get with your keyboard, there's a way to achieve that as well. With an iPad and stylus, you can even take electronic handwritten notes. Apps like Evernote synchronize everything to your online account, allowing you to have access to those Spanish notes from any electronic device that

has Wi-Fi. I have yet to come across a notebook that can accomplish all of that.

Every professor addresses laptop policy a little bit differently; however it's generally safe to say that if you want to keep these tools accessible in the classroom, then you should not use it for checking your Facebook, Tumblr, or browsing Pinterest. It's easy to think that you'll get away with it - and in some cases you probably will. However, if you do get caught then you are adding to the already negative attitude that professors have against electronics. With the exception of some departments, each professor is in charge of the laptop policy in their classroom, thus being able to ban electronics if they so desired. In my experience, there is little fun in scribbling out notes when I could be fanatically typing.

While a laptop and iPad have numerous capabilities in regards to note taking, this is not the case with all electronics. The iPhone and iTouch, are not nearly as useful, being severely

handicapped by their small screen. Even though it may seem to some of us that our phones could be more than sufficient for a lecture, it doesn't change the fact that the dexterity of our thumbs does not make up for the gap in usefulness between a cell phone and a laptop. I will vouch for the iPad, but it may be better to leave your other Apple gadgets in your backpack. There is little reason to incite the wrath of your professor over a cell phone when you have a much more useful laptop available to you.

There are those that would consider electronic devices in a classroom to be very distracting to students, but there is something else to consider. Could the use of electronics, such as laptops and iPads, keep the students focused and engaged? The idea is that in using a tool such as a laptop, the lecture becomes more interactive, the student becomes more focused, and notes are being taken more efficiently. So to professors who ban laptops entirely, maybe you can approach technology differently.

Freshmen Speak Up About Campus Dining Options

Sona Saluhuddin, staff writer

As college freshmen, we tend to miss the home cooked meals provided from our parents but we have to get used to the food provided for us here. Campus Dining at Meredith provides two main places to eat, the Beehive, located in the Cate Center, and Belk Dining Hall. After interviewing freshmen about their dining preferences, I have come across a variety of answers.

Many student residents enjoy the Belk Dining Hall not only because it is a part of their meal plan but because some, like Cheyenne Williams, enjoys the home section available. Others, like Erica Battles believe that it is closer to the resident halls and there's a better chance of meeting friends there. There have been some complaints about Belk as well, Elizabeth Ryan commented and said "most of their food has been sitting out for a while; I can't count how many times I've eaten cold pasta, chicken, or pizza!" "I keep finding hairs in my food at the dining hall and a

lot of the food looks good but doesn't taste the way it should" said Lindsay Vandebroek, a freshman who would rather go to the Beehive. Even with complaints such as these, many have said that the quality of the food is great.

The Beehive, though with a less variety of food compared to Belk, is great for snacks or drinks between classes. Some residents like Brooke Mayo, believe that the Beehive is expensive and would rather use the meal plan. Unlike Belk though, the Beehive makes the food right on the spot when you place your order at the Deli, Grill, or Pizzeria. Commuters such as Molly Hull tend to eat at the Beehive due to a lack of a meal plan and because it's in the Cate Center, where most of the commuters like to stay during their free time. It is also important to have a healthy diet; the Beehive has the "Angels Approved" logo on certain items that are particularly nutritious. The Beehive takes cash and Camcards with

a meal's cost ranging from \$3 to \$8. A meal at Belk is \$7.25 and provides drinks, desserts, salads and the main dish. Belk is the place to go for a meal when looking for a variety of food available with a meal plan. The Beehive, though expensive, is a convenient place to pick up breakfast, lunch, or a fast snack.

While Campus Dining provides Belk and the Beehive, there are a few other options for hungry students. Many students bring a lunch from home, and there are utensils and a microwave present in the Cate Center for all to use. Vending machines are also available in many of the classroom buildings as well as the Cate Center, and the snack and drink options there are less expensive than the Beehive. So freshmen, here were some advantages and disadvantages that Meredith has to offer when it comes to food. Just eat healthy and do not gain the infamous freshman fifteen!

Student Reflects on Seminar, Encourages Others to Apply

Marzla Nawrozi, staff writer

In May of 2012, I attended the PLEN (Public Leadership Education Network) Women and International Policy Seminar in Washington DC. The seminar gave me the opportunity to learn more about United States legislative policies from women who are members of the Congress, diplomats, State Department leaders, officials with international organizations, and nonprofit organization leaders. PLEN

taught me about the diverse opportunities available in international affairs in addition to providing guidance on how to start a career, how to balance professional and personal lives and how to make career decisions.

During PLEN's five-day seminar, I was not only able to gain experience with and understanding of policymaking in DC but also to network with high-level female policymakers.

PLEN opened the door for a summer internship and possible job offers. This academic year PLEN has seminars exploring women in science and technology policy, public policy, international policy and congress. I would encourage all Meredith students to apply. If you have any questions, please contact me through my PLEN ambassador page: <http://plen.org/programs/plen-ambassadors/meredith-college/>