

Sanctuary Campus?

Nabiha Khan, Staff Writer

Since Trump's presidency began, we have been hearing a lot more about "ICE raids," but many of us have yet to understand what that really is. ICE stands for the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement and these government officials often visit neighborhoods as well as colleges and universities to perform illegal warrantless searches to find specific undocumented immigrants and deport them. Many claim that although ICE says that they come at random they actually target communities with known amounts of immigrants. Other

than this being a type of racial profiling many immigrants are unaware of their rights, and are easily taken into custody. Those that have family members taken say that the government officials abuse them once taken into custody.

When Obama was president he created DACA (Delayed Action for Childhood Arrivals) through an executive order, which allowed young undocumented immigrants known as Dreamers a way to work and go to school but not a path to citizenship which is ideally what the immigrants wanted. Now that ICE raids

are becoming more frequent at colleges, colleges should protect their students and make sure they feel safe and supported on campus.

A sophomore at Meredith says, "I don't think Meredith is handling the situation the way I would hope they would. It is not that I am necessarily asking for a sanctuary campus because I understand why the school cannot simply make that decision because there are many steps that must be taken. I think the problem is that I do not feel supported. The school has not stepped up and said they have our back; instead, we

keep receiving generic emails about the counseling center. Professors and staff have been supportive but Meredith as a school has not."

Many students have brought up the idea of turning Meredith into a sanctuary campus. A sanctuary campus essentially adopts policies that will protect undocumented students. Now is the time for colleges to show their support and take a stand on this issue in order to better protect their students and provide them with a sense of community and safety.

Black History Month 2017 - Student Perspectives

Sarah Kiser, Associate Editor

The Black History Timeline was located in the lobby of the Carlyle Campbell Library for this entire month. Created by past Meredith students, the timeline shows Black History at Meredith until 2006. Students are currently working to update the timeline up to 2016.

Jasmine Williams is the president of Meredith's Black Student Union, and this Black History Month she was eager to see all of their hard come to fruition. "So much planning and thought went into all of our events that it was very rewarding to see them happen and fall into place," said Williams. She was pleased that "all of them had a great turnout with diverse backgrounds of students in attendance."

The Black History timeline, Williams said, "was one of her favorite" events of this year's celebration of Black His-

tory month. BSU designed it and it featured letters, as well as pictures and clippings from the College's archives. "It is actually quite amazing to see how things have changed over the years for Blacks on this campus" said Williams.

BSU held many events to celebrate Black History Month themed around "Still Like Air, We Rise: Uplift and Unify the Black Community." Events included "Cheerwine and design," a showing of the film "The 13th," a Black Excellence Dinner, and a 4-part "Black History and Spirituality Series" of messages given in Wednesday's Chapel. For Williams one of the elements of BHM is "educat[ing] the Meredith community about Black culture, history, and current struggles."

Brooklyn Miller, a senior at Meredith, is a member of BSU but she was not available

to attend BSU's events. She wanted to go to "Cheerwine and design" as well as "Treat Yo Self Night" which focused on mental health in the Black community and was cosponsored by National Alliance for Mental Illness. Miller said "everything was well attended except for the talent show" which was postponed because there were not enough performers. The #YouNameIt talent show will be held at a later date. BSU encourages students to sign up to showcase any talent whatsoever.

Meredith Sophomore Jenyane Robinson takes a nationwide perspective. She expressed disappointment "that people forgot it [was] Black History Month." She said "I feel that with everything going on in the world today, people forgot it was Black History Month. Because of this, I decided to do my Black Girl Magic bulletin board. Febru-

ary is seen as a month of love, American heart month, people are focused on our current leader, and there are a plethora of other things going on. In all honesty, there should not be a need for Black History Month because Black people should be celebrated everyday just like other races. However, this is the America we live in..."

Just like the Black History timeline, time moves on and change will continue to happen generations after us. Thinking beyond just this February, Williams hopes "for BSU in the future ...that it still has a presence on campus, for as long as Meredith is present. BSU creates a safe space for Black students but also strives to share Black culture and promote awareness across campus."

Safe, Not Sorry

Emma Gomes, Staff Writer

We all have fears, some come and go, while others follow us through our entire lifetime. It is a worldwide truth that women are subject to higher rates of sexual violence in both public and private spaces. In these cases, our fears can help protect us.

Imagine walking to your car after a late shift, and feeling as though someone is watching you. We've all been there. That wave of unease usually kicks in, and your mind begins to plot out every possible escape strategy in case someone really is watching you.

Although pepper spray,

personal alarms, and tasers were created to protect us in these situations, we still hear spine-chilling stories of helpless women being attacked in everyday situations. Sure pepper spray is useful, but there's one valuable skill all women can gain that won't involve digging to the bottom of your purse.

Meredith's Sports Science Association (SSA) paired up with Anna Huff, Junior at Meredith College, to organize a self-defense workshop in hopes of spreading awareness and helping Angels feel safer on and off campus. "It's important for women our age to gain this type

of knowledge because it will improve their confidence and it is something they can carry into the real world," says Huff.

Melissa Palmer, class of '99, instructed the first self-defense workshop on February 6th, 2017. A total of 12 students attended, reporting that it was a success. Anna Huff shares that the girls who attended said "this workshop was a fun way to conquer a fear in the back of their heads."

The Sports Science Association (SSA) and Student Government Association (SGA) are currently working to collect data on whether students would

attend another self-defense workshop in the future. If there is a workshop down the line, both organizations hope to publicize and promote it for a greater turnout.

As young college women, we are targets of violence, and it is important that we are equipped to protect ourselves in any situation. These self-defense workshops are making safety a priority within our campus. If you're interested in attending, contact the head directors of SGA and SSA.