

The Future of The Herald

By Aminah Jenkins, Editor in Chief

Today, Sept. 21, marks *The Meredith Herald's* first print edition of the 2022-23 school year. Like many things at Meredith, *The Herald* has recently changed—and many of our readers have noticed. We'd like to take this time to formally reintroduce ourselves to the campus community on our terms.

At its core, *The Herald* is a news source. We often cover on-campus events such as Cornhuskin' or club activities but also cover news from the surrounding area. According to the Student Handbook, *The Herald* is "a vehicle for keeping the community informed and a permanent record of events that occur at Meredith."

Every year, our staff reflects on what news means to us. News isn't only defined by the summation of events—it also includes documenting changes at Meredith and amplifying students' voices throughout that process.

The Herald has experienced a notable shift in coverage, moving from events-based articles to more student-issue-oriented ones.

Articles about Meredith's general education requirements; student worker wages; gendered language on campus and in admissions; COVID-19 policies; accessibility issues; inconsistent treatment by campus security and more have documented ongoing conversations on campus and shed light on ones previously had in private.

The Herald isn't new to this kind of coverage. Formerly called *The Twig*, Meredith's student newspaper is often used to research Meredith's history.

Meredith Votes

By Camila Cardoso-Herrera, Contributing Writer

With less than two months until Election Day, members of the Meredith community are working to increase civic participation on campus. Meredith Votes is a class with five Meredith students. Dr. David McLennan, a professor in the Political Science department and the head of the program, stated, "The purpose of Meredith Votes is to encourage Meredith students to use prior knowledge from a political class in real-world politics. For the Meredith Community, [we] encourage [them] to educate themselves on politicians and to go out and vote."

One barrier to voting is the access to vote in person due to the distance from one's polling loca-

tion. This year, Meredith will have Election Day off. Dr. McLennan explained that "Meredith students have had a higher turnout for voting compared to other colleges in 2020. Most [Meredith] students have voted by either an absentee ballot or even during early voting." Dr. McLennan believes that "not holding classes might make it easier for some students who like to vote in person on Election Day, but having the day free from classes is an important statement that Meredith thinks voting is important."

According to Meredith Poll's 2022 survey of North Carolina voters, only 78% of North Carolinians indicated an interest in voting. When Dr. McLennan was asked if Mer-

edith Votes would increase that number, he said, "I am confident that Meredith students will vote at a higher rate this year."

Meredith Votes has encouraged students through voter registration drives. The last event was held on Sept. 7 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Belk Dining Hall. "Meredith Votes has also been interacting with the first-year students through going into [First Year Experience] classes and educating about the process of voter registration and voting," he said.

Through collaboration with the History and Politics Club, Meredith College Democrats and other organizations, a voter registration drive was held

not extended to everyone. There were no articles that actually had the experience of the first Black students on campus or even acknowledged the significance of their presence.

During the summer of 2020, *The Herald* entered a period of coverage that worked to capture student voices. Students commented on how meaningful it was to read stories relaying their experiences. It was significant for underrepresented students to have their problems formally written about.

The Herald was proud of expanding its coverage. But the truth is, this wasn't something that could genuinely be celebrated.

Whether intentional or not, students were telling *The Herald* that they felt their voices hadn't mattered to the publication.

That's our purpose this year—to shine a light in the darkness that is exclusion on campus. This doesn't just mean exclusion from Meredith as an institution—this means exclusion from coverage.

Lacking coverage means that integral parts of Meredith's history are excluded. There are groups on campus that deserve to be part of Meredith's story. They deserve long-lasting recognition.

Groups like Angels for Disability Advocacy have fought against ableist policies and practices on campus.

Groups like the Black Student Union pushed Meredith's administration to release an apol-



Photo by Grayson Morris

ogy statement for their response to the Black Lives Matter movement during the summer of 2020.

Groups like Queer Space work tirelessly for more inclusive language for trans, non-binary and queer students.

Groups like Angeles Latinas advocate for Latino students on campus.

Student journalism isn't supposed to be stagnant—it's meant to reflect the voices of those on campus. And their voices are loud.

As a staff, *The Herald* is committed to seeking out the untold stories of our community. We've made ourselves more available to readers on our website by including the emails of our Editorial Board and a Submit-A-Tip section. We're also creating positions to examine our publication process and make improvements where needed.

New staff members passionate about telling a story are always welcome, regardless of experience level. *The Herald* looks forward to working with the Meredith community this year and hopes you'll continue to engage with our content.

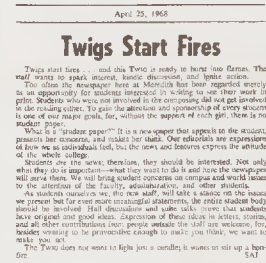


Photo courtesy of the Meredith College Archives

However revolutionary these articles were for their time, they lacked one crucial thing—perspective. *The Herald's* efforts to include student voices at that time were

Twigs Start Fires
Twigs start fires... and this Twig is ready to burst into flames. The staff wants to speak honestly, frankly, directly, and better so. We often the newspaper here at Meredith has been regarded mostly for an opportunity for students to express their views on campus life. Students who were not involved in the campus did not get involved in our running school. To gain the attention and sponsorship of every student is one of our major goals, for, without the support of each girl, there is no student paper.
What is "student paper"? It is a newspaper that speaks to the student, presents her concerns, and makes her ideals. Our editors are expressions of how we as individuals feel, but the news and features express the attitude of the whole college.
Students are the news; therefore, they should be interested. Not only what they do in expectation—what they need to do it and how the newspaper will serve them. We will bring student concerns on campus and world issues to the attention of the faculty, administration and other students.
As students ourselves we, the new staff, will take a stand on the issues we care for but for every month we will have a different theme. We will have original and good ideas. Cooperation of these ideas in articles, stories, and all other contributions from people outside the staff is welcome; but, besides necessary to be provocative enough to make you think, we want to read, too, we want.
The Twig does not want to fight just a candle; it wants to stir up a breeze.
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on Sept. 20 for National Voter Registration Day. Dr. McLennan said that the class is also creating a "Meredith Votes Voter Guide" for the community with information about candidates and electoral races.

For those interested in learning more about Meredith Votes events and information, you can follow them on Instagram at @meredith_votes. Anyone who wants to volunteer at voter registration events and organize walks to the polls can email meredithvotes@email.meredith.edu for more information.