



# MEREDITH HERALD

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We attract bright, talented, ambitious students. Naturally we're a women's college.

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## Heaney brings life to Irish works

□ **Seamus Heaney offers two readings Sunday and Monday.**

LESLIE MAXWELL  
Police Reporter

Though Meredith College has been blessed with many exciting and interesting guests, Irish poet Seamus Heaney brings life to all those who listen. Heaney, the recipient of the 1995 Nobel Prize for Literature, was present for many events this weekend, including poetry readings on Sunday afternoon and Monday morning.

Heaney visited Meredith as a part of the Mary Lynch Johnson Professorship of English. This program was established to honor faculty and to put students in touch with literary excellence. The Mary Lynch Johnson Professor for the 1997-98 term is Betty Adcock, also the Kenan Writer-in-Residence.

Even with the threat of rain, the reading took place in McIver Amphitheatre. The program began at 4 p.m. with a welcome by

April Tripp, senior English major and president of the Colton English Club. Adcock introduced Heaney by saying, "We will make him at home here today."

Monday morning, Betty Webb, English professor and lover of all things Irish, introduced Heaney. She directed her words to those students in the English and Art departments who had studied his work "in anticipation of his visit to Meredith."



Gary Walton, head of the English department, speaks with Heaney as students listen intently.

PHOTO BY STEVE WILSON

Heaney began his reading on Sunday by saying, "It is always going to be a pleasure to come to Meredith because it's in North Carolina." The first poem he read was "Digging." The poem, written in 1966, "is like a banister to me—it steadies me," Heaney said. In "Digging," he remembers seeing his father and grandfather digging the soil to plant potatoes, but he doesn't feel that

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## Faculty concerned with I2000 goals

□ **Faculty are skeptical about recommendations' generalities.**

BETH HALL  
News Editor

Frustrated by generalities in the strategic planning recommendations, faculty decided during their meeting last Friday to postpone discussion of the Initiative 2000 planning until later.

Nearly 100 faculty members packed Ledford 101, and after being updated on student life by SGA president Shannon MacFarlane, they commenced discussion of the 10 strategic planning recommendations the Initiative 2000 review team had presented to the Trustees the Friday before the faculty meeting.

Overall, faculty felt the recommendations were too broad and general and raised too many hard-to-answer questions. Discussion of the first two recommendations alone took over an hour of the two hour meeting.

Janice Swab, biology profes-

or, asked how trustees could be expected to understand and implement these recommendations. "They are only on campus three or four times a year," said Swab.

Dean of Undergraduate Instruction Allen Page, a member of the review team, answered that the development of strategy of how to obtain the goals would be left to the faculty instead of the trustees.

Martha Bouknight, math professor, claimed the recommendations were too general. She said faculty had experience from "working day in and day out" that trustees just didn't have. "[Trustees] need to know what things are important, so they can decide priorities," said Bouknight.

Barbara True-Weber, politics professor, felt decisions could not be properly made until after the new president is chosen. "We can lay ground work by these plans, but we need energy and coordination at the top."

The recommendation for faculty to develop new partnerships with students caused a lot of debate. Many faculty members, such as Rhonda Zingraff, wondered how they would find time to develop new partnerships when they already had a "full plate" of academic responsibilities, such as faculty committee work, thesis direction and classroom teaching.

Also, the faculty discussed implementing a Datatel system—a type of administrative software.

Page reminded faculty of the Deborah Smith scholarship and asked them to contribute to its fund. The scholarship memorializes Smith, a biology department head, who died of lung cancer earlier this semester.

Sue Kearney, Director of Institutional Research, announced that 2,599 students were unofficially registered for fall semester.

Mike Hoke, Chief of Campus Police, discussed security and parking concerns.

## Meet poet Seamus Heaney

LESLIE MAXWELL  
Police Reporter

Although many students have read poems by Meredith's distinguished visitor, many others know very little about Seamus Heaney. Born in 1939 in Derry County, Northern Ireland, Heaney has been writing for many years.

As a writer, Heaney said that the toughest question writers are asked is, "How do you justify yourself as a writer?" He humorously attributed this question to literary jealousy, calling it "slightly more demented than any emotion."

He is the author of thirteen collections of poetry, three books of essays and one play. Most of his poems are about childhood memories. His most recent book of poetry is *The Spirit Level*, and another book, *Opened Ground*, is due to be released in the United States next year.

He was recently given an honorary degree from UNC-Chapel Hill, where he gave a recent commencement address. He currently spends half a year in Dublin, Ireland with his family and half in Boston, where he is Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory at Harvard University.

One of the poets that has most influenced him is Robert Frost, who he mentioned in his reading Monday. Heaney, like Frost, writes of everyday events making them extraordinary. He said certain poets, like Frost, make him want to write and "getting too busy is what stops" writing.

Heaney said of his visit to Meredith, "I have been met by goodwill wherever I turn. The whole thing is a terrific, hospitable mood." He said "I feel I have visited a really poetic site," although his inspiration for poems usually comes after an experience.

Heaney describes poetry as "an utterly necessary instrument. Poetry is the politics of everyday life."

He attended St. Columba's College and received a degree in English at Queen's University in Belfast, Northern Ireland.