

## John Weems: More than just a president

by Cynthia L. Church

The oversized desk would make most men look small, yet it fits him perfectly. From the volumes of *The World's Progress* on a shelf to the putters and golf balls in the corner, one can sense his personality. Its setting is formal but a casual atmosphere is nestled in his office among the comfortable highback chairs, the conference table and the paintings, signed Weems.

The graduate of George Peabody College, in his homestate of Tennessee, has been president of Meredith College since January of 1972. John E. Weems has held important positions at Atlantic Christian College, Kentucky Wesleyan College and Middle Tennessee University before arriving at Meredith.

"Meredith is almost the ideal school," said Weems. However, "I don't anticipate staying here until I'm 65."

### Hail to the Chief

During the past 12 years Weems has been at Meredith, much has been accomplished. "We're not planning to be the world's largest small women's college," said Weems.

This may be true; however, he has been the instigator of many campus-oriented changes. The library's resources has increased, programs have been developed to serve the community, the physical beauty of the campus has improved and a new church has been built. Financially, Meredith has become extremely stable.

"What he's done in the last 10 years is tremendous. He's put the college on its financial feet," said Eve Dulaney, Weems' secretary.

Weems has also been successful as an administrator.

There is "total freedom under his administration. I'm able to do my job in a way that's comfortable to me. He's good for the school and I'm sure all the other vice presidents would say essentially the same thing," said Vice President Joe Baker.

"He gives out responsibility and gives you the space to do the job," said Dulaney.

As the "chief administrator and chief academic officer" of Meredith, Weems is president "24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It takes a lot of energy. It really does. I'm

always President of Meredith no matter where I am."

If Weems is not in his office, he is either representing the college off-campus, is at a ceremonial or formal event, is entertaining outside guests on campus or is at home with his wife, Frankie.

### The Other Side

They met in college and got married at age 22 in 1953 after dating for 3 years.

"After 30 years, there's not much difference between us. He's still the man I fell in love with and he's still the man I'm in love with now," said Frankie, the mother of three.

Being married to the president of a college "is a fine position to find yourself in," said Frankie. "I help him with his job and with what the college is doing. It keeps me informed with Meredith."

Mrs. Weems described her husband as "a family man. He is very active and requires little sleep. He has an active, fertile mind and is very creative. He knows a lot about a lot of things."

"He's a real teacher. He likes to be learning or explaining things to people."

"We spend hours together talking. He's very exciting to be with."

"There's always a 'project' going on. Usually it's scientific. Now it's computers."

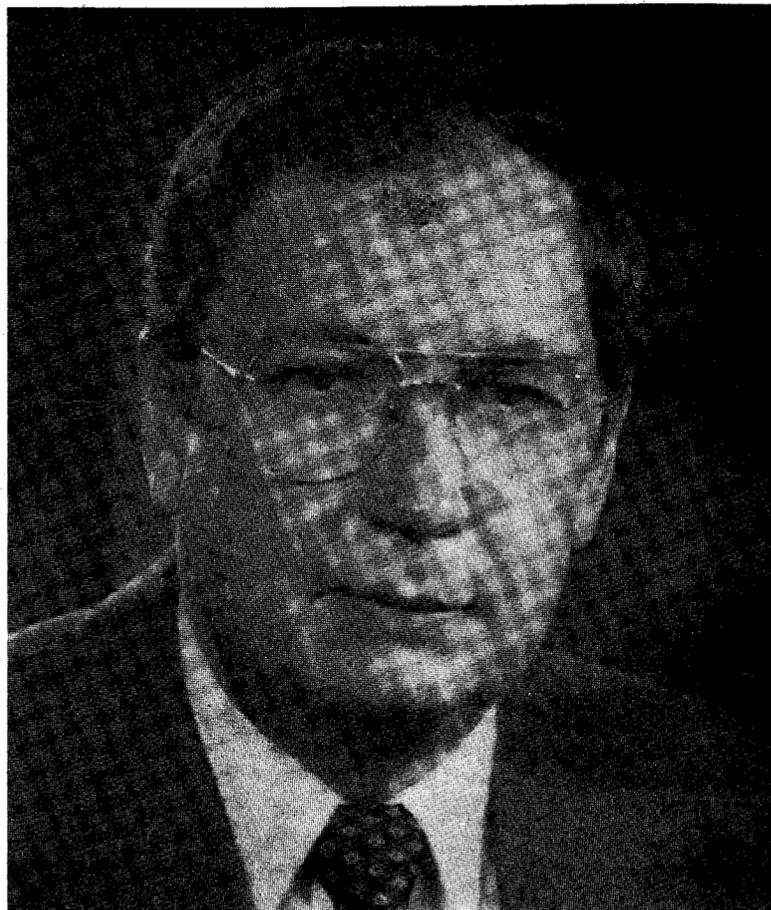
Weems enjoys programming computers and software and learning how they work. "I am a great advocate of science," said Weems. "I have a graphics package...and I design programs."

Weems was the first person in North Carolina to create a hologram—a type of 3-D picture. He has a lab in his basement where he experiments with things that interest him.

"The way I think," said Weems, "I have never found anything I couldn't do. If I can do it, anyone can do it. I have never had an exalted view of myself or the things I've done. Things just come easily for me. There's nothing I won't tackle."

Weems recalled the time his wife bought a bird feeder for \$19.95. He told her he could build one better than that for \$2.25. As it turned out, he was wrong. He found that for \$2.25 he could build 20. And he did.

Building bird feeders was one project Weems picked up. Another that excelled



John E. Weems, President of Meredith College

was doodling.

Weems' doodles are not faces or animals but "carefully fitted forms made into geometric shapes." As meetings progress, his doodles become more elaborate. After the meeting, people ask for his masterpieces.

He has been painting for the past 13 years and has had his works displayed in art shows and homes throughout 15 states. Although his artwork has been successful, Weems said, "It's a hobby, that's all it's been."

Weems also designs. During meetings he has designed engines and hydrogen converters. He has recently designed a house for him and his wife in Blowing Rock, N.C.

"It's a good-looking house," said Frankie.

### All Aboard

Dr. Weems' father was a railroad engineer. As a child, Weems was able to travel, unlike many. His interests in travel continued as an adult.

"Three years ago we (Mr. Baker, Dr.

Weems and their wives) spent three weeks in Europe. We went to Holland, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France, Belgium and England. We played golf while we were there," said Baker.

Weems has also traveled to East Africa, "Just to see the animals. I was afraid they would become extinct."

On another trip, this time to Scotland, Weems played on the Scottish golf course. He and Frankie share an interest in golf.

"I play golf regularly now. I'm a 10 handicapper. Golf comes easy for me."

When asked what he would like to change about his life, Weems replied that he is impulsive. "If I want to do something, I do it." He added that he has no regrets and would not do anything differently.

John Weems has been successful with his family, his career and in pursuing his interests. His life has not disappointed him. His wisdom extends into every field that appeals to him. From science to religion, John E. Weems' knowledge seems endless. He gets what he wants from life and is pleased thus far with what he has received.



Tom DeLuca appearing September 17, at 7:30p.m.

## Tom DeLuca: Are you ready for him?

by Louann Browe

If you believe in extrasensory perception, psychic phenomena, the Easter Bunny... then you're ready for Tom DeLuca.

A hypnotist, Tom DeLuca is the only personality to successfully blend comic parody with the art of hypnosis. Using his keen mind and wit as his only prop, he produces spectacular psychic mind reading effects with comedy as their foundation. Drawing upon his Master's Degree in Psychology and years of experience as a clinical hypno-therapist and seminar instructor, Tom tailors his show to amuse, entertain, and educate any type of

audience. At nearly every place he's appeared, Tom's act was so well received that he's almost always asked to come back.

Don't miss the Tom DeLuca Show September 17 at 7:30 p.m. in Jones Auditorium, admission: \$1.00 students and staff, \$2.00 public.

Although there are many amateurs and magicians who try to cover the bare essentials of hypnosis, Tom's show stands in a class by itself. As many as fifteen volunteers from the audience are simultaneously placed under hypnosis to give graphic and humorous proof of the power of the mind. The combination of BSP and Hypnosis has produced one of the most unique and popular shows available.