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McGovern, Schlafly debate at Meredith College

by Vanessa Goodmon

Certain aspects of the Equal Rights Amendment, mainly the question of the military draft for women, triggered the most dispute during Monday's debate between Phyllis Schlafly and George McGovern.

Schlafly and McGovern gave their perspectives on the meaning of the Constitution today before a standing-room only audience in Jones Auditorium. The debate was featured as part of Meredith's celebration of the document's bicentennial.

Dr. Allen Burris, vice-president and dean of the college, served as moderator of the debate.

He posed three questions to the speakers. Each were given five minutes to respond and two minutes for rebuttal.

The first question dealt with the strengths and weaknesses of the Constitution.

According to McGovern, the Constitution was drafted by the ablest group of statesmen in our history.

"The words, 'We the people,' are the most important part of the Constitution," said McGovern. It is a document that belongs to all of us.

Schlafly felt that the Constitution deserved entrance into the Guinness Book of World Records for being the longest lasting Constitution in the history of the world.



Former U.S. Senator George McGovern.

McGovern cited the provision that allowed for the calling of a new Constitutional Convention as one weakness in the Constitution.

Both Schlafly and McGovern agreed that it would be difficult to have a new convention able to live up to the standards of the first because of the quality and integrity of the



Conservative Activist Phyllis Schlafly (photos courtesy of College Relations).

men involved in the drafting of the Constitution.

"I am against a second constitutional convention because we might end up with authors like Oliver North and Ronald Reagan," McGovern said.

Schlafly said we would be playing 'Russian roulette' with the Constitution if we tried to

equal the convention of 1786.

The purpose of the Constitution for women added fuel to the debate. Schlafly, famous for her opposition to ERA, addressed the question first.

According to Schlafly, it is incorrect to say that the Constitution is antagonistic to women. "The Constitution is a sex-neutral document. Women should honor it because they have been the great beneficiaries of economic freedom," Schlafly said.

McGovern agreed that the freedoms vested in the Constitution are ones that all Americans should be proud of. He added that he felt no American, regardless of sex, should be discriminated against.

The subject of the Equal Rights Amendment surfaced at this point in the debate.

Schlafly said the ERA would never be adopted in the U.S. because of its military draft provision.

But McGovern added that the draft for both sexes might be the price of equality.

"Men are more physically equipped to fight the enemy than women. Not many fathers would be eager to see their daughters risk their lives in combat," said Schlafly.

McGovern responded by saying, "I am not any more anxious for my son to die than any one of my daughters." His answer drew a

Continued on page seven

Dennis Taylor named Meredith vice president

Dennis A. Taylor, former executive assistant to the vice chancellor of North Carolina State University, was named vice president of institutional advancement at Meredith College this summer according to Meredith President John E. Weems.

As vice president, Taylor is responsible for the management and administration of Meredith's major gifts campaigns and planned giving. He officially assumed the position July 1.

In accepting the appointment, Mr. Taylor said, "I am very excited about the opportunity to join Dr. Weems and the administration of Meredith College. Meredith's tradition for delivering a quality liberal arts education in a Christian environment is excellent."

"Meredith also has a strong tradition of loyal advocates and investors who have made this college one of the premier liberal arts institutions in the United States. I look forward to meeting and working with all Meredith alumnae and friends to further

strengthen her academic and cultural environment," he said.

At N.C. State University, Taylor served as director of planned giving, executive director of the N.C.S.U. Foundation, Inc. and associate director of the "State of the Future" campaign. Prior to joining the N.C. State University administration in 1984, he was development officer at Bowman Gray School of Medicine in Winston-Salem.

Taylor earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and biology at Wake Forest University in 1979 and a master's degree in higher education administration at Appalachian State University in 1983. He is currently pursuing a doctorate of education in higher education administration at N.C. State University.

Last year, Taylor was recognized as Appalachian State University's 1986 Development Alumnus of the Year in recognition of outstanding service to higher education.

NCSU grad named Meredith vice president

LaRose F. Spooner, who received the Ed.D. degree from North Carolina State University in 1982, was appointed vice president for administrative affairs and executive assistant to the president of Meredith College. The announcement was made by John E. Weems, president of the women's college.

Dr. Spooner officially accepted the position July 1. She will succeed Joe Baker who is retiring after 21 years with Meredith.

As vice president, Dr. Spooner assists the president in the execution of his administrative responsibilities, supports the members of the board of trustees in their decision-making role and conducts research and strategic planning. She also serves as secretary of the corporation.

Dr. Spooner joined the Meredith faculty as a member of the mathematics department in 1967. From 1979 until she became assistant to the president in 1980, she served as Meredith's director of financial aid and director of institutional research.



Dr. LaRose Spooner is the new vice president for administrative affairs (photo courtesy of College Relations).

A Georgia native, Dr. Spooner received her B.A. degree from Tift College in Forsyth, Georgia, and a M.A.T. degree from Duke University.

She is married to William E. Spooner, formerly of Wilmington, N.C. They live in Raleigh and have a daughter, Courtney.