

Meredith Herald

Staff

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Jennifer Corn
Vanessa Goodman
Alison Hilton
Angie Stroud
Nancy Weatherly

Photographers

Anne Bailey
Kimberly Cook
Michelle Michael

Advisor

Dr. Robert Kochersberger, Jr.

The *Meredith Herald* is located in the basement of Jones Chapel. Address correspondence to: *The Meredith Herald*, box x133, Meredith College, Raleigh, NC 27607-5298. Phone (919) 829-8599. Advertising rates available upon request.

Editorial Policy

The *Meredith Herald* is published by the students of Meredith College during the academic year. The paper is funded by the college and through advertising. The *Herald* will not print material containing personal attacks, insults, ridicule, or libelous statements. All letters to the editors must be signed unless otherwise discussed with the editors.

The opinions expressed on the editorial page do not necessarily reflect those of the college administration, faculty, or student body.

The *Herald* welcomes criticism and will respond promptly to any submitted in writing and signed by the writer.

editorial

An introspective hello

"We are depending on you . . . to lead us into the next millenium," said Representative Betsy L. Cochrane in her speech at this year's Founder's Day celebration.

That's quite impressive coming from someone as important as Representative Cochrane. Cochrane, a 1958 graduate of Meredith College, is a representative from

the 37th district in the State House of Representatives and House Minority Leader. She is also a teacher highly concerned with academic excellence in both the classroom and in state education as a whole. Overall, she is a woman of outstanding achievement.

And she is depending on us for the welfare of the future.

She is depending on us, me, you: the students of Meredith College. Cochrane's address, 'Come the Millenium' could not have come at a more appropriate time. We are at the start of another academic year.

This time of new beginnings allows us to choose new directions, set new goals for ourselves, establish new friendships as well as strengthen and renew old ones. Most importantly, this is an opportunity for new growth. Soon we will fill the positions of leadership that are now held by our instructors and parents.

The future depends on us. We depend on each other. Each step we take in our growth at Meredith brings us closer to our individual futures as well as the future of our society and the world. As Rep. Cochrane emphasized, now if the time for us to set priorities and get moving toward the future that we are responsible for.

We are going to have a wonderful year.



Representative Betsy L. Cochrane delivers an inspiring speech to seniors and faculty on Founder's Day (photo by Steve Wilson).

A British view of the American Constitution

■ by Alison Hilton

It's on the television. It's on the radio. It's in the newspapers. Now, it's on Meredith's campus.

No, it's not the Tasmanian flu. It's the celebration of the 200th birthday of the American Constitution.

Wait a minute! Don't stop reading! You've got me all wrong. This column is not just another sentimental journey down the constitutional road.

Okay. So you've got me half wrong. What this is about is the Constitution, but specifically about what it means to be a citizen of the United States.

In 1986, I told anyone who would listen that that was the year I would become a U.S. citizen. Well, it's 1987 now, and I'm still telling the same people the same thing. They just smile and look at me with that 'I'll believe it when it hits national television' look. I guess my lack of motivation is explained by my ignorance of what being a

citizen means.

Because I was thirteen when I moved to the States, being a British citizen doesn't mean much to me—except that I have an accent to go with the title.

All I know about the privileges of being a British citizen is having the right to vote. Of course, for me, that means getting an absentee ballot a year ahead of elections and figuring out who I think should head the government of a country I haven't lived in for seven years.

So why, you ask, aren't I camping out in front of the Immigration/Naturalization offices in Charlotte?

It's not that simple.

Let me ask you a question. If you lived in a country with greater opportunities than in the U.S. (this is hypothetically absurd, of course) where democracy was even greater than in the U.S., but you couldn't remain a citizen of that country unless you gave up your U.S. citizenship, would you do it?

Although I take my citizenship for granted, when it comes down to a question such as I just posed to you, the answer isn't a clear-cut yes or no. Suddenly, Patriotism puts her arm around my shoulder and says, "Look, mate, you're letting your country down."

Call me preachy, call me what you like. But think about what citizenship means to you and what it would mean if you had to give that honor up.

letters to editor

This is your space in the *Meredith Herald*. Here our readers have the chance to speak out on any issue concerning campus life and express personal opinions. If you have opinions, questions or suggestions, don't just complain—write about it! The *Meredith Herald* drop box is located in Cate Center beside the box office. The Editors also welcome letters (typed or hand written neatly) delivered in person to either 211 Barefoot or 328 Heilman.