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"A vision for the future..."

Dr. Weems expresses hopes for the College

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exercise is to make some assumptions. If our assumptions are wrong, then chances are our predictions will be wrong. Nevertheless, let's open our minds and see what visions emerge.

One of the first assumptions we might consider is our relationship with the Baptist State Convention 25 years from now. My assumption is that the Baptist denomination will not be at all the same that it is today. It is difficult for me to see the two theological factions, moderates and fundamentalists, staying in the same camp. If a division comes, I see Meredith establishing a strong allegiance to the moderate Baptists of North Carolina, such as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

The Board of Trustees' action in amending our charter last year ensures our future academic freedom and our ability to offer a quality education in the tradition of the past 100 years. With this in mind, I cannot foresee us ever wavering from our original purpose--higher education for women in a Christian context.

I envision continued emphasis on the spiritual growth of our students, an active MCA, and increased opportunities for community service.

I foresee worship as a vital and important aspect of campus life. The addition of Jones Chapel to our campus just a few years ago an important step for Meredith, which provide the College with additional opportunities serve our students and the community as a of our Christian mission.

Another assumption we must make deals with Raleigh itself. What is Raleigh going to be like? I think 25 years from now Raleigh will be a large governmental, medical, and high-tech metropolis. In my opinion, Raleigh will continued to grow dramatically. Scientific and technological industry will be the backbone of the region. We will see an increased interest in amateur and professional sports. Carter-Finley stadium will seat 90,000 people and be the home of an NFL team. There will be a large sports complex housing baseball, track, and soccer built near the airport. There will be a basketball arena seating 25,000 or more. Raleigh will be the home of professional basketball and professional ice hockey. The Raleigh-Durham International Airport will double or triple its facilities, and become a major east coast hub for international travel. Airlines like Lufthansa, KLM, and British Airways will make flights between Raleigh and Europe several times every day. Glaxo and Burroughs-Wellcome

will be the linchpins of international pharmaceutical development. We will become a world leader in medical research.

This dramatic and rapid growth and expansion will demand services from local colleges and universities in a way that we have never experienced. We will be able to stand on Meredith's campus and look 30 miles in every direction and see urban development. We will be an urban campus. Will the change in setting impact our college? Of course it will!

How it will impact our college is what we must dream about and make plans to accommodate. Will Meredith experience unbridled growth in the same way the Triangle area is predicted to grow? While it is hard to say, I think not. I look for Meredith to stay approximately the same size it is today. This seems comfortable. If we stay the same size will we need more buildings? I think we will. We will build the Hubert Ledford Education and Psychology Building. We will expand the Weatherspoon Health and Physical Education Building. We will add a wing to Belk Dining Hall. The International House will be renovated and expanded. We will double the size of the Carlyle Campbell Library. We will provide more space for student services in Cate Center. A wing on Hunter Hall will be added. And who knows what else will be needed during the next 25 years!

We know changes will take place at Meredith, but what is more important is to know what will be the same. What golden threads will always be woven into the fabric of Meredith? We will always find integrity. That is the backbone of the College. We will always find honesty. That is the signature of Meredith. We will always find academic excellence. That is the chief characteristic of the College. We will always find a touch of class. That is the expression of the College. We will always find a value orientation. That is the direction of the College. We will always find a focus on God. That is the foundation of the College. Meredith will always be that institution of high order envisioned by Thomas Meredith. But not all private colleges will be as fortunate as Meredith.

Many of the private independent colleges face severe difficulties over the next two decades. While I have no idea how many will disappear, it will be a time of great stress. However, those private colleges with good locations, strong educational programs, highly qualified faculty

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