

# Meredith Herald

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## News Briefs

• On Saturday, three Camp Lejeune Marines attacked a Wilmington man outside of a gay bar in Wilmington. The suspects showed no remorse for their crime. The victim, Crae Pridgen, called for President Clinton's lifting the ban on gays in the military immediately.

• Clinton met with the nation's governors over the weekend. On Monday, he told them that he would give them more flexibility in providing health care to indigent residents under Medicaid.

• The White House and Congress are working on a plan that would insure immunization against childhood diseases for all preschool children. Public health experts estimate that about 50 percent of preschool children receive all their immunizations.

• Governor Jim Hunt and Jim Gardner spent more than \$12 million in the 1992 governor's race, according to finance reports filed with the State Board of Elections. This was the most expensive governor's race in North Carolina's history. In the U.S. Senate race, Terry Sanford and Lauch Faircloth spent \$5.4 million.

• The Dallas Cowboys defeated the Buffalo Bills, 52-17, in Super Bowl XXVII. This was the Bills' third straight Super Bowl loss.

• According to Madison Avenue's top advertising experts, Lee Jeans and McDonald's ran the best commercials during the Super Bowl. The experts were disappointed by the commercials for Crystal Pepsi clear cola, Gillette Series and the Subaru Impreza. The commercials cost \$850,000 per half-minute.

• The groundhog saw his shadow Tuesday, signifying six more weeks of winter.

## Convocation speaker challenges students to examine past and future

by Christina Peoples

Convocation, entitled "Recovering a Lost Heritage," was held on Monday in Jones Auditorium. Convocation was the beginning of a series of special events throughout Black Emphasis Month. The speaker, Dorothy Spruill Redford, spoke of her 10-year search for her heritage after the mini-series *Roots* aired. The culmination of her efforts came in a reunion of 2,500 descendants of slaves and slaveholders and her book, *Somerset Homecoming*, which reported her findings and experiences.

Redford has learned four key concepts that shaped her study and her life—if no one wants to talk about something you think it is wrong; if you want your history included you have to be about the business of doing it yourself; you can make a difference and affect a change; and sometimes a vision is yours alone.

Redford's search began because no one gave names and faces to the mass of ancestors simply termed "slaves." When her daughter asked her about their heritage, she did not have an answer and realized that she had never really inquired. Redford first sought the oral history of her mother and finally understood the people behind her mother's belief system. She had a renewed sense of history and a fresh knowledge of herself, and she realized the importance of family elders.

The realization set in that her heritage was not going to come to her and if she wanted her history included, she knew she had to do something about it. Redford consulted census information, a published genealogy and property deeds which led her to Somerset Plantation in Creswell, N.C., where her ancestors had resided as slaves. However, the slave quarters were gone and all that remained of her ancestors' presence was a sign verifying that their lodging had existed.

Redford felt that her ancestors needed more recognition as part of the plantation than a sign on an empty plot of land. She organized a homecoming of all the descendants of the slaves and slaveholders of Somerset. Over a year and half period, a network of people contacted the descendants and extended a warm welcome to this special celebration of the life and the culture who had not only existed, but had meaning to the future generations. An actress, a jazz band, an art exhibit, and a college chorus volunteered their services to highlight the event.

The homecoming at Somerset was covered by the national media. The coverage led to the publication of Redford's book *Somerset Homecoming*. This book stressed the importance of everyone's seeking out their roots while they are young. According to Redford, the need to look to the future should never overshadow the importance of the past.

## Campus to celebrate Black Emphasis Month

by Sarah Muss

The Association for Black Awareness (ABA) is working with the Office of Student Activities in promoting February as Black Emphasis Month (BEM).

Cheryl Smith, Program Director for the Office of Student Activities and Leadership Development, defined Black Emphasis Month as the promotion of African-American awareness on campus. She said this month educates the Meredith Community on the contributions of African-Americans and also enables students to learn, grow and become exposed to new ideas.

Angel Artis, BEM chair for ABA, said the goals of this club as well as Black Emphasis Month are to let a predominately white campus be introduced to new and old traditions. Some events that will be occurring this month are listed below.

Wednesday, February 10, 10 a.m., Jones Chapel—Worship Speaker: Pastor Jackie Allen Lewis, Mt. Zion Baptist Church

Tuesday, February 16, 7:30 p.m., Carswell Auditorium—"Night of Culture," an assortment of African dances

Tuesday, February 23, 8 p.m., Jones Auditorium—Drama: *The Life of Zora Neale Hurston*

## Inside the Herald...

Point/Counterpoint debates Hillary Clinton's role

Comedy night news

Basketball update