

Convocation panelists to address role of Meredith in their lives

by Susan Finley

On Monday, Feb. 22, Meredith College will observe Founders' Day Convocation in Jones Auditorium.

According to Dr. Julia O'Brien, Chair of the Convocation Committee, there will be a panel discussion entitled "Girls' School or Women's College: The

Meredith Experience."

The panel consists of Meredith alumnae who will discuss their own experiences. Panelists are Anne Dahle, Karen Britt Peeler, Tracy Sternberg and Cindy McEnery.

Dr. Betty Webb, a Meredith alumna and a member of the English Department, will serve as moderator.

As part of the Founders' Day

tradition, seniors will attend convocation in their caps and gowns.

Following the panel discussion there will be a wreath-laying ceremony at the marker in front of Jones. A reception will be held at the Alumnae House.

Faculty and students are reminded that class schedules will be shifted to accommodate the ceremonies.

Convocation Schedule

8:00-8:45 a.m.	first period
8:55-9:40 a.m.	second
10:00 a.m.	convocation
11:15-11:50 a.m.	fourth
noon	regular schedule

Student calls abstinence best choice for physical and emotional health

by Lisa Lund

As a senior biology major, I have become increasingly aware of health hazards as I have spent more and more time in upper-level biology classes. One hazard of which I have become aware is the hazard of sex outside of marriage. In a Meredith public

speaking class, which had students from freshman to senior status, 16 of 21 students stated in an anonymous survey that they were sexually active. All of these students stated they were either moderately or very concerned with their physical health, and 19 of the 21 stated they were either moderately or very

concerned with their emotional health. I will assume for the sake of this article that these statistics are relatively representative of the Meredith population. I would like to present the physical and emotional dangers in premarital sex in order to cause those involved to question their sexual practices. For those readers who have already made the decision to abstain from sex until marriage and for those of you who are already married, I hope to confirm your decision and give you valuable information to share with your children when they ask you hard questions about sex.

The physical consequences of sex before marriage range from sexually transmitted diseases to pregnancy. It is common knowledge that syphilis, gonorrhea and many other diseases can be spread through sexual contact. It is also commonly assumed that condoms can protect against these diseases, but that is just not true. Condoms are useless, because they only protect the body parts which they cover. Because female secretion reach a larger area than the condom covers, males are not adequately protected. And females, we are not covered by a condom at all, so what does that tell you about our protection? Condoms just cannot be trusted to protect against sexually transmitted diseases.

In addition to sexually transmitted diseases, premarital sex also introduces the danger of

AIDS. Like sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS is known to be spread through sexual contact. And once again we have been told that condoms protect against the spread of AIDS, but once again that is just not true. Condoms were developed to prevent pregnancy: that is to prevent male sperm from penetrating the condom. The size of a male sperm is 4 to 5 microns or .0002 inches. The size of HIV, the virus which causes AIDS, is 100 nanometers or .0000039 inches. The normal pores in a latex condom measure 400 nanometers or .0014600 inches — four times larger than HIV. These pores are not holes or tears; they are present in the best brands of condoms that have been cared for and used properly. As if this is not bad enough as it stands, latex is heat, cold, light and pressure sensitive. According to an official law document recorded in *Human Experimentation and Law*, "Condoms are rarely if ever stored and transported in compliance with federal guidelines subjecting them to intense heat and cold." Therefore, the pores are most probably even larger! Dr. Robert Noble, a professor of medicine at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine had this to say about condoms and AIDS: "Passing out condoms to teenagers is

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