

Keanu captures audience in "The Net"

By: Arinn Dixon

I don't know about you, but I loved the movie *Speed*. I thought it was great, though a lot of people that I talked to really didn't like it. Specifically, a lot of guys didn't like it, but that's probably because the girls they were with were panting for Keanu Reeves. I will admit seeing my future husband Keanu leaping from vehicle to vehicle with muscles bulging was very nice, but I also enjoyed the action, the

thrills, and the hairpin turns. And I really enjoyed Sandra Bullock as the quirky bus driver.

That brings me to my point: I saw the movie *The Net* this weekend and it rocked my world. I thought it was awesome. It is like *Speed* without the bus. It has suspense, it has intrigue, and it has Bullock, my favorite actress.

Bullock plays Angela Bennett, a brilliant computer analyst who works out of her home. She figures out bugs in computer games and stuff like that. She is pretty much a loner and her only friends are on the Internet. She goes on vacation where she meets the guy of her dreams and has her purse stolen all in the same night.

Do you see a connection here? After that night her life totally changes. Her identity is totally taken away and she is given a new one, complete with social security number and a list of criminal offenses as long as my arm. Dennis Miller plays Angela's psychiatrist and the only person who knows her and is willing to help. The rest of the movie involves her cracking a huge computer system, escaping from about twenty-seven bad guys, and just being a general heroine.

The movie was totally enthralling and the actors were great, but if you think about

it, the whole idea is pretty scary. The bad guys take away Angela Bennett's life through computers by altering her address, her family history, and her social security number.

All that information about me is in some computer somewhere, too, and if anyone wanted access to it, I guess they could get it. That makes me wonder if putting our trust totally in computers is a bad idea.

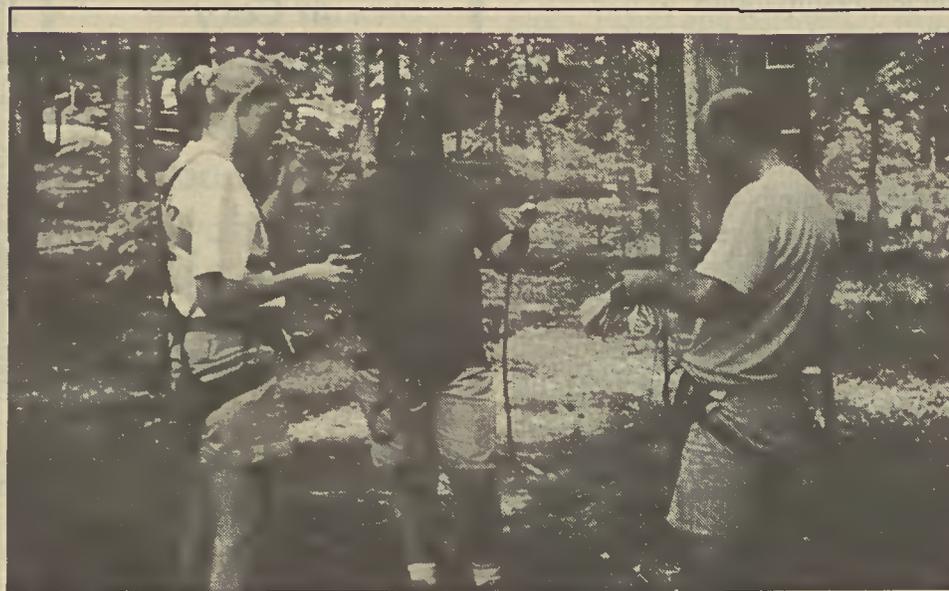
Anyway, I didn't mean to get all philosophical. All I want to say is go see the movie. You'll enjoy it.

Leaders

continued from page 1

"These exercises showed us that leadership isn't one person being in charge, it is a group of people working together to meet a common goal," said Rebecca Huffstetler, sophomore class president.

The next day students challenged their individual skills with the high ropes course. They were strapped into harnesses and helmets before climbing up a tree to reach the obstacles in the air. The retreat center's facilitators acted as an anchor for the students. They were hooked to the students on the ropes and were able to help the women balance themselves. It was an opportunity for



CLIMBING HIGH: SGA President, June Holland prepares to climb 40 ft. onto the "pamper post"

the leaders to learn how to deal with fear and stress on their own. The leaders participated in workshops during the evenings. Cheryl Jenkins and Chrissie Bumgardner of Student Activities led discussions on running an effective organization and the social change model of leadership. SGA President June Holland led an intense workshop on diversity and cam-

pus inclusiveness that got students thinking about ways to make all students feel accepted and appreciated at Meredith.

Many discussions lasted late into the night with the leaders hoping to find solutions for the problems facing the Meredith community.

The Beth Haltiwanger retreat

center was created by Dr. Al Haltiwanger and named after his daughter who committed suicide. She was a nurse at Wake Medical Center. Her portrait hangs over the fireplace in the retreat center that overlooks the lake. Haltiwanger's goal was to establish a place where young people can build their confidence and learn how to deal with stress in their lives.

Reminder: to all Seniors Portraits will be taken Aug. 30, 31 and Sept. 1.

Sign up for an appointment in Student Activities