

Mr. Holland's Opus gives teachers a good name

Director Stephen Herek's *Mr. Holland's Opus* was a sit back and enjoy type of film. Anyone interested in teaching, music, kids or just life in general would enjoy this movie which portrays both the human and heroic side of a very special teacher.

Richard Dreyfuss is Mr. Holland, a would-be composer who gets dragged into the teaching profession "kicking and screaming." Only then does he realize he has another talent more true and life changing than the musical talent he had always built his dreams around. *Mr. Holland's Opus* is the story

Movie Review

By Carol Conerly

of this music teacher's 30 years of teaching. The film reveals all the lives Mr. Holland touches and also the lives which influence him. Olympia Dukakis is his first principal, who is hard-nosed, demanding and an outstanding advocate for the well-being of her students. Her influence is important to Mr. Holland and the direction he takes as a teacher.

Jay Thomas is the school's football coach. He befriends Mr. Holland and teaches him and the audience that field goals and touchdowns are not the only things a high school coach worries about. His number one concern is his students.

Glenn Headly is Iris, Mr. Holland's wife and the mother of their only child, Cole. The birth of Cole is Iris and

Glenn's greatest joy. But upon learning that little Cole is deaf, Iris and Glenn meet the challenge of their lives. How can the man whose life revolves around music relate to his deaf child? How can Iris understand the widening gulf between her husband and her son? *Mr. Holland's Opus* is not only the story of a teacher, it is the story of a teacher who must first be human.

Mr. Holland's Opus is a film I would recommend to teachers, students, music lovers and anyone else with a heart. It is two and a half hours of heartache and laughter that anyone who ever thought teachers had it easy should definitely see.

CHAIRMAN: continued from page 1

hiring of an outside consultant to examine all departments and evaluate the course offerings in relation to the employment outlook. The proposal will be voted on at the February meeting.

"We once offered degrees in moral philosophy, Greek and Latin," he said, "but we wouldn't do that today." He added, "we want to know what the attractive careers are now for young women—what do they want to have in their degrees and in their heads when they graduate. We've got to educate women to live in the world they were born into and will live in." He continued, "does this mean we're going to become a vocational school? No.

Meredith College will teach you how to do, and we will also give you an education."

Kellum wants to analyze the curriculum in view of the current and projected job market and "emphasize, de-emphasize or eliminate" courses if necessary. He agrees there may be some "tough decisions" to make, and he intends to talk to the faculty and others who have an interest before any decisions are made.

The liberal arts education Meredith offers, Kellum said, prepares a woman to pursue a career and also change her career goals if time and circumstance demand it. "The needs of the students are changing—without our influence

they're changing," he said. "New technologies and new markets determine what skills are needed," he added, "and we can't remain the same at Meredith and continue to be an influence in the future as we have in the past. If we prepare a student to live in the world of the 50's, we would be doing her a great disservice."

"The freshmen who enter in August, 1996, will graduate in the year 2000," he said, "and science being what it is, many of these young women will live well into the 21st century." He added, "some will live long enough to greet the 22nd century." He said it is important that the trustees, faculty and administration continually ask themselves, "have we done everything we know how to do to prepare these women to live in the world in which they will be living?"

In past years the faculty has asked for more direct communication with the trustees. When asked how he would respond to this request, Kellum said, "I intend to be open and available to the faculty at all times. Any time there is a meeting on campus I usually have lunch on campus, and I'm available to any faculty members who want to join me."

"We have an outstanding faculty," Kellum stated, "and I'd like to publicize that fact more. It's as outstanding a faculty as you'd find anywhere."

Kellum said he had not yet seen the student senate proposal for a more liberal male visitation policy that Sen-

ate Chair Erica Balmer plans to present at the February board meeting. He said, "if it's on the agenda, the board will listen. We'll listen to anything the students want to present." He added, "I can't predict the vote, however."

One of Meredith's strengths, Kellum believes, is that "Meredith is conservative. We have no financial problems, and we want to meet the needs of our students without incurring financial problems." He continued, "we are charged with the responsibility of being prudent in everything we do for Meredith College."

In addition to canoeing, Kellum enjoys playing an occasional round of golf and traveling with his wife Ruth. A favorite vacation spot is the Colorado Rocky Mountains in the fall when the aspens turn color. He serves his church, First Baptist of New Bern, as a deacon. During basketball season he is an avid fan of the Wake Forest Demon Deacons, and he supports the NFL's Green Bay Packers. While discussing sports, he mentioned that he would like to explore the possibility of Meredith's fielding a golf team for intercollegiate competition.

What makes Meredith unique, Kellum asserted, is that we "don't follow every trend. We have a course, a course that is based on a combination of integrity, intellectual growth and spiritual growth. It is the right combination because it has worked. I don't want to tamper with the combination," he added, "I only want to refine it."

SGA Corner

- The campus wide/class election kick-off will be held on Thursday, February 8, during dinner. Any questions about being an officer can be answered at this time.
- The election workshops will be held on Monday and Tuesday, February 12 and 13, from 7-8 p.m. in 101 Ledford.
- More election news will be coming soon!
- Danielle Taylor recently resigned from the position of SGA secretary due to a tough course load. Mandy McCullun has been appointed to the position. McCullun has served as the SGA-member at large during the full semester. All freshman who are interested in serving as SGA member-at-large need to contact June at #7807. by Friday, Feb. 2.