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Competition level low as elections begin

By Ginny Bonkemeyer

The 1996-1997 campus-wide elections should carry fairly low levels of controversy and competition. Only two offices have more than one person running this year. Participation in elections is very low at Meredith this spring.

The speeches began with Erica Balmer, candidate for SGA president who emphasized "unifying mind and spirit" at Meredith College through the SGA. Aubrey Henderson is running unopposed for SGA vice president and Senate Chair. Mandy McCullen, running unopposed for SGA secretary, plans to help make a difference while she is at Meredith.

The competition begins with the SGA office in high demand: treasurer.

Melissa Chandler wants everyone to "make a safe bet" and vote for her for treasurer. Heather Goodin is also competing for the treasurer position, as is current WINGS president, Sharolyn McManamy.

Amanda White, running unopposed for Honor Council Chair, shared the goals she wishes to attain while in office, primarily to create a smaller board within the residence halls to hear appeals. DD Porter is running unopposed for Residence Hall Board Chair and said that "together we'll hit one out of the park."

Melissa Ray is running unopposed for Elections Board Chair and Amber Mosely is running unopposed for Student Life Committee Chair. Sara Flow-

ers and Kristin Young are unopposed candidates for the offices of MEA president and vice president, respectively, and want to get more people involved in MEA. Kelly Conkling is the only candidate running for MRA president and hopes to make the most out of Meredith traditions and involve more people.

WINGS president is the only other office with more than one candidate. The first candidate, Peggy Barbee, is the current WINGS representative to MCA. She feels that communication and cooperation are key to join the women of Meredith. Her opponent, Katherine Colvard, wants to work to bridge the gap between traditional and re-entry students.

Melissa Blackwood, running unopposed for MCA president, will try to get more people involved and help the organization to be more well-known on campus. Megan Carney is running unopposed for MCA vice president and has many ideas for great Unwindings next year.

Heather Wilkin is running unopposed for Programming Board Chair and wants everyone to "get with the program!" Amy Hester is running for a position on the review board.

Elections Board Chair Ashley Peay stressed the fact that each candidate, even if running unopposed, still has to receive 51% of the votes to win the office. Voting will be on Tuesday and Wednesday in the Cate Center from 10-11am and in Belk Dining Hall during lunch and dinner.

Housing assignments to be given on the spot

By Robin Hollingsworth

For the past year the office of Residence Life has been hard at work improving and updating Meredith's housing policy. Paula O'Briant, director of Residence Life, cited that feedback from the student body, a close analysis of the past housing policy, and a comparison of the dormitory assignment plans of similar colleges and universities were utilized in revamping the system.

A top priority in the changes made was to delegate more responsibility and choice to the students, as well as to make the room assignments a personalized and hands-on experience for everyone involved.

According to the former housing plan, students completed a reservation card and sent it in during February to the Residence Life staff. Then after a three month wait, room assignments were posted in May. The proposed housing policy will eliminate that long wait. In just one day students will be able to make their preference known, see their options, and receive their

room assignment for the upcoming year. Ultimately, the choice of where to live will lie in the students' hands.

O'Briant has broken down the new housing plan into a simple step-by-step process. Before spring break detailed housing information packets will be distributed to students, in which each step of the new plan is carefully and clearly outlined. First, all students are encouraged to fully read the housing material they will soon receive.

Students should (A) ascertain that the reservation card for their suite or room is complete and correct. These cards are nearly identical to the cards previously used. (B) Each student should make certain that she has her room deposit (credit cards are not acceptable). Any financial aid students for 96-7 should receive vouchers by April 10th, if not they may pick them up at the financial office. (C) Every student should have her housing contract signed, and (D) students should check the housing schedule to confirm their sign-up time.

The third step is the actual scheduled time frame. April 15-19th are the room reservation days. At their scheduled time students are to arrive at Jones Auditorium. Mrs. O'Briant encourages everyone to arrive 15 minutes early to insure the schedule will progress smoothly. One representative from each suite may attend or all suite members may be present, depending on the suite's preference. The representative should bring the room deposits and signed housing contracts for every person represented in that suite, as well as, the reservation card. The representative must be from the suite represented and should know the housing preference and alternatives of their suite.

Upon entering Jones Auditorium each suite representative will receive a housing ticket. On the stage overhead projectors and screens will display the floor plans of each dormitory, to keep those attending informed of available rooms and closings. Once the lottery begins a random housing ticket will be drawn and announced. That suite will

then approach the housing staff to turn in their housing contracts, deposits, and reservation card. They may then choose any available room from the floor plans and their housing process will be complete.

Monday, April 15th, is the scheduled date for seniors to attend. Complete suites are to register from 6-7pm. Roommates without suitemates are to sign up 7-8pm, followed by incomplete suites, two roommates and one suitemate, 8-9pm. Any singles, those students without a roommate or suitemates, may register from 9-10pm. The hour of 10-11pm is reserved for any group who has incomplete information, such as no deposit or contracts.

On Tuesday, April 16th juniors will sign up and sophomores will attend the housing lottery on Wednesday, April 17th. On the 15th, 16th, and 17th the same timeline will be followed. Thursday, April 18th, 6-10pm, is for mixed

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