

## The scoop on the Republican primaries

By Arinn Dixon

With the 1996 presidential election looming in November, four men are doing their best to be the race's Republican candidate and get the chance to face Bill Clinton. The Meredith Herald wants to give you a glimpse at each of these candidates so that those who wish can make an informed decision at the North Carolina primary later on this semester.

Out of the 22 candidates going into the pivotal New Hampshire primary, Bob Dole, Pat Buchanan, Lamar Alexander and Steve Forbes came out on top.

Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole of Kansas is said to have the best chance of beating Clinton, and therefore the best chance at the position of Republican candidate—the Republican voters

want to choose a candidate who they think can win. Dole, 72, is running a moderately conservative campaign with emphasis on balancing the budget and has been called "the voice of mainstream Washington conservatism." His big pull over his competitors is the issue of his experience, as he has been in politics longer than any of the others. The experience issue could turn against him, however, because many voters are wary of electing a president as old as Dole. He has won the Iowa caucuses and the North Dakota, South Dakota and South Carolina primaries.

Columnist and TV commentator Pat Buchanan is giving Dole, the party's early favorite, a run for his money. He has been called "combative" and "ex-

treme," but he apparently appeals to many voters; he has won the Louisiana caucuses, as well as the New Hampshire primary. Buchanan is the most conservative of the candidates and is running a campaign that includes platitudes on anti-abortion, US economic anxiety, and canceling foreign trade treaties, which he blames for lost American jobs. Buchanan says he wants to reshape the Republican party and fight for those citizens who feel the party has not protected their jobs or improved their standard of living.

Lamar Alexander, the former governor of Tennessee, has been dubbed "the walking candidate who plays the piano and wears plaid shirts." He is running on a campaign that includes traditional Republican issues of taking

the power away from the national government and giving the brunt of the power to state governments, city councils and local charities. Alexander has been criticized by big-wig Republicans, such as Newt Gingrich, for staying in the race when he is so far behind and thus taking votes away from Dole, making the fight between Dole and Buchanan even harder. Alexander has not won any caucuses or primaries yet.

Millionaire publisher Steve Forbes was a relative unknown in the realm of politics before this race. He introduced the issue of the flat tax, and has used that to separate himself from the other candidates. He is running a fairly conservative campaign with anti-abortion and state's rights. He has won the Delaware and Arizona primaries.

## Meredith club wins state award

By Christine Laughlin

Recently, several members of Meredith's College Republican's, along with delegates from 13 other North Carolina colleges and universities, attended the North Carolina Federation of College Republicans (NCFCR) annual Spring Convention at the Radisson Hotel in downtown Raleigh. The Meredith CR's have been very active in the NCFCR this year, including doing volunteer work for the Hayes for Governor, Dan Page for Senate, and Sam Currin for NC GOP Chairman Campaigns. This year, the hard work and dedication paid off for the Meredith group; on February 23, on behalf of the entire club, Meredith's Chairman, sophomore Kendall Barnes, accepted the NCFCR Club of the Year award.

The award, presented to the MC CR's by former Campbell University CR Chairman and newly appointed NCFCR Executive Director Steve Crimm, took Barnes by surprise. In her acceptance speech, Barnes thanked the hardworking members of the MC CR's and said "Meredith is honored to be part of such a great organization." Crimm cited the various activities and events Meredith has participated in

this year. Mark Fleming, second vice-chair of the of the National College Republicans, attending his eleventh straight state convention said, "In my six years with the NCFCR, I have seen Meredith's club grow tremendously, but Kendall and a few hardworking members of her club have made the Meredith group what it is today. Every time I need volunteers for an event, Kendall and her group are always there—always willing to work hard, making posters, stuffing envelopes, whatever needs to be done, they do it."

Several important North Carolina republicans were at the convention last month, including Thom Goolsby, chairman of the Conservative Society of North Carolina, Sam Currin, NC GOP chairman, Dan Page, state senator from Harnett County, Eric Brodin, director of the Foundation for International Studies, and many others. The NCFCR was also very proud to have another honored guest, Joe Lee from Massachusetts, the NCFCR's brother state, and chairman of the Boston College CR's.

"Meredith has a great group. They

are a model for all of us," said Lee.

Brad Hester, immediate past chairman of the NCFCR, senior at UNC-Charlotte, said "The Meredith group has done a great job this year. It was great working with Kendall."

Meredith has eight delegates at the convention, all of whom were very proud to receive such an award from such a prestigious organization. This convention was particularly special for Barnes as she was elected NCFCR Executive Vice Chair. After it was all over, Barnes said "joining CR's is a great way to have fun and meet other conservative college students from across the state. Conventions are always fun and informative. I'm very proud of Meredith's club. There's a key group of members who have really worked hard this year. They deserve this award." The Meredith College College Republicans meet every other Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., and everyone is welcome to attend.

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