

Meredith Herald

Volume XIII, Issue 18

We attract bright, talented, ambitious students. Naturally we're a women's college.

February 26, 1997

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❑ The college receives national attention for century-old doll collection.

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❑ Over 35 Meredith student leaders attend last weekend's LEAD Conference at Elon College.

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❑ The *Herald* reviews Meredith Performs' *Cast No Shadow*, performed last week.

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Convocation: "We were.. We are.. We will be..."

❖ Meredith's founders and seniors honored at Monday's convocation.

Robin Hollingsworth
News Editor

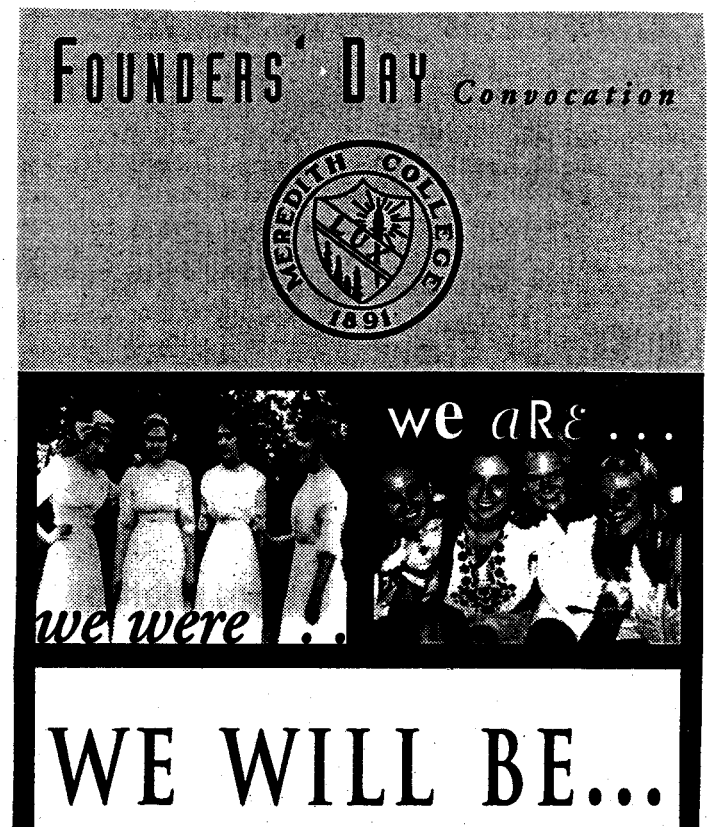
Students, faculty and guests gathered in Jones Auditorium Monday morning in celebration of Meredith College's annual Founder's Day Convocation. The event highlighted the achievements of the class of 1997 and the 96 years of history which the college has enjoyed.

The service began with an organ voluntary followed by a simultaneous procession of both seniors and faculty, both garbed in full academic regalia. This is the first time that seniors and faculty have entered at once, said Alyson Colwell-Waber, director of Dance, and choreographer and director of the event.

The Meredith College Chorale and Encore and Dr. W. David Lynch provided music during the processional parade. The alma mater, written by Richard Tilman Vann, was sung by all. President Weems and Jonna Anderson, senior class president, began the convocation ceremony with a welcome for all in attendance. Carolyn Carter, class of 1973 and upcoming commencement speaker, led the audience in an invocation.

The convocation program, itself, was an indescribable service for all who love Meredith, its traditions and sisterhood. The convocation consisted of a seven-part service alternating between performances of the Meredith Dance Theater and narration by Dr. Jean Jackson, vice-president for student development. Jackson recanted the college's rich legacy of traditions, past and present. She cited long-gone

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New initiative proposals OK'd

❖ Stamat's suggestions and Initiative 2000 push Meredith into 21st century.

Rene Gore, Staff Reporter
Arinn Dixon, Editor-in-Chief

In the spring of 1996, Meredith's Board of Trustees requested a marketing evaluation of Meredith College to ensure that the college was growing in a productive and positive manner. The board hired Stamat Communications, Inc. to evaluate Meredith's academic programs and administrative structure. The goals of the evaluation, according to the Stamat report, were to:

1. Help the college determine which of its undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education programs are most likely to attract students in the short-term and long-term.
2. Determine which undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education programs currently not available should be offered.
3. Identify organizational structures which impede the college's ability to recruit students.

The purpose of the Stamat report

was to evaluate Meredith ability to attract new students with good programs, and satisfy the needs of current students entering an ever-changing, ever-competing job world.

In addition to praising Meredith's status as a women's college, the report recommended such things as new degree programs, developing a series of Women's Centers to provide students with research and leadership opportunities, and redefining the role of continuing education at the college.

Once the Stamat recommendations were complete, Meredith's administration implemented Initiative 2000, a strategic planning effort. The recommendations were divided into tasks which could be accomplished within a year, as well as long-range goals. "Initiative 2000 will identify the college's institutional strategic plan for the next three years as we approach the new millennium," said President Weems in *In a Nutshell*, Meredith's employee newsletter. "It will help us enrich, enhance, and broaden the opportunities for academic and personal growth of Meredith students."

Out of the 174 recommendations Stamat handed down, Meredith's senior management, made of the vice

presidents and deans, focused on 21 primary objectives. Then they asked the faculty and staff to submit proposals for implementation of the primary objectives. Of the 76 proposals submitted and evaluated, 19 were adopted. The new initiatives have already been included in the 1997-1998 budget.

"We ask for submissions from academic and administrative departments, and then try to mesh their ideas about the budget with those of the trustees," said Vice President Chuck Taylor. "This year we have a continuation budget, as usual, and an expansion budget using the new initiatives."

The new initiatives include:

- Birth through Kindergarten Child Development Concentrations
- Exercise and Sports Science Major
- English-as-a-Second Language Certificate
- Adult Degree Programs
- Masters in Health Care Administration
- Learning Center
- Community Approach to Introductory Instruction in the Natural Sciences
- Autism Program

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Cast No Shadow speaks of heritage issues

Addie Tschamler
Staff Reporter

The backdrop on the stage in the Studio Theatre read, "All the things one has forgotten cry out for help in dreams. This was the theme in the Meredith Performs production of *Cast No Shadow*, a play directed by Meredith's speech and theater instructor Jan Morgan. *Cast No Shadow*, written by Ellen Kaplan, a professor at Smith College, portrayed the life of a 16-year-old Jewish ballet dancer, named China (Corie Berkemeyer), struggling with her identity in the 1990s and with her family's past as Jews.

The play goes through a whirlwind of scenes that are hard to follow at first. It is at times difficult to distinguish between China's dreams and her reality until the play is over and there is time to reflect, which is

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