

# Meredith Herald

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

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## On the inside:

☐ The History/Politics Club sponsors a student-designed Praise Quilt in honor of Women's History Month.

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☐ Meredith's tennis team played at the Spring Break Tournament in Bermuda a few weeks ago.

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☐ The Herald reviews Jim Carrey's new schtick comedy *Liar, Liar* which opened March 21.

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**Meredith Herald**  
at  
Meredith College  
3800 Hillsborough St.  
Raleigh, NC 27607

(919) 829-2824

Email:  
dixona@meredith.edu

## Does St. Mary's closing affect us?

☐ Saint Mary's demise brings prospective new students to Meredith.

Emily Fulghum

Staff Reporter

On Thursday, March 6, Saint Mary's College decided to close its doors to incoming freshmen, 70 years after the junior college was established. This decision outraged many associated with the school, especially the 60 incoming freshmen who no longer have a place in next fall's class.

This means that these young women are scrambling for slots on other campuses and the area women's colleges. Peace and Meredith seem to be very willing to lend support and cooperation to soothe frazzled nerves and help in their frantic search.

Christie Hill, Interim Director of Admissions at Peace College said, "Peace College has received 22 inquiries from Saint Mary's students and 11 acceptances have been extended. This is up from zero applications from Saint Mary's students earlier this year." Sherry Boykin, Direc-

tor of Communications at Peace went on to say that they anticipate a steady increase in applications from Saint Mary's students and that Peace looks forward to helping in any way they can.

But how will the upheaval at Saint Mary's affect us here at Meredith? Is Saint Mary's going to see a mass exodus down Hillsborough St. to our four-year institution?

Meredith's Vice President Chuck Taylor stated "I don't think it will have a significant impact on us. We always get some transfers. But since Saint Mary's no longer offers a junior college, I think that we may see a slight increase in the number of students who would have chosen Saint Mary's for their freshman year."

But Director of Admissions Sue Kearney said, "We began receiving calls on the very day the announcement came from students who had applied here, but decided to go to Saint Mary's, and now wanted to re-submit their applications. I am working with about 35 Saint Mary's students right now, and I think the decision will certainly have an impact on the number of

transfer students." Agreeing with Taylor, Kearney did go on to say that they look forward to "more [Saint Mary's students] applying as freshmen here in the future, and we will try to maintain our good working relationship."

Some Saint Mary's alums think that the competition from Peace and Meredith was just too great and that the closing and subsequent dash to area women's colleges was inevitable. A 1991 graduate of Saint Mary's high school and 1993 graduate of the junior college said, "I think that they made the right decision. The girls at Saint Mary's are all bright, fun girls, but the students in the high school were always a lot more focused than the ones in college. It was like those were two years they could blow off until they could transfer somewhere else. Maybe this decision will motivate them to choose a more competitive four-year school."

In a time when women's colleges, in this area especially, seem to be evolving in preparation for the next century of young women, another former graduate of Saint Mary's points out that "it's nice to have a place to go."

## Lil' Friends Weekend biggest ever

☐ Students invited 130 lil' friends, a record-breaking number.

Robin Hollingsworth

News Editor

This past weekend Meredith students played hostess to a whole new generation of prospective Angels and young men. Children between the ages of five and 12 came to spend a few nights on campus for Lil' Friends Weekend. This annual event is a long-time sponsored MRA tradition. It allows students the chance to share in the fun of campus life with their young friends.

For a four-year-old from Fayetteville named Kara, the activities were a long awaited treat. This was her second taste in participating in the Lil' Friends weekend with

her big friend Carol Swink, class of '98.

Kara had been looking forward to the clowns and balloon animals she had loved since last year. This year she found herself in the spotlight at Saturday night's karaoke. "She sang three songs; she just loves being in front of people. Kara's so outgoing", said

Swink.

Kara wasn't alone; according to Leigh Stensvad and Kristie Stallings, co-chairs of the event, everyone made the most of karaoke night. "Almost everyone, including us big kids, got a chance to sing," said Stallings.

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Junior Melissa Blackwood and her little sister and Lil' Friend Olivia Blackwood of Apex enjoy the sunshine and afternoon snack Saturday during the carnival. Photo by Rachael Polich

## The price of freedom from academics

☐ High graduation cost necessary, says the administration.

Beth Hall

Staff Reporter

"I trust they (Meredith) will do what is appropriate with it," says Mary Markette, a December graduating senior, about the graduation fee.

When tallying up graduation expenses, the consensus among graduating seniors is that (for the most part) the expenses are reasonable. Seniors, such as Lisa Rockefeller, say graduation expenses are "just fine." The only expense that seems to cause any sort of controversy is the mysterious graduation fee.

"Graduation expenses must be paid for from somewhere," says Allen Burris, dean of the college, "and charging seniors a graduation fee is fairer than raising tuition for all students."

Senior Angie Edrington, along with others, wonders "what exactly does the graduation fee cover?"

Burris says that the fee "is not designated for anything in particular." All graduation fees are pooled to pay for diplomas (around \$30 each), diploma covers, Bibles (given to each senior), maintenance (for ceremony), reception costs, speaker fees, and overtime pay for secretarial work.

The installation of a December graduation ceremony, as well as a May graduation, also increased graduation costs. All of the costs mentioned above must also be dealt with for December graduations.

Twenty-five years ago graduation ceremony attendance was mandatory for graduating seniors. Now, seniors have a choice whether or not they will attend the ceremony. All graduating seniors must pay the fee even if they will not attend the ceremony. Burris feels this is reasonable because the price of the diploma, plus mailing costs, plus secretarial work still needs to be paid for with the fee.

The graduation fee is no new idea. "The fee has always been here," says Burris. When Burris first came to

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