

Meredith Herald

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

April 16, 1997

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Over 80 Meredith women were honored by the College at Monday's Academic Awards convocation.

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What do Meredith campus personalities have to say about sun exposure?

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The Herald reviews John Cusack's new film *Grosse Pointe Blank*, also starring Minnie Driver.

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Opinions differ on Weems' renewed tenure

Trustees "delighted to announce" Weems' extended commitment.

Dina DiMaio
Staff Reporter

The Meredith College board of trustees elected to maintain Dr. Weems' present position as president of Meredith College for at least three more years, according to board of trustees chair Norman Kellum.

"It's a pointer for Meredith that he stay," Kellum said in a telephone interview.

Kellum said the decision was made because Meredith is in a transitional period since its break with the Baptist State Convention. The break with the Convention in February will allow Meredith's board of trustees to be self-perpetuating, meaning the trustees elect their successors rather than having successors appointed by the Baptist State Convention.

Also, Kellum said, Meredith is making changes due to the August 1996 curriculum audit, the "Marketing Audit of Meredith College: Academic Programs and Administration Structure" by Stamats Communications, Inc., which listed 174 recommendations for Meredith.

According to Kellum, keeping Dr. Weems as president gives Meredith time to "investigate new sources of revenue." "With Dr. Weems' 27 or so years of work, we feel he's in the best position to help us find those revenue sources now that we are no longer a denominational school," Kellum said.

"In a Nutshell," Meredith's staff publication, stated that Kellum said the trustees "voiced a strong conviction that stability in the College's leadership is vital" as the school adjusts to new changes, such as Initiative 2000. Kellum also stated in that publication that Meredith's impressive growth over the past few years is a result of Weems and the campus community combining their ideas to move Meredith forward.

President Weems said that it had been his original plan to retire in 1998. "Two years ago, the board asked me to stay for seven more years," he said.

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Faculty member displeased with procedure and decision.

Dr. Bernard Cochran
Religion Department

Since I have always been an advocate of the *Herald* addressing important issues affecting the Meredith community — rather than just addressing such limited topics as excessive noise in the dining hall or trash in the lake — I am willing to respond to the inquiry regarding faculty opinion concerning trustee action extending President Weems' contract for another three years.

My assessment is that, in general, faculty opinion is decidedly negative on two counts: procedure and the decision itself. Regarding procedure, faculty are dismayed that the opinion of the faculty, the student body, nor the alumnae — all of whom are affected by the decision — was not sought beforehand. This is especially regrettable since the department heads were informed in the fall to expect an imminent announcement of the president's

retirement. With no prior explanation or consultation with the faculty, there was simply the announcement made in the campus news publication, "In a Nutshell," of a done deal — no questions necessary. This is college governance by e-mail!

With regard to the decision itself, I regret to say that the reaction of the faculty is negative, bordering on despair. In all fairness, during President Weems' long tenure he has been responsible for some decisions and plans which have benefited the college greatly — from new buildings to increased endowment. However, he has also made some decisions which have alienated faculty, students, and alumnae alike. Unfortunately, most of those negative decisions have come about in recent years. There has been a student sit-in demonstration in opposition to the president; there has been informal faculty discussion of the need or wisdom of a faculty vote of no-confidence in the leadership of the president; and there have been numerous expressions of alumnae unrest regarding actions

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Chilly temperatures couldn't stop seniors

Big Sis/Lil' Sis classes of '97/'99 sweep STUNT events Thursday.

Robin Hollingsworth, News Editor
Arinn Dixon, Editor-in-Chief

The class of 1997 spun, tugged, and lip-synched their way to victory during "Our Many Colored Meredith Days," in STUNT '97 on Thursday, April 10. The sophomores came in second, the freshmen third, and the juniors fourth.

After an "indoor picnic," the chilly afternoon began with the limbo contest in front of Belk Dining Hall as the first STUNT event. Representatives from each class bent and twisted under the limbo stick from shoulder-height all the way down to hip-height in an effort to take the event for their class. Sophomores placed first, seniors second, juniors third, and freshmen fourth.

The crowd then moved to the lawn in front of Vann and lined the chalk lanes drawn on the grass to watch the absolutely hysterical bat spin. Contestants were required to spin around

with their forehead to a bat, and then run to the end of the lane and back. The seniors were crossing into the sophomore lanes, the juniors were falling face-down, and the freshmen were taking out spectators along the way. MRA member Courtney Lancaster said, "The bat spin is my favorite because people just go crazy." The seniors won the event, with the juniors coming in second, freshmen third, and sophomores fourth.

The three-legged race, another event full of trips and falls, entertained the spectators next. Each pair had to put one leg each into a pillowcase, run down to the end of the lane and back, and then pass the pillowcase to the next pair. The sophomores won this event, the seniors came in second, freshmen third, and the juniors were disqualified.

The next event involved softball cleats and leather gloves: tug-of-war. The seniors swept this event by defeating both the juniors and the freshmen in a battle of yelling, grunting, and female upper arm strength. Freshmen came in second, sophomores third, and

juniors fourth.

Balloon toss and sponge toss moved the crowd across the courtyard in front of Brewer. Chief Hoke, Jennifer Corrigan (Vann RD), Dr. Grimes (biology), and Dr. Ellis (human environmental sciences) volunteered for the frigid job of balloon/sponge targets. Freshmen won the balloon toss, juniors came in second, sophomores third, and seniors fourth. In the sponge toss, juniors came in first, freshmen and seniors tied for second place, and sophomores came in last.

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