

Campus Opinion

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POINT

COUNTERPOINT

Which gender should fill the Meredith presidency?

So, President Weems has tendered his resignation. What next? A search committee must look for the next president of Meredith College.

I'd like to offer my two cents: Hire a woman.

Now this isn't some affirmative-action, ultra-feminist, man-hating statement. No, indeed, I believe in finding the best person for the job. But I also believe the best person for the job is a woman.

What this college needs is a president who has a strong, collaborative leadership skills. We need someone who brings a level of personal understanding to the college. We need someone who deals with people on a personal level. And we need someone who is a role model for the students.

These skills and qualifications come from being a woman. Now I'm not suggesting that we should just hire a woman without a mind to

work experience. But finding a woman who has experience in fund raising, administration, and management is a lot easier today than it was 25 years ago. Clearly, if Duke University could hire Nan Keohane and UNC could hire Molly Broad, Meredith could find a woman with exceptional qualifications and the right temperament to work with faculty, staff, students, and the trustees.

Qualified women are out there. And frankly, they're not far away. An editorial in the *Raleigh News and Observer* suggested Deborah Stewart of NCSU. A friend of the college suggested Jeanette Hyde, former ambassador to Barbados and influential North Carolina politico. My own wish list includes Salisbury native Elizabeth Dole.

Talk about hiring the "best person" all you want. Recognize that the best person is a woman.

-D.O.H.

Who should be the next president of Meredith? This will be the most talked about issue on this campus over the next year, and one response will likely be: "I don't know, but it better be a woman." Is it necessary for us to judge the candidates based on their gender? Instead of going into the search with the bias for a woman to lead the college into the next millennium, the focus should be on finding the best *qualified* candidate for the job.

Being a woman is not a qualification. Meredith has spent this year focusing on finding a "vision," and the best president will be able to carry out that vision - man or woman. It seems obvious that President Weems' retirement and the college's search for a new vision go hand and hand. I'm all for a more active and visible president on this campus, one who knows more than a few students, but just because the current president is a man

does not mean the keeper of our vision has to be a woman.

Students have said, "We need a woman to be a role model for our college." Ask yourself how a woman president, or any president at all, actually affects your goals or success in school. The job of the president is to be a fundraiser and a leader of the staff and faculty. If a man is chosen to replace President Weems, and he improves the college, then why can't he be a role model? This college needs the best president available, not just the best woman we can find.

To weigh in my vote on the question of the year, I say the search should be open-minded and blind to anything but real qualifications. Would you want the people you lead to know you got a job because "it better be a woman?"

-O.O.C.

Family holiday stress

SANNE MARTIN
Counseling Center

December is one of the most stressful months of the year for college students. Academic pressures are rising as the semester comes to its hair raising climax, and family issues become prominent as we get closer to visiting home. The holiday season itself can bring on a whole set of stressors. Seasonal parties, family issues, and community and church responsibilities create additional social demands, and many will experience stress and the "holiday blues" related to family conflicts, losses, and separation.

Recognizing and eliminating the stressors in life is the best way to protect ourselves from the mental and physical wear-and-tear that stress causes. The causes of stress are varied and can change rapidly. Some of the most common stressors are those created out of personal demands we place on ourselves, such as perfectionism, control, passivity, impatience and rigidity. Often these traits turn into external pressures; for instance, when we are not able to be assertive about saying "no," we then become stressed by being over-committed. Recognizing these personal traits is the first step in working to overcome them.

Ironically, because the holidays represent family and family unit, it is also common for people to be depressed

by their family if it lacks an imagined or wished for sense of unity. Some families are relatively healthy but struggle to let their children grow up and become adults. This can cause a young adult to be angry and frustrated and to struggle in going home as if they were to step backwards in independence. Others may have been well over-protected during their early years and now struggle to leave home and are overwhelmed by those feelings during the holiday season once settled into family life elsewhere. Some families are more dysfunctional, with past abuses or neglects leaving a person with an emptiness that becomes magnified during this season which symbolizes family, closeness and a peace that they may not feel. It is important to be in touch with the sadness and grief and to direct it appropriately, rather than direct it towards friends or other distracting issues. It is important to share it privately with a close friend, in a journal, or in your head on the way home.

Finally, it is critical to create 'safety plans' for going home if you predict a struggle, i.e. plan a phone conversation or a lunch with a friend following a difficult family event, practice deep breathing, drive away (politely excusing yourself), or take a breather in the bathroom. Do something. Have a comfort and safety plan before going home.

Come to the **STRESS FREE ZONE** and **PANCAKE BREAKFAST** sponsored by the Student Development Staff at *Coffee with Friends*.
Thursday December 4th at 8:00 PM.
Cost is \$1.00. All are invited for food, games, pillow fights, and much more!!!

WANTED: RELIABLE student to help with after school child care of three children ages 4, 8, and 11. Must have own transportation. Have immediate need for Monday afternoons, and hours may increase with changes in job situation. Please call Mimi McCully at 676-7157(H) or 467-5543(W).

BUSY MOM NEEDS HELP! Wonderful 2 year old daughter; great child-oriented neighborhood; looking at 3 days a week, possibly more later. Call Courtney Banko @ 845-8453.

PAPA JOHN'S PIZZA is now hiring 30 drivers and 20 inside employees immediately. Earn up to \$15/hour, cash paid nightly, weekly pay checks, 401K plan, driver incentive plan. Very flexible hours, full or part-time. 50% discount on all pizzas. Now hiring for our "new" location in north west Raleigh - 6510 Glenwood Ave. 786-9900 or 2712 Hillsborough St. 834-7272 (the #1 Papa John's in the country). We will give you a \$50 sign on bonus if you work at least 30 days. Any questions call Kristine at 850-9798.

CLASSIFIED ADS


CHILDCARE: N, Raleigh for 8 y/o girl. Beginning in January—after school; 2 afternoons per week including one evening, approx. 10 hours/week. Refs and transportation required. Please call 845-1448.

GET PAID to shop, eat out and more! Free details. Send self-addressed stamped envelope to Business Basics, P.O. Box 97-SP, West Berlin, NJ 08091-0097.

FEMALE ROOMMATE WANTED to share house in N. Raleigh with two other female roommates. House is located in a quiet development called Neuse Crossings. \$335/mo includes all utilities with exception of your own phone line. House has washer/dryer, fireplace, high ceilings. Your room has cable which is included in rent. I have one cat. Sorry, no other pets. Please call Linda at 217-9821. Available Dec. 19th or thereafter - Jan 1st ok. Temporarily lease is fine.

NANNY/CHILD CARE: For 7 yr. old, after school in my North Raleigh home; Approx 3 - 6:30 p.m. Must be dependable, experienced, have references and transportation. Serious responses only, please call 844-3665.

PART-TIME BABYSITTER needed as soon as possible. Monday-Friday, 2:30-6:30 pm. Pick up two children at kindergarten and day care. Must have reliable transportation, non-smokers only. Call Melinda or Jay Bissett at 481-3634 to arrange an interview.

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