

## Saying thank you with love

From the  
Editor

As the year comes to an end, I don't have much time to reflect on my years at Meredith or anything profound like an upcoming graduate might have running through her head. However, I have had almost 23 years to con-

templated the multitude of wisdom and numerous answers my family, friends and teachers have given to me over the years, especially my mom. I realized all of this especially back in January when my suitemates and I went to see the movie *Stepmom*.

I won't be giving away the plot or ending now since most of you probably know that Susan Sarandon's character fights cancer throughout the movie's length. As my suitemates suspected, I cried during the entire movie - even during the funny parts. Personally, I thought it was great, but the movie's theme hit a little close to home.

For almost seven years, I have lived my life without the guidance of my mom, the best friend of all times. You see, my mom died when I was 15 from lung cancer. It wasn't the best time in my life to lose your mom, but I also know that it made me all the more stronger.

It's only recently in the last several years while here at Meredith, that I have begun to realize how much my mom was able to give to me in the few years we had together. She gave me strength, love, knowledge, patience and much more. My mom taught me how to be a woman, a real lady when it comes to living in a world of chaos such as we have today.

We had the best times together, with a few of the typical mother-daughter fights you have during those pre-teen years. There have been many times when I wish I could have called her up and tell her about my day, like any of my hallmates would. I wish she could actually be here when I graduate in a few weeks, although I know she sees me and knows that I have almost made it through my time in college.

It is because of my mom that I love to cook and take care of people. She showed me that you can gain so much more as a person when you give to others. She even is the one person who knew that I could do anything I wanted, including being a writer and editor one day. If she could see me now; of course, I sure could use some of that encouragement as my job search comes and goes with the passing days.

I know I can't tell my mom in person thank you for all the love and guidance she gave me, but somehow I believe she will know what I am thinking as I walk across the island this coming Mother's Day. After 23 years, I have become the woman I saw in my mom. I guess you could say, I have become my mother's daughter and that's exactly who I want to be. Thank you, mom. I will always love you.

MEREDITH BY TORY HOKE



## Should Boba Fett be female?

TORY HOKE  
Features Editor

The *Star Wars* series is a cultural event with the capacity to make a significant impact on the prejudices of its viewers. Acknowledging this, its almost exclusively white and male human population is a disappointment.

To the cast of major characters, *The Phantom Menace* adds one black male and one white female, raising each of their totals to a pitiful two. Rumors that Jet Li will play Boba Fett in future installments mean that Fett's human identity will be revealed, and Fett is the ideal candidate for the groundbreaking, balls-to-the-wall female character that the *Star Wars* audience deserves.

My emphasis on Fett's gender rather than race comes from the fact that the series' females, Queen Amidala and Princess Leia, fall prey to female stereotypes, while Lando Calrissian and Mace Windu are examples of colorblind casting. Although

Leia and Amidala wield weapons and kick enough ass to keep the plot moving, they prefer planning to acting, require protection and rescue and serve primarily to continue the Jedi bloodline.

Their royal privilege and youth make them difficult to take seriously, and the scripts of *Empire Strikes Back* and *Return of the Jedi* reflect that difficulty as Leia is forced to trade the cranky barbs of A New Hope for Jabba love-garb and Ewok-befriending.

The character of Boba Fett is an ideal candidate to counteract *Star Wars*' female role rut. Fett has a strong presence in the initial trilogy and promises to play a larger part in the prequels. Plus, Fett is a potent and popular figure in the series, offers no evidence of being either gender within the films, and unlike Leia or Amidala has enough of a dark side to be interesting.

In addition, such an interesting and strong female character would attract the

viewership of women who otherwise would experience *Star Wars* only in the company of more enthusiastic boyfriends, brothers and sons. *Star Wars*' story is appealing and accessible to women; it is only its characters that are not.

The force of female exclusion from *Star Wars* is reflected in the paltry proportion of its female fans. The casting of a female actor in the role of Boba Fett would demonstrate that women are not a forgotten or negligible demographic, as well as provide evidence that women can serve a cinematic purpose other than romance and reproduction.

The fact that a female Fett would win female fans without alienating male fans begs the question why, instead of asking why Fett should be female, audiences aren't asking, "Why not?"

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Submissions for  
the *Herald* are  
due every  
MONDAY at  
1 p.m. in the  
box outside of  
208 Cate.