

Seasons of hate must end

Welcome back from the summer of hate.

I've always idealized the 1960s, and 1967, the so-called summer of love, is no exception. But when I think about this summer, my mind jumps from the summer of love to this summer, the summer of 1999, which I have proclaimed to be the summer of hate.

From the Editor

From the railroad killer Angel Resendez to Benjamin Smith, who killed people because of their race, religion or political stance, to Mark Barton, the man who killed 11 people in an Atlanta office building because he lost money while day trading, to Cary Stayner, the man responsible for killing four women in Yosemite National Park, this summer seems to have negated all the talk of violent crime being at its lowest in many years and the other good things that are happening in our country and the world right now.

The three incidents I mentioned were caused not only by hate, but also by lack of responsibility. Everyone is looking for someone else to blame.

The railroad killer blamed his status as an illegal immigrant. Smith blamed his religion. "God told me to," he may have said before taking his own life. Stayner blamed his brain by stating that he'd always just wanted to kill someone. And Barton blamed the employees of the firm where he once day traded.

And then came Woodstock '99. Maybe this will help me forget about all this hate, I thought. Although it could never compare to the original, maybe it will remind the country of the ideals that we once held.

But hate again was on display on the last day of Woodstock, as revelers set fire to cars, stages and tents and destroyed equipment. Again, the culprits blamed the fiasco on something else.

"It was just the thing to do," they might have said. "We couldn't help it—it was the spirit of the moment."

Well, if the spirit of this year's Woodstock was about starting fires and destroying property, then I'm glad I didn't go.

That's the wrong spirit for any event to embody, especially an event that should create camaraderie and unity rather than discord and division.

So welcome back from the summer of hate. Let's make sure it was the last of its kind.

Meet the new RL Director

SARA PARSONS
Staff Writer

Moving onto Meredith's campus this summer was nothing new for Charlene Gaines. In fact, when she assumed the position as the new director of residence life, living on campus for a couple months would be a step back to a familiar place.

While obtaining a bachelor's degree in finance from UNC-Greensboro, Gaines got her first glimpse into residence life by working as an RA. She became interested immediately.

"I loved working in Residence Life. I enjoyed the sense of community in the experience as well as planning events," said Gaines.

After she graduated, Gaines worked for a while then returned to UNCG to earn a master's degree in higher education. She also continued her interest in residence life by working as an RD. After graduate school Gaines traveled to Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania to work as a Residence Life Coordinator. There she discovered how rewarding residence life training could be.

"I really enjoyed training and staff development because I was helping people help other people."

Soon after, Gaines returned to UNCG and worked for five years as the assistant director of residence life.

Last year, Gaines heard of the job opening at Meredith through her involvement with the North Carolina College Personnel Association and couldn't resist.

"I knew the people here through NCCPA and they are all great. I knew this would be a good work environment with good people, so I applied in May and got the job."

However, Gaines has not always worked and lived in North Carolina. She is originally from Bridgeport, Conn. and was drawn to this area by its reasonably priced colleges.

"I had a sister who went to UNC-Chapel Hill, but when I visited her there I knew it was too big. Then I was told about a smaller school right down the road, UNCG."

Being 12 hours away from home has not been too hard on Gaines because most of her family has also moved to North Carolina. She now lives with her mother in Durham and commutes to Raleigh. This commute, Gaines said, has taken some adjusting to.

"The biggest change for me has been the traffic here. I am definitely not used to it," she said.

Gaines has discovered a lot of positive things in the area as well. "There are so many different types of people here. You have a number of college students and grad students, as well as families. There are also so many different things to do, it makes Raleigh a very exciting place."

In addition to living in a new area, Gaines also must adjust to her first time working at an all women's school. "The visitation policy has been the biggest

difference for me here, but it seems to work really well."

While she may not be familiar with "Boy Days," Gaines does bring a number of new ideas from her experiences at UNCG and Slippery Rock.

She said, "Some of the things we have been thinking about are building apartment-style housing for married or non-traditional age students and setting up 'learning communities' where students are grouped by major or other interest. We are also continuing to work on the smoking situation."

Gaines also has some goals regarding the planning of events for this year.

"I would like to have more large-scale events, possibly competition between dorms, that would get a larger number of students involved. I would like to start doing things to keep students here on the weekends, possibly even parties like mixers or socials," Gaines said.

With these plans and goals, Gaines has a positive outlook on the upcoming year.

"With all the changes Meredith has had in the last few months, this year will surely be different and very exciting. Meredith is a good place to be this year, it really is."



Charlene Gaines is hard at work as the director of Residence Life.

PHOTO BY LESLIE MAXWELL

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CORRECTION:

Last week's Orientation story should have said that the Summer Reading Program was the product of the Creative Ideas Fund through the Office of the First Year Experience, not the English Department.