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Powell encourages broad horizons

Powell speaks at ACA convocation.

JENNY COSTA
Staff Writer

In order to be fully educated we must consciously broaden our life experiences and values was Kevin Powell's message to Meredith student's at convocation Monday night.

Powell, an award-winning poet, former senior editor of *Vibe* magazine and cast member on *The Real World New York*, concentrated on self-education, the appreciation of personal and cultural history and the history of the United States.

"Education is not only what you learn in school but everything that affects you as part of your life's experience. It is this experience that determines your social consciousness and values," said Powell.

He reflected on his urban childhood having been raised by a young, poor, single, black, female in the ghetto of New York and the low self-esteem

that he developed simply because he was black. "Black was ugly back then," he said.

But the biggest challenge he faced was overcoming racial boundaries once he left the ghetto and found himself in predominantly white areas.

Powell said that he left for college to "broaden his horizons," but instead he became very angry.

"If you thought I was angry in *The Real World* - that was nothing."

"I felt like my entire education up until college was completely bogus because I knew nothing about my contribution to this country's history." So he began reading and learning on his own.

Powell said that when he learned about all of the contributions that African Americans had made to society he felt that a whole part of who he was was left out. "There was this gaping whole in my body," he explained.

"Honestly, my anger was directed at white people

because I felt like it was whites who had denied me my education. My way of thinking was that they controlled everything."

He admitted that he wasted a lot of time disassociating himself from whites instead of talking openly about his concerns during college, but it did not take him long to grow and realize how best to handle his feelings.

Powell believes that "hate dehumanizes all of us... and the best way to use that energy positively is to educate oneself and be pro-active."

"So where do we go from here?" he asked students. "As Martin Luther King Jr. said, 'We must have a radical revolution of values.'"

In order to be more successful in our attempts to unite, "we must expand our horizons, create some type of spiritual foundation in our lives and learn to use the word love in a more profound way."

Powell challenged students to talk openly and honestly

with one another to resolve cultural differences and learn more. He quoted Bell Hook, saying, "do not be afraid to cross those boundaries and have a basic dialogue.' We must not be afraid of our differences."

Ayana Rhodes, a junior who attended the convocation, agreed, "People need to be honest about how they feel but still be willing to understand how others feel. Not one of us has had the same life experiences."

Powell questioned, "If you don't understand the contributions of all people to this society and not only one narrow view--how can you call yourself an American?"

In his conclusion, Powell challenged students to question the narrow values that they have always had.

"If you leave college with the same thinking and spiritual beliefs that you had when you came and you do not grow at all then you have wasted your time and money."

New lot may alleviate filled spaces

Parking lot to be behind Belk Dining Hall, softball field.

LORA TILLMAN
Staff Writer

Tired of parking miles from the dorm? Tired of getting a ticket when trying to park closer?

Frank Strickland, new chief of Campus Police, and the rest of the Meredith Campus Police believe they have developed solutions to these long-running parking dilemmas.

Construction will begin soon on a new maintenance building on the Wade Avenue driveway. Although this building may not be of too much interest to students, the new parking lot that is being built along with it will be.

That's right. A new parking

lot containing over 100 new spaces is going to be built next to the softball field, behind Noel House.

This new lot will significantly reduce the over crowding in the freshman Blue and Green lot and offer students closer parking.

Strickland explained, "There is not a shortage of parking, there is simply a shortage of close parking."

However, there will be a down side to this new haven of parking bliss.

During the construction, there will be a shortage of spaces that are close to the dormitories for parking.

In the meantime, the area behind the commuter overflow lot near the soccer field can be used for residential students until the construction is complete.

Strickland asks that students

bear with the process because the new lot will alleviate any existing problems.

Along with providing new spaces, the new lot will also solve the problem of loading and unloading in the front circle.

Students, Strickland said, should be aware that the circle is a fire lane, and it is therefore illegal to park in it.

The Campus Police do not have a problem with students loading and unloading their cars in the circle, Strickland said. However, they ask that the students do one of three things.

First, students are permitted to unload their car entirely onto the curb, move their cars to a proper parking space, and then come back to retrieve their things.

Second, students may make several trips to and from their car to carry their things to their

rooms provided there is someone sitting in the car that can move it in the event on an emergency.

Finally, students should make use of the two fifteen minute spaces in front of the circle.

"We have to enforce the rules; otherwise there would be chaos. The new parking lot should help with the problem of loading and unloading.

"There will be some fifteen minute spots added for this purpose," Chief Strickland explained.

If students have any questions, complaints, or feedback they are asked to come talk to Strickland and the Meredith Campus Police.

Strickland said, "We are always looking for ways to make things more efficient."

Contact the Campus Police at 760-8888.