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Educating Women to Excel

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Meredith Herald

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Heated debates get students involved

CHRISTINA HOLDER
Associate Editor

If elephants and donkeys are ever to be an icon of college life, they were last night as students gathered across campus to watch the first presidential debate of this election year at parties sponsored by campus clubs.

At around 8 p.m. Democratic students from Meredith, NC State, Peace and UNC-Chapel Hill began filtering into the second floor of the Cate Center to grab a spot to watch the debate broadcast live from the University of Massachusetts in Boston.

Lisa Coltrain, president of the College Democrats, collaborated with the North Carolina Federation of College Democrats to organize the event that brought several local political candidates to the Meredith campus.

Socializing with the crowd was Jack Nichols, who is running for a seat in the North Carolina House of Representatives for District 61, the district

that includes Meredith.

Several representatives from the Bob Etheridge campaign were present.

"I think it will be beneficial to get all the College Democrats in the area together to show how much support there is for the Democratic Party," said Coltrain.

At the same time, across campus in Joyner Lounge, members of the History and Politics Club met to discuss who they thought would be crowned victor of the debates. The bipartisan meeting brought a mix of student Democrats and Republicans.

Before the debate began at 9 p.m., Dr. Barbara True-Weber, professor of politics, led a discussion on what might shape one's views of the candidates while watching them on air.

Last night's presidential debate is the first in a series of three leading up to November's election. George W. Bush and Al Gore will meet again next Wednesday, Oct.11 at Wake Forest University.

Napster banned for three weeks

LESLIE MAXWELL, JENNY COSTA Editor in chief, News Editor

Technology Services, in a move that has pleased many students and faculty, has banned Napster from Meredith computer systems for three weeks on approval from from Dr. Maureen Hartford, college president, and the Senior Management Team.

Napster, an invasive software that many students download from the Internet, has been blamed for computer problems ranging from slow Internet access to no Internet access.

Ruth Ann Balla, director of Technology Services, said that at last week's SGA / Student Life-sponsored Fall Forum, the overwhelming response from students was "block it; stop it; we can't do our academic work."

To determine what Meredith will ultimately do, SGA is sponsoring a forum next Monday, Oct. 9, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in Jones Auditorium.

Then, on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week, SGA will hold a referendum, through Senate. Voting time is from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the Cate Center Lobby.

SGA President Leslie Gilliland said, "Our recommendation will be based on the results from the referendum." She added, "Our purpose is to represent the student body."

Ultimately, SGA members will present their proposal to members of the Senior Management Team for consideration. The team will have the final say-so in what Meredith does about Napster.

The ban began at 3 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 2, and during the three weeks, Napster traffic, along with other similar programs such as Scour, will be blocked. And for the remainder of this week, a network monitor will monitor the effectiveness of the blocking device. On Friday, Technology Services will try a different monitor.

Journalist Stone to speak at Meredith

JONI SMITH Staff Writer

A man of education, honor and the written word will be visiting Meredith College next Monday, Oct. 9th.

On that day, Chuck Stone, the Spearman Professor of Journalism at UNC-Chapel Hill will share his ideas with the Meredith community with the theme "Women Rule!" He will appear as the guest speaker at the 10 a.m. Honors convocation, have lunch with history/politics students and meet with members of the Meredith Herald.

A journalist for over 25 years, Stone has a long career, which includes two "Excellence in Teaching" awards, the 1993 Free Spirit Award from the Freedom Forum based on his drive to protect the First Amendment and two Pulitzer Prize nominations.

He served as editor of three paramount black newspapers during the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s and has written three books and countless essays, columns and stories.

Stone broke many barriers that seemed rock solid to other people from minority groups. Indeed, he was the first African-American hired to do commentary on television in the United States, coining the phrase "Black Power" in 1966.

To keep Americans alert of minorities climbing the professional and social ladders, Stone has written three books discussing African Americans who have political power.

In fact, during the Black Power Movement, Stone worked with leaders such as Malcolm X and Stokely Carmichael.

Stone's education is as vast

and diverse as the groups of minorities he speaks and works for. He has undergraduate degrees in Political Science and Economics from Wesleyan University in Connecticut and a master's degree in sociology from the University of Chicago, and he has studied law at the University of Connecticut.

While speaking about political power in America, Stone has said, "Real political power is the ability to change your quality of life, the agenda, to raise the quality of schools and education in your communities, to reduce the criminality there."

Throughout his career, Stone has been known for his outspoken nature against politicians, commitment to justice, and determination.

In an interview with Dennis Jackson for his article, "The Outspoken Mr. Stone: Conversation with Chuck Stone" that appeared in Black Scholar, Stone said, "The chief threat to the First Amendment is the threat to the diversity of opinion by women, liberals and blacks."

Stone said his focus during his career in journalism was to grasp the attention of his audience. "There is a great sea of lethargy out there. I was trying to get people to organize things, to get out and vote and seek the power to improve their lives."

Now a professor at the UNC-Chapel Hill, Stone is reaching his audience in a different way. He teaches young journalists how to possess the same vigor and "fervent forthrightness" that he demonstrated during his career in the spotlight.