

Meredith students have mixed feelings on RU-486

LISA WILSON
Staff Writer

Abortion. This single word has stirred up emotion all through history. Even before the Roe vs. Wade court case turned the control of abortion to the federal government in the early 1970s, abortion has been a very public issue.

Now, in late September, the Food and Drug Administration approved an abortion pill called RU-486, or mifepristone.

Simply stated, RU-486 is a pill that allows women to have a non-surgical abortion. The process involves taking five pills and having a minimum of three doctor visits. Under law, women may take RU-486 for up to seven weeks after their last menstrual periods. Effects like extreme bleeding, nausea and headaches have been reported.

Produced in a Chinese facto-

ry that has been making the drug since 1992, RU-486 has been legal in European countries such as France for years. Legalizing the pill in the U.S. has made abortion a more heated issue than ever.

Opinions are very strong on both sides and are a major part of the upcoming elections. Vice President Al Gore, who is pro-choice, has stated that "abortion should be safe, legal, and rare" is already a very well known comment. Governor George W. Bush is pro-life and commented that the legalizing of the RU-486 pill was wrong.

But, how do Meredith students feel about the new pill? In the last edition of the Herald, junior Courtney Arrington expressed her concerns about the pills' reducing responsibility among women for their actions.

Sophomore Rachel Askew expressed her concerns about

RU-486, saying that "the easier our society makes it to have an abortion, the more abortions will be made."

Freshman Jillian Southerland agrees, "I feel that this pill will cause abortions to be so common, particularly among young women, that the regard that will be given toward the value of life will continue to decline. Abortions will become second nature."

However, in support of RU-486, Sophomore Barbara Hollingshed said, "Having an abortion isn't a fad, its not like people get them just because they can, or because everyone else is." She also said that she hopes that fewer "people will get dangerous, illegal abortions."

"The pill almost has to be legal," said sophomore Ashley Flatt. "If it isn't, women will find other, more dangerous ways to have an abortion."

GospelFest 2000 a praisin' good time

JAMIE TUNNELL
Staff Writer

On Sunday afternoon, Oct. 22, community choirs and Meredith College faculty and students gathered in the Meredith Chapel for GospelFest 2000 sponsored by the Association for Cultural Awareness.

Robert Locklear, a pastor from New Bern, was the master of ceremonies for the event. He had the crowd on their feet praising the Lord for almost two hours.

Though the choirs were a little late showing up, the audience enjoyed three impromptu solos and some talent on the piano. The pianist started off with the first solo, "It Is Well With My Soul." Two of Meredith's own, Residence Director Kamelah Nelson and student Natalie Coleman also performed solos.

When the choirs arrived, the

audience heard even more talent. The first performance was by Daughters of Zion, a trio of women.

The next group was Christ Temple, a group made up of three men and seven women. They sang about four songs that had the audience on their feet swaying to the music.

The final choir was Elevation Mass Choir, a group of at least 30 men and women that performed four songs to finish up the GospelFest.

Stephanie Helms, adviser to ACA, thanked all that had attended. She said, "Sunday is one of the most segregated days of the week," and it takes events like GospelFest to celebrate diversity and close that gap.

GospelFest was a part of Meredith's Week on Race, which is being held this week to promote diversity and awareness.

Dean for business school sought

LINDSEY MCADAMS
Staff Writer

Meredith College has had a department of business since the early 1940s.

Last spring brought big changes for the department with the formation of the School of Business. Degree options include a master's degree in business administration and a bachelor of science in business administration, accounting and international business. The concentrations offered within the business administration degree are economics, management, marketing, human resource management and finance.

The formation of the business school created the need for a dean. A search committee was put together last spring to address this issue. Faculty members were Dr. William Landis, nutrition professor; Dr. Rebecca Oatsvall, accounting professor; Dr. Anne York, business professor; and Dr. Tom Pencek, business professor.

Toni Rhorer of the Career Center was the staff representative. Other members included

Dr. Rosalind Reichard, committee chair and vice president of Academic Affairs; Dr. LaRose Spooner, vice president of Marketing; and Kristy Eubanks of the business advisory board. Graduate student Carol Meyer and undergraduate student Leslie Gilliland represented the student body.

The committee enlisted the help of search firm John McCrae and Associates.

The dean will be responsible for coordinating all the academic programs of the business school. These programs include business, economics and accounting. The dean will also oversee the undergraduate and graduate programs.

Candidates for this position must have had an academic background in one area of the school. The prospective dean must also be experienced in working with students, faculty and the business community. Knowledge of the AACSB accreditation process is necessary as well.

The search for a dean is still open. Two candidates have been interviewed and there will

be two more interviewed next week.

According to Reichard, the dean must have the "skills to make strong connections to the business community here in Raleigh."

She went on to say the committee is also "looking for a creative person who can facilitate the vision for school development."

Wade named new VP

TANESHA WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

The new vice president for the Business and Finance department has been named. William F. Wade, Jr. will take on the role which includes overseeing the college's business, personnel, security, technology services, and physical plant operations.

Dr. Maureen Hartford announced the news on Oct. 12, 2000.

"With 25 years of experi-

ence in the field, Bill Wade has the knowledge, vision, and expertise needed to successfully lead Meredith's Division for Business and Finance," said Hartford.

In the past, Wade served as controller and personnel manager for Meredith since 1986. Before coming to Meredith, he was the manager for the public accounting firm of McGladrey and Pullen, LLP.

Locally, Wade serves on a number of committees at Meredith including, the Criteria Audit Committee for SACS re-affirmation, the Staff Affairs Committee, the Council on Institutional Effectiveness, the Creative Ideas Fund Committee, the Employee Benefits Committee, the Laptop Initiative Steering Committee and the Datatel Project Steering Committee.

Wade is looking forward to serving as the new vice president of the Business and Finance Department.

"It is an exciting time of positive change at Meredith, and I look forward to my role in the projects and adventures that lie ahead," said Wade.

* Request Absentee Ballots by Friday:

If you aren't registered to vote in Raleigh, you need to request an absentee ballot as soon as possible. Absentee ballots must be received by your county board of elections by Monday, Nov. 7. In order to meet that deadline, your request has to get to the board of elections, they mail you a ballot and you mail it back.

Through the end of this week, Meredith Votes will accept absentee ballot requests. Forms to request absentee ballots are available at the Meredith Votes drop boxes in Belk Dining Hall, Cate Center, the library, Johnson Hall and Joyner Hall. Forms left in the drop boxes by noon, Friday, Oct. 27, will be mailed to your local board of elections. If you miss the deadline, a relative can request an absentee ballot for you.

*Vote Early, Not Often

Election day is two weeks away, but you can vote right now. This year for the first time in North Carolina, it's possible for anyone to vote absentee. Previously you had to be out of town on Election Day. If you want to avoid the crowds at the polls, engage in what is called "one-stop" voting. Go to your local board of elections between now and Nov. 3.