

MEREDITH HERALD

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Educating Women to Excel

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Meredith Herald
at
Meredith College
3800 Hillsborough St.
Raleigh, NC 27607
(919) 760-2824
FAX (919) 760-2869
holderc@meredith.edu

U.S. Under Secretary of Education visits campus, talks reform

CHRISTINA HOLDER
Editor in Chief

U.S. Under Secretary of Education Eugene Hickok told an audience of students and educators that teaching doesn't happen at the U.S. Department of Education but begins in the classroom at a meeting yesterday sponsored by the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program.

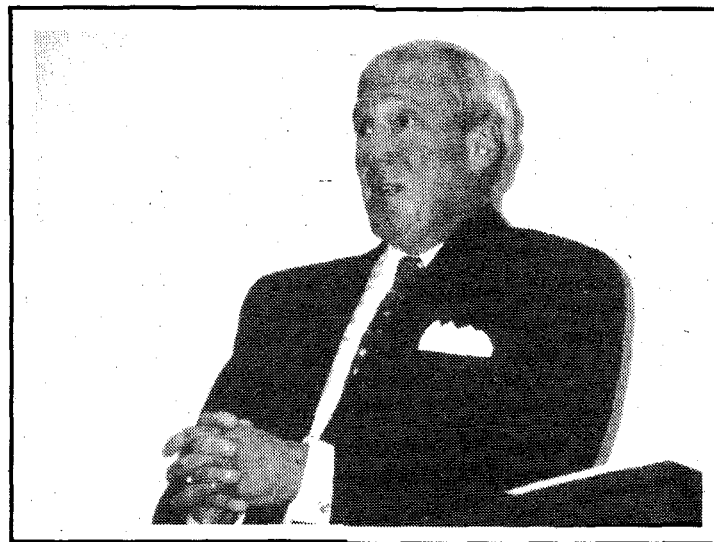
Hickok, who was confirmed as the Education Under Secretary in June, was touring Raleigh yesterday to promote President Bush's education reform program, *No Child Left Behind*. The program focuses on implementing higher accountability standards for schools and calls for local control of the system.

"The farther you get away from the classroom, the further you get way from the needs of the classroom," said Hickok commenting on the need for a community effort in reforming the education system.

"This is not a national standard system," said Hickok. "States develop their own plan."

Hickok addressed issues concerning the Teaching Fellows who had traveled from NC State, UNC-Ch, NCCU and Peace College to join

Hickok called the latter "wooden teaching," telling the audience that while testing is a necessity, what is lacking is "teaching to standards."



Eugene Hickok, U.S. Under Secretary of Education talks about the Bush Administration's education reform plan.

Meredith students in the dialogue.

Many were concerned with issues on teacher's salaries, low-performance schools and the danger of an education system that only teaches students to pass an end-of-grade test.

"The standard should drive the test," he said.

Hickok also explained the four principles of the Bush education plan which include raising standards of accountability, providing flexibility in the system, giving more

options for students to attend charter schools and conducting more in-depth research on the education system.

"The Department of Education needs to do a better job researching what works and what doesn't," he said.

Yvette Heider, a Meredith student who will be certified to teach secondary English in December, said that as a prospective teacher, "what seems daunting is the whole testing and accountability issue because it means teachers are being held accountable for the success of students who come from diverse backgrounds over which we do not have control." Heider thinks that the community needs "to evaluate our standards and who sets them."

Altonia Moore, a sophomore and Teaching Fellow majoring in elementary education at North Carolina Central University, wants to take part in reforming the education sys-

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Meredith welcomes Class of 2005

JONI SMITH
Managing Editor

The class of 2005 began a new chapter in their lives on Saturday, Aug. 18. This year's freshmen class came to Meredith with anxieties, expectations, energy and determination.

Freshmen Orientation can be a strenuous and frustrating time, but the Orientation Crew, a group of student leaders who had been preparing for freshmen arrival a week in advance, tried to make it into a helpful period of transition from high school to college. This transition was made a little more fun with the upbeat theme, "Surfin' MC: Catch the Wave."

To help make move in day less stressful, the Orientation Crew played music in the courtyard to keep the spirits up of the students and families lugging boxes and furniture into the dorms throughout the hot day. Also, the Alumnae Association served refreshments outside of Vann Residence Hall. Parents were happy to see the addition of a tool booth in the courtyard, convenient for hanging all pictures and assembling all of the bookcases that adorn dorm rooms on campus.

Many Meredith students will remember the agonizing Registration Day of freshmen year spent standing in lines for signatures to get their classes of

choice and then rushing to the Registrar's Office before the class closed. This year, however, the walk to the Registrar's Office was eliminated with the help of computers in Weather-spoon Gymnasium where freshmen could officially register.

Another first for Freshmen Orientation was the distribution of IBM wireless laptops. Freshmen attended an hour-long session given by Technology Services on how to hook up printers, install software and how to maintain the condition of their laptop.

The Class of 2005 also reflected on their summer reading book, *In the Time of the*

Butterflies, by Julia Alvarez.

"I enjoyed the book because I felt I could actually relate to its meaning," said freshman Julie North. "I think it was a good experience and kept me in the mode of doing school work throughout the summer so I didn't get lazy."

Orientation can be a trying time for newcomers to the Meredith community, but this year's freshmen class had few complaints about the experience.

"We really kept busy throughout Orientation, but it

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