

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Last year, while our country was still formally immersed in a recession, I decided to start my own bookkeeping and consulting business. I was one of the few people blessed to have work, and lots of it. I didn't even have to advertise; word spread quickly and the waiting list began. I had found my niche.

At the time, no one was hiring in my line of work, but the small business owners couldn't afford to pay their CPA to handle day-to-day financial operations, nor could they afford the risks of attempting the task themselves, so they had to strike a middle ground, which is where my opportunity lay.

Then, this spring, the "recovery", as the Bush administration has labeled our current economic status, began. Businesses that I thought had survived the worst of the economic downturn began to fold. Non-profits, the agencies that aid the

jobless, homeless and ill, were crippled by the combination of Federal and State funding cuts, which will increase if the Bush's \$20 billion dollar funding proposal for Iraq is pushed through, as well as by the significant drop in public donations due to the continuing recessions felt within America's households. While the financial conditions of larger corporations improved, thanks to George W's tax break to the wealthy, smaller businesses who did not reap the benefits of tax breaks continued to collapse, and with them, so did my market.

In light of the downward financial trends surrounding me, I decided to return this fall to college in pursuit of a new career, along with hundreds of like-minded, formerly employed adults. Now, as I search the employment classified advertisements, I understand perfectly the meaning of a "jobless recovery." The positions open in my field are restricted to full-time CPA's or minimum wage bookkeep-

ers, and every profession, with the exception of sales and trades, follow this trend. I understand that with the high rate of unemployment and the still restricted amount of funds that businesses need to be more selective, but the lack of job opportunities for the rest of us those without a degree or the ability to raise a family on eight dollars and hour, is a sign that this is not a recovery.

We are still in a recession.

The unemployment rate continues to rise as funding for agencies which serve people in need is continuing to be cut, as well as the lack of monies for educational programs that would help people learn the skills to obtain a job. It is easy for an economic analyst who sits on a three-figure salary to tell the American people about the recovery in our economy, but it is growing increasingly harder for their constituents to believe.

-Robin Macklin

Dear Editor,

Tonight we got the news that we have to move dorms. I don't think its fair to make us move. This move would be ok if we could take our furniture, if we were not moving over a holiday, and if we had known ahead of time that we were going to have to move when we moved into Brewer. I personally have \$700 of my own furniture that I bought specifically to live in the dorms. I don't think its fair to not allow us to take this with us. The reason that I chose to live in Brewer compared to Poteat or Barefoot was so that

I could have furniture that I could move and that I could bring my own furniture. I dont really need the extra stress of trying to move over an already hectic time. My dad is terminally ill and myself and my family do not need to move me again, we just moved in less than 3 months ago. I think this completely pointless!

The only reason that we are moving at this time is so that MEREDITH COLLEGE can save money on construction cost!

Meredith Frye

Reminder about Solicitation Policy

The Dean of Students and the Office of Student Activities and Leadership Development would like to remind all students of Meredith's policy on solicitation and distribution. As outlined in the 2003-2004 Student Handbook and Activities Calendar, "solicitation by on- or off- campus persons, organizations, or businesses is strictly prohibited unless authorized by the vice president for student development or by the director of student activities and leadership development. Any use of College facilities by off-campus persons for purposes of solicitation, even those sponsored by campus organizations, must also be approved. Under no circumstances are off-campus persons allowed to solicit door-to-door." For instance, a student organization from another college may not distribute information or advertisements to Meredith College students without approval. Students are encouraged to report any violations of this policy by any off-campus persons to the Campus Police. Please contact the Office of Student Activities and Leadership Development at 760-8338 for more information.

Recent film is a treat

CRYSTAL DAVIS
Staff Writer

Bring your tissues and your girlfriends to see *Under the Tuscan Sun*. This brilliant comedy is great for bonding with your gal pals. This is definitely a chick flick that boyfriends will gripe and groan throughout.

Frances Mayes (played by Diane Lane) must overcome a recent divorce and a dull life, so she moves to Italy on a whim! It is there that she runs into many obstacles, beginning with refurbishing an old Tuscan home that she bought before ever having toured. She struggles to find that fulfilling and happy life that she thought she could never have again.

The theme in the movie is literally repeated over and over again by Frances

and one of her college students: Terrible ideas are the best ideas. It is with this notion that Frances begins her journey in Tuscany.

Other sideline stories include her best friend Patti (played by Sandra Oh) who is a pregnant lesbian, and a young contractor Frances hired who is in love with a girl whose father forbids a relationship between the two.

Viewers see even more bonding between Frances and Patti when each struggle with a problem and the other is there for moral support and, of course, plenty of humor. Patti comes to visit Frances in her new home and is unmistakably very pregnant when she lies on the bed and comically declares, "They tell me there's a baby in there."

Later, she is pulled into their situation when they ask her to try to convince the girl's father that they are meant to be together.

In finding the answers to everyone's love dilemmas except her own, Frances is left with no idea how to handle her love life and is faced with issues she doesn't quite know how to handle.

This movie is radiant eye candy that must be seen on the big screen in order to appreciate the architecture and rich colors that can only be encapsulated under the Tuscan sun in the most romantic place on earth-Italy.

Students from Kyrgyzstan visited campus

ANN GLEASON
Dean of Students

Students from Kyrgyzstan visited Meredith College on Tuesday, September 30 as part of their travel to a number of colleges and universities in the Midwest and Southeast. The six students from a variety of higher education institutions in Kyrgyzstan met with students, faculty and staff from several American universities and colleges to gather information about honor codes and honor councils, methods of dealing with a range of academic and ethical issues, and student life. The students returned to

Kyrgyzstan to develop their institutions' Honor Codes and conduct academic integrity campaigns.

Meredith College students Kim Turnage, Mary Hemphill, Jessica Hammel, Christelle Geisler and Student Development staff members Cheryl Jenkins, Kelly Scott and Ann Gleason met with the six Kyrgyzstan student leaders, their interpreters, and a representative from the U.S. Embassy to discuss Meredith student organizations, student government, ethical standards for student leaders, Meredith's Honor Code, and Honor Council.