

Case of the Cross Town Rivals

RIENEKE FARROW
Staff Writer

This past Saturday, February 11th, the Meredith Angels went across town to Peace College to face the Pacers. The rivalry between our Angels and the Pacers brought out quite a crowd. When I arrived, the gymnasium was so full of spectators that I couldn't even make it in the door. Unfortunately, our Angels didn't fare too well during the game. The

Angels were plagued with bad calls and bad plays in their 20 plus point loss to the Pacers.

During the first half our Angels kept the score close. The first ended close with our Angels being down by only six points. However, upon their return to the court, the Angels lost their momentum. Nothing seemed to be going right and they just couldn't get the momentum back in their favor. The Angels and the Pacers split the

two games they played this season; with Meredith winning the first meeting.

On a side note, I saw that our student body was represented at the game. Keep it up Angels! With support from the student body, I am sure that our Angels will prevail in the last few games of the season. Make sure you come out and support our Angels Monday the 13th at 7 pm and Wednesday the 15th at 7 pm. Both games will be at Meredith.

Take Out the Middleman

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Contributing Writer

Health insurance in this country has reached a state of emergency. It is all due to one thing: greed. Most voters in America do not want a tax raise so that innocent, sick children can receive the medical care they need. Pharmaceutical companies are raking it in by the millions from the ever rising costs of prescription drugs. Healthcare companies are making a killing as well, all resulting in fewer and fewer businesses being able to supply their workers with coverage, and people must fend for themselves. The average cost for a family to be insured is about \$600-900 a month, an inordinate amount for a nation whose average household is in debt.

The truth is that all Americans will pay for it in the end. With less people receiving health insurance, the price must rise for those who do have it. Coverage will eventually be available to only a small, wealthy group of people. Blue and white collar workers will not receive the health care they need resulting in more sick days taken, fewer mentally and physically healthy employees, and people who are

at work when they are sick anyway. Thus, productivity will take a turn for the worst, costing the company and eventually the consumer extra cash. In extreme cases, some of the workforce might have no choice but to quit working altogether without the prescriptions and treatments they need, resulting in company costs of hiring and training new employees.

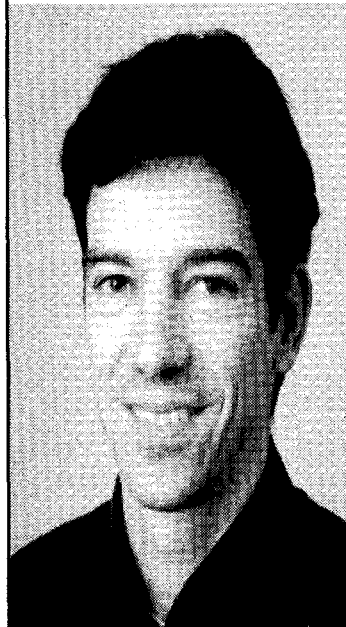
The government and not the corporations themselves should be the institution to supply aid. It is our first source of protection against our enemies, microscopic or not. Medicare is a government run healthcare provider, and unlike many other government agencies, actually runs more efficiently than commercial providers. Once the government forces corporations to provide coverage to their full-time employees, they will be less likely to continue further for the coverage rights of others. Those who are left out are our part-timers such as students, those without jobs such as stay-at-home-moms, and our children. It could even lead to higher drop-out rates and fewer people in college in order to get a full-time job and receive the benefit. Corporations are also extremely good at find-

ing loopholes to soothe their avarice. They will strongly resist any bill for such a law, and even if passed, they will resist it until they have their way. As the most powerful force in the world, they will not go down without a fight.

So why fight them? The government often serves as a middleman for the link between citizens and companies. The process would be much more efficient if the government simply provided healthcare itself to all its citizens. It will be paid for in taxes, but it will all be paid for somehow; through companies raising prices due to poor productivity, companies raising prices to provide their employees with coverage, or through our taxes. The more power that stays closer to the people the better. Contrary to the popular tone of inefficacy in many citizens, we do have the power to make this happen. We elect officials, and we should have the say in what our government does for us. After all, we pay for their health insurance. Eventually the problem will get so bad that the government will have to take some course of action. The question is how bad will we let it get before we fight for our rights?

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The *Meredith Herald* is published by the College throughout the academic year. The paper is funded by the college and through independent advertising. All advertisements should be sent to herald@meredith.edu, attention Natalie Braswell.

The opinions expressed in the editorial columns do not necessarily reflect those of the college administration, faculty, or student body.

Published by Hinton Press