

## Give Us Something to Talk About

Marie LaHaye  
Contributing Writer

It has been evident in the publication of the past few issues of the *Meredith Herald* that the campus has been talking. From class discussions about articles concerning campus events to fiery Letters to the Editor, the recent articles published in the *Herald* have given students, faculty, and staff something to talk—and write—about.

If you are one of the students who have felt strongly about the recent articles, or if you would like to express your own opinion on campus, you may consider registering for English 230: Writing for Campus Publications

(listed now in the catalogue as English 941) for the fall semester. This course, to be taught by Suzanne Britt, assistant professor of English, will include students interested in working on the *Meredith Herald*, the *Oak Leaves* yearbook, and the *Colton Review* literary and art magazine. Ms. Britt will be working not only with students to collaborate on these three publications but also with Meredith's Jostens yearbook representative Kim Trezona and with the assistant professor of graphic design, Dana Gay.

This course is not only for students interested in writing for these

publications but also for those interested in marketing, photography, graphic design, and cartooning. Marketing students would be working specifically on selling ads so that the *Herald* could have eight pages of copy versus the four that it has had this past year. Ms. Britt has expressed, "I want eight pages," indicating that if the *Herald* has students working on selling ads it will be possible for the *Herald* to achieve that length and substance. Photographers and cartoonists will add art and humor to the *Herald* and perhaps to the *Colton Review*. Graphic designers will work

with Professor Gay to do layouts for graphics involved with all three publications.

In designing this course, Ms. Britt hopes to gain support from students who are dedicated to making these publications successful, thereby creating greater support from the student body. Britt says, "If you can make people mad, you've at least affected readership...and that means there's conversation going on." Britt accounts the recent success of the *Herald* and its readership to the strong opinions stated in this publication and hopes that those strong opinions will continue on next year.

This course, Writing for Campus Publications, is offered for one to two credit hours. The class will be designed such that each publication staff will meet once weekly, Monday, Wednesday, or Friday, from 9:00 to 9:50 to work out weekly assignments. Not only is this course an excellent elective credit, but it is also a great resume builder. Additionally, students may repeat the course for credit. Writing for Campus Publications provides an opportunity for anyone and everyone, and students taking the course will certainly give the campus something to talk about.

## Do Your Research

Heather Bell  
Contributing Writer

Human papillomavirus (HPV) or cervical cancer is a new concern in women's health today. While all sexually transmitted diseases are serious, HPV is a silent threat. Most of the different types of diseases have no symptoms for women who are infected or for the men who carry them. The use of caution has become a must instead of a suggestion, but now we have an option to help fight this new found threat: Gardasil. This medicine is a breakthrough in women's health but needs to be

looked at with caution as well.

This new vaccine has great effects, but women must do the research to decide if the treatment is suitable for them. Always consult with your doctor or health care professional to give your guidance in your decision, but many health care providers, as well as people with no health background, are singing the praises of this vaccine. Maybe it is best that we all step back and take a look.

Some of the short term effects of Gardasil can include pain at the injection site, redness and swelling at the injection site, mild

or moderate fever, itching and nausea. If women have ever had severe allergic reactions, they must discuss the safety of the vaccine with their doctors.

Women need to be careful about what they put into their bodies and to consider the effects that anything can potentially have on them in the long run. For more information about HPV and the vaccine, talk to your doctor or visit these websites [www.cdc.gov/STD/HPV/STDFact-HPV.html](http://www.cdc.gov/STD/HPV/STDFact-HPV.html), [www.HPVinfo.com](http://www.HPVinfo.com), or [www.gardasil.com](http://www.gardasil.com).

Dear Editor,

Upon reading Spruill's article, "The Question of Flamboyancy: Cultural Clashes," I wondered how deeply she interacts with Latinas. First, her article contains structural ambiguities. In the third paragraph she switches from the term "Latino" to "Puerto Rican," attempting to highlight the "fashion issue" presented by the "island culture;" she fails to take into account that there are "island cultures" besides Puerto Rico. Secondly, her article makes gross generalizations, such as when she states that Latina women wear "excessive jewelry" and when she refers to the tight, exposing way that Latina women dress. While she concludes the article with the idea of unifying distinct cultures, she contradicts her entire conclusion by creating a separation between the

Latina and the 'Other,' presumably the white, American woman.

The article's main flaw pertains to the fact that the author has made ignorant assumptions. I know many Puerto Rican, Dominican, Spanish, Cuban, and Mexican women, and they are not whorish. Indeed, one of the most respected professors of my department, Dr. Debora Maldonado-DeOliveira, hails from Puerto Rico and is one of the most professional, modestly-dressed women I have met. Perhaps the author ought to consider stereotypes before she addresses the subject again.

Sincerely,  
Morgan Ericson