

## Free Speech Event

Jessica Feltner, co-assistant editor

On April 16, the Herald and Extra Theater Company are hosting a Free Speech Awareness event on Celebrating Student Achievement Day. The Herald staff will be set up in the Belk Dining Hall Courtyard giving away various prizes to participants willing to engage in activities that will test their knowledge of First Amendment rights. The participants will be challenged to consider the importance of rights such as sedition, slander and the free exercise of religion. Where is the line drawn in regards to free speech? The event will help participants explore the different avenues that the government can restrict speech and expression.

The First Amendment states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." The Meredith community will have the option of participating in four different activities that test your knowledge of how first amendment rights are applicable in real life. The completion of an activity will be rewarded with a prize. If all of the activities are completed then the participant may partake in the grand prize. The Herald will give away pins, candy, posters and other goods. During the event, Extra Theater Company, headed by Katy Koop, will dramatize the negative aspects of not having first amendment rights.

The Herald is building on the concept of former Florida Atlantic University's University Press advisor Michael Koretzky's First Amendment Free Food Festival (FAFFF). The staff of University Press provided free lunch to students who were willing to give up their First Amendment rights. Koretzky began the FAFFF in order to demonstrate the importance of the First Amendment to the students of FAU.

Celebrating Student Achievement Day, an annual event at Meredith, is comprised of dance performances, research presentations, art exhibits and award ceremonies. It is a day for the Meredith community to gather and commemorate the many successes of its students. The Herald, as a publication written and edited by students, will be using the opportunity to showcase the work of its contributors, staff writers and editors.

If you would like to volunteer for the event you can email [herald@email.meredith.edu](mailto:herald@email.meredith.edu).

## Strict Gun Bill in Connecticut

Emma Johnson, staff writer

According to The Washington Times, there is a team of legislators of both parties that composed new gun laws for the state of Connecticut that will potentially make an addition of 100 weapons to the state's list of banned weapons. CBS reports that the proposal would limit ammunition magazines to 10 rounds, prohibit armor-piercing bullets and mandate background checks for all potential gun purchases. The prominent issue of mental health in the gun control debate is addressed in the new proposal as well. In terms of the school system, the new proposal puts forward a training plan in mental health for educators and will enforce statewide safety and security standards for schools. It offers opportunities to enrich

Connecticut's research concerning mental health-related issues, CBS reports. The task force's plan is scheduled to be discussed at the General Assembly session on April 3.

## 2013 NCAA Tournament

Maltlyn Healy, staff writer

The 75th edition of the NCAA tournament is slowly coming to a close as it rounds out with only four teams left. The tournament began with 68 teams and has gone through a single-elimination during what everyone knows as "March Madness." The tournament began on March 19th and will conclude in the championship game scheduled on April 8th.

The Final Four will take place in the Georgia Dome in Atlanta on April 6th. Louisville will play Wichita State at 6:09pm, while Michigan will play Syracuse at 8:49pm. The largest setback any of these teams have experienced occurred in the Elite Eight game of Louisville versus Duke. Kevin Ware, Louisville's sophomore guard, went up to contest a shot against Duke's Tyler Thornton and fell awkwardly on his right leg, breaking it in two places. Louisville rallied against Duke to win it 85-63. Will Louisville's drive to win for Ware get them to the championship, or will Wichita State emerge as the victorious underdog? Who will win this year's tournament? Tune in on April 8th at 9:23pm to find out!

## Harvard Cheating Scandal and the Meredith Honor Code

Hannah Thorton, staff writer

At Harvard University in February, more than 60 students were sanctioned for cheating on an "Introduction to Congress" final exam. The students were originally accused by the teacher assistant. The final exam was an open-book, take-home exam; however, many of the accused students explained that it was impossible to do without collaborating. The rule, however, was that students could not consult each other or discuss the contents of the exam.

Many people have been thinking: If it could happen at Harvard, it can happen anywhere! Could something of this scale happen here at Meredith? Most students and faculty say no.

The presence of a college honor code and honor system on campus is a unique feature to Meredith College, a feature that most campuses either do not have or do not entirely enforce. The Meredith College Honor Code builds a sense of trust, high standards and pride within the community. However, it is not solely about matters of plagiarism and substance abuse. Instead, it embodies the unspoken as well as the spoken issues of importance on our campus.

Proponents of the honor system and the Honor Code stress that not only does Meredith have professors that offer reviews and suggestions for avoiding plagiarism, and security officers that are truly happy that students have made it safely back to campus. Students live with a sense of trust, a privilege not found on many campuses, but a privilege that they have to consciously work hard to achieve.

Not many campuses are secure and safe enough for students to leave personal items such as laptops and wallets unattended without them being stolen. Dean Gleason reports that this respect that permeates

throughout the campus is what keeps the honor system running, campus crime down, and the Meredith reputation above water as anything else.

Honor Council Chair Renu Kaur explains that the honor code ceremony at the beginning of every student's college generation serves as a binding of people's faith in each other; it is at this point that the importance of the judicial branch at Meredith is truly established.

The honor system at Meredith is a branch of the Student Government Association. This fact is not so because of logistics that physically put it within this area. Instead, the honor system itself is made up of student initiative, action, morals, and beliefs and so it is student government. Renu Kaur states that the greatest effect of the honor system is when people hold themselves accountable for their actions.

What makes the honor system a part of Meredith is a sense of ethic, of what is right and what is wrong. The Honor Code, honor system, and Honor Council work to help guide students to act on the right things and not the wrong. The inclusion of Meredith students on the Honor Council helps make

the honor system more fair, just, and reflective because as students, they are able to directly relate to the student experience.

The foundation of respect and ethical decision-making that Meredith College and the honor system reside on help to better explain the role of the Honor Council. Renu Kaur and Dean of Students Dean Gleason urge that going to Honor Council is not as much a punishment as it is a learning experience. Meredith wants students to look in the face of what they did in order to reflect on the experience and to take what they have learned from the experience in order to move forward.

Now, Meredith College is certainly not a place with absolutely no cheating, lying, or stealing. Unfortunately, Honor Council does see cases of plagiarism, use of unauthorized aids (cell phones, etc.), and substance abuse.

The ultimate message that Honor Council wishes to portray: Mistakes are expected; this just shows that while Meredith students are angels, it is figurative and not

literal. But it is how students handle the aftermath of these mistakes that sets them apart and makes Meredith College a community worth the hard work and extra effort. Honor Council Chair says, "The honor system is here to help support you and not to judge you or tear you down."

Honor Council, Student Government Executive Board, and the Dean of Students -- *Continued on Page 4*

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