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Legacy of the '60s theme for speakers forum

By BILL POTEAT
Managing Editor

Looking back at the legacy of the 1960s will be the theme of the annual Fall Speakers Forum coming up at Western Piedmont Community College.

"Legacy of the Sixties: Cultural Diversity of The Nineties," is the title for this year's forum, which will begin Monday, Oct. 25, and continue through Wednesday, Oct. 27.

The forum is sponsored by the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences at the college and is open to both WPCC students and the community at large.

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The forum's first speaker, at 7:15 p.m. on Oct. 25 in the Moore Auditorium, will be James H. Meredith, the first black student to be admitted to the University of Mississippi.

President John Kennedy had to

dispatch thousands of federal troops to the school to ensure Meredith's safe admission and his freedom to attend classes after admission.

Meredith later graduated from the school and then became active in the civil rights movement, organizing one of the largest demonstrations ever staged in America and helping blacks to register to vote in unprecedented numbers.

In recent years, however, Meredith has spoken out against conventional liberalism, serving two years on the staff of U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms of North Carolina, one of the most conservative voices in the Senate.

Meredith recently returned to Mississippi to live, where he now works as a farmer and businessman, with interests in tree farming, insurance, mutual funds and securities.

The topic for Meredith's talk will

be "The History of the Modern Civil Rights Movement and Its Effects on African Americans Today."

Following Meredith in the forum will be Virginia Foxx, president of Mayland Community College, who will speak Oct. 26 at 7:15 p.m.

Her topic will be "The Momentum of the Feminist Movement."

Foxx has served as president of Mayland Community College in Spruce Pine since 1987. She holds her doctorate from UNC-Greensboro, and a master's degree and a bachelor's degree from UNC-Chapel Hill.

The forum will conclude with remarks by Larry Keeter, a professor of sociology at Appalachian State University and mayor of Boone.

Keeter holds a number of degrees, including his doctorate from Boston University.



James H. Meredith

All of the forum sessions are free and open to the public.