

# THE TWIG

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## New administration assumes lead

Having reviewed her year as SGA president, Jean Jackson handed over the gavel to incoming president Rebecca Askew on Friday, April 4, at induction ceremonies in Jones Auditorium.

"All year I've stood in this place and . . . watched this pretty amazing group of people called a student government at work," Jackson said. She concluded with an encouragement to next year's leaders: "You are a capable group of people -- you are full of enthusiasm and your potential is great. With much pride and a feeling of anticipation about the good things to come, I again say thank you for an incredibly good year, and turn this gavel over to your president, Rebecca Askew."

Askew, on taking the podium, commented, "Today, the circle is complete for me." She reviewed her experiences as treasurer on this year's executive committee, highlighting the establishment of an effective judicial appeals system, the anticipation of a faculty evaluation to be made public to the student body, and other attempts "to answer questions, solve problems and meet challenges that were raised at the end of last year."

She continued, "And so we come full circle again. Different questions, different problems and different challenges are being raised now -- ones with which we must deal next year. The Honor Code and the soon-to-be faculty evaluation will be questioned. There will most likely be problems about which social regulations will be challenged."

Acknowledging the "solid foundation" of past SGA achievements, Askew concluded her speech with a challenge to incoming officers to "make a commitment to an effective, responsible self-government."

Included in the installation ceremony were a hymn of dedication, thoughts presented by Sue Grant, and a prayer by Jean Pollock. Jackie Cullifer led the incoming association presidents Rebecca Askew, Nancy Pentecost, and Ginger Kimball in their oaths of office. Following Jackson's farewell address, Askew inducted new officers and gave her remarks. President Weems, remarking that this has in many ways been his most satisfying college year, challenged the incoming officers to continued responsible leadership. A singing of the Alma Mater closed the service.

Maggie Odell



Student Government transition

## Play Day to feature fun, games and books

Play Day will take place on April 16, from 2 - 6 p.m.

The Meredith Recreation Association is urging each dorm to support Play Day by taking an active part in scheduled activities and challenges. Information on the activities, rules for challenges and schedules of events will be posted on campus.

The MRA has provided the structure for a fun-filled day, said Play Day co-chairmen Diana Rhodes and Feta Rowe, but the success and continuation of the Play Day tradition depends entirely on dorm involvement and enthusiasm.

In conjunction with Play Day, the Colton English Club will be having its annual book

auction. Book display tables will be in the courtyard. The selection will be of interest to all, from that second-hand text you'll be needing next semester to the exciting mystery thriller or romance for those hours ahead in the sun. Whether for those whose interest is in adding to a personal library or just a bit of delightful reading, the English Club book sale and auction will have some great bargains for all!

Proceeds from the auction will go directly to the club's service project. For two years the English Club (through the Christian Children's Fund) has been supporting Mathilda Menezes, a ten year-old girl from Virjpet, India. The cost of supporting Mathilda for one year is \$144, plus any gifts

(Continued on Page 4)

## "Animal behavior" observed in students in Belk Dining Hall

Several methods used to study behavior are introduced as part of the course content in Experimental Psychology 384. One of these approaches is "animal behavior" (a synthesis of ethology and comparative psychology), and so it was that animal behavior came to be studied in Belk Dining Hall in an experiment performed by this semester's experimental psychology class.

One aspect of animal behavior that has been studied extensively with lower animals, but only to a small degree with human subjects, is "territoriality", the tendency of animals to occupy or to claim an area or space as their own "personal space". Very often animals will mark the spaces they claim (olfactory "signs" are used by dogs and cats for example) and very often animals will defend their territory against intruders. In fact, territorial "signs" might well be considered as indicators that the owner intends to defend his or her territory in some way against an invader.

One hundred and eighty one subjects took part in the Meredith study, most of these Meredith students who were

apparently unaware of the fact that they were involved in an experiment. In reality many of the students who sat in the west end of the dining hall, for lunch and dinner on February 10 - 13 and 17 - 20, were a part of the investigation in some way. The experimental procedure involved setting up "territorial signs" (a jacket or coat, and a hat or scarf) at the end of a specific table, for given periods of time, and then observing the behavior of potential "intruders". The independent variables in the experiment were the number of signs used, one vs. two, and the sex of the owner as indicated by the signs, male vs. female. The density of the dining hall during each observation period was also considered.

A number of interesting results turned up. The behavior of Meredith students in response to the number of signs was to sit down least often in the presence of two signs, and if they did sit down, to sit at a greater distance from a pair of signs than from one sign. In regard to the sexual identity of the objects, the male or female quality of the signs did not generally

seem to make much difference. Meredith students avoided both, but with perhaps one very important exception. When they did sit down at a table claimed by male objects, they only sat

down in relatively large numbers, i.e., ten girls on the average to a fourteen-seat table. (Perhaps there is safety in numbers after all!) In addition, the largest numbers

(Continued on Page 4)

## TWIG newsbriefs

### History dig

Interested in archeology? During the second summer term the State Division of Archeology will direct a dig at Colonial Halifax. Meredith faculty will visit the dig during the term. For more details, see Dr. Lemmon in the History Dept.

### Art tour

Dr. Gates and students from her non-western history classes will be going to Duke University on Thursday April 10th. They will visit the Duke Art Museum from 4 - 5 p.m., hear Professor Arif Dirlik speak about Chinese Communism from 5:30 - 7 at the Center for International Studies and afterwards have

supper at a Chinese restaurant in Durham. Other Meredith students are invited.

### Tertulia officers

La Tertulia Spanish Club elected officers for next year. They are as follows: President, Patricia Murphy; Vice Pres., Minda Sue Godfrey; and Sec. Treas., Dell Pritchard.

### Hubbell Award

The Hubbell Award, a cash gift of twenty-five dollars, will be presented on Awards Day. Meredith students competing for the award must submit three to five samples of their own poetry or fiction to Mrs. Jones by April 25 at 12:00 noon.

Raleigh writers will judge the work.

### Lillian Parker Wallace recipient

Debbie Edge has been chosen as the recipient of the Lillian Parker Wallace Award presented annually by the Wake County Association of Phi Beta Kappa. Named for the former chairman of the Department of History at Meredith College, the award is given for the best historical research paper written by a Wake County college or university student during the preceding calendar year. The award was given to Debbie at the Phi Beta Kappa banquet on April 7. Her winning paper was entitled "William Boylan: Adopted son of Wake County."