

# Meredith Herald

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## Former President Jimmy Carter speaks to Meredith

by Elizabeth Almond

The excitement preceding former President Jimmy Carter's arrival on campus erupted Thursday in enthusiastic cheers from students and faculty as they waited to greet Mr. Carter on the front drive and in front of Johnson Hall.

Mr. Carter was the speaker for the second Lillian Parker Wallace Lecture held in the amphitheater Thursday evening at 7 p.m. The lecture was preceded earlier that afternoon by a press conference.

The press conference began when the former president took the podium and recognized a reporter from the Associated Press. For the following 25 minutes, Carter fielded complex questions from local press organizations concerning terrorism, the plight of the American farmer, the arrest of American journalist Nicholas Daniloff and Mid-Eastern relations.

The second half of the conference was left open for questions from students and faculty. Questions raised concerned social security, Apartheid, and the possibility of a nuclear waste dump site in North Carolina. Other questions were on a more personal level, such as Carter's feelings toward prayer in public schools and past administrative decisions.

The press conference has been most noted in the news media for controversial remarks made by Carter regarding the Rev. Jerry Falwell of Lynchburg, Va., and his criticism of the Reagan administration's domestic policy concerning our nation's farmers.

Following the press conference, Mr. Carter attended a dinner held in his honor in the Gullick Room of Jones Chapel, Margaret Odom of College Relations said. A dessert reception immediately followed.

Students and Raleigh residents eager for good seats began gathering in the amphitheater early. The music of a string quartet drifted over the increasing crowd as television camera crews and reporters set up their equipment. In a procession led by

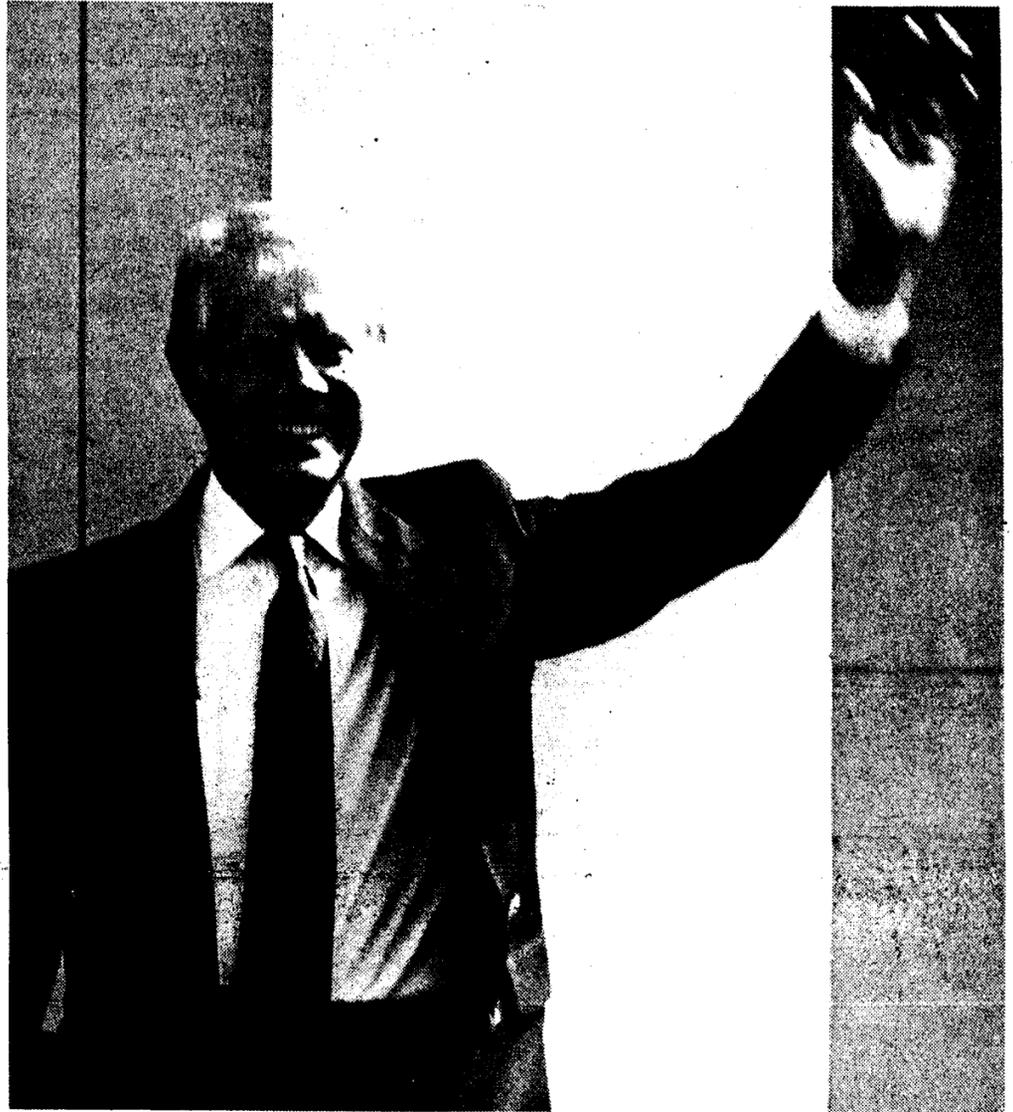
College Marshall Antress Johnson, Mr. Carter entered the amphitheater to the cheers and applause of almost 3,000 people.

Anne Bryan, of the Steering Committee of the Lillian Parker Wallace Fund, made the welcoming remarks and gave a brief history of the fund which made Mr. Carter's visit possible. Meredith President John Weems introduced Mr. Carter by reading the comments of Jim Freed, one of Carter's associates while in office, who described Carter as strong, ethical and morally just.

As the day began to fade, Mr. Carter began his lecture entitled "America: A Champion of Peace?" He explained that he had chosen the topic, one he had never used before, because Americans needed to understand the character and history of their country. He spoke further about the goals and ideals of former presidents and the ever-evolving job of governing the United States.

Carter stated that we, as a nation, must choose what is morally and ethically right, and aspire for the highest standard a nation can achieve: justice. Although America is a great nation, we must not use our power to cause suffering in other nations, he said. "For a nation as powerful as we, when faced with a potential dispute, the whole world should know that the United States is a champion of peace and is working not through military means, not through threats, not through the injection of troops, but through diplomacy and negotiation to bring parties together," said Carter, drawing applause from the audience.

Many attending the lecture came to hear Mr. Carter's views on issues such as terrorism, nuclear arms control and his views on the Soviet Union. "We must cooperate when possible and compete when necessary," he said. On the subject of the possibility of a nuclear war, Mr. Carter said that he did not foresee a conflict originating in Europe, but perhaps the flash-point of a Super Power confrontation would be in the Middle East. Carter called terrorism "a subject of great complexity and almost insoluble difficulty."



President Jimmy Carter greets the Meredith campus upon arrival. Photo by Laurel Falls.

Mr. Carter drew his message to a close by challenging the audience to strive for greatness in the life of our nation and in ourselves. He encouraged the placing of limits upon individual talents. "You have freedom and unlimited opportunities," Carter said. "It's up to you."

The Lillian Parker Wallace Fund was

set up by the Class of 1971 as their gift to the college in honor of Dr. Lillian Parker Wallace, a history professor at Meredith from 1921 until 1962. This is the second lecture in the series. The first lecture was given by Sir Harold Wilson, former prime minister of Great Britain.

## Meredith art center near completion

by Martha Ann Brawley

If the last time you went to the Gate Center, you found yourself stepping over tracks of mud or walking around fresh cement, then you probably know there is a new building being constructed. It is the new Meredith Art Center.

For many years, the art department at Meredith was spread throughout several buildings on campus. Most of the classrooms were located on the second floor of Joyner Hall. The faculty was as divided as their classrooms. For approximately ten years, the art department has been located in Jones Auditorium. With an increasing number of art classes and limited space for displaying new collections, the Board of

Directors at Meredith decided to approve plans for a new three building art center.

The art building is being constructed by the Davidson-Jones Construction Company. There have been very few problems in construction with the exception of a few weeks of rain that slowed the progress briefly. The projected completion or operational date is sometime between Christmas and January first. This date may have to be extended, according to Mr. Jerry Bynum of Environmental Services, due to many unexpected factors such as more rain.

Amazingly, there have been no problems in funding the art center. A large part of the funds needed have come from private contributions, said Business Manager

Chuck Taylor. The contributions are based on three to five year commitments. The school then repays the money borrowed with those commitments. The total cost is estimated at approximately 1.5 million dollars. Unlike many other private schools, President Weems said that Meredith College does not use tuition money to pay for additions such as the art building. This means there will be not tuition increases next year in order to pay for the new center.

All across campus the new art building appears to be generating a large amount of excitement. Sophomore Dawn Batts said, "I think it's fantastic. As a music major, I think it would expose me to the arts even more."

### i n s i d e

Gift given to sociology department ..... page 3

Alumnae contribute to Meredith ..... page 3

Bathrub ring reorganized ..... page 5

Intramurals get underway ..... page 8