

Meredith Herald

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Oil spill causes no major damage

by Elizabeth Almond

An air pocket in the tank of a Cary Oil Company truck caused a minor oil spill near the maintenance building on the Meredith campus on Friday, Feb. 19.

According to Jim Matthews, owner of Cary Oil, a company operator inserted a hose used for transferring oil from the truck into an on-campus tank. The operator then went around to the opposite side of the truck to make some adjustments.

According to Matthews, a "burp" or pocket of air inside the truck tank caused the

hose to pop off of the receptacle on the other tank.

The operator's view was obstructed by the truck, and by the time he discovered the detached hose, approximately 100 gallons of oil spilled onto the ground. A small amount of the oil ran through a storm drain into a nearby creek, but environmental officials found no damage to the water supply.

"We were very fortunate," said Jeannie Morelock, director of public relations. "The response of the fire and police departments was great, and luckily, the oil was contained quickly."

A clean-up process began almost immediately. Hazardous waste officials used straw to absorb the oil and prevent it from contaminating the creek.

According to Morelock, the clean-up process is complete. Both the oil and the straw have been removed. Several shrubs that were damaged by the oil will probably be replaced.

Several local news stations covered the spill for their 6 p.m. broadcasts. Morelock said that the seriousness of the spill was rather exaggerated.

"Actually, it was a minor spill. We didn't

even write a press release because it was covered on the news," said Morelock.

"Everybody worked really hard to clean it up, and their response was great. Jerry Bynum and his crew really did a good job," said Morelock. Bynum is the head of Environmental Services on campus.

A representative of the N.C. Natural Resources and Community Development office called the public relations office Friday to say that he was "very pleased" with the clean-up efforts.

Cary Oil Company claimed full responsibility for the spill.

Rep. Blue delivers message at BEW convocation

by Ellen Belk

Rep. Daniel L. Blue, Jr., a N.C. House representative, spoke to students, faculty, administrators, and community guests at last week's convocation, the highlight of Black Emphasis Week, the college's annual celebration of the achievements and contributions of black people to art, music, and all areas of society.

Blue spoke of the strides made by blacks and of all humankind. He also advised students of the 80's on how they can be productive leaders of the 90's.

His lecture began with a trip through history, stopping at such notable periods as the Jewish Exodus from Egypt, the Roman Empire, the Renaissance, and the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 and the legislation passed by President Roosevelt in the 1930's that helped to launch the civil rights movement.

Blue confessed, however, that even if he could, he wouldn't want to live at any other time in history than the last quarter of the 20th century.

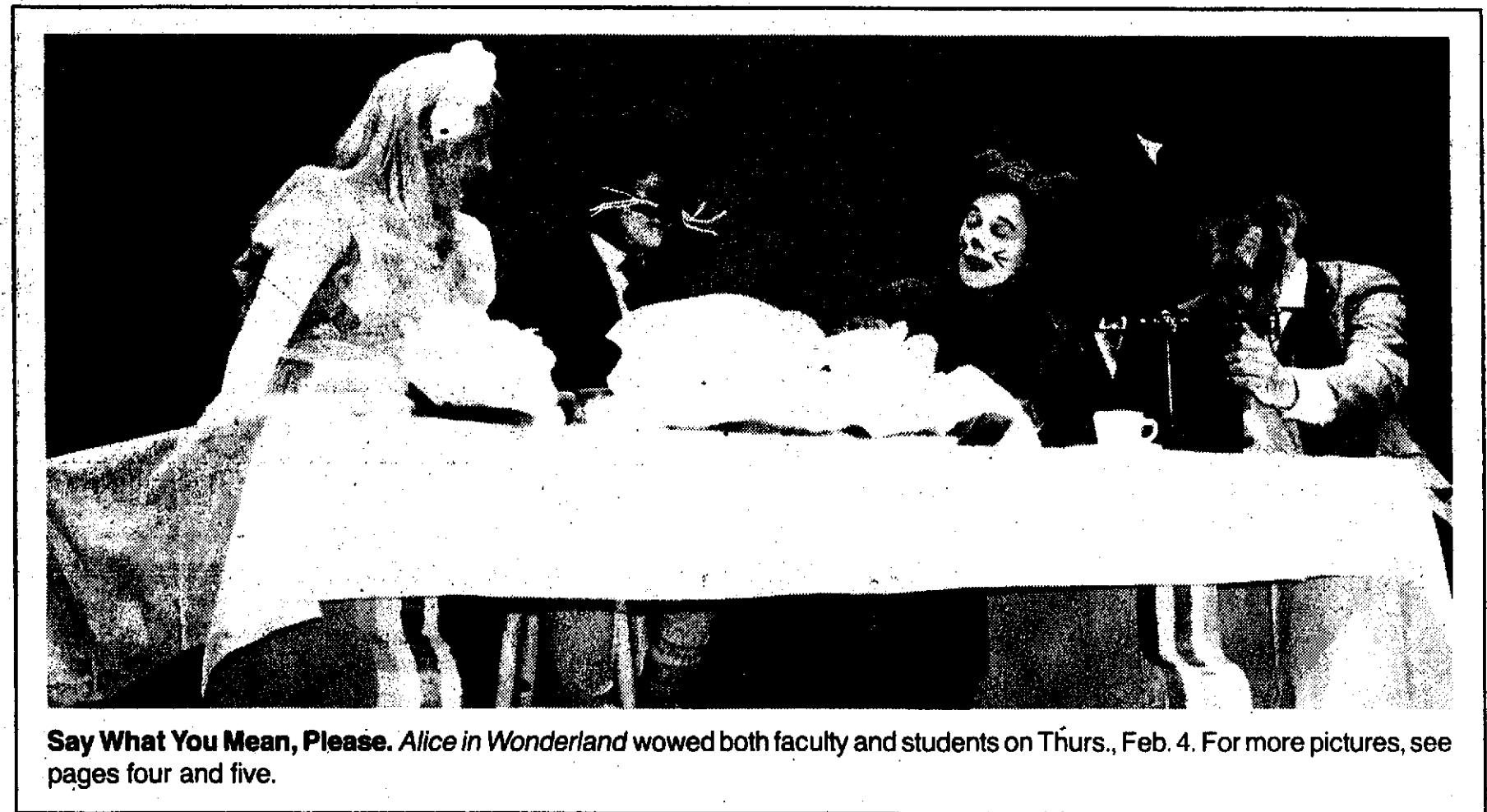
"We determine our own fate by having the opportunity to make choices," said Blue.

Blue highlighted the accomplishments of blacks in his message, citing such notable examples as Crispus Atticus, the first man to die in the Revolutionary War, and Harriet Tubman, an escaped slave who risked capture by returning to the South to help free other slaves.

Blue also mentioned Charles Drew, the man who discovered a way to isolate blood plasma, and Ron McNare, one of the seven astronauts who died in the Challenger explosion last January.

Blue cited Bill Cosby as an example for aspiring black actors, for his refusal to accept roles that portrayed blacks in a degrading way.

Dr. Martin Luther King, according to Blue, is the supreme example for everyone working for the human and civil rights of all people. King devoted his life to the civil



Say What You Mean, Please. Alice in Wonderland wowed both faculty and students on Thurs., Feb. 4. For more pictures, see pages four and five.

Renovations in Cate well underway in '88

by Jo Hodges

As early as 1979, plans have "been in the works" for renovations of Cate Center, said Cindy Allen, director of student activities.

With the beginning of the spring semester, a new Student Leadership Suite was set up on the ground floor of Cate Center in the space formerly occupied by the Office of Career Services. An upstairs lounge area was converted into a new suite of offices and recruiting rooms for Career Services. The offices of the student publications, the *Meredith Herald* and the *Oak Leaves*, were moved from the basement of the chapel into the offices on the second floor previously occupied by student government.

Former director of student activities, Patrice Strifert, originated the initial plans in 1979 when she drew up a proposal to expand Cate Center into a type of all-purpose student center with what is now a snack bar, bookstore, lounge, and art gallery. Although Strifert's proposal did not include the new changes, it opened up many possibilities.

"The idea to renovate Cate Center is not a new thing. It has been in the works for years, long before I came to Meredith," said Allen.

The Student Leadership Suites currently house the offices of Joan Wyatt, assistant director of student activities, MEA and SGA with space available for MCA. The suite has a conference room, a storage room, and plenty of space. The Kroy machine and material for banners is also located in the new offices as is a computer typesetting machine recently donated to the college by Creative Writing & Graphics.

The Balloon Gallery was converted into office space for MEA.

But the main focus of the recent renovations is the Student Leadership Suite.

"What we want to do is set up a leadership center that will support a strong development of on-campus leadership. We would like to establish a full scale leadership program at Meredith," said Allen.

As early as next year, the college hopes to have a leadership skills course for credit, Allen said.

Allen pointed out that the leadership skills

students would learn to develop at the Meredith Leadership Center and in the new class would not only help them in working with their on-campus activities but also in the professional world.

"Good leadership skills are always helpful to have no matter where you are. They are the type of skills that can carry over into almost every area," said Allen.

Allen hopes the center and the class will strengthen Meredith's leadership program and gradually develop into a national student leadership development center for women, complete with different classes and programs to explore the aspects of leadership and a leadership library and research center.

"We'd like to see it develop into a national center for student leadership where you would send your people and your groups to come and be trained in leadership. We feel that these suites are just a small start in the direction of better leadership programs at Meredith."

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