

MEREDITH HERALD

Vol 5 No.14

Meredith College, Raleigh, NC 27607

February 27, 1990

Meredith Students Stage Sit-In In Support

by Jeannine Manning

Meredith students stage a silent sit-in on Friday, February 23. The purpose of the sit-in was to show their support for their student government, for the Honor Code, and for the "fair and impartial treatment of all students" according to their banner which hung in Johnson Hall throughout the day.

Over 100 students entered Johnson Hall a few minutes before 8:00 a.m. and disbanded after members of the Board of Trustees had left around 4:30 p.m.

At 8:10 a.m. President John Weems joined the students on the steps and did not leave until almost 3:00 p.m. when he was called into the Board of Trustees meeting. Over the course of the day he was joined by

students including Student Government Association President Yvette Brown and Chairperson of the Honor Council Libby Avery, faculty including Nona Short, Dr. Susan Gilbert and Dr. Donald Spanton, and administration including Dean Allen Burris and Dean Dorothy Sizemore.

While the students and President Weems sat downstairs, Yvette Brown and Libby Avery presented a proposal to the Board of Trustees' Student Development Committee which would amend the college's by-laws. Brown explained that the proposed amendment would create a committee to hear a student's final appeal rather than the President alone.

This committee would be comprised of two administrators (one would vote in case of a tie), two faculty members -- the Chairpersons of the Faculty Affairs and the Instruction Committees-- and three students from the Honor Council Board who did not hear the case in its first presentation.

Senior Suzanne Higgins participated in the sit-in for most of the day and said she was there to show support of Honor Council and SGA and "to make sure the students' voice is being heard by the administration."

She added, "I also feel that some bad decisions have been made in opposition to students' beliefs. I hope that the president realizes the seriousness and result of his actions."

Another student participant was senior Robin Wright. She reiterated the idea of support for student government. Wright said, "I am sitting here because I want to strengthen student government and to unite with other students to make Meredith College a better institution."

Like the students, Dorothy Sizemore, Dean of Students, also said she was participating in the sit-in in support of student government and "their desire to see changes in procedures."

She added she was also "in support of the president as a person, who made a decision using his best judgment." Sizemore stated she supported bringing unity back to the college again.

Also participating in the sit-in was Professor Nona Short, the teacher involved in the Honor Council case which sparked the idea that changes were needed in the present appeal system.

Short said, "I am here in support of the
continued on page 7



President Weems joins Meredith students in sit-in held in Johnson Hall. The sit-in was in support of the Honor System, Student Government, and the fair and impartial treatment of all students. (Photo by Jayne Potter)