

Meredith Herald

1891 -- Honoring Our Heritage...Expanding Our Vision -- 1991

Volume VIII, Issue 15 ¹⁶

February 7, 1992

Raleigh, North Carolina

Faculty Continues *Alice in Wonderland* Tradition

by Amity Brown

Faculty actors performed the Meredith College Centennial production of Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* last night for a packed house in Jones Auditorium. The play, directed by Jean Jackson, continued the tradition of being a once-in-a-college-generation performance, a tradition which has sustained since 1924.

The play followed the general story of *Alice in Wonderland*, with the addition of a little rap and a little shagging, among other extras. Beginning with Alice (Sandra Thomas) waking up in Wonderland, traveling through the Mad Hatter's Tea Party and the Trial of the Knave of Hearts, the play ended with Alice waking from her dream.

It was not Lewis Carroll's tale that made this performance so memorable however. It was the faculty, each of the performers adding their own touches to the play, who created a success.

Among the most memorable players were the eloquent Humpty Dumpty (Ione Knight), the lavender-clad White Queen (Betty Webb), and the horn-blowing White Rabbit (John Huber). Additionally, the White Knight (Garry Walton), spouting Chaucer lines, and Tweedle Dee (Marie Chamblee) and Tweedle Dum (Cindy Bross), rapping, gave *Alice in Wonderland* a current slant. The most revealing scene, though, was the dance by the Mad Hatter (Bernie Cochran) and a mysterious shagger (Nan Miller).

David Heining-Boynton and Burgunde Winz were a regal pair as the King and Queen of Hearts. Sandra Thomas was most notable in her role



The cast of *Alice in Wonderland* entertains the Meredith community.



as Alice, prancing around like a true seven year old.

In addition to the performances, the sets and costuming were also impressive. Humpty Dumpty, the White Knight, and the Caterpillar were among the best costumes. The elaborate set showed a great deal of effort also. Falling under both categories of set and costuming, the row of flowers offered a humorous touch.

Mary Lynch Johnson referred to the *Alice in Wonderland* tradition in

her book *A History of Meredith College*, writing, "Here also, in delightful confusion, are to be found stately personages of the court and amusing animals - sights not otherwise to be seen about Our Campus." Sadly, *Alice in Wonderland* won't be dusted off again for another four years, but by then there will be a whole new crop of Meredith students to enjoy the tradition.

Nobleman Claims Ancestor True Author of Shakespeare's Works

by Jessica Cook

A young English nobleman spoke to a group of Meredith College faculty and students on Tuesday, February 4, 1992 in Joyner Hall. Addressing Dr. Gary Walton's Shakespeare class, members of faculty and administration and reporters, Charles Vere, Earl of Burford, claimed William Shakespeare did not write the poems and plays attributed to him; rather, one of Vere's ancestors, the 17th Earl of Oxford, Edward de Vere, was the true author.

Vere is the current traveling spokesperson for the Shakespeare Oxford Society. According to one of the society's pamphlets, the "Shakespeare Oxford Society was founded to advance knowledge of Edward de Vere and his involvement in the events and literature of his time." De Vere was a member of



Charles de Vere, Earl of Burford, speaks to Meredith students.

photo by Julie Smith

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