

# MEREDITH HERALD

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## Students respond to Open House referendum

Elizabeth Rihani

The Senate of Meredith College held a referendum last Thursday to gather students' opinions about making the tentative open house policy a permanent fixture. Well, the students have spoken, and the results come as a surprise to no one.

Out of 582 total voters, 531 students, residents and commuters alike, voted for the open house policy, and 51 voted against it (91% for, 9% against).

Seventeen commuters voted, 16 of them voting for the policy to remain and only one of them voting against it.

Kelly Formy-Duval, Senate chair, and Jennifer Smith, RHB chair, compiled these statistics and will present them to

Class	Total	For (%)	Against (%)
Freshman	157	149 (95%)	8 (5%)
Sophomore	179	174 (97%)	5 (3%)
Junior	127	112 (88%)	15 (12%)
Senior	102	80 (78%)	22 (22%)
Commuters	17	16 (94%)	1 (6%)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>531 (91%)</b>	<b>51 (9%)</b>

the Board of Trustees on Friday morning. Formy-Duval and Smith will also present RHB results from the previous trial open houses, Senate surveys and recommendations and a copy of the

open house recommendations from last year. Fortunately for students, there were no complaints or security problems during the past trial open houses except for a few parking violations.

In last week's *Herald*, Formy-Duval was quoted as saying that if the trustees didn't like the open house policy, then she wouldn't push the issue. In fact, she meant that if the students had voted against it, she would not have pushed for it, but because the student body voted so overwhelmingly for the policy, she and Smith will do everything they can to get it passed.

"This policy will help with retention and will also look good to prospective students," said Formy-Duval.

If the policy is passed, the schedule for open houses will be the same as it has been—one Sunday a month from 12-5 in the afternoon.

"It's a start," said Formy-Duval. "It's a move to treat us more like a women's college, not a girl's school."

## Speech is free at Founder's Day Convocation

by Traci Latta

The Founders' Day Convocation entitled "Banned in America" was held at 10 a.m. Monday in Jones Auditorium. The topic for discussion was censorship and the speakers panel included Deborah Tippett, Ph.D., Blue Greenberg, A.M., and Janet Freeman, M.L.S.

Tippett, who is a textbook author and researcher of censorship on authors and teachers, as well as associate professor in the home economics department discussed the censorship of five home economics textbooks that were banned Alabama in the last decade. She began her discussion by tracing the history of censorship in America with the example that "families from the South practiced censorship by refusing that their children be taught that the North won the Civil War." Tippett explained that these textbooks were banned from the school system in Alabama under the charge that the books promoted secular humanism, the belief in man over God. She presented on slides passages that were allegedly representative of these beliefs. Most of the passages urged young adults to be re-

sponsible for their actions and decisions. Tippett concluded her discussion by addressing the seniors and telling them that "as educated women,

what you say may be discriminated against, and it is your right to stand up for what you believe in."

Greenberg, assistant professor of art

at Meredith and columnist for the *Herald-Sun*, presented the controversy over the works of artists Andre Serrano and the late Robert Mapplethorpe. Presenting slides of two works of the artists, Greenberg described how the artists' works were censored by forces such as Senator Jesse Helms, a well-known opponent of the National Endowment for the Arts. Greenberg went on to say that artists are now wary of presenting con-

troversial artwork because there is the possibility that funding for the NEA can be stopped if art works in national exhibitions are found obscene.

The last speaker, Janet Freeman, college librarian and former president of the North Carolina Library Association, addressed the issue of censorship in literature. Freeman used the local example of the censoring of the book *More Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark* by Alvin Schwartz. She read aloud the story "Wonderful Sausage," which caused the audience to laugh and was the cause of local controversy in 1992. The story tells of a butcher who kills his wife and numerous townspeople and feeds them to his sausage grinder. The story was charged as unfit for a first grade classroom when a 7 year-old girl complained to her parents of nightmares and a fear of eating meat after her teacher read it to the class. The book was not banned, but it is now available only for checkout in public libraries with parental consent and in the school

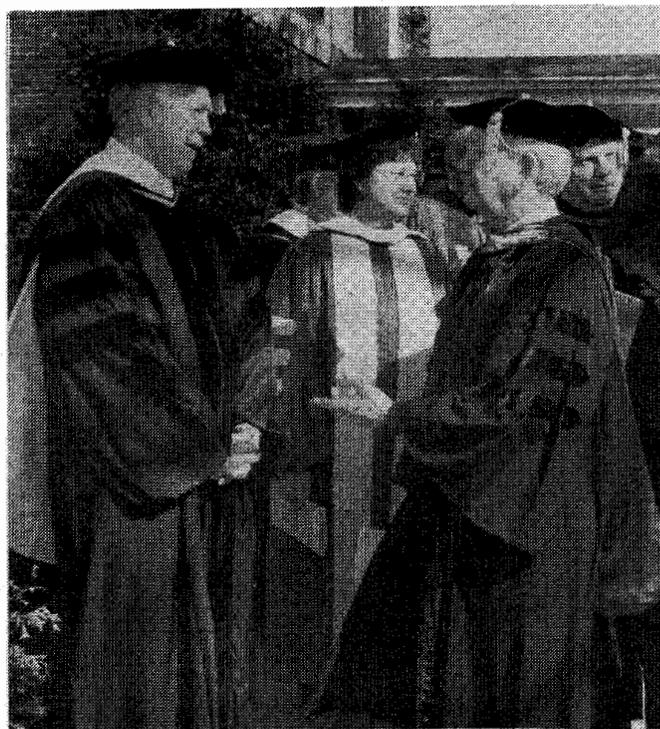


photo by Frances Pale

**All dressed up**—Murphy Osborne, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, and Dean Allen Burris prepare for Monday's Founder's Day convocation.

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