

# MEREDITH HERALD

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## Director of counseling center resigns

by Christian Peoples and Tracey Rawls

Gina Roberts, director of the Personal Growth and Counseling Center (PGCC) resigned from her position at Meredith College effective March 18, 1994, according to Dean Dorothy Sizemore.

"The reasons for Gina Roberts' resignation are of a confidential nature, therefore, it is inappropriate to discuss them," Sizemore said in a prepared, typed statement.

Meredith has chosen to take the responsibility for notifying students of Roberts' leaving by posting a memo in the PGCC.

Until another counselor is hired, Beth Meier of the PGCC will be handling all of the cases.

According to Sizemore, "We are interviewing potential counselors this week, and should have another counselor on staff almost immediately."

"Dean Sizemore and I are working together to find someone part-time," said Meier. "It is difficult to find someone with experience willing to work part-time." Meier said students have been understanding about the lack of coun-

seling time available, but she hopes someone will be hired soon because she would hate to discourage students.

Meier has taken on Roberts' case load, and has had approximately eight students per week added to her counseling schedule. Meier expressed that she hopes to see more students come in because she has not heard from many of the students who saw Roberts on a regular basis. The PGCC plans to send out a letter inviting these students to come back to the center for counseling

or to field their emotions over Roberts' departure.

The schedule is so tight it is difficult [for students] to get in if they haven't been seen

before," said Meier.

To alleviate this problem Meier has been authorized to create a new group counseling session for students to come together and problem solve. These sessions will begin April 6.

"Even with Gina being gone, I feel capable to handle any crisis on campus," Meier said. "I want students to know I'll be there for them if there is a crisis. I want people to feel safe."

Meier said it has been difficult for students who were seeing Roberts to switch over to another counselor.

"The students who come to the PGCC like and appreciate the Center, but it is difficult because they are a silent clientele and don't feel they can

complain about the change" said Meier.

It was like Roberts was a "safety net" because students knew she would be there for them. It is difficult for them because they didn't get to say good-bye to someone who was so important in their lives, said Meier.

"I think people are wondering if we'll stay afloat," said Meier.

The time factor is having an adverse affect on the PGCC. Meier said she is concerned with the center's image in the future because she wants it to be seen as "user friendly."

"It bothers me that we may get the opposite image after this semester," said Meier. "Students may feel like they can't be heard or the center doesn't have time for them."

Currently, about 160 students have been seen at the PGCC for the 1993-94 school year.

"We usually see a lot of students during final exams. By the end of the year we'll have seen a little over 200 people," said Meier.

Roberts could not comment on the circumstances surrounding her resignation.

*Even with Gina being gone, I feel capable to handle any crisis on campus. I want students to know I'll be there for them if there is a crisis. I want people to feel safe.*

*Beth Meier, PGCC counselor*

## Hollywood takes on AIDS awareness

by Elizabeth Rihani

Whether we have dealt directly with the disease or have heard about it on the news and at the movies, AIDS is a part of our lives, and I personally cannot remember not knowing about it. It's easy to forget, however, how recent a disease AIDS is and how many lives it has claimed and affected in such a short time.

It's also hard to ignore how many educational programs and organizations are devoted to teaching the public about AIDS, but one of the best ones I have seen recently came on NBC last Monday night. It's an HBO Pictures movie called *And the Band Played On*, and it traces

the history of AIDS as far back as medical history can.

The movie opens in an Ebola River village in Central Africa in the late 1970s. Matthew Modine plays Dr. Don Francis and is there to investigate an unusual disease that is killing off entire villages. A young and apparently healthy boy leads Francis to a clearing where piles of bodies have been left, and with tears in his eyes, he turns to the doctor and implores, "How can you be a doctor and not know what happened?" A

see AIDS page seven

## Just Hangin' Out



photo by Frances Pate

Do these crazy smiles look like those of normal people? Elizabeth Rihani, senior, and Hollace Dowdy, junior, find ways to relieve stress by giving in to spring fever.