

Changes cited for Meredith supply store

by Betsy Stewart

Changes are coming to the Meredith Supply Store, and they will include more than just a new selection of textbooks for the spring semester. Some changes will be noticeable some won't. One change that should be invisible to customers is the answer to the question: who's running the store? On March 1, 1996, the management of the store will be turned over to the Follett Corporation, the oldest used book vendor in the United States, but the current staff will still be in charge. Meredith recently signed a five-year contract with Follett, a company with extensive experience in running college book stores.

When asked the reason for the change, Vice President for Business and Finance Chuck Taylor cited several: the remodeling of the Cate Center will result in an expanded and improved book store, and, as part of the contract, Follett will be paying for the renovations. As a large corporation, Follett can operate more effi-

ciently than Meredith, and the college expects to realize an additional \$150,000 in net revenue each year. All revenue from supply store operations, Taylor explained, goes into the college general fund and helps control tuition costs. A provision that Follett may not increase the markup on textbooks is also specified in the contract.

The new store will occupy its current space and an additional 400 square feet will be realized by expanding into what is now the student activities office. Construction is due to start in January, a prospect the staff views with mixed feelings. According to staff member Mary Ann Reese (Meredith '82), "they're going to be building around us, so next semester will be a day-to-day thing. There will be something new every day." Completion is planned for August, and the new store will offer current best sellers and computer software. The staff is hoping to have enough room to stock computer hardware also.

Manager Dru Hinsley has been working in the supply store for 43 years. She graduated from Meredith with a double

major in religion and sociology and says her training in both fields has been useful in her job. During her tenure the store has been located in four different places. She first worked in a one-room store next to Faircloth dorm. Called the Beehive, it offered drinks, candy, ice cream and baked goods. In September, 1951, a new Beehive was opened in an office in the back of the old auditorium. This store was remodeled ten times. The next supply store was opened in a building on the east side of Brewer and Heilman dorms, and in August, 1972, it was moved to its present location. Although the supply store was open when classes started that year, the rest of the Cate Center wasn't finished until October. Dru and staff member Frances Gillis, who has 23 years of service at Meredith, are both experienced at working in the midst of construction.

The three full-time staff members, Hinsley, Gillis and Reese, are looking forward to having more space and new stock to sell. They are proud of the many services they offer. Reese obtained her notary public license this summer and now offers free notary

services to students and staff.

Hinsley, Gillis and Reese are excited about the management change. Four companies submitted bids, and the three staff members were involved in the selection process. The request for proposal specified that the vendor must offer jobs to the Meredith staff. Hinsley will retire from Meredith the day before the change takes effect, and she'll start a new career with Follett the next day.

"We love working here and serving our customers," Hinsley said, "We will still be service oriented, only the bottom line will be Follett's." In agreement, Reese said they look forward to merchandising new products, but, she added, "we hope students notice as little change as possible. We hope to keep things the same as much as we can." Echoing that sentiment, Taylor said they plan to maintain the current high level of service and at the same time be efficient. He stated emphatically, "it will continue to be the *Meredith* book store."

Expo offered for grad school applicants

by Beth Morris

Rebecca Highsmith, assistant director of Career Services, along with other Career Services staff members, helped implement a new graduate school fair that should make recruitment easier while offering better services for students and college employees.

Highsmith has worked closely with The Colleges Career Consortium, the group which created a Graduate and Professional School Expo. The Expo is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 6, at 10:00a.m. Students will meet at the NCSU McKimmon Center.

The Consortium consists of the Career Centers of Meredith College, NCSU, Peace College, St. Augustine's College, St. Mary's College and Shaw University. Highsmith and the Consortium hope to see the unification of resources, students and various gradu-

ate and professional schools across the country as they are scheduled to meet at the same place and time. Highsmith says that "nothing is more satisfying than connection" with the students. She and the Consortium have targeted the 1995 EXpo at the senior classes throughout the area. The combined number totals about 6000 students.

Who needs post-graduate study? Aside from the obvious medical and legal professions other fields such as hospital administration, education, science, city management, financial management and counseling are growing areas where post-graduate education is encouraged. Graduate school can give students an edge over competition while sharpening their skills, according to Highsmith.

In order to keep the Career Office at Meredith updated, the center has purchased several new books that will help those interested in graduate school, according to Highsmith. The books include *Research Doctorate Pro-*

grams in the US and The Gourman Report: A Rating of Graduate and Professional Programs in American and International Universities.

Highsmith, a very active community volunteer and mother of two, along with the Career Office staff has spent many extra hours scheduling graduate study events to coincide with the Graduate and Professional School Expo. The events include a seminar by Dr. Lyn Aubrecht entitled "How to Apply to Graduate School" and Dr. Jean Jackson's lecture "How to Write Winning Graduate School Applications."

The Expo is for anyone who is interested in going to graduate school. Registration must be done by contacting Carol Schroeder at (919)515-2396 or Phyllis Doster at (919)546-8298. Upon registration students will receive a registration packet containing additional Expo information, maps and accommodation/restaurants suggestions.

After school sitter needed in N.W. Cary. 3-6pm Mon-Fri. 2 children ages 8 & 13. \$5 per hour Call Karen Thor 683-7707 Fri. 9-5 or 319-3538 after 6pm. 109 Praymore Way Morrisville, NC 27560

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