

# MEREDITH HERALD

Volume XIII, Issue 3

September 18, 1996

Raleigh, North Carolina

## Trespasser found in Poteat

By Arinn Dixon

A man was issued a trespass citation by Raleigh Police after admitting to being in Poteat Dorm Saturday night, Meredith Security says.

Meredith Security received a call around 6:50 p.m. from a student complaining that two men were walking around on 2nd Poteat. When two Security officers went to the dorm, they saw a man walking away from them. When they caught up to him and questioned him, he admitted to being in the dorm with a friend who was looking for a girl. He refused to give the friend's name.

Security searched Poteat with the Residence Director on duty, but did not find the man's friend. The man, whom Security testified had a strong smell of alcohol, was issued a trespass warning by Meredith College and then escorted off campus.

About 45 minutes later, Security picked up the offender at Meredith's back gate with another male and a female student. They questioned him again and he told them his friend was

See **TRESPASS**, page 9

## Fire devastates Heilman

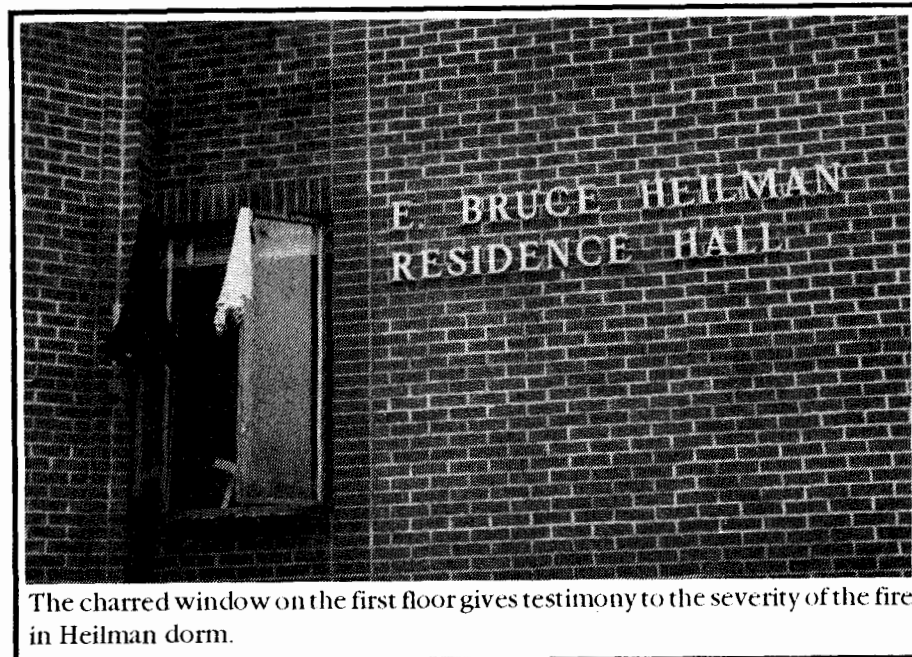
By Robin Hollingsworth and Allison Carter

Heilman resident students were all safely evacuated from a fast-burning fire that ignited in a second floor room early Tuesday morning. An over-heated extension cord was the cause of the blaze, fire officials said.

At 5:01 a.m. campus security received a call from two young women who awoke to find their room in flames. When the fire department arrived on the scene by 5:07 a.m., the approximately 135 residents in Heilman had been completely evacuated, according to Chuck Taylor, Vice President for Business and Finance.

The residents of room 201, where the fire began, pulled the manual fire alarm which did not activate. Instead, they began alarming the other residents of the hall. The process of notification through word of mouth resulted in the prevention of injuries of both residents and fireman. Though the electrical alarm system partially malfunctioned, smoke detectors did alert many of the residents to the danger, said Taylor.

SGA President Erica Balmer said she saw how the power of teamwork and emotions is stronger than any elec-



The charred window on the first floor gives testimony to the severity of the fire in Heilman dorm.

trical power around.

Captain Jeffrey Gower of the Raleigh fire department, one of the first present at the scene, requests that battery-powered smoke detectors be placed in each room in case of a future electrical failure. He stresses that this is the best possible preventative measure.

The fire was contained to the north end of the second floor where it ignited. Rooms around and near the initial blaze received extensive heat,

smoke, and water damage. First and third floors received a lesser degree of heat and smoke damage. Room 201 was completely destroyed, said Gower.

Soon after extinguishing the fire, fire officials believed a possible malfunction in a panel box caused the fire. Later in the day, the revised and final statement ruled the cause of the fire to

See **FIRE**, page 11

## National Guard helps Wake County clean up

By Allison Carter and Arinn Dixon

Last week 400 National Guardsmen from South Carolina and Florida were told to get their gear together and move out to hurricane-torn Wake County in North Carolina. They came to haul trees, clean up roads and help Wake County return to normalcy.

And Captain Larry Peebles of South Carolina says they are just returning a favor.

"North Carolina's guardsmen came down to help us out during Hugo and they did great things down in Florida after Hurricane Andrew," Peebles said, standing amid armies of camouflaged trucks near Carter Finley Stadium. "We're more than happy to help them

out now."

North Carolina has an agreement with Florida, Tennessee, South Carolina and Alabama that says if one state has a disaster, the other will send troops to help out.

The 296 members of South Carolina's 122nd Engineers Battalion were dispatched Thursday to Wake County to concentrate on getting the county's schools up and running.

"We want to get the kids back into school," Lieutenant Colonel Robert Blair, Jr. said. "Returning kids to school helps families get back to normal after a disaster like this."

The men will be cleaning school

See **GUARD**, page 10



Four members of the 153rd Combat Engineers Battalion pose near their camp.