

## Cate/Park Center set to open this week, Taylor says

By Arinn Dixon

After nine months of watching the Cate Student Center gradually change from the old, 1970's edition into the campus's newest addition, the Cate/Park Center, Meredith students, staff and administration will this week finally get a chance to try out all the new building has to offer.

Today they are waiting on a final certificate from the City of Raleigh authorizing occupancy.

The trustees gave approval for the building last fall and construction began in January, 1996. The center was scheduled to be finished by the time students arrived for the 1996-1997 year, about August 19. However, delays and setbacks have kept the first and second floors of the Cate Center out of commission until this week.

The first delay hit the construction right off the bat. "We got a late start," said Meredith's Executive Vice President Chuck Taylor. "The ground was so wet in December and January that we couldn't get the building out of the ground." Workers had to wait until well into January when the ground dried out. The second delay hit the hardest. When renovating the first floor of Cate, workers found in the walls asbestos, which can cause cancer if enough is breathed into the body. The asbestos had been sprayed on the ceiling to prevent fire when the building was originally built in the 1970's. All construction stopped while trained asbestos abatement workers removed the substance, setting construction back a few weeks.

Taylor was not disappointed with the delays, however. "We had tight schedule to begin with," Taylor said. "Taking the setbacks into account, I think we did fine timewise."

The first floor of the Cate Center will have a new elevator, an ATM machine and lounge chairs for studying. The second floor will house the Students Activities offices, commuter lounges and publication offices. It will also have a game room with a pinball machine, a pool table and air hockey, as well as a computer lab consisting of six to eight computers.

The final addition is the Beehive snack bar, which will not open with the rest of the facility due to permitting delays. Taylor said the Raleigh permit office lost Meredith's first request for approval. The permit was resubmitted, but Hurricane Fran hit and the office got backed up. The Beehive will open about a month after they get the permit, which will be any day, according to Taylor.

Once finished, the snack bar offer gourmet coffee, ice cream, pizza and a Chick-Fil-A. The Chick-Fil-A will be a franchise of the original restaurant and will be managed by Sharon Stingley of Belk Dining Hall. Each resident student automatically has \$25 "Chick-Fil-A dollars" on her Camcard to be used in the snack bar.

The additions and renovations surrounding the Cate/Park Center cost Meredith College about \$1.8 million, most of which has already been received in gifts and pledges. The Park Foundation, established by the Roy Park family, gave \$600,000 to the project. Park's wife, Dorothy, was a Meredith alum.

The plans for the new student center were provided by the students for the students. Meredith hired a research company a few years ago to talk to the Meredith community and find out what they wanted. Many of the new additions, including the skylight and game room, are direct results of student suggestions. In addition, the administration allowed Meredith's interior design students to experiment with some of the design for the new building. They came up with the checkerboard floor around the elevator and color schemes in the floor and chairs. "This is the most student involved thing in terms of construction I've ever been a part of."

Taylor also commented on the patience of students and staff during the building and delays. "Everyone has been very understanding," he said. "We are so glad to finally get people in there."

The newest part of the Cate/Park Center will accompany the new mailroom, bookstore and administrative offices already occupying the new facility.

## Registration passes 40% in dorms

By Clyde Frazier, History/Politics Department

The first phase of "96 in 96," Meredith's voter registration campaign, is off to a good start on campus but so far commuters have been harder to reach. Registration has been confirmed for 41% of dormitory students, but only 18% of non-resident students taking more than six hours. These totals don't include many students who are actually registered because they haven't completed the questionnaire. Only those who have conformed their registration with "96 in 96" are counted.

Those who haven't yet registered or had their registration confirmed at this point will be contacted individually. Volunteers will begin contacting dorm students in person and commuters by telephone later this week. Rebecca Carruth and Renee Moon are coordinating the campaign for the dorms. A volunteer on each hall will contact those who are not yet accounted for. Most of the volunteers are Residence Hall Board members. The phone bank for off-campus students will be done primarily by Dr. Frazier's American Politics and Dr. True-Weber's Elections classes with help from SGA volunteers. Because the data processing isn't perfect, some students who did fill out a questionnaire might be contacted again. Please be patient if this happens to you. It will just take a minute to confirm your status with the person who contacts you.

Because this phase of the "96 in 96" voter



registration campaign depends on individual contacts, there won't be a lot of general publicity. But since the deadlines are approaching, it is still important for those who need to register or to request an absentee ballot to do so. North Carolina registration forms must be postmarked by October 11; all forms left in campus boxes by the 10th will be mailed by that date. Absentee ballot requests can be left in the boxes through October 18. Students who need to register and/or request absentee ballots for Virginia, Florida and South Carolina can pick up forms in Joyner 122.

## SGA Corner

### Hall Council Training

When: Monday, September 30 at 8:30p.m.

Where: 108 Harris

### Food, Music and Fun - Picnic sponsored by WINGS and Residence Life for all Meredith students.

When: Tuesday, October 1 from 4:15-6:15p. m.

Where: Courtyard

Are you having problems finding students' phone numbers? Campus directories will be sold in the Cate Center and Dining Hall from October 1-8. They will come with the names, number, and addresses of students on campus and their homes.

### Volleyball Challenge sponsored by the SGA.

When: Wednesday, October 9 from 4:30-6:30p.m.

Where: Courtyard

Any questions, please call Dee Dee Porter

### Elections Board Picnic

When: Thursday, October 10 from 4:30-6:30p.m.

Political parties will be there to discuss their forums.

### GUESS WHAT?

IF YOU'RE A STUDENT AT MEREDITH YOU'RE A MEMBER OF MRAI JOIN US AS WE PLAN FOR

STUNT FITNESS CORNHUSKIN' EXPLORERS  
LIL' FRIENDS INTRAMURALS AND MUCH MUCH MORE

MEETING TIMES AND DATES ARE IN YOUR STUDENT ACTIVITIES CALENDAR! WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!

QUESTIONS? CALL KELLY X7983