

1997 Phi's rush attracts students from all classes

By Lauren Rattican

Rush week, at Meredith? Once again, freshmen were confused. Phi's rush week was held January 27 - February 3. Freshmen were quick to discover that Phis are not sorority girls; they are young women who want to give back to their community through volunteer work and service projects.

Phi's rush week included: a scavenger hunt at the mall, a night to catch up on 90210 and Party of Five while pigging out on pizza, and inductions held in Johnson Hall on February 3.

Co-presidents of the Philaretian Society, Amy Roche and Tasha Paul worked hard to make rush week a success. The co-presidents used ideas from previous rush weeks, combined with some of their own ideas, to guarantee a week filled with fun. Paul explained that "a guide in the presidents' notebook" was used to plan some of the week's activities, but she added, "Amy and I added the pizza party, extra events to the scavenger hunt, and a couple of other activities."

Paul also explained that the purpose of rush week was to let the Meredith community know what Phi's are all about. Roche added, "The week also was to help bring in new members to help do the projects."

One new member, July Holder, joined Phi's because, she said, "I thought Phi's would be a great organization to join and it would give me opportunities to help out around the Raleigh area. I believe the projects that will help unprivileged children will be most rewarding."

Holder was one of the 45 students who

decided to join the service organization. Paul exclaimed, "We have new members from all four classes. We are very excited; it is the best turn out we have ever had." Roche went on to say, "We never expected that we would have 45 members come out for Phi's."

Freshman Kelly Jones was eager to join the Philaretian society. "I wanted to do service projects to benefit the community, and I wanted to join because my big sis is already a member of the organization," she said.

In the past years, Astros (members of the Astroekton Society) and Phi's have rushed together. Roche said, "This year Phi's rushed earlier to get people involved."

Members of Phi's have been busy this year as they have taken on several service projects. They helped hurricane victims clean up their yards after hurricane Fran; members also helped the faculty baby-sit during the hurricane. The young women delivered care packages for the elderly at Rex Care Center and helped with a blood drive. During exams, members took a couple hours to relax with a pizza party.

Roche told of service projects Phi's have planned for the remainder of the year. "We are going to go to Duke Hospital to see the children. We are going to help with the MS walk in April and help out at the soup kitchen." Phi's will also do other service projects to be announced throughout the year.

Both Roche and Paul agreed that one can definitely benefit from being a Phi. Roche commented, "You can give back to the community, and you can see the joy that you can instill in others."

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After everyone who dared had taken the spotlight on stage, seniors settled in for another time honored Meredith tradition, the slide show. One senior added to the emotion of the moment by exclaiming, "It's our last slide show together!" Those in attendance laughed and choked back tears as they watched moments from their freshman through senior years.

The highlight of the night culminated in the seniors' walk to Johnson Hall. Once all were inside the darkened rotunda, the lights came on and a shower of balloons came down. The sophomore class outdid themselves in surprising their big sisters. After emerging from their hiding places in the balconies, the little sisters converged on the staircase landing to sing a collection of favorite songs. The seniors tearfully responded and then began the mad rush for the huge chocolate and vanilla cake the little sister class had provided.

Event co-chair Ginny Scholtz remarked, "It was good for our class to spend this time together, especially since we only have 97 days until we graduate. It was a special time for us."

Seniors collected in front of Johnson for a group photograph and made sure to grab their party favors to remember this party which marks the beginning of an end.

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recent concerns of some students about the use (or non-use) of BeeBucks from 11:00 - 2:00. He said that the hours during which students cannot use the \$25 voucher have been changed to 11:30 - 1:30, so those who have a 2:00 class could get a quick lunch until their BeeBucks run out. The logic behind the BeeBucks is that it was originally to encourage students to use their Cam-Cards and, hopefully, put more money on their cards in the future.

Despite the BeeBuck bickering, the Beehive has become so popular with resident and commuter students alike that the manager of the Beehive, Sharon Stingley, said that they have been "absolutely swamped." The crowd was so large one evening last week that Stingley said that they served over half of the students who normally eat dinner in the dining hall. "I think that the dining hall served about 300 that night and we served over 400." With those staggering statistics, one might ask, "Why all the hype?"

O'Brian attributes a lot of the Beehive's success to the extensive variety of foods offered to students. He points out that students have really seemed to be interested in the healthy options the Beehive serves up. Low-fat muffins and bagels with low-fat cream cheese have been very popular with the morning crowd and the Tofu Burger and Chick-Fil-A Char Grill, each boasting under five grams of fat, offer a healthier choice for the lunch crowd. Also, the Healthy Choice sandwiches are made with low-fat meats and cheeses, the Itza Pizza pizzas are made with low-fat mozzarella cheese and to top it all off, you can have low-fat, non-fat or sugar-free, non-fat yogurt. So for anyone who is already thinking about swimsuit season, you might think about checking out the Beehive.

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