

Meredith Herald

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We attract bright, talented, ambitious students. Naturally we're a women's college. September 17, 1997

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Prevent Child Abuse holds vigil

Meredith Choir sang at the opening of the 45-hour vigil held at NC State.

Kat Allen
Staff Reporter

"We're here to talk about the children who lived through abuse by honoring those who died." Says Ilene Nelson, an opening speaker at the vigil held for abused children this weekend. Prevent Child Abuse held a 45 hour vigil that ran Friday through Saturday in honor of the 45 children who died in 1996 of abuse and neglect in North Carolina.

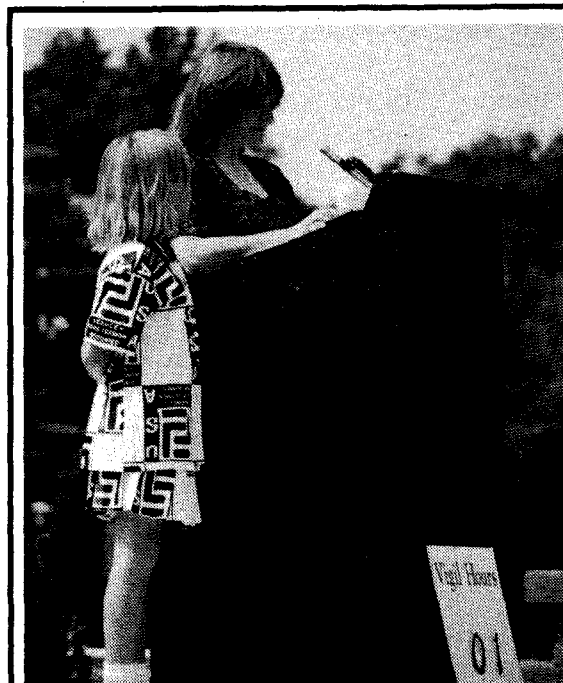
People gathered around the Bell Tower at N.C. State University on Friday for the opening ceremonies of the vigil to find forty-five candles with name tags and forty-five little trees standing next to them. At a booth set up by Prevent Child Abuse there were baby clothes hanging to symbolize the children who died. The PCA volunteers, wearing shirts that read "The only smack your kid ever needs" followed by a picture of a lip print, assisted interested participants to free information and commitment cards.

As the Bell Tower chimed four the ceremonies began promptly. Representatives of various organizations such as PCA and the Department of Social Services spoke out against the atrocities of child abuse. Another of the speakers was a mother of one of the children. Jamie Robertson told the story of her four year old baby boy who had been placed in the care of his aunt and died as a result of child abuse. With tears streaming down her face, she pleaded with the audience to avoid just sitting by as children are suffering, but to speak up and prevent more deaths like the one of her own

innocent child.

Following the speakers the Meredith Choir sang two songs, and then the first candle was lit. Another

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Jamie Robertson tells the story about her four-year-old son being abused by his aunt as her daughter stands by in support.

Photo by Rebecca Tinsley

Meredith ranks in regional Top-15

U.S. News and World Report recognizes Meredith as one of top schools in the Southeast.

Robin Riddick
Staff Reporter

Meredith College was recently named in the top fifteen regional universities of the South in the 11th annual *America's Best Colleges* issue and guidebook by *U.S. News and World Report*. The *America's Best Colleges* is the definitive guide for college-bound students.

Meredith tied with Wheeling Jesuit College of West Virginia for the fifteenth space. The only other North Carolina school to be ranked in the best of the South's Regional Universities was tenth-place Appalachian State University.

U.S. News placed colleges and universities in one of four categories which derived from those established by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. These categories

include the following: national universities, national liberal arts colleges, regional universities and regional liberal arts colleges. The regional schools were placed into one of four geographic regions- North, South, Midwest, and West.

In its methodology, *U.S. News* included the following attributes: academic reputation, retention, faculty resources,

student selectivity, financial resources, value added, and alumni-giving rate.

Many students were surprised and pleased to know that the college they chose for an education was among the top fifteen of the Regional Universities of the South. One senior commented, "I always loved Meredith for the people and the academics, and this just backs up my thoughts all the way!"

Another freshman student commented, "My grandmother and sister came to Meredith and always told me how wonderful it was, but also that it would challenge me; this is terrific news for a school that I respect."

"It is gratifying to be recognized for the efforts of our entire faculty and staff that make Meredith one of the best colleges in the country."

- President John E. Weems

President John E. Weems was nothing but thrilled to hear of the news. Weems said, "It is gratifying to be recognized for the efforts of our entire faculty and staff that make Meredith one of the best colleges in the country." He also said, "Throughout the history of the college, we have always tried to be the very best at what we do. I am glad that those who evaluate colleges and universities all over the country did discover that we are truly a unique institution."

Broken water pipe causes major problems

Pipe break leaves campus without water for several hours.

Beth Hall
News Editor

A broken water pipe left Meredith buildings without water Monday morning, facilities services said.

"Well yesterday was an adventure I care not to repeat anytime soon," said Clarke Suttle, director of Facilities Services, about the water pipe repair and its complications.

A report by campus police around 8:30 p.m. Sunday to Suttle stated that water was coming out of the ground at the campus' city water meter where all drinking water enters the college. After determining that campus maintenance could not repair the problem alone, a mechanical contractor was called who would begin repair at 7 a.m. Monday.

At about 9:15 a.m. all campus water had to be turned off, after a temporary water connection was made to Belk dining hall to provide air conditioning and food service.

"By 11:30 a.m., after digging and pumping out the hole for two and a half hours, we were able to see that a six inch cast iron water pipe installed in 1925 had broken in half, and we were able to order the parts we needed to do the repairs," said Suttle.

About four hours later, the line was repaired, and Facilities Services began turning the water back on to the residence halls and other buildings. Of course, this did not mean that water went instantly from the underground pipe to the faucets of anxious students. "There was air in the lines when the water was cut back on, so it takes time for the water to begin flowing normally again," said Joe Brown of Maintenance.

Now complications caused by the disrupted water service had to be attended. "A lot of commodes started flushing continuously on their own causing low water pressure. This was caused by sediment and rust in the water pipes being forced into the commodes' automatic flush valves. For the

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