

## Meredith prepares for Rape Awareness Week

KAT ALLEN  
Staff Reporter

Meredith students will be asked to open their eyes and ears during the Rape Awareness Week of October 27 through November 1. Students Caroline Fleming and Betty Shannon Poates are responsible for the organization of Rape Awareness Week. Last year, Fleming found out about "Take Back the Night," a rally held on N.C. State's campus for victims of violence. This annual rally is held on colleges all over the country. Although the Meredith college has been invited to attend every year, it has not officially participated. Fleming and Poates attended last year with about 30 other Meredith students. The powerful gathering gives many rape survivors a chance to have a gruesome injustice recognized. It also brings attention to the resources available to rape victims. One of the most powerful and moving aspects of the rally is how survivors learn they are not alone and that they do not have to suffer in silence. Fleming and Poates hope Meredith will have at least 100 students attend the rally.

"Take Back the Night" will be the pinnacle of Rape Awareness Week, but Meredith will be having a many other events happening throughout the

week.

Starting Monday, October 27, there will be a picnic held in the courtyard (or the dining hall, weather depending). At the picnic, there will be T-shirts handed out for rape survivors and their supporters to decorate in any way they choose. "They can write 'Men Suck' if they want to," noted Poates.

On Monday, speakers from Interact, the local rape crisis center, will be coming for Freshman Discovery. They will be speaking to students about what to do if you are raped, what to do if someone you know is raped, safety, and other important topics.

And on Tuesday, the decorated T-shirts will be hung on a clothesline for display.

On Wednesday, students will be painting tunnels in preparation for "Take Back the Night," which will be on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. Students will be meeting outside Johnson Hall to go to N.C. State for "Take Back the Night." Meredith will provide several vans for transportation. At the rally, there will be speakers, a vigil, a march around campus, singer Kathleen Hanom of "Inside Out," speak-outs, and much more.

On Friday, the counseling center will have an all-day open house to give

students extra support and down time from the rally. At 10 a.m. in the Oak Room, Angie Peru and Faith Hart will speak about how to deal with childhood abuse, date rape, stranger rape, and other topics.

On Saturday, November 1, Safe Skills will be coming to Meredith from 1-4 p.m. to teach self-defense seminar. The seminar is free to students, but available spaces are limited to 30 people. Sign-up sheets for the seminar will be posted in Belk and Cate or call 829-8521 to sign up.

Fleming and Poates realize that although this is a women's college, issues such as rape are not addressed. They know Meredith's campus is both conservative and safe, but many students remain unaware of the possible dangers and risks at places like drinking parties or on other campuses. They realize many students have never been away from home before and do not know how to act in all social situations. Since Meredith is a women's college, students should be informed about the realities of rape and the resources available.

"We aren't used to dealing with men every day," Poates said. As a result, students are not as aware as they could be. Fleming and Poates hope to

bring rape into campus consciousness and to help students understand they are not exempt. Rape Awareness Week wants to give students options and to provide them with the tools needed for dealing with rape. Currently, Meredith does not have any support groups, and Rape Awareness Week is targeted at changing that and leading to new things. Poates hopes to see "bigger and better things."

Something else Rape Awareness Week hopes to make known is the statistics. According to Interact, one in every four women will be raped. The majority of these rapes will be by someone the victim knows. Eighty-five percent of the rapes will involve alcohol. The majority will go unreported by the victim. The rapist almost always will rape again. Though Meredith's campus is a safe environment, the harsh statistics attached to rape make awareness essential, but even awareness does not always prevent the crime. Everyone is subject, but Rape Awareness Week is aimed at prevention, as well as knowledge of available outlets. The week is not intended to provoke fear, but instead it wants to support, unite, and empower Meredith women.



### 8K Race

Saturday  
November 1st  
at 9:00 a.m.

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## Campus artists selected for VAE exhibit

SANDY STEPHENS  
Staff Reporter

It is great to be recognized in the classroom for hard work and creativity, but to be honored for that same work in the community is a plus. The Visual Art Exchange (VAE) of Raleigh recently announced its 2nd annual *Works In Study* exhibit, an exhibit featuring the art of college and university students. The works of five Meredith students were selected.

Holly Mansfield-Strand, Desiree Zabellero, and Kari Becker provided the gallery with black and white photography pieces. Erika Sexton created an untitled watercolor piece which received an honorable mention, and Diane Dosio's watercolor art was chosen. Dosio's watercolor, "Marionettes," was chosen.

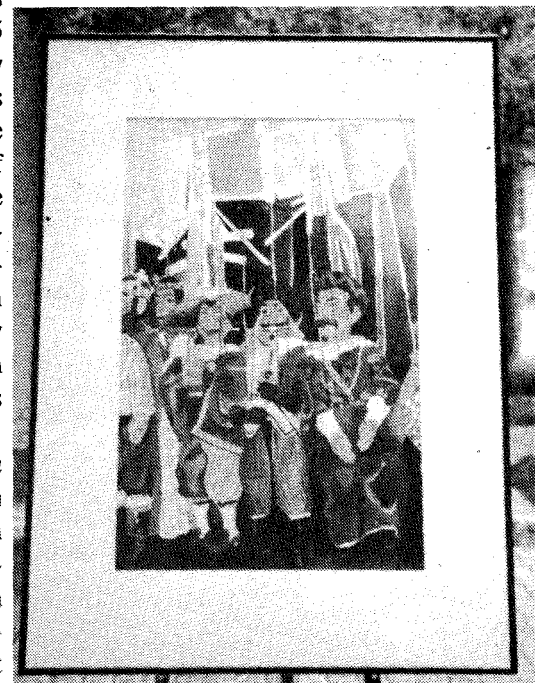
The VAE is "an arts organization committed to the advancement of all artists and likes to promote the quality of local art programs available throughout the area." This year's *Works In Study* exhibit was juried by Art Farm artist Heath Stow, who has participated and won several juried art competitions. Stow's sculptures have been

commissioned by Exploris, Wake Medical Children's Center, and Artslosure. As part of his juror's statement, Stow's commented how he was "impressed with the overall underlying talent shown here."

The Visual Art Exchange is a non-profit association and gallery located at 325 Blake Street in City Market Square. It is supported by the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County, the City of Raleigh Arts Commission, and Bostrom Ford. Anyone may visit the gallery from 11-4 p.m. on Tuesdays through Saturdays.

The *Works In Study* exhibit is open for viewing through October 24. One feature of the show is a raffle for \$50 gift certificates from The Print Shop at North Hills Mall and Askew Tay-

lor. The raffle tickets cost \$1 each and may be purchased at the closing benefit reception on October 24. All profits will go to the VAE. However, there is no charge to view the exhibit.



Diane Dorsio has her watercolor, "Marionettes" featured at the VAE exhibit. Photo by Sandy Stephens

# Pier 1

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