

Meredith Herald

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

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Rape Awareness Week promotes understanding

□ Students show their strength as they "take back the night" at NC State.

BETH HALL
News Editor

The first annual Rape Awareness Week, made possible by the Creative Ideas Fund grant and the initiative of several students, promoted awareness of violence against women on the Meredith campus last week.

Junior Caroline Fleming, along with junior Betty-Shannon Poates, planned the week. They agreed the event was successful in its mission to educate, spread awareness, and aid survivors' healing.

"Rape is an issue that lots of people try to ignore, but I think we've done a pretty good job of making people confront the issue," said Fleming.

A display of T-shirts with violence awareness messages written on them, known as the "clothesline project," was set up Tuesday in the courtyard and remained standing throughout the week. The 21 T-shirts

were designed by survivors of rape, sexual assault, and childhood sexual assault, and by secondary survivors - family and friends of abuse survivors who have to deal with the attack second-hand.

This project provided awareness about all kinds of violence against women, not just sexual violence. Each shirt was color-coded according to the violent act it spoke out against. White stood for women who have been murdered, yellow was for domestic violence, green was for sexual child abuse or incest, orange stood for rape, and purple represented those who had been attacked because of their sexual orientation.

Fleming says that the clothesline project served several purposes. Besides making a statement about the seriousness of sexual violence, she said it also served as a "visual reminder that sexual violence happens everywhere. Every shirt on the clothesline represents at least one attack on a either a Meredith student or employee or a friend of someone in the Meredith

community."

The actual T-shirt designing was the catharsis for those who helped create them.

"It's a way for them to express their feelings—anger, hurt, sadness—and to deal with what's happened to them," Fleming said. "A lot of times it's just the beginning of the healing process, and I know it can go a long ways toward making someone feel whole again."

This project received a lot of attention. Fleming noted, "Wednesday night I was walking back from a meeting late at night, and it was freezing cold, and there were four or five people reading the shirts on the clothesline."

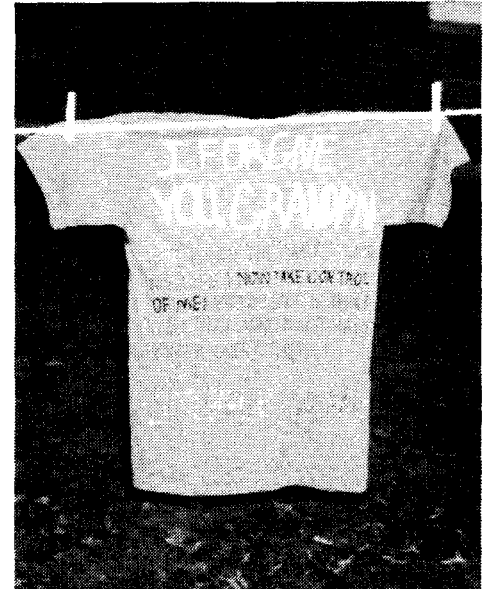
Unfortunately, seven of the 21 T-shirts were missing Thursday and have not been recovered.

The "Take Back the Night" march and rally took

place on the NCSU campus Thursday night. More than 40 Meredith representatives were present.

"We'd hoped for more, but it was a good number, and we all had a lot of spirit and energy," Fleming said.

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Various students who have been rape or assault victims designed T-shirts telling their story.

Photo by Sandy Stephens

Literacy lab plays race card

□ Meredith hosted the 8K Run for Literacy this past Saturday.

TORY HOKE
Features Editor

A moderate course, cooling rain, and extravagant spread made charity sweet for last weekend's intrepid runners. About 220 people ran and walked for literacy in the USATF-certified 8K Run For Literacy Saturday morning.

The small, not too competitive crowd converted an uphill start and finish and some unexplained delays into an occasion for stinking in the rain.

Hazy skies gave way to a cloudburst 35 minutes after the race began, dividing the dry running elite from the damp middle-of-the-packers. Runners received the rain well, since it broke the oppressive humidity.

"I love the rain," said finisher Nadia Dadas. "In Morocco you don't see so much of it."

"It wasn't so bad," agreed Erin Schryver, who finished second in the

19 and under age division. "It was pretty fun."

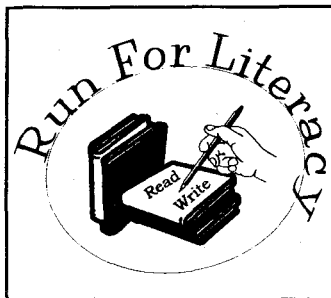
The race raised funds for a literacy lab being developed by Beth Weir of Meredith's education department. Weir is backed by Keri and Stan VanEtten, who, according to Weir, organized the race and have already given \$30,000 of their \$125,000 pledge to the lab project.

"These folks are wonderful!" Weir wrote in a request for volunteers.

The project itself is still in the planning stage. According to the race's entry form, the lab would provide "affordable tutoring services to Wake County elementary school children who are having difficulty reading and writing."

The literacy lab's reach is not limited to the education department's, and may not necessarily be under education's direction when it is completed.

The VanEttens harnessed over 40 sponsors for race. The post-race events included a lottery for a sport utility vehicle and a raffle for a diamond tennis bracelet.



□ Frankie G. Weems Gallery holds the 17th N.C. Photographers Exhibition.

MELISSA BOYETTE
Staff Reporter

Witnesses reported over 100 shots in the Frankie G. Weems gallery in Gaddy-Hamrick, but no one seemed to mind. The opening reception for the 17th annual N.C. Photographers Exhibition, sponsored by the Raleigh Photographic Arts Association, the Meredith College Art Department, and Ajinomoto U.S.A. Inc, was held there on Sunday, November 2, 1997 from 2-4 p.m. Over 90 photographers submitted their work to the show.

One "Best Of Competition" winner was entitled "Greene's Store #2," and portrayed a small-town gas station scene. Photographed by W. Cameron Dennis, it showed old Coca-Cola and Pepsi machines beside a cracking brick building which had rusty signs hanging on them.

"Postcard Series- AZ, FL, NC, NJ, NV" submitted by Linda C. Samuels, won an Award of Merit. It was a collection of 16 black and white and color pictures including scenes such as a

playground, a telephone booth, an interstate, and a cemetery.

"Hatteras, NC 1995," by John Scarlata, caught many viewers' eyes. It portrayed several wooden beach houses under a cloudy sky.

Another photograph, which many observers commented on, was "Diner" by F. Haden Edwards III, which depicted the perfect 50s malt shop scene complete with silver bar stools, Coca-Cola straw holders, and a black and white checkerboard floor.

Sophomore Ginny Bond said, "This is my first year taking a photography class, and I feel that attending this year's exhibition was a very rewarding experience for me. They had a good showing of all different types of photography."

The event was well-attended. During the two hours, the gallery was so packed with guests that people could hardly walk.

Professor of photography Nona Short said, "I thought that Sunday's showing had a really nice turnout. It was one of the largest number of entrants that we had ever had. The juror spent the whole day making decisions

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