

Woodlief remembered

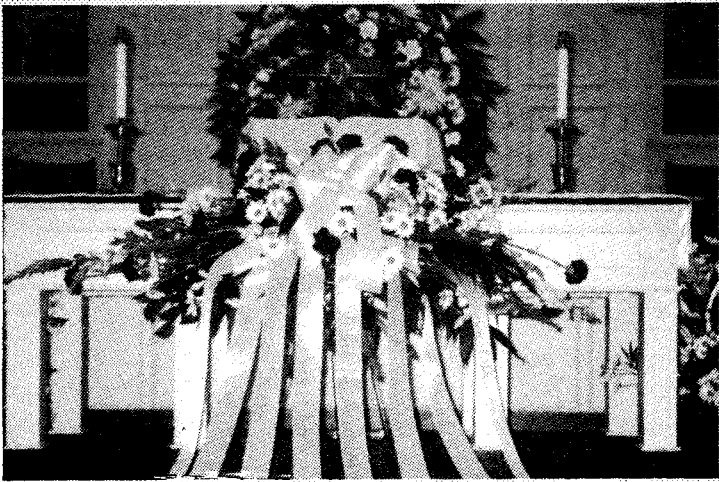


Photo by Shelly Hoover

The Meredith community remembered Erika Woodlief at a memorial service held in Jones Chapel Nov. 21. Seating in the Chapel was limited to Woodlief's family and friends, administration, faculty, SGA, and residents on Woodlief's hall.

The three ministers that presided over the service were campus minister Sam Carothers, Louisburg Baptist Church pastor Larry Williams, and Marshall Neathery, pastor at the Rolesville Baptist Church. Woodlief's cousin and boyfriend also paid tribute to her.

Students and staff who could not be accommodated in Jones Chapel were able to watch the memorial service via closed circuit TV in Jones Auditorium or on MCTV.

Following the service, the Woodliefs received friends in Johnson Hall rotunda.

Tiny room creates big problems

EMILY FULGHUM
Staff Reporter

"Where do we live? In a closet. What do we want? Square footage... We'd love for you to come and visit, but we don't have any room. So leave a message and we'll call you back." This is what you'll hear on Kelly Harris' and Heather Willcox's answering machine if you call their room on fourth Faircloth.

Harris, a junior, and Willcox, a sophomore, have a tiny problem - a tiny room. The roommates would say that this is a grave understatement as they have spent the entire semester in a single room that they say is smaller than other single rooms they've seen as the single rooms scattered throughout the dorms have various dimensions. Harris says that they are so cramped that they have "nowhere to study. We literally have to go out in the hall to study." Also, Harris is the only one able to use the dresser, which she must access from the side because there is no room to stand in front of it and pull out the dressers. Willcox

keeps her clothes in a box beside the bed.

The roommates' housing problems began last February during the housing sign-up. Harris and Willcox say they were placed toward the end of the process because one was a rising junior and the other, a rising sophomore. Housing preference goes to senior, senior/junior, senior/sophomores, junior, junior/sophomore, and sophomore.

When Harris and Willcox talked to Paula O'Briant, residence life director, in the early summer, all double rooms had been assigned, so they were put on a waiting list. A tiny room became available (their current Faircloth home), and O'Briant says they had the options to take this room or split up.

O'Briant says that there were rooms available right after the sign-up in February, but these rooms were later assigned to transfer students and new students early in the summer (before Harris and Willcox talked with her.)

She says that if they had remained until the end of the sign-up or had

contacted housing during February, they would have been housed.

However, given the fact that this year's freshman class was the largest in Meredith's history, among other reasons, nothing new has opened up for the pair.

Harris and Willcox say they have been in contact with O'Briant and her assistant, Lisa Wiley, all semester in the hopes of taking advantage of any openings.

The catch to this situation, however, is that "there are four or five singles in double rooms on our hall," Harris says. She says that there is lots of sympathy but no one is willing to switch. This situation persuaded her to contact Dean of Students Sharon Cannon and point out the section in the handbook that states "no private rooms will be given unless space is available." Harris says that Dean Cannon's answer was that those rooms were "designated private rooms" for those who had special circumstances such as a medical condition.

Harris and Willcox say they then asked for a refund and were told that unless they were willing to separate, there would be no change and that they would not be refunded because they agreed to the room and chose to stay together as roommates.

O'Briant emphasizes that Harris and Willcox did choose to take the room at the beginning of the semester. She says that "it was their decision and we [Residence Life] have really tried to work with them, but there just hasn't been any openings."

O'Briant says, "With people graduating and getting married at the end of the semester, the possibility seems that we can get them a bigger room."

ACA/MIA host Employee Appreciation, Gospel Fest

STACEY DELANEY, EBONY WILLIAMS
Staff Reporter

The Association for Cultural Awareness and The Meredith International Association host the first ever employee appreciation reception on Wednesday, November 19. Grounds, maintenance, security, housekeeping, and dining staff were entertained with musical selections by Erika Lee and a poetry reading by Ebony Williams. Stephanie Harris was the master of ceremonies, and Chuck Taylor was on hand to offer a few words of appreciation. Phyllis Gay, an ACA board member, regretted that Wednesday night's reception was only the first.

"I think that it is sad that this was

the first time that the employees were appreciated by students," Gay said.

"In my twelve years working here at Meredith, we've never had anything like this before," said Craig Bridges, housekeeping's third shift manager, during the reception.

Faculty members and administration donated money for the roses that were distributed that night with a certificate of appreciation and a souvenir from ACA and MIA, and the event's organizers appreciated the gifts.

"I thought it was really nice that the faculty donated the money for the roses," said Nikiesha Finch, ACA treasurer. "Their donations were greatly appreciated."

The event was catered by Tim Hankins, a local caterer, because organizers did not want the dining staff to have to work during the reception given partly in their honor.

In another ACA event last week, the organization held its second annual Gospel Fest on Friday, Nov. 21, in Jones Auditorium.

"It was a great relief," said Ebony Williams, the club's vice president. "Everybody in ACA took part in order to make the event a great success."

Daphne O'Neil, the association's alumna advisor and founder of Gospel Fest, once again oversaw the festivities. She invited four area chorus groups to come and perform at the event,

including No Strings Attached, an N.C. State ensemble.

"I really enjoyed the performance by No Strings Attached," said Williams. "Since they were an a cappella group, I thought they added variety to the Fest."

Gospel Fest is turning into an important fund-raiser for ACA and, once again, members of the organization were pleased with the results of the occasion despite the outside conditions.

"It was cold and rainy Friday night, but those who came really had a good time," said Williams. "We can't wait until next year."

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