

Seniors kick off year with 9 to 9 Day picnic and activities

ASHLYNN BROWNING
STAFF REPORTER

A new tradition in class unity was established last week as the Class of '99 joined together for a day of fun activities.

The concept behind this day was that the seniors would get to spend some time relaxing together on the ninth day of the ninth month, thus the name 9 to 9 day. Chairs for the event Anna King and Katherine Dickinson advertised fliers in the senior dorms, alerting their class to the festivities planned for Wednesday, Sept. 9th.

The day began with seniors attending chapel together,

"dressed to the nines." In the evening there was a cookout in the amphitheater, complete with burgers and all the fixings and loud tunes coming from a car stereo.

Senior Jessica Watson grilled burgers and veggie burgers as fast as they could be grabbed up. There were definitely good vibes in the air as the seniors got to spend some down time together before schedules get too hectic.

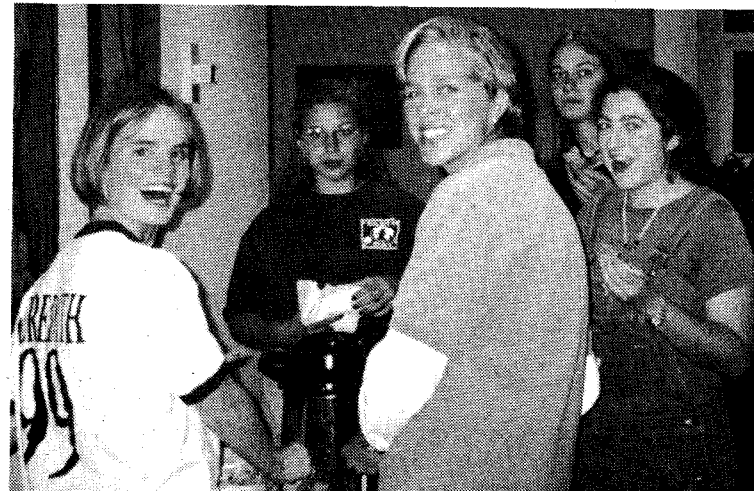
Senior Jackie Lynn Schmidt felt it was "nice to see so much class unity" and that she hopes "this is a good sign for Cornhuskin."

After dinner, attending the

volleyball game was next on the agenda, followed by *Coffee with Friends* at 8. The day concluded with little sis' serenades.

Anna King said, "Overall the day has been great, and I hope that the tradition will continue." The *Coffee with Friends* attendance was good, and plenty of laughter could be heard as seniors recalled the fun of the day.

Ginger Hudson said "it was a fun way to kick off the year and a relaxing time, free of the stress of Cornhuskin'." The hard work put into this event paid off and 9 to 9 day was a great success.



Seniors Celia Dukes, Danielle Mir, Shannon MacFarlane, Melinda Spencer, and French teaching assistant gather at *Coffee with Friends* last Wednesday.

PHOTO BY
ALISON FLOOD

Phone outage linked to lightning damage

BETH HALL
News Editor

Lightning damage forced all campus phones to be cut off last Friday morning and Saturday, said officials in Technology Services.

Sunday night, Aug. 23 lightning hit the College's switch, which is the center where all campus phone connections are made. The switch is located in 109 Johnson Rotunda.

"You could just smell it was hit," said Ruth Ann Balla, head of Technology Services. "The room smelled like burnt plastic."

The following Monday morning, the campus had no phone service for a couple hours. Technicians borrowed parts from a Sprint/Carolina warehouse in Youngsville (near Wake Forest) in order to make the phone system usable until permanent replacement pieces could be ordered, said Balla.

Last Thursday these ordered pieces came in, and the staff decided to shut down the system at 6 a.m. that Friday morning so that the pieces could be installed. The staff had hoped to have the system back up by 7:30 a.m., said Balla.

However, while in the process of installing new pieces, technicians discovered that even more extensive damage had been done

by the lightning than previously thought. One of the two cores in the switch had been struck. So, between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m. no one on the campus had phone service.

After 9 a.m. technicians reactivated the undamaged core, thus bringing back up half of the campus' phones (around 750 phones).

Lines stagger between those hooked up to core one and core two, so Telecommunications Specialist Ginny Kemp reminded people that just because their phone wasn't working didn't mean their neighbor's wasn't working. Kemp posted notices on residence halls alerting people to the staggering of lines and asking those who had working phones to let those around them know their phones worked.

Saturday morning the system had to be shut down so that the new core and other replacement pieces, which had been ordered from as far away as St. Clara, Calif. just the day before, could be installed. By 3 p.m. Saturday, technicians finished the installation.

Kemp, who has been with the College since 1982, said she had not seen lightning damage like this before at Meredith.

"We hope all is repaired," said Balla.

Presidential search committee chooses Baker as their consultant

BETH HALL
News Editor

Jerry Baker, of the search firm of Schuyler, Baker and Parker, Inc. has been selected by the Presidential Search Committee to aid the college in the search of a new president to replace President John Weems, who is now on sabbatical.

According to a company profile, the firm's higher education practice is one of the top three in the country. "A partner and owner of the firm is directly

responsible for the successful completion of each search," the profile states.

Baker has worked on the search for the Chancellor of NCSU, as well as presidential searches for the University of Akron, the University of Georgia, Green Mountain College, the University of Kentucky, James Madison University, Miami University and Longwood College. He also worked on director and dean searches for other colleges and president and C.E.O search-

es for Biomedical Research Institute, the Greenville Hospital System, Industrial Technology Institute, Michigan Virtual Automotive College and Oak Ridge Associated Universities.

Baker's other clients includes Princeton University, Rhodes College, Texas A&M University, Tulane University, Vanderbilt University, Wake Forest University, Washington University, Wesleyan University, Yale University, Howard University and John Hopkins University.

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said a candidate should have a "passion for learning and understand the importance of being involved with students. Charlotte Philen, a junior, felt Meredith College students had a high value system and the candidate should uphold those same values. Jean Jackson, vice president of student development said the committee should seek someone who is passionate about the students.

The forums were broken up into six sessions in the order of faculty session, administration/staff session, student session, open session, alumna session and a community session that took place over the course of Monday and Tuesday. At the last session, the community session, Rev. Wayne Wike, executive director of the council on Christian Higher Education with the North Carolina Baptist Convention, said both the council and the convention want to be available as a resource to the search committee and the president-elect and were willing to help with the

transition period.

Faye Broyhill, '59, a trustee representative on the search committee was out of the country and unavailable to attend any of the forums. Gwen Clay, faculty representative, was unable to attend all of the sessions, and Sam Ewell, trustee representative, missed the Tuesday sessions because of an eye problem.

Sharon Woodlief, assistant to the president, recorded the sessions. The sessions were also audio-taped.

Written remarks may be sent to Gene Langley, chair of presidential search committee, P.O. Box 30186, Raleigh, 27622. Those on campus may prefer to submit remarks to Langley via Sharon Woodlief on 2nd floor Johnson Hall. Those with questions may call Woodlief at 760-8511. Public input will be accepted until Oct. 31.