



MEREDITH HERALD

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

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Lewis Nordan reads his fiction

□ **The prize-winning author meets students, holds a casual reading.**

LESLIE MAXWELL
Police Reporter

Thanks to the Mary Lynch Johnson professorship in English, Meredith College was, for the second time in two months, blessed with an award-winning author. Louis "Buddy" Nordan, a Southern writer from Itta Bena, Mississippi, visited Meredith on Sunday and Monday.

Nordan's visit was made possible with the assistance of writer-in-residence Suzanne Newton. Sunday night, Nordan had dinner and conversation with Newton's Writing Fiction class and some English faculty, including Suzanne Britt and Jean Jackson. At this dinner, he provided entertainment and advice for a group of aspiring writers by telling them, "Pray to whatever god you believe in that you will be a good and honest writer."

Monday at 10 a.m., some students and English faculty met for an informal reading with Nordan in the Chapel Commons room.

Monday evening at 7:30 p.m., students, faculty, and community members congregated in Kresge Auditorium for a reading. First, Newton spoke briefly, and sophomore Ayana Rhodes introduced the guest of honor.

Nordan read a chapter from his recently finished novel, which he has tentatively titled *Don't Cry for Me, Itta Bena*. This book, which will not be released for another year, is what Nordan called an "autobiographical novel."

After the reading, Nordan answered several questions. During the reception following, Quail Ridge Books sold some of Nordan's books, and he was available to autograph them.

Nordan's books include several collections of short stories including *The All-Girl Football Team* and *Welcome to the*

Arrow-Catcher Fair. These stories take place in the town of Arrow-Catcher, Mississippi, with Sugar Mecklin and his family and friends as the main characters.

He has also written several novels, including *Wolf Whistle* and *Music of the Swamp*, which won the Mississippi Arts and Letters Institute prize in 1992. In addition, he is the recipient of the Southern Book Critics Circle Award and the Mississippi Author's Award for Fiction.

Nordan received his Ph.D. in Shakespeare from Auburn University, but he did not begin writing until he was 35.

At that time, Nordan and his family moved to Arkansas to allow Nordan to attend the writing program at the University of Arkansas.

For the past sixteen years, Nordan has lived in Pittsburgh, PA with his wife. He teaches classes at the University of Pittsburgh, tours around the US giving readings, and, of course, writes.

White Iris Ball a hit without a hitch

□ **Liquid Pleasure provides live music for the semi-formal.**

CHRISTINA HOLDER
Staff Reporter

The streets of downtown Raleigh were packed with Meredith students and dates all dressed up with some place to go on Friday, Nov. 13. The White Iris Ball was held at the Raleigh Convention Center from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Tickets for the event were on sale the week of the Ball, Nov. 9-13, and could be purchased at various times throughout the day in Belk Dining Hall for \$30 a couple.

The Meredith Entertainment Association, MEA, sponsored the event and was responsible for reserving the ballroom for the night, finding the music entertainment and supplying

the decorations and refreshments.

Students were also offered the opportunity to purchase a commemorative White Iris Ball T-shirt with a logo reading "the band played all the songs we knew, and we danced the whole night away." Accordingly, the band Liquid Pleasure played well-rounded sets of music the entire night, from Beach to 80's to Oldies to Top 40 music.

Liquid Pleasure provided dance-goers with a night full of opportunities to dance a variety of dances. Students were shagging, swing dancing and doing the Electric Slide.

"The band was really good," said first-year Sarah Grivetti. "They played a variety of music and the got the crowd involved."

Each Meredith student was permitted to bring any date of

her choice. Said first-year Sarah Jane Cox, "I took a friend I knew from home, and I would definitely go again."

Upon entering, students and their dates were given gray and green souvenir cups and a balloon arch under which to have their smiles of the night captured by a professional photographer.

Liquid Pleasure ended the night at the Ball with a loud rendition of "Shout" and a final slow song. No one was quite ready to leave; however, shortly after 1 a.m. students and dates in tow were filing out of the Convention Center.

"I had a ball," said Cox, quite appropriately.

The dance served as a primer for the spring formal and introduced first-years to another tradition.

Convocation joins dance, technology

JULIE KERR
Staff Reporter

Recognizing that the 1998-99 academic year is designated "The Year of Dance," the year's fourth convocation celebrated the dance program at Meredith. The convocation, held Monday, Nov. 12, was entitled "On Line... Memory, Media and Meredith," which emphasized the pervasiveness of technology in today's society.

Dr. Sherry Shapiro, director of dance education, began working on this project over a year ago. Noted Shapiro at the opening of the program, "I had thoughts of bringing together technology and a Zen approach to being - that is one of rest and tranquillity. In my attempt to do this I failed. Or maybe more accurately I realized that to get to a Zen state of being meant no movement - and of course, creating a dance where the intent would be to come to no movement was certainly problematic."

The program united the natural grace of the dancers with the technological configurations of a multi-media presentation. As Shapiro stated, "Both art and technology offer to us new possibilities."

The last segment of the presentation tied the concepts together. Featuring the Meredith Chorus, under the direction of student conductor Jennifer Angove, "Yizkor" represented the cycle of life. "Yizkor," adapted from Morris Silverman, means "Help us to remember that we shall be the past of countless others who will come after us and that we may live that we will transmit to them our love and reverence for all the we cherish."

The performance was sponsored in part by the Dupont Technology Initiative and Faculty Development. The dancers

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