



MEREDITH HERALD

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Educating Women to Excel

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Weekend break-ins occur

□ **Recent thefts in parking lots prompt a security increase.**

LESLIE MAXWELL
Editor in chief

While many students traveled or studied over the weekend, several cars in the B & G parking lot, the large parking lot where juniors and sophomores park, were broken into.

According to Campus Police Chief Mike Hoke, four cars total were broken into. Three of the robberies happened on Friday, Oct. 22 and one happened on Saturday, Oct. 23.

The only things the thief stole were, according to Hoke, compact discs and their carrying cases.

Hoke called these items "a real target," noting that CDs can be sold at a used record store for \$6-8 per disc.

Hoke also noted that the thief left two cellular phones that were in plain view.

After finding out about the break-ins, Campus Police fingerprinted cars and covered the broken windows with plastic.

"We are patrolling the parking lot more heavily," said Hoke.

Hoke said that Campus Police is now speaking with the Raleigh City Police Department to find out if similar theft is occurring in neighborhoods around Meredith.

Hoke advises students not to leave valuables in their cars within plain view of other people.

Junior Jenna Legget is one of the students who had her car broken in to. Legget said that Campus Police was "very helpful" when she found out about the break-in.

Hoke also reported that the

robberies are not the reason that the back gate has been closing early. He said that after a traffic accident in which a driver hit the gate, two hinges are broken. Therefore, according to Hoke, it is difficult to open and close the gate, taking two people to do the task.

Many students have also been wondering about the lack of lights in B & G parking lot. Currently, there are not in-lot lights. There are only portable lights, like those used in road construction.

Hoke explained that after a power failure on Meredith College Drive, formerly Main Campus Drive, the lights in the parking lot also went out. Therefore, the college brought in the portable lights and a generator for them.

The lights are now back on in the parking lot.

SACS visitors on campus

CHRISTINA HOLDER
News Editor

After two years of self-study, Meredith College finally completed the study required by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools last Thursday, Oct. 21.

Every ten years, schools must be re-accredited by SACS through both a study and a focus topic.

Thirteen members of SACS from many different schools came to Meredith from Oct. 18-21 as consultants. Nine visitors were members of the criteria-audit visiting team, three were on the focus topic team and one visitor was an observer. Janet Freeman, who works in the library, chaired the entire SACS re-accreditation process.

This year's focus topic was age diversity. Chair of the focus topic committee was Dr. David Heining-Boynton, psychology professor. His committee looked at things like articles in the *News and Observer* and the *Meredith Herald*, faculty and student surveys and discussion groups in order to make their recom-

mendations of how Meredith should address the issue of age diversity.

The focus topic consultants presented their recommendations to students, faculty and staff on Tuesday, Oct. 19 at 10:30 a.m. and at 3 p.m.

The three consultants on the focus topic were Dr. Karen Arnold from Boston University, Dr. Helen Ray from Breneau University near Atlanta and Dr. Fran Volkmann, chair of the psychology department at Smith College in Massachusetts. Smith and Breneau are both women's colleges. During their presentations, they brought up things that they thought Meredith should consider while looking at age diversity on campus, citing examples from their own schools. After each presentation, people who attended the sessions could ask questions.

Sue Kearney of enrollment planning and institutional development chaired the criteria audit committee which consisted of seven members.

She said, "This committee was responsible for looking at

all of the requirements presented by SACS to determine whether or not Meredith met those criteria."

The six criteria that SACS looks at are: principles and philosophy of accreditation, institutional purpose, institutional effectiveness, educational programs, educational support services and administration processes. Kearney said that the committee members worked with liaisons to make sure that Meredith complied with all the criteria.

The committee then put together files and a printed report with all the information it had gathered. A report was sent to each visitor before he or she came to Meredith.

These visitors, if they had questions, asked students questions. On Thursday, Oct. 21, the visitors made a report to President Maureen Hartford and other college officials.

Now, the criteria audit committee is awaiting a written report from the SACS visitors.

Kearney called the study "a very thorough look at all of Meredith College."

Meredith moves up in magazine's regional rankings

AMANDA FLETCHER
Staff Writer

Meredith has moved up in this year's *US News and World Report's* "Ranking and Guidebook," reports the Office of Marketing and Communications.

Among the Best Regional Universities of the South, Meredith is ranked eleventh this year, which is an improvement on last year's ranking of fifteenth.

Other North Carolina schools on the list were Elon College and Appalachian State University, both of which tied in the fifteenth ranking for this year.

These rankings, done by the weekly news magazine, were based on criteria including academic reputation, graduation rate performance, financial resources, student selectivity, faculty resource, alumni giving rate and student retention.

Each year, *US News and World Report* publish a listing of top colleges, both nationally and by region.

Local colleges nationally ranked were Durham's Duke University, Winston-Salem's Wake Forest University and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

This rating will make Meredith look more appealing to prospective Meredith students who are comparing this school to other colleges, said college officials.

Brandi Orbin, assistant director of Marketing and Communications, said that this year's ranking is "an affirmation of the things we already know about Meredith."