

# Students, dates take time for music, dancing

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Staff Writer

"One Last Time" made a perfect theme for the last semi-formal to be held in years that begin with "19."

Meredith College students were in a frantic scurry for the past few weeks. It wasn't exam time or term papers; they were looking for dates for the semi-formal.

With the White Iris Ball's "One Last Time," put on by the Meredith Entertainment Association, approaching students were hunting down dresses, friends and dinner reservations in time for the dance on Friday, Nov. 12.

After classes on Friday, students gathered with their friends to get ready for the White Iris Ball.

For dinner, students and their dates went to restaurants including Lucky 32, Kanki, The Fox and Hound, Simpsons' and Jimmy V.

Finally the couples were off to the Raleigh Civic and Convention Center in downtown

Raleigh. There they danced from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. to the sound of The Phase Band.

At the door, couples gave up their \$26 couple tickets and \$16 single tickets in exchange for a silver hat filled with New-Year's-type goodies such as

confetti, can huggers, noise-makers and bottles of bubbles.

Freshman Jenee Chiccarrelli said, "I really loved the hat souvenirs with all the stuff in them. They were so cool."

There were balloons everywhere, many of which ended

up being popped, but many other decorations adorned the ballroom of the Civic Center. At midnight, balloons streamed down, just as they would on New Year's Eve.

Megan Deane, freshman, was impressed with the decorations. She said, "They made the wonderful ambiance that was the New Year's Eve theme."

The band, although their lead singer was sick, played a wide variety of songs: hip hop, oldies, 80's and many more.

Senior Beth Donaldson said, "The band was awesome. They played a lot of cool music." She commented on the lack of slow songs during the night but added that there are usually never enough at any dance.

Freshman Avery McGrew was reminded throughout the

evening that the dance's theme welcomed the New Year and said good-bye to the old one. McGrew added that she had a wonderful time.

Hoon Kim, freshman, said, "I had a great time dancing the year away and my date was awesome."

Freshman Jenni Brady's date encouraged many to dance. Brady said, "I thought it was great that my date was the hit of the group."

She added, "I had a great time and thought everything was lovely, but I could have done without the balloons at midnight."

Others, such as Lisa Wilson loved the balloons coming down on the floor at midnight. Wilson said, "The decorations were cool, but the theme of the year 2000 is getting old quickly."

However, the consensus seemed to be that most people had a good time, whether they came early or stayed late.

MEA sponsors the White Iris Ball each autumn.



Meredith students enjoy the music of the Phase Band at the White Iris Ball on Friday night.

PHOTO BY JENNY ALTIER

## Residence Life sponsors information week

MICHELLE HULSE  
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Students were invited to speak their minds and enjoy cookies and hot chocolate at the Fireside Chat on first Heilman Tuesday, Nov. 9. During this time, the Director of Residence Life, Charlene Gaines, and other members of the RL staff addressed students' concerns on issues affecting life in the residence halls.

The Fireside Chat, reminiscent in name of FDR's weekly morale boosters to the country during the Great Depression of the 1930s, was a part of Residence Life Expo Week, held Nov. 8-12.

At the chat, a few students were concerned that the smoking policy would be changed and that they would no longer be allowed to smoke in their rooms.

In response to this concern, Gaines said that, as of now, their smoking privileges would not be taken away, but she said

that Residence Life was looking into the current policy for the health and safety of other students.

Other issues that were addressed were safety concerns: the malfunction of the CamCard readers and the inconstancy of the fire alarms.

The CamCard readers are not always working to open the doors of the residence halls and students are propping open the doors, posing a threat to other students' safety. Gaines suggested that students call security immediately when or if they discover that a reader is not working properly.

Another student expressed concern over the fire alarm constantly going off in Brewer and that, when it did go off, it was barely audible while students slept. Gaines and other RL staff members assured the student that the fire alarms would soon have a louder volume.

One student suggested that

Meredith have a community resource center that could have vacuums, movies and other items for the needs and wants of resident students. Many students felt that this center was a great idea but may not be a possibility.

In addition, students gave their input on the idea of having mixed-class dorms and nearly all felt it was not a good idea.

The RL staff planned other events during Residence Life Expo week.

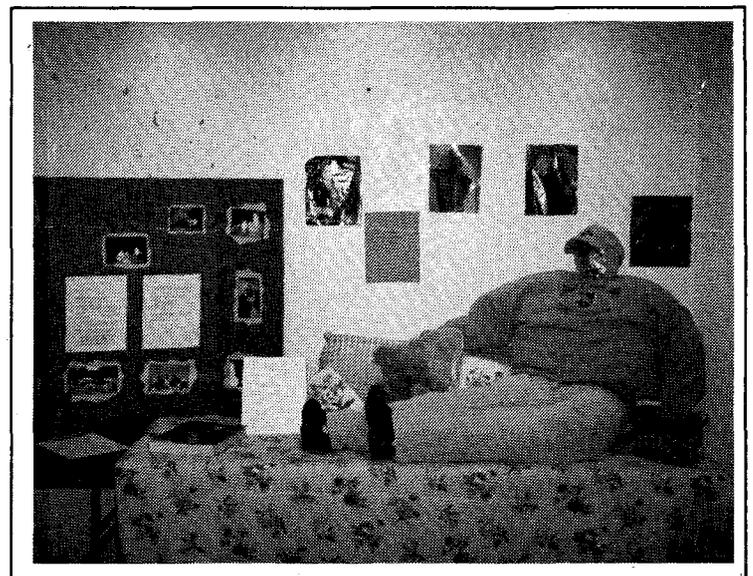
Throughout the week, displays could be seen in the Johnson Hall Rotunda. Each residence hall put together a display on different residence life issues, from diversity in residence halls to Open House days and regulations to fire safety.

On Thursday, Nov. 11, the RL staff sponsored Resident Assistant Appreciation Day. Residence

Life encouraged resident students to thank their RA for all of her hard work.

Gaines said that she is "open to student's input" and is willing to listen to new ideas. Students can reach Gaines in the

Office of the Dean of Students on the second floor of the Park Center, or they can call at 760-8633.



One display in Johnson Hall features a male NC State student in recognition of "Boy Day," or Open House.

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