

Meredith students clown around with little friends

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Staff Writer

Meredith's campus was buzzing this weekend with the energy and the spirit of children. Friday, Mar. 3 and Saturday, Mar. 4 comprised the annual Li'l Friends Weekend.

The theme of this year's weekend was "Let's Clown Around." Past themes have included last year's "Fun on the Farm" and other themes aimed at children.

Juniors Kelli Parrish and Krystal Tyndall served as co-chairs for this project. Tyndall could not be present for the weekend because of a dance conference in Virginia.

Meredith students invited children ages four through 12 to come to the campus and share in fun and entertainment.

Though Saturday's skies were gray and some rain did fall, all of the planned activities were still carried out.

The little friends participated in a variety of games including a sponge toss, a whipped

cream and gum game, a go-fish game and a scavenger hunt. Some of the participants even played kickball.

Parrish said that this year's weekend differed from years past in that the co-chairs added board games and coloring books.

Junior Sarah McAlister, who brought her 9-year-old cousin, said that for her, "The best part was the game room in Belk. Since it rained the whole time, it gave us something to do."

The participants also enjoyed making daisies out of paper plates and decorating and making clown hats out of sand pails.

A highlight of the fun-filled weekend for many children was writing or drawing on the graffiti board.

Parrish noted that she and

Tyndall tried to have events planned throughout the day instead of having so much free time as in years past.

The little friends even had time to swim on Saturday afternoon.

Saturday night, before the children left, the big and little

Chicks, both the big and little friends enjoyed a last fun time together before the little friends headed home.

McAlister noted that her little friend's favorite part of the weekend was the swim time. "She was excited to dive off the diving board," McAlister said.

The delighted screams of children were a sign that the children enjoyed their time with their big friends.

This Meredith Recreation Association-sponsored event was just as much fun for the Meredith students as it was for the children, according to those who had their own little friends.

Sandi Davis, a freshman, said, "I enjoyed having my little friend spend the night, and it was fun to spend some time with her."

The goal of the Li'l Friends Weekend is to promote fun and

fellowship between Meredith students and their little friends.

Parrish said, "I think it is such a special time because you get to devote all your attention to your little friend. They learn about [their big friend] and she learns about them."

Because of Li'l Friends Weekend, the Office of Residence Life changed Saturday's Open House hours to accommodate the children in the residence halls. Instead of the usual 1 p.m. to 11 p.m., males were allowed to be in the residence halls from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Parrish said of the weekend, "We definitely didn't let the rain stop us. People were already asking when it is going to be held next year."

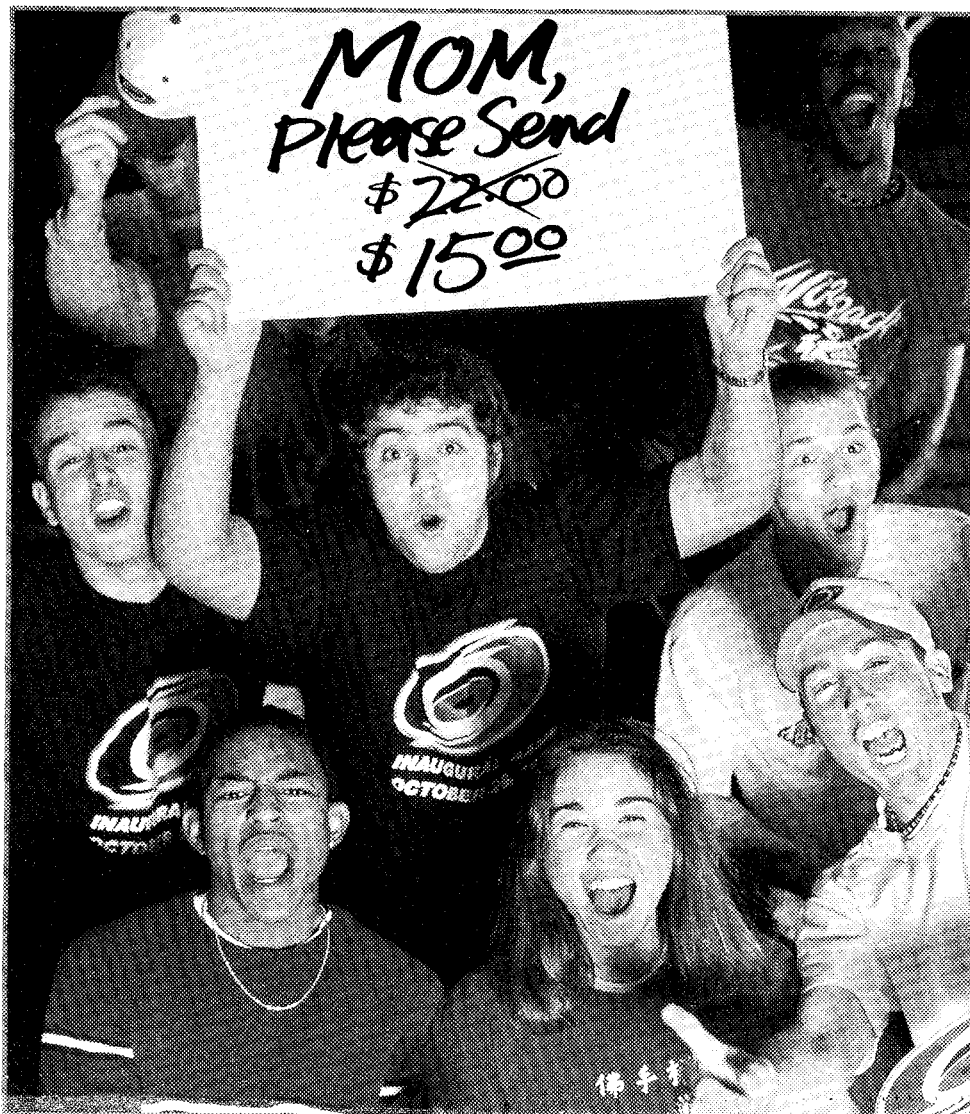
McAlister, who has participated in Li'l Friends Weekend for three years, added, "The only thing that could have been better is the weather--if that would have cooperated, this year would have been the best."

"I enjoyed having my little friend spend the night, and it was fun to spend some time with her."

**--Sandi Davis,
freshman**

friends received the treat of a pizza dinner from Gumby's and karaoke.

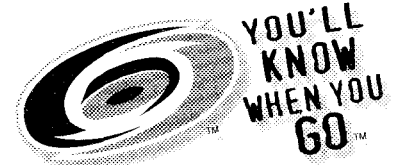
Parrish said that her favorite part of the weekend was Saturday's karaoke. From the Backstreet Boys to the Dixie



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| Edmonton Oilers..... | Mar. 15 | 7:30PM |
| St. Louis Blues..... | Mar. 22 | 7:00PM |
| New York Islanders..... | Mar. 26 | 1:30PM |
| Buffalo Sabres..... | Mar. 27 | 7:30PM |
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