



MEREDITH HERALD

Volume XVI, Issue 23

Educating Women to Excel

March 29, 2000

On the inside:

☐ Senior art exhibition is on display now.

Page 3

☐ Students get down at the spring formal.

Page 4

☐ Meredith prepares to offer Arabic.

Page 5

☐ Lucky 32 is the place to eat.

Page 8

Meredith Herald
at
Meredith College
3800 Hillsborough St.
Raleigh, NC 27607
(919) 760-2824
FAX (919) 760-2869
maxwell@meredith.edu

Women writers bring talent to Meredith

Poet reads her works

TRACY SUMNER
Staff Writer

"Everyday, something has tried to kill me and failed," quoted poet Lucille Clifton during her poetry reading on Monday, Mar. 27. Reading poems about topics from big hips to child abuse, Clifton spoke to both the Meredith community and the area community.

In addition to the reading, Clifton attended an African-American literature class with poetry students on Monday afternoon and shared lunch with creative-writing students on Tuesday.

After the evening's introduction by junior Ayana Rhodes, Clifton, who referred to herself as a "luxury-sized woman," began by reading her most popular poem, "Homage to My Hips." In this humorous poem, Clifton spoke about her "free," "mighty" and "magic" hips.

Clifton then moved to a much more serious topic. She

read two poems about her battles with first breast cancer and then kidney failure, "Lumpectomy Eve" and "Dialysis." Clifton delighted the audience with her humorous take on the dialysis process and its unpleasantness. She then spoke about her kidney transplant, which she received from her youngest daughter of six children. She read a poem that noted the irony in having her daughter, whom she tried to abort 30 years earlier, save her life.

Next Clifton recited two poems about her father. In "Moonchild," she expressed her refusal to be a victim of her father's abuse. And in "What I Think When I Ride the Train," Clifton told of her father's job as a "chipper," or railroad constructor.

Clifton then began to tell about her mother, who was also

Please see
CLIFTON page 5

Playwright offers lines

LEESHA AUSTIN
Staff Writer

Wendy Wasserstein, award-winning playwright and author, spoke about "A Life in the Theater" during a convocation held at Meredith College at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Mar. 26.

"I've always loved the theater, and I've always known I was funny," said Wasserstein.

Wasserstein displayed her down-to-earth personality, and her wit kept the audience laughing.

She explained that she majored in history at Mount Holyoke College and that had planned on becoming a congressional intern, but she kept falling asleep over the reading.

She took playwrighting at Smith College and later received an honorary degree from Smith.

"I was influenced by a great professor who told me that playwrighting was finding your own voice and telling a story," said Wasserstein.

Wasserstein explained that she was very interested in women's roles on stage, why their voices were not being heard and whose voice was being heard. "It became an obsession of mine," she said.

According to Wasserstein, she has used a lot of autobiographical information in her plays.

"I applied to Yale Drama School and Columbia Business School and decided that I would go wherever I was accepted and that's what I would do," said Wasserstein.

She was accepted to both and decided to go to Yale, which she attended for three years.

"There's no assurance that when you get out your life will be any different than when you went in," stated Wasserstein.

She explained that she wanted to see her contemporaries on

Please see
WASSERSTEIN page 8

New speed bumps give students jolt

NIKKI NORRIS
Staff Writer

Meredith students arrived back on campus after spring break to find that three new speed bumps had been installed on South Campus Drive between the main gate and the entrance to the Cate Center.

Campus Police Chief Frank Strickland said that although many people are complaining about this new addition, the speed bumps were installed for the safety of the Meredith community.

Strickland said that the Meredith College Safety Committee, which is comprised of representatives from all departments of the college including students, raised the issue of traffic safety at their quarterly meeting. Strickland stated that excessive speeding on campus has been a top concern for the committee.

Strickland also adds that a light pole on South Campus

Drive has been knocked down three times this semester due to speeding traffic. "We have also had a lot of joggers and walkers to report speeding," he said.

Strickland acknowledged that the speed bumps are an inconvenience to drivers, but he said that they were installed in the best interest of the campus. He said that if one acci-

dent is prevented, the additions are worth the inconvenience.

He also said that many students have complained that the speed bumps will knock their car out of alignment. However, Strickland said that if drivers will approach the bumps slowly, they will not harm their vehicles. He added that installing the new speed bumps

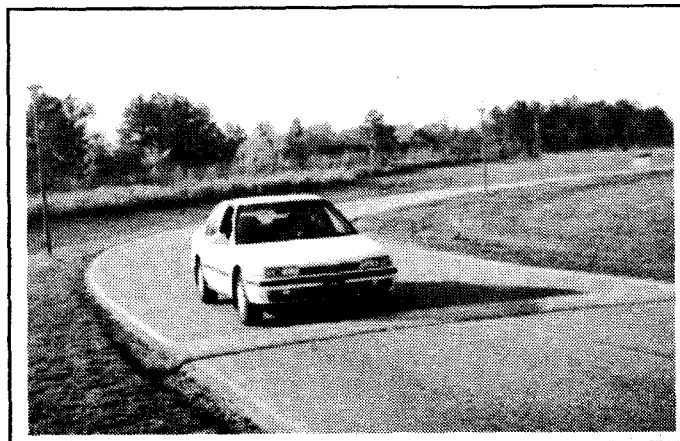
"was something we had to do to ensure safety."

Still, many people on campus are annoyed with the additional speed bumps; however, they still realize the reasons for installing them.

Sophomore Melissa Hamberg said, "I understand why the speed bumps are there, but they are still an aggravation."

In response to the complaints about the new speed bumps, Strickland said, "If people would obey speed limits and exercise due caution, there would be no need for speed bumps on campus."

There is another change in campus traffic. Because of many incidents involving vehicles running over shrubbery in the circle at the main gate, stop signs are in the process of being added at each of the three entrances to the circle. The roads are marked for drivers to stop, and yield signs will soon be replaced by stop signs.



New speed bumps on South Campus Drive make drivers slow down.

PHOTO BY JENNY ALTIER