

MEREDITH HERALD

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Educating Women to Excel

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Heilman fire displaces students

□ Cause of fire may never be known.

LESLIE MAXWELL
Editor in chief

The events that transpired during the early morning hours on Monday, April 10, had many students wondering if Heilman had some sort of curse.

Indeed, for the second time in four years, Heilman residence hall caught fire, damaging rooms and leaving students without permanent residences.

In the fall of 1996, the second floor of Heilman caught fire. That fire was caused by faulty wiring.

Monday's fire, which began in the first-floor laundry room trash can, was most likely caused by a cigarette, though the Raleigh Fire Department will probably never know what, in fact, caused the blaze.

Around 3 a.m. on Monday, Heilman residents were awakened to the sound of the fire alarm. After a four-minute evacuation of the building, which Campus Police Chief Frank Strickland called a "record," students realized that this was no drill.

The alarm went off automatically, for it has smoke alarms

and heat sensors.

Strickland said that the Raleigh Fire Department arrived in approximately six minutes, which he said was "excellent response time." The Fire Department remained on campus for nearly three hours, removing everything from the laundry room to ensure that no reignition would occur.

Michelle Aheron, residence director of Heilman, said that the set of double doors on the first floor kept the fires from spreading.

Meanwhile, Heilman residents were relocated to Jones Auditorium, where they found Vice President for Student Development Jean Jackson, President Maureen

Hartford and her husband Jay, Dean of Undergraduate Instruction Allen Page, Vice President for Institutional Advancement Murphy Osborne, Executive Vice President Chuck Taylor, Campus Minister Sam Carothers and Dean of Students Ann Gleason.

Early Monday morning, several companies arrived at

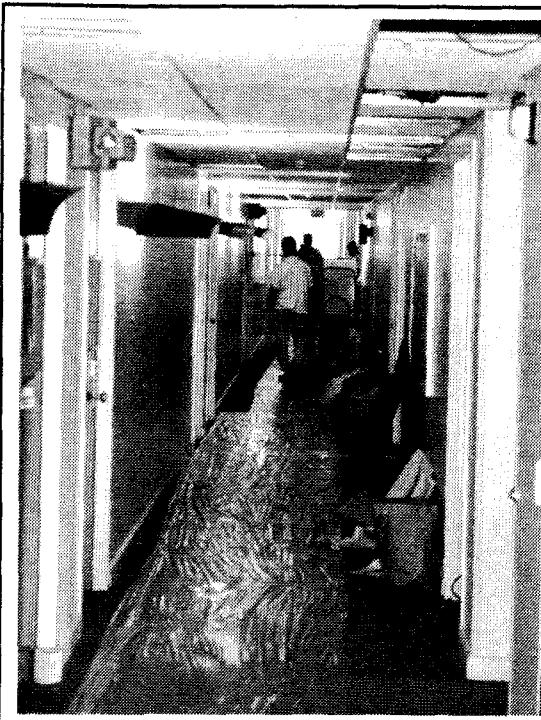
Meredith. These companies specialize in cleaning up and restoring after fires.

The workers are working on the first floor and in several rooms on the second and third floors.

Currently, most second- and third-floor residents of Heilman are still living in their room and those who had to leave can return by 6 p.m. today. However, first-floor residents will not be able to return to their rooms for the remainder of the semester. Tuesday morning, staff and administration found out from the cleaning crews that they would need another six weeks to two months to repair the damage on the first-floor.

This week, according to Gleason, the reconstruction crews will work on repairing the second and third floors of the residence hall. Three rooms on second floor and four rooms on third floor will be repainted and receive new ceilings.

Strickland said that the crews will clean all the soot off the walls, replace damaged carpet and replace lost



Restoration crew members work to clean the third floor of Heilman Residence Hall

PHOTO BY JENNY ALTIER

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Mothers, daughters celebrate special bond

STEPHANIE JORDAN
Staff Writer

Despite the unexpected chill in the air, the class of 2002 and their mothers donned their spring finery and celebrated their special bonds at the Sophomore Class Mother-Daughter Tea on Sunday, April 9.

Tickets were \$45 per couple, and T-shirts were \$8 per person. The ticket price included the meal for both mother and daughter.

Lauren McHugh said, "I had no idea what to wear and neither did my mom! I spent all morning calling people to see

what they were doing about the weather. But in the end it didn't really matter. I just wore a jacket."

Mothers and daughters gathered at the North Raleigh Hilton at 1 p.m. and enjoyed time to socialize and have pictures taken before lunch was served.

"I'm really glad that there was a photographer, just in case my mom's ten million pictures don't turn out good," Ashley Pruitt said.

Included in the ticket price was a clear plastic picture frame printed with white writing.

Laura Laughinghouse was

impressed with the souvenirs that each person, mother and daughter, received. "It was a pleasant surprise to see the frames on the table for everyone. It will be great to put pictures of all my suite mates and our moms in."

As everyone finished their meal, the "Ring-Around-the-Tub" (Bathtub Ring 2002) performed for the first time. Along with the familiar "Good Ole Mountain Dew" and "Circle of Friends," they sang "One True Friend" by Better Midler, which was the theme for the tea.

Barrett Coddington said, "I was really impressed by the

new group and it was exciting for them to be from our class. It's like we're finally 'big kids' now. My mom really liked them too, but I had to explain the story to her."

A slide show of pictures ended the afternoon. Each sophomore had been asked to submit two photos of herself and her mother, one from childhood and one more recent.

"I can't believe that it made me cry," said Ashley Webster. "The songs reminded me how special my mom was, and I guess it was just an emotional event all together."