

## For third year, juniors find hidden crook

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Staff Writer

The week of April 10 was an eventful one for the class of 2001. The week began with a fire in Heilman dorm that forced a floor of junior students to relocate elsewhere on campus. Then, on Wednesday, Apr. 12, the Crook Hunt, one of Meredith's oldest and most treasured traditions, began.

The hunt, which has occurred annually since 1929, is an elaborate hide-and-seek involving Meredith's junior and senior classes. The tradition originated in 1906 when Meredith instructors presented the senior class with a crook.

Every year the senior class hides the crook somewhere on Meredith's campus, and the junior class has a week to search for it, beginning Wednesday at 8 a.m. and concluding with the start of the Senior Picnic the following Wednesday.

This year, the five members of the senior class executive board, including President Erin Grant, ventured out late Tuesday night to hide the crook.

Wednesday morning at 8 a.m., juniors found the first clue awaiting them in the dining hall.

"We were so excited to hide the crook this year," said Grant. "We all really enjoyed the Crook Hunt."

While the senior class was busy hiding the crook, the juniors were preparing for the search at their final class meeting of the year on Tuesday night.

Class president Meredith Bolton said they had a "pre-Crook Hunt" pep rally, went over rules and discussed hunt techniques. They even designated their own Crook Command Center in the Freshman Center on first floor Vann.

The Command Center had huge maps of campus divided into sections. Bolton said that the class members rotated sections every day, making sure

that each part of campus was thoroughly searched.

The juniors had found little more than a lot of fake crooks in their hunt until Friday's clue, which included the phrase "are you having fun yet?" That phrase made junior Betsy Morgan notice that "yet" rhymed with net and concluded that the crook might be hidden near the tennis courts or soccer field.

Friday afternoon, juniors scoured the area surrounding the tennis courts and soccer field. At 5:45 p.m., junior Lori Neff dug up the crook behind one of the soccer goals.

"My hand was shaking. I screamed for Krystal [Tyndall] and we just started running," she explained. Tyndall was searching nearby when Neff found the crook.

Neff said, "I kissed the crook and we ran all over campus screaming. It was very exciting. The best part was that it was the best way to end our week, and it was a good way to pull our class together again after the fire."

Tyndall and Neff took the crook to junior class Vice President Elizabeth Warren, who then delivered it to senior class Vice President Emily Korman.

After the Crook Hunt, Bolton said, "I think our class did a great job working together and exchanging ideas. We communicated well in discussing different ideas about how to look for the crook. We are all very excited and very proud of everyone's hard work. This is a great way to end the year."

The rules of the Crook Hunt state that at least an inch of the stick must be visible from its hiding place and that the crook cannot be hidden in unreachable places like trees. The crook may not be under lock and key, nor may it be inside a building.

## Freshmen bid Bon Voyage to year

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After the thrill of their past year, from winning the Spirit Stick at Cornhuskin' to winning the Lip Sync competition at last week's Stunt, the freshmen have much to celebrate. And celebrate they did at their Fire and Water Dinner on Tuesday, Apr. 18 at 7 p.m. Belk Dining Hall became a sea-side harbor with the theme Bon Voyage, which complemented the class of 2003's Cornhuskin' theme, Sailing into New Harbors.

Freshmen had time to reflect on the memories of the past

year with their friends and the evening's activities. The newly inaugurated president of Meredith College, Dr. Maureen Hartford, spoke to the class.

Entertainment was provided by the acapella group Grains of Time from N.C. State. In addition, pictures donated by members of the freshmen class enabled them to have a slide show of memories of their freshman year. The class was also surprised by a serenade by their big sister class of 2001.

At the Fire and Water Dinner, which is one of the more recent traditions on campus, the freshmen rid themselves of

bad memories and cherish the good ones. Each student writes a bad memory on a scrap of paper, which she will burn. Similarly, she writes a good memory on a piece of paper. This memory, however, is placed in a plastic egg and thrown into the courtyard fountain, symbolizing the way that good memories will keep them afloat throughout their time at Meredith.

Freshman Barbara Hollingshed said, "I am glad that my list of good memories was longer than my list of bad ones. I think my friends are what I owe my gratitude to."

## Final senior art show of year

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Excitement was high in the Gaddy-Hamrick Art Building on Sunday, Apr. 16, as nine senior artists put on the second Senior Art Exhibition this year. The art show is put on every year by art professor Lisa Pearce's class because it is a requirement to graduate. The nine senior artists, Deborah Ashley, Ashlynn Browning, Lori Jones, Laura Totten, Erika Baker, Christie Evans, Heidi Bettis, Peggy Clover and Linda M. Larson, all chose their favorite pieces from the portfolios they have compiled over the past four years at Meredith.

The students brought together an assortment of art work, ranging from professional-looking graphic designs to abstract oil paintings. Each exhibit, and sometimes each piece, included a statement describing the artist's style and why she feels it is important to create her art work. Each artist was also present to answer any questions the onlookers had.

Browning, senior artist and winner of the Outstanding Art Student award at Academic Awards Day last Monday, said her intention in painting is "to make commentary on the world around me, namely the things that I see wrong with our modern society, and I hope to show that human emotion will always prevail in the end."

One of Browning's paintings of oil and collage, entitled "Walking through a crowd," is

a powerful representation of how she views the diverse faces in a crowd. "This piece was inspired by the experience of observing people pass and being struck by certain faces. Brief eye contact, fleeting gestures and facial expressions are captured in their momentary action. Each face also represents a distinct psychological state and the idea of maintaining individuality among a crowd."

Ashley paints in order to show the observer an aesthetically pleasing piece of art. Ashley says, "The work I create is about color, light, feelings and beauty. Using color and light to evoke an atmosphere or mood

has become central to my work, and it is important to me to produce art that is visually pleasing."

Bettis had another reason for creating her art work. She creates to express her understanding of the mysteries of the world around her. A number

of her pieces are portraits that help her display her inner feelings towards the way she sees herself interacting with the outside world. Bettis says, "My work is about the mystery of life—its complexities and paradoxes and our attempts to understand it. Our understanding of the world is not complete without a realization of both beauty and the grotesque, life and death, good and evil. Through my art, I seek to express these paradoxes and their effects on us."

These three women and their six other peers have their artwork on display in the Gaddy-Hamrick Art Building until Sunday, May 7.



Ashlynn Browning's painting "Walking through a crowd" is on display.

PHOTO BY JENNY ALTIER