

MEREDITH HERALD

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Educating Women to Excel

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Residents left high, dry Tuesday

□ Buildings across campus were without water

CHRISTINA HOLDER
Associate Editor

A pipe beneath Wainwright music building burst earlier that morning, flooding part of the building and causing water complications across campus, authorities said.

"It burst somewhere beneath this building," said Ben Perrou, a project manager from Cary Reconstruction, standing on a sidewalk outside of Wainwright wet with water and red clay, "and it will probably never be found."

Perrou and a crew of four-

teen arrived on site around 5:30 a.m. to begin flushing out the water that had risen as deep as two feet beneath the building into Carswell Auditorium, but they could not locate the busted pipe.

Water also spread throughout the front hall and rooms of the building and was "bubbling up...through the brick" in front of Wainwright, said Perrou.

The pipe was connected to a hydrant line that ran beneath the building. Perrou said there is no way to tell how the pipe burst, though authorities speculate the cause was age.

Officer Robert Luedtke of Campus Police received a call from three Meredith students who saw "water flowing" as they walked by Wainwright around 3 a.m. Tuesday morn-

ing.

Campus Police called Facility Services who cut off all the electricity in Wainwright as well as the east and west campus main lines, but it "didn't slow the flow" Luedtke said.

But it did slow the water supply in dorms across campus. Students did not have access to cold water and toilets would not flush for most of the day.

Senior Missy Neff said her Tuesday morning shower was "scalding hot."

By 4:30 p.m. yesterday, a large chunk of red earth was whittled away in front of Wainwright, exposing the existing pipeline that workers capped, restoring the campus water supply.

Meanwhile, inside Wain-

wright, twelve industrial fans and 8 humidifiers blasted through the halls into the evening. A 20-foot-long trailer humidifier, resembling a massive garden hose, wrapped through Carswell blowing dry air into the damp hall.

Perrou says it will take the front hall and rooms in Wainwright 2 to 3 days to dry. However, Perrou cannot speculate how long it will take Carswell to dry. The stage must be refinished.

But water is still trapped beneath the building.

"It found its way to the lowest point," said Perrou.

Now they will just have to wait for it to trickle out.

Students should avoid using the side entrance to Wainwright facing Heilman.

Seniors count down to graduation

□ Class of 2001 celebrates four years

BETSY RHAME
Staff Writer

The official countdown to graduation began last Thursday for the senior class at an event honoring them, 101st Night. At 9 p.m. on Feb. 1, seniors lined up outside the Stringfield side of Belk Dining Hall, anxiously waiting to see what the event was all about.

Upon each senior's entrance into the dining hall she was presented with a T-shirt and several souvenirs.

Balloons and a 'congratulations' sign decorated the room. Seniors helped themselves to cake and drinks and enjoyed the tunes the DISC JOCKEY was playing.

Cameras flashed as some students stood in front of the crowd to sing karaoke, all in celebration of the downhill journey for those leaving Meredith in May.

"I thought it was a really fun way to get prepped for graduation," said Thea Park.

"We had a really good time celebrating together."

Many seniors chatted with friends, reminiscing about their college years.

"It was a surreal experience because most of us have been together four years, and to see it come full circle, it's mixed emotions," said Mary Kerr ple Sutphin.

Remembering events the

class of 2001 has experienced in the past four years was common, as was the comment, "I can't believe we only have 101 more days!"

For some seniors this thought brought up a feeling of excitement, and for some, anxiety.

"It made me realize just how much time I don't have left," remarked Sherry Stephens. "I

guess that means we have to look for a job now," she said jokingly.

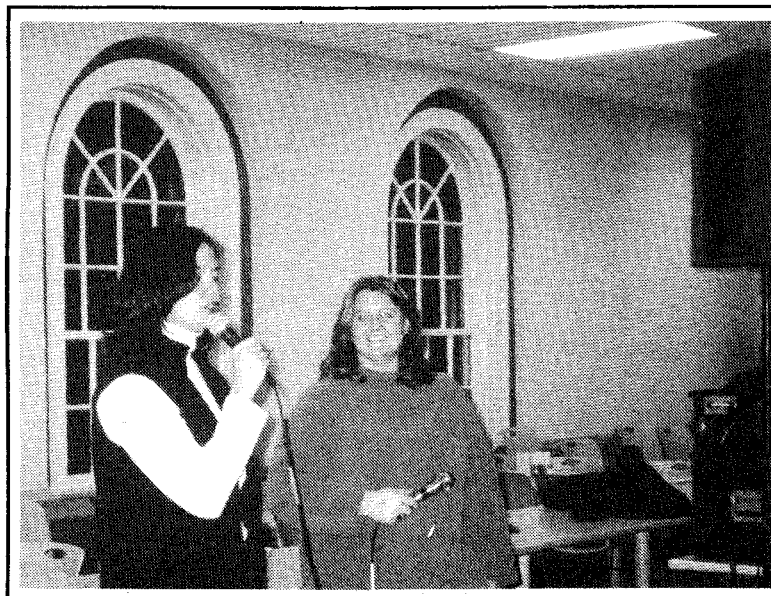
The night came together as a result of months of planning by the event's co-chairs, Cassie Evans, Ginger Yancey and Deanna Whaley.

"We worked really hard to make sure the night was special, and we were glad to see that everyone was having fun," Whaley said.

At 10:45 p.m. the seniors made their way to the rotunda in Johnson Hall where they were serenaded by the class of 2003. The seniors gazed up at their little sisters, serenading from the second floor balcony.

When the class of '03 finished singing, the seniors sang back to them such traditional favorites as "The Mountain Song" and "Forever and Ever, Amen."

The event was enjoyable and well-attended by the senior class, marking the last stretch of a college career for many.



Kelley Davidson and Deanna Whaley (l-r) perform karaoke at 101st Night.

PHOTO BY BETSY RHAME