

Christian organizations on campus without debate

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Staff Reporter

The quiet women's college on Hillsborough Street has always had a history with the Baptists.

So when an evangelical Christian organization called Campus Crusade for Christ (CCC) vied to get official campus recognition last March, one would have assumed that it would have been granted easily.

Yet it was not.

In fact, it was one of the hot topics of 2001, inciting editorials and letters to the editor in the *Meredith Herald*. Eventually the hubbub ceased when Senate signed Crusade into an official campus organization, giving it the legal recognition it needed to promote its meetings.

And everything has been rather quiet ever since.

However, when InterVarsity (IV), a similar evangelical Christian group, received the go-ahead from the Senate this past September, it went hardly recognized.

According to the Senate chair, junior Lora Tillman, IV came before Senate in the spring of 2000 but was rejected because senators decided that the existing Meredith Christian Association (MCA) already filled the needs of the students.

However, Tillman noted that this year's Senate "felt that more diverse decisions would be an asset to students and would not be a deterrent from other religious organizations on campus."

And so IV set up camp on campus in near obscurity.

And so IV was approved on campus, but without the angry students and faculty dissenters Crusade faced not so long ago.

Tillman said that "in comparison to the controversy surrounding the proposal of Campus Crusade, there were no complaints regarding IV, and the organization had the support of MCA and the Meredith Campus Ministry."

So what's the difference?

Campus Minister Sam Carothers, who opposed Campus Crusade becoming a Meredith organization because he felt there were some "unacceptable situations that developed in their behavior towards students of a particular denom-

inational heritage that participated in Crusade Bible study groups," said that he did not oppose the formalizing of IV as a Meredith organization.

"The difference hinges on the fact that they have, to the best of my knowledge, been open and inviting of students from all denominations in their group," he said of InterVarsity.

Carothers said he felt that the student leadership in Crusade had corrected those situations he felt were "unacceptable."

Dr. Jean Jackson, Vice President for Student Development, was another faculty member who expressed concerns about Crusade last year during its approval process. Her concern was that students were being pressured to attend Crusade, a concern that led to a meeting with Crusade leadership last spring.

Today, Jackson's concern seems to have waned.

"I am pleased to date with Meredith's Campus Crusade organization. They have, I believe, worked hard to publicize their meetings without putting pressure on students to come," she said.

"As far as I know, Crusade has worked hard to respect Meredith's expectations of organizations and has been well represented on Meredith's Interfaith Council," she added.

Jackson also has high hopes for IV. She said she looks "forward to seeing this organization become part of the Meredith community of faith."

"I feel confident that the issues of the past have been addressed and resolved," said Carothers. He noted that these campus religious organizations are now part of the Interfaith Council structure and are "pledged not only to a cooperative spirit in their individual programs but also to working towards creating and carrying out some joint programs."

The Interfaith Council includes organizations representing groups such as IV, CCC, MCA, some Catholic groups and the Latter Day Saints.

Now both Crusade and IV are working to overcome any stigma associated with being new religious organizations on campus.

Crusade has been meeting

on the Meredith campus for over 25 years in voluntary small group Bible studies in the dorms.

The ministry's weekly meetings--held at NC State on Thursdays at 10 p.m.--have long been attended by Meredith students.

The only big change since Crusade's official passage in the Senate has been its ability to advertise on campus and hold weekly prayer meetings each Tuesday in Joyner.

Senior Courtney Arrington, a member of the prayer team for Crusade, noted that the prayer meetings at Meredith are "steadily growing in numbers."

She described prayer meetings as "vital to the lives of those who attend as well as to the Crusade movement because they are the times that we learn specifically what God is doing in individual lives and on campus, which helps us to better know what needs prayer."

InterVarsity is newer to Meredith's campus but has similar activities for students. About 20 Meredith students regularly attend the weekly meetings on Thursday night at 8 p.m. at NC State.

Junior Amy Grasty, an IV Bible study leader, said they have also begun holding weekly prayer meetings on Wednesday mornings at 7:30 in the parlor of first Heilman.

Grasty said that while IV is currently planning several outreach activities in hopes of increasing its numbers on campus, they remain focused on "not only the Bible but also in evangelism by personal relationships."

So all remains quiet for now. Faculty and students seem to have reached some agreement.

"I do not see the addition of new groups as a negative influence on either MCA or the campus," said Carothers.

Arrington said that Crusade's main purpose "is to share the love of Christ with students and faculty."

She also expressed a belief that God will continue working on campus and stated, "our hearts are still focused on God and what He wants for this campus."

Election 2002

Here is what you need to know to file for office

Do you like to meet new people? Would you like to get involved? Do you want to make a difference? Would you like to voice your opinions and concerns about Meredith? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you should run for a campus-wide or class office in the upcoming election.

- 1) Choose an office.
- 2) Check out the offices listed in the SGA By-Laws in your Student Handbook and Activities Calendar.
- 3) Get an Elections Board Notebook, found in the first floor parlors of each residence hall and in the Office of Student Activities and Leadership Development, and look at the job descriptions, skills needed and time required for each position.
- 4) Don't hesitate to question the student that currently holds the position in which you are interested.
- 5) File for office.
- 6) Pick up one filing card from the Office of Student Activities and Leadership Development during filing week.
- 7) Make your filing card stand out and be creative when filling it out. They will be displayed in the Cate Center throughout the election period.
- 8) Borders may not exceed one inch on each side. Stunt and Cornhuskin' Co-chairs should one fill out one card together.
- 9) Attend one workshop.
- 10) You are required to attend one election workshop. You can schedule a make-up workshop through the Elections Board Chair.
- 11) Read handouts and information about campaigning carefully.
- 12) Plan your campaign.
- 13) Organize your campaign and choose reliable campaign manager.
- 14) Be creative!
- 15) Follow campaigning guidelines.
- 16) Choose campaigning materials.
- 17) Have specialty campaigning material approved by Elections Board Chair and Office of Student Activities and Leadership Development by the Friday of Specialty Campaigning Approval Week.
- 18) Be neat, noticeable, and tasteful.
- 19) Campaign.
- 20) Have fun!
- 21) Distribute publicity in accordance with campaign guidelines.
- 22) Talk with students about campus issues. Attend candidate speeches.
- 23) Be respectful.
- 24) Candidates may not campaign on the same platform with other candidates, with the exception of Stunt and Cornhuskin' Co-chairs.
- 25) Please remember to take down all campaign materials the following week of elections.
- 26) Vote. Cast your vote from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. with your Cam-card.

You will be notified by phone of the election results. A run-off election will be held if needed. Results will be posted in the first floor of resident halls, Belk Dining Hall, Johnson Hall, Carlyle Campbell Library, and the Cate Center.

SUBMIT YOUR PRESS RELEASE TO THE HERALD. ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 1 P.M. ON THE MONDAY BEFORE WEDNESDAY'S PUBLICATION.