

Class of 2007 reads *Night* over the summer

This year's incoming freshmen class read Nobel Prize winner Elie Wiesel's novel *Night* as part of the annual Summer Reading Program.

AUDREY TAMER
Staff Writer

Many incoming freshmen used the summer before college as a sabbatical from schoolwork, a sort of homework free vacation. However, incoming freshmen at Meredith had the opportunity to partake in the Summer Reading Program. The Summer Reading Program, although not required, is strongly encouraged. At Meredith, the program does not conclude at the finale of the book. Once the student has

completed reading the assigned work, the program extends numerous opportunities to the reader. These opportunities include presentations by professors and group discussions.

The program's goal is to build common bonds between students as they have shared the same reading experience. In addition, the program facilitates strong relationships between faculty and students as they are involved in group discussions about the book.

A few of the books from previous years are: *Ice Bound: A Doctor's Incredible Battle for Survival at the South Pole*, *In the Time of the Butterflies*, and *Tuesdays with Morrie*. The selection for the class of 2007 was *Night* by Elie Wiesel. This work exposed the horrors of the Holocaust through

the first hand accounts of Wiesel, a Holocaust survivor.

The book portrays the dark portion of world history known as the Holocaust in vivid detail. Some students felt that the purpose of this year's selection was to increase historical awareness. Genna Parker said that she felt the goal of the reading was to expose students to the horror of the Holocaust. Still others looked outside the book for meaning.

Angela Levesque felt that the goal of the reading was to culture the class and broaden their scope of literature.

In correlation with *Night*, Meredith has scheduled several events aimed at promoting student interaction with faculty and each other. Among the events arranged by the college is "Genocide in the

Modern World: The Night Continues". Also, guest speaker Elie Wiesel will join the Meredith community for a presentation in September.

Despite some preconceived notions about non-mandatory summer reading, the majority of Meredith students completed the book. Perhaps the Summer Reading Program intended not only to illuminate the Holocaust, but also to gradually prepare the minds of incoming freshmen for the transition to college.

"Reading kind of reactivated my mind at the end of the summer," said Kimberly Humphrey.

This year's book is extremely popular with the class of 2007 since many students had already read the book before this summer. However, that did not stop many people from

reading it a second time.

"I knew it would be good because I had already read it once. I looked forward to seeing something new in the book," said Adrienne Kralick. To some students, the book was a new experience in reading altogether. "It was the first personal account of the Holocaust I had read," explained Athena Garner.

Overall, this year's Summer Reading Program was a success. When asked, students overwhelmingly encouraged participation in the Summer Reading Program.

"You have a whole summer off! Do something intellectual. It doesn't take much time," said Sydney Darden.



College encountered technology related problems last week

TIFFANY ADAMS
Editor in Chief

Students, faculty and staff at Meredith encountered computer and phone problems last week as a result of network difficulties. These problems were largely due to computer viruses that were designed to take advantage of program vulnerabilities associated with the operating system Windows XP.

According to Chief Information Officer Mickey Brandstadter, the problems experienced on this campus are widespread, and Meredith is not the only campus being affected by these viruses.

All computers included in the Meredith Technology Initiative are equipped with Windows XP. Microsoft, the manufacturer of this operating system, found a minor flaw in this newly developed program and hackers have taken advantage of it.

The Technology Services Department has required all students to install updates on their computers in order to clean the machine and protect it against viruses.

"All of the main systems have been protected against attacks," Brandstadter said.

The updates were available in the Noel Annex on

August 26, and Technology Services established August 29 as the deadline for installing the updates.

According to Technology Services, computers without updates may be unable to access the network until the updates have been installed and verified by Technology Services.

Brandstadter said that several computers had viruses when students arrived back on campus from summer break, which could have contributed to the recent problems.

He also stated that another problem associated with the network comes from downloading music from sites such as Kazaa.

He said, "It slows the network, causes viruses and it's illegal."

Although the recent virus did not come from this source, it is important for the life of the computer network for students to avoid downloading music on campus.

The viruses are under control at this time, and technology at the College is, for the most part, back to normal. Students who have not yet downloaded the updates should go to the Noel Annex and get a CD in order to protect their computers. Students with questions and concerns should contact Technology Services at 760-2323.

Annual Blood Drive
Sept. 16

Our annual campus blood drive sponsored by Campus Ministry and the Red Cross will be held in the Cate Center from 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. You may volunteer to donate blood and/or volunteer an hour of your time that day assisting the Red Cross with the drive. Call the Campus Ministry office at x 8346 to sign up for a time to donate. There will also be a registration on Wednesday, Sept. 4th in the dining hall during the lunch hour, and in the Cate Center on Thursday, Sept. 5th during the lunch hour. There is also a sign up sheet to volunteer to help with the drive on the bulletin board outside of the Campus Ministry