

the MEREDITH Herald

GUITAR HERO
(SEE PAGE 4)

INSIDE

- 2 **News**
 - Counseling Center Here to Help You!
- 3 **Events**
 - SEPTA Partnering with Meredith
- 4 **Science & Technology**
 - Guitar Hero: Therapeutic Technology
 - 'Shocking' News
- 5 **Arts & Humanities**
 - Much Ado With Lots of Laughter
 - She's Come Undone: A Look Into The Novel
- 6 **Sports**
 - The Disease of Laziness
 - Sports Overview
- 7-8 **Opinion & Campus Life**
 - Susan's Pain
 - A Family's Dilemma
 - A Hard Road for Mental Health Insurance

Green Tip for the Week of October 27

Reduce waste by bringing your lunch in a reusable lunch box.

During the 2008-09 academic year, Meredith College's campus theme is "Sustaining our Environment: Developing our Greenprint." To help the Meredith community make daily choices that are beneficial to the environment, Angels for the Environment have compiled a year's worth of tips for greener living. To view green tips from previous weeks, visit www.meredith.edu/campus-theme/environmental-tips.htm.

HOMELESSNESS IN RALEIGH

by Morgan Ericson
Staff Writer



Photos courtesy City of Raleigh

The many faces of homelessness

Although the Triangle has not experienced the worst of the nation's economic crisis, the area has begun to feel the effects in the areas of unemployment, foreclosures, apartment evictions and homelessness. According to an editorial published in the News & Observer on Aug. 23, 2008, in July of 2008 North Carolina faced a 6.6% unemployment rate in comparison with the national rate of 5.7%.

In the past year, the nation has watched in horror as loans defaulted and homebuyers did not have a suitable credit history to purchase housing. Landlords have foreclosed on their properties, forcing their tenants to leave. Although it can be difficult to pity car dealers, they have experienced a 30% drop in sales in the last month; the fact that the auto industry supplies 1 in 10 jobs in this country is not reassuring (USA Today).

Homelessness is rising on a national level as families are being evicted and cannot purchase affordable housing. Within the Triangle homelessness has now become an issue on two fronts: the economic

crisis and housing collapse, in addition to the closing of Dorothea Dix Hospital, have pushed people to the streets. Chaos.

Complex issues, lawsuits and disagreements surround the closing of Dorothea Dix Hospital, a psychiatric institution which serves over sixteen counties in North Carolina. One of the greater controversies pertains to Central Regional Hospital in Butner, North Carolina, where many Dorothea Dix patients will be transferred.

Lawyers for Disability Rights North Carolina filed a lawsuit against the hospital and suggested a delay in transferring patients there, claiming that the security system issues false alarms, staffing levels are sometimes insufficient, and that there have been leaks in the roof and problems with the air conditioning system. A delay in closing the hospital was upheld after reports surfaced that the staff of Central Regional Hospital had been claiming Dorothea Dix's voucher number for insurance claims since they are still not federally accredited... Despite all this mess, Governor Easley and

the courts have continued to suggest the closing of Dorothea Dix, much to the rage of staff doctors and citizens.

The result? Psychiatric patients without private insurance will become homeless if they cannot find a hospital local enough to be admitted to. Another problem arises with respect to costs in transportation. According to an N&O article by Lynn Bonner, members of the Wake County chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness reported that huge amounts of money are spent annually on transporting the mentally ill to hospitals. Sheriffs have estimated that the cost in time for the police department averaged \$3.7 million annually, a statistic which will only worsen with the ensuing closure of Dorothea Dix.

Although many organizations exist to provide homeless people with food, temporary shelter, clothing and other essentials, the new wave of homelessness resulting from the hospital's closure and the housing crisis will probably deplete some of these resources. Also, even though

See HOMELESSNESS, PAGE 2

