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Raleigh, North Carolina

Taylor helps Meredith reroute

By Arinn Dixon

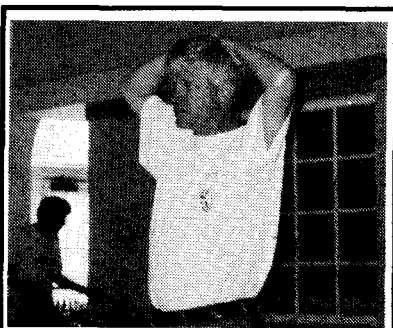
After spending Thursday night being pounded and pummeled by Hurricane Fran, Meredith students woke up Friday morning dazed and confused to the sight of limbs, uprooted trees and debris strewn across the campus. Word spread quickly by word-of-mouth that Director of Business and Finance Chuck Taylor scheduled an informative meeting at 12:15 p.m. in Belk Dining Hall.

Taylor began the meeting by thanking the 300 students present for being calm and laid-back during both the hurricane and the next morning's power and water loss. "You students have done well," Taylor said. "We appreciate your cooperation during this crisis."

As the meeting progressed, Taylor talked about the damage caused by Fran and how it affected Meredith. He warned students about downed power lines and flooding around Raleigh, encouraging them to use caution when driving in town.

After apologizing for the lack of water, power and phones, Taylor answered questions about when the utilities might come back on. He said Meredith's phones ran on electricity, so during the blackout students would have no phone service. In the meantime students could use the campus's two pay phones in Johnson Hall. He speculated the power and water could return any time, and asked students to be patient.

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Chuck Taylor addresses students at an emergency meeting on Friday.

FRAN HITS HOME



Fallen limbs, compliments of Hurricane Fran, litter the lawn in front of Johnson Hall.

By Ginny Bonkemeyer

Hours after battering 200 miles of North Carolina coastline, Fran roared into the Triangle, still packing hurricane-force winds.

Hurricane Fran assaulted North Carolina with a fury compared to that of Hazel in 1954, one of the most destructive hurricanes to hit the east coast.

After making landfall at 9:00 Thursday night between Holden Beach and Wrightsville Beach, the storm marched due northwest across the state. Much like Hurricane Hugo, it retained hurricane-force winds for hundreds of miles inland. Fran was finally downgraded to a tropical storm around 5:00 a.m. Friday, as it passed into Virginia.

Topsail Island, on the northeast side of the eye, was the hardest hit. Officials reported that 80% of the structures on the island were severely damaged or destroyed.

The destruction continued well inland. Unlike most hurricanes, which weaken dramatically upon landfall, Fran continued to hurl hurricane-force winds for over eight hours after striking land.

Emerald Isle and Atlantic Beach, which suffered so much damage from

Bertha, fared much better this time. The area lost power for several days, but there was much less structural damage

New Hanover County was also hit very hard. Many homes in Wilmington's historic district were severely damaged, along with about a quarter of the city's other homes. Wrightsville Beach is expected to be closed to residents for a week or more.

By 1:00 a.m. Friday, the center of the hurricane had reached Sampson County. Duplin County, on the northeast side of the eye, suffered extensive damage as 80mph winds swept through.

A Duplin County woman in her 90's was killed when the storm toppled the chimney of her home. All power is out in the county, and may take up to three weeks to repair.

Severe effects of the storm were felt as far up the coast as the Pamlico Sound.

The Pamlico and Neuse Rivers rose 10 to 12 feet for several hours. New Bern's Front Street and waterfront bridges were closed to traffic for 10 hours, due to flooding.

Flooding was severe in Washington, miles inland on the Pamlico River.

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Students deal with damage

By Kim Highland

The destruction that Hurricane Fran caused throughout North Carolina is said to be worse than the damage of Hurricane Hazel in 1954. As students waited out the storm either at Meredith or at their homes, they witnessed the effects of Fran around them. Luckily on campus there was not too much damage — fallen trees, leaky roofs, and minimal flooding was about the extent of it. But some student's homes or the homes of their loved ones are far worse. Some people still do not have water or electricity, and the damage to some homes will cost thousands of dollars to repair.

Sophomore Saura Baker decided to go to her boyfriend's apartment off of Wake Forest Road to ride out the storm on Thursday night. She knows now that was a mistake. Baker said that at 3:00 a.m. the water started flooding into the house. "The water came to about thigh high on the first floor," Baker said. Everyone at the house went upstairs with as many belongings as they could carry. "It was really scary," Baker said. "The refrigerator was floating around the apartment." They were finally rescued by boat on Friday at noon. Everything on the first floor of the apartment and most of the cars in the apartment complex were ruined due to the flooding.

From Wilmington, senior Donna Gurganus heard from her family about the aftermath of Hurricane Fran. Gurganus said, "The flooding started at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday and the storm didn't even hit until 8:00 or 9:00." Her mother said that two pine trees fell on the roof and caused some minor roof damage. They were really lucky compared to many people in that area. Gurganus's brother, however, was not so fortunate. His apartment at Wrightsville Beach had so much flooding that the water went up to his shoulders. He lost everything in his apartment and in the restaurant that he manages.

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