

From the editor...

The 101.5 FM deejay's voice came over the speakers loud and clear. "N.C. State, closed. St. Augustine's, closed. St. Mary's College, closed. Wake County Public Schools, closed..." As I listened, I sat close by the radio, positive that the next words out of his mouth would be "Meredith College." Wrong. Unfortunately, there was no mention of Meredith.

Strange, I thought. Wasn't this the same administration that canceled classes during January's snow storm, helping countless students avoid accident and injury? Wasn't it the same administration that had the foresight to cancel last Friday's classes before any other school when it seemed Fran might get rowdy on Raleigh? It didn't make sense that Meredith's decision-makers would ruin their impeccable track record by asking students to come to school the Monday after the hurricane.

It struck me that perhaps the administration failed to take a few facts

into consideration when they made the decision to hold class Monday. First, the roads were bad, and that may be the understatement of the decade. Fallen trees, mammoth puddles and intersections sans traffic lights all served to make Raleigh roads dangerous at best, and impassable at worst. Please remember commuters make up about 53% of Meredith's population and, by having class, the administration risked those students' safety. I think I read somewhere that Meredith prides itself on keeping its students safe, but apparently that only applies to resident students.

Second, I want to remind Meredith's people in high places that Wake County, in addition to 33 other North Carolina counties, was declared a federal disaster area. Houses, cars and property were destroyed. I don't think that those who spent their weekends cutting trees out of cars and bailing water out of bedrooms felt up to coming to class Monday morning. Some hadn't had power or water for three days, yet they were ex-

pected to come to class?

Last, it makes sense to pay attention to what surrounding schools are doing. Isn't there probably a reason why State, St. Mary's and St. Augustine's canceled classes? Their students live in the same apartments and neighborhoods as Meredith's and had to deal with the same destruction to roads and private property.

Since I had everything figured out, I thought I'd spread my knowledge to the administration. I called Dr. Weems at home Sunday afternoon and left a message on his machine, but he never called me back. Monday I tried both Chuck Taylor, director of Business and Finance, and Dr. Weems in their offices. Unfortunately, neither was available, so I'll say it right here — Meredith students are not like the postal service. We can't keep going in wind or rain, sleet or snow. Please keep this in mind the next time Raleigh bears the brunt of a natural disaster.

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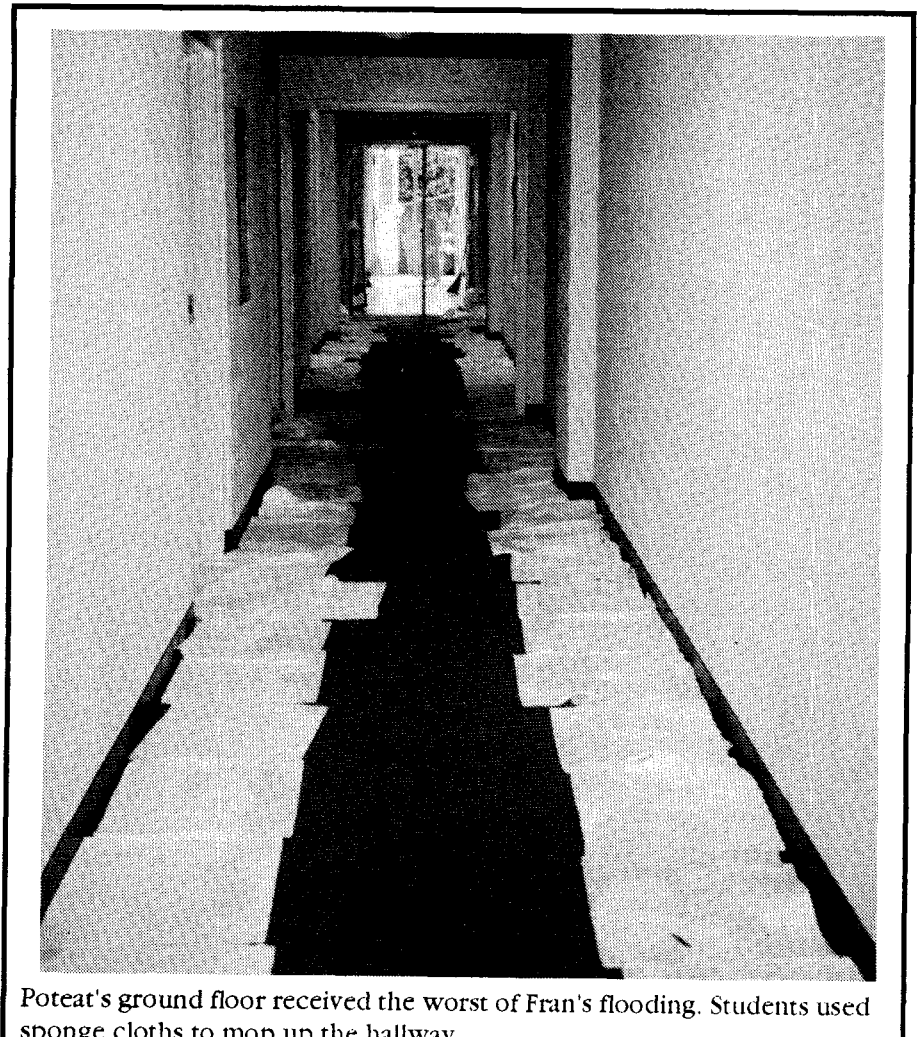
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The *Herald* reserves the right to place any other article submissions on file until needed or to choose not to print them.



Poteat's ground floor received the worst of Fran's flooding. Students used sponge cloths to mop up the hallway.