

# Meredith Herald

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We attract bright, talented, ambitious students. Naturally we're a women's college.

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□ Meet the new freshman Vice-President, Lauren Carr.

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## Dr. Wade Davis delivers Honors Convocation

□ Renowned speaker opens minds with tales of South America.

KAT ALLEN  
Staff Reporter

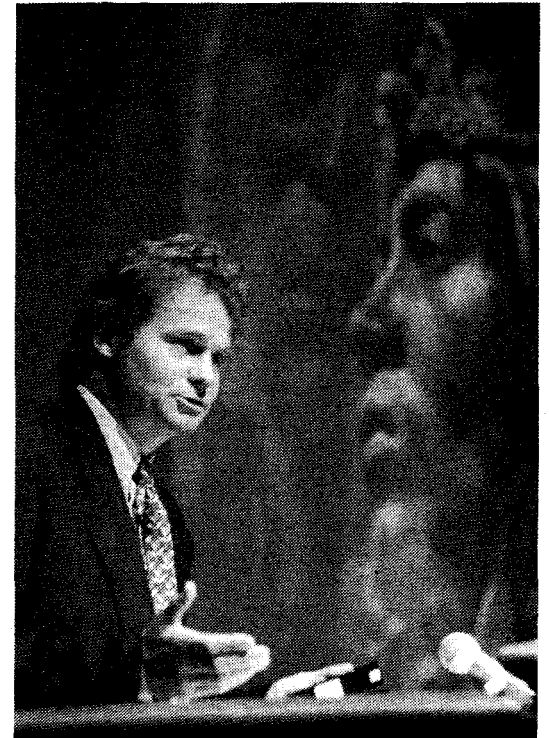
Monday morning, Meredith was graced by a lecture given by Dr. Wade Davis as a part of the Honors Convocation. The 228 honor students were recognized by Dr. Janice Swab. The majority of the honor students were Teaching Fellows, but other honor scholarships included art, math, and music.

Promptly after the introduction of the honor students, Dr. Davis jumped right into his speech. Native to British Columbia, Davis is a Harvard graduate. He is the author of several books, including international best seller *The Serpent and the Rainbow*, about the lives of indigenous peoples in South America.

Davis began by crediting his mentor, whom he called "the great professor." He then discussed some of his

work traveling through the Amazon studying various plant species. A biologist, ethnobotanist, and anthropologist, Davis spent many years living among the people of the rain forests and trying to find the origins of many of their sacred plants. He talked about one such journey in detail—his search for coca leaves. The Native Americans use these sacred leaves for medicinal and spiritual purposes; we associate them with the amphetamine cocaine. However, after finding these leaves, and having them analyzed, he found that they had only traces of cocaine and a high nutritional value. These leaves actually contained high amounts of calcium and are loaded with vitamins. The coca leaves are not like the pure cocaine that we find on the streets. In fact, just like so many of the plants that we view as drugs, the Native Americans use these plants for sacred purposes. Most of the plants can be either hallucinogens, medicine, or poison; it simply depends on what the dosage is.

Davis went on to tell the story of the man who was his "dream weaver," his professor. He noted that the purpose of this lecture was not only to "celebrate the poetics of culture," but also to "talk about the beauty of the relationship between a professor and a student." It was the biology class taught by his professor that got Davis started down his path, and his professor that inspired him. "The great professor," as he repeatedly referred to  
**See DAVIS page 3**



Dr. Wade Davis relates his experiences with indigenous peoples at the Honors Convocation Monday in Jones Auditorium.

Photo by Steve Wilson

## Faircloth floods over weekend

ALLISON CARTER  
Layout Editor

Sunday morning at 4:15 am Campus Police received a call reporting flood-type conditions forming on the second floor of Faircloth Hall. The source of the water was found to be a broken water pipe on third floor where a student accidentally fell into the pipe behind the commode.

Clarke Suttle, director of Facilities Services, arrived on campus shortly after the call was made and turned off the water to the block of affected rooms on the first, second, and third floors of the dormitory.

Maintenance and Security staffs worked with the flooding until approximately 9:30 when housekeeping staff members came in to continue the clean-up. During this time, Dean of Student Development Jean Jackson brought breakfast for the students whose rooms were affected.

Sunday afternoon, four students

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## MRA Week shines through rain

□ Events raise spirit for upcoming recreational activities.

Robin Riddick  
Staff Reporter

Not even last week's rain could dampen the spirits of the students during the new MRA Spirit Week.

Shelly Hoover, sponsor for Meredith Recreation Association, said that the "MRA Week was one of the best ever, and I think that the Spirit Week was a neat, original idea that I hope will become a tradition here at Meredith."

Monday was also the kickoff for the new MRA spirit week, where students dressed according to what day it was.

On Monday students wore their favorite college sweatshirts, whether it was Meredith, UNC, or Harvard, and on Tuesday, everyone dressed as twins.

Monday was also Information Day, and many students signed up in Belk and Cate to help the committee co-chairs in upcoming MRA events such as Cornhuskin', Little Friends, and the Meredith Miler.

Wednesday was Meredith Day, and most students were a walking head-to-toe advertisement for the college in their sweatshirts, socks, hats, and bows. The pieces of apparel that were most widespread that day were raincoats and a lot of umbrellas.

Because of the pouring rain, the picnic had to be moved inside, but that did not stop everyone from having a great time. Belk Dining Hall never looked more alive as MRA members worked hard at making banners and

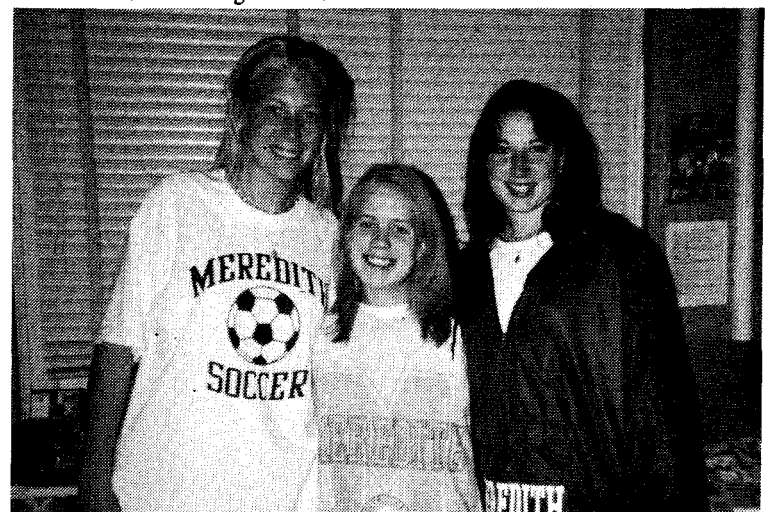
balloons, and being disk jockey.

Thursday was Inside/Out day, when it was actually stylish for students to turn their dirty shirts to the inside and wear them all day long.

MRA also sponsored the Coffee with Friends Thursday night, where they provided free games all night long.

To end the week, Friday was 80's day and there were more bell-bottoms,

**See SPIRIT page 3**



MRA members Charity Quist, Melinda Bums, and President Charlotte Philen show their school pride for Meredith Day. Photo submitted by MRA