



MEREDITH HERALD

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Educating Women to Excel

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Meredith Herald

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Suprise snow blankets Meredith

□ Students braved the cold for winter fun; cabin fever set in.

LESLIE MAXWELL
Editor in Chief

As Meredith students awoke last Tuesday morning, Jan. 25, they discovered a prodigal winter wonderland outside their windows.

However, after nearly a week of no classes, no cars and nothing to do, they felt more like "the weather outside is frightful."

Reports came that this storm was the worst winter storm Raleigh had seen since the late 1800s or early 1900s.

Effectively shutting down the college, the snow was responsible for cancellations of everything from classes to special activities.

Through the recommendations of members of the Senior Management Team, including Dean of Undergraduate Instruction Allen Page and Executive Vice President Chuck Taylor, President Maureen Hartford made the final decisions about class cancellations or delays.

Hartford said that the decisions were based on the road conditions for professors and

commuter students.

"We had concerns about having them on the roads," Hartford said.

Taylor added that over 50 percent of Meredith students are commuters. He said that, fifteen years ago, when about 90 percent of students lived on campus, classes would have been held on some of the snow days.

Though the spring semester officially began on Jan. 12, many students and teaches feel as if class has not yet started.

After missing Tuesday, Jan. 18 and the mornings of Wednesday, Jan. 19, Thursday, Jan. 20 and Monday, Jan. 24 because of snow and ice, the Meredith community thought the winter weather was over.

However, a wintery mix began to fall on the evening of Jan. 24 and eventually covered Meredith's campus and the rest of Raleigh with over 20 inches of snow.

Thad O'Briant, director of campus dining services, was one of the few staff members on campus last Tuesday.

O'Briant spent every night



Poteat Residence Hall stands behind a seemingly endless field of snow after last week's record snowfall. Because of the snow, Meredith's classes were canceled for four days.

PHOTO BY JENNY ALTIER

last week on campus in order to prepare for meals the following day. He came in on Monday evening when the sleet and snow began to fall.

Tuesday, one cook walked to campus from the Pullen Park area. In addition, Rick McBane, who works in Media Services in the library, walked from his nearby home to help out.

Students from every class helped O'Briant with meals on Tuesday, doing everything from making pizza to cleaning trays to refilling ice machines.

"They just started volunteering," O'Briant said.

At lunch, O'Briant estimated that about 14 seniors helped out. At dinner, he estimated about 16 juniors helping.

Junior Elizabeth Jackson was one of those students who lent a hand to the effort.

"Working in the cafeteria was fun because we had a good group," she said.

Wednesday brought more dining hall staff members, yet it was, according to O'Briant, about 25 percent of the total staff.

"As the weather improved, more people came in," O'Briant said as more staff came on

Thursday and Friday.

Only a few other staff members remained on campus during the snow, including Campus Police.

Sergeant Cedric Venable and Joe Torissa were the two officers who remained on campus for 24 hours, advising students not to leave. Though they could not drive until early Wednesday morning, just knowing someone was there comforted many students.

During the week, Campus Police helped stranded students, got cars unstuck and doors unlocked and transported students to area hospitals.

Campus Police Chief Frank Strickland said, "We were fortunate that we had two officers here during the weather."

Strickland himself returned to campus on Friday, Jan. 28, and the entire force returned on Monday, Jan. 31.

Strickland reported that Campus Police had made about 15 jump starts, changed about four flat tires and helped about 25 vehicles get unstuck on Tuesday, Feb. 1.



The Meredith lake gleams with ice and snow last week.

PHOTO BY JENNY ALTIER

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