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## Winter Storm

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Durham, Johnston, Moore, Orange, Scotland, Wake and Wayne County schools were closed Wednesday as well.

The snow created hazardous driving conditions on roads. In addition, parking lots and sidewalks were dangerous. Officials urged people to stay off highways so they could clear roadways and hopefully get schools and businesses back opened last Wednesday.

Another storm predicted to hit the Triangle Monday



Photo by Tiffany Adams

Meredith College Under Adverse Weather (and yet the fountain still worked!!)

evening just slipped by hitting the southern corner of North Carolina. South Carolina got the brunt of this storm. Major electricity service providers reported approximately 174,000

power outages. Six weather-related deaths were reported in South Carolina from car accidents. There have been several deaths in North Carolina due to weather related car accidents as well.

## CALLING ALL ANGELS!!!

If you know of an outstanding Meredith Angel who has done something "Heavenly" to help out either someone in need, her community, or Meredith College, and you would like to see her featured, please email your nominations to [herald@meredith.edu](mailto:herald@meredith.edu)

## WORLD NEWS

# France Attempts to Ban Religious Symbols From Schools

KATIE O'NEAL  
Staff Writer

France is causing an uproar among world powers by proposing a law that would ban all religious symbols from state schools. The category, religious symbols, would include anything that could be seen as promoting a faith.

However, Education Minister Luc Ferry made the surprising comment during Wednesday's National Assembly legal committee meeting that beards, Muslim veils and bandannas could also be interpreted as promoting religion and therefore, could be banned.

The idea of forbidding followers of Islam from

displaying their traditional headwear in school is causing many in the Muslim community to feel as if the ban is aimed directly at them.

France, which is home to five million Muslims, maintains that the law is in no way focused on punishing the Muslim community, but rather on promoting tolerance for all religions.

Many of France's government officials, however, confirm that the law will serve the purpose of cutting off Islamist influence among the Muslim community. In an effort to compromise, Education Minister Ferry has suggested that perhaps Muslims could continue to wear their traditional



headwear if kept discreet.

Some have been pacified by Ferry's suggestion, such as Chain Singh, a representative of around 5,000 Sikh Muslims, who claims the Muslim community should be pleased by Ferry's effort at compromise. Others, however, feel it is not good

enough. Many Muslims continue to protest the law.

Many remain apprehensive about the law because they feel it is unclear and vague. Exactly what falls under the category of religious symbols? The French government, rather than compile an actual list of items that will be forbidden, has chosen to keep only with the broad title of religious symbols.

The government is doing so in order to avoid a loophole, which would allow students to display religious symbols, as long as those items were not on the list.

As expected, France is receiving criticism from

all ends of the spectrum for proposing such a controversial law. Among other things, France is being accused of violating religious freedom and demonstrating a trend towards intolerance.

Jacques Chirac, France's president, has been offered little support from his own colleagues, many of who have openly said they will vote against the law. Members of Muslim, Christian and Jewish communities have all expressed offense and outrage over the plan. The proposed law will be discussed more in depth sometime next month.