



MEREDITH HERALD

Volume XXVII, Issue 5

Educating Women To Excel

September 29, 2004

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Meredith's Weekly Weather

WEDNESDAY	Partly Cloudy High 75/ Low 55
THURSDAY	Mostly Sunny High 77/ Low 55
FRIDAY	Mostly Sunny High 79/ Low 57
SATURDAY	Partly Cloudy High 80/ Low 60
SUNDAY	Partly Cloudy High 77/ Low 58
MONDAY	Partly Cloudy High 79/ Low 56
TUESDAY	Mostly Sunny High 76/ Low 55

Anne Garrels Speaks to Meredith Community

PIPER PETROCELLI
Staff Writer

Meredith students had the distinct pleasure of meeting the brave and eloquent Anne Garrels, foreign correspondent for National Public Radio, and author of "Naked In Baghdad". Garrels addressed the Meredith community on Monday, September 28 at 6:30 in Jones Auditorium. Her visit included interactive discussions with students and staff during the day, an intensely moving public lecture later in the evening, followed by a short question and answer session regarding the war in Iraq.

Garrels asserted that the news in Iraq is not good. Sadly, most Iraqis blame the United States for the turmoil in their country. According to Ms. Garrels, "Most Iraqis believe their lives are worse now than before the war". The state of flux in which the country of Iraq now finds itself is confusing at best. No country likes being occupied and they want the US to leave, but also knows that things may dissolve

into chaos once the US is gone. Many feel that their country has been turned into a battleground for Al Qaeda and the US. Extremists are heavily armed, and Ms. Garrels described them aptly as a "deadly hydra". The extremists are not so much one centralized terrorist network as they are united in one goal: to get the US out of Iraq. Ms. Garrels also revealed that translators have been targeted. Extremists continue to threaten the lives of individuals and their families in order to stop anyone from working with Americans. Despite the US declaration that our mission had been accomplished more than a year ago, extremists are in complete control of Fallujah. Reporters can't get in, nor can our US Marines. Currently the US controls only one road that leads to that city.

Middle class Iraq looks normal to the casual observer. Children have returned to school, but mothers are no longer putting them on buses for fear of their safety. Outside of the cities in smaller villag-



Photo courtesy Corporation of Public Broadcasting

es, tumultuous conditions in Iraq are exacerbated by extremely high unemployment. Aside from certain areas, Iraqis often lack the basic necessities such as clean drinking water.

Ms. Garrels originally went to Iraq in order to follow the weapons inspectors searching for weapons and associated development programs. She discovered the extraordinary stories of ordinary Iraqi people. She has seen a resurgence of radical Islam. Whereas she did not wear a scarf during most of her visits before the war, she now wears one that hides all hair at all times. She also noted that women in Fallujah are now covered head to toe. In certain cultures this is done

as a show of devotion, but in Iraq it has become a matter of safety. Iraqi women don't want to go backwards in regards to their personal freedom. They would also like to see all of their female children attend school, and marry later than the age of 13 or 14 years old, which has become the norm for poorer families.

Ms. Garrels plans on returning to Iraq on November 1st. Her NPR colleagues Peter Kenyan and Emily Harris are currently reporting from Iraq. The correspondents and their families are well aware of the dangers in Iraq, especially kidnappings. Germany and Spain have already urged their reporters to leave.

Please join us for the Campaign Kickoff Celebration on Thursday, October 21st!

We are honored to have Silda Wall Spitzer '80, Executive Director of Children for Children Foundation of NYC, on Meredith's campus. Classes will be canceled during her keynote address, so please come to Jones Auditorium at 11:45 to hear her speak. Lunch will be served in the Courtyard following the program.

SILDA A. WALL is President of Children for Children Foundation, a not-for-profit organization she co-founded in 1996, which empowers young people to "Grow Involved" by volunteering their time and resources to benefit youth and others, with a focus on providing critical materials and services to New York City schools in underserved communities. She has a law degree from Harvard Law School (juris doctor 1984) and an undergraduate degree from Meredith College (summa cum laude, December 1979) with double majors in English and history. She currently serves on the Horace Mann School Board of Trustees and the Advisory Board of NYCharities.org, is a member of the NY Blue Ribbon Commission on Youth Leadership and is Co-chair of NYC's annual Project Cicero book drive to build classroom libraries.

We are delighted to have her with us!

The event is free and since students are an integral part of the campaign we hope you will all be able to join us in celebrating the campaign kickoff.

If you would like to join us for lunch please RSVP by October 9th to the Office of Institutional Advancement by emailing valiel@meredith.edu or calling 760-8374.