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Educating Women To Excel

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ON THE INSIDE:

Sri Lanka
Continued
Page 2

Sri Lanka
Journals
Page 3

World
News
Page 5

Coffeehouse
Success
Page 5

Meredith
Sports
Page 6

Announcements
Page 8

Meredith's Weekly Weather

WEDNESDAY Sunny
High 53/ Low 29

THURSDAY Sunny
High 52/ Low 28

FRIDAY Sunny
High 54/ Low 36

SATURDAY Showers
High 62/ Low 46

SUNDAY Showers
High 63/ Low 49

MONDAY Mostly Cloudy
High 65/ Low 39

TUESDAY Showers
High 56/ Low 36

Meredith Experiences Sri Lanka

KELLY BETH SMITH
Contributing Writer

Sri Lanka is a little like Cornhuskin—you just have to experience it!

On December 26th a group of Meredith students, faculty, and friends embarked on a journey halfway around the world. After 30 hours of traveling (I wish I could say that was an exaggeration), we arrived in Sri Lanka. We spent 10 days in this beautiful country and then proceeded home to the US by way of London. We've only been home for a little over a week now, and many of us are just recuperating from jet lag. There is an 11 hour time difference between the Unit-

ed States and Sri Lanka, but judging from how distinctly different these two countries are one might assume that the time difference was more like 30 years.

Sri Lanka is a lush, tropical country with the brightest shades of green trees you could imagine. We spent a significant amount of time on our tour bus as we covered most of the southern and central part of the country in only a week and a half. We would pass by rolling hills of tea plants and catch stunning glimpses of the Indian Ocean from our windows. You never knew what kind of surprise stops Dr. Webb and our tour guide, Upali, had up their sleeves for us. We visited a Batik Factory where women



Part of the group pauses for a picture, while they are climbing Sigiriya Rock.

hand dye cloth into all sorts of wonderful creations: wall hangings, shirts, saris, etc. Their tools are primitive, but their final products are breathtaking and elaborate works of art. We also paid visit to a sea turtle sanctuary, an herbal medicine garden, a wood carving store, a tea

factory, and many Buddhist temples. Oh, and I can't forget our elephant ride!

The value of an American dollar is evidence of how privileged we all are: one dollar is equal to one

**CONTINUED ON
PAGE 2**

Author Rebekah Walker Speaks at Meredith

EMELIA DUNSTON
Staff Writer

On Monday, January 23, 2006, Meredith College was privileged to have renowned author Rebecca Walker come speak to students as a part of the College's convocation series. Rebecca Walker, the daughter of writer Alice Walker and liberal Jewish lawyer Mel Leventhal, was born in November of 1969 and grew up in New York and San Francisco. She is the author of the international bestseller *Black, White and Jewish: Autobiography of a Shifting Self* and the founder of the Third Wave Foundation, the only national, philanthropic organization for women.

Ms. Walker came to Meredith to talk about commemorating the work of Dr. Martin

Luther King, Jr. and how everyone can take a part of his work and lessons into their everyday life. Her speech was entitled "Today is the tomorrow that was promised to you yesterday." She began by saying that everyone needs to honor Dr. King because he asked Americans to live up its ideals and challenged everyone to be more loving and caring to each other. She felt that if everyone took the right steps, they could rise to the challenge and become better human beings while making the world a better place. She also discussed that there are many things bubbling beneath the surface that are going to cause problems in the future if they are not taken care of. For example, Ms. Walker stated that American culture is growing more extreme ev-

eryday, but Americans are led to believe that if they go along with it, everything will be okay. In return, she asked if everything's okay, "Why do we still live in a segregated society?" She believes that the major cause of this problem is the concept of individualism. She feels that it is at that the very core of western thought and destroys the possibility of peace and prosperity. Also, she mentioned that the most valuable resource that humans have is openness, a state of mind all humans are capable of achieving despite personal beliefs. But it's almost non-existent. This openness, as she said, allowed Dr. King to have a dream not just for African-Americans but for everyone. "The measure of a human being has more to do with openness and how

adaptable one is to others, than what grades you get in your classes," she said. To close her speech, she left the audience with one final thought, "If we continue to believe that everything is okay, we will continue to destroy ourselves. We must re-learn how to be open to each other. This is something Dr. King would be proud of."

Even some may not have agreed with her opinions on issues, Rebecca Walker certainly left a lasting impression with the students and staff here at Meredith. She made people take a second look at their own actions and practices and hopefully wonder what they can do to make the world a better place for everyone.