

Improving Maternal Health

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Contributing Writer

Did you know that half of one million women die in pregnancy or childbirth every year? That is one woman every minute who loses her life due to unsafe home births, poor health, and inadequate health care. Women in Sub-Saharan Africa face a 1 in 16 chance of dying in pregnancy or childbirth, as opposed to women in developed countries facing a 1 in 2,800 chance. The United Nations has formed a plan, the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, to help reduce the population of women who die in pregnancy and childbirth throughout the world. The United Nations Millennium Development goals cover a wide range, from eradicating extreme poverty to empowering women, and the UN has pledged from all the world's countries to reach those goals by the year 2015.

As we are currently at the half-way point, CORE 404 - The Needs of Families, has been focusing on these eight goals and ways to increase awareness not only on Meredith's campus, but also throughout our community. So how can I get involved, you may ask? Currently, CORE 404 is sponsoring a drive to benefit the Women's Center of Wake County. We are collecting toiletries, baby items such as diapers, baby food, and wipes, cleaning products, women's gently used or new clothes and underwear, canned food, and paper products. Any item that you

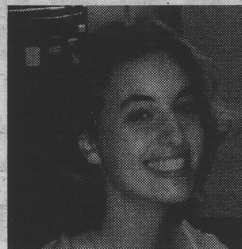
feel would benefit the women of Wake County would be extremely appreciated. There are drop boxes located in all of the residence halls, the Cate Center, Ledford, the Library, Belk, SMB, Health Center, Harris, Joyner, Johnson, and Martin.

As citizens of a global population as well as the United States, we are trying to educate the Meredith College population about the potential risks for women in giving birth worldwide as well as increase their knowledge about women and children suffering in our own county. In addition to donating to our food drive, there are several other opportunities to get involved. Visit WCWC.org to find out more about the Women's Center of Wake County, to learn how to sponsor your own food drive, to volunteer, or to donate time or money. Or, visit UN.org to learn more about the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, especially Goal 8 - Improving Maternal Health.

Do you have questions about the United Nations Millennium Goals? Do you have an opinion about the effectiveness of the program?

Let us know your questions or let us hear what you think.

Email the staff at herald@meredith.edu



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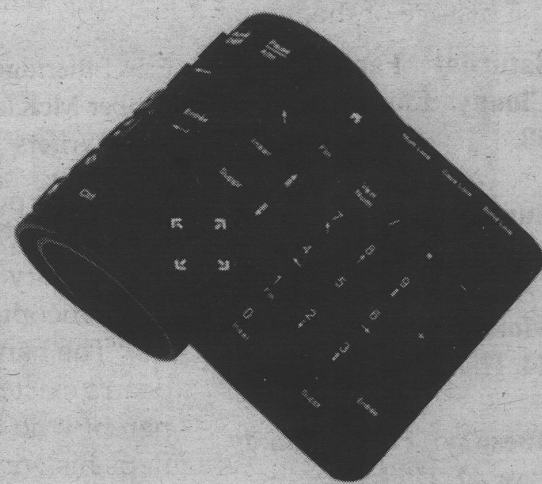
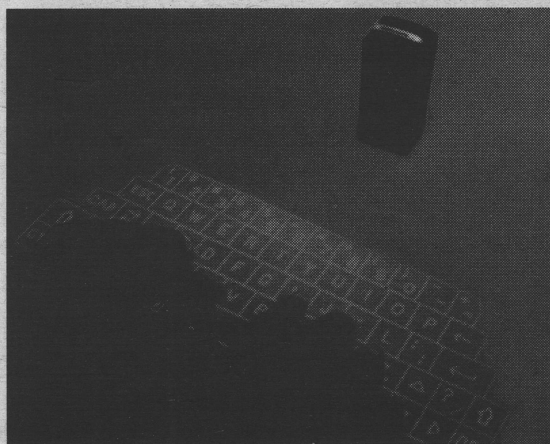
Standard keyboards, while still necessary for today's computing, are becoming obsolete. While it may be quite a few years until traditional keyboards are replaced, the virtual keyboard and the silicone keyboard are two versions that may become more prevalent as demands for the newest and best technology increase.

Virtual keyboards project a laser light onto any flat surface. The only space required is the size of a standard cell phone for the laser light projector. The projector beams a full-sized keyboard image onto desktops, countertops, tables, or any other surface. It can be used in conjunction with tablet PCs and PDAs for much more

efficient typing than the devices' tiny keyboards. I imagine that a virtual keyboard would be very handy for those who frequent trains, buses or airplanes and want to spend their transit time using their devices with minuscule keyboards. Also, unlike traditional keyboards that are easily damaged, the virtual keyboard includes no risk of dropped crumbs or spilled drinks. Virtual keyboards are available for \$179.99 at <http://www.virtual-laser-keyboard.com/>. A bit spendy, yes, but it may be worth it in the long run for those who take their keyboarding seriously.

A more economical new keyboard is the silicone version. Foldable, bendable, virtually indestructible: the silicone keyboard is handy and hip. Made out of the same material as the hottest new bakeware,

silicone keyboards can be twisted, turned and even fully submerged in water, all without harm. Silicone keyboards are easily folded and stashed in a backpack, and since they have USB connectivity, are easily used with many handheld portable devices, such as Blackberries and Palm Pilots. Silicone keyboards are available in mini and full sizes. If you do spill a drink or food on the keyboard, just run it under water—good as new. Keys are soft and, therefore, noiseless. It is flat, however, so it may prove to be uncomfortable for long-term typing. Those who are klutzy or are in need of a portable keyboard may want to check it out. Visit http://the-gadgeteer.com/review/brando_usb_flexible_keyboard_review for details and a review of the silicone keyboard. They can be purchased for \$12.99 on <http://www.amazon.com> and have been selling for under \$10 on eBay.



Virtual and Silicon Keyboards offer high-tech typing photos courtesy <http://www.virtual-laser-keyboard.com/> and http://www.hela.co.uk/img/Duraflex_rollup.gif