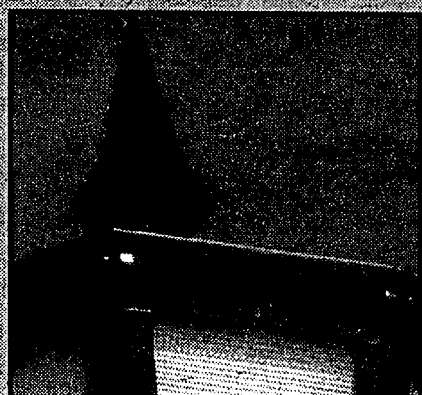


the MEREDITH **Herald**



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Photo courtesy The Austin Chronicle

THE MEDIA'S SKEW ON TODAY'S POLITICS

by Melissa Santos
Staff Writer

Many voters see this year's historic election as a crucial, what-color-wire-do-I-cut event; choose the wrong candidate, and America self-destructs—or continues to self-destruct, depending on your outlook. But what is that outlook, and is it even yours? Or is it a patchwork of beliefs stitched together from episodes of *The Daily Show* or the hand-me-down politics of our parents? Unfortunately for voters, it's becoming increasingly difficult to come to anything more than a superficial understanding of a candidate—and virtually impossible to obtain a complete, factual description of his or her policies. After all, most of our information is gleaned from two-minute news media reports.

When reporters on major news networks ask Obama about his predilection for boxers or briefs, are we supposed to consider it a serious issue and measure it against our does-this-help-or-hinder-my-plans-for-the-future scale? If we are, I guess we would have to wait and see which brand he prefers in order to come to a well-informed decision. But lately the media has become less Obamaniacal, and these daily style "briefs" have all but disappeared. But not because they're devoting these last weeks of campaigning to hot-button issues like the economy, education or Iraq, but because his reign as media darling has been usurped by Republi-

can vice-presidential nominee Sarah Palin. Historically, with the exception of Lyndon Johnson in 1960, running mates haven't mattered. They're essentially an innocuous representative of their political party's platform and have minimal impact on the Presidential candidate's current rankings. At least that was the case during the pre-Palin era.

This year, people are gaga over the GOP's "it" girl. But why all the fuss, when Palin had always been on the radar as a potential running mate and had made it onto nearly every politico's short list? Because Palin isn't Milhouse to McCain's Bart, to paraphrase the VP nominee her-

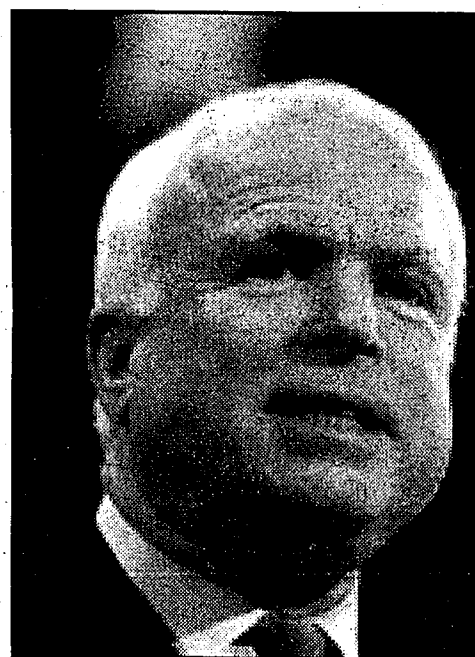


Photo courtesy www.donkeydish.com

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Green Tip for the Week of September 15

Encourage your professors to open the blinds in classrooms instead of having the lights on during class.

During the 2008-09 academic year, Meredith College's campus theme is "Sustaining our Environment: Developing our Greenprint." To help the Meredith community make daily choices that are beneficial to the environment, Angels for the Environment have compiled a year's worth of tips for greener living. To view green tips from previous weeks, visit www.meredith.edu/campus-theme/environmental-tips.htm.

JOHN PASSACANTANDO VISITS MEREDITH

by Courtney Angers
Staff Writer

On Sept. 9, 2008, a full audience of students, faculty, staff, and community members welcomed John Passacantando in Jones Auditorium as the first speaker for the Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina Presidential Lecture Series of the 2008-2009 academic year. Passacantando is the executive director of Greenpeace, USA, an organization that Passacantando refers to as "Quakers on steroids," that is dedicated to addressing environmental problems in the United States and finding ways to combat them. Last Tuesday night, Passacantando spoke to the gathered audience about the situation of the environment today and how we can and are fighting to preserve it.

Passacantando began his lecture by touching on a few of the many



Photo courtesy www.at-the-beachgallery.com

success stories that Greenpeace can claim. Some of their efforts include protecting the whales in Alaska, taking a stand against the big oil company Exxon Mobil, and helping put polar bears on the endangered species list. But not all of their efforts have been so easy. Recently, Greenpeace was indicted for violation of sailing laws while protesting illegal shipping into Miami. Passacantando and other Greenpeace leaders knew that a failed lawsuit could ruin the reputation of Greenpeace, but they

did not let this roadblock stop their commitment to preserving the environment.

While Passacantando's lists of Greenpeace's accomplishments were impressive, he especially invigorated the audience when he spoke of the status of America today: a presidency that has given America a "bleak eight years" concerning environmental issues. Although he stressed non-partisanship, Passacantando did

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