

# news

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## MEDIA SKEW, Continued from Page 1

self, she's a pit bull in lipstick. With Obama and McCain in a dead heat in the polls, this development marks the first election where a woman has a viable shot of becoming second-in-command. No, I haven't forgotten the 1984 Mondale-Ferraro ticket—or the fact that they lost 49 of the 50 states. But that's not the focus of the news media. No, pundits and bloggers alike want to discuss Obama's use of the "putting lipstick on a pig" metaphor in reference to McCain's policies at a Virginia campaign.

Was this metaphor a veiled sexist attack on Palin? Is this random comment going to be the greatest dividing factor among women since the Equal Rights Amendment?

Well, the media certainly seem to want it to be. But do we rally in Palin's defense and brand Obama a sexist, when McCain used that same metaphor to describe Hillary Clinton's health care plan? Do we let slide all the direct jabs Palin made about Obama in her Republican National Convention speech? Do we

forgive Obama for using this old derogatory joke—a second time—and ignore the fact that it's a tried-and-true staple in predominately male Washington? Or do we use this exchange as an opportunity to introduce a male-directed option like the following: you can shave the mustache off an ass and call him a gentleman, but that doesn't change the fact that he's an ass.

But isn't the point of an election not to worry our pretty little heads about this problem but to face real

issues of national importance like health care and education reform? Aren't we electing the candidate who is most likely to succeed, not the most popular or the best dressed? With less than two months until November general election, now is the time to examine our beliefs and to decide which ticket better represents those beliefs. Remember: what the news media want is to produce content formatted to fit our television screens, not to reflect or examine our values. ■

## PASSACANTANDO, Continued from Page 7

not hesitate to criticize the current administration for ignoring problems such as global warming. Passacantando emphasized the need for action from the governmental leaders of the country.

Furthermore, in order for the issue of global warming and other environmental concerns to be contained, action must come from individuals in the country who are "elite performers:" people who are willing to vehemently agree to fight for the environment. The method of fighting does not matter. It could be through written statements to a local congressman or through acts of civil disobedience. Passacantando realizes that it isn't possible for all Americans to become active members of Greenpeace, but everybody can do his or her part in individual "spheres of influence."

While it is important for ordinary American citizens to recognize the need for environmental protection and action, Passacantando indicated that Greenpeace was there to help. Currently, the organization already has seminars, internships, and camps to help train youth to become leaders across the nation, and they have plans to expand these projects.

In closing, Passacantando said that the solutions for the environmental problems that America faces today are going to stem from love. While politics, economics, and reputation do play a part in the motivation for environmental improvement, Passacantando asserts that, "we can only get truly angry over something we love." It is going to take a lot of angry people to bring about the change we need to see in American environmental efforts. ■

## KICKOFF CELEBRATION HELD FOR MEREDITH'S HABITAT EFFORT

By Chelsea McGlaughlin & Melyssa Allen  
Contributing Writers

Meredith College's student-led quest to fully fund a Habitat for Humanity home came one step closer to reality on Fri., Aug. 22.

Members from across Meredith's campus, community partners and Habitat for Humanity volunteers and staff joined together in Meredith's Science and Mathematics Building to celebrate the beginning of construction for Meredith's first Habitat for Humanity home.

Speakers included Meredith Habitat Chapter President Chelsea McGlaughlin, '10, faculty advisor Barbara True-Weber and chapter founder Hayley McPhail, '08, who began the effort in 2006. McGlaughlin thanked Trustee Michelle Rich Goode, '73, who led the fundraising effort, and donors, including project partner Choate Construction.

"It is amazing how far we've come in such a short time," McGlaughlin said. "A year ago we would not have believed we would be able to attain the funding support that has made this possible so soon."

Now with enough money raised to begin building, McGlaughlin said, "It's hammer time." Attendees signed 2x4 pieces of lumber that will be used in the home and drove nails to start framing the home, which will be built in Raleigh.

Meredith President Maureen A. Hartford said the support for the Habitat project reflects the College's



Photo courtesy David Timberlake

commitment to community service and positive citizenship.

"It is truly special for [Meredith] to sponsor a Habitat house ... joining in a world-wide effort to provide safe, decent housing," Hartford said. "We at Meredith are proud to be a part of this mission."

A highlight of the event was an opportunity for the Meredith community to meet the future owners of the College's Habitat home. Oslet Rene said he and his wife, Mimose Baptiste, are very excited to be a Habitat family. Baptiste helped to unveil the house plan for the home.

Rene said their happiness came not just from being able to become homeowners, but also from the opportunity "to meet nice people who help you be what you are meant to be in this life."

Addendum: Construction on Meredith's Habitat home is now underway! The on-site groundbreaking and first volunteer work day for the home was Sat., Sept.

13. Please email our volunteer coordinator, Terri Wilson, at nealter@meredith.edu to sign up for a work day. Work days are held each Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and shifts are flexible.

Want more information about the club or the house? Visit our webpage, <http://www.meredith.edu/habitat>, email us at mchabitat@meredith.edu or join our Facebook group, Meredith Habitat for Humanity. ■



Photo Courtesy of Chelsea McGlaughlin