

# news

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The policy of this paper requires that submissions be made Thursdays before five o'clock, allowing time for consultation between staff and contributors; that articles not exceed 700 words; that letters to the editor not exceed 200 words; and that contributors sign all submissions and provide necessary contact information. The editor and staff welcome submissions meeting the above guidelines.

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## TEMPERATURES, Continued from Page 1

of potentially threatening incidents. However, because this alarm can only be heard campus-wide, officials strongly urge students to sign up for MC Alert through Web Advisor, which can "convey time-sensitive information within minutes," as well as "schedule, send and track personalized voicemail, email and text messages to students, faculty and staff" ([www.meredith.edu/mcalert/default.htm](http://www.meredith.edu/mcalert/default.htm)).

The next action is addressing life safety. For students living on campus, the Director of Residence Life is the source for breaking news and updates, while the Director of Commuter Life, in conjunction with the Marketing and Communication Office, will work to keep commuter students informed. Temporary shelter is available for any commuters wishing to seek shelter on campus and can be arranged through the Residence Director on duty. (Just remember, blankets, pillows and

toiletries are not provided.) The Marketing and Communication Office is also responsible for notifying the public of Meredith's situation and reporting any damages or power outages, while the Director of Facilities Services and Campus Police are in charge of calling the Raleigh Fire and Police Departments for emergencies and alerting EMS and local hospitals of any injuries or illnesses. Food, water, electricity and heat will be available on campus since Belk Dining Hall is equipped with a generator strong enough to power both its upper and lower levels. Additionally, telephone communication will be supplied through a phone bank in the Alumnae House.

But what happens after the storm has passed? Are our Meredith officials better-suited to handle recovery efforts than our national ones? Thankfully, yes. Phones will be made available messages from loved ones to students will be

communicated, and follow-up announcements, like when the college will re-open, will be publicized. Students don't have to worry about power outages or damage to dorms either, as both of these tasks have been appropriately delegated under the college's fourth response priority, "Protection of Property." The school's recovery plan, the fifth and final step, promises to "house any displaced residents" and "assist displaced commuter students." Any other help the Meredith community requires will come from "Raleigh resources"—provided the college asks for the city's help first ([www.meredith.edu/emergency-planning/default.htm](http://www.meredith.edu/emergency-planning/default.htm)).

Although many students complain about Meredith's location and many passers-by (erroneously) brand it "one big, gated sorority house," being so far secluded and so close-knit does have its benefits. With the small number of students and the

propinquity of its dorms and buildings, Meredith can better ensure that "all persons will be accounted for" and can more easily carry out its severe weather policy ([www.meredith.edu/emergency-planning/default.htm](http://www.meredith.edu/emergency-planning/default.htm)). Americans have often been advised to prepare their own worst-case-scenario plans, and with the lack of or delay in government aid witnessed in recent disasters, many are seeing it as their only recourse. What a relief to know that if a storm were to hit campus, the only thing that would break afterwards would be the clouds, not our spirits.

For more information on Meredith College's Emergency Preparedness or for a comprehensive look at the Major Incident Response Plan, visit [www.meredith.edu/emergency-planning/default.htm](http://www.meredith.edu/emergency-planning/default.htm). ■

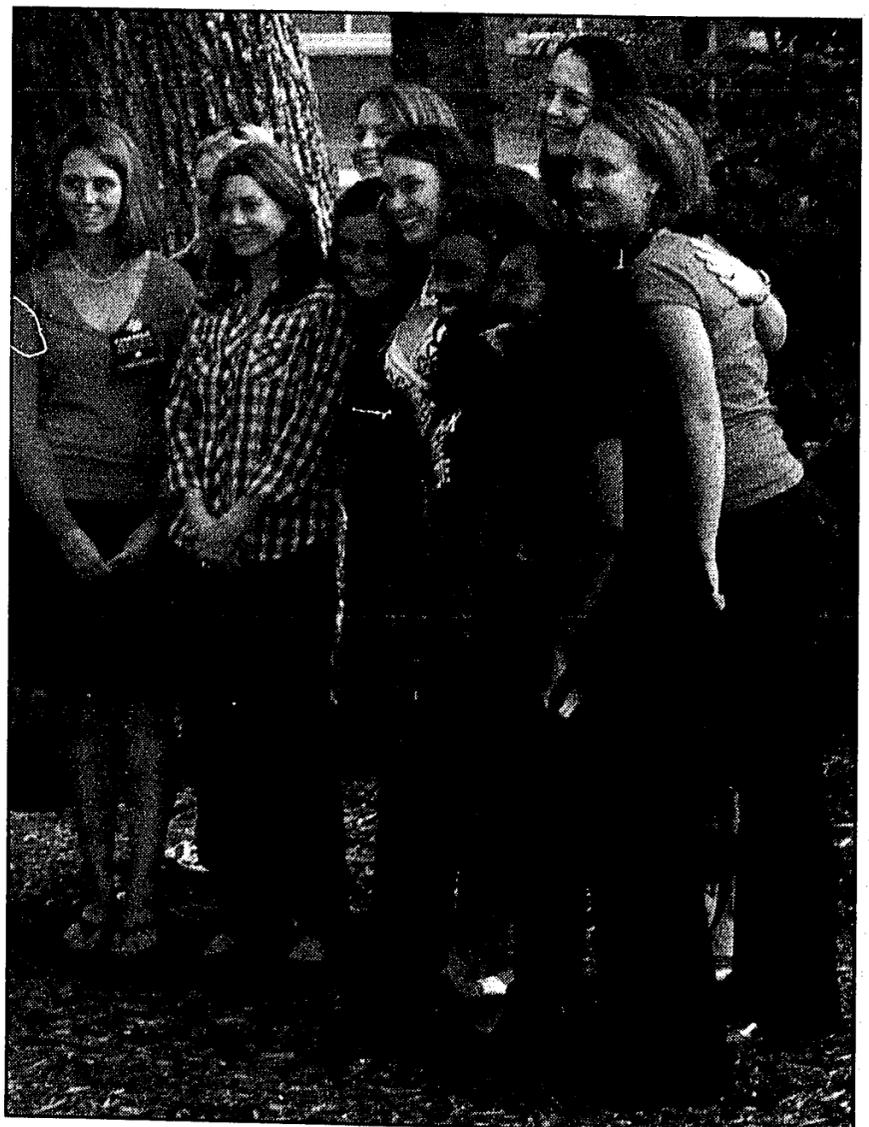
## ELLEN POMPEO, Continued from Page 1

folding chairs, and magazines with them to pass the time away in comfort. Pompeo was not the only celebrity present; Danielle Panabaker, of "Mr. Brooks" and "Sky High" fame, also spoke in support of the Obama cause. Leah Cowan, the field director of the Raleigh Obama campaign, opened the event with a few words urging a proactive attitude toward getting out to vote and promote support for the Obama campaign.

As 5:30 approached, the chapel roared with cheers and excitement rose as "Yes We Can" and "Obama 08" chants welcomed the two stars to Meredith College. Pompeo was the first to speak. After a few encouraging words about the state of North Carolina, she continued on to stress the fact that North Carolina is a battleground state and the importance of campaigning in favor of Barack Obama. Pompeo encouraged participation in the 100,000.Knocks for Barack campaign that strives to have volunteers knock on 100,000 doors in the Raleigh area in order to promote support for Obama. Panabaker mentioned that college students play a large part in the election each year and that we have much influence on the direction our country will take in the near future.

After 15 minutes or so of speech time, the floor was opened for questions. After prompted to tell the biggest reason or issue that first attracted them to Barack Obama, Panabaker replied that she was drawn to Obama based on his view about education. Due to experiences growing up, she saw the flaws in the American education system and believes that Obama will help to correct these flaws. Pompeo replied that she was drawn to Obama not solely based on a political issue but by the character of the man. She cited his attitude about abortion and his mindset that it isn't a decision taken lightly by women whereas other candidates take a "no, no, no" attitude. The enthusiastic rally ended with a reminder of the ABC hit series *Grey's Anatomy* when Pompeo spoke her trademark, "seriously."

If you would like more information about how to become involved in the Obama campaign or how to join the College Democrats please contact Amanda Eubanks, president of the College Democrats at [eubanksa@meredith.edu](mailto:eubanksa@meredith.edu) or Leah Cowan, field director of the Raleigh Obama campaign at [lcowan@ncforchange.com](mailto:lcowan@ncforchange.com). ■



Ellen Pompeo, *Grey's Anatomy* star, pictured above, second from left, with members of the College Democrats

Photo courtesy April Rummage