

# National &

## Potential for Palin Power in 2012? Sarah Palin's Current "Not-Campaign"

Alegha Page, Staff Writer

Rumors and questions are circulating the nation as to whether or not Alaska's former governor Sarah Palin will be the Republican presidential candidate for 2012. She has recently done a tour of the nation promoting her book *Going Rogue*, and as the tour became increasingly successful, it sparked interest in the plans for her future.

According to a February 16, 2010 article from *The Baltimore Sun*, there is a high possibility that Palin may run. The article quotes from a Fox television interview with Palin stating "I would [run] if I believed that that is the right thing to do for our country and for the Palin family. Certainly, I would do so." Since her infamous ticket seat as vice-president to presidential candidate John McCain, Palin has resigned as Alaskan governor, launched a book, and hit the book campaign trail hard during the months of late 2009 and early 2010. Her latest headline action was speaking at the first ever "Tea Party Convention" in Memphis Tennessee. Apparently the audience chanted "run 2012" as she spoke.

In her speech, Palin alluded to the fact that she may be running in 2012 by saying "it would be absurd not to consider what it is that I can potentially do for this country" (as quoted by the *Denver Post* of February 2). She makes it very clear that right now is a time for weighing her options and watching the playing field. In the *Denver Post* article she admits to being a bit behind other potential candidates because she does not have "the luxury" of having lots of information at her fingertips momentarily, as those in Washington have more instant access to news and political conjectures. But as noted in a February 8, 2010 article from the *Denver Post*, Palin is currently receiving daily e-mail briefings from people in Washington concerning events and news in the Washington political arena in attempts to keep up with capital politics.

As reported in an article run by *The Baltimore Sun*, a recent Washington Post/ABC NEWS poll was conducted to gauge how strong Palin's "fan base" could be. "7 out of 10" ranked her to be fit for the presidential office. 45% of



photo courtesy of <http://themoderatevoice.com/wordpress-engine/files/2009/07/sarah-palin-2.jpg>

Republicans polled see her as fit, 29% of Independents voted that Palin would be a probable candidate, and 6% of Democrats polled show Palin approval. According to this poll, now is not a prime time for Palin to promote herself as a candidate, and she is following this advice. She is being politically savvy by not saying yes or no to

running. By being involved heavily involved with her book and the Tea Party, Palin will build on her reputation. She will strengthen the relationship with her 2008 supporters while potentially picking up new supporters along the path. And who knows if we'll see her on the Republican primary ballots.

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The *Meredith Herald* is published by the College throughout the academic year. The paper is funded by the College and through independent advertising. All advertisements should be sent to [herald@meredith.edu](mailto:herald@meredith.edu).

The opinions expressed in the editorial columns do not necessarily reflect those of the College administration, faculty, or student body.

The policy of this paper requires that submissions be made by 5 p.m. the Thursday before publication, 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. Please email them to [herald@meredith.edu](mailto:herald@meredith.edu)

Published by Hinton Press

## Toyota's Recall

Anna Turner, Staff Writer

Recently, Toyota issued recalls on twelve of its car models. These recent recalls address issues ranging from floor mat and accelerator complications to anti-lock brake concerns. In efforts to contact and inform Toyota owners of the potential danger of driving their cars, the company sent letters encouraging owners to make appointments with their dealers to fix the problems. Many Toyota dealerships have extended their hours of operation in order to handle the influx of recalls. Toyota ensures that their "entire organization of 172,000 North American employees and dealership personnel has been mobilized." The company also stated on their website that it was going to double "quality control efforts across the company." The

models affected by the recalls include the : 2005-2010 Avalon, 2007-2010 Camry, 2009-2010 Corolla, 2008-2010 Highlander, 2009-2010 Matrix, 2004-2009 and 2010 Prius, 2009-2010 RAV4, 2008-2010 Sequoia, 2005-2010 Tacoma, 2001-2010 Tundra, and the 2009-2010 VENZA.

The first recall is being referred to, by Toyota, as the "Floor Mat Entrapment" recall. This particular recall affects the Avalon, Camry, Corolla, Highlander, Matrix, Prius, Tacoma, Tundra, and VENZA models. The problem with these models is that the shape of the floor mat interferes with the accelerator pedal, causing the pedal to become "entrapped" beneath the floor mat. Toyota also notes that (continued on page 3)