

CAMPUS LIFE

Jodi Picoult Comes to Meredith

Aleighta Page, Staff Writer

On Monday March 8, popular author Jodi Picoult visited Meredith College through a partnership with Quail Ridge Books. Picoult spoke for an hour on her new novel *House Rules*.

The book is about Jacob, a brilliant boy who suffers from Asperger's Syndrome. Jacob also helps the local police department solve murder mysteries, but one day the town is devastated by a murder that has the police accusing Jacob as their first suspect. The remainder of the book describes Jacob's trying to solve this mystery and clear his name.

Jodi Picoult was inspired to write this book because her cousin David is autistic. David is an adult and lives in a group home, but autism makes life a daily struggle for him and his family. His mother has, on more than one occasion, had to wrestle 6 foot, 200 pound Jacob to the ground in order to settle him down from an outburst. When this has happened in public, Jodi Picoult's aunt has had multiple people call the police with reports of child abuse. Picoult wanted to speak about the struggles faced by autistic children and parents and uses *House Rules*

to comment on this widely misunderstood disorder.

Sam Ramsdell, a Meredith sophomore, attended the lecture. Sam states that Jodi Picoult is one of her favorite authors and that she was thrilled to know Picoult would be speaking at Meredith. Sam was very impressed with Picoult's visit, noting that Picoult is "very sweet and down to Earth. I had this impression that some authors can be kind of pig-headed and controlling. She was none of those things. After her speech and questionnaire, she spoke for about 2 hours before beginning to sign books. She answered all questions with lengthy and detailed stories. All in all it was a great night and she signed 2 of my books." Obviously, Picoult made a positive impression on the Meredith student body;

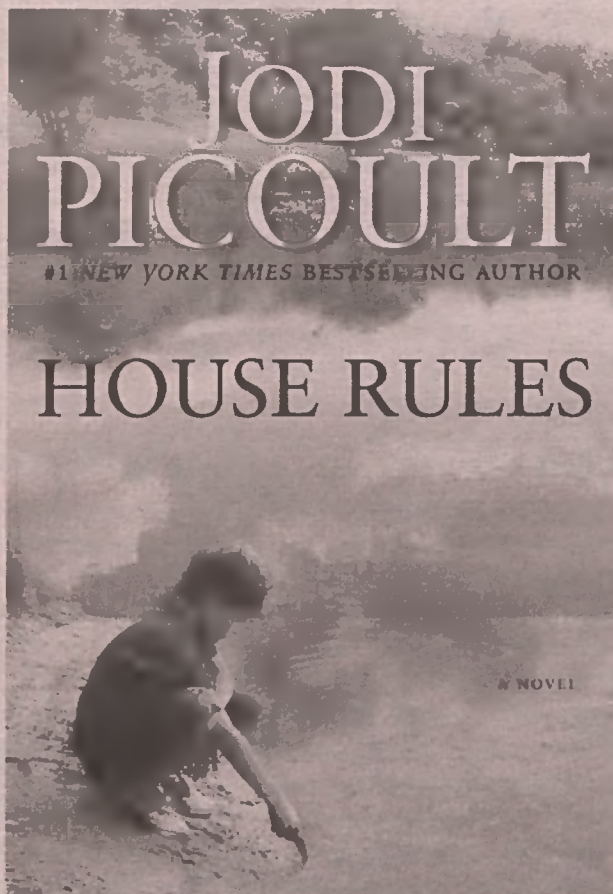


Photo courtesy of jodipicoult.com

hopefully her books raise awareness nationwide. Now that's what I call having fun on a budget!!

Upcoming Events

gathered by Kristen Gallagher

- Mar 25 – Disability Awareness Day
- Mar 25 and 26 – Aqua Angels On Broadway Show at the Pool, 8 pm
- Mar 26 – MEA, MRA, and RHA meetings
- Mar 26 – Non-profit Career Fair at Peace College (gym) 11-3 pm
- Mar 27 – Junior Visitation Day
- Mar 27 – Class of 2012 Tea for Two 11-3 pm at the Crabtree Marriot
- Mar 28 – Tennis vs. Christopher Newport

Does your club/group/organization have an event on campus? Email it to us at herald@meredith.edu and we'll list it here!

Campus Announcements

Attention Faculty, Staff, and Students: Join others from Raleigh colleges and universities in a healthy conversation on race relations.

- Sat., Mar. 27: 9am-12pm & Sun., Mar. 28: 3pm-6pm @ NC State
- Mondays, Mar. 22, 29 & Apr. 5: 3:30pm-5:30pm @ Peace
- Sat., Apr. 10: 10am-4:30pm @ St. Augustine's
- Thurs., Tues., Thurs., Apr. 8, 13 & 15: 1:30pm-3:30pm @ St. Augustine's

To register for these sessions visit: <http://www.ncsu.edu/mdap/index.html> Transportation provided if needed and refreshments will be served!

What to Eat, What to Eat?

Kristen Gallagher, Staff Writer

Meredith has a great history of hosting community events, and the Film Festival on March 9th was no exception. The Inter-Faith Food Shuttle, Raleigh District Dietetic Association, Durham-Chapel Hill District Dietetic Association, Slow Food Triangle, and Meredith College's own Master in Nutrition Program partnered to bring Joel Salatin and other holistic farmers to Jones Auditorium. The event was designated in honor on National Nutrition Month and aimed to raise awareness about "a new way of thinking about what we are eating," according to the Meredith MS Nutrition website. The core part of the event, the screening of the documentary *Fresh*, was well attended and quite interesting

to say the least.

Fresh attracted foods and nutrition as well agriculture students from other local colleges as well as members of community gardens and advocacy groups. As representatives from the supporting organizations introduced each other, I mentally jotted down notes about what to look for in the film. I generally take a decently sober attitude toward documentaries, especially those whose topics are particularly in vogue – like *Fresh's* holistic farming method versus factory farming debate. Despite the use of clearly "sided" filming techniques such the instance the crew focused in on the 'warning: toxic' label on the litter bag for the chickens and the pervasive use of

music to highlight the 'good' and the 'bad,' the film was not terribly biased, which was quite refreshing.

Watching the film gave me a chance to think about my own food values – where I get my nourishment, who nourishes it, and what goes into the entire process. After seeing *Fresh*, I decided to make a conscious effort to eat food that is truly good for me and for those who helped me get it. One of *Fresh's* goals is to promote sustainable food, and locally grown food is probably the closest you can get. If you had a chance to eat the best food, wouldn't you?