

# SCIENCE & TECH

## A War Waged On the Oceans

Calley Jones, Staff Writer

Whales, the great giants of the ocean, have been capturing the human imagination for centuries. They were featured in Inuit creation stories, African legends, and more recently, in movies like *Free Willy* and *Whale Rider*. This reverence has not precluded the slaughter of these beasts. However, hunting whales date back as far as 3,000 BC, but the Industrial Revolution took whaling to an unprecedented level. With a long reproductive cycle, the populations of whales could not keep up with whaling demands, and in 1986 commercial whaling was banned in order to prevent extinction.

According to Andrew Revkin's article in the New York

Times, the ban set by the International Whaling Commission (IWC) may be coming to an end. A loophole in the ban allowed the killing of whales for scientific research. It did not set any limitations on such type of whaling. Japan has taken advantage of this loophole by whaling the Antarctic waters under the guise of research, but the country is not hiding the fact that the whale meat from these hunts is sold commercially. Japan has come up with a new proposal for the IWC. They will agree to decrease the "scientific whaling" in the Antarctic if they are allowed to resume commercial whaling on their own waters. This could potentially decrease the number of

whales killed every year or it could mean open season again.

The Animal Planet show, *Whale Wars*, highlights the response of the radical Sea Shepherd Conservation Society to the "scientific whaling". Captain Paul Watson founded the society and made it his goal to enforce the moratorium set by the IWC. The group has taken direct action against the whalers with activities like disabling commercial whaling vessels while in port and ramming them while at sea. Watson who likened the IWC consideration of the Japanese proposal to the negotiations of the United States with terrorists has continued his actions in the Antarctic. According to Phil

Mercer's recent article for *Voice of America*, the society claims to have significantly decreased the Japanese whaling, costing them some \$70 million throughout their campaign. More information about Sea Shepherd can be found at <http://www.seashepherd.org>.

The IWC meeting in June will decide the fate of thousands of cetaceans (whales, dolphins, and porpoises). Will there be a continuation of "scientific research?" Will Japan be given free rein to hunt in their own backyard? Will whales once more find themselves in danger of extinction? Only time will tell.

# SPORTS

## Tennis Preview

Jillian Curtis, Staff Writer

This year's 2010 Avenging Angels Tennis Team is shaping up to be one of the most promising athletic teams at Meredith College. They are currently planning on defending their stellar reputation from last season. The 2009 squad was able to win the USA South Athletic Conference tournament and went on to compete in the NCAA tournament. The 2010 team is looking to match last year's season and prove themselves to be a consistent powerhouse in the USA South.

This year's squad will be led by new head coach Paul Huch. Huch comes from Connecticut College where he served 8 years as head coach of the men's and women's tennis squads. His invaluable knowledge of college matches will definitely pay off this season.

The team is also led by co-captains Kathryn Maples and Zannah Webster. Maples, last season's MVP, is a four year varsity senior and is the number one singles player to start the season. Webster, a junior, is a very hardworking committed player who will be appearing in #3 doubles and #6 singles.

Also on the squad is junior Molly Parks. Parks is a very experienced player who brings a lot of knowledge and expertise to the team. She will be playing doubles with freshmen Betty Edwards. Edwards has a lot of potential to thrive on the collegiate level and brings a fresh element to the team.

The team has been training very hard for their season and plans on having the most successful run as possible. So far they

## Player of the Week

Jillian Curtis, Staff Writer

This issue's Player of the Week is sophomore Logan Hill. Hill is one of the few upperclassmen on this year's softball team. With outstanding fielding in the outfield, and a consistent hitting record, Hill is an essential asset to the 2010 squad.

Hill has been playing softball since she was five. Her love for the game motivated her to play in college. She loves being part of the team and enjoys the opportunity to travel and meet new people. However, because Hill is currently in the process of earning a BS in math with an minor in physical chemistry as well as a 9-12 secondary licensure, she struggles with finding enough time to balance all of her activities.

Hill hopes to improve her hitting, and will continue to work on that throughout the season. With Hill's help, it's easy to predict that the team should be very successful this season. Hill's prediction is that they should finish in the top 3 of their conference.

have already won their first match against Southern Virginia 7-2. The team is looking forward to proving themselves to be a dominant threat in the conference. Come out to support the Angels in their next home

game against arch rival Peace on Wednesday April 7th at 3 PM.

