

# SCIENCE & TECH

## Green Tip of the Week

courtesy of Laura Fieselman

Stay far away from foam!

Foam materials are a major source for padding objects, such as seats and mats, though foam does not decompose at all. Therefore, when all the trash is sent to the landfill and everything else decomposes after hundreds of years, the foam will remain.

## Conservation Loses to Sushi and Sharkfin Soup

Meghan Grady, Staff Writer

The Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) is the UN governing body that oversees wildlife commerce. After their meeting last month, it seems that CITES is more worried about commerce than wildlife. According to Marlowe Hood's article for AFP, seven proposals to protect various endangered or vulnerable marine species (all supported by the US) were shot down during the 13 day meeting. The Porbeagle Shark, Scalloped Hammerhead, and the Oceanic Whitetip are only a few of the commercial marine species that were offered no protection by CITES. Red and pink corals used

in jewelry were also left to fend for themselves.

Japan appears to have been the villain in this unfortunate drama, leading the opposition against the proposals that would have protected sharks from having their fins hacked off and regulated commerce of the Atlantic bluefin tuna, a species that has recently seen stocks dropping as much as 80% due to overfishing. Michael Casey, writing for the Associated Press, pointed out the irony of the Japanese reception that offered sushi containing Atlantic bluefin tuna, the night before shooting down trade regulations that would have banned exporting the struggling

species. Even more troubling were accusations from Kenya that Japan had pressured their delegates to support fisheries and had paid for the delegates of other African countries to attend the meeting.

It is deeply troubling that an organization founded to protect the endangered creatures of this planet seems to be putting trade before conservation. If Japan and China offer up enough money, CITES will give them free rein to continue emptying the seas. Despite this blow for the ocean, the meeting did pass laws to protect the Asian big cats, rhinos, polar bears, and several other species both plant and animal in danger of extinction.

# SPORTS

## Spring Sports Recap

Jillian Curtis, Staff Writer

The 2010 Spring Season is a great time for Meredith Sports. Both the softball and tennis team proved themselves to be worthy competitors in the USA South Athletic Conference. Currently, the tennis team holds an overall record of 8 wins and 3 losses while the softball team has an overall record of 18 wins and 12 losses.

The softball team experienced a critical building season. The team only had 4 returning players from the 2009 squad and was stuck with the challenge of rebuilding a program from the ground. The team was very successful and proved to be successful, despite their young age. Freshmen Kirstin Morris and Guss Christ hold the top two highest batting averages in the season thus far. Christ and Arielle Stout led the

team in most home runs throughout the season. The softball team hopes to win some of its final games in order to come out strong for next season.

The tennis team continued to live up to its legacy with its remarkable 8-3 record. Last season the team was able to win the USA South Athletic Conference tournament and even make an appearance in the NCAA tournament. If the team finishes out the season strong, they may be able to go just as far this year. The team managed to start its season off strong with a 5-0 record. Unfortunately, their winning streak ended against Methodist University, and then again against Pfeiffer and NC Central. Key players on the 2010 squad included captains Kathryn Maples and Zannah Webster, as

## Player of the Week

Jillian Curtis, Staff Writer

This issue's Player of the Week is freshmen Kirstin Morris. Morris is one of the most influential players on the 2010 Avenging Angels Softball team. Morris has the highest batting average on the team. She has had the most runs scored, and had led the team in doubles and triples. Her fielding ability as shortstop makes her one of the most dangerous opponents in the USA South.

Morris came to Meredith because she fell in love with the tight knit community that the school has to offer and she knew she would be able to fit in with the softball program. Morris has been playing softball since she was five and the experience she brings to the team is invaluable.

Morris hopes to improve her fielding and is attempting to increase her speed for her future seasons at Meredith. Although finding time to complete homework is difficult, Morris loves playing softball because it helps her relax and distress. She will definitely continue to be a threat in future seasons.

well as Betty Edwards, Casey Collins, and Alison Flannigan. Hopefully, as the 2010 spring season comes to a close both teams will be able to compete and finish strongly. As always, Meredith students and faculty are encouraged to attend as many events as possible, and with championships

and tournaments right around the corner, it's important to come out and support our student athletes!