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# small TALK

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## Lion's Den Grand Opening



"Happy Feet" Review pg. 8



Lip Synch Contest pg. 4



Cheerleaders Divide pg. 10

*Ashley Young*  
News Editor

On Nov. 10 Methodist University's Lions Den held its Grand Opening in the Bern's Student Center.

"I'm excited because this is like a food court in the mall and I'm excited to see the expression on everyone's face when they see the new look," said Marion King the Supervisor for the new Lion's Den.

"It's exciting and a good experience," commented Connie Armstrong, who works in the coffee shop at the Lion's Den.

Sheila Autry, a cashier, said "[The new Lion's Den creates a] nice atmosphere for the kids and it reminds me of back in the '50s. It's a place where you can come, sit and relax."

The Grand Opening began with Ashley Price, the Resident Hall Association president, welcoming all that



"Turn it over!" Hendricks shows the King how to slice a six foot sub. All photos by Pat Blalock.

attended. She was followed by an invocation given by Craig West whom is the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) president. Next, Erik Casteel, from the Student Activities Committee, introduced all of the speakers that would be sharing their message with all those that attended. President Dr. Elton Hendricks spoke first, and was followed by Mark Steep, the district manager of Sodexo for the Southeast.

One Spirit women



The One Spirit Men serenade Shauna Bunn.



Shauna Bunn laughs as the men sing to her.



One Spirit women sing.

sang and acted "Run Around Sue," a song written by Latoya Robertson. Then the men of One Spirit sang "Calendar Girls" along with an entire medley of songs led by Jeff Funk.

Dr. Hendricks, along with the Methodist University mascot the "King," cut the 6-foot sub to officially kick off the opening of the Lion's Den. The Student Government

president, Kevin Page, then led everyone in the closing. Page was followed by David Santiago, opinions editor of smallTALK, who led everyone in a benediction.

Finally the celebration ended with an invitation to join everyone in the Lion's Den for refreshments and fellowship after the program. Dishes new offered at the Lion's Den are a salad and a mushroom burger.

small TALK

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## Gobble Ganza Fall Festival

RHA hosted Gobble Ganza on Nov. 16. The fair-like featured game booths and free food. Photos by David Santiago.

To the left Dean Blanc plays root beer pong. Center: Students toss rings around soda bottles to win pet fish.

To the right: William Walker hula hoops.



## Opportunities for Study Abroad

*Ashley Young*  
News Editor

On Nov. 15 Dr. Francescon shared with a small group of students the adventures which lie ahead for the studies being offered abroad.

For just \$100 anyone can get a place reserved until mid January in order to go to either Rimini, Italy or Seville, Spain.

The programs will be held around the same time, will last about four weeks, and will cost \$4,300. The money covers costs for round trip airfare, tuition, board and room and excursions. There will be one more informational meeting held on Nov. 29 at 11 a.m. in the Trustees Building Language Lab.

The trip to Rimini, Italy will last from May 26 until June 23, and requires a minimum GPA of 2.8. It will count towards 8 to 13 possible Methodist University credits. The trip will require 80 hours of foreign language and students may be tested here prior to entering school in Italy. These credits are included in the \$4,300 tuition fee. Once required courses are completed-students will be flown over where they will arrive in either Milan or Bologna then sent on to Rimini either by air or train.

The trip to Seville, Spain will run from May 12 until June 11, also requires a minimum GPA of 2.8 and will count towards 6-11 possible credits.

This trip too will require 80 hours of a foreign language and students will be tested once in Seville to see how they will be placed in school in Spain. Students will fly roundtrip to Seville tourist class.

Host families are very carefully screened prior to students living with them and while both countries are very safe students need to be wary of pickpockets. Traveling students will have a meeting in order to learn dress norms and customs of the areas. These students may keep in touch with their families at home through international cell phones, internet cafes, and phone cards.

"It'll be a great learning experience," said junior Erin Hamonkol, who has studied abroad.

Students present at this meeting were Rome Zahran who is a non traditional Italian student, Mike Firore who is a day student and a biology major, Raquel Mazza who is a day student majoring in writing, and Hiroki Usai who is majoring in Sports Management and is a full time day student from Japan.

Leila Nihamm, a senior from the Philippines and a Biology Major said, "It's a good idea; kids can go and see the places and learn the culture."

Dr. Francescon encourages anyone interested in this program to attend the next meeting so that they can better determine whether or not they would like to pursue a study abroad.



President Hendricks and members of Table 14 laugh as the waitress offers more tea. Hendricks and others attended the luncheon where scholarship donors had the opportunity to meet those that recieved the scholarships.  
Photo By Tiffany Nabors

## Methodist Endowed Scholarships

*Ashley Young*  
News Editor

At 11:30 a.m. on Nov. 9 in the Reeves Auditorium, the Endowed Scholarship Luncheon was held. This year was the fourth year that Methodist University held the luncheon, which provides students with an opportunity to meet those that donate scholarship money.

All of the donors are strong supporters of the students here at Methodist and believers in education. Some of the do-

nors are Methodist Alumni, others are teachers and professors. A scholarship that was particularly highlighted this year was the Hubert M. Willis Scholarship, which was given by a men's group from a local church. Willis began the Dogwood's Festival through being a member of the Kiwanis Club and planting dogwood trees along the streets of Fayetteville.

Donors establish qualifications by interest through a written agreement with Methodist University. The business office then decides who receives the scholarships through a 250-word essay.

This year's luncheon had a total of 122 people between the donors and students with a total of \$306,000 being offered.

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smallTALK is the student-run newspaper of Methodist College. It is published every other week throughout the school year. The newspaper is editorially independent of Methodist College, and any ideas and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the faculty, staff and administration of Methodist College.

smallTALK welcomes Letters to the Editor. All letters should be delivered to the Student Media office on the first floor of Bern's Student Center or sent via e-mail to ashgenova@yahoo.com. Story suggestions should be sent to the same address.

Students are free to join smallTALK at any point in the school year. Meetings are every Tuesday at 4 p.m. in the Heritage Dining Room.

## 100 Projects for Peace

*David Santiago*  
Opinions Editor

Methodist University students have a chance to work for peace in the world.

Methodist is one of 76 educational institutions in the Davis United World College Scholars Program, which qualifies it for participation in the One Hundred Projects for Peace. The first 100 winning projects submitted for world peace by students will receive a grant of \$10 thousand to put the plan in effect.

This is made possible by accomplished internationalist, Kathryn Wasserman Davis. She is mother of Shelby M.C. Davis who funds the Davis UWSP. Kathryn Davis is about to turn 100 years old and to commemorate her birthday, she has

committed \$1 million to put 100 programs for world peace into effect. The students who come up with the best programs will receive \$10 thousand for the program, but are free to raise even more funds if required.

All projects must be submitted to campus officials and these officials must turn all their schools projects into the David UWCSPP office by Feb. 15, 2007. For information pertaining to Methodist University students wishing to participate, stop by the International Programs office, room 5 in the Berns Student Center. Contact between students participation and the Davis WUCSP is strictly prohibited, all communication must be done through the schools designated official.

## Coming in January: Nimocks Fitness Center

Byron Lowe  
Staff Writer



Construction of the fitness center as of Oct. 25. Soon the equipment will be moved into the center. Photo courtesy of the Methodist University Web site.

We have all seen the construction of the new center for sometime now, but what can we expect, and when will we see the results? To find out, I sat down with Mike Sinkovitz, the director of recreation to get the information.

The new and improved Fitness Center will open in the middle of January, and thanks to a price tag of over \$100,000 dollars worth of equipment, much can be expected. The new center will include.

- Cardiovascular equipment, including Treadmills, stair masters, spinning bikes, and ellipticals.

- Strength and condition-

ing equipment that will cover every muscle group.

- A new gym with two basketball courts, volleyball courts, and a dodge ball area.

- Programs that will include: badminton, floor hockey, wiffle ball, yoga classes, kick-boxing, Pilates, and other various activities.

- The new gym will have televisions and possibly a juice bar for the convenience of the students.

- Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7 AM - 10 PM

Sat. 12 PM - 8 PM

Sun. 1 PM - 10 PM



Student volunteers load packaged shoeboxes onto a truck. Photo by Pat Blalock.

## Operation Christmas Child

David Santiago  
Opinions Editor

Students at Methodist University are out to change the world. Or at least make a small donation of time and effort.

That is the sense one gets when visiting the collection site for Operation Christmas Child in front of Reeves Auditorium. Three trailers are set up for contributors representing various churches and faith based organizations. Donations of shoeboxes full of toys and goods are sent to the children of Third World countries. Methodist University students volunteered to unload the boxes, pack them into bigger boxes which are then taped up and loaded into the tractor trailer.

Supervising collection site is Samaritans Purse volunteer Cornette Nettles. She and other volunteers oversee the operations and have so far been impressed with the willingness of the students to get right to work.

"It's a real blessing having all these kids here helping us," said Nettles, "I'm trying to save some of my older volunteers from hurting there backs!"

After Nov. 27, all the

boxes will be taken to a processing center in Charlotte, N.C. There they will be sorted out and checked for inappropriate items. This is one of six processing centers in the United States.

Nettles is a seasonal volunteer with Samaritans Purse. She generally starts in April. According to Nettles, "It is not as full time as it is now, but that is when we start communication and planning everything." Nettles also stated that her goal for this collection station is to collect about 27,000 boxes. One trailer can hold about 5000 boxes.

Samaritans Purse is a faith based organization founded and headed by Franklin Graham, son of popular evangelist Billy Graham. While it continually reaches out to impoverished nations throughout the year, Operation Christmas Child is its most notable function. Every year starting in November, churches take initiative in collection boxes with materials and then bring them to local drop collection centers where they can be taken to a processing center and sent to children in third world nations including areas in Africa, Asia, former nations of the Soviet Union and other Eastern European nations.



Cornette Nettles supervises the collection of shoeboxes. Photo by Pat Blalock.

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# Be Like Ashlee Simpson: Lip Synch Contest

*Cassandra Wells*  
Staff Writer

Nov. 15 students from Methodist University copied Ashlee Simpson, who faked her singing at a concert.

The students who participated lip-synched to one of their favorite songs. The contestants won cash prizes. First prize was \$50, second prize was \$30, and third prize was \$20. These contestants were judged, the judges were William Walker, Yong Ahn, and Doris Jackson's mother.

Clarence Baker, Tazz Petty and Ray lip-synched to three songs, "Hey Ya" by Outkast, "Walk it Out" by Unk, and "Hot in Herre" by Nelly. They decided to be judged on "Hot in Herre," in which they took their shirts off. In their other songs they were energetic and engaged with the audience by dancing



Ashley Genova dances to "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun." All photos by Cavis Rodney.

with someone. These three won first place.

Keva Wilson lip-synched to "Ring the Alarm" by Beyonce. She interacted with the audience and the judges. She

was dressed the part too, equipped with sunglasses, heels, long shirt and belt. Wilson won second place.

Ashley Genova lip-synched to "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" by Cyndi Lauper. She was decked out in her '80s wear. She had on leggings, fun socks, long shirt, a sparkly tie belt, big hair and make up. When asked why she wanted to participate in the lip synch contest, she said, "I wanted to do something fun and crazy." In response to why she chose the song she said, "Because it's totally '80s, and I wanted to dress up like the people from the '80s. The song reminds me of my best friend and I."



Brogden Heidenreich brings sexy back.



Keva Wilson grooves to "Ring the Alarm."

Brogden Heidenreich lip synched to "Sexy Back" by Justin Timberlake. He had fun with the song. His dancing included the robot. He interacted with the audience and judges. An audience got up and handed him a dollar bill.

Genova and Heidenreich tied for third place.

Other performances included, Dr. Peck lip-synched to "Honkey Tonk Badonkadonk" by Trace Adkins. Antonio Royal lip-synched to "Get into My Car" by 50 Cent. Tray Thacker lip-synched to "Pony" by Ginuwine. Will Wathins lip-synched to "Free Bird" by Lynyrd Skynyrd, wearing a mullet and strumming a golf club.

The audience was full of claps and laughter. SAC had



Clarence Baker, Tazz Petty and Ray "Walk It Out."

## Good-Bye Saunders

*Ashley Young*  
News Editor

Chief Wilford Saunders, director of Public Safety will be leaving Methodist University on Nov 30.

Saunders said this decision had been in the back of his mind for a long time. He wishes to dedicate more time and energy to his family and to other pursuits.

While Saunders has been back here at Methodist for a little over a year, he remains dedicated and is not leaving because of any specific reason other than his priorities changing from his relegated secretary role. Saunders plans to go home to close to Kitty Hawk and will share his time



Chief Wilford Saunders displays medals from his army days at the Veterans Day Ceremony. Photo by Ashley Genova.

between there and Fayetteville.

Saunders is a retired military officer and served as a Sergeant Major.

The President of the University approved Dawn Hamerla for the director of Police and Public Safety.

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# Opinions

## Remille's Rhetoric

Remille Shipman  
Sports Editor



I can admit right now that I'm a little miffed about how the 2006 fall semester flew by. I remember whining about this in my column last year, but nowadays the days seem to go by so quickly that you can't savor them anymore.

Anyway, I think this semester was a pivotal one for the entire university. We brought in our largest freshman class ever. We constructed Creekside Apartments in August. We remolded the Lion's Den and gave it extended hours. Most importantly, we said Methodist College to rest and replaced it with the more attractive University. Take a moment to applaud, everyone.

I also remember the statements made in my first column. I said that I would try to maintain a positive vibe throughout the year. And I felt that I did that for about the first half of the semester. But enough things happened for me to back away from my opening statement, at least partially.

I felt that the majority of student organizations on campus were a little too quiet this year. RHA didn't hold a program until November 16, and that was altered because of the weather. As some of you may know, RHA is usually responsible for Oktoberfest in October, but that was nowhere to be found.

I was also heartbroken by our lack of a Homecoming bonfire and the lack of a Power Puff football game. I don't know what happened with the bonfire, but I can say that the reason that we didn't have the same at all because of a lack of interest and a lack of lights. I know this because my fraternity was in charge of organizing the girls. We have issues here if there aren't 22 girls here who aren't tied down by athletic endeavors. I guess too many people are afraid of breaking their fingers.

The issue of the lights brings me to the alleged "bud-

get cuts across the board". I felt that maybe campus organizations should have had money put aside instead of begging for the student government's help, but I don't get the reasoning of having more students and less money to entertain them. The lack of funds hurt a lot of organizations this year, and it contributed to Student Media not being able to make a trip to St. Louis. I don't get it, but it's all in the past now.

I also made my point known about the Homecoming voting snafu in the last issue. I'm not going to bring that up again. But I thought a lot of things were missing at Methodist University this semester. There were a lot of things that should have been handled better.

But there were also some good things, too. We haven't received negative publicity from any news source this year. We should be thankful that the Homecoming dance went along without any foreseeable problems, because I heard at the beginning of the semester that we weren't going to see a dance in 2006. The name change also brought us a lot of publicity. If things at Methodist don't expand and improve in the next five years, I would be shocked.

I hope next semester will bring a revitalized effort from campus organizations to give us something to talk about. History has shown me that spring semesters are worse than fall semesters because of the alleged apathy of the students and the mental fatigue of all those involved, but I hope that changes.

You'll be seeing my name less in the newspaper as well. I might step down from my post as Sports Editor by the end of the semester; I need more time to focus on my studies and keeping myself sane. I've carried this section for the better part of two and a half years, and I've almost burned out doing it. I think all parties involved will be fine if I tone down my work. You'll still see this column, but forgive me if I'm not on the sports ball as much. I know I haven't gotten the chance to do some of the things that I wanted to do, but I had fun nonetheless.

Email me at [eshipman@hotmail.com](mailto:eshipman@hotmail.com) if you'd like to respond to this column.

## Late Warning Signs

Ashley Young: News Editor

I am visually impaired due to a brain tumor I had over four years ago. I can only see people and things when I walk right up on them because I have "tunnel vision" and must look down when I walk. I often times will unintentionally walk places where I'm either in someone's way or should not be. So my question is-why on the cotton picking green earth did it take the construction crews so long to put up warning signs?

Construction has been underway here at Methodist off and on since 1989. The most recent project has been going on for over a year, yet the **DANGER CONSTRUCTION SITE** signs were just put up about a month ago. Now if there were any serious danger involved in the construction; why weren't the signs put up before? Being visually impaired I would like more warning than the installation of signs almost four months after school has started.

I think all of the buildings are going to be wonderful when they are all done, and running. However I just wish that construction sites that happen on or around campus could give a little bit more leeway to the general public as far as warning signs go for people who have difficulties seeing like normal people do. I hope that with any more future building that any construction company does on this campus there will be signs posted on the first day of construction if not prior to, to warn people where it is unsafe to go.

## A Voice From The Wilderness

David Santiago



### Christmas Edition

So I'm a sucker for the classic Christmas specials.

My favorite has to be "Merry Christmas Charlie Brown." For one thing, I always kind of connected with Charlie Brown. I am the proverbial block head that always seems to mess even the simplest of task up I look forward to the scene where Charlie Brown asks what Christmas is all about, and Linus explains it to him in a brief telling of St. Luke's account of Jesus' birth and the visitation of the shepherds.

So yes, as a scholar I have to question historical accuracy when faced with scripture, which has more religious function. Perhaps throughout the year I struggle with questions of who the historical Jesus was and what the circumstances around his apparent virgin birth were. I have to look at these things with skepticism. But somehow at Christmas, all is well.

Growing up as an Evangelical Protestant, Christmas offered things that didn't appear the rest of the year. Naturally being non-catholic, Christmas was the only time Mary showed up. Jesus took a break

from being the all wise teacher or sorrowful naked man on the cross and became a baby. Angels came to celebrate and not fight off demons or bring messages of destruction. This was the time of year when all was right. This was a

time of year when, as the song says "all is calm, all is right."

It's like in the end of the Christmas special when Charlie Brown realizes that the fact that he got a less than ideal tree or couldn't put on a decent Christmas play didn't matter. God loved him anyway and if he couldn't get the approval of his peers, that was all right. Through the true meaning of Christmas he found all the reason he needed to celebrate.

When examining the different perceptions of Jesus and who he was, Brian McLaren examined the Jesus of the Orthodox Church. He assessed the other "Jesus" who saved by dying or being resurrected, but he noted that the Orthodox Jesus saved just by being born. Just the presence of a Christ, even in infant form, somehow put a mystical essence upon the earth that made everything right, even for a moment.

I guess that's what I always Christmas has always meant to me, no lengthy discussion of doctrine, no two hour subtitled movies of some guy getting beaten and nailed to death, just the presence of a child making the world right.

Cont. on next page

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Voice Cont.

This is not to say I reject the beliefs in miracles and supernatural claims. Obviously to believe in God is in and of itself a venture of faith. It's just that as a scholar I have come to look upon many things with skepticism. But Christmas makes it all right. I do have to at least question things like the historical accuracy of the Bible, maybe I have to question supernatural claims made by the Gospels, but either way Christmas it doesn't matter. Because at Christmas I remember that 2000 years ago, a child was born. Regardless who his father was I have no doubt that this child was a son of God, and in some way embodied the true essence of the good, true and beautiful.

Like Charlie Brown, at this time of year I can remember why I go on studying the way I do, even if I have to reject certain pre-conceived notions about the faith I was raised to believe, none of that matters at Christmas. At Christmas, I just know somehow that we were given a person, a Godsend, who showed us the carried within his very being the essence of God. I just know that in the midst of all the chaos in this world there is an underlying essence of what is good, true and beautiful.

Virgin Birth, miracles, yes, I have to questions them sometimes, but it doesn't affect my faith. Either way I believe that the man himself represented the most important message God could have ever given us. Peace on Earth. And good will towards men.

## Forgetting Something?



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## The Red Corner

**Zack Yonk**

If John McCain decides to run for President in 2008, it wouldn't surprise me. Many Republicans, licking their deep wounds inflicted by the teeth of the victorious Democrats, will be eager to endorse a big-name candidate, in a desperate attempt at victory. Conservatives had better find a decent spokesperson to counter McCain, because if he wins the Republican nomination in '08, chances are quite good that Republicans will be evicted from the White House.

There are two major wings of the Republicans; the moderate or "Rockefeller" Republicans, and the conservative "Religious Right." McCain, champion of "campaign finance reform", happens to fly with the moderate wing. When was the last time a moderate Republican won the party's nomination, let alone the presidency? The answer would be Gerald Ford, who ended up losing by an inch to Jimmy Carter in 1976. That in itself is an embarrassing feat for any Republican. Before that, in 1964, Nelson Rockefeller, the moderate governor of New York, couldn't even win the nomination against conservative Barry Goldwater, who was defeated in the election against Lyndon B. Johnson. On the flip side, in the 1980s conservative Ronald Reagan won two landslide elections, and in 2000 George W. Bush, campaigning as a "compassionate conservative" prevailed in the primaries and eventually won the election over Al "Inconvenient Truth" Gore, Jr.

The obvious fact of the matter is that conservatives are the driving force behind the Republican Party. The only ones who don't seem to realize that are the "Rockefellers" themselves. If conservatives can find a charismatic, intelligent candidate to counter McCain, chances are very good that Republicans will hold the White House in 2008. It worked with Bush in 2000, and it is likely to work again.

McCain is not moderate to the point where he's basically a donkey with elephant ears) but on many issues, such as campaign finance and torture, he certainly isn't conservative. The media has provided McCain's biggest cheerleaders thus far, classifying him as a "maverick" and a "rebel." This is the same media that in 1976 said that Reagan was a has-been.

So, now on to 2008 with McCain; there can be no gain, but only defeat.

## Totally Radical

**David Santiago**

I wonder when VH1 will officially change its name to "The '80s Channel." It started out as a good idea: let's do a year-by-year series on the 1980s. And it was a big success. Then they tried a series on the '70s. Unfortunately, the lack of television coverage in the pre-cable area of the '70s left this one a little lacking. Then they came out with one on the 1990s. The problem here was that the '90s generation is still a factor in youth culture and, only seven years beyond the '90s, there is not much nostalgia for that decade.

Sure VH1 made sequels to all of them, but only the '80s gets three whole ten-part series on it. Then they began featuring movies from the '80s. Maybe it seemed a little overdone at this point. But, "The Breakfast Club" is one my personal favorites of all time. Then they came out with the "100 Greatest Songs of the '80s." Ok this was pushing it. I like Bon Jovi and Cyndi Lauper, but I'd rather just listen to their music. I don't care what a bunch of industry insiders think they know about pop culture. The whole "100 greatest" thing was a little over done back when they did the greatest hard rock bands. I am a hard rock fan myself, but they had to stretch the definition of hard rock and popularity of some bands to crank 100 out of it.

That's what happened in the second "I Love the '70s" Most of the stuff they included actually started in the '60s. Then came the VH1 original movie, "Totally Awesome." A hilarious spoof on 80s teen films, but seriously, I think I know as much about the '80s as I ever would want to know at this point.

Sure VH1 tried other programming, like "Celbrealty," but reality TV is just getting silly anyway. I mean "Flavor of Love" was funny the first time, but the Jerry Springer rejected that showed up on the second one, come on. And "Celebrity fit club?" Should be called WASHED UP celebrity fit club. I mean when Gary Busy and Wendy the Snapple lady are the biggest names that ever show up on the show, that is NOT a celebrity line up. And so VH1 has become the channel for everything 80s. One can't blame them though. There only trying to keep up with MTV which has captivated the American youth with such classics as "The Real World" and "Newlyweds." It's gotten so bad that I really am nostalgic when these stations did something that would baffle most of today's youth; they played music videos.

## New Trends Revive Old Traditions

**Sarah Moreland**

*Ball State Daily News, Muncie, Ind. (MCT)*

Nov. 20--The images portrayed in most cases of Thanksgiving involve the traditional dinner of turkey with all the trimmings, sides and desserts. The fowl has been associated with the day celebrating the Pilgrims' harmonious gathering with the Native Americans for decades -- the holiday itself is also unofficially known as "Turkey Day."

Despite its influence on the typical Thanksgiving meal, many families choose to eat an alternative meat source due to other circumstances. Sophomore Tiffany Parker's childhood included ham as the meat of choice, mainly due to convenience.

"We didn't used to eat turkey, used to get ham from my dad's work," Parker said. "But then my mom went on a diet, and I was a ballet dancer, so we switched to turkey because it's healthier."

According to nutritiondata.com, turkey is indeed healthy in moderation: Cooked turkey is a great source of protein, niacin, selenium, vitamin B6 and phosphorus. In larger amounts, however, sodium and cholesterol levels can skyrocket.

For vegetarians such as freshman Alison Niemi, the thought of chowing down on an animal treated horribly by farm workers was not appealing. Self-described as a "kind-of vegetarian," Niemi is willing to eat turkey with her family as long as it was treated humanely.

"There is a store where I'm from, an organic store where turkeys were raised in humane conditions," Niemi said. "It makes me feel a little bit better."

For vegetarians who are still not comfortable with eating meat over the holidays, products such as Turtle Island Foods' "Tofurky" and Tempeh are available. Tofurky, a soy product, even comes as a packaged Thanksgiving feast, including sides of cranberry apple potato dumplings and wild rice stuffing.

O, Christmas Tree æ| Options for Christmas trees range from real pines and spruces to fiber-optic and tabletop decorations, which allow students of all living situations the opportunity to own their own Christmas tree. Smaller spaces, like the typical dorm, can make use of relatively inexpensive and short artificial trees.

The main debate among the types of trees on the market is the pros and cons of the authentic, hand-grown Christmas tree versus its factory-made counterpart. In some cases, the decision was made by a parent or other family member and the student continues that tradition once out on his or her own.

"Since I was little, my dad has grown our own Christmas trees," Niemi said. "He picks them out when they're about a foot-and-a-half tall, and then he grows them in the backyard. We then go around and choose from the 10-15 best ones."

In contrast, Parker's family has created a tradition of using artificial trees during the holiday season because of the problems real Christmas trees can cause.

"We have always had artificial trees," Parker said. "My parents say real Christmas trees are harder to deal with, bring in mice, are flammable and have a lot of other [disadvantages]."

Having trouble deciding which type of Christmas tree to buy? Consider the following factors:

Real trees are a recyclable resource, whereas artificial trees are not; in addition, real trees absorb carbon dioxide and help prevent the "greenhouse effect."

Artificial trees are cheaper, not as messy, do not bring any surprise organisms into your living room and do not need to be replaced each year.

Real trees are more likely to catch fire from strings of lights, and some artificial trees come with lights attached to save you the hassle of stringing them.

For more information about Tofurky products, check outtofurky.com.

Most American families celebrate their winter holiday with Christmas on Dec. 25. On Christmas many families get together and open gifts brought by “Santa Claus.” Other religion-based families celebrate the remembrance of the birth of Jesus Christ. But is this the same around the world? *Small Talk* investigates, an overview on the world’s winter celebrations.

*Byron Lowe*  
Staff Writer

*A stroll through Costa Rica – with Margina Coccozza*

Margina stated that there are four main days of celebration; first on Dec. 24 at midnight most families celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. And then on the 25, Christmas is celebrated. Some families tell the children Santa Claus brought the gifts, and others teach that the gifts were brought by three Holy Kings. The next celebration is on Dec. 31 to bring in the New Year. Did not get what you wanted on Christmas? Children in Costa Rico will receive gifts once more on Jan. 6. This day celebrates the day of three Holy Kings, and children will find gifts in their stockings.

*A trip to Guyana – with Cavis Rodney*

Sitting down with Rodney I learned how the majority of Guyana celebrates the winter holidays. In Guyana, schools close on Dec. 13, and from here the festivities begin. She stated that throughout the rest of the month, there are many festivals with dancing, music, food, art shows, and parties. The largest, and most celebrated festival is called Mascarade, which has all of the mentioned activities at a large scale.

Then on Dec. 19, they have what is known as Christmas shopping, when a mass number of people go out and buy Christmas trees and ornaments. The tree is decorated for Dec. 25, when gifts will be opened. The celebration does not stop on the 25, but continues on the 26 and 27. On these days families gather together eat a lot of food, enjoy fireworks, and the family company.

*A visit to Senegal – with Coumba Mbodji*

Here Christmas is celebrated on the 24. Families gather together, eat, and children open gifts brought by Santa Claus. But Mbodji wanted it known that in Senegal it is taught that a black Santa Clause brings the gifts.

*Exploring Russia – with Marie Pyanzina*

While Russia does celebrate Christmas, it is done a little differently for two main reasons. It is celebrated on Jan. 6 and it is taught that Saint Nicklaus brings the gifts for the children. She also mentioned, that most families go to church on this day.

Graphic by Ashley Genova

*Hanging out in Uzbekistan – with Sanjar Radjabov*

Radjabov stated that they do not celebrate Christmas, but instead exchange gifts on New Years.

*Moving through  
Finally in The Bahamas – with Byron Lowe*

For those who did not know, I was born and raised in the Bahamas. And, our winter is a non-stop festival. Most families decorate their houses with ornaments and lights. There is actually a competition in most neighborhoods for the best decorated yard. It is nice to drive through neighborhoods and see all the unique designs. The largest theme for Christmas in the Bahamas is family time. Usually families gather together on Dec. 24, 25, 26, 27, 31, and then on Jan. 1. On Dec. 24, most families go to church until midnight, and then on the morning of the 25. Children open gifts brought by “Santa Claus”. On the 25, most families gather together for lunch. The night of the 26 is when the “party” begins, on this night the festival Junkanoo is celebrated. During Junkanoo, many Bahamians go downtown where they watch a huge parade, with costumes, music and dancing. This parade usually starts at midnight, and lasts until around 2 p.m. the next day.

*What’s up in Germany – with Marianne Mosch*

Germany has two major celebration days: Saint Nicklaus Day and Christmas. Saint Nicklaus Day is celebrated on Dec. 6. The night of Dec. 5 children will put a pair of shoes outside their door, and Saint Nicklaus puts gifts in their shoes while they are sleeping.

Christmas is celebrated on Dec. 24, where it is taught that an angel brings the gifts, and not Santa Claus. Most families go to church on this date, and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

*Far East in China – with Annie Ren and Xiangming wu*

China does not celebrate Christmas, but does celebrate the Chinese New Year, which goes by a lunar calendar. Children will receive gifts known as rat pockets from family members. These pockets will contain money.

Then on New Year’s Eve, the whole family gets together and stays up all night.

*Mongolia – with Aza Chulunbaatar*

Mongolia does not celebrate Christmas, but celebrate New Year. On this day, gifts are exchanged, and families get together.



So we can see that everyone has a unique way of celebrating during the winter. And whatever you celebrate have a *Happy Holiday* from everyone here at Small Talk Newspaper.

# Entertainment

## “Happy Feet” Cute But Plot Needs Work

David Santiago  
Opinion Editor

“Happy Feet” was an entertaining film, but the plot got lost fairly quickly.

What started out as a kid’s movie, its shift to environmentalist propaganda was rather sudden and did not fit the two halves together very well.

Before continuing, let me say that I am not a big fan of computer-animated films. While the 3-D effects of it so enhance the experience, I find that some animators rely on it so heavily that the “magic” of animation has been lost. When artist actually had to sit down and draw these characters out, it gave them a certain essence that brought them to life in a way a computer generated image never really can. I remember “The Lion King,” which incorporated both.

Computers were used to enhance the scenery and dimensions of the characters, as well as save the artist from having to draw scene-by-scene sketches. These were in fact “cartoon” images and thus retained the “magic” that once made companies like Disney legendary.

The movie itself was cute. The funny scenes and musical



numbers are good children’s entertainment. The plot line gets lost in the fact that what you really are watching is two different movies scrunched into one. The conflict of the protagonist “Mambo” is that he is different than other penguins. This gets settled in the first half of the movie. However it quickly shifts to what seems to be the sequel of the first half tagged on

this half that Mambo goes from being the A-typical “Ugly Ducking” to a somewhat Marxist Messiah figure.

Despite these odd turn shifts throughout the movie as well as some over use of conventions, it was a cute film worth seeing, epically if you are taking children. I give it two and half stars out of five.

at the last minute to make one big movie out of a two parts meant to be a prequel and sequel. This half could easily warrant a G rating.

The second half however would be bumped up to a PG rating as it becomes quite dark and cynical. I imagine the parents in the audience found themselves having to have quite a talk with their kids about the sad scenes that deal with modern day environmental and conservationist concerns. It is in

## And The Winner Is ... ?



Dionne Drakes  
Staff Writer

On Nov. 13, history was made. Black Entertainment Television (BET) hosted its First Annual Hip Hop Awards Show.

This highly anticipated award show was hosted by “funny man” Katt Williams, who from a spectators point of view did an outstanding job at keeping the show hyped up and entertaining.

There were many appearances and presentations by Flava Flav, Busta Rhymes,

Monica, Jay-Z and many more. Not forgetting the memorable performances by The Game, Young Jeezy, Ludacris, Lil Wayne and Baby, Snoop Dogg and TI who blazed the scenes and set the stage for future BET Hip Hop Awards Shows.

With all the many award winners such as Camillionaire, who racked them up -, Busta Rhymes, Common, Yung Joc, TI and more, it was the Icon award that was presented to Grand Master Flash, whose legendary turn table techniques helped make Hip Hop what it is today, a lifestyle.

## Sudoku by Michael Mepham

Level:  1  2  3  4

	9		6				5
	5			8		6	
7			2				8
	2			6	9		
5		3			2		6
		4	3			5	
4				2			7
	7		1			3	
1			3			2	

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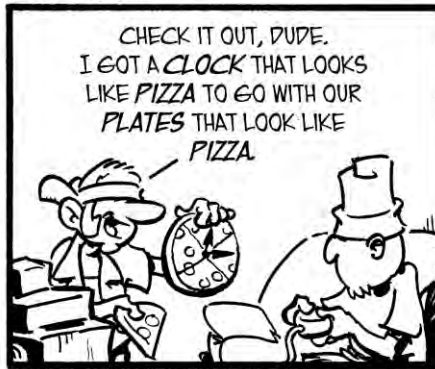
**PAUL**

**BY BILLY O'KEEFE MRBILLY.COM/PAUL**



Two Dudes

by Aaron Warner



# 12 Day of Christmas: Methodist Style!

David Santiago  
Remille Shipman  
Jameson Jones

*On the 12 days of Christmas, Dr. Hendricks gave to me...*

- 12 rounds of golf
- 1100 students on MySpace
- 10/1 Guys to Girls
- 9 Students in the Fountain
- 8 Fire alarms in Pearce
- 7 Students at an MC Late Night
- 6 "Tooth Pick" Holders
- 5 Students in Pajamas at class
- 4 Withdraw Failings
- 3 a.m. at Waffle House
- 2 Months late on the Lion's Den Grand Opening
- And a flying pork chop in the cafe.

## Sled with the dogs...



## Join the Outdoor Adventure Club

### 2006- 07 Schedule

- September**
- Hot-air Ballooning
- Sailing School- Annapolis, MD
- October**
- White Water Rafting, Rock Climb & Rappelling
- West Virginia, New York City, NY
- November**
- Swimming with Manatees- Florida
- Deep Sea Fishing- Carolina Beach
- December**
- Cross-country Skiing, Snow Shoeing, & Dog Sledding
- January**
- Downhill Skiing, Snowboarding, & Tubing
- February**
- Horseback Riding School
- Washington D.C.
- March**
- Fishing, Snorkeling, & Scuba Diving
- Key West, Florida (Spring Break)
- April**
- Sea Kayaking, Claming, Surf Fishing
- Outer Banks, NC
- May**
- Backpacking, Hiking Grand Canyon

# Sports

## Men's Basketball Prepare for 2006-2007 Regular Season

**Remille Shipman**  
*Sports Editor*

Head coach: David Smith (104-83 in seven seasons)

2005-2006 overall record: 10-17 (7-5 in USA South conference play)

Lettermen Returning/Lost-7/6

Newcomers-9

Starters Returning: Sr. Rob Lee (9.3 ppg), Sr. Dragan Radmanovic (9.1 ppg.), So. Antwin Shuford (6.5 ppg, 7.6 rpg)

Team Predicted to finish T-4<sup>th</sup> in USA South

The time has finally come for Methodist to avenge their horrendous 2005-2006 season.

At this time last year, the Monarchs were picked to finish first in the competitive USA South Athletic Conference. But a fourth straight conference title wasn't to be as Methodist struggled to a 10-17 overall record last season while facing tough competition. Since then, 1,000 point scorers Seth Thomas and Eugene Grant have graduated, leaving head coach David Smith with only 63 percent of his scoring from last season and three players-seniors Rob Lee and Dragan Radmanovic and sophomore Antwin Shuford-who saw significant time in 2005-2006.

Smith now hopes to lead a young team with nine new faces to a better finish than last season. Smith commented the team's chemistry and depth as strong points. "We could be pretty deep," Smith said. "We have

up to 12 guys that we could play."

So far, the most promising newcomers include freshman guard Adrian Bascom, a Wilmington native, and freshman forward Darrian Anderson, a Miami native. "They will play," Smith said. Sophomore transfer and former Virginia Commonwealth walk-on A.B. Lehmann is also expected to stabilize the point guard position.

The Monarchs played tough competition all preseason as they competed against Division II opponents St. Andrews and Wingate. Methodist played extremely well against Division I foe

Gardner-Webb on Nov. 8, as they only trailed the Bulldogs by four at halftime before losing 86-68.

The Monarchs will face tough competition again in the regular season as they will host defending Division III national champion Virginia Wesleyan on Jan. 3 and perennial NCAA Tournament qualifier Maryville College on Jan. 20. Smith hopes that these programs will face a team with a "chip on their shoulder" after posting a losing record in 2005-2006. "Hopefully the guys are hungry," Smith said.



Senior forward Dragan Radmanovic shoots a free throw during a game last season.



## Cheerleading Squad Splits into Two

**Dionne Drakes**  
*Staff Writer*

Due to the increase in the number of games, the Methodist cheerleading team has been divided into a coed and an all girl team.

The coed team must do advance tumbling and running stunts. While the all girls team must know how to do running hand springs. Coach Hay emphasizes that the split has nothing to do with the team's lack of talent. "Each team is very talented," but this is an alternative to take the pressure off the coed team" and meet the needs of the cheerleaders," Hay said. "As football season for MU is pretty much over, the primary focus of the all girl team is switched to basketball.

The NCAA has placed very strict guidelines on cheering basketball games and certain stunts such as the two and a half high pyramids and basketball tosses are no longer allowed. Hay is not too thrilled about this because "people love to come to the games to see them get tossed about." Determined not to let the new NCAA rules serve as a road block, Hay works hard with the cheerleaders helping

them to do more with less and really showcase their true talent.

While the cheerleaders number one focus is to support the team, having the crowd join in would make this evenh easier. "I want people to just be as wild and crazy as we are," says Hay who is working with the coed team to defend their championship at the Collegiate Nationals in Myrtle Beach with other D3 cheer teams.

The cheerleading teams at MU are very hardworking and dedicated. Both teams arrived in August and competed as one team at Camp NCA- a college cheerleading camp, placing second and beating out NC State and many others, getting their bid for Nationals.

As one of the many D3 teams in the nation that compete up, MU has accomplished plenty. They have had a cheerleader - Tiffanie Wagner- featured in the National College Cheerleaders Magazine, and they have been rated in the top eight in many D3 competitions having gone as far as third place.

# Women's Basketball Prepares To Tip Off

Jameson Jones  
Staff Writer



Sophomore Lisa Jackson tries to make a pass during a game last season.

entire team must step up to be a significant force this season.

**After giving names of people to watch out for and who needs to step up, what are your goals for this season?**

Coach Jarman hopes to have a regular season above .500 along with more wins than last year. In addition, she hopes the team can become both regular season and conference champions that would lead to an NCAA Tournament berth. After making the tourney, she hopes the team can make it to the second round.

**With those goals in mind, who do you expect will be strong within the USA South Conference?**

The teams that are the most serious threats include Greensboro College, Christopher Newport, Ferrum and Averett. Greensboro was selected to finish first in the conference while Methodist was selected to finish fourth.

As a coach, Coach Jarman does not believe in singling out individual players but instead believes that the

# Nasiro-Sigo Goes National

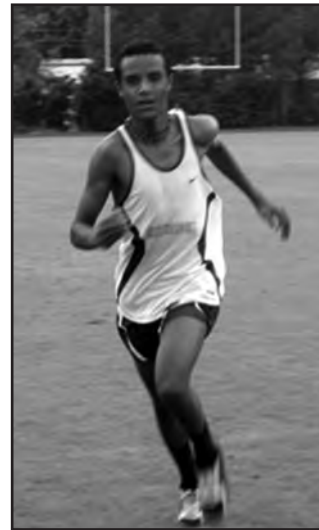
Zack Yonk  
Staff Writer

On November 18, in West Chester, Ohio, Husein Nasiro-Sigo attempted to toe the line at Voice of America Park with a chance to win the NCAA Division III Cross Country Championships.

He hoped to rebound from what he considered a disappointing finish at the South/Southeast Regional in Atlanta, GA on November 11, where he finished second after leading the pack for most of the race.

However, Nasiro-Sigo has a new tactic up his sleeve.

"Instead of trying to lose the competition at the start, and burning out in the process, I am going to try to stay with the front runners the entire time," Nasiro-Sigo said, "My goal is to be an All-American, and possibly win the race." Such ambitions are



Husein Nasiro-Sigo dashes across the field.

Ryerson appeared confident in his number one runner, saying, "I hope he does great; I think he has a chance to compete with the front guys, and possibly win it all."

In the 2005 National meet, Nasiro-Sigo contracted a stomach virus in the middle of the race, and was unable to finish.

Crystal Williams, his Assistant Coach, sees this year's race as Nasiro-Sigo's shot at redemption, adding, "Husein is not only a great runner, but a great person. He's the kind of athlete every coach would want to prepare for nationals."

However, Nasiro-Sigo's efforts to become a 2006 national champion fell short when he finished 63<sup>rd</sup> overall with a time of 28:08. Widener University's Marcharia Yuot won with a time of 26:31 while Calvin College won the team championship.

The field of 279 had to contend with a muddy field brought along by heavy rain prior to the event.

not out-of-reach for the junior from Koffela, Ethiopia, who was the USA South Runner of the Year for the 2005 and 2006 seasons.

Head Coach Tim

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# Corner Worker Looks Back at 2006 Season

*Jameson Jones  
Staff Writer*

Well everyone, it's that time of year again where everyone's sanity levels go down a few notches with the upcoming holiday shopping season and the feasts are to come with the respective holidays. Before I tell you my holiday plans, I will look back at some of the highlights of the 2006 racing season.

The racing calendar kicked off in January with the 44<sup>th</sup> running of the Rolex 24 at Daytona and an all-star team would capture the overall victory. A driver combination of Dan Wheldon, Scott Dixon and Casey Mears would team up under Chip Ganassi Racing in a Lexus-powered Riley to win the event by a full lap while completing 734 laps on the 3.56-mile road course. This

event would kick off a great Speedweeks that included Jimmy Johnson winning the Daytona 500 in mid-February. March would see the openers for the Indy Racing League and American Le Mans Series that brought two great races to the state of Florida as great kickoffs for both series' schedules.

April saw the return of French dominance in the Champ Car World Series as Sebastien Bourdais would win the Grand Prix of Long Beach that kicked off a championship season including the capturing of seven wins in the 14-race schedule. With this, Bourdais captured his third consecutive title and he will be trying to take his fourth title in 2007.

The month of May saw an exciting Indianapolis 500 with the possibility of an Andretti winning the event. Marco Andretti, son of team

owner Michael Andretti, had the lead of the Indy 500 until the last corner of the last lap as Sam Hornish Jr. made a time perfect pass to capture the win. This win would help Sam Hornish Jr. onto the championship scene as he would later capture the Indy Racing League title with Team Penske.

June saw another historic moment as a diesel-powered car would capture the 24 Hours of Le Mans title as an Audi R10 TDI that was piloted by the Audi Sport Team Joest squad. July would see fireworks during an intense month of racing that had all of the major North American racing series compete all over the country.

August would bring about a record breaking month as ten new track records were either set or broken at the

SCCA Oak Tree National at VIR. These cars would range from an Improved Touring Truck all the way up to Formula Atlantic and sports racers.

September saw battles in the Cup series to determine who would make the Chase for the Cup and ten drivers would end up fighting for the title.

October saw a Tar Heel being crowned a national racing champion. Don Knowles from Pittsboro, N.C. would capture the Showroom Stock B class title at the annual SCCA National Runoffs in Topeka, KS.

November saw the crowning of the Nextel Cup Champion as Jimmy Johnson would take the points title by 56 points over Matt Kenseth. December will see plenty of offseason testing in preparation for the 2007 season.

As I reflect on the year

that was in motorsports, I am very thankful that I was able to see a lot of historic moments unfold either on television or in person at VIR.

In closing, this time I will not be stepping aside from the newspaper staff instead I will try to be more involved with it next semester along with this Corner Worker's Corner.

For everyone out there, please be safe as you celebrate your traditions through the various religious ceremonies. Personally, I ask that the Giver of Life be with you all during this joyous holiday season and I hope to see you all back safe and sound at Methodist in January.

Until then, I will see you at the races and if Santa does not give what you want for Christmas, let me know and I will black flag him.

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