

APRIL 9,  
2007

# small TALK

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ISSUE 10

THE STUDENT VOICE OF METHODIST UNIVERSITY

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## I Was Born COUNTRY!



Photos by Ashley  
Genova and  
Cassandra Wells

The Student Activities Committee hosted Country Western Night with guest Sean Patrick McGraw of the Nashville Star TV show.

Other events included bull riding, a pie eating contest, potato sack races, line dancing, and a yee-haw contest.



# Bradshaw Fights Back Protest Over Residence Halls

Ashley Young  
News Editor



Norma Bradshaw will lead the protest.  
Photo By Ashley Young

What's the fuss? Norma Bradshaw, Chief Justice of the Student Court, is angry because of the living conditions in the residence halls.

What's her plan to help solve this issue? Bradshaw will hold a protest on the front lawn of the president's house on Fri, April 20 around 3 pm.

How long will they be out there? Bradshaw said, "We'll go as long as we need to."

Bradshaw is holding the protest to improve living conditions on campus through the power of the student body.

"Students are paying for luxury which is not being used because the dorms are not being re-vamped," said Bradshaw. "Over the past four years the living conditions have not improved and the students have not created an outcry about the current conditions so the administration has neglected to change them. It's becoming clearly unacceptable and it's time for the students to support one another and stand up and create a positive change."

Bradshaw feels the protest will be successful if any students show up to support her cause. Also, she is requesting that any clubs and organizations provide refreshments and protesting supplies.



This is the President's house and the protest will take place outside in the front driveway.

Photo By Ashley Young

# Mr. Morgan Makes a Move

Ashley Young  
News Editor

Ron Morgan spoke at an ethics discussion on Mar. 26 entitled, "Ethics and Our Environment." Based on calculations by Morgan, he says that between the years 2001 and 2008 the population as a whole will have used about half of all the oil remaining in the world.

According to Morgan using oil creates excess emissions of carbon dioxide which in turn is polluting the atmosphere. If changes are not made soon it will be the children and grandchildren of today's population that will suffer.

"What drives me is anger," said Morgan.

Morgan is currently working with Fort Bragg on a project to set up an electric bus system for transportation in the city of Fayetteville that would cut back on the use of motor vehicles and in turn cut back on carbon dioxide emissions.

"This project is in its preliminary stages," said Morgan describing the progress of this enterprise.

The progress of the project depends on the military and whether or not they will approve it.

# Weingarten Wows Watchers

Ashley Young

Nerws Editor

With 10 collections of poetry and the editing of six elegies (mournful poems for the dead) Roger Weingarten has made a career of himself.

Robin Greene, Professor of English and the Director for the Writing Center, said, "I think he's been seriously writing poetry since he was in college," in regards to Weingarten's career.

Weingarten poems in and shared with the audience the reason behind the poems. In his poems Weingarten spoke of everything from infidelities on behalf of married couples to his father's heart attack. The following is one of Weingarten's poems entitled, "Premature Elegy by Firelight."

I never had the time to  
wrote  
about the loneliness of  
waking  
at 4 a.m. to the certainty  
of my own  
early demise in my  
father's eye

that wrote me off like a  
painless  
new surgery for cataracts.  
I never  
had a minute until my  
brother's cat  
that ate the canary grin  
drove all day

through a storm with a  
loaf of bread  
and the image of the two  
of us  
on our backs and staring  
at the heartbeat  
of fire punishing the  
ceiling until daybreak

erased everything we  
knew our father  
never let us close to. We  
didn't  
do that. He had business  
further north and I had  
already

invented a new father  
better than my own  
who was just as lonely as  
the son  
he invented to keep him  
company  
for the last minutes of  
moonlight before morning.

# Illegal Downloads Continue

Jennifer Burk  
McClathcy Newspapers  
(MCT)

Despite thousands of complaints already filed by the music industry this year against college students who illegally download music, many of them continue to do it.

"I don't have time to run out to the store, and it's cheaper," Mercer University sophomore Adam Cornett said.

Attitudes like Cornett's, plus mounting pressure from the music industry, are leading colleges to look for their own ways to legally provide music to their students.

"We've definitely looked into that possibility, and we're looking at a number of options," said Rick

Goddard, vice president and chief technology officer at Mercer in Macon, Ga.

The university is looking at different alternatives, including contracting with both pay and free services, he said, although

nothing has been decided. But even legal downloading draws complaints from students.

Sometimes, music files downloaded legally are of lower quality, and some of them only play using specific programs, Cornett said. Plus, it's a hassle to input credit card information online, he said.

Still, that doesn't mean students automatically will write off a service the university provides.

"If the price is right and the selection is good, I think it's something students would use,"

Cornett said.

Besides increased pressure from the music industry, colleges are looking at controlling student downloading to save their own networks.

Downloading music and using file-sharing programs can strain a college's

bandwidth, hampering its use for research or other educational purposes, said

Donald Steward, chief information officer at Georgia

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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.

**Continued From Page 2**

**College & State**

University in Milledgeville, Ga. Right now, Georgia College is focusing on education about and prevention of illegal file sharing, he said. The university had talked about starting a contract with Rhapsody, a music subscription service, but then the company opened its doors to individual users, he said. "We got basically taken out of the equation," Steward said. Georgia College now

uses a program that checks computers on the campus network for certain downloading programs and limits students' use of them, he said. The university is considering using another program that would create stricter penalties for using peer-to-peer programs, commonly used to illegally download material, he said. Penalties may include shutting off the network port for a certain amount of time, he said. "If you continue breaking the law, you're going to have your network shut down," Steward said of how that particular program

works. The network at Macon's Wesleyan College detects and blocks illegal traffic, said Kevin Ulshafer, Wesleyan's director of computer and information resources and chief information officer. Although the college does not now offer its students a downloading service, he said it may come up for discussion. "It may be coming down the road," he said.

At Macon State College, officials have considered offering a music downloading service but ultimately decided against it, said Lynn McCraney, dean of students at the college. "We do have the traditional-age student who likes to participate in music downloading, and they do it frequently and, hopefully, legally," she said. But "the numbers of them are not frequent enough to charge every student a fee to

provide that service." The college posts a video on its Web site that describes the risks of file sharing and illegally downloading music and movies.

# Few and Far Between

*Ashley Young*  
News Editor

"A religion major is a good springboard major, not just for the ministry, but for many other pursuits as well," said Dr. Steven Brey, Department Chair and Assistant Professor of Religion. With Methodist University being a Christian college one might think that there would be a lot of students majoring in religion. Think again! The Religion Department employees only five professors, a small amount compared to other departments.

fun, not very career promising and that pretty much left me with religion," said Santiago.

Senior Steven Magnusen is getting a major both in religion and in history. He too has taken a variety of Religion classes ranging from "Jesus and the Gospels" to "Hebrew Prophets." Magnusen is also getting a Bachelor of Arts but want to pursue a doctorate.

Dianne Farris is another religion major going for a Bachelor of Arts as her degree. "I think that overall it's sad that there's not more religion majors. Quality for religion majors is incredible due to small size class and professors wish university would start to recruit more religion majors."

Ben Gray, a sophomore, is an English Major and is getting a Minor in Religion. He has preached 15 times in local churches and is currently undecided in what he wants to do when he graduates.

Another Sophomore, Patrick Murphy, is getting a Major in Psychology and will receive a Minor in Religion. Murphy possibly wants to go to divinity school.

One of the religion majors is Dave Santiago, a senior. Santiago has taken classes ranging from "Survey of the Old and New Testaments" to "Early and Medieval Christian Thought Philosophy." Santiago is going to get a Bachelor of Arts and hopes to someday get a doctorate degree in religion. But he says for now he is just taking it one step at a time.

"Ben Franklin once said, 'Three things never talked about in public: politics, religion, and sex. These are the only three things I ever talk about.' (I am) too honest to be a politician, sex, while



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Hensdale Chapel Photo by Ashley Young



ANN COULTER: The COLUMNIST



Courtesy of MCTCampus.com

### Remille's Rhetoric

Remille Shipman  
Sports Editor



Remille's Rhetoric: Just Asking

Since I couldn't figure out exactly what I wanted to focus on in my column, I've decided to simply talk about a lot of things that have been going around me lately.

-I've recently learned that it is maybe less risky and less expensive to use a van to travel to and from New York City.

-I honestly do not remember seeing more pollen than I am seeing right now. Our sidewalks are practically yellow now. I feel bad for whoever is allergic to pollen right now...

-The parking situation at Creekside has changed tremendously since August. Since the beginning of the year, we have lost about nine or ten parking spaces to visitor's

spaces and parking spots for the residential coordinator and resident assistants that work there. Now I can understand why the RAs have parking spots; it is a privilege as a Resident Assistant to receive a specific parking place. But do we really need as many visitors' parking spaces? I think the problem is getting

worse.

-I am so impressed with the look of the new Ni-mocks Fitness Center (which recently opened last Monday). It's such an improvement over what we used to have...The weight room that we used to have now pales in comparison.

-I wonder if we will again bring in the largest class of incoming students in the school's history next year. I've seen the college's two largest classes come in during my three-year tenure here. The name change would be a great lure to attract more non-golf majors and non-athletes...something that I think this school needs.

I'd read the last column if I were you. I'll be making a couple of very important statements.

## Bubble Burstings

The Dallas Morning News  
(MCT)

On his radio program Le Show, satirist Harry Shearer airs a feature called "News Outside the Bubble," in which he comments on important stories underplayed in the U.S. news media. The idea is that Americans live in a hermetically sealed zone that keeps relevant information from crossing our minds and informing our judgment.

Last week's editions of Time demonstrated why it's the newsweekly of choice for the Bubble Nation. In its three international versions, Time's cover centerpieced a report on the Taliban roaring back in Afghanistan.

On its American cover? "Why We Should Teach the Bible in Public School." Are the news media dumbing Americans down or merely giving people what they want? Either way, the public remains ill informed and insufficiently curious about the world beyond our borders. America's painful experience in Iraq should teach us how little we truly understood about the complexities of that nation and its culture before our invasion.

Harvard political scientist Samuel P. Huntington has controversially warned his countrymen that we risk exacerbating a "clash of civilizations" by fail-

ing to grasp the fundamental differences among cultures and instead assuming the rest of the world is like us.

In this context, it's easy to see why Americans might be puzzled, even offended, by Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah last week calling the U.S. occupation of Iraq "illegitimate." Aren't the Saudis our allies? And why in the past two weeks did Pakistan, which gets billions in U.S. aid each year, strengthen Gen. Pervez Musharraf's dictatorial powers?

These allied governments might be behaving badly. But it's also possible that they're acting in America's best interest. Maintaining stability in oil-rich Saudi Arabia and nuclear-armed Pakistan \_ and keeping anti-Western Islamic forces out of power there \_ is extremely important to U.S. interests.

Americans, idealistic by nature, must appreciate that there's considerably more gray in the world than black and white. A more realistic Middle East policy would seek to understand the differences not only between Islamic and Western civilizations, but also among the nations within the Islamosphere \_ and to work with those differences to strengthen America's hand. But first, we have to burst our bubble.

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# Entertainment

## Will Ferrell Continues Working Through His ESPN Phase

Jeff Strickler  
Star Tribune  
(Minneapolis)  
(MCT)



Will Ferrell in "Blades of Glory." competition.

Will Ferrell continues to work through his ESPN phase. Having lampooned soccer ("Kicking & Screaming") and stock car racing ("Talladega Nights") and in the process of filming a basketball comedy ("Semi-Pro"), he takes a shot at Olympic figure skating in "Blades of Glory."

This spoof has something going for it that his other sports movies have lacked: It's funny simply on the basis of its premise. Take the none-too-svelte Ferrell — and never has one of his movies made so much of his none-too-svelteness — stuff him into a garish, skin-tight costume and plop him in the middle of a world ruled by grace and sophistication. You can't help but laugh at the very thought.

Granted, the script could use more jokes — or, at least, fewer crotch jokes. But being crass is Ferrell's standard operating procedure. He's also willing to check his pride at the door and poke

at himself. Stripped of its accoutrements, this is a one-joke movie: A chubby klutz doing a lutz. But Ferrell does klutzy so well that it's just as funny during the last reel as in the first one.

Jon Heder ("Napoleon

Dynamite") costars. He plays Jimmy MacElroy, a super-smooth skater and the arch-rival of Chazz Michael Michaels (Ferrell), who uses in-your-face showmanship to conceal his lack of technical finesse.

Both of them are banned for life, or so skating officials think. But there's a loophole that says they've been barred from men's singles competition. It doesn't say anything about pairs competition. Alas, their reputation as self-centered hotheads precedes them, and no women are willing to team up. Deciding that their love for skating is stronger than their hatred for each other, they set out to make ice-skating his-

tory by becoming the sport's first male-male twosome.

First-time directors Will Speck and Josh Gordon don't seem worried about including surprises. The main plot line is predictable: Can Chazz and Jimmy get past their distrust for one another and mesh their disparate styles to work as a team? And the subplot is just as by-the-numbers: Jimmy falls in love with the sister of the duo's main competitors, a brother-and-sister pair (Will Arnett, "RV," and real-life wife Amy Poehler, "Saturday Night Live"). When the sister (Jenna Fischer of TV's "The Office") is asked to undermine Jimmy and Chazz, she has to sort out her loyalties.

Heder out-acts Ferrell. Both of them are playing stereotypes, but Jimmy at least has a modicum of substance, while Chazz is unabashed schtick. Sadly for Heder, Ferrell attacks his role with so much bluster that he overshadows everything else in the frame.

Craig T. Nelson plays Jimmy and Chazz's coach. In a subtle nod to his hit TV show, "Coach," he lives in a cabin in the middle of the woods. Also noteworthy are the cameos by a busload of figure skaters, including Nancy Kerrigan, Peggy Fleming, Brian Boitano, Dorothy Hamill and current champ Sasha Cohen.

The skaters' presence shows they don't take offense at the humor being poked at their sport. Then again, whatever jibes Ferrell directs in their direction are offset fivefold by the ones he heaps upon himself.

### BLADES OF GLORY

3 stars

Starring: Will Ferrell, Jon Heder

Directed by: Will Speck and Josh Gordon

Rated PG-13 for crude humor, sexual references, alcohol abuse and comic violence.



Sanjaya Malakar. Photo courtesy by www.adrants.com

## The hated 'Idol' Rooster

Julie Hinds  
Detroit Free Press  
(MCT)

It feels like a day for thankless tasks, so I'll go ahead and make the case in defense of Sanjaya Malakar.

Somebody has to.

The 17-year-old "American Idol" contestant is the country's new laughingstock. Late-night comics ridicule him. Critics have exhausted the synonyms for awful in their quest to describe him. A young woman from New York is so upset by his presence on the show she claims to be on a hunger strike until he's voted off — and she's chronicling her protest, of course, on the Web ([www.myspace.com/starvationforsanjaya](http://www.myspace.com/starvationforsanjaya)).

Hating Sanjaya is the new fad of disposable culture. Nobody cares much about the diaper-wearing astronaut anymore. The will to wallow in the Anna Nicole Smith saga is waning. Yet nearly every night last week, you could flip the channels and count the references to Sanjaya's ineptness made by ABC's Jimmy Kimmel, MSNBC's Joe Scarborough, Comedy Central's Stephen Colbert and on and on.

Sanjaya-bashing is now No. 1 with a bullet, and I'm still trying to figure out why.

Is it because he's the weakest singer among the

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Continued from page 6

Top 10? Fair enough, but I don't remember anyone resorting to starvation when John Stevens was doing Frank Sinatra impressions on the show a few years back.

Sanjaya is merely one of a long line of "Idol" guys who've survived past their logical expiration date. If you thought his performance of "You Really Got Me" last week was a train wreck, picture Kevin (Chicken Little) Covais from last season attempting it. Or burly Scott Soval from Season 4. Or Jim Verraros from the debut year.

Those images aren't pretty, but Sanjaya is, with his warm smile, bronze skin and wavy hair, and that's part of the problem. He has a non-threatening, slightly feminine vibe that appeals to preteen girls, like a many a bubble-gum Tiger Beat poster boy before him. This makes him an easy target. "Idol"

producers practically painted a bull's-eye on his back last week by cutting a zillion times to close-ups of Ashley, the sobbing young fan whose Sanjaya worship was parodied over the weekend by "Saturday Night Live."

Sanjaya is undoubtedly loathed by those who are serious about popular music. Although he'd need handlers and heavy tinkering in the studio to hide his flaws, he's already gotten more exposure in a few weeks than many aspiring artists of true vision will get in a lifetime. Somewhere, a garage band that's waiting to be discovered is crying harder than Ashley because of this.

Sanjaya may still be on the show because of VoteFortheWorst.com and Howard Stern, who are rooting for his survival as a way to mess with the show's premise. Some muse he must have reached the Top 10 because

he's needed as a teenybopper draw for the coast-to-coast summer tour. The vote tallies remain a mystery to viewers (there were 30 million votes last week, but who received what?), so conspiracy theories blossom freely.

Whatever the reason, it's worth remembering Sanjaya is just a boy, not a human punch line. When he auditioned, his voice seemed rather sweet and promising, sort of like Stevie Wonder lite. Once he made it to the Top 24, he tended to stand there and sound listless.

As bad reviews from the judges piled up, so did Sanjaya's various hairstyles, which only

added fuel to the humiliation fire. Then, last week, perhaps in response to criticism, he took a gamble by tackling a Kinks classic and trying to work the crowd like a Vegas star. The blowback was immediate and painful. Water-cooler tirades about his horridness were louder than any words spoken on behalf of LaKisha Jones, Melinda Doolittle, Jordin Sparks or other contestants considered to belong in the finals.

Dare I say it? Sanjaya wasn't that bad. His voice is thin, but his tone and pitch are OK. As a reader e-mailed recently, he can carry a tune; he

just can't carry a performance.

The anti-Sanjaya bandwagon reminds me of the Howard Dean scream frenzy, when the sheer pleasure of replaying the clip of him acting like a crazy man overtook the fact that the guy was trying to whip up enthusiasm in a noisy room.

Perception becomes reality. Sanjaya may be out of his depth, but it's more fun to label him the worst singer in the world. I just wish he weren't 17. That's too young to be a national joke or a nationally spotlighted anything.

by Aaron Warner

Two Dudes



Crossword

- ACROSS  
 1 Flower holders  
 6 Knife thrust  
 10 Needle case  
 14 Column type  
 15 Pleasure craft  
 17 Joe of "GoodFellas"  
 18 Viewers  
 19 Pose a question  
 21 Trial by fire  
 22 Fraction of a joule  
 25 Our star  
 27 Piercing in tone  
 32 Grooming product  
 36 \_\_\_ Hawkins Day  
 37 Fair treatment  
 39 Whiff  
 40 Fancy vase  
 41 Legal defense  
 42 Hood's pistol  
 43 Sara and Farrow  
 44 Sought mutual agreement  
 47 Knight's mail  
 49 Footwear finish  
 50 Lee of the Chicago Eight  
 52 No-seats-available letters  
 53 Forensics series on CBS  
 54 Quartet member  
 57 Crafty  
 59 Knives for stabbing  
 64 Heart connection  
 68 Point a finger at  
 69 Boss of Tammany Hall  
 70 Schlep  
 71 Jaunty  
 72 Santa's helpers

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# Sports



Florida's Al Horford, lower left, hoists the championship trophy amid a sea of fans as the Florida Gators basketball team returns to Gainesville Regional Airport, Tuesday, April 3, 2007. (Stephen M. Dowell/Orlando Sentinel/MCT)

## Florida Gators Win

*Byron Lowe  
Staff Writer*

When thinking of Florida, several things come to mind; sunny beaches, retirement home, Disney World, oranges, and college basketball? Or should I say dynasty college basketball? The Gators have become only the seventh team in NCAA history to repeat as champions in division one basketball, and the very first to do so with the same starting line up.

Florida seemed to breeze through the tournament with no team seriously challenging them. Florida led the tournament in Field-Goal percentage with 52.7 %, starting with a victory over Jackson State 112 - 69, then Perdue 74 - 67. Perdue came the closest

loosing by 7. Next Butler and Oregon would both loose by 8 (65 - 57, 85 - 77). In the semi-finals UCLA was expected to be a challenge, but they also fell to Florida's dominant offense 76 - 66. The only team left to prevent the repeat was Ohio State, who had also been very impressive so far in the tournament.

However, against Florida in the first half, Ohio did not seem impressive at all. Ohio gave Florida to many open shots which led to six three pointers, and an 11 point lead at half time, 40 - 29. Ohio did play much stronger in the second half, but unfortunately for them they did not have enough time and lost 84 -75. The closest Ohio would get in the second half was with in seven points, and so Florida is the NCAA Division I Champs, again

## MU Cheerleaders Step Up to Division II

*Remille Shipman  
Staff Writer*

When one thinks of women's sports at Methodist, they don't usually think about cheerleading.

Most onlookers tend to look at the excellence of Methodist's women's and men's golf programs and baseball and softball teams when they search for programs that perennially compete for national championships. But Methodist's co-ed cheerleading squad continues to do what many of the university's athletic programs don't often do-compete against NCAA Division II competition and perform well.

The Monarchs competed in the large co-ed Division II arm of the National Cheerleading Association Championship at Daytona Beach, Florida on April 4-8. The Monarchs were the only Division III school competing as the team faced off against some of the best squads from the NCAA Division II level. The team had to finish in the top half of the overall field

in order to advance to the second round. The top three teams then advanced to the final round to compete for the 2007 championship.

Methodist has had a fine history of success in the NCA championships in the past. The team has never finished lower than eighth in nineteen



years of competition, and the team finished sixth overall in 2006.

The Monarchs have managed to maintain a consistent national presence in the 19 years that they have competed in the national competition; in fact, they have consistently been one of the few schools in America to compete nationally in all 19 years. "People don't realize that the program is so nationally known," head coach Melissa Hay stated. Methodist does this

despite the fact that they only have a \$500 scholarship to offer student-athletes. In comparison, many of Methodist's Division II competitors-including four-time defending Division II champion Hawaii-Pacific-have the advantage of giving scholarship money to their student-athletes.

This year's competition was the final National appearance for seniors Kathi Mason, Chris Vlahos, and former All-Conference football star Lorenzo Sweeney.

## Bringing Baseball Back

*Byron Lowe  
Staff Writer*

There are many reasons to love the first week of April. The weather is getting warmer, the grass is greener, summer vacation is near, and it is time for Opening Day Baseball. Opening week marks a time to make up some new signs, find your favorite seat, and put into practice your new jeers and swears at the

umpire.

This time of the season everyone is a potential champion, fans are eager and already bragging of new signed players; like a 152 million dollar "rookie" pitcher, or stealing a rival's ace pitcher from across the bay. What ever the situation is, fans will find something to look forward to, something to argue about, and always a game to enjoy with family and friends.

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