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small TALK

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THE STUDENT VOICE OF METHODIST UNIVERSITY

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Cover art by Matt Beitzel



Dwight Peterson, a cafeteria worker, uses a garden hose to put a fire out near Bern's Student Center. Campus security says the fire was started unintentionally by a cigarette butt.

Photo by Matt Beitzel.

Alert System Beefs Up Security

Ashley Young
News Editor

The Emergency Alert System got a makeover this summer. Instead of just calling phones in residence halls, Campus Security has many new ways to warn students of danger.

At registration students were provided with a sheet to fill out in which they could enter up to five different numbers for each category. These numbers would be contact information in the case of an emergency. This included numbers for text messages and e-mail addresses. Students were given the opportunity to choose whether or not they wanted to be part of Emergency Alert and had

the option of not providing information.

"Those who opted out will still be notified in an emergency," said Dawn Hamerla, director of Police and Public Safety about those that did not provide personal information.

In the case of an emergency a siren on campus will sound, the numbers as well as e-mail on a person's contact list will be notified and if a professor is using the internet for a class the emergency alert will come up on the screen.

Since the system is still being refined, a practice emergency alert will go out once a month in order



Dawn Hamerla Police and Public Safety Director

to test its efficiency. In the case of an actual emergency students are asked to stay in their present locations and not to leave until told otherwise by police.

"I think it's a great idea and a step in the right direction. I encourage everyone to make sure we have their information," said Hamerla.

Meet the New Student Government Executive Board

Landon Bentham- President
Leighton Bowl- Vice President
Gosia Jarema-Treasurer
Amber Smith- Chief Justice
Cameron McGoughlin- Secretary

Bentham says his big project for the year is making a list of businesses that offer discounts to MU students and staff.

SGA will meet Sundays at 7 p.m. in the Riddle Center conference room.

New Academic Dean Brings New Expectations

Jameson Jones
Opinions Editor

Students, meet the new Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Delma S. Crisp, Jr.

Crisp said he is excited about the transition that Methodist is making from a small liberal arts college to a larger university and he hopes for more professional opportunities to come along through the development of various programs.

In his first year at Methodist, Dr. Crisp said he challenges the faculty to help reaffirm the accreditation of the university through Southern Accreditation Committee of Schools, while ask-

ing that both faculty and students improve communication and community. For example, he plans on eating in the Green and Gold Café where students can ask questions about academics.

Dr. Crisp expects students work to their fullest potential in the classroom. He wants to motivate them to be prepared for class by reading and doing homework. Once inside the classroom, he would encourage the students to discuss and express themselves well written and orally.

Dr. Crisp said, "I want to be a vital part (in) attracting and retaining outstanding students to

Methodist University and helping them to succeed."

He also believes that faculty should help students who write well-written papers in a particular field to allow them to present these thoughts in a professional field or setting such as a conference.

Crisp has been involved in education for the past 40 years from teaching Medieval and British Renaissance literature at Southeast Louisiana University in Hamlin, La. to being the Vice President of Academic Affairs at Wesleyan College in Macon, Ga.

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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 Monday at 4:30 p.m. in the Heritage Dining Room.

RHA Kicks Off

Ashley Genova
Editor-In-Chief

It is a new year, a new start, and a new Residence Hall Association staff.

This year, Ryan Carfara stepped up to president from his former position as vice president. Amber Smith, the chief justice, is now the RHA vice president.

All other executive board positions are open for nominations until the meeting on Mon, Sept. 10 at 8 p.m. in Garber Hall. Elections will take place during this meeting.

Carfara said he wants to bring a large number of people into RHA this year.

"I want to get the name of RHA out to the student body," he said. "People complain, but don't bring it to the right people." He believes that bringing complaints about residence halls to RHA will help improve life on campus.

Some of the improvements he wants to do include adjusting the water pressure in halls to a comfortable level and installing peep holes in the doors of Creekside. Carfara also encouraged each hall to have a hall council, which will represent the entire hall at RHA meetings.

POSITIONS OPEN
National Communications Coordinator in Training- assists the vice president
Nominated: Drew Ginther

Director of Communications- takes minutes, attendance, and drafts letters and proposals
Nominated: Ashley Genova, Jarrel Mcrae

Director of Hall Councils- oversees and advises each hall council
Nominated: Jerry Bates

Director of Publications- oversees advertising and creates press releases
Nominated: William (Austin) Bordeaux, Shannon Alford.

Director of Finances- oversees budget and money issues
Nominated: Cara Hale

Director of Spirit- creates the ice breaker for each meeting, creates a banner and leads cheers at conferences
Nominated: Ferron Grant, Keva Wilson



Photo art by Matt Beitzel and Aaron Casteel.

Surprise 4-D Effects at 'Pirates'

Candice Tyners
Staff Writer

As the Black Pearl was drenched in water, so was the audience at the first Movie and a Meal of the year.

On Friday, Aug. 24, a crowd of about 250 people spread out on the football field. With towels and blankets laid out, everyone seemed comfortable and not bothered by the occasional red ant. "Pirates of the Carribean: At World's End" began around 9 p.m. illuminat-

ing a 30 foot inflatable screen. The movie was playing for about 45 minutes when people in the crowd jumped up from the ground and ran. The elusive audience members gathered their things as they realized what happened: The sprinklers had turned on.

Immediately the Student Activities Committee (SAC) members jumped up to save the projector and the screen, which were in the path of the sprinklers. Erik Casteel, SAC director of event

management, stated later the next week that a request for the sprinklers to be turned off for the night had been placed and he believes there must have been some type of miscommunication.

No damages have been reported to the projector or the screen, Casteel said with a relieved chuckle. SAC quickly patched the situation up by scheduling three different nights the movie would be available to see at Chris' House.

Bowling the Night Away

Candice Tyners
Staff Writer

A crowd of MU students formed a line on Wed. Aug. 29, outside Northview Lanes, snaking around the shopping center and parking lot. Shouts arose as we were asked to stand in a single file line and cheers followed as students began to enter the building.

The free Bowling night had been promoted by posters, and

the Student Activities Committee (SAC) members carrying around plastic bowling pins. Over 200 people showed up.

A wall of people formed in the area between the bowling lanes and the seating area, each "team" supporting their fellow bowlers. Laughter and cheers filled the Bowling Alley, smiles were on everyone's faces, and chicken fingers were being devoured like crazy.

A student bowls at Northview lanes during SAC's bowling night. Photo by Aaron Casteel.





The Student Activities Committee hosted Casino Night in Bern's on Sept. 5. Students recieved fake bills to gamble with on games like blackjack, roulette and craps. With their winnings, students bought raffle tickets to win prizes including DVDs, games, cleaning supplies, a CD player and a TV. Photos by Matt Beitzel and Aaron Casteel.



Opinions

Remille's Rhetoric

Remille Shipman
Staff Writer



Yet another semester has come upon the students, staff and faculty of the University I love. For the returning students, the beginning of another semester is akin to attending a family reunion; most students revel in the opportunity to reunite with friends they haven't seen in three months.

The freshmen community, however, comes to Methodist University to experience something that will most likely be totally foreign. They will come with new hopes, new dreams, new athletic aspirations...everything is new to these freshmen.

New is a buzz word at Methodist this year. It seems as if the new freshmen outnumber the returning students by a large margin.

Methodist seems to grow every year, but this year the on-campus population has grown so large (423 freshmen and 903 total residential students) that for a time we had 24 rooms that had three students in each room combined in Sanford and Cumberland Hall.

I lived in Cumberland my first year at Methodist (2004-05), and I can tell you from experience that those rooms could not possibly fit three individuals in any comfortable fashion.

The Department of Housing & Residence Life must have had a heck of a time trying to fit all of these freshmen into the housing equation.

It's nice to see enrollment has increased dramatically, but if we keep admitting in students with nowhere to put them, discontent among students living in the residence halls is inevitable.

Now some would say that we could solve this problem but cutting back on athletic recruiting.

Personally, I don't think it's right for a recruited athlete to be told by a coach that he or she is going to have a room only for that opportunity to be taken away because of a lack of space. It would hurt the school's credibility

and coach's credibility as well. Case in point: Last month, University of South Carolina Head Coach Steve Spurrier pitched a public fit because the university refused to admit two recruits who actually met the NCAA minimum requirement. This situation has nothing to do with housing, but hopefully I illustrated my opinion.

It isn't Resident Life's fault that our school is growing like my facial hair. Growth is a good thing, it has to be limited if we can't figure out where these students are going to live.

The first solution is to build more residence halls. Cape Fear Commons-Phase 3 is coming soon, which could draw upperclassmen from Garber and Weaver. But it still may be smart for all parties involved to ease up on the last-minute placement of students.

One solution would be to install an application deadline in early July. Right now Admissions will admit any worthy student at any time of the year.

Most schools that are more established have their application deadlines a lot earlier than July, so my suggestion is mild, folks.

This might also be the right time to-dare we say it-begin to raise academic standards as more and more serious students (and serious athletes) are knocking at a threesome dorm room.

This suggestion may be touchy for people who struggled in high school who are doing well at Methodist, but we'd be better off gently nudging the bar higher in the future. I bet we'd help retention that way.

Methodist needs all of its tuition money to go where it needs to go. But it's ugly when to stack kids on top of each other just so an attendance record can be broken. The numbers will look good in the beginning, but the growing pains will eventually show.

Comments and column ideas are always welcome, please send them to eshipman@hotmail.com.

The Angry Liberal

Jameson Jones

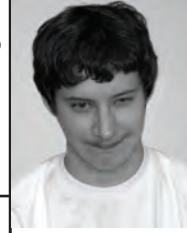


Photo by Audrey C. Tiernan/MCT Campus

Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2007 will be the sixth year anniversary of 9/11. Let us not forget this terrible day that changed America history forever.

It seemed like it was only yesterday when the terrible events of Sept. 11, 2001 occurred. Those events sparked off many reactions to what we were going to do as a nation in order to capture or kill those who were responsible for those senseless acts.

Many felt that going after Saddam Hussein and his evil regime was sufficient enough in a War on Terror, but as I look back at that day, I feel that this was a huge mistake by our president.

In all reality, Saddam Hussein was not responsible for 9/11 and he was not responsible for many of the senseless acts that have occurred on American soil

throughout the world since this event occurred.

I feel that he was used a scapegoat by President Bush as means of going to war due to the claims that Hussein had chemical and biological weapons.

Those claims might have been proven true due to the the various genocides that Hussein committed as dictator of Iraq, but when it came time to have them around the time of 9/11, it was proven otherwise that he did not possess them.

Unfortunately, our president, George H.W. Bush, decided to go to war in Iraq anyway without the proper solid evidence.

Do not get me wrong, I thought Saddam Hussein was a cruel dictator and deserved to get his just punishment for the inhumane acts he committed on his people, but he should have been tried under the proper authorities in accordance with the Geneva Convention and not brought to justice through means of war.

I still feel to this day that the only reason that Bush went to war was to finish a job that his father, former President George H. Bush did not finish during Desert Storm.

We now turn the clock forward six years to the present time as over 3,000 of our armed soldiers had to perish over a costly mistake that Bush made in order to make progress in his "War on Terror."

As we hope to move forward from these terrible events that occurred just six short years ago, one thing that should be in the forefront of our minds.

We should try to forget all the fallacies that this president has made during his time in office for as long as there is a United States of America, but we will always remember the 2,948 innocent people that died in New York City, Washington, D.C. and Somerset County, Pa. on that sad day back in 2001.

Comments and column ideas are always welcome, please send them to muangryliberal@yahoo.com.



Political cartoon by Nate Beeler/MCT Campus

Entertainment



Freshman Josh Thompson orders a smoothie from Sandera Cannon, a worker at the Smoothie Bar. All the smoothies are blended with fresh fruits and juice.

Smoothie Sensations in Nimocks

*Daniel Lee
Staff Writer*

The Smoothie Bar at the Nimocks Fitness Center is good, but not that great.

The cardboard cutout posted beside the bar lists the four main flavors, although the menu above the counter lists a wider variety. The four main flavors, along with their calorie count, are as follows: Strawberry Oasis (89 cal.), Mango Beach (90 cal.), Peach Passion (152 cal.), and Strawberry Sunrise (153 cal.)

A 21 oz. volume costs \$3.49, plus tax. An upgrade to a 32 oz. smoothie is a dollar more. I find this to be a bit overpriced. I would subtract a dollar from each

of the prices. On the other hand, the price is quite reasonable considering the prices of some smoothie bars, which can sometimes cost up to \$5 for a 24 oz. beverage. For 40 cents extra, health additives such as protein and multivitamin can be mixed in.

My experience at the bar was fast, friendly, and reliable. The flavor I tried was called Strawberry Sunrise. The texture was perfect, very rich and creamy. However, it tasted more like cream than fruit, and could have been improved with a stronger strawberry flavor.

The Smoothie Bar received a sanitation grade of 93. Overall, the bar works as a good place to get a healthy dessert alternative.

Smoothie Bar

Located in Nimocks Fitness Center

Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 12 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Friday: 12 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday: closed

Is a Sitcom so Easy That a Caveman Can Do It?



"Cavemen" star Nick Kroll portrays a scraggly-haired Cro-Magnon struggling to assimilate in contemporary society. (Bob D'Amico/ABC/MCT)

Chuck Barney
Contra Costa Times
 (MCT)

America has yet to lay eyes on "Cavemen," the upcoming ABC sitcom about scraggly-haired Cro-Magnons struggling to assimilate in contemporary society. Already, though, it is one of the most mocked and derided television shows in recent memory.

Jeering critics have ridiculed ABC for having the gall to a stretch a gimmicky ad campaign for Geico insurance into a weekly series. Skeptical media buyers have predicted it will be among the first shows to crash and burn. And comedian George Lopez, whose sitcom was axed by ABC, has expressed his utter dismay. "So a Chicano can't be on TV, but a caveman can?" he asks incredulously.

Despite all the derisive scorn, "Cavemen" could draw robust ratings — at least in its initial outing on Oct. 2 — because many Homo sapiens across the nation figure to be curious. Indeed, a recent online survey found that "Cavemen" leads all new network shows in terms of viewer buzz.

"I will definitely watch it, if only to see if it can sustain the gag for a half-hour show," says Sam Van Zandt, an ardent TV viewer from Walnut Creek, Calif. "The idea of turning those commercials into a sitcom made me laugh."

Even Tiffany Ramazetti, a Moraga, Calif., resident who doesn't find the commercials the least bit funny, admits that there's a chance she'll take a peek at the show.

"I might watch it once to see if it's really as bad as I think it will be," she says.

In the rush to dump on "Cavemen," it's easy to forget that television history has featured a number of sitcoms that

came into the world bearing weird, silly-sounding concepts, only to turn into surprise hits. The offbeat collection includes, among others, "Bewitched," "The Munsters," "My Favorite Martian," "I Dream of Jeannie," "Mork & Mindy" and "3rd Rock From the Sun."

Maybe there's a lesson in this. Maybe it's better to refrain from rolling our eyes until a show actually makes it to air.

"Who would have thought that Ozzy Osbourne would make a great sitcom dad or that boat tourists stranded on an island would hold our interest for four years?" says television historian Tim Brooks, who co-wrote "The Complete Directory to Prime Time Network and Cable TV Shows." "Having a show with an off-the-wall concept that can be described in one line attracts immediate attention. Even if it's negative attention, that in itself is not necessarily a bad thing."

With that in mind, it becomes somewhat easier to understand why ABC programmers could possibly be drawn to "Cavemen." Every fall, dozens of new TV shows flood the airwaves, and such a radical concept stands out in a crowd. And, thanks to the Geico ads, its characters come with a built-in fan base. ABC, like most other networks, hasn't had a sitcom hit in years, so why not take a shot?

"The good thing about comedies is that they've been broken for a few years, so people are willing to take chances," says Steve McPherson, the head honcho of entertainment for ABC.

As fluffed-out for prime time, "Cavemen" is meant to be a sendup of racial relations. Its prehistoric denizens battle prejudice in modern-day Atlanta, where fitting in is a constant struggle.

Earlier this summer, TV critics mostly slammed the pilot episode, which was filled with broad humor and heavy-handed depictions of societal stereotypes. It is undergoing a makeover, including a cast change.

Still, executive producer Will Speck, who worked on the ad spots, doesn't believe it's such a stretch to envision "Cavemen" as a series.

"When we were making the commercials, we just felt like there were more stories to tell," he says. "And I think it starts in the purest place, which is us feeling like there's love and affection for these characters from us. And I think, if we do our jobs right, people will follow suit."

They have their work cut out for them, according to Brooks, who says the key is to deliver something unexpected.

"You can only live off that title for the first 10 minutes or so," he says. "But then you've got to throw the audience a curveball and/or be better than anticipated."

A good example of a high-concept show that pulled it off was "ALF," which debuted on NBC in 1986 and was pegged to a furry little alien creature who crash-landed in the garage of a suburban family. Yes, it sounded totally bizarre, but the curveball of "ALF" was the fact that the title character was not a cuddly puppet, but a gruff-voiced crank who commented with sarcastic wit on the foibles of earthlings. In its second season, "ALF" shot into the Nielsen Top 10.

"It was so much more than just a kiddie show," Brooks says. "And it underscored the fact that you need to reserve judgment about a show until you actually see it."

More recently, "3rd Rock From the Sun," with a very different form of aliens, enjoyed a successful run on NBC (1996-2001), where it served as a dizzying allegorical analysis of human nature. On the drama side, "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" (1997-2003) is a great example of a clever, well-crafted show that proved to be so much more than a fanciful premise.

Still, they are rare exceptions to the rule. Television history, after all, is also littered with shows with far-out setups that were Nielsen flops. Among the notable failures over the past decade: "Homeboys in Outer Space" (two guys travel from planet to planet seeking fame and fortune), "Teen Angel" (dead boy with wings guides his Earthbound pal), "The Secret Diary of Desmond Pfeiffer" (a fictional butler in the Lincoln White House), and "Meego" (Bronson Pinchot as a 9,000-year-old space alien).

"Off-the-wall concepts are tough to pull off," says Brooks. "Once you get people into the tent, you've got to have characters. You've got to have a voice."



Sports

Sports Stats: What's going on

Men's Soccer: Won against Randolph on Sept. 2, final score 2-1

Women's Soccer: Won against Hood on Sept. 1, final score 5-0

Volleyball: Won against Spelman on Aug. 31-Sept. 1, final score 3-0



Number 12 Lindsey Oliphant, right, defends the ball against a rival team member at the Sept. 1 game against Hood. Chrystal Bradley, number 13, stands ready at the left. Photo by Remille Shipman.

Upcoming Games

Football: Sept. 8, 1 p.m. Home against Guilford

Men's Soccer: Sept. 8, 12 p.m. At Greensboro against Oglethorpe

Women's Soccer: Sept. 8, 12 p.m. Home against Washington

Volleyball: Sept. 8-9, Maroon Classic at Roanoke

Cross County: Sept. 14, 4:30 p.m. Adidas Wolfpack Cross Country Inv at Cary, NC

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