

FEB. 11,
2008

small TALK

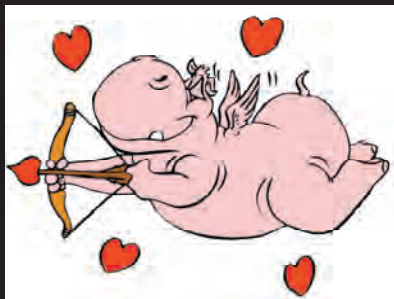
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THE STUDENT VOICE OF METHODIST UNIVERSITY

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Emergency Vehicles on
Campus Page 2.



Is your Valentine's Day a
dream or a dud? Page 3



You can't buy love, but you
can buy a date. Page 2



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!



The girls show their stuff prior to the auction.

Dating for donations

Daniel Lee
Staff Writer

The Adelpian Society recently hosted a "Date Auction" in the Berns Student Center in order to raise money toward the goal of becoming a full-fledged sorority by the end of the semester.

"There are 15 guys and 15 girls on auction," said Jessi Harris, a member of the Adelpian Society and the organizer of the auction. "All auctioned dates had to e-mail Vice President Jessalyn Lenkins." Harris explained, "All students are allowed to bid on dates with a starting bid of \$5.00. Admission is either \$5.00 or two canned goods."

Students also had to agree to a list of rules and regulations concerning the dates. Winning bidders were allowed

two hours with their dates along with gift certificates for a free dinner. Gift certificates were donated by restaurants and businesses from around town. The rules stated that the more money a person bid, the greater the value on their gift certificate.

All bids started at \$5, but some dates went for as much as \$40. Student Melissa Bowman who "bought" Stan Pajak for \$15 said, "It feels amazing to win."

Nicole David spent \$32 on her date and said, "It was fun."

Kevin Haller, who was bid on, said, "I was asked to help the cause." Sibusiso Ntashalimtshali (aka "Sibu") said this about winning, "I felt nervous but you never know what could happen."

Serial rapist targets area surrounding Methodist University

Lakeisha Story
Staff Writer

The Public Safety staff of Methodist is on a heightened state of alert as the 18-month rampage of a serial rapist continues. The most recent attack occurred at the King's Grant Condominiums, located just north of campus on Ramsey Street. The Fayetteville Police Department have linked the suspect to a 2004 Peeping Tom case in Harnett County, and three other rape incidents in 2007.

Police are asking that people

keep a lookout for the suspect, especially around the northern parts of Ramsey Street. Any suspicious activity should be reported. The suspect is described as a white or hispanic male with short cut dark hair in his early 20s or 30s. He is between the heights of 5'8 and 6'3 with a slightly athletic build. He is typically seen wearing dark clothing and hooded jackets.

When asked what Public Safety should do, freshman Kristen McKane replied, "Public Safety should hire more volunteers to help around campus."

Public Safety is offering personal safety ideas to anyone who is interested, including a safety checklist for those who live off campus. All students are being asked to take safety precautions, especially those traveling around at night.

If any information is found, or if someone suspicious is sighted around or on campus, please contact Public Safety or contact Detective Chuck Dew at (910)-433-1856. Crime Stoppers can also be reached at (910)483-8477. Public Safety can be reached at x7149.

Mercury spill creates a small scare



The hazardous material truck sits in the parking lot of the Science Building while security officers speak with the hazardous material team. Photo by Aaron Casteel.

Ashley Genova
Editor-in-Chief

The lights of a hazardous material truck and a fire engine illuminated the parking lot of the Science Building's new wing on Thursday Night. There was a mercury spill.

At approximately seven at night, a small broken thermometer containing mercury was discovered in the corner of a lab on the bottom floor of the wing.

The spill was small, but law required the hazardous material team to clear the site.

"We have to follow protocol," said security officer Gonzalez, who would not release his first name. "(The team) said, 'okay, where is it?' when they showed up."

Gonzalez said the team searched the corner of the room, found the thermometer and used a vacuum-like tool to dispose of it.

"It didn't fill even the smallest container they had," said Gonzalez.

The cleanup was complete in less than a half hour.

Several male students were playing basketball on the court when the trucks pulled up. They said they hoped a chemical spill would mean cancelled classes. They were disappointed to find a broken thermometer would not hinder classes.

"That was anticlimactic," Sara Elliott, an elementary education major, said when she realized the spill was nothing major.

Mercury can be a dangerous chemical. According to the Mercury Counseling and Recovery Committee's website, the chemical can be inhaled or absorbed through unbroken skin. The site says even if a mercury spill is small "there is a very good chance that a toxic level of mercury vapor remains in the area and is spreading." This is why the hazardous material team's cleanup was necessary.

Mercury poisoning can cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain and headache.

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

smallTALK welcomes Letters to the Editor. All letters should be delivered to the Student Media office on the second 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.

Valentines Day

what's your opinion?

Ashley Young, News Editor



IT'S GOOD TO BE IN LOVE

"I like Valentine's Day. It's my third favorite holiday!" –Felicia Aycock, sophomore, biology major.

"A day for couples to celebrate and to celebrate what they have for each other. It's more about her. No man should forget it." –Blake Harrison, freshman, computer technician major.

"I think it's a great holiday." –David Carruthers, freshman, chemistry major.

"It's a good time to show your affection for a special somebody." –Jonathan Poole, freshman, mathematics major.

"I feel good. I think it's a very exciting day for me. But then I think about my country. I'm from India and some people are highly against it and they have issues when Valentine's Day comes." –Sana Sabri, senior, financial economics major.



NOT JUST FOR LOVERS

"I think it's a great day for not just lovers, but for people they love, like family, friends, and also, I think it's a day where you celebrate memories you've had with your lover." –Abhshek Kansakar, Freshman, Financial Economics major.

"I love Valentine's Day. On Valentine's Day I reflect on Jesus and how much He loves me!" –Lydia Haig, junior, physical education major.



SINGLES AWARENESS DAY

"I think it's a nice holiday when you're paired up. I think it kind of makes singles feel down." –Leslie Serrano, Sales Associate in Bookstore.

"I mean it's nice. It's a little bit over rated. I feel bad for someone who doesn't have somebody. I like it if you have someone to share it with, otherwise it stinks!" –Courtney Allen, freshman, zoology major



LOVE STINKS!

"I think it's over rated because people should show their love year-round." –Lois DeVico, Assistant Director of Student Development and Service Operations.

"Ugh! Oh no! Ok. I think it's overrated for the women. It costs me too much money!" –Larry Smith, Bookstore Manager.

"Aah. Just another holiday 'for them' to take our money. Got to share with your little lady." –Patrick Doleman, senior, business administration major.

Freshmen Receive Opportunity to Be Leaders

Ashley Young
News Editor

The Leader Development Program is a project that helps,

"First year Freshmen transition into leadership roles in the Student Government Association and helps them to become leaders in a community," said Katie Smith, intern in the Social Work Department and one of the people working with the Leader Development Program.

In this program students will have the opportunity to meet other students like themselves who are leaders and enjoy activities which are a new challenge. A Leadership Workshop will be held on Feb. 23 at 9:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the Alumni Dining Room. This workshop will offer opportunities for learning and will have inspirational speakers.

Also, as a student leader, Freshmen will get the opportunity to speak with professors, college officials, and other leaders in organizations of student groups on campus. Freshmen will be offered the chance to have leadership roles in student government, residence halls, academic and athletic clubs.

Freshmen leaders will have great looking resumes, with their participation in leadership roles, and will be serious challengers for their first important jobs.

Students chosen for leadership roles are encouraged to attend the Honor Dinner that will be held so they can meet with other leaders and advisors. The actual date and time for the dinner will be announced later in the semester.

The students nominated are chosen by staff and faculty members during the students' first semester at Methodist. Students are then elected in the Spring, and this year 107 freshmen were chosen.

"I think it's an absolutely wonderful program to prepare students to become leaders in different organizations, so I really like the program," said Chris Parker, a Senior, and another intern in the Social Work Department involved with the Leader Development Program.

"I really like that this program was started and I hope to become more confident in leadership roles," said Candice Tynes, Writing major.

Tynes is one of the Freshmen chosen to be part of the Leadership Development Program.

Tynes and the group she is a part of want to name the Leadership Development Program, "SLAM" for "Student Leaders at Methodist."

While there have been experiments with this type program before, this year is the first that this particular program has been in existence.



"Guitar Hero III: Legends of Rock" was released in late October. The bundle comes with a plastic guitar controller that plugs into your home video game console. (MCT)

Free Video Games Rock!

Daniel Lee
Staff Writer

Methodist University Student Activities Committee converted the Berns Student Center into a mini-arcade on Wednesday for MU Gaming Night.

Students were given free reign over 12 different games on 3 different consoles, including Playstation 3, Nintendo

Wii, and X-Box 360. The first 24 students who signed up were entered into the Guitar Hero tournament for the chance to win a \$100 gift card to GameStop. Scott Seneris was the winner.

Guitar Hero is an interactive rock guitar simulator where players attempt to copy the rhythm and notes of famous rock songs. There were also various other games available such as Halo 3, Wii Sports, and MTV Celebrity Deathmatch. game, and enjoyed it.

"I played Mario Kart. It was an old game I played before but I still like it, William Bordeaux, a student, said.

"I played Madden NFL 2008. It was pretty good but a lot slower than on other game consoles," Justin Camis said.

"I played Jaws and didn't like it because I died," said Gentry Gillespie, "But Mario Kart is my favorite game."

"Guitar Hero was fun, but Wii Tennis was too complicated," Jacob Smith said.

Mario Kart crashed onto Nintendo Wii. (MCT)



Service in Chapel Shows Methodist's Military Appreciation

Ashley Young
News Editor

A quiet, "Forward march, colors halt, colors post," could be heard as the flags were presented in Hensdale chapel during the beginning of the service held on Wed., Jan., 30.

But this week's service was not like every other. This week's service displayed Methodist's military appreciation by having members of the military help deliver it.

Once the flags were presented, Arranged (Arr.) Derric Johnson led the Methodist University Chorale in the "National Anthem."

Later in the service, Madonna Soriano, Battalion S-3, Senior, a Sociology Major, introduced Frankie Johnson and Vincent Worrell to give the Meditation.

Johnson joined the army in 1999 in order to finish college. However, he had no idea that he would be going to Iraq. He said that there were 500 cadets in his regiment, so his accomplishments were not the result of an individual effort.

Worrell joined the ROTC in 2006 and his focus was on "why it is I do what I do." He had three deployments to Iraq. On one of the deployments, he was shot in the leg and then evacuated to Germany. From there he returned home and immediately reenlisted.

A year later, Worrell was in Northern Iraq and a device exploded approximately 10-15 feet away from him, injuring him once again. He was evacuated again

to Germany, where he became a volunteer to counsel other soldiers, who were trying to adjust to their lives outside of war. Worrell learned that his 'freely democratic way of life' was his calling.

The Hymn of Dedication, "God of the Ages," was then sung, followed by the Benediction, and then the flags were carried into the back of the church.

"I think the service was great and recognizing the ROTC for some of their accomplishments and to recognize the military and all they do for our country," said 2nd Lt. Shakir Yvonne.

"There's a point where it tests you and you learn your full capability," said Soriano, remembering her days in combat.

Soriano coordinated all of the military speakers and worked with Reverend Dr. Michael Safley to set up the service.



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Opinions

With Britney Spears, are we again seeing the dark side of gossip?

Anita Creamer
McClatchy Newspapers
(MCT)

Let's flash back a year to the world as it was early in 2007, when a tabloid TV-infested nation received daily updates on Anna Nicole Smith, in what amounted to a pop culture death watch.

The tabloid shows in question would never put matters quite that bluntly, but you know it's true.

Frankly, celebrity gossip seems a whole lot less juicy when it amounts to peering in on an emotionally unstable star's downward spiral.

Only the most callous among us could find joy in stars' usual self-involved high jinks — Suspected substance abuse! Rocky relationships! Custody issues! — when the celebrity in question is so clearly heading toward the brink.

It's one thing to find a certain amusement in teary, spoiled Paris Hilton being carted off to jail. It's another to play the catty voyeur while unmistakably troubled stars struggle with the hardships they've created for themselves.

Which brings us, of course, to Britney Spears, this year's celebrity train wreck, whose every move is assiduously documented by the paparazzi and the tabloid media — Internet, TV and print alike.

They're doing it again: waiting like vultures for a star to collapse into disaster, to implode and to crash.

And once again, we're watching it happen.

I don't rule out the possibility here that Spears, like other stars who are addicted to acting out in public to attract attention, alerts the paparazzi in advance to her shopping sprees and night-crawl-

ing adventures.

Likewise, it's possible that the country saw so much of Smith in her pathetic last months because she was being handsomely compensated for her tabloid show appearances. Maybe there's a reason that particular Internet rumor has staying power.

(Really, was her pre-2007 fan base so large that the public needed to have her life crammed down its throat every day? Who, exactly, was hanging on to every minute detail of poor Anna Nicole's final months of existence?)

That's often the way the symbiotic celebrity publicity game is played.

And Britney is big business. As Portfolio magazine has reported, she contributes a reliable \$110 million a year to the jittery American economy, most of it through the publication and sale of tabloids

bearing tawdry details of her descent into scandal.

The lurid coverage comes oozing into our homes slick with tabloid TV hosts' fake compassion, so all of us — audience and tabloid professionals alike — can pretend we're only wallowing in the stories because we care so much.

A kinder explanation for the public's interest is that in this disconnected age, in which neighbors are strangers and family is far away, we know more about celebrities than about people we've actually met.

They populate our daily existence, these famous virtual playmates, these stars whose lives we think we know from paparazzi photos and well-placed gossip column items.

Internet chat rooms have replaced the backyard fence as the base of chatterbox culture.

And somehow it feels less mean — and less morally complicit — to watch a tabloid show speculating on Britney's mental state than to spread rumors about real acquaintances who are falling apart.

But is it?

On my way home from an interview in the suburbs a few weeks ago, I waited at a stoplight as an oncoming car ran the light, smashed into a truck and careened across the busy intersection, bouncing one vehicle into another and another, almost in slow motion. All I could do was watch, hoping my car wouldn't be hit next. (It wasn't.)

The unfolding of celebrity meltdowns feels much the same — beyond our control, leaving us powerless gawkers. Bystanders in disaster.

The thing is, we're not powerless at all: Death spiral or no, we don't have to watch.

Do you have what it takes to be a smallTALK columnist?

smallTALK needs a bright and interesting new column to replace Remille's Rhetoric. Are you up to the job? Come up with an idea and show us your stuff!



Send a 250-300 sample of your column along with three ideas for future columns to smalltalkmu@yahoo.com with "columnist" as the subject. Please include your cell phone number. The smallTALK staff will select a winner from the entries. The winner's column will appear in smallTALK on a regular basis and receive a secret prize!

Entries are due Feb. 15.

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Entertainment

Friendship is golden for Kate Hudson & Matthew McConaughey

Rick Bentley
McClatchy Newspapers
(MCT)

A look of great wisdom passes over the long blond bangs and onto the face of Kate Hudson. A faint smile comes to her lips. She's reacting to her "Fool's Gold" co-star Matthew McConaughey as he talks about the great plans he has for the child he is about to have with Brazilian model Camila Alves.

"Make no doubt about it, my kid will dance. He will be on the beach and he will be taking wild hikes," McConaughey says with great conviction.

The smile on Hudson's face grows larger. She reaches over with her left hand and offers a few comforting pats on McConaughey's leg. This is where the mother, not the actress, gets to be the teacher.

"You could literally give birth to a conservative Republican who is

like a Brainiac with math and you could go 'I don't know where he came from,'" Hudson says to her film co-star.

Then she says that parents can plan all they want, but once a child is born the child sets his or her own course.

She offers as an example her own son, Ryder, with Black Crowes frontman Chris Robinson. Despite being born into a family that sings, Ryder refuses to sing.

Then, like a sister who has just taken her brother down a few notches, Hudson launches into a complimentary discussion of how good a father she believes McConaughey will be despite all of his pre-parent delusions.

"I think he will be an incredible dad. Matthew just happens to be one of the most loving and loyal people I know. And his family is important to him. And I think it's one thing that we connect on. He's

great with kids and I think he'll be a very responsible and absolutely blast of a dad," Hudson says.

Hudson has had plenty of time to size up McConaughey. The two worked together on the 2003 film "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days." They have been reunited for "Fool's Gold," the new film about a bickering couple who get caught up in the search for a huge treasure that rests on the ocean floor off the coast of Florida.

Their familiarity and comfort about working together shows when they answer a question about making another film with each other.

"We had gotten quite a few opportunities to do it before and ...," Hudson says.

"... But nothing that we ...," continues McConaughey.

"... Nothing," finishes Hudson. Together, they explain that they have certainly wanted to

work together, but with the right script. They wanted the relationship between the characters they play to feel just right. Hudson explains that meant an extension of what worked with "How To Lose a Guy," but at the same time the roles had to be two totally different characters.

And that wasn't just for them. They wanted to help the audience believe in their characters, too.

During the interview, the two trade playful barbs with each other. They chat like two friends who have not seen each other in years. They even admit that, like all good friendships, there can be tense moments.

"We can drive each other crazy. But, there is like a real honest love for each other," Hudson says. "It's also one of those things where it is like where you start knowing someone so well that you love them like a brother or even in a

relationship. You love even the things that drive you crazy about them."

As if on cue, McConaughey starts talking about an embarrassing moment Hudson had while training for all of the scuba diving in the movie. She was underwater with a teacher when a manatee came toward them. Hudson began to give frantic signs to tell the teacher about the approaching sea creature.

"Do you remember my hand signal when I saw the manatee?" Hudson asks McConaughey.

"I remember this one. Thumbs up," he says. McConaughey holds both thumbs up in the air.

"I was so scared. It's like the size of this table. It's like the size of a cow," Hudson says.

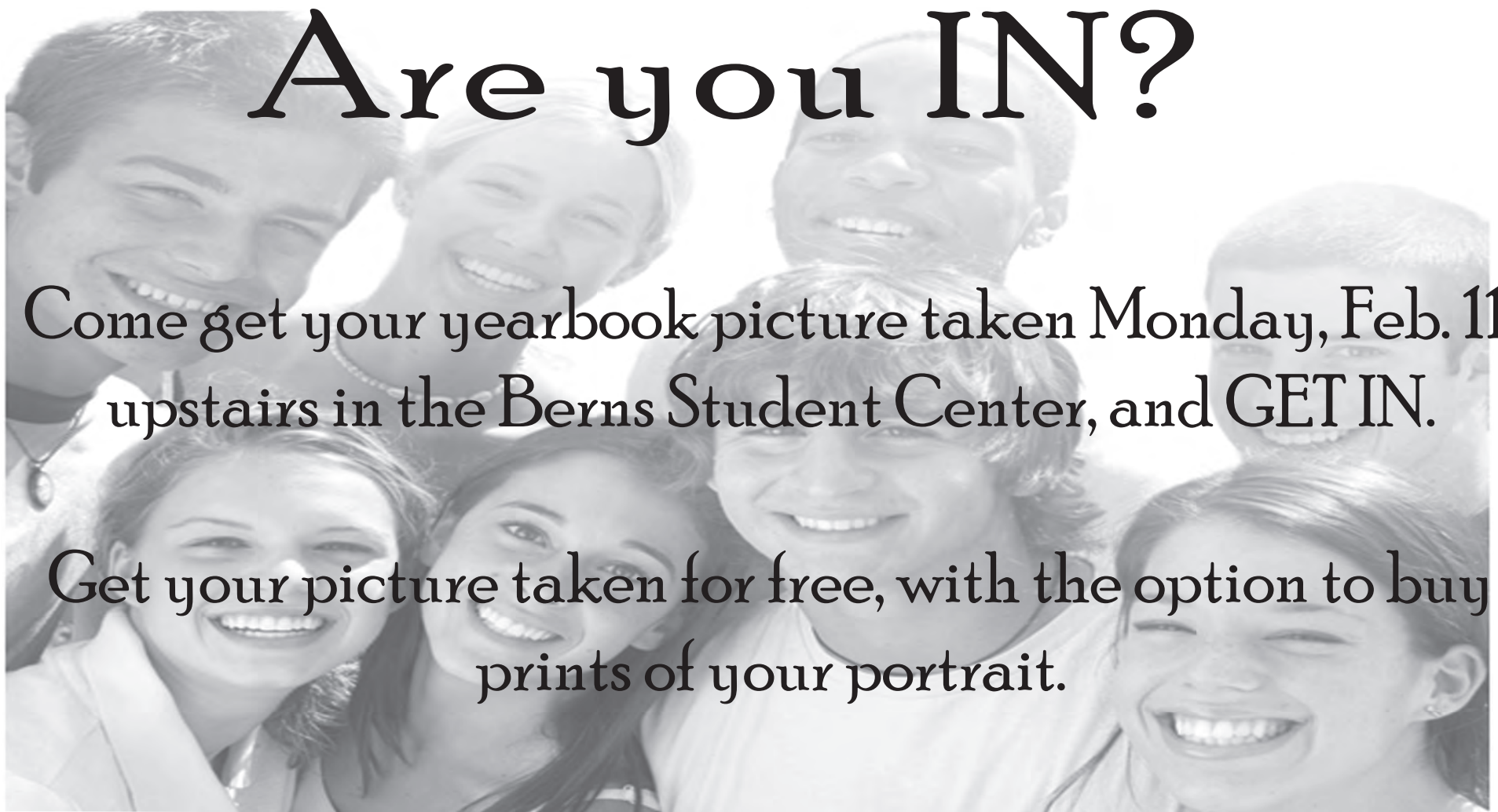
McConaughey reaches over with his right hand and gives Hudson a few comforting pats on her leg.

They both smile.

Are you IN?

Come get your yearbook picture taken Monday, Feb. 11, upstairs in the Berns Student Center, and GET IN.

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Photos by Aaron Casteel



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