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# small TALK

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THE STUDENT VOICE OF METHODIST UNIVERSITY

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Debate in Lion's Den  
Monday, 9 p.m.

Thomas  
Hutton

VS.

Anthony  
"Kicker"  
Liuzza

Battle Royale for  
SGA president!

story on page 2

Photo art  
by Matt Beitzel

## Farewell to Leighton Bull, SGA President

*Alicia Secord  
Staff Writer*



As the semester draws to a close and Student Government Elections approach, Leighton Bull overlooks her time as the SGA president.

During fall of this year, Landon Bentham was the SGA president. However, when he took a position with the faculty here at Methodist, he resigned from his position as SGA president and Bull, vice president at that time, stepped into the position.

Since her promotion in January, Bull has led the SGA in the sponsorship of the Developing Student Leaders (DSL) Leadership Conference which was attended by about 65 Methodist students. SGA has also gotten various discounts for Methodist students at local businesses, such as Hardees and Jersey Mike's, and passed out safety alarm devices to female students. The main focus for the rest of the year is promotion of student involvement in SGA and the upcoming SGA elections this month.

Student elections will be held later this month to determine senator positions (student representatives) and formal officers. If a student would like to become a student representative, he or she

should write a paragraph about their attributes for the position and get 25 signatures of endorsement from Methodist students or faculty. To become a candidate for one of the formal officer positions, a student should write a paragraph about their qualifications for the position and get 50 signatures of endorsement.

Bull, is a senior from Berwick, PA. She is a business major with a concentration in professional tennis management and resort management. Outside of the Student Government Association (SGA), Bull is involved in the Professional Tennis Management Club, the Resort Management Club, Delta Nu Delta, the women's tennis team, and works as a tour guide for prospective students

The SGA meets on Sunday evenings at 8 pm to avoid conflict with other clubs and campus ministry events. Students can get a copy of the SGA meetings at the following session. The SGA encourages students to bring any questions, concerns, or comments to a meeting or send them to [sgamu@methodist.edu](mailto:sgamu@methodist.edu).

## Hutton for 2008 SGA President

*Article contributed by Thomas Hutton is his opinion and does not reflect the opinions of the smallTALK staff*

My name is Thomas Hutton and I am running for Student Government President. It is time for changes on this campus and for the students to become the focus of all issues and decisions. While being a part of SGA for this school year I have taken two important student issues into my own hands: cafeteria improvements and visitation hours.

I have met numerous times with Peggy Dill, Head of Food Services here on campus, and clear changes are taking place. These changes include better customer service, food variety, and consistency. However I am fully aware that this task still needs additional work. I am committed to making this work a top priority as President at Methodist next year.

In addition to cafeteria improvements I administered over 200 surveys last fall to change

visitation hours in the dorms. After reviewing the surveys my proposal caused Dean Blanc to decide to move the visitation time to two hours earlier for the residence halls. Along with that proposal came another change in the overnight visitation policy. The policy now allows for visitors to stay for a many days and nights in the dorms. This is the type of focus students at Methodist want and this is what I will bring to all of my actions as SGA President

For this election and the following school year we need a President with experience in making changes that will benefit the students. To do this the new President needs to have positive relationships with faculty and staff members on campus and that will help faculty and staff to better understand what the students need. Through my work with the Retention Committee, SGA, and numerous clubs and organizations I have earned that sort of relationship with key people throughout our

campus.

We, the students, deserve more. I am running for the students and want to represent what you want. I have created a Web site in order to connect with all students (<http://voiceofmu.blogspot.com>). But feel free to come up to me and talk one on one. Remember to vote Thomas Hutton for SGA President on April 9<sup>th</sup> in the Berns Student Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. I appreciate your support.



## Liuzza Runs for 2008 SGA President As "The Other Guy"

*Article contributed by Anthony (Kicker) Liuzza is his opinion and does not reflect the opinions of the smallTALK staff*

I would never undermine the individuality of each student by claiming to be the unanimous voice of Methodist University; frankly I find it quite arrogant. In no way would I falsely represent the students declaring my ideas or those of a select few, as the "students' voice." You each have your own unique voice, opinions, thoughts, and ideas. I simply want to create a culture within SGA where the ideas of the many culminate: functioning as a whole.

How about a bi-cameral legislature? Right now, SGA is made up of an Executive Board and senators. Wow! At capacity that's about 23 members ... How many students attend Methodist?

Amending the SGA constitution to include a House of Representatives would open the organization to greater student representation. We need a House of Representatives to be an active and contributing

part of SGA. Every sports team, club, and organization should have the opportunity to represent their affiliated group at SGA meetings—this would include having voting rights and legislative power. This should lessen the burden SGA faces from lack of man power (and women power for all of us feminists). There will truly be an entire cross section of The Methodist Student Body present. We will have the ability to delegate standing committees other than the four or five mentioned in the constitution.

Imagine a spirit committee-- devoted to, periodically throughout each semester, performing fun, crazy, "just because," activities simply to make the students laugh. One example would be to have SGA members riding through campus in golf carts passing out well designed Methodist t-shirts. The catch would be to trade the shirt you are wearing for a Methodist t-shirt. All of the collected t-shirts would then be donated to a homeless shelter. I think Methodist needs more ideas like this one. Let's make this place feel like a university should feel--one of intense student involvement, and a great sense of pride: A place that we can call our friends back home and say "dude my school rocks!!!"

I am not a task manager. I do not

think that the role of the SGA President and SGA is to micro-manage the entire school; that is why we have deans and staff. I am a paradigm shifter: Big Picture. One of my opponent's main focuses of his campaign is in regards to "fixing the cafeteria." We all know this need to be done—but lets be reasonable --no matter how the election turns out, the problem won't go away "just like that." Honestly, having a tastier omelet in the morning is not going to make Methodist University a better place to live. We need to change the culture of the student body-- the culture of this campus-- getting everyone involved; try to make it the cool thing to do. I am confident that I am the right guy, "the Other Guy" for that job.



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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](mailto: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.

# Erin Yarborough takes crown as second Miss Methodist



Senior Erin Yarborough as 2008-2009 Miss Methodist

Photos by Aaron Casteel

*Ashley Young*  
News Editor

Sparkling hats, brightly colored t-shirts and black pants led the way at this year's Miss Methodist. The



Miss Methodist Candidates with Comedian Buzz Sutherland

girls came out dancing to Michael Jackson's, "The Way You Make Me Feel," and followed with introductions.

Miss Methodist was held March 19 at 8 p.m. in Reeves auditorium. Reeves was full of families and friends there to support the 11 candidates who competed for the crown. The 2008-2009 Miss Methodist is Erin Yarborough, first runner up was Michelle Simmons and second runner up was Krystal Poirier. Miss Congeniality was Ashley Voter.

The Master of Ceremony for the show was Buzz Sutherland, a comedian, who has performed in Fay-

etteville a total of 16 times prior to Miss Methodist. Sutherland joked about a wide range of stories and fun



Krystal Poirier dances to "All or Nothing" for her talent

memories. One of the stories was about a puppy they got for Christmas and the children could not de-

cide what to name it. Sutherland's daughter wanted to name the puppy, "Mustard," and Sutherland's son wanted to name it "Ketchup," so when the children went to Sutherland to ask him what they should name the puppy he replied, "Why don't you name it treadmill? Because you're only going to play with it for a few weeks then you're going to put it in the basement and leave it there!"

The girls also displayed a wide range of performances for their talents. They did everything from acting, to clogging, singing, playing the piano, and dancing.

Antonio Bartee, a student activities member, announced the top five contestants and then Tiffanie Wagner gave closing remarks on what her year as Miss Methodist was like.

"It's going to be interesting to see what the new Miss Methodist does for Methodist because Tiffanie did the H.A.V.E. program," said Whitney Slaughter, a senior, and a mass communications major.

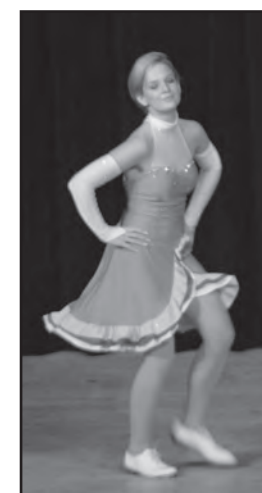
When asked how she felt about giving the title of Miss Methodist up and if she was ready to do so, Tiffanie Wagner replied,

"I'm excited to give it up and excited to see what the new Miss Methodist is going to do with it."

Wagner is a junior and a special education major. She also competed in the Miss Fayetteville pageant which was held on March 29.

"I think Miss Methodist is a

great opportunity to let our female students shine with their talent and knowledge," said Monica Cheek, a recruitment coordinator for RMT.



Michelle Simmons performs to Jennifer Lopez's "Lets Get Loud"



Simmons, Yarborough, Poirier, and Ashley Voter pose with their awards.

# Welcome home, baby Mustard

*Deanna Piacente*  
Contributed Article

MustardMag.com is finally here!

After months of work and near exhaustion we are ready for release.

And those crazy clues we've been leaving around will make sense after reading our stories.

Although Mustard sounds condimental we are aiming for monumental. We, the mustard staff, are a mixed bunch of seeds indeed.

Allow me to introduce the

groundbreakers:

°Dr. Sharron Sypult, our top dog and journalism professor who gathered and planted the seeds of this online magazine;

°Christina Erben, our creative mind and lead designer of all things Mustard;

° Matt Beitzel, our HTML extraordinaire;

° Jesse Heath, a journalism major with a true talent for writing;

°Erika Holland, the mind behind most page designs;

°Whitney Slaughter, our much needed and appreciated publicist;

° The Love Doctor, our anony-

mous but knowledgeable advice columnist;

°And, of course, yours truly, Deanna Piacente, Mustard's editor and contributor to the magazine's multimedia and behind-the-scenes nonsense.

Certainly we cannot forget to praise our numerous writers and contributors. If it were not for them we'd have nothing to publish and you'd have nothing to read.

Now, I know what you're all wondering...why Mustard? My answer is why not? The magazine name was simply the product of an infamous Mustard brainstorming

session. The word mustard fatefully fell from someone's mouth (thanks, Jesse). Apparently we took her seriously.

It didn't take long to establish reasons for such a title. Firstly the mustard plant begins as the smallest of seeds but becomes the grandest of trees. Call us optimistic: but we began with nothing. We aspire to become a staple of the Methodist University community.

Secondly mustard the condiment is spicy. Mustard as a magazine will live up to its name. We hope to break the conventions of the typical private school student

publications. We believe all students deserve an outlet to express themselves without censorship. Today's technology has made it possible for us to deliver just that - untainted, unadulterated student voices.

Lastly the word mustard begins with MU. Need we say more?

So the seeds of MustardMag.com have been planted. Watch us grow. With such talent, potential, and a catchy name - all things are possible.

# Methodist comes together for Show You Care Day

Alicia Secord  
Staff Writer

Every spring for over two decades, Methodist students, faculty, and staff have come together to make the school a better place. This year Show You Care Day focused on beautification, safety, and handicap access. Flowers were planted around the Davis Memorial Library and the Berns Student Center. Also vegetation was cleared behind the Pines Apartments, and the handicap access ramp from the downstairs to upstairs of the Berns was replaced.

Show You Care Day was started in the mid-1980s by the men's and women's soccer coaches, Allen Dawson and Joe Ferrera. Now it is directed by William Walker, Senior Associate Dean for Student Development & Services. Walker not only organizes the activities on the day of the event but also heads the committee that decides which projects should be undertaken each year. The committee accepts suggestions from the Methodist community during the first part of each spring semester to get an idea of what improvements should be made to the campus. They also decide which ideas are most possible and necessary.

Presenting a positive impression to visitors is important to the Methodist students and faculty.

"Image is everything," said Jarrel McRae, an RA.

When visitors come to Methodist the first thing they see is the grounds, ornamental flower beds and manicured lawns. Beautification near Berns and the library involved pulling weeds from existing beds, removing pine straw, planting flowers, and laying down mulch. While the beds near the library merely needed sprucing up much of the vegetation around the Berns is entirely new. Both areas now look much tidier and well taken care of.

One area in which Methodist needs to improve is its handicap accessibility. In an attempt to remedy this situation students began rebuilding the handicap access ramp which extends from the upstairs level of the Berns to the parking lot.

Many students, including Keva Wilson felt that "every student should have equal access to the facilities here at Methodist."

The problem is, for a two hour



Students, staff, and faculty plant flowers outside of Career Services by the Green and Gold Cafe. Photos by Roxana Ross

program, this was not the best job to undertake. The ramp was only about a quarter of the way completed by the time the event ended and the maintenance crew was left to finish the job on Monday and Tuesday of the following week. This meant that the path from the Berns to the parking lot below was blocked which made wheelchair access even more restricted. While upkeep and repair of existing ramps is important to handicap accessibility new ramps and access points are necessary for the school to truly be handicap convenient.

The same good intentions were applied to the Pines Apartment project. The project involved clearing dead vegetation behind the apartments in the direction of the Cape Fear River Trail. This was done in an attempt to keep students safe.

"We're doing this so that students can see anyone coming up behind the apartments," stated Alex Ybarra, an RA in Sanford Hall.

While this is a great intention, students could have been out there all week and there would have still been more vegetation to clear. Being that it is the woods, there will always be vegetation growing there.

At the end of the morning work session, students felt accomplished and proud of what they had done. Alicia Bates, a SAC member, said that she comes to Show You Care Day because,

"It's great to work with the other groups on campus. Other than the Jesse Smith Woodcutting Proj-

ect this is the only time that a bunch of different campus organizations do something together. Plus when you're walking around with other students the next day and you can say, 'I built that ramp' or 'I planted those flowers.'"

Though many students did not attend Show You Care Day there was a lot of effort put forth in order to improve Methodist's campus.



Show You Care Day participants work on the ramp out by Berns Student Center.

# Campus crimes and punishment



Dawn Hamerla, Methodist Chief of Police

Daniel Lee  
Staff Writer

## Sticks Found in Woods

A pentagram made from sticks was discovered in the woods on Mar. 12 beside the walking path behind Sanford and Cumberland.

"A staff member discovered a site in the woods behind Sanford and Cumberland on the morning of Mar. 12<sup>th</sup>. It was described as a group of sticks shaped like a pentagram. I was informed of the situation and Lt. Bird was sent to investigate," said Dawn Hamerla, Methodist Chief of Police and Director of Public Safety.

Lt. Janet Bird is the Assistant Director of Public Safety.

"I saw a pentagram made of sticks next to the walking path. A small pile of burnt pine straw, the size of a soda can, was next to the symbol. I destroyed the symbol and scattered the sticks. After my initial report the investigation was continued by Campus Police," said Bird.

"No immediate hazard was posed to the community because of this incident. A student has already confessed to this crime and is no longer associated with the University," said Hamerla.

Hamerla said that David Dallas of Cumberland County Sheriff's Office came to investigate the incident. According to Dallas, the site was associated with Wicca activity. Wicca is a Neopagan earth-centered religious group that practices witchcraft. Hamerla also said that she has no reason to believe there is a cult on campus and this was an isolated incident.

"We can use this incident as an opportunity to teach students about crime prevention. I try to use cur-

rent events to open up a dialogue with the community and keep people aware of campus limits and processes," said Hamerla.

"The person responsible for the pentagram in the woods voluntarily confessed and is no longer a student at Methodist University. In my ten years of being here I don't recall anything like this occurring," said Mr. William H. Walker, Senior Associate Dean of Students and Campus Judicial Officer.

## Suspects Intrude on Methodist's Campus

The action continued on Mar. 14 when two suspects fled onto Methodist's campus.

"Two suspects were being arrested on felony charges by Fayetteville police. During the arrest, the subjects fled onto campus and Officer Bandy pursued them. The subjects were most likely unarmed and were not caught while still on campus," said Hamerla.

Officer John Bandy is a member of the Methodist police force.

"It is my understanding that two police suspects ran through the woods into the Pines Apartments area. Bandy pursued the intruders while Public Safety informed residents of the situation and reminded them to stay safe," said Walker. "In my ten years of being at Methodist there have been no more than three incidents of intrusions on campus."

According to Walker, the suspects escaped from the campus but were later apprehended by the federal police department. Thanks to the work of the Methodist police force residents on campus remain safe and sound.

Contributions by Ashley Young, News Editor.

# Opinions

## Ashley Asks...

Ashley Young News Editor

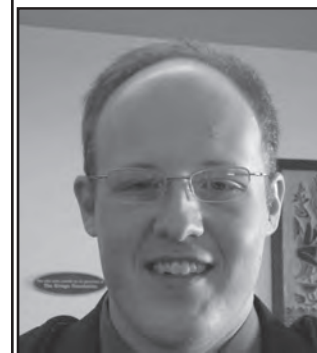
If you were a cartoon character, which would you be and why?



“I would John from ‘Garfield’ because we are both unlucky.” -Winston Tatum, a freshman and an environmental science major.



“I would like to be like ‘My Little Pony’ because I could fly and smell like gumdrops.” -Tenille Woodward, a senior, and a political science major.



“‘The Simpsons’ because everything is so funny.” -Chris Coats, a junior, and a political science major.



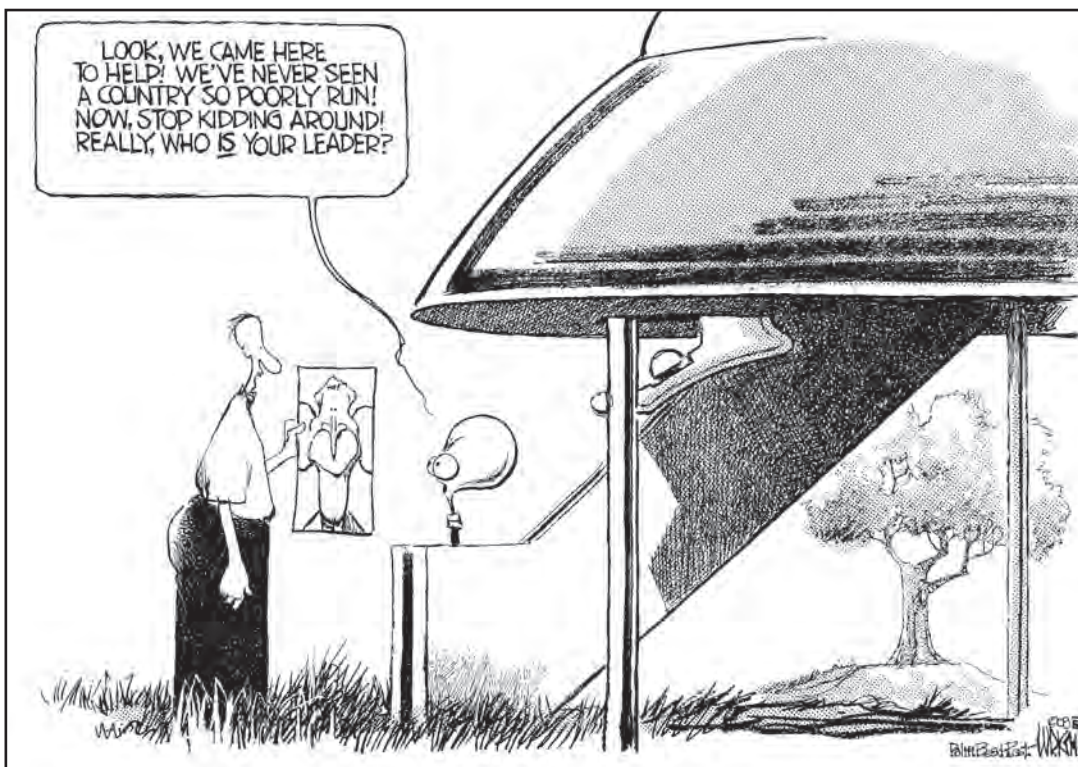
Johnny Bravo because he gets all the ladies!” -Rickey Lozotte, a freshman, and an exercise science major.



“I’d have to be Superman because he has the ability to help others in need.” -Horace Hemley, a junior, and a computer science major.



“Curious George because my four year old gets into as much mischief as that little monkey!” -Arleen Fields, Archives Librarian in the Davis Memorial Library.



“The road runner because I’m always on the go!” -Frank E. Moses Jr., a senior, and a social work major.



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# Farewell, Dr. Christian

*Ashley Genova  
Editor-in-Chief*

What will the English department do at the end of this year? This small but cozy school is losing one of its best professors, Dr. Robert Christian.

Christian has worked at Methodist since 1968, teaching classes about a variety of literature including the Romantics and the Victorians. Currently, he is the chair of the English department. At the end of this semester, he will be retiring, although he will return in the fall to teach part time.

I've sat through lessons from interview candidates vying for Christian's position, and they can't be compared to Christian. His mind is like a portable library and database. I'm always amazed how he can not only quote a poet, but tell you who that poet married and where he or she lived. To replace all the knowledge that Christian carries in his head, the English department will have to hire at least three professors instead of just one.

And how passionate Christian is about his work! Even after his beloved dog died, he showed up to my Victorian



Dr. Robert Christian enjoys a school event in the cafeteria. Photo by Roxana Ross.

Literature class, apologizing for not being in the best of moods. Rarely does Christian stop smiling and laughing as he puts his whole heart into his class readings. His office is a tribute to his love of literature, full writers' pictures and a model of Shakespeare's theatre. Things will be very different next semester when a new professor is in his office.

Dr. Christian, I will miss your lessons, your love for your work and all the wonderful things that you have brought to the English department and to the whole Methodist campus. I hope that your retirement will give you as much happiness as your job has given you.

# Between the headstones, row on row

*Bob Ray Sanders  
McClatchy Newspapers  
(MCT)*

Milestones. Headstones.

When the two become synonymous, in agonizing sync, it is time for the nation to pause in solemn reverence for those who have paid the ultimate price for the country they loved.

We must offer our thanks for the men and women who gave their all, even in a war that never should have been waged — one that was ordered by a president on a whim and authorized by a Congress in fear (not of the enemy but of unabashed politics).

Yes, pay homage to those whose graves now dot our most hallowed grounds and whose lives, and deaths, shall forever inspire and haunt those who loved them.

Milestone: 4,000 and counting.

Headstone: the 4,000th and still counting.

Wait, don't you dare try to minimize that number by telling me how many service personnel were killed in one battle in one day during World War II.

Please don't suggest that this is a "small" price to pay for liberating a people — a people most Americans didn't care about until we declared war on a tyrant who already was very much in check.

And by no means try to convince me that this mighty toll has been worth it.

Worth what?

In addition to the number of dead Americans and the tens of thousands of innocent dead Iraqis, far too many of our countrymen and women have returned home with physical and mental scars they will carry for the rest of their lives.

Several retired generals have noted the large number of injured in this war compared with the ratio of death-to-wounded in other conflicts.

For every fatality in Iraq, more than seven have been wounded, according to reports. That compares with 2.8 injured per death in Korea and a ratio of 2.6 in Vietnam.

New body armor and improved medical treatments are saving more lives, but

many of the wounded are returning forever changed with missing limbs, life-altering brain injuries, and mental and emotional problems that will never be cured.

Just this week in North Texas, an ex-Marine who served three tours of duty in Iraq was arrested and charged with murder in the stabbing death of his ex-girlfriend. His father said he gave the government a "nice and healthy" son, "and the government returned somebody who is capable of doing something like that."

Despite the lies that got us into the war in the first place, and the rationalizations that keep us there, most Americans decided months ago that we must find a way out of this hellhole. Somehow we must figure out a way to bring our troops home.

Oh, I know — we broke it, and therefore we own it. But we must let go. That should be the primary charge of the next administration.

As for those who insist that we must remain in Iraq until we "win," would you please tell me what winning is?

Never mind, because you can't.

You who have bought this administration's line that Iraq is the front line of fighting terrorism, get real. It was in the name of fighting terrorism that we put American troops in harm's way, making them easy targets for old and new foreign militants.

This war effort has been an utter failure, but the ineptness of this country's leaders should not reflect poorly on the men and women who have served, and continue to serve, their country in spite of poor decisions from Washington.

They deserve our respect and our gratitude, for they have done what they have been asked to do and much more.

The sacrifices of those who died and who returned injured shall never be diminished. Their service was not in vain.

But the best way we can honor those who remain is to find a way to bring them home as soon as possible.

Let's stop adding to the list of milestones.

For God's sake, let us stop adding the rows of tombstones.

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# Entertainment

## T. Rox and Gasoline Make for an Interesting Performance

**Alicia Secord**  
Staff Writer

When ska meets southern rock, it is an extremely odd pairing, but that is exactly what happened on March 22. Though Gasoline (a southern rock band from Fayetteville) was the headliner for the show, T. Rox and the Skankosaurs (a ska band from Chapel Hill), performing with Marko and the Rockers (also from Chapel Hill), was easily just as impressive. These styles of music are so different, that both portions of the show had completely different crowds.

The opening band, Marko and the Rockers was far from impressive, but definitely got the crowd warmed up. Despite feedback issues, predictable rhythms, and average vocalist, the combination of fun lyrics and a killer bass player made for a decent set. Their eclectic style and strange holiday songs, such as "Valentine" and "Seasons Loathings," definitely

helped them stick in the minds of the audience. Their best songs however, were the purely instrumental ones.

T. Rox and the Skankosaurs brought a style and energy to The Rock Shop that is rarely seen there. T. Rox is a ska cover band who covers everything from "Time After Time"



Jessica Hiltabidle, vocalist for T. Rox and the Skankosaurs, was a crowd favorite.  
Photo by Alicia Secord

by Cyndi Lauper to "King of Pain" by The Police. Unlike most local bands, T. Rox had both a good stage show and quality instrumentals. The drummer was steady, the winds had good tone, and the guitarist and bassist knew how to lead without overpowering the rest of the group. This kind of organization is rare even in a concert group. The only complaint to be made is about the vocalist. Though beautiful, funny, and energetic, her voice leaves something to be desired. The crowd however, was enthralled. Singing along, dancing, and general excitement accompanied every song and by the end of the set the only people that wanted T. Rox off the stage were the Gasoline fans.

Gasoline plays an entirely different kind of music than the other two...southern rock. While ska is a combination of reggae and big band, southern rock is a combination of country and rock. Needless to say, the fans

present for Gasoline didn't enjoy T. Rox and the T. Rox fans didn't stick around to hear Gasoline.

Gasoline surprisingly played a pretty great set. When they play as a headliner band they put a lot more energy into the show and seem to enjoy themselves so much more than as an opener. Gasoline, like most southern rock, tends to sing about

relationships and drinking more than anything, but they do it with quality instrumentals backing it up making it much less clichéd than is expected. Throw in some pretty avid fans and you've got a fun set.

In all it was a strange night, but it's great to see several different types of bands on the same stage.



Dean Sears, guitarist, and Mike Mongol, bassist, help Gasoline burn up the stage.  
Photo by Alicia Secord

## 'Run Fatboy Run'

**Roger Moore**  
The Orlando Sentinel  
(MCT)

There's often a touch of the touching in the comedies of Brit Everyman Simon Pegg. "Shaun of the Dead" had his moments of sentiment, in between dispatching zombies.

But even knowing that, it's shocking how sweet his latest, "Run Fatboy Run," turns out to be. A less-than-outrageous romantic farce, it stops and takes the time to let us say, "Awww," often at the expense of laughs.

Pegg plays Dennis, whom we meet in mid-panic attack on his wedding day. He's about to marry the stunning Libby (Thandie Newton). She's having his baby. It's going to be a big ceremony.

And all Dennis can do is run for his life.

What kind of knob leaves a woman who looks like Thandie Newton at the altar? Dennis must

be London's biggest loser. That much is obvious when we jump forward five years to see the paunchy, chain-smoking security guard that Dennis has become.

But he's still in touch with the not-quite-ex because they have a son together. He'd love to worm his way back into her life. But she's taken up with the wealthy, charming American Whit (Hank Azaria), a hedge fund broker and athlete.

"He runs marathons!"  
"Why?"

Eventually, this too-leisurely comedy gets down to its business, which is Dennis taking up the challenge of running a marathon with Whit. He must train. He must diet. He must finish, because there are side bets that involve his back rent and his always-broke best mate, Gordon (scene-stealer Dylan Moran).

That's when this comedy, directed by "Friends" alum David Schwimmer, finds its footing. Training with the help of

his funny landlord, Mr. G. (Harish Patel, just adorable), and Gordon, Dennis and Fat Boy start to sprint.

"You've never finished anything in your life," Libby insists dismissively. Like most movies with a marathon in them, the race becomes that metaphor for a person finding inner resources that change his or her life.

Schwimmer fills out his cast with a nice cross-section of Brit character actors, including "Little Britain" cross-dresser David Walliams. Schwimmer smartly withholds final judgment on Whit and marathoning and makes the real story about what Dennis must do to become a better man.

Pegg may not be the most convincing "fat boy," but he's on his game here, his expressive face contorted into pain, panic and prickliness. Azaria and Newton are basically straight-men



Director David Schwimmer, from left, Thandie Newton and Simon Pegg arrive at the premiere for "Run Fatboy Run," held at the Arclight Theatre in Hollywood, California, March 24, 2008.  
(Fitzroy Barrett/Landov/MCT)

to Pegg's shtick, which means two thirds of the movie isn't that funny.

It has meaning and sentiment and a nice pay-off for its finale. But without more laughs, "Run Fatboy Run" is awfully winded by the time it crosses the finish line.

3 stars (out of 5)

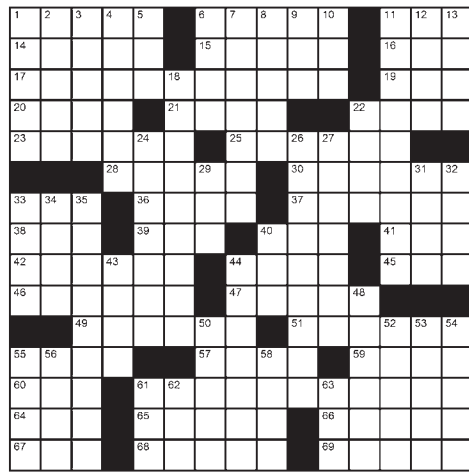
Cast: Simon Pegg, Thandie Newton, Hank Azaria, Dylan Moran.

Director: David Schwimmer.  
Running time: 1 hour, 35 minutes.

Industry rating: PG-13 for some rude and sexual humor, nudity, language and smoking.

## Crossword

- ACROSS**  
 1 Composer of "The Planets"  
 6 Stopwatch  
 11 Brace amount  
 14 Keenly perceptive  
 15 Architect Jones  
 16 Biddy  
 17 Female fashion feature  
 19 Soft-finned fish  
 20 British title  
 21 Actor Sandler  
 22 Catch sight of  
 23 Exhibits scorn  
 25 Put the \_\_\_ on (squelch)  
 28 Sister's daughter  
 30 Horrify  
 33 Actor Brynner  
 36 \$ players  
 37 Hot-lodge creation  
 38 Bolted down  
 39 Peculiar  
 40 OPEC output  
 41 Individual  
 42 Dance of 1961  
 44 Auto racer Petty  
 45 Military conflict  
 46 Changes gears  
 47 Ken and Lena  
 49 Work-shoe protection  
 51 Steps  
 55 Old sailors  
 57 Fringe benefit  
 59 Notion  
 60 Mr. Baba  
 61 1981 Heisman Trophy winner  
 64 Sen. Kennedy  
 65 "Return of the Jedi" critters  
 66 Ducks' kin  
 67 Logger's tool  
 68 Nervous  
 69 Calculator



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4/5/08

- DOWN**  
 1 Netherworld  
 2 "Caribbean Queen" singer  
 3 Ill-gotten profit  
 4 Like hot stuff  
 5 \_\_\_ Aviv-Jaffa  
 6 Neck and neck

- 7 Openings into a container  
 8 "\_\_\_ Vice"  
 9 Hen product  
 10 Shad delicacy  
 11 Old radio character  
 12 Shed tears  
 13 Nothing but  
 18 Digital recording  
 22 Armchair athlete's channel  
 24 Counterstroke  
 26 Snake of legend  
 27 Lush  
 29 Grand Banks fish  
 31 Turner of films  
 32 Lustful look  
 33 Swerves off course  
 34 Bryce Canyon state  
 35 Parlay one's bet  
 40 Popeye's Olive  
 43 Saucers without cups?

### Solutions



- 44 Russian cash  
 48 Put out to sea  
 50 Chef's cover  
 52 Took it easy  
 53 "Touched by an Angel" star  
 54 More sensible  
 55 Bye-bye!  
 56 Trebek of "Jeopardy!"  
 58 Deception  
 61 Encountered  
 62 Wonderment  
 63 Ankara honorific

# Columbia Picture's '21' is a Bust

By Christopher Kelly  
 McClatchy Newspapers  
 (MCT)

A few things you will not learn while watching "21": You will not learn how to play blackjack, despite the fact that the movie is, um, titled "21" and is about a group of M.I.T. students who earn hundreds of thousands of dollars playing said card game.

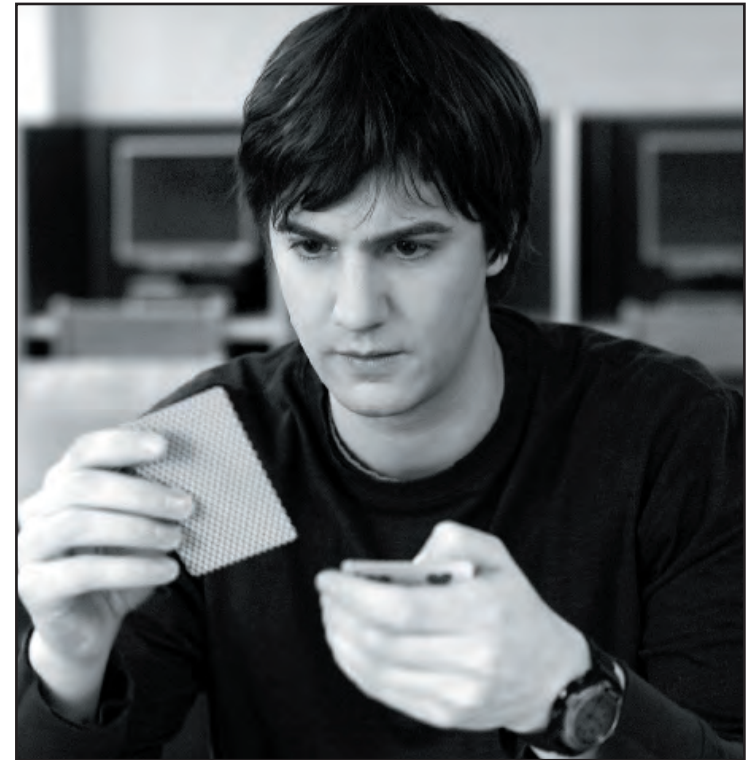
You will not learn how to count cards, despite the fact that this is the method the students use to win all that money.

You will not learn how long their elaborate scheme carries on, or whether there are any legal repercussions to their actions, despite the fact that the film is based on a nonfiction book titled "Bringing Down the House: The Inside Story of Six M.I.T. Students Who Took Vegas for Millions" by Ben Mezrich.

What you will learn, though this much you probably already knew, is that Hollywood has an uncanny knack for taking potentially provocative material and dumbing it down to the point of complete irrelevancy.

Presumably set in the present day ("21" doesn't just skimp on the details, it doesn't believe in details, period), the film introduces us to Ben Campbell (Jim Sturgess, from "Across the Universe"), an extremely gifted student who instantly impresses his professor Micky Rosa (Kevin Spacey). It turns out that Micky is also the leader of a gambling ring at the university: He oversees a group of students who travel to Las Vegas each weekend and manage to elude the eagle eyes of the casino operators who are forever on the lookout for card counters and return back to Massachusetts tens of thousands of dollars richer.

Had director Robert Luketic ("Legally Blonde") and screenwriters Peter Steinfeld and Allan



Loeb respected the audience's intelligence, they might have used this story as the springboard for a rich and gripping procedural, a movie that allowed us to understand the ins and outs of a complex and constantly changing betting system. Instead, "21" serves up a harebrained backstory (Ben needs to earn money so that he can pay for Harvard Medical School which apparently no longer offers student loans), a hackneyed central conflict (Ben eventually decides he's too good at card counting to need Micky's help anymore), and an utterly ludicrous subplot (Laurence Fishburne plays the Las Vegas security expert who's trying to catch the students, to prove the inadequacy of the computerized security systems being installed throughout of the city). Little of this, of course, appears in Mezrich's book, which

Ben Campbell (Jim Sturgess, pictured) is recruited to join M.I.T.'s blackjack team, a group of students that uses smarts and skills to take Vegas for millions in Columbia Pictures' "21."

(Columbia Pictures/MCT)

wasted, as one plot point after another goes unaddressed. (Why do the students always stay together in a pricey hotel suite, when they're not supposed to be seen together? How is it that they manage to leave the casinos with such vast sums without ever having to report their income to the I.R.S.?)

Scene to scene, the movie holds together, if you stumble upon it on HBO in two years, you might even sit through it until the end. But you're never able to shake the feeling that it's both pointless and worthless. In the parlance of the gambling tables, it's a bust.

Along the way, an attractive young cast, which includes Kate Bosworth ("Superman Returns"), Aaron Yoo ("Disturbia") and Jacob Pitts ("Quarterlife") as Ben's partners-in-card-counting, is

2 stars (out of 5)  
 Director: Robert Luketic  
 Stars: Jim Sturgess, Kevin Spacey

Length: 123 min.  
 Rated: PG-13 (violence, sexual content, partial nudity)

## Box Office Preview

By Stephen Becker  
 The Dallas Morning News  
 (MCT)

Opening April 11:  
**CHAOS THEORY** - An ultra-organized man is forced to live his life more serendipitously.

**PROM NIGHT** - A killer goes and interrupts high school's biggest event.

**SMART PEOPLE** - Dennis Quaid stars as a widowed professor who finds a new love. Thomas Haden Church, Sarah Jessica Parker and Ellen Page also star.

**STREET KINGS** - Keanu Reeves stars as a police officer accused of killing a fellow cop. Forest Whitaker, Hugh Laurie and Chris Evans also star.

### Welcome to Falling Rock National Park by Kid Shay





# Sports

## SPRING MONARCH UPDATES

### Farewell to the 2008 spring season

The Monarch Softball team is ranked 11th in NCAA Division III. The team looks to three-peat as USA South Conference Tournament Champions and three-peat a bid to the NCAA Division III Tournament.

*Pictured right is Junior Third Baseman Kayla Talbert.*

*Photo Courtesy of Sports Information.*

**April 9- Softball Game at 2:30 p.m.**



The Monarchs Baseball team has had a great season, the record is 20 wins, nine losses, and one tie. The Monarchs are looking to repeat a bid to the NCAA Division III Tournament.

*Pictured left is Sophomore Pitcher Fred Geisinger*

*Photo by Kasey Nichols*

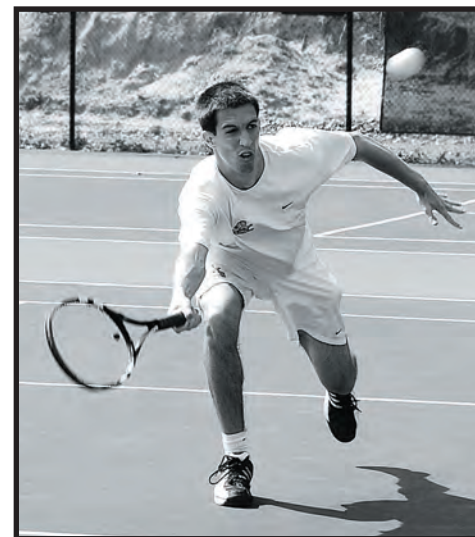
**April 10- Baseball Game at 6 p.m.**

The Men's Tennis Team has had an interesting season. Although the overall record is not as appealing as one might wish, the USA South record is perfect. The Men have an overall record of four wins, six losses with three wins in the conference.

*Pictured Right is Sophomore Andrew Fletcher*

*Photos by Kasey Nichols*

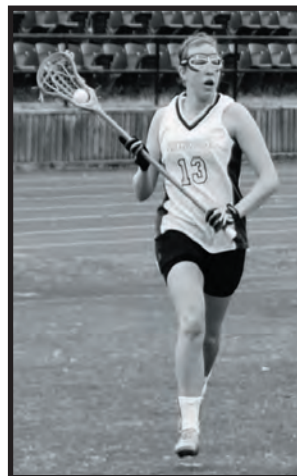
**April 13- Men's Tennis Match at 11 a.m.**



**April 12  
Women's Tennis  
Match  
11 a.m.**

The Women's Tennis team has had a remarkable season. They have also had perfect record within the USA South Conference, with an overall record of 12 wins and three losses. The women are looking to repeat as Conference Tournament Champions and a bid to the NCAA Division III Tournament.

*Pictured above are Seniors Jenny Smith and Tiffany Tucker  
Photo by Kasey Nichols*



Monarch's Lacrosse had a difficult season, while battling injuries, the ladies have had to play some games with less than a full team, but have managed to hold their own. As of Friday, the record was three wins and eight losses.

*Pictured left is Senior Crystal Bradley.*

*Photo by Kasey Nichols*



The Men's Golf team has had an amazing season with four first place, one second place, and two third place team finishes; and 14 top 10 individual finishes throughout the season. The Monarchs are ranked first in the Conference and Nationally. The Monarchs look to continue the school's golf legacy with another Conference and National Championship.

*Pictured left is Senior Nick Bova, USA South Conference Individual Leader.*

*Photo Courtesy of Sports Information*



The Women's Golf program has had a year of ups and downs as the team has had many different standings within the top ten in seven tournaments this season; placing first in two.

*Pictured left is Senior Katie Dick.*

*Photo Courtesy of Sports Information.*

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## Underdog Davidson's run ends, but respect will linger

*By Mike Downey  
Chicago Tribune  
(MCT)*

DETROIT \_ Don't you have to have at least one underdog at the Alamo?

Guess not.

No room in San Antonio at the Alamodome next weekend for a Davy Crockett-like long shot such as Davidson.

No place for a little team with a big heart that kept Kansas to a season-low 59 points Sunday but still lost.

No spot for an outside shot in a favorites-only Final Four.

After a 59-57 escape in the Midwest regional final, even a guy from the winning team felt sorry for the guys from the losing team.

"I hope next year they make it back here and proceed to go on to the Final Four," Kansas senior Darnell Jackson said.

He means here at Ford Field, host arena for 2009's NCAA title game. It is where Jackson and the Jayhawks had to hold their breath until Jason Richards' desperation shot for Davidson grazed the rim and fell to the floor.

"Probably the longest shot I've seen in my life, just being in the air for so long," said Sasha Kaun, a senior

who watched it in horror from the Kansas bench.

Kaun had been his team's best player in this game, coming off the bench and coming up big with 13 points and six rebounds.

But his coach didn't need a 6-foot-11-inch, 250-pounder in the game for the last play. Bill Self had to make sure smaller, quicker players were in there.

Somebody had to stop Steph Curry.

Somebody had to keep Davidson's iceman from knocking Kansas cold with one punch.

Somebody had to do something before a kid who broke the NCAA's record for three-point shots in a season broke every Jayhawk's heart with one more.

"I was totally confident that we were going to pull it off there at the end," Davidson senior Thomas Sander said.

Curry couldn't even get it off, though. He was double-teamed, triple-teamed, quadruple-teamed. Kansas sent everybody but the ghosts of Dr. James Naismith and Wilt Chamberlain out to guard him.

Mario Chalmers chased him and kept in his face. Curry shook him. Brandon Rush came to help, fell for a pump fake, went up, fell down.

Curry tried to beat the clock. Sherron Collins swarmed all over him.

Not much more Curry could do. He could force it up or give it up.

He looked for Richards and found him.

"Why did he give up the ball?" CBS-TV analyst Len Elmore wanted to know.

Richards didn't know but didn't care. He let it fly, thought it looked good, agonized when it missed.

It could have been a shot heard 'round the basketball world, but it didn't go down. Davidson did.

"You can play the what-if game in your head as many times as you want," Richards said.

He and the Wildcats had won 25 games in a row. They had lost to North Carolina and to UCLA before that but were eager for a second crack at both at the Alamodome.

Their coach, Bob McKillop, knew that his school had become "somewhat of a darling" in the tournament.

But he didn't feel his 10th-seeded team was on some quixotic quest against all of these tall No. 1 windmills like Kansas, Carolina, UCLA and Memphis.

"We expected to win," McKillop said. "We didn't come here content or satis-

fied. We expected to win. This has been a 12-month mission. It came down to one final play. That's the beauty of this game that we play."

It is also the beast.

Being outmanned is a part of any battle. They know a little something about that at the Alamo.

You fight with what you have. Take, for instance, Sander, a kid who had to contend with Kansas' brutes while playing with a broken thumb.

"You want to talk about toughness, my goodness," McKillop said.

Curry fired up 16 shots from three-point range and clanked 12. But even so, Davidson hung tough.

It contained a Kansas team that had scored 84 points against Texas, 100 against Baylor and 109 against Texas Tech.

"We held them 30 points below their average," Curry proudly said.

But it all came down to one outside shot. A last shot for this NCAA basketball tournament's ultimate outside shot, 1,700-student Davidson College.

What an exit.



*Davidson head coach Bob McKillop pats the head of senior Jason Richards after their 59-57 loss to Kansas.  
(David T. Foster III/Charlotte Observer/MCT)*

# YOUR MONARCH SCOREBOARD

Methodist Monarchs in action \*

## MONARCH SOFTBALL

All Double Headers

March 18	Greensboro	Greensboro	W 4-2	W 9-1
March 21	Averett	Home	W 9-1	W 3-1
March 26	Meredith	Raleigh	W 6-0	W 20-0
March 27	Virginia Wesleyan	Home	W 1-0	W 8-7 (9)
March 29	Ferrum	Home	W 6-3	W 4-3
April 1	Peace	Home	W 5-0	W 4-3 (8)

## MONARCH BASBALL

March 19	Tufts	Home	W 14-3
March 21	Greensboro	Greensboro	L 2-4
March 22	Greensboro	Greensboro	W 7-4
March 24	St. Andrews	Home	W 11-3
March 29	Emory	Home	L 6-7
March 30	Emory	Home	T 8-8
April 3	Hampden-Sydney	Hampden-Sydney, Va.	W 4-2

## MONARCH LACROSSE

March 19	Ferrum	Fayetteville	W 15-4
March 26	Guilford	Greensboro	L 4-17
March 29	Sweet Briar	Fayetteville	L 11-14

## MONARCH MEN'S TENNIS

March 18	Greensboro	Home	W 9-0
March 20	Guilford	Guilford	L 4-5
March 22	Averett	Danville, Va.	W 7-2
March 26	Hampden-Sydney	Home	L 3-6
March 29	Ferrum	Home	W 9-0

## MONARCH WOMEN'S TENNIS

March 18	Greensboro	Home	W 8-1
March 21	NC Central	Durham	W 8-1
March 21	Averett	Danville, Va.	W 9-0
March 25	Huntingdon	Rocky Mount	W 6-0
March 26	Meredith	Home	W 7-2
March 29	Ferrum	Ferrum, Va.	W 9-0

## MONARCH MENS'S GOLF

March 21-23, 2008  
Jekyll Island Collegiate Invitational  
Oleandor College  
Jekyll Island, Ga.

### TEAM PLACED FIRST

Nick Bova	71	68	72	-5	211	1st
Josh Schrader	75	70	70	-1	215	2nd
Tom Cooper	74	70	75	+3	219	t-5th
Matt Bova	75	79	74	+12	228	t-31st
Jake Pleczkowski	75	77	84	+20	236	t-66th

## MONARCH WOMENS'S GOLF

March 22-23, 2008  
William & Mary Invitational  
College of William & Mary  
Williamsburg, Va.

Par-Yardage: 72-6063  
TEAM PLACED FOURTH

Katie Dick	73	83	+12	156	t-8
Susan Martin	82	77	+15	159	t-11
Sara Dickson	82	78	+16	160	t-17
Paige Caldwell	84	80	+20	164	t-36
Gretchen McLean	91	81	+28	172	t-83

March 31-April 1, 2008  
Tina Barrett Invitational  
Longwood University  
Farmville, Va.

Par-Yardage: 72-6108  
TEAM PLACED SIXTH

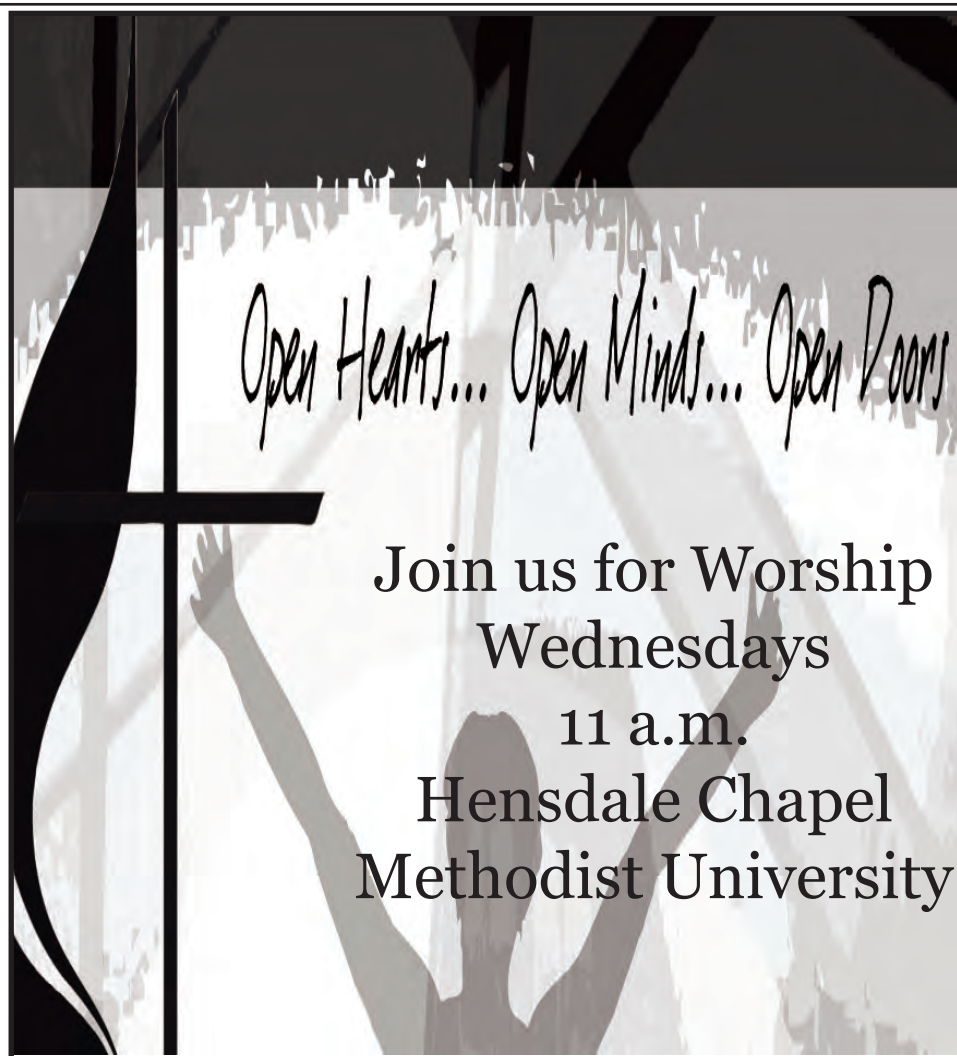
Katie Dick	76	79	+11	155	t-4
Susan Martin-	78	80	+14	158	11
Gretchen McLean	84	88	+28	172	t-38
Sara Dickson	83	90	+29	173	t-42
Paige Caldwell	82	97	+35	179	t-56

\* Due to the date of printing, smallTALK Sports was unable to cover the games and matches that took place over the previous weekend.

# Big things Coming

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