

small TALK

THE STUDENT VOICE OF METHODIST UNIVERSITY

Sept. 13, 2010
Volume 50, Issue 1

Methodist University
Fayetteville, NC

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we're
talking
about...

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Aaron Bressler
Staff Writer

Students at Methodist University are in awe of the school's massive population jump in the 2010-2011 school year. The number of residential students this year far exceeds any of previous year. The big question is whether this is a good problem or a bad one.

Sydney Benton, a Weaver Hall resident, says "I've done pretty well [living in a triple dorm room]." She has found college life to be very different from what she expected. When asked how others were doing, she said that many students are not getting along with their roommates.

"A lot of people are switching rooms, looking for the right roommate," said Benton.

She also said that laundry is a difficult problem, as Weaver only has four washers and four dryers. Benton believes that overcrowding will be fixed with time, and that housing is doing all they can to alleviate triple situations as quickly as possible.

According to the Housing and Residence Life office, the total population on campus in the fall of 2009 was 933 students. This year, Methodist has squeezed 1,080 residential students into housing both on and off campus. The traditional residence halls are only designed to hold 150 people each and on-campus apartments were originally designed to hold 230 people. However, with as large a population as Methodist has experienced in the past year, the Housing and Residence Life office have had to put 78 people in triple rooms, thirty-eight of which remained last week. Methodist also struck a deal with two off campus apartment complexes, Cobblestone and Carver Falls, where overflow residential students now reside. The housing department admits that additional residence halls would help, but are unavailable due to the \$6 million price tag. As an alternative, the University plans to build two Greek houses, which are only

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HOUSING WOES



Art by Skyler Champ.

smallTALK

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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 first floor of Bern's Student Center or sent via e-mail to smalltalkmu@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 p.m. in the Heritage Dining Room.

Initial copies of smallTALK are free. Additional copies are 25 cents.

HOUSING WOES: Housing office calls overcrowding on campus a "good problem"

continued from cover

\$800,000 each in addition to the already constructed Alpha Delta Pi house. Housing and Residence Life insists that the overflow in the dormitories is a "good problem" since it has the ability to make the higher powers realize that the school needs more help.

Many blame overcrowding on the admissions office. Jamie Legg, head of admissions, says there are 2,200 students at Methodist and that more freshmen came in this year than ever before. Out of the 530 freshmen on campus, 466 are residential. With the school's residential population cap set at a little over 1,000, why were so many students enrolled?

"Every college in the country will anticipate some amount of 'melt'," said Legg. "Like an airline, we always over-book. Once the invitation has been extended, it's hard to take back."

Part of the problem is the rolling admittance policy, which accepts students until there is no

more room. This year however, the admissions office not only cut off applications, but also cut off previously admitted students.

"We have never worked harder with housing to alleviate the housing situation on campus," said Legg.

With all the extra students on campus, crime is a big concern for Methodist students. While crime has not been a major problem this year, it is still the beginning of the year.

Chief Phillips, head of Public Safety at Methodist, said that property crimes are the most common. Cash, cell phones, small electronics, laptops, and sports equipment are stolen the most. The overwhelming majority of these crimes are the result of unlocked rooms or vehicles or unattended items.

Campus security is using Operation ID, which uses UV pens to track valuable items. They also rely heavily on call boxes and tips.

Libraricon offers small scale anime convention

*Emily Kennedy
Staff Writer*

If you were expecting a casual day at the downtown library on September 4, you may have been shocked to find that Headquarters Library was hosting its fourth annual anime convention, Libraricon.

Libraricon is a mini-scale anime convention held at the Headquarters Library in downtown Fayetteville. It is sponsored by Friends of the Library. The main purpose of Libraricon is to offer a smaller-scale convention for those who cannot travel to the larger yearly anime convention, Animazement.

Libraricon boasts a supreme collection of anime and manga. Manga is a graphic novel from Japan. Most manga are read from right to left, even in English, so many people find it difficult to enjoy. Not all manga is the same, but it has turned into a huge subculture in Japan, and has recently infiltrated American culture. Anime is the version of manga shown on the television. The easiest way to tell the difference: If you read it, it's manga. If you watch it, call it anime.

Since Libraricon is a local convention, it isn't as well funded as most anime conventions. It is

presented to the public on a much smaller scale than national conventions like Animazement or ComiCon.

Libraricon offers many activities to its participants. Every year, Libraricon includes artist's alley, where local artists can show off their manga style drawings. Libraricon also offers the viewing room, a room with a constant stream of anime for participants to enjoy. The viewing room always has something playing, however all the anime is told in Japanese with English subtitles, since most people like the originals better than the Americanized versions.

This year, Libraricon held a panel discussion about visiting Japan, and what to expect, as well as both an insider's view from someone who has lived there and the viewpoint of a tourist. Another panel discussion focused on a card game called Magic: The Gathering. Although Magic does not originate from Japan, it is quite popular in "otaku" – or geek – culture.

Finally, at the end of the day the volunteers of Libraricon, called minions, lead the participants in the cosplay runway. Cosplay gives Libraricon goes the opportunity to dress up as their favorite manga, anime or video game character. The cosplay runway gives all participants the opportunity to show off their costumes.

Upcoming Around Campus

Sept. 15 - 8 p.m.

Womanless Beauty Pageant
Come watch the Monarch men strut their stuff as they are transformed in beauties. Sure to make every head on campus turn.
Berns Student Center

Sept. 16 - 5 p.m.

5-Star Dining Country Western Night
Your one stop for all of the down-home, country style meals you miss when you come back to school in the fall.
Cafeteria

Sept. 17 - 7:30 p.m.

Music Department Faculty Concert
Music faculty members will show off their abilities and talents to students and other staff members. Admission is free
Reeves Auditorium

Sept. 24 - 8 p.m.

Movie on the Football field
Grown Ups
An all-star cast makes an appearance in a film with tons of laughs, complete with a wholesome moral story at the end.
Football Field

More events can be found in the SAC calendar or on the university website at www.methodist.edu.

Events

On the Town

Sept.. 17 - 7:30 p.m.

Shakespeare's "The Tempest" Prospero, the Duke of Milan, plots to restore his daughter to her rightful place. He conjures up a storm, the eponymous tempest, to lure his usurping brother, Antonio, and the complicit King Alonso of Naples to the island. You have to go to FSU to find out what happens next.

Admission is free

Fayetteville State J. W. Auditorium

Sept.. 23 - 8 p.m.

The Rocky Horror Show Long-Running British musical comes to the Gilbert Theater as part of the 2010 show list. For other shows and times, visit the Gilbert Theater website.

Gilbert Theater

There are many more events happening around Fayetteville for all interests. The Fayetteville Visitors' Bureau lists a community calendar which can be found at www.visitfayettevillenc.com.

Methodist steps up disability access

*Ashley Young
News Editor*

Over the past year, the Methodist University community has seen many changes designed to accommodate disabled students. With an increasing number of disabled students, these changes are important.

"I have classes in the Trustees, Math and Science Buildings and I think the doors are hard to open," said Corey Rich, a sophomore, political science major and a disabled student. "It would be easier with the buttons that open doors. I would also like the computers with text to look bigger and more elevators and railings on the steps would be nice."

With a 40 percent increase in students with disabilities, totaling thirty-eight new students, there are now 125 registered disabled students on Methodist's campus. Linda Szulc, coordinator for disability services, is conducting technology research to help disabled students. A new disability services clerk has been hired to work with Szulc in the Center for Personal Development, located in Pearce Hall.

Changes made to campus over the summer include the installation of automatic doors outside Reeves Auditorium and to the North and South sides of Trustees. An elevator is being constructed in the Trustees Building and is expected to be completed by early November. The fire doors inside of Trustees are being modified to be held open by magnets. These magnets, however, will require that commercial contractors be able to drill. In the event of a fire, these doors would release from the magnets and close in an attempt to stop the fire from spreading.

Emergency evacuation chairs that would allow someone with difficulty or inability to walk to be quickly rolled out of the building are currently under assessment. These evacuation chairs are lightweight and contain a lowered set of wheels, which would enable a disabled person to easily get into one. Whether or not their storage would cause a fire hazard, the number of chairs needed and their location, if obtained, is undetermined.

Other changes made to Methodist's campus for the disabled over the past year include adding a sidewalk to the Center for Personal



Workers construct the new elevator in the Trustees Building. The elevator is expected to be completed by early November. Photo by Ashley Young.

Development and adding a ramp to the Public Safety office. Szulc also pointed out the importance of painting bright lines at the end of stairs so that visually impaired students will not fall. A request for steps to be painted has been submitted to maintenance.

"The only thing I probably would say [that needs changing] are the steps in front of the library," said Sandi Owens, a senior math major and disabled student. "They need lines at the ends."

The funds for most of these changes have come from the Operating Budget. The funds for the elevator came from the Cash Reserve.

"We still have a long ways to go. Every building needs upgrades because all of the buildings were constructed before there were disability laws," said Gene Clayton, Vice President for Business Affairs.

Clayton is in charge of making sure that funds signed by President Elton Hendricks, and members from the Board of Trustees are spent correctly.

"We're looking at a more and more diverse population on campus and I think it's important that we respond to the needs of our students and in many ways we are," said Clayton.

For more articles, updates and photos, check out our website:

WWW.SMALLTALKMU.COM

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Dragon Quest IX provides hours of entertainment

Austin Bordeaux
Opinions Editor

Dragon Quest is a classic RPG series that has been around for twenty-three years and is one of the most popular series of all time. The 9th installment, Dragon Quest IX, has sold over 3.4 million copies in Japan alone, making it the most popular Dragon Quest game by sales.

Gameplay: 9.5

I am excited to see that they have kept the same old-school battle style of turn based combat. In battle they have the characters run to the enemy, attack and they all go to random positions to make it have the feel of a real battle. The one big thing that makes it different from past games is that you see the monster, rather than having random monster encounters. Once you contact the monster, a battle begins.

You can spend countless hours customizing your characters with the large amount of gear that your character can use. You can also create a secondary character, and choose its vocation -- Warrior, Priest, Mage, Martial Artist, Thief and Minstrel. As you progress through the story line, you can unlock the Gladiator, Armamentalist, Paladin, Ranger, Sage and Luminary vocations, which are basically improved versions of the first six.

Graphics: 9

The world of Dragon Quest IX is vibrant and colorful and everything is in nice 3-D graphics, but some of the minor characters are in 2-D. If everything was in 3-D I would have given the graphics a 10. Other than the few 3-D graphics, it has the best graphics out of all the DS games I have played. Dragon Quest IX features manga-style animations drawn by Akira Toriyama, the creator of Dragon Ball.

Sound: 10

The game includes over 10 arrangements of classical music for different areas. You can hear trumpets, flutes, percussion, piano and tons of other instruments in beautiful compositions. I never got bored of the music in the game. There are smaller sound effects

when you do things, such as get an item, level up, or kill a group of enemies.

Story: 6

I admit, the story is pretty good, but I have seen much deeper plot and better character development. In Dragon Quest IX, you are a Celestrian, a Guardian Angel, and you lose your wings and halo, and fall to the ground. In search of fyggs, the magical fruit that the Yggdrasil tree bears, you go to different towns and regions. The plot thickens as evil appears.

The game has a few problems. For example, as you find the fyggs, there is a mini story arc for each fruit.

Each mini-story is like a TV episode, which is not beneficial for a video game. Another issue is that there is no character development involved in the game whatsoever, and the main characters that help you in combat and progression never say a word.

Overall: 8.5

This is a very good game. It has a good balance of story, battle and extra features. It isn't so intense that you have to battle for hours to keep up; however, it isn't so easy you beat every monster in one hit. If you like RPGs that allow you to play forever and never run out of things to do, this is the game for you.



Skate Night 2010

Aryn Hicks
Editor-in-chief

Colorful, dancing lights filled the Berns Student Center as students skated across the Berns and fell to the floor at Skate Night. On Sept. 8, the Methodist Student Activities Committee, SAC, transformed the Berns Student Center into a 1990's roller rink as a part of their "SACelodeon" theme.

"It reminded me of my childhood," said Katie Mask, a freshman elementary education major.

The "SACelodeon" theme was created by SAC, and is based off the network station, Nickelodeon.

Skate Night is one of many upcoming events that are new to the Methodist community. SAC revamped their calendar to give students new events, while still offering many of the old favorites, such as Casino Night and bowling. According to the Student Activities Committee Director, Doris Jackson, many students wanted SAC to bring roller skating to Methodist.

"People wanted us to bring a skate night to Methodist because there is not a [skating] rink near campus," said Jackson. "I was very, very pleased with the turnout. I think everyone had a great time."

Brave students laced up roller skates and made their way to the skating area. With skates tied and hopes of showing off, students got on the floor and began circling the rink. While many students displayed their skating skills and abilities, several were introduced to something they would be close to for the rest of the evening – the floor.

Jackson, along with many others, found that the stumbles and falls were some of the most entertaining aspects of the evening and her favorite part of the night.

Students skated around the "rink" in circles, reversing when instructed. To keep the night lively, there were organized skating activities, such as the limbo, the train, red light-green light, and a skate/dance battle. Students even dared to do the "Cha-Cha Slide" while on skates.

For students not wanting to skate, SAC provided board games that were reminiscent of a 90's childhood, such as Connect Four, Jenga and Rock 'em Sock 'em Robots. Other non-skating students took advantage of the old school 90's music by dancing around the rink. Some of the dancers braved the wobbly skaters and danced in the center of the skating area.

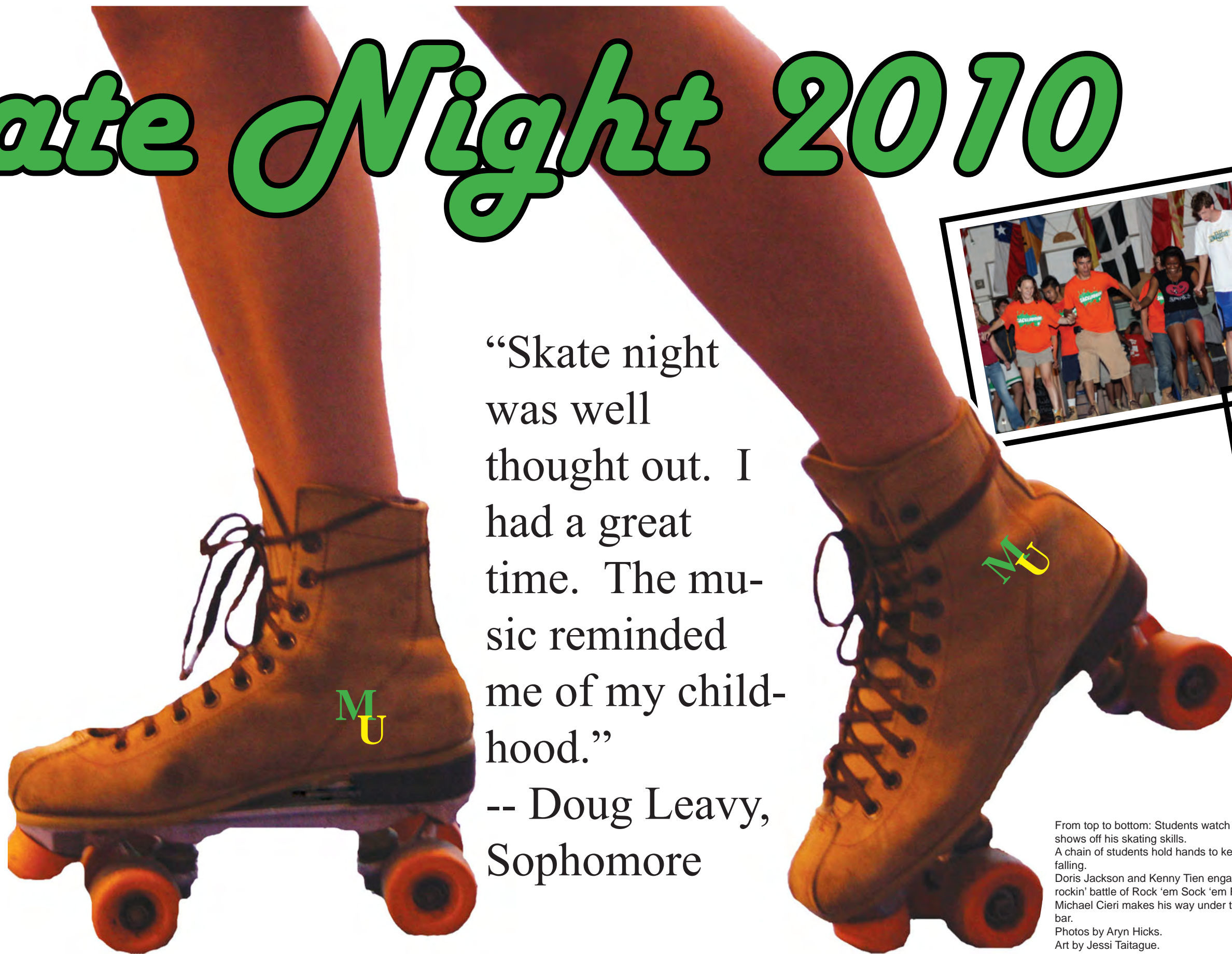
"[Skate Night] was well thought out," said Doug Leavy, a sophomore music performance major. "I had a great time. The music reminded me of my childhood."

Like most events, SAC offered a variety of food. Skate Night featured foods that reminded students of childhood favorites that were often limited by parents. Students filled up on foods like corndogs, soft pretzels, jumbo Pixie Sticks and Airheads.

Overall, students enjoyed the carefree evening full of rollerskating, music and junk food. According to Jackson, the Berns Student Center will be turned into a rink again in January-- this time for ice skating.

"Skate night was well thought out. I had a great time. The music reminded me of my childhood."

-- Doug Leavy,
Sophomore



From top to bottom: Students watch as friend shows off his skating skills. A chain of students hold hands to keep from falling. Doris Jackson and Kenny Tien engage in a rockin' battle of Rock 'em Sock 'em Robots. Michael Cieri makes his way under the limbo bar. Photos by Aryn Hicks. Art by Jessi Taitague.



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Questionable queries of a Campus Ninja

The Ninja answers your questions on unbearable love and fitting in

Dear Ninja,

I have been going out with my boyfriend for an entire three days now and he disgusts me in every way the word can be interpreted. He sleeps in past 6 a.m. and only brushes his teeth twice a day. He enjoys the crass humor of Comedy Central, and spends all his time indulging in watching barbaric sports, such as football and bowling. I can't take it anymore and want to break up with him, but I don't know how to after we have invested so much time with each other. How do I break up with my significant other, O benevolent Purveyor of Wisdom?

From,
Lucid Lover

Dear Lucid,

I would suggest that you just be upfront and honest with him. Just tell him that you want to break up. As long as he is not a total psychopath, he should be understanding and take it like a man, even if he is not necessarily happy about it. I know it may be hard after having spent those happy three days together, but just be glad you are not a ninja. The common break up method for us ninja is waking up dead from a poisoned ring prick to the back of the neck after a session of



unmentionable activities. Just know that things could be worse.

Dear Ninja,

I was awe inspired by the University Fair and its vast array of organizations recruiting for members. In fact, I was so awe struck that I ran away in fear of being consumed by that maddening disease known as school spirit. Now, I want to join an organization and am not sure how to go about joining one. Mister Ninja, what would you recommend I do?

From,
Frightened Freshman

Dear Frightened,

I would immediately recommend that you join the Train Watchers Club and enjoy the amazing might of locomotive action, along with our other less tangible benefits. If that does not strike your fancy, I suggest that you look in the student handbook and find a club listed that you find interesting. Contact a member of the organization, find out the meeting times and go to one. The only way to find the right group for you is to try it out for good or for bad. Remember, what doesn't kill you usually succeeds in the second attempt.

Ashley Asks

How are you adjusting to college life, classes and the campus?



"I really like it. It's much different than high school. People are really friendly and they have a lot of activities. I like to do the sorority stuff."

-Ashley Earwood, a freshman business management major.



"It's a good campus. It feels like home. I like the small environment and the ratio of students to teachers."

-Jamie Gleaton, a freshman mathematics major.



"I love it! I love the environment! It's great! Classes -- all of them, are good. I like the professors. All of them are helpful and patient."

-Nikki Johnson, a freshman biology major.



"I like it. [Classes are] pretty easy. I think I'm going to have a really fun time."

-Kevin Fairchild, a freshman business administration major.

MU parking revisited: ha ha told you so

Aryn Hicks

In the Jan. 25 issue of smallTALK, I wrote an opinion piece that said that freshman should not be allowed to bring cars on campus. Needless to say, I got some less than positive feedback from many underclassmen about my opinion. Many of those freshmen who disapproved of my article didn't recognize the constant struggle that our community endures when it comes to the parking situation at Methodist.

Now that a new, even larger freshman class has arrived at Methodist, those same students are whimpering and whining about not being able to find a parking spot near any building on campus, including in commuter lots.

All I can say to the whiners is I told you so. I could also say ha ha, but that would be extremely snarky. I have no sympathy for the students who bashed my editorial last year and who just so happen to be the same ones crying because they have to park in the Riddle gravel lot and walk to their hall across campus.

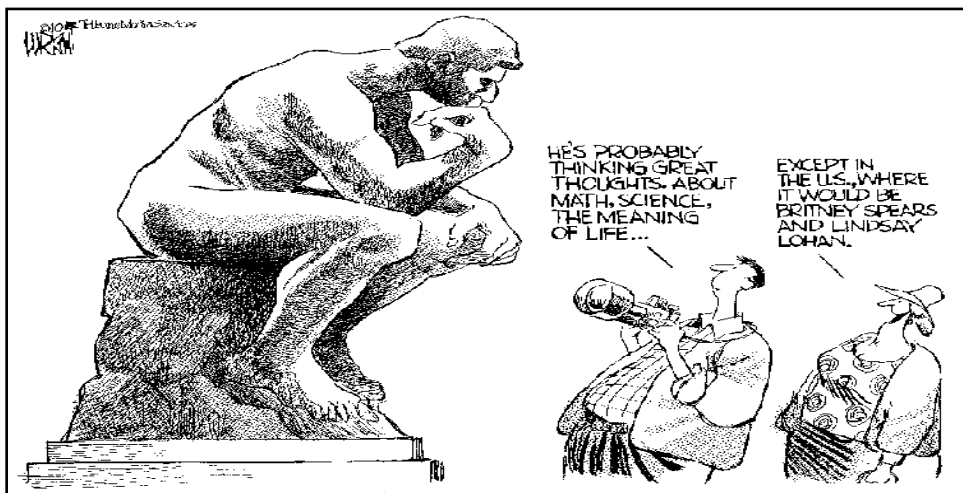
I do, however, sympathize for the commuters, whose parking spots in the Reeves and Clark parking lots are taken by lazy residential students who don't want to take the time to walk to class. Some individuals have resorted to parking in parking lot entry ways, which is both dangerous and obnoxious. In fear of losing optimal parking spots, some students have resorted to walking to and from late

evening classes and meetings.

Don't get me wrong, the university's expansion is amazing. However, Methodist was not prepared for the mad rush of freshmen this school year, and has not been prepared to accommodate the massive influx of cars for years. While it is not fully the fault of the underclassmen, allowing freshman to drive on campus contributes to the parking issues on campus. I still firmly stand by my stance that unless a freshman has extenuating circumstances, they should not be allowed on campus.

By taking away freshman parking, students will be less desperate to find parking spaces in roadways and will be more inclined to follow campus traffic and parking policies. Let us picture for a moment a campus free of freshman cars: Commuter students could rest easy knowing that they won't have to park in the Reeves lot when all of their classes are in Clark. Residential upperclassmen could return from Wal-Mart to the usual, but less time consuming, musical cars parking game. One could only hope that the pollution of excessively loud basses playing in cars driving way too fast would end; however, I am a realist, not an idiot.

We all have to come to the realization that Methodist is a growing university. Everyone is making sacrifices to accommodate the growth. Driving is a privilege, not a right. Give freshmen a crash course on life and take away their privilege to bring their cars to campus.



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CAMPUS LIFE AT YOUR FINGER TIPS

Men's fall sports preview: Soccer and football teams hope for a good season



Freshmen Eric Jewell defends the ball from Roanoke College player during the Aug. 28 match.
Photos by Kika Frisone.



Men's soccer hopeful for conference title

*Matt Snowberger
Staff Writer*

It's all about experience in 2010 as the men's soccer team has almost all of their major play makers returning from 2009. Led by several strong upperclassmen, the Monarchs stand poised to take the USA South conference by storm. Among the returners are goalie Kyle Beach, and defensive players Brion Kelly and Michael Poole.

"This is the best team I've seen come through," said senior captain Brion Kelly, "We should win [the tournament]."

So far, the Monarchs have had no problem scoring goals, averaging 3 points a game. The attack has been well spread with freshmen Jared Fohs leading all scoring. Head Coach Justin Terranova contributes the team's strong start to their

commitment to the game and one another.

"We feel fully committed to each other," said Coach Terranova. "Our keys [to victory] will be staying organized, compact, and to take our chances when we can. The goal is to go into and win the USA South tournament."

This seemingly simple strategy has paid off for the Monarchs early in the season, particularly in the 8 goal shutout versus Salem International University.

"Kyle [Beach] has evolved into one of the best goalies in the region," said Terranova.

Seven other Monarchs have scored goals this season, including Angel Banda, Erik Buendia, and Stephen Fox.

The coaching staff and team both have high hopes not only for the regular upcoming season but in the post season as well.

Football team remains confident after losing first home game

*Matt Snowberger
Staff Writer*

Despite suffering a blowout loss in the opener against Randolph-Macon College on Saturday, Sept. 4, the Monarch football team remains confident about their upcoming season.

"We didn't give them time to be disappointed," said Head Coach Jim Sypult. "As soon as we got them back [in practice], we gave them a good run."

The Monarchs played to the fullest of their ability early in the game with three early turnovers leading to three Randolph-Macon touchdowns. Many of these problems can be expected, given the amount of freshmen seeing significant time on the field.

Otherwise, Methodist played a strong game on both sides of the ball.

"[Randolph-Macon] was probably,

legitimately, two touchdowns better than us," said Sypult.

This year, the Monarch football team will have to rely heavily on its experienced defensive line to hold opposing offenses at bay. With an inexperienced defensive backfield, the Monarchs are trying to "Keep it simple."

"We are still trying to figure who we are as a team," said Sypult.

Offensively, junior Nathan Kindley is a proven play maker at tight end. Coupled with a strong wide receiving core and diverse running game the Monarchs should be able to spread the ball effectively. Assuming the young offensive line, who at any given time could line up with five under classmen, can provide solid protection.

Being able to find quickly establish that identity will be critical to any successes for the Monarchs this year.



Sophomore Travis Murphy runs down the field after receiving a kick from Randolph-Macon college on Sept. 4.
Photo by Aryn Hicks.

Next Issue: Women's fall sports preview and updates

MONARCH SCOREBOARD

GAME RESULTS

| Football | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|---------|
| Date | Opponent | Result |
| 9/4/2010 | Randolph-Macon College | L 14-54 |
| Men's Soccer | | |
| Date | Opponent | Result |
| 9/1/2010 | Lynchburg College | W 2-0 |
| 9/3/2010 | Salem International University | W 8-0 |
| 9/4/2010 | Roanoke College | L 0-1 |
| Women's Soccer | | |
| Date | Opponent | Result |
| 9/1/2010 | Guilford College | W 2-1 |
| 9/4/2010 | Marymount University | W 3-2 |
| 9/5/2010 | Agnes Scott College | W 4-0 |
| Women's Volleyball | | |
| Date | Opponent | Result |
| 9/3/2010 | Agnes Scott College | W 3-0 |
| 9/4/2010 | Philadelphia Biblical University | W 3-0 |
| 9/4/2010 | Sweet Briar College | W 3-0 |

HOME GAMES

| Men's Soccer | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------|
| Date | Opponent | Time |
| 9/15/2010 | Chowan University | 4:00pm |
| 9/18/2010 | Emory University | 2:00pm |
| 9/19/2010 | Marietta College | Noon |
| Women's Soccer | | |
| Date | Opponent | Time |
| 9/18/2010 | Marietta College | 4:00pm |
| 9/19/2010 | Piedmont College | 4:00pm |
| Women's Volleyball | | |
| Date | Opponent | Time |
| 9/14/2010 | Greensboro College | 7:00pm |



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