

smallTALK

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Methodist University
Fayetteville, NC

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Homecoming horror: Shooting at local sports bar leaves 3 people injured, 2 students

Aryn Hicks
Editor-in-Chief

The Methodist campus was buzzing with conversation on Sunday Oct. 24. The talk was not over the winners of Homecoming Court or the results of Saturday's football game; instead, it was about the shooting that left two Methodist students in the hospital.

"If I could summarize what happened on that night I would say a hot mess," said Ruby Blackwell, a sophomore athletic training major.

Around 2 a.m. on Oct. 24, an argument took a dangerous turn in the parking lot outside of Izzy's Sports Bar in the Andrews Commons Shopping Center. According to witnesses, an individual pulled out a handgun and began shooting. Three males were shot, two of whom were Methodist University students: Charles Edwards-Damon, 19, and Jarett Coble, 21. Both were transported to Cape Fear Valley Medical Center for injuries sustained from the shooting. None of the victims died in the shooting.

"The shooting was unnecessary," said Blackwell.

Dean of Students George Blanc was one of the first administrators to receive the call about the shooting.

The initial report he was given was that one student was killed, but it was later clarified that two students were injured.

"I was quite moved and upset that two of our students were injured by gunfire," said Blanc.

The suspects fled the scene shortly after the shooting and were perused by the Fayetteville Police. The suspects jumped out of the car near the intersection of McArthur Road. According to the Fayetteville Observer, one suspect, Tony Moody, 20, of Fayetteville, was apprehended after being discovered hiding in a trash bin by the police. Moody was charged with "being an accessory after the fact."

On Sunday Oct. 31, a second suspect turned himself into the police. Kevin Joiner, 21, of Fayetteville, turned himself into the Fayetteville police department. Joiner is accused of shooting all three victims, and is currently being charged with three counts of first-degree attempted murder and three counts of assault with a deadly weapon to the intent to kill.

According to the Fayetteville Observer, the police are still searching for two more suspects who are connected to the shooting.

The following day, a meeting was held in which Residential Coordinators, or RC's were instructed to meet with their halls and discuss the night's events. In their hall meetings the RC's advised students to "reconsider the locations in which they visited for entertainment."

Rumors flew around campus about the conditions of the victims, many of which were incorrect speculations. Students were shaken up by the severity of incident. The Center for Personal Development held a group counseling session on Friday Oct. 29 for students who were disturbed by the shooting.

Many students admitted to going to the bar for the first time that evening, and stated that they have no plans to ever return.

"There are some things in life that no one should ever see in person," said a student athlete who wished to remain anonymous due to fear of reprimand by coaches. "There is a huge difference



Izzy's Sports Bar will no longer allow anybody under 21 in the establishment. Art by Aryn Hicks.

between seeing people get shot on television versus watching them get shot in real life. It was horrible and I'm never going back."

Izzy's has also taken preventative measures to keep incidents like this from happening again.

"Izzy's no longer allows anyone under the age of 21 in the bar," said Kirsten Hakes, a sophomore mathematics major and an employee at Izzy's.

Hakes states that the shooting has affected business at the bar, and has changed the environment of the establishment.

"Since the shooting, I'm only making half the money I usually made in the past," said Hakes. "Normally the floor is trashed, but last week we didn't even have to clean it."

Over the past week, attention has shifted from the shooting itself to the new policy put in place by the administration to prevent Methodist students from ending up in situations like this again.

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 can join smallTALK at any point in the school year. Meetings are every Monday at 11 a.m. in the Heritage Dining Room.

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

Trunk or Treat successful despite last minute relocation

Aaron Bressler
Staff Writer

Ghouls and ghosts ran amok in Berns Student Center as Methodist University's Greek Council hosted its first annual Trunk or Treat event. Costumed students gathered for sweets and shenanigans on Oct. 28, despite the threat of nasty weather and the cancellation of the RHA haunted house. The event was hosted by the Greek council, and Alpha Delta Pi and Beta Sigma Phi sororities put up tables for participants to stop by.

The Alpha Delta Pi booth, which had a bloody dentist theme, was run by Meagan Tingler and Alicia Kisser. Tingler was dressed as a sparkling referee and Kisser went as a bloody dentist. The supplies for their elaborate theme were easy to find. Tingler and Kisser said they had a lot of fun and would be participating again next year.

"I just went to the dollar store," said Tingler. "All they didn't have was the craft paint."

Beta Sigma Phi was also in attendance with a vampire themed booth. Behind the booth was Brittany Davis. Davis was giving out various types of candy,

including Reese's, Snickers and Kit-Kats. This was the first year the sorority had participated in a Halloween celebration like this and intends to come back for each year's Trunk or Treat.

Kaitlyn Leger, one of the event organizers and president of the Greek council, is optimistic about a similar event next year.

"The weather kind of put a damper on the event. We hoped to actually hold it in the trunks of cars and we plan to advertise better next year," said Leger.

While the trunk or treat event was not connected to the cancelled RHA haunted house, it was hoped that by placing the two events next to each other, those who went to the trunk or treat would also attend the haunted house.

The event also had cakewalks, costume contests and booth contests. At the end of the night, the cakes had been claimed and Alpha Delta Pi won the table contest with their bloody dentist theme. The event ended at 10 p.m., with

more than 100 people in attendance.

L-R: Jennifer Christian, Denim Depani and Jessie Heath dressed in costumes for the Trunk or Treat. Photo by Lakeisha Story.



Source of fire behind residence halls remains mystery

Matt Snowberger
Sports Editor

On Thursday Oct. 11, residents of Sanford and Cumberland halls discovered a fire burning in the woods behind the residence halls. The flames were described as a 'perfect circle' that reached more than 10 feet in diameter. The blaze was brought under control by RA's of the two dorms using seven of the buildings' fire extinguishers until the Fayetteville fire department arrived.

"It was a quick team effort," said Tavares Hunter, residential coordinator of Sanford Hall. "I'm proud of the quick reaction out of the RA's."

The fire has been reported as unintentional according to Hunter; although some have expressed concern that a fire was set in a perfect circle was no accident.

"I think somebody did it," said Nick Bardivo, a freshman and resident of Sanford Hall. "There is no other reason that happens."

During the fire students watched from inside the building as the fire was put out.

"You are dealing with college students so there was some excitement, and 'ooing' and 'ahhing' but overall it stayed pretty calm," said Hunter. "There was some talk of 'paranormal activity,' being right before Halloween."

"Some people were flipping out because it was a full moon," said Bardivo.

Since the fire, students have been prohibited from hanging out behind Sanford after dark and smoking on the back patio. Also, RA's have been asked to spend extra time making sure everything is normal behind the buildings during rounds.

Upcoming *Around* Campus

Nov. 11-13 - 8 p.m.

I Hope I Get It!

See the play put on by MU Theatre. Admission is free.

Reeves Auditorium

Nov. 12-13

Fri. - 7 p.m.

Sat. - 2 p.m.

Wesley Heritage Seminar

Come see a screening of Wesley, a film based on the life of John Wesley. After the Friday showing there will be a Q&A session with producer Reverend John Jackman and actor Burgess Jenkins. Following the Saturday showing there will be a panel presentation and discussion, then the seminar will end with the Moravian Love Feast.

Admission is \$5 per day.

Medical Lecture Hall

Nov. 12 - 8 p.m.

Movie and a Meal

Watch the mind-blowing film Inception. Free food too.

Admission is free.

Berns

Nov. 18 - 7 p.m.

Pangea

Enjoy the international show put on by MU students.

Admission is free.

Reeves Auditorium

Nov. 19 - 7:30 p.m.

All Choirs Fall Concert

Sit and listen to all the MU choirs.

Admission is free.

Reeves Auditorium

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

Events

On the Town

Nov. 14 - 12-7 p.m.

5th Annual Bohemian Music and Art Festival

Join the festivities and see local bohemian musicians and artists. Musical bands include Chris Cox Band, Robbie Reid Band, Corky Jones, Blues Enigma, The Guruvs, Fat Freddy's Cat Band, Ray King, percussions, and others. Artists include Dorothy Finello, Shannon Davis, Kerstin Hanson, Robin Deffendall, Jeff Coleman, Original Nature, and others. There will also be a performance by the dance troupe Shadows of Fire. Musicians and artists will have merchandise for sale. Co-sponsored by HeartBeat Productions.

300 Maiden Lane, Headquarters Library, Pate Room

Nov. 16 - 7 p.m.

Pet Photos with Santa

Bring your dogs, cats, rats, tarantulas, hedgehogs, iguanas, and snakes to take pictures with jolly old Santa Claus.

Cross Creek Mall

Nov. 18-20 - 7:30 p.m.

Fences

Come see the play by August Wilson, the sixth in a ten-part series. The play is set in the 1950's and explores the racial relations involving African-Americans, as well as other themes.

Ticket prices vary, \$10 at the door.

FSU Butler Theatre

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.

Peer Educators help others deal with common issues facing college students

*Ashley Young
News Editor*

Work study students from the Center for Personal Development created a display in Berns Student Center on Tuesday, Oct. 26 with decorative poster boards that featured common issues faced by college students.

Three poster boards were set up with information on homesickness, low self esteem and time management.

"We're trying to give people information on symptoms and if anyone has any issues they can come visit us anytime," said Amanda Ebert, a sophomore, justice studies major and peer educator in the Center for Personal Development.

For homesickness, it was suggested that students should not count down the days until the end of the semester, nor call home more than once or twice a week in order to learn how to become independent and not rely solely on their parents. There were also facts and causes of homesickness, symptoms and things to do in order to avoid it.

"It's good for me. I'm an International Student and I am no longer homesick. Group study is useful," said Mohammed Darkhawaja, a freshman economics major.

For students struggling with low self esteem, the Center for Personal Development handed out special brochures on exercises to do in order to help students gain higher self esteem, and signs of what constituted as low self esteem.

The time management display had a poster board with encouraging statements on it, such as "All of the ineffective behavior patterns can be overcome" and had specialized brochures to help students improve their

time management skills.

The three work study peer educators in the Center for Personal Development, responsible for the displays, were Ebert, Derrick Howell and Jessica Pryor. The Center for Personal Development hosts displays each semester, after students have conducted three months of research and created displays.

"I think it's a good idea because it lets freshmen know that it's not just them. It gives you ideas to help steer you away from the homesickness and it provides you with ideas," said Dylan Rose, a freshman justice studies major. "I like the brochures and handouts because you can take those back to your dorm and be reminded."

Along with the colorful poster board display the peer educators also gave away chips, candy, pens, pencils, mugs and cups to interested students.



Peer Educator Amanda Ebert poses with a display in the Berns Student Center on Oct. 26. Photo by Ashley Young.

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

WWW.SMALLTALKMU.COM

Tizzy over Izzy's: New off-campus restrictions upset many students

Aryn Hicks
Editor-in-Chief

After the shooting at Izzy's on Oct. 24, the Methodist University administration enacted a policy that stirred up the student body. Students received an official email on Wed. Oct. 27 informing students that Izzy's Sports Bar, the site of a shooting that left two Methodist students hospitalized, was off-limits to all students. The email outlined that students were banned from coming within 200 feet of Izzy's establishment.

"A lot of information came out from students that indicated the type of situations going on at Izzy's. The information they provided me helped to motivate the policy, yes, but they weren't involved in writing the policy," said George Blanc, Vice President of student affairs and dean of students. "This is an extreme case. The gravity of the situation and the fact that it was focused on one location made it necessary as an effort to protect the students."

Upon measurement, it was established that several businesses located within the Andrews Commons shopping center would lose business from Methodist because they were within the 200 foot radius of Izzy's. Although students would be able to shop at Food Lion, nail and hair salons were off limits, as well as several restaurants that are commonly visited by Methodist students and faculty. Among these restaurants was Dino's Pizza, a participant in the King Kash program with Methodist.

"I don't think its right," said Chuck O'Neil, owner of Dino's Pizza. "It will really hurt our sales."

Matt West, the manager of Andy's Burgers and Fries in Andrews Commons was also displeased by the policy that could adversely affect the restaurant's business.

"There should be other limitations based on what happened," said West. "I think it will hurt our business, considering a lot of students and faculty members come in here."

On Thursday Oct. 28, the administration sent out another email to students, this time retracting the 200 foot limitation. However, it still clearly stated that Izzy's was off-limits to students. This retraction came after taking the surrounding businesses into consideration.

"When we realized that the policy would prevent those businesses from having customers from the university, we changed it. It was never our intention to hurt their businesses," said Blanc. "We changed the policy to focus on the establishment itself."

Many students were upset over the ban from the popular hangout spot. Some felt that the ban was not needed because so many students were too frightened to return after the shooting occurred.

"The ban was not necessary," said Simonye Craig, a senior accounting major. "The damage was already done to the reputation of the establishment and people were already making the choice to not go back."

Other students felt that the administration and policy violated their rights to do as they wish when off campus.

"I felt like they were going too far," said Leah Ferguson, a senior mass communications major. "We, as adults, should have the option of going anywhere we choose. Things like this could happen any and everywhere."

In response to hundreds of students' emails expressing their outrage over the policy, Zachary Rivenbark, a senior political science major and Chief Justice of the student court, sent out a heated email in response to the new addition to the student handbook. In the Oct. 29 email, Rivenbark outlined other policies that students pointed out as being unfair. Among the policies outlined in the email were the Methodist visitation and overnight guest policy, which Rivenbark described as "discriminatory towards heterosexual individuals,"

and the alcohol policy.

"Students were angry about the school attempting to tell them where they can and can't go off campus," said Rivenbark.

Rivenbark expressed hostility towards the policy, stating that any student who received a violation for going to Izzy's would have their case thrown out in student court.

"This new policy is illegal and unconstitutional and I personally will not allow it to be upheld in Methodist University Student Court," said Rivenbark in the email. "If you feel you are being wrongly charged, I encourage you stand up and fight it."

Blanc, who has known Rivenbark for four years, was disappointed over the email.

"[Rivenbark] spoke his feelings as a student and a Chief Justice," said Blanc. "What I'm a little disappointed with is the fact that before he took a position on it, he didn't take the time to talk to the folks who were involved in the policy to try to find out what our motivation was. He took that position before he consulted with the policy makers to try to better understand why the policy was written."

Blanc explained that there would not be administrators standing outside of the bar, waiting to give students citations for violating the policy. He also stated that if a student were to get in trouble with the local police at the bar, the student would also be subject to campus judicial actions. It was made clear that the policy was not to control students' actions, but to express the administration's safety concerns for students who visited the location.

"[Students] still have the choice to obey the policy or not, but I felt that it was the administration's responsibility to establish our position very clearly so that there was no doubt about how we feel about that location," said Blanc.

SGA and the administration are currently planning a date for a Town Hall meeting, where students can express their concerns over the off-campus ban.



The first email sent out by the administration said that students were not allowed within 200 feet of Izzy's. A student is currently standing at the 200 foot limit of the previous ban. Photo by Aryn Hicks.

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Students rake in prizes on Casino Night: “It’s one of our biggest events of the year”

Ashley Young
News Editor

Poker chips, colorful Monarch bills and determined faces filled the tables at this year’s Casino Night, Wednesday, October 3.

Your Event Source, or YES, provided tables in Berns Student Center for students to play Poker, Big Craps, Double Roulette, Texas Hold ‘Em and

Black Jack. The Student Activities Committee was in charge of the event and Gary Richard and Delvin Sayles, from YES, taught SAC members how to be dealers at tables.

“I’ve been working with SAC since the beginning of the year and this took a lot of thought and creativity,” said Shereece Saxton, a freshman biology major. “It’s one of our biggest events of the year.”

Raffle tickets were \$10,000 Monarch dollars and the poker chips were worth different amounts based on their colors. The white chips were worth \$100 apiece, the blue \$500, green \$1000 and the black \$10,000.

The raffle tickets were put into brown bags by prizes and a winner was chosen every 15-30 minutes. Prizes offered ranged from boxes of 20 cans of Mt. Dew or Pepsi, to an army-print Snuggie, to a CrockPot, to the Toy Story 3 DVD. The first winner was Felix Delgado, a freshman chemistry major, who won a \$10 iTunes gift card.

“Casino Night is awesome. It’s one of my favorite events I look forward to every year,” Simone Craig, a senior and accounting major.

SAC’s theme for the year, SACelodeon, was chosen by Lakesha Murray and Will Terry, from a 90s cartoon theme.

Casino night gave students the opportunity to put on their best poker face. Photo by Ashley Young.



Corrections

Volume 50, Issue 4

Mama Mia!: Methodist students to visit Italy

Along with visiting Rome, students will also be traveling to Florence, Bologna, San Marino and Rimini.

Ashley Asks...

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King's Asylum condemned for the year

*Aaron Bressler
Staff Writer*

Part of the MU 2010 Halloween festivities was supposed to include the King's Asylum haunted house, put on annually by the Methodist University Residence Hall Association, or RHA. The haunted house, which is based on a condemned insane asylum, was ironically shut down this year right before it was supposed to open.

The haunted house was organized and run by the student organization Resident Housing Association. It was scheduled to run Oct. 28 and 29, and was going to be free and designed to get the students out and having fun. The event was led by Derek Collier, faculty advisor to RHA. Collier said that the event started preparation during homecoming week and continued until it was shut down on the 28. Nearly 40 student volunteers assisted in building walls, setting up lights and testing props.

"The effort put into the haunted house is nothing short of a theater production," said Collier.

This was supposed to be the third year Kings Asylum ran and the second year it ran at Chris' House. Kings Asylum only ran one night in 2009 and managed to rake in over 300 students. RHA decided to open for two nights this year, expecting about 400 students. The inclement weather slowed down the production of the haunted house, but was not expected to impact how it ran. Likewise, RHA was confident that the moving of the trunk or treat event wouldn't have seriously impacted attendance.

What got the haunted house closed down is what has caused the most controversy. The fire marshal objected to the lack of fire safety equipment present for the event. The main violations were a lack of sprinklers and fire alarms. The house did have the required emergency exit signs and fire detectors. Given that Chris' House is a house, it is not required to have the offending fire systems. While the cost of fixing the issue was unsure, it was far more than RHA could handle. Time was of the essence.

"The violations were brought to our attention on Thursday Oct 28, the same night that the house was scheduled to open," said Collier. "While

both building and putting on this event, safety is one of the top priorities. Each year we have followed the same guidelines as we were made aware of them. This is the first year that any mention of a fire and sprinkler system has been brought to our attention."

On Oct. 28, an email was sent out to the student body announcing the closing of the attraction due to "unforeseen circumstances." Several students replied to the email, expressing their disappointment about the abrupt cancellation.

The future looks promising for this tradition however, and Methodist can look forward to next year's return of King's Asylum.

"I would like to thank every individual that worked so hard on the haunted house this year, and although it did not get to happen I am proud of the work that RHA put forth on it," said Collier.



The King's Asylum sign sits on a table after the cancellation of the event. The haunted house was shut down the day the it was to open. Photo by Aryn Hicks.

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Homecoming 2010:

Fading flames and coveted crowns take over the Methodist campus

Bonfire Bust: Flame's fading foreshadows outcome of the football game

*Emily Kennedy
Staff Writer*

The small gravel parking lot behind the Riddle center was turned into a warm, music-filled hangout to kick off homecoming weekend. The chilly evening of Oct. 22 was greeted by the sounds of a warm bonfire crackling to life as the cheerleading coach eagerly lit the fire signifying the official kickoff of Homecoming weekend. The Methodist marching band, dance team, and cheerleaders pumped energy into the atmosphere, as many sports teams advertised upcoming games, urging Monarchs to show their spirit by attending games.

The spirit-filled cheerleaders, band, and dance team bowed out to put away gear, allowing a Raleigh cover band, Nexx Faze, to rock out to songs known by most of the American population. After the "pep rally" portion of the evening was over, it seemed the small parking lot all but emptied. Where a large crowd once filled the parking lot, leaving no room to move, only a few dozen people remained to listen to Nexx Faze.

Soon after, the beautiful pyre seemed to mourn the loss of company. It then proceeded to partially collapse in on itself, along with the hopes of many that anything else would happen. This caused the crowd to thin out even more than previously.

With around 20 stragglers hanging around in the lonely parking lot, Nexx Faze, looking embarrassed, attempted to bring the excitement back to the audience, with little luck. The bonfire was short-lived, and over-looked after the initial awe of students wore off.



Left: Alpha Delta Pi member Brenda Conteh gets low with other Greek Life members during the Cha-Cha slide at the Monarch Tailgater. Photo by Roxana Ross.

Top: The Methodist Cheerleaders pump up the spirit at the Pep Rally bonfire on Oct. 22. Photo by Doris Jackson.

Above: Senior Teresa Berens and sophomore Raeven Harvey march with the other Homecoming representatives before the football game. Photo by Jessie Heath.



Homecoming King Brian Ingram and Queen Sandi Owens

Mardi Gras homecoming unmasked

*Emily Kennedy
Staff Writer*

The Crown Center was transformed into a little taste of New Orleans during the Mardi Gras-themed homecoming dance on Oct. 23. The room was complete with purple, green, and gold beads covering the tables, colorful masks that were handed out at the door and enormous colorful masks hanging on the walls.

The dance, which started at 8 o'clock pm, started off relatively slow. At a quarter after eight, there were more people manning the check-in table than actually inside at the dance. However, it did not take too long for the dance to be in full swing.

The music was run by a DJ, who had a limited genre selection to offer, making some students uncomfortable. Despite the music complaints, most were unwilling to waste the night standing around.

"I don't really know how to dance to this kind of music," said Dalton Skiles, a guest at the dance. "And the DJ isn't really playing any other types of music."

Not all attendees minded the music selection.

"I had fun," said Alexis Speck, one of the first to brave the dance floor that night.

When the Homecoming Court lined up before being presented to the crowd of students, rumors began flying around about a possibility of the voting being rigged. One person even claimed they saw someone voting with an entire stack of ballots. Despite the previous accusations, the crowd seemed to agree with the results as they cheered when the winners were announced.

Sandi Owens, the Homecoming representative for the Math Club won the coveted title of Homecoming Queen. Monday Crew representative Brian Ingram was crowned Homecoming King, after some unsportsmanlike reactions from members of the audience.

With the crowning portion of the evening complete, the packed room went right back to the middle of the dance floor and continued their dancing adventures. Students danced the night away, or at least until the dance ended.

Dead Rising 2: Confusion rising due to lego heads

Aaron Bressler
Staff Writer

The new Dead Rising belongs in a very special category of games because it has been so promoted that practically everyone in the gaming world has heard of it. It belongs in the same category with Spore, Fallout, and every other Fable game. These are the games where we are promised the world on a platter, or at least X-Box live, and fall short of that. Needless to say, such games are hard pressed to keep up with the demand, and Dead Rising 2 is one of them.

One of the first things you notice about Dead Rising 2 is its loading screen. You will learn this screen very well as you will be staring at it for a very long time. The game has enough loading screens to sink a digital battleship. To start the game, you need one for the opening credits, one for the "Press Start Button," and yet another for the menu, which will guide you to the necessary loading screen to use the game mode you want.

The developers used the basic game engine to make cut scenes. This would work if the game's textures were better, which is very apparent at close range. The zombies seem to move in a realistic fashion, but the collision physics seem arbitrary and random. A zombie will suddenly make a grab they couldn't make at that range or angle before and projectiles follow strange ballistics. Overall the games graphics are good, although they lose a lot in the close-ups.

The story is very much a Capcom story in that when it actually exists it is completely incoherent. Characters do things completely at random, with no resemblance to logic, reason, or basic intelligence. Another problem Dead Rising 2 creates is how it contradicts itself. The characters, story, and other elements point towards a serious game, but this is completely undermined by the gameplay itself.

Playing the game is also an exercise in contradiction. The game encourages you to fight the zombies, then punishes you with infinite zombies, so that they are rigged, and win by numbers. The game also encourages creativity, but then restricts the player to the creativity they thought of for you. The weapon creation reminds the player of early point and click adventures where one rubbed every possible item against another in the hopes of winning the lottery. Many times you want to use meat cleavers in the place of machetes or broken glass for nails. Fire axes and katanas inexplicably break with little or no reason. The weapons and combos run the gamut from useless, to interesting, but impractical, to incredibly overpowered.

The biggest contradiction is in the basic premise of the game itself. The game is almost impossible to beat the first time, and finding anything is confusing. When you die it gives you two options. You can either load your last save or restart the story while keeping your stats. The game encourages you to deliberately fail over and over again in order to pass the game. Not only is this repetitive and annoying, but it feels like the developers decided that the game was too short. Instead of adding to replay value, or adding content, the developers decided to make the players play the game repeatedly in lieu of an actual solution.

The gameplay is good, but suffers from many confusing and frustrating issues. The first issue is the lack of instruction. No tutorials are given, or instructions to what buttons do what functions. The combat is interesting, but is designed for group fighting, which makes targeting a certain zombie, or one of your fellow looters, very difficult. Many of your missions will involve a disturbing number of psychos that the player won't be able to target.

Dead Rising 2 also has multi player options. The co-op, which for some

inexplicable reason is only available online, is mediocre at best. Assuming you can find a match, you will almost always lose connection, and end up on the online menu, which is the game's most irritating loading screen yet.

The game has some good mechanics, but does very little with them and the graphics are good, but the physics are a little flaky. The main game is contradictory and frustrating at worst and semi-interesting at best. Unfortunately, the most fun you have in the entire game is in a mini game at the very beginning. The play test of this game broke down when we realized we had an immeasurable amount of giant Lego-heads and infinite number of zombies. At this point, we gave up and spent the rest of the night taming zombies with giant Legos.



Final Fantasy: The 4 Heroes of Light

Austin Bordeaux
Opinions Editor

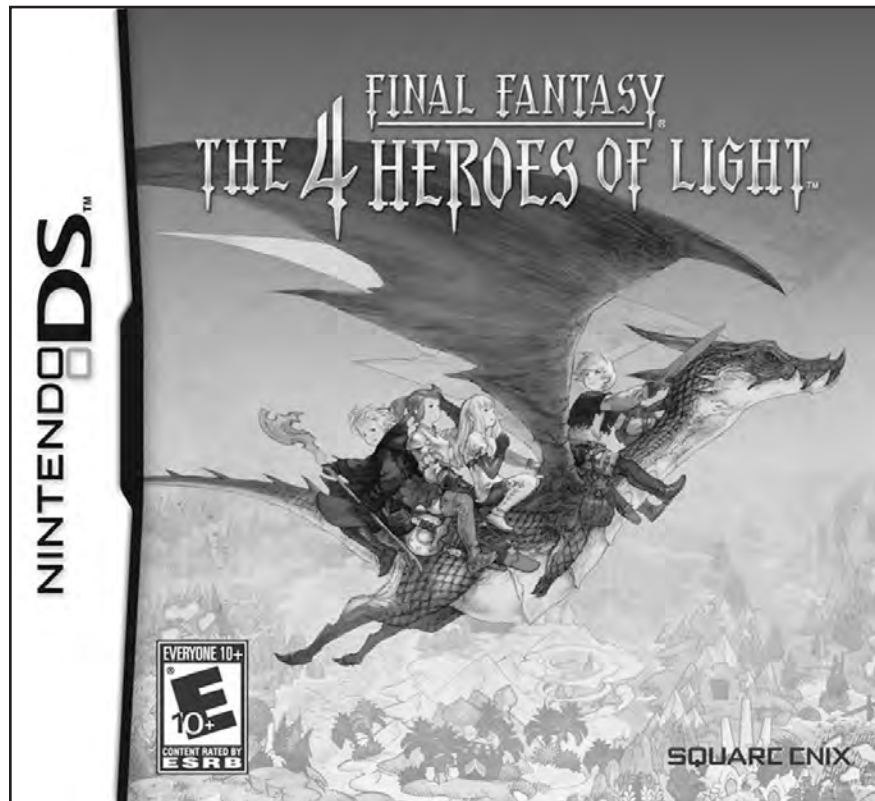
I have written reviews for a large number of Final Fantasy games, so those that read on a regular basis should know by now what it is. For those that don't know, Final Fantasy is an extremely popular RPG series that has an enormous fan base. The 4 Heroes of Light is one of the newest releases for the series.

Story: 8/10
Stop me if you've heard this one before. You begin the game as Brandt, a young man in a small village who wakes up on his 14th birthday, charged with meeting the king to be proclaimed an adult. When he meets the king, he discovers the princess has been kidnapped by a witch who resides north of the village. Upon meeting the witch and returning home, he is thrust into an adventure to save the world. The story is told through good dialogue and is very simple, but the storybook style leaves some of the deeper implications of events up to the imagination. It is very cliché and you can guess how it is going to end from miles away. Overall it is a decently fun story.

Gameplay: 7/10
This game has turn-based battle mechanics where you choose the actions of your party members, and they act along with the enemies based on stats. The different thing about this game is the targeting system, which chooses the targets for you. For example, if you choose "Cure" the game will choose which party member could benefit from it the most. At first it will feel cheap and unrewarding until you realize that choosing what to do is in itself a big strategic choice. Enemies will utterly destroy you pretty quickly so it's important to know when to heal and when to use a skill or attack. It ends up feeling fast paced and rewarding, though I still prefer being able to pick the targets myself. Also, enemies level up along with the characters, so grinding will not allow you to steamroll through the game unlike most RPGs.

The main aspect that I don't like about the gameplay is the way they handled the Inventory

system. Rather than having a large pool of items that all characters can use, each character has 15 slots to hold items, spells, a weapon, a shield, armor, and an accessory, which all take up spaces. When a character is fully equipped, 11 slots are left, less if they are a spell caster. I personally just did not like it, though it works out and really takes party planning.



The job system is interesting and straight forward. There are 28 jobs called "crowns" that you acquire over the course of the game, which also function visually as the character's headgear. In order to learn new skills you must place different shaped gems into a crown, and when they are filled you learn a new skill. In nearly every battle you will win gems which serve the skill leveling purpose as well as the main source of income. Each new job level requires more gems and a larger variety of them. In keeping with the theme of dedicated roles, you can't carry over skills to other jobs.

Graphics: 8/10
For those that have played it, the graphics are very similar to The Legend of Zelda Phantom Hourglass. They include soft colors, cartoony looking models, and wispy storybook effects. A good example is the wind that leaves a line of sheen across the wheat fields every few seconds in the first town. It's a quaint aesthetic that really forms the basis for the whole feel of the game.

Sound: 8/10
It's the marriage of old sounds and new sounds. A combination of upbeat 8bit style music and a smooth flow of more contemporary music is mainly what is heard in game. This fits very well into the "retro" angle the developers had stated they were going for. The music is very catchy and well paced, but is easily forgettable and more along the lines of something you occasionally notice rather than an integral part of the game.

Overall: 8/10
In conclusion I'd say it's a game that is definitely worth buying if you are in the target audience someone who appreciates the old mechanics and difficulty of NES-era RPGs or a Final Fantasy fan. Just don't assume it's easy because of its deceptively cute looks and storybook charm. The game requires strategic thinking to win, not blunt force.

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Just for fun

What's opening in theaters next week?

Rene Rodriguez
McClatchy Newspapers (MCT)

Opening Wednesday Nov. 10

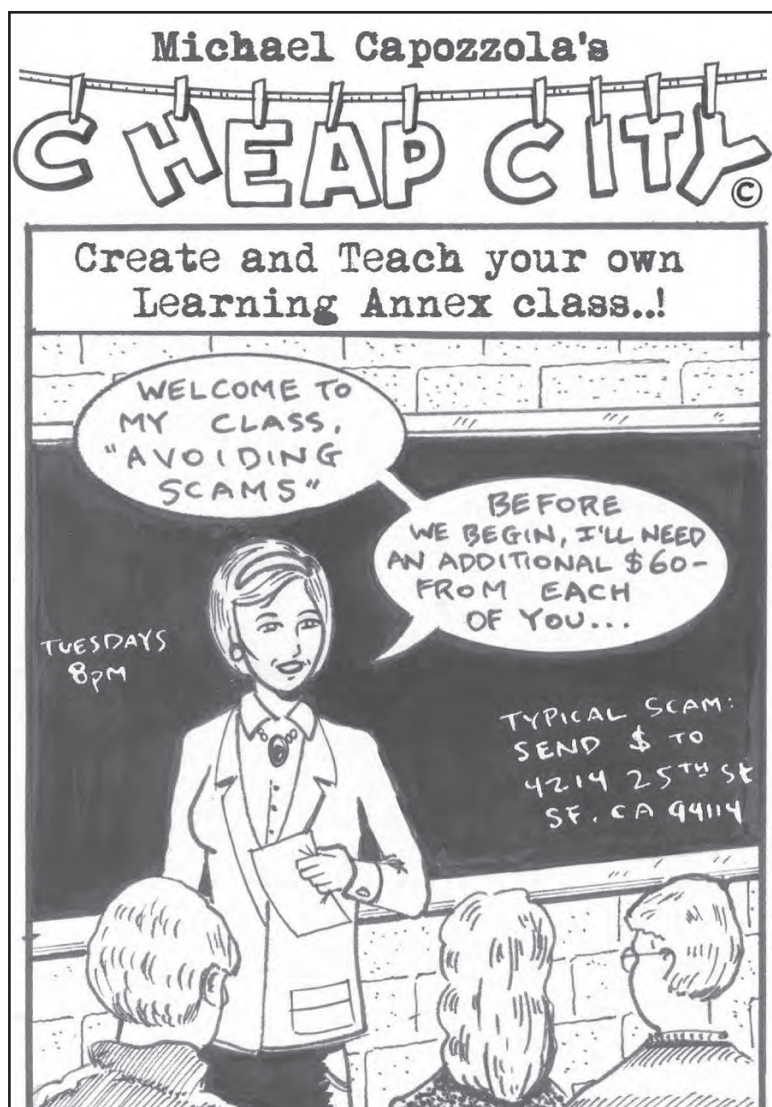
MORNING GLORY (PG-13): Harrison Ford makes a welcome return to comedy as a famous anchorman hired by a TV producer (Rachel McAdams) to revive the sagging ratings of her station's morning news show. But the egotistical newsman refuses to share the stage with his co-anchor (Diane Keaton).

Opening Friday Nov. 12

THE NEXT THREE DAYS (PG-13): Russell Crowe is a man desperately trying to find a way to get his wife (Elizabeth Banks) out of prison after she is charged with murder. Writer-director Paul Haggis ("Crash") sets aside the social commentary for ticking-clock Hitchcockian thrills.

SKYLINE (PG-13): The citizens of Los Angeles (among them Eric Balfour, Donald Faison and Brittany Daniel) try to make sense of the strange lights that suddenly appear in the sky. Could they be evil extraterrestrials with highly advanced technology? Could they be planning to wipe mankind off the face of the planet? I'm betting yes.

UNSTOPPABLE (PG-13): Denzel Washington, Chris Pine and Rosario Dawson are among the employees of a rail company racing to keep an unmanned, runaway freight train loaded with toxic chemicals from destroying a city. Remember "Runaway Train"? This one is nothing like that film, I swear.



Riddle of the week...

A young man was walking through the forest. He came to a bridge. In front of the bridge was a large man carrying an axe. The man said, "If you want to cross this bridge, you must tell me a statement. If I think the statement is true, you will be strangled to death. If I say the statement is false, your head will be chopped off." A few minutes later, the young man walked over the bridge while the larger man stood pondering.

What statement did the young man make?

Answer: The man said, "My head will be chopped off." If the man said the statement was false, the young man's head would be chopped off, making the statement true. If the man said the statement was true, the young man would be strangled to death, thus making it false.

Questionable queries of a Campus Ninja

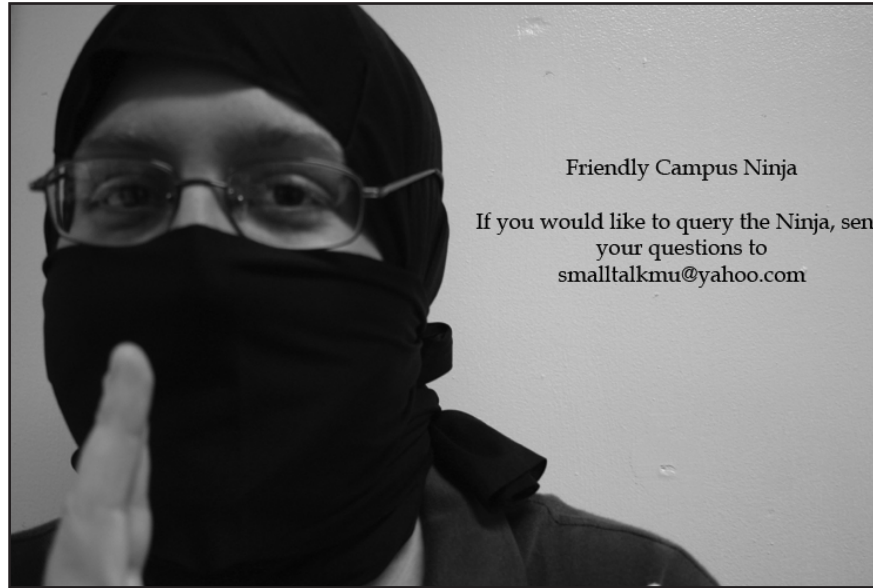
Dear Campus Ninja,

Halloween was a little over a week ago and it was pretty awesome this year. I decided to dress up as a ninja to try to emulate my favorite superhero, YOU!!! Apparently my costume was extremely effective, because nobody noticed me the whole night. I thought people were just being rude at first until I punched somebody in the face and they had no idea what had happened. I had become invisible with this ninja-tastic ruse. Let it be known that once I had discovered that, much chaos and pilfering ensued the rest of the night. What did you dress up as for Halloween?

From,
Copy Cat

Dear Copy,

I am glad to see that my influence has spawned a fan following, and that people are cosplaying as the awesomeness that is me. I personally dressed up as one of the most terrifying things in this country. I made a costume to look like an IRS Audit Agent and freaked out all the other ninja at our annual All Hallows Eve party. It's going to be hard to top it next year though. If you



have ideas let me know.

Dear Campus Ninja,

Everyday life is full of both tough struggles and good times. I like to chronicle these things in a small notebook that many may refer to as a portal to the human soul or maybe an eventamojigger. Doing this keeps me from bottling up all my complex emotions inside until the pressure gets too intense and my blood vessels explode. I was wondering, does the ninja keep a journal?

From,
Emotional Educator

Dear Emotional,

There are many tools that a ninja uses throughout his career, including shuriken, kunai, smoke bombs, rocket launchers, coupons, and handheld gaming consoles. One of the most important tools is finding something to vent out hidden emotions. Some use journals, as you have suggested, while others may exercise constantly, seek company from women of the night, go to a qualified therapist, or do as I do and play a gratuitous amount of video games.

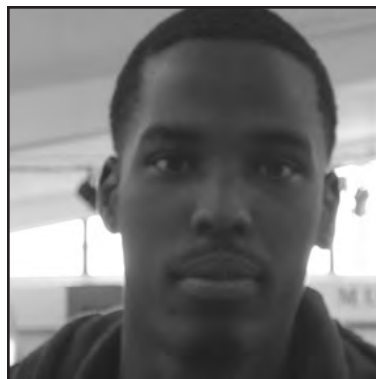
Ashley Asks... *How do you feel about not having Veteran's Day off in a military town?*

Veteran's Day began in 1918, at the 11 hour, of the 11 day, of the 11 month of that year. This holiday, first celebrated as Armistice Day, represents the ceasing of hostilities between the Allied Nations and Germany. Today, November 11th represents a day to honor the men and women who have served in the military.



I think more than it being a military town; there's a lot of veterans here on campus who deserve the day off.

- Jackie Prior-Rose, a sophomore political science major



I really don't see that as being fair to the veterans. I say that because you have some veterans that have lost limbs or who may have been mentally distraught at times and they basically have lost time with their families, fighting for us, so we could get the opportunity to go to this university, or any school.

-Claude Bernard, senior athletic training major.



In college you get a lot of other breaks, but growing up here, it does suck to not have Veteran's Day off, but you get used to it. It's life.

-Jasmine Clark, a sophomore elementary education major



I really do not agree with that. I think it's a disrespect to every veteran and the reason I say that is because they put their lives on the line. Methodist has people in the armed forces in an academic program and it's a complete disrespect to the country and to anybody who has fought.

-Dylan Eleoff-Edwards, a sophomore business administration major

Students sound off on new campus policy

Too much sheltering

Marissa Smith

I would first like to state that when it comes to the recent policy that was instated regarding Izzy's and the off-campus limitations, I understand that the Methodist administration is just looking out for our safety. They believe that we are their responsibility because our parents sent us to them. I understand this, and I am thankful that we have a staff that is worried about our safety. It is good to know that we have staff and faculty that are here for the students when we need them.

The event that happened at Izzy's Sports Bar after Homecoming was unfortunate. There is no doubt about that. Many of the students were shaken up and very upset after the shooting and understandably so. What Methodist needs to understand though, is that it was, while horrible, just a one-time occurrence. It was a rare occurrence.

There are many more dangerous neighborhoods that we could be spending our time in. Are they going to ban us from all of them? If the school administration decides to do that, they might as well keep us on campus all year.

Fayetteville is not the safest city. We all knew that when we decided to come to school at Methodist. It is important for us to make our own decisions and learn lessons during our college years. If we don't learn them now, we will just have to learn them later, probably with greater penalties. We need to be able to decide for ourselves what type of

places we should and should not go to. I know the University thinks that it is in the students' best interests to protect us, but it is merely sheltering us. That is going to make things much harder when we leave school and are on our own in the real world.

I don't believe that any University should have the right to tell their students where they can and cannot go once the student leaves the campus. We live in a free country. While we have to abide by the laws, as adults, we should be able to go where we want and do what we want. What if the same thing happened at the mall? Would the administration ban Methodist students from the mall? Or, for that matter, what if that same incident happened at Wal-Mart? Just because something unfortunate happened doesn't mean that it's going to happen again.

At some point, the strings have to be cut and you have to see what we can do on our own. We should have the right to go wherever we want, without having to answer to the University.

Live with it or leave

Drew Williams

Many students are upset with the banning of certain establishments in town by the administration of Methodist University. I simply ask the question...why? Why are you upset that you can't go to Izzy's? Have you ever been there? It's one of the worst bars in Fayetteville (and that is quite an achievement).

I am aware that there is suspicion that they let underage people in and even let them drink, allegedly. If this is the reason you went to Izzy's let me go ahead and say you're underage and you should not be upset about not being able to go to a bar. If you are of legal drinking age, and you are still upset, you should think about what has happened there, Methodist students were shot at this bar. The administration is clearly looking out for its students' welfare here. By banning students the MU administration might have upset some people who believe it is "unconstitutional".

Let me enlighten you on some things that happened when YOU decided you THIS university. You agreed to follow the rules in the student hand book and the Judicial Code of Methodist. All students who attend this private university must be knowledgeable and follow the rules laid out in the Student Handbook.

"Students should review and understand the Judicial Code because every student who enrolls at Methodist University is subject to the provisions of the Judicial Code."

Now some of you might say, "But wait, my brand new student handbook doesn't mention anything about Izzy's."

Well, you are correct, but take a closer look at the Judicial Code of Methodist University, page 80 on the online PDF.

"The President and the Board of Trustees of Methodist University have authorized the Vice President of Student Development and Services (hereafter referred to as the Dean of Students) to enforce, by sanction or policy, situations that may not specifically be addressed in this handbook including matters that are governed by local, state, and/or federal laws. Changes to the handbook will be published in the form of an addendum, which will be given the widest distribution reasonably possible"

"Widest distribution reasonably possible." Huh, I got the email, and I'm pretty sure you did too, so don't claim ignorance if you get caught there.

So what does all this mean? Well it's pretty simply: you decided to come to Methodist. In doing so, you also agreed to follow the rules of this University... all of them. You also have the ability to leave the university at any time. No, seriously, if you're that upset about not being able to go to Izzy's, or can't follow the guidelines of the university, you have the right to leave.

Homecoming football: More than a score

Matt Snowberger
Sports Editor



Sophomore Quarterback Travis Murphy runs past Averett's Jerel Robinson on during the Oct. 23 Homecoming game. Methodist lost to Averett 7-3. Photo by Kika Frisone.

Homecoming is the biggest event of the fall semester at any University: a weekend long festival celebrating all that is the college experience. It is most often centered on a football game. Forget the record, forget the stats, forget all the numbers that sports fans love to get caught up in. College athletics are bigger than the numbers, and no event exemplifies this better than Homecoming.

It was suiting for Methodist to fight and claw for three and a half quarters, setting up for dramatic victory in front of this season largest crowd. Methodist anticlimactically, and quite literally, fumbled away the opportunity in the shadows of victory.

It has been the Monarchs calling card this season: go down, come back, and appear to ready to seal the deal but shoot themselves in the foot. The 7-3 loss to Averett meant little as far as records or standings, but it may be the only game remembered this time next year outside the locker room.

If you don't believe me, conduct an experiment. A week into the spring semester, ask your average student who won the Methodist-Averett game. After the blank stare, ask them how the Monarchs did on Homecoming and be ready to hear, "The other team missed like five field goals, and we still lost. We didn't even score a touchdown."

For a team with little post-season aspirations, this loss will hurt more than any other. The Monarch football team will have to deal with being the team that just couldn't quite get it done on Homecoming.

But despite the loss for one weekend in October, we celebrated this team as heroes because it was their day. Homecoming, more than any other event outside of a championship, for any other team, is football's day. Truth be told, a team's record or rank matters on Homecoming about as much as a child's reading level on his or her birthday.

Without the sports, there is no reason to dress and dance. Or tailgate. Or gather as a student body to cheer for the same cause. Or to celebrate all the Alumni who come before us. All of these are more important than the actual outcome of the game, but none would be possible without it.

This is an example of why sports are such an important part of culture. A 2-6 football team is able to unite a campus, that, for the last three months, has been anything but, thus proving that any score or win is worth celebrating.

Fall sports freeze frames



Above: Shane Davis fights a St. Andrews player for the ball.
Top Right: Sophomore Adam Thomas keeps control of the ball in the Oct. 23 game against Averett University.
Bottom Right: Sophomore Stephanie Wood spikes the volleyball over the net.
Photos by Kika Frisone.

MONARCH SCOREBOARD

GAME RESULTS

Football		
Date	Opponent	Result
10/23	Averett University	L 3-7
10/30	North Carolina Wesleyan College	L 6-56

Men's Soccer		
Date	Opponent	Result
10/27	Greensboro College	W 5-0
10/30	Ferrum College	W 2-0
11/2	Ferrum College	W 3-1
11/5	North Carolina Wesleyan College	L 0-3

Women's Soccer		
Date	Opponent	Result
10/23	Meredith College	L 0-4
10/24	Peace College	W 10-1
10/27	St. Andrews Presbyterian College	W 3-0
10/29	Greensboro College	L 0-3
10/30	Mary Baldwin College	Canceled
11/2	Meredith College	L 2-3

Women's Volleyball		
Date	Opponent	Result
10/24	Shenandoah University	W 3-1
10/24	Averett University	W 3-1
10/27	North Carolina Wesleyan College	W 3-1
10/30	Mary Baldwin College	W 3-0
10/30	Peace College	W 3-0
11/2	Averett University	W 3-1

HOME GAMES

Basketball		
Date	Opponent	Time
11/17/2010	Guilford College	7 pm



Freshman Lisa Paschal fights for the ball during a game. Photo by Kika Frisone.

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