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Feb. 7, 2011 Volume 50, Issue 8

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IVERSITYMethodist UniversityFayetteville, NC

A closer look at the new president



The New President of Methodist University, Dr. Ben Hancock. Photo by Roxana Ross.

Jessie Heath Editor-In-Chief

Who is Hancock?

No, we aren't asking about the 2008 film starring Will Smith and Jason Bateman. We're talking about the new face of Methodist University: MU's fourth president, Dr. Ben E. Hancock Jr.

"I am truly honored to serve as the next president of Methodist University and to continue the excellent work of Elton Hendricks and the Board of Trustees," said Hancock in a statement made to the University. "I have been so impressed with the faculty, staff, and students at the University during my visits. Methodist is fortunate to have such capable leadership and caring people associated with the University."

With the spring semester kicked in high-gear, things at Methodist appear to be the same as always. From the outside looking in, it would be tough to tell that Methodist is getting ready for a big change. Following the retirement of M. Elton Hendricks, who served as president for 27 years, the Board of Trustees announced that Dr. Ben Hancock, Jr. would succeed Hendricks, effective March 1. The news received mixed reactions from the student body because very few students had any involvement in the selection process and emails sent to the student body were vague.

"I would be excited about the new president coming if I knew who he was," said Brion Holmes, a physical education major. "I feel like I don't know anything about him though, other than that he'll be here."

When the Presidential Search Committee narrowed its presidential candidates down to Hancock or Delmas Crisp, the Dean of Academics at Methodist University, emails were sent to a handful of the students, asking them to attend student sessions with both candidates. During these sessions, students were given the opportunity to ask the candidates about their plans for the future of the university. Of the students involved in the interviews, most seemed pleased with the results.

"Dr. Hancock will bring a fresh, new perspective to [Methodist]," said Katelyn Dockery, a sophomore and physical and health education major.

In a statement to Methodist University, Mr. Harvey T. Wright II, chair of the Board of Trustees, called Hancock, "a strong strategic planner who has a passion for the education experience that a private, coeducational liberal arts university can offer."

Every university has two faces. The academic programs of a school lure in students who are interested in particular areas of study: medicine, art, languages and many others. The other branch of a successful university focuses less on academia and more on student development. This branch is concerned with shaping the wholesome leaders of tomorrow, while nurturing the talents they already possess today. Methodist University has a strong academic program, but student development falls by the wayside. Hancock's focus seems to be on shaping the student development side of the university, which is something that excited many students and staff members. His strength, as demonstrated by his previous jobs, is in raising money to further university relations, which is an area Methodist has always struggled in.

Prior to his decision of coming to Methodist, Hancock served as the Vice President for University relations at Ball State University in Muncie, IN for four years. Prior to his service at Ball State, he worked at Albion College in Michigan, where he helped raise more than \$255 million. In addition to his work at Ball State and Albion, Hancock was also employed at Boise State University, Penn State University, Maryville College and James Madison University.

When talking to students during his visit to Methodist last fall, Hancock demonstrated a familiar demeanor not unlike that of former president Hendricks. Hancock's soft-spoken and warm personality allowed many students to feel comfortable around him.

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2 SmallALK - TED. 7, 2011 SmallALK - TED. 7,

Students who were enjoying a late lunch were dramatically interrupted as Stephan "Cowboy" Perry, a sophomore, crashed through one of the windows in the Green & Gold Cafeteria on Wednesday Feb. 2.

Graphics Editor Perry, who was hanging a decorated bed sheet to promote the Saturday Feb. 5 Pink Zone Basketball game outside of the cafeteria, lost his balance on the Matt Snowberger chair he was standing on. Perry, who is known by his peers as "Cowboy," leaned to the left as he was trying to get the sheet to hang from a corner, when the chair moved from under him. As he lost his balance, he fell, landing half in and half out of the window.

The event was witnessed by juniors Seth Patton and Logan Roberts. According to Patton and Roberts, the chair that Perry was standing on began to wobble, causing him to fall out the window.

"It was the coolest thing I've seen this semester," said Patton, a biology and chemistry major.

Several witnesses were shocked that Perry appeared unharmed by the fall. He managed to escape with



2. Photo by Aaron Bressler.

Feb. 7 - 11:00 am **Spring Convocation**

Celebrating Black History Month, convocation will feature the works of various artists of the Harlem Renaissance as well as performances by the Methodist University Jazz band. It takes place in Reeves Auditorium and admission is free.

Feb. 9 - 7:00 p.m. **Miss Methodist Pageant**

The ladies of Methodist University will strut their stuff in Reeves Auditorium Wednesday in the annual beauty contest. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children under 12. Students and faculty get in free with their I.D.

Feb. 18 - 7:30 p.m. **Friends of Music**

Hensdale Chapel will host the Friends of Music concert featuring trombonist David Krosschell along with many other artists. Come for free music, stay for the culture and entertainment.

Feb. 20 - 2:00 p.m. **Fayetteville Flight vs. Texas Rimrockers**

Go out and support the local minor league basketball team as they play against the Texas Rimrockers in Riddle Center. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$5 for students or military personnel, and free for children under five. Go cheer for the home team!

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

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

smallTALK is the

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smallTALK welcomes Letters to the Editor. All should letters 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.

Projects for Peace announce winning project plan

only one small scratch. Perry was not harmed in the fall, and was relaxed about the whole ordeal.

"I was kinda shocked I wasn't cut or gashed or Stephan "Cowboy" Perry falls through on Wednesday Feb. something," said Cowboy.

Magda Baggett

Contributed Writer

The MU Peace Project Selection Committee

is proud to announce the winner and alternate of

the Methodist University KW Davis Projects for

Winner: Collecting Smiles in Srebrenica.

Submitted by Dzenana Dzanic, Amna Causevic,

Samra Mrkovic and Emina Hodzic. This project

will provide agricultural equipment, seeds

and livestock to women in Srebrenica, Bosnia

Herzegovina, to make them self sustaining.

They lost all their male family members in the most

recent war in that country and live in impoverished

conditions with few sources of income.

Alternate: Writing and Painting to Heal

from the Heart. Submitted by Maren Comfort

and Cynthia Stallings. Summer camp in Haiti

providing art and writing therapy to children in

Peace for Summer 2011.

an orphanage that has 60+ children who survived the January 2010 earthquake. Nine excellent proposals were considered. We are proud of the work done by all of these

students and graduates. Other proposals were submitted by Christopher Glass; Jasmina Gobeljic; Rodney Machokoto, Sydney Machokoto, and Munty Musiwa; Marianty Mavros; Salam Saadi; Dilcia Severino, Kenny Tien; and Yasu Shrestha.

Thank you to all these who were so willing to help the needy and to encourage peace around the world.

MU is assured funding for at least one of these projects and is competing for funding for a second one. The final selection will be announced by the KW Davis Foundation by the 11th of March. Any alternates selected for funding are announced in April.

Events

Jan. 20 - Feb. 13 Hairspray

Change is here, and Tracy Turnblad is embracing it with all of her heart and soul! Call 910.323.4233 for show times and ticket prices. *Cape Fear Regional Theatre*

Feb. 3 - Feb. 20

Dateline: Greensboro A drama that tells the story of the sitin in Greensboro, NC, that helped start the civil rights movement. Call 910.678.7186 for show times and ticket prices. *Gilbert Theater*

Feb. 10 - Feb. 13 - 7 p.m. **Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey**

The fun of the circus, now with Illuscinator David DaVinci. For more information and ticket prices, call 910.438.4100 or visit www.atthecrown.com *Crown Center*

Feb. 19 - 7:30 p.m. Fireantz vs. Knoxville

Fayetteville's hockey team, Fireantz, faces Knoxville on home turf!

For more information and ticket prices, call 910.321.0123 or visit www.fireantzhockey.com *Crown Center*

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.

Shrinking waists and filling food banks

Aryn Hicks Editor-in-Chief

Michael Molter, the assistant dean for distance learning, was the winner of the first ever Smallest Winner competition lost 20 pounds and was able to help his community through this competition

The Smallest Winner competition, started by the Methodist University Exercise Science Club, gives the University community Methodist the opportunity to change unhealthy lifestyle habits and lose weight. Students, faculty, and staff members learn positive eating habits and healthy exercising habits. There are two groups for the competition: the couple competition, where you and a partner can compete together, and a singles competition. The pairs compete against other pairs, while the individual competitors compete against other solo competitors. Participants compete with one another for prizes and selfimprovement.

"The true motivation behind the competition should be learning how to change bad lifestyle choices [to] healthy ones, [and] to create a new and improved you," said Morgan Hauck, a senior and the president of the Exercise Science Club.

As the competitors lose weight in

order to win prizes and improve their lifestyles and habits, local food banks benefit from the competition. As participants lose weight, the Exercise Science club will pledge 11 cent for every pound lost to the Pound for Pound Challenge, made popular by the television show The Biggest Loser. The Pound for Pound Challenge uses the money pledged through the weight loss to donate food to the less fortunate in the community.

"I think that some participants may use the charity aspect of the competition as extra motivation to lose weight," said Dr. Astrid Mel, faculty advisor for the Exercise Science Club. "Not only would they help themselves but also help others."

Hauck, a senior exercise science major, is very optimistic about the competition's turn out. She looks forward to helping others improve their lifestyles.

"The competition is a great way for the MU community to learn to live a healthier lifestyle," said Hauck. "The students that put on the competition are here for [the participants] every step of the way. And we love what we do!"

The Exercise Science Club began the Smallest Winner competition in March 2010. During its pilot year, 20 people participated, including students, faculty

order to win prizes and improve their lifestyles and habits, local food banks benefit from the competition. As participants lose weight, the Exercise

Molter, who joined the competition last year to improve his lifestyles and health, plans on rejoining the competition again.

"I am hoping this year to be as successful and to have the motivation to keep going," said Molter. "My advice would be not to try to do too much. If you make yourself too miserable, you won't continue."

The competition will also teach club members valuable skills needed in their profession. Some of the skills include organizational skills, such as planning and marketing, team work, delegation, cooperation and planning. Students also learn more practical skills, including designing nutrition and exercise information for the contestants.

"This competition provides Club members the opportunity to give back to MU by putting into practice the many skills they have acquired in the classroom," said Mel.

The official competition begins when the contestant does the first weigh in. Registration for competition has ended; however, MU members community may still participate in the Pound for Pound Challenge, free of charge.

Fourth Friday: A local cultural experience

Emily Kennedy Staff Writer

As twinkling lights line Hay Street, the music of a saxophone can be heard, and with so much art around, the chill in the night air is barely noticeable. It was "Fourth Friday" and local artists were flocking to historic downtown Fayetteville to be a part of the action. The arts council held the first "Fourth Friday" of the year on January 28th and the 11th annual Cumberland County High School Juried Art Exhibition was held at the Arts Council amongst the street vendors and performers who attended "Fourth Friday."

"I came down to support my school at the art show," said Ciarra Smith, a local high school senior. After seeing the many participants, Smith decided to stay and walk around to see what "Fourth Friday" had to offer.

"[My family and I] have been coming down for as long as I can remember. I can't remember a time when we didn't come down," said Jordan Brantley, one of the musicians and a local high school student.

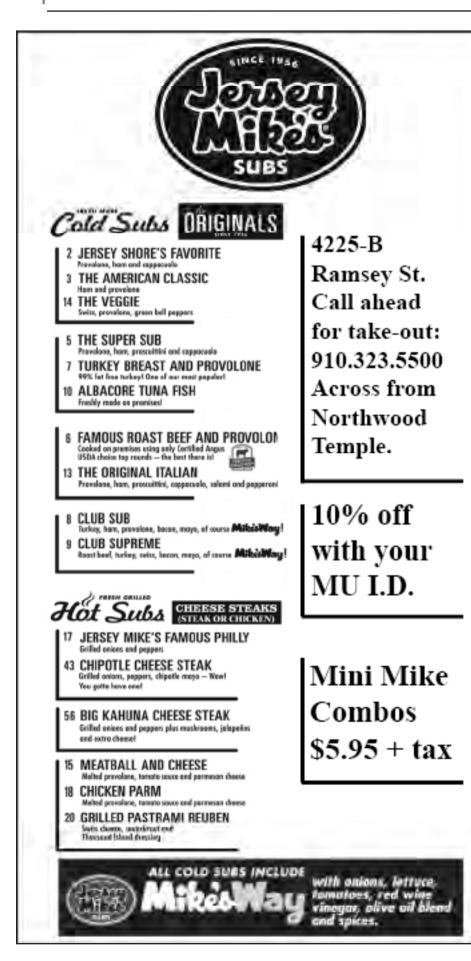
Summerfield, a musical duo, also caught the attention of many patrons when a fiddle was brought out and the duo performed a cover of Charlie Daniel's, "Devil Went Down To Georgia." Paintings were also being sold, like the dreamscape-type workings of Kevin Gregory. Gregory said he comes down every chance he gets and chuckled when he realized it was his fourth time to "Fourth Friday."

Not everything was purely art-motivated though, as a SIFE (students in free enterprise) group from Fayetteville State University worked with Second Harvest to raise hunger awareness through a food drive. Their main purpose was to get the word out about a canned food sculpture contest they are hosting to help collect food. As "Fourth Friday" began to slow down, members of the Victory Chapel in Spring Lake confessed their personal struggles in what they called, "a real-life skit."

There is something for people of all ages and backgrounds at "Fourth Friday" and everyone should go at least once to experience this cultural event.

For more information about "Fourth Friday" visit:

www.theartscouncil.com/fourthmain. php. and for more information on the canned food sculpture contest visit: www. uncsfw.edu/sbe/.



2011 Outdoor Adventure Club: MLK weekend skiing and snowboarding trip.



Melviz Fuentes Lugo Contributing Writer

Over the Martin Luther King Holiday, the CRIMP (Campus Recreational and Intramural Programs) Outdoor Adventure Club took a group of students on a skiing and snowboarding trip at the Winterplace Ski Resort in West Virginia. Traveling by van and one minibus, 22 students left Methodist on the nearly six hour trip at 4 pm Friday afternoon.

CRIMP rented a cabin to cook in and had lodging for students at the Pipestream Resort State Park Hotel.

I have never been skiing or snowboarding before in my life, so when I got there I took a one hour skiing and snowboarding lesson, then snowboarded the first day and skied the second. Nine of the 22 students had never been skiing or snowboarding before and Kenny Tien, Director of Campus Recreation, sent them all to the lessons.

"Everyone got along and had a lot fun together. It is impossible not to make new friends on a CRIMP trip unless you know everyone already." Winterplace offers 28 slopes ranging from beginners to intermediate to difficult each are color coordinated based on their amount of difficulty.

"Watching other people fall and try new things is a great experience, not only because it's with a group of new friends, but also because it's an adventure you will always remember."

For students not interested in skiing or snowboarding the resort also offered snow tubing, an indoor pool and a game and video room.

"The trip went very well; they were a very nice group. We had a good time and that's the part I enjoy about my job—the college experience and learning something new," said Tien.

At just 75 dollars per person, this trip was inexpensive and opportunities like these will not come around again.

Crimp has been hosting this same skiing and snowboarding trip over the Martin Luther King Holiday now for approximately 15 years and the lodging and ski resorts have not changed.

Crimp is a campus organization run by students that is open to the Methodist University public.

Losing my dignity to Dead Space 2

Losing my dignity to Dead Space 2 *Aaron Bressler Staff Writer*

The horror genre of video games contains some of the best games and some of the worst games ever made. Just like in film, a good horror experience is a difficult and fragile balance of various components. Dead Space 2 is not a perfect horror experience, but it comes fairly close.

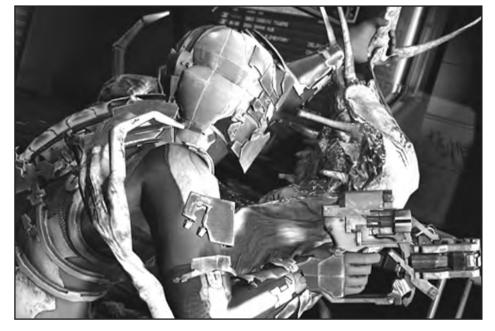
The story of Dead Space 2 continues from the first and begins the game with a recap of the first. The story is decent; an enigmatic artifact can be used to create "necromorphs, who have an unusual fondness for human flesh—yours in particular. The main character, Bland McBoringson, is wandering around trying to kill off monsters, after escaping from the hospital. The only noticeable difference is that McBoringson is supposed to be going insane. His insanity ends up looking like he was suffering from some sort of monster-induced Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

One thing Dead Space 2 gets right is the visuals. Along with the good quality of the graphics, Dead Space 2 remembers one of the oldest rules of horror: the monsters are scarier when you don't see them. Plenty of them are shown, but the game makes you wait and doesn't let you know when or where the monsters will show up. Dead Space 2 also uses lighting excellently. Games that are well lit tend to lose any tension. Games that are too dark are just frustrating. This game balances light and dark well, giving you just enough to have a general idea of the situation, but still leaves enough unanswered details to let your imagination run wild. The insanity is manifested through flashbacks and hallucinations. Normally, this feature would give the player headaches, but in the case of Dead Space 2, this works pretty well. The flashbacks and hallucinations don't feel random and in one case I wasted half of my meager ammo supply. I used up all of my dignity screaming like a little girl.

The mechanics are very good at creating the horror experience, but also make the game a lot of fun. The Dead Space 2 menu is a hologram that appears in-game. Many games pause for the menu, which breaks the tension, but the Dead Space 2 menu makes scrambling through your inventory that more stressful. Unlike other games, you have to organize your inventory ahead of time so you can find what you want, or you are forced

to waste time fumbling for your next gun while the necromorphs chew on your face. The game also foregoes the standard HUD, which helps with immersion, but never makes you guess about important information. The scarcity of ammo and health packs make sure that you can't blast your way through and causes you to think before you act. The physics are good, even if the guns feel weightless. The dismemberment mechanic lets you maximize your ammo and works well with the physics engine, especially with the electric javelin gun. The gore isn't much to write home about, but isn't as bad or overused like many games.

Overall, Dead Space 2 is a solid shooter and a great horror game. While not the best in its genre, this is a very good game to buy and well worth the price. This could use a PvP mode, but overall I was satisfied with the amount of content. Dead Space 2 is a good quality game that could provide plenty of entertainment.



A Pair of Nuts crack up Methodist students

Jessie Heath Editor-In-Chief

Johnny Trablanco and Yamil Piedra are "a pair of nuts". At least, that's the name of their Emmy Award winning comedy duo.

Trablanco and Piedra stopped at Methodist University on January 26 as part of their "Invasion of Nuts 2011 Tour." The dynamic duo has been working together for more than 12 years and met while they were students at Florida International University, in Miami FL. They could be called a modern day version of Abbot and Costello, if Abbot and Costello were Cubans from Florida using their Hispanic heritage to fashion a universal comedic style.

"It was like a public version of Saturday Night Live," said Ryan Dacey, a sophomore who attended the comedy show. "I was impressed. It was really good."

Trablanco and Piedra have been featured prominently on Tosh.0, Last Call with Carson Daily, MegaTV and many have had millions of views for their viral videos on web sites such as College Humor, YouTube and Funny or Die. They co-starred in the Spanish MegaTV sketch comedy show, "El Vacilon," which won them a Suncoast Emmy Award for writing.

"It was an excellent and good time," said Doris Jackson, Director of Student Activities. Jackson was responsible for booking the comedy duo and bringing them to Methodist. She said she was glad to see that students enjoyed the evening with "A Pair of Nuts." "It was much better than I expected," said Jasmine Campbell, a freshman.

Methodist was just one of the stops in "A Pair of Nuts" 2011 tour schedule. Students who missed their performance at Methodist can go to nutscomedy.com for a list of upcoming performances.



Sometimes gamer guys' girlfriends have a hard time finding Valentine's Day gifts that their guys want. Instead of buying gamers something worthwhile, the poor guys end up with heart-striped ties and sentimental cards. Well girls, here is a guide to finding the perfect Valentine's Day gift for your gamer guy.

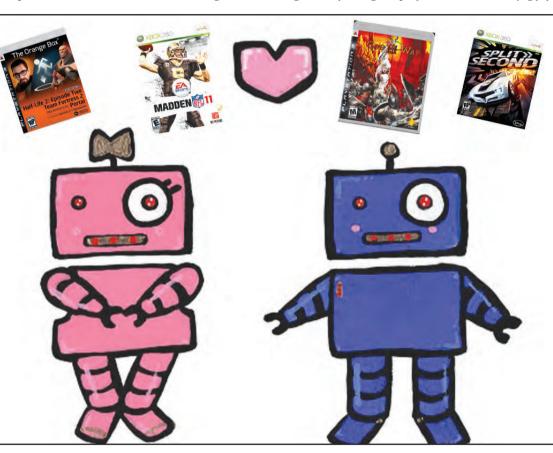
For the Horror Fan

Dead Space 2 (EA)(PS3, Xbox 360, PC)

Dead Space 2 makes a big impression for those who like mutilation. With the ability to tear off arms, impale enemies, and plant trip mines to blow aliens apart—this game could scare the dreads off a Predator. If your guy likes the haunted house effect, this is the game you want to get him.

Dead Rising 2 (Capcom) (PS3, Xbox 360)

Take on hoards of zombies with crazy weapons through this game. Dead Rising 2 gives the player the ability to duct tape ordinary items (pipes, 2x4s, rakes, etc.) together, in order to make weapons. Use things like a paddle saw (kayak paddle + chainsaw) in order to attack zombies, who will surely fight back.



For the Warrior

God of War III (Sony)(PS3)

In this frolic, gamers become the god Kratos and use enemies as battering rams in order to reach Olympus and destroy Zeus. The action is quick, brutal, and involves giant horse-crab creatures.

Call of Duty: Black Ops (Activision) (PS3, Xbox 360, Nintendo Wii, PC, Nintendo DS)

Gamers need this if they don't have it already! With weapons like a crossbow full of exploding bolts and gas grenades, winning a war has never been so much fun. Gamers will never get bored!

For the Adrenaline Junkie

Split/Second (Disney Interactive) (PS3, Xbox 360, PC, iPhone)

If gamers like speed and movie explosions, then they need Split/Second, which combine the two. This game puts players into a reality show, competing to be season champion, with fast cars and huge explosions.

Mirror's Edge (EA)(PS3, Xbox 360, PC)

Nothing says 'I love you' like great graphics, amazing gameplay, and a good storyline. Graphic by Aryn Hicks.

This game is a mix of puzzles and strategy, with its fast pace making the player plan on the go. Running from the police across rooftops gives players a shot of adrenaline, and at times, the feel of vertigo. For guys who want a rollercoaster rush—this game is perfect.

For the Jock

Madden NFL 11(EA Sports)(PS3, Xbox 360,PC, Nintendo Wii, Nintendo DS, PSP, Mobile, PS2)

Football fans will love the GameFlow system, which puts

players in a quarterback's line of thought. The game is very realistic, with smooth controls, clean graphics, and a "live" broadcasting presentation.

FIFA Soccer 11(EA Sports) (PS3, Xbox 360, PC, Nintendo Wii, Nintendo DS, PSP, Mobile, PS2)

With the ability to create players, teams, and team crests, this game is packed with personal features. Gamers are not just playing against cardboard characters either—even goalkeepers react to players' style! The greatest thing about this game is players can make their own chants, which are sung at intros, halftime, and after goals. Guys will love hearing their name chanted by crowds of thousands.

For the Geek

The Orange Box (EA)(PS3, Xbox 360, PC)

For the guy that truly loves games, more is better, and *The Orange Box* has quality for its quantity. This brightly-colored pack has some of the best geek games: *Half-Life* 2, *Half-Life 2: Episode One* and *Episode* 2 (expansions of *Half-Life 2*), *Portal*, and *Team Fortress 2*. The *Half-Life* series follows the story of a scientist that is stuck on an alien infested planet and is armed with

only a crowbar. *Portal* is a strategy game where players solve puzzles using transportation portals. *Team Fortress 2* is a multiplayer game similar to shooters, where the players pick from classes such as Pyro, Scout, Medic, or Demoman.

Low funds? Try this instead!

Gift Cards are an easy and inexpensive gift that gamers will appreciate. Gift cards for Microsoft points or Nintendo points allow users to choose between downloadable video games, add-ons (expansions) for games, or items for avatars (characters representing console users).

Another idea...join in the fun! Guys love girls that play video games!

Just for Fun

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Internet Stuff

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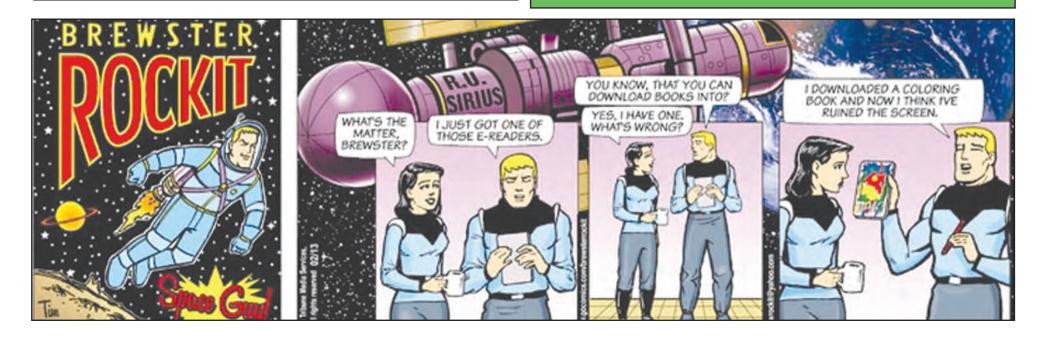
Riddle me this...

A pregnant lady named her children: Dominique, Regis, Michelle, Fawn, Sophie and Lara. What will she name her next child: Abby, Jessica, Tilly or Roxy?

Answer: Tilly. Look at the first 2 letters of each name Do Re Mi Fa So La.

You are standing in front of a room with one lightbulb inside of it. You cannot see if it is on or off. Outside the room there are 3 switches in the off positions. You may turn the switches any way you want to. You stop turning the switches, enter the room and know which switch controls the light bulb. How?

Answer: You turn 2 switches on and leave 1 switch off and wait about a minute. Then enter the room, but just before you enter, turn one switch from on to off. Once in the room, teel the lightbulb - if it is warm, but off, it has to be the last switch you turned off. If it is on, it has to be the switch you termed off. If it is cold and is off, it has to be the switch you left in the off position.





Opinion Questionable queries of a Campus Ninja

Dear Ninja,

It is a scarv time in my life. I am a senior. Although many find this to be the ultimate reward for years of late nights. early mornings and constantly doing this thing that my professors call "studying," I am terrified. See, I am hunting for the Holy Grail for recent graduates: a job. For some reason, many employers do not seem impressed by my B-average, and graduates in my major are not in high demand. Who doesn't want a good looking, semi-intelligent guy who has a Bachelor's of Science in Obscure Useless Factology, with a minor in Pig Latin? Oh wise, semi-omnipotent Ninja of Greatness, what should I do? How did you find a job right out of college? From.

Struggling Senior

Dear Struggling,

The first thing I can tell you is that your major is worthless and was a total waste of time. In fact I would recommend you do some research and make sure you are going to an actual accredited university and that you are not just the target of an amazing practical joke. Personally, I was destined to become a ninja from birth. You see, I fulfill some ancient prophecy about a chosen one being born to save the world from destruction in 2012 (or something along those lines) and have been hand raised as a ninja since I was two months old. If you had an actual major, like underwater basket weaving, the best step would be to have a well crafted resume and connections. Even though it is a sad truth, if you know someone where you want to work, the chances of getting a job are much higher.

Dear Ninja,

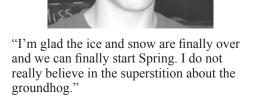
On the last snow day. I became the victim of a heinous attack. I was walking around campus, minding my own business, when I was attacked. A mob of about 90 students appeared out of nowhere, pummeling me with frozen orbs of chilly doom. They were all dressed in their battle gear: White parkas, white gloves and white pants. I was not prepared for such a barbaric ambush, for I was wearing the favorite color of all great and stylish Ninja black. I tend not to strav from the ninia color palette, for I hope to one day train with the great Ninja Clans of North Carolina. O astute master of stealth, how do you defend yourself during snowball fights? From.

Chilly Billy

Dear Chilly,

You one day hope to become one of our clan? With such a pathetic excuse for stealth skills? You have a better chance of going into space without proper attire and surviving. You should know that stealth simply is blending into your surroundings. If it is white outside then dress in white, if it is dark, dress in dark grays, and if you want to infiltrate the local fast food joint, dress as a regular customer. Also, you should always be prepared. You went outside in the snow without emergency snowballs prepared and placed in strategic areas? Were you not watching your surroundings for an ambush? This lack of skill is insufferable. I am going to have to ask that you never write in again.

Ashley Asks... How do you feel about the groundhog not seeing his shadow? Do you believe in the superstition?



—Jacob Tello, Freshman, criminal justice major.



"I'm excited about him not seeing his shadow because I don't like winter. I use to not believe in superstitions, but I do believe in certain superstitions now."

- Lois Brown, assistant Director of Student Development & Services Operations.



"I feel sad. I love the sun, but Fayetteville can't decide whether it's going to be hot or cool, so I don't believe the superstition."

- Kasey Nicholas, a senior business administration major.



"I really don't watch TV much, so I didn't see it and I really don't believe in the superstition."

- John Flanagan, a sophomore physical education major.



SmallTALK • Feb. 7, 2011 You have to cut the cord in Collection Aryn Hicks Second Se

I remember the day I moved into Methodist, my freshman year. The tears, the hugging, the sentimental speeches-and that was just my parents. While I was nervous and scared, I knew that if I confessed my fears and concerns, my parents would never give me the full amount of freedom I wanted or needed in college.

I came to college young and naïve at 17, indulging in the freedom I had living three hours away from home. However, by the second week of school, I was calling my parents every day, begging them to come see me, or bring me home.

It was like driving on the interstate. I felt like all of my friends were in a brand new Maserati sports car; fully equipped with independence, reasoning, and college experience, moving full speed ahead while I was riding in a supercharged Corvette, but refused to drive over 10 mph. I had the potential to be with my friends, but was restricting myself because I constantly needed my parents to reassure me.

I remember the day my parents asked if I was coming home and I said, "No." That was the day I cut the cord.

My answer probably floored them. I realized that by going home every weekend, I was not living my own life. I was too dependent on them for everything. While my friends were having fun going to the movies, dancing, and hanging out—I was at home with my parents.

Today, I see too many students refusing to separate from their parents. If students do not learn to be independent while in college, they will forever be dependent on someone in their lives, whether it's parents or a spouse. Living like that is a one-way street to failure and disappointment. If students can't support themselves and stand on their own two feet while living in college, what's going to happen to them when the real world suddenly smacks them in the face?

People cannot learn when they have been sheltered and protected their entire lives. If students stay under their parents' wing throughout college, their friends will begin to seem distant, because they are not taking advantage of the full college experience. Those who are independent understand how to be successful because they know the importance of growing mentally, emotionally, and spiritually, away from home.

Students who have made it to college have the potential to do great things. Parents understand this and cutting the cord does not mean students have to forget their parents. It simply means that students have to learn to adapt to not being around their parents all of the time so that they can learn the lessons necessary to survive in the real world. It's okay to have parent's support to back students up, but students must learn to stand on their own two feet. Sure, if students are constantly under their parents' wing, they don't fall. However, if they do fall and that support fails, they won't know how to get back up.

Life is a highway. It's full of twists, turns, bumps and signs. Instead of letting your parents control how you drive—take risks. Let your parents know you love them, hop in your Corvette, and drive away down your own path. You may pass your friends once you start living your life as an independent, goal-driven individual. Don't waste potential by sticking to old habits of dependency. Be an adult and live your own life.

Sports INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL

Aaron Bressler Staff Writer

Basketball ruled over Nimocks Fitness Center January 24th as the Intramural Basketball Tournament began with squeaks of sneakers filling both courts as players scrambled and communicated with each other.

A total of 24 teams signed up for this year's Intramural basketball program with players ranging from an All Girls Team, to Football players, PGM and soccer players, Physician's Assistant (PA) students, Greek life, and residential halls' teams. Every team has an average of 10-12 student players and one staff member on one of the teams. The teams play a total of 10 games per night, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, giving them a total of 30 games per week. Each team plays one game a night and game times run from 6 to 11 pm. The Intramural basketball's season stretches for four weeks, with three regular season weeks and one playoff week.

Students who played in the game ranged from the short and sturdy to the small and light, and neither athleticism nor accuracy was required. Games were moderated by referees and separated by a lowered dividing screen. Cheers and laughter met every shot with the swoosh of nets and the clang of the rims and everyone seemed to be having fun, regardless of the score.

"I had a lot of fun" said Rakeem Blackshear, a freshman at Methodist, and a member of The Cumberland Ballers.

While Blackshear was happy with how the tournament was organized and run, he did have a bone to pick with the referees. "Everyone is going to get the short end of the stick when the ref calls a foul on them. They need to get some better refs."

The tournament will end later this month and is being run by the Student Activities Committee.

With only 18 teams signed up last year, the Intramural basketball program has grown, meaning more teams equals longer hours and ultimately more fun.

"We want to provide our MU students a fun and healthy program where they can show their talents and skills. It'll also give them a sense of accomplishment, socialize and connect them to other students," said Kenny Tien, Director of Campus Recreation and Intramural Program.

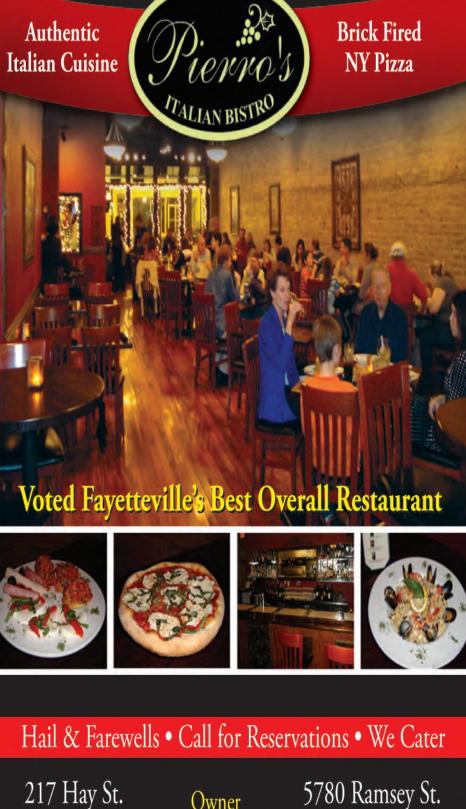
Basketball is the most popular Intramural sport of the year and the participation number is usually higher in basketball than in other Intramural sports.

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MONARCH Scoreboard **GAME RESULTS** Men's Basketball **Date** 1/23 1/28 1/30 Opponent Christopher Newport University Greensboro College Ferrum College **Result** L 74-77 L 68-73 L 61-98 Women's Basketball Date Result Opponent 1/26 1/28 Meredith College Greensboro College W 71-51 L 47-64 L 66-71 1/30 Ferrum College 2/2Peace College W 72-66 HOME GAMES Men's Basketball Date Opponent Time 4 pm 7:30 pm 2/5 2/15 Averett University Greensboro College Dinner Is Served Monday, February 14, 2011 5:00 PM - 7:15 PM Enjoy An Elegant Valentiune's Day Served Dinner In The Green & Gold Cafe With Your Friends And Loved Ones. Special Price For Those Without A Meal Plan \$8.00



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