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smalltalk

The Student Voice of Methodist University



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Gab Gabs on Staying True to Yourself

Gabrielle Isaac
Editor-in-Chief

As a college student, I often use Facebook to connect with the friends and family members that I had to leave behind in order to start my college career. On Facebook, I can't help but notice all of the comments that people have been posting about the presidential election. Comments such as "nObama" are scattered throughout my news feed. And yet, likes on pictures that say Romney is going to raise taxes are not uncommon either. Don't worry; I'm not going to give you my opinion on the presidential race. You get enough of that on television and YouTube commercials. I just want to let you know that, no matter what you do, be it right or wrong, there will always be someone on the sidelines that will disapprove of your actions.

We all have our critics. For some of us, they are our parents and friends. For others, the fault-finders are complete strangers. Negativity can come from all sides. In fact, we can even be overly critical to ourselves.

The most important thing to remember is that you can take or leave this criticism. If someone does not like the way you dress or the way you talk, it is still your choice to act on your "flaw." You can still be the person that gets along with everyone and stay true to

who you are. You don't have to change every detail about yourself in order to appease the masses.

I am a firm believer in the idea of being yourself. Don't get me wrong, you will be influenced by others, be it in a good or bad way. Personally speaking, there were people that I had as friends who wanted me to change myself to become more like them. I gossiped, was easily angered, and lost myself in self-pity. We all find ourselves in those situations. "How did this happen? How did I get to this point?" I have asked myself those questions before.

What happens is that we fall for peer pressure, thinking that it will make us popular. However, the loss is worse than the gain. If you have friends that want you to change into some harmful shadow of your former self, they are not your true friends. When you lose these "friends," they become your critics. They become your enemies, your rivals and your foes. They are watching you from the sidelines, making a

comment every time they see you fall.

When you find your true friends, the ones who love you for who you are, those critics won't mean anything. You will be startled at the fact that you have people who are lifting you up, not tearing you down.

Although the world is watching you, stay true, no matter what you do.



Contributed photo of Gabrielle Isaac

Small Talk Sits Down With the President

This was an interview conducted by Gabrielle Isaac to Methodist University President Ben Hancock. Various questions about the University President's job and expectations for campus were asked.



President Ben Hancock. Contributing.

Q. What is a normal day like for the president of Methodist University?

A: "There's no two days that are the same. Obviously, it's full of meetings and opportunities to represent Methodist."

Q. Is there a part of your job that a student might not know about?

A: "I pride myself in being as visible on campus as I can be. [However,] there is another side to being president that requires me to be off campus representing Methodist University."

Q. I heard that you were training for a marathon. Could you tell me more about that?

A: "I think wellness is very important, personally. [It's in] Chicago, October 7. Keep in mind that I am not a distance runner. It's a personal statement to the campus about how important wellness is."

Q. If you could improve one aspect of the campus of MU, what would it be?

A: "The opportunities for our students to be engaged. I think that through those experiences that the students have, they will be able to maximize their education."

Q. Do you have a favorite part to your job?

A: "Students, hands down, the time with students. I'm so impressed by their stories."

Q. I was told that you go to the Olympics as a family tradition. Can you tell me more about that?

A: "Early on we decided to go to the Olympics and include the children. I've always had a very strong interest in other cultures. It was a kind of melting pot. [On the other hand,] I think the athletic competition is great."

Q. Do you have anything you would like to add?

A: "I've got the best job in America because this is a unique place. This school is very student centered. I've [also] got the best job in America because I have the best students in America."

Bikes to be Released onto Campus

Gabrielle Isaac
Editor-in-Chief

During the first week that students were back on campus, they had the opportunity to ride school-provided bikes to their classes, the cafeteria and to any other on-campus destination.

According to President Ben Hancock and Landon Bentham, the Director of Development at Methodist University, the bikes are a crucial way to change the culture on campus.

"Bike riding is good for you," Hancock said. "In some ways, our bike program is a symbol of wellness."

The bikes had been suggested before, and there have been many good reports about the program. If anything else, the students, staff and faculty want more bikes.

"I've heard a lot of positive things from students," Bentham said.

In the years to come, according to the MU Master Plan, Methodist University will become a "walking campus." This means that parking lots will be pushed to the outskirts of campus, making most paths accessible only by foot or other small means of transportation such as skateboards or scooters. The new bike program takes a step toward fulfilling this vision.

Even though the bike program is liked among the

students, staff and faculty of MU, there have been some problems. Wear and tear, as well as other damages that have occurred, have made consistent repairs needed. Currently, the bikes have been withdrawn from campus for these reasons. Faculty is looking into modifications to make the bikes safer for students while still keeping the program open and based on trust.

"[There is] no checkout process," Bentham said.

Students are expected to take care of the bikes. An email was sent out to the student body that contained rules on the bikes and how they are to be used:

"Do not use the bicycles for exhibitions, tricks, or in a manner that compromises the safety of others traveling around campus. Student[s] will be held responsible for all repair costs for any affiliated damages."

The question that this raises is: How will MU staff know what kind of damage

occurred if there is no way of knowing who had the bike? Without a responsible party, staff cannot check if the damage was done by the rider or if the bike simply needed maintenance. Currently, the system is based on a sort of "honor code." Students are expected to alert the Campus Ministry staff if a bike was damaged while in their care.

Either way, the bikes will be released back into the MU community with some modifications to ensure that they are secure. Seats will be locked so that they cannot be removed. Helmets will be available for checkout in Nimocks or at the Mane Spot in Berns.

"Depending on how this next release goes, we will determine a check out process," Bentham said.

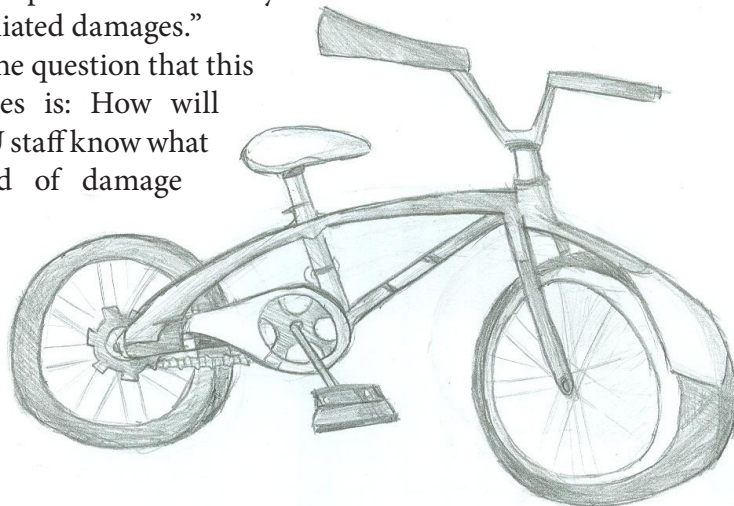


Illustration: Emory Jacobs

This Week at Methodist

Sept. 17: Reeves School of Business Executive Speaker. 11 a.m. Yarborough Auditorium*

Sept. 19: Opening Reception for Paula Fitzpatrick's Art Exhibition "Exotic Encounters" 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. David McCune International Art Gallery (Sept. 19-Oct. 24)*

Sept. 19: Investigative Psychology, Serial Killers, and Criminal Minds Presentation by author Dr. Katherine Ramsland. 3:30 p.m. Yarborough Auditorium.*

Sept. 21: Faculty Recital Featuring Shannon French and Erin Matson, adjunct instructors of music Presented by Friends of Music 7:30 p.m. Hensdale Chapel.*

* indicates free admission.

Witnessing the Terror: Sept. 11 Perspective

Christopher West
Staff Writer

It was a beautiful Tuesday morning in New York City on September 11, 2001. The skies were clear and it was expected to be a busy day for everyone, like it always was. I had just gotten ready to walk to school on that beautiful morning with my little brother. I was headed to school in Queens, most notably Sunnyside, at around 8:15 a.m. I arrived at my grammar school and settled in, getting ready for the day's lessons. After about 30 to 35 minutes, my entire class heard a loud boom or some sort of explosion. I thought it was a car wreck outside my school. Five minutes later, sirens went off and I could see the fire trucks headed straight down Queens Boulevard toward Manhattan.

My school made an announcement on the loud speakers saying, "At 8:48 a.m. an explosion occurred in the World Trade Center. There will be an immediate dismissal. Please proceed to the exits. This is not a fire drill." As I heard this, I immediately thought, "explosion?" I also realized both my parents were working in the city. My Mother worked in Times Square, while my father was to attend a job interview

on the 101st floor of the North Tower of the World Trade Center.

Thankfully, both of my parents were fine. My father was on the 7 a.m. train heading to the North tower, where a lady was waiting to interview him. "I don't think she made it out, she was a good person. To this day, I thank her for giving me an opportunity," my father said. My father was inside the train when the first plane, American Airlines Flight 11, struck the tower. My father told me he was in shock and immediately imagined himself inside the building where he was headed. I was picked up by my friend's mother after being dismissed from school and taken back home to my apartment, where I watched the passing events from our roof. I couldn't believe what I saw. Large amounts of smoke were coming out the North Tower.

Back then, I was in the second grade, and I couldn't distinguish which towers were which. A few minutes later I could see a small object from a distance approaching very fast. At first I thought it was a helicopter until we witnessed a huge ball of fire coming out of the building. I heard a lot of screaming, crying and cursing in my neighborhood. My mother's friend told me it was another plane. This was at around 9:03 a.m.

She then brought me inside the apartment and turned the television on. None of the channels were working except the news stations. My baby-sitter tuned to Channel Fox 5, our local news station. I saw the worst thing imaginable: people hanging outside the windows reaching for air and jumping out of the building. Back then I thought it was papers, desks or phones flying off the building. It was only a couple of minutes before I realized there were real people willingly jumping out. I never understood why they jumped out of the buildings until I learned that those planes carried thousands of gallons of jet fuel that were burning people to death at extreme temperatures. A helicopter camera focused in on one woman in particular who did the sign of the cross and looked up to the sky before she jumped. That moment left a hole in my heart, and I cried. I watched both towers collapse on themselves from my roof. I saw thousands of people die on 9/11, at the age of seven, and I still think about it to this day. Firemen willingly went upstairs into the towers to rescue injured people and help evacuate the buildings. The courage displayed by the firemen will be forever strong in the hearts of New Yorkers. I have the utmost respect and reverence towards firefighters and still do; every year I wear an FDNY T-shirt and hat on Sept. 11 to honor those who have fallen. I once thought of becoming a firefighter for the FDNY, but I used to think that only true men could wear those uniforms and serve the city with pride. I am grateful to this day that my parents didn't suffer what many others had. Unfortunately, I did know one of the firefighters who died on Sept. 11, 2001. He was stationed in Maspeth - an area in Queens that is very close to Manhattan - under the ladder company Squad 288.

Witnessing the worst terrorist attack in history outside of my apartment and seeing some of my friends lose mothers, fathers and other relatives was tough to swallow. Many New Yorkers have flashbacks to that day and struggle to cope with the loss of their friends and family members. Every New Yorker asks his or her self, "Where was I on that day?" I am lucky and grateful to be alive. It could have been me inside those towers. Let us all keep those people in our prayers. Thank you, and God Bless America.

Summer-at-Sea Made for Phenomenal Summer

Alex Socinski
Contributing Writer

Where do I begin on speaking about such a life changing event? I can give you a general gist of what my summer was like, but nothing I say or tell you will ever do justice to what I experienced in two months. I visited ten countries, nine of which I had never been to before. It all began in the Bahamas, and then I made my way to Spain, Italy, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Greece, Turkey, Morocco and Portugal. All the while I was taking college classes taught by, in my opinion, some of the smartest professors in the world. I sailed on the Semester-at-Sea Summer 2012 Voyage, and it was truly a voyage of a lifetime.

Honestly, your best bet at this point is to Google Semester-at-Sea because you probably won't understand anything I'm about to say. I can do my best of explaining my experiences by showing you pictures or trying to elucidate to you what I did, but there is no way to explain what seeing land feels like after sailing across the Atlantic Ocean for eight days. You're not going to understand what I'm talking about when I talk about Dow Jones, Chiputos, Revelin, or Fuego. You can try and Google those, but you can't Google the experience.

This summer, I backpacked on the Amalfi Coast and cliff jumped off the city walls in Dubrovnik. I also spent ten straight hours at a club in Mykonos, eventually witnessing the sun rise from the dance floor; that was truly spectacular. I got lost in the Grand Bazaar in Istanbul. I also burned a hole in my wallet, but it was worth it. I rode camels on the beaches of Morocco and woke up a 21-year-old in Marrakech, then ran around Casablanca trying to find a restaurant that served beer during Ramadan. I attempted to walk to Asia, eventually reaching it by boat. I met some of the most spectacular people ever. And when it was nearing

its end, I could not believe how much of an absolutely phenomenal summer I had.

Studying abroad is something everyone should do. If you are thinking about studying abroad, think about Semester-at-Sea. I cannot pinpoint exactly how this opportunity will change your life, but it will. It changes every one of its participants. To see what I saw, to experience what I experienced, to learn what I learned, was truly a pleasure. Semester-at-Sea will be the best decision you have ever made. What are you waiting for?



Socinski (middle), got to meet several new people as he traveled the world.

New Program to Begin at Methodist University

Sharonda Pugh
Contributing Writer

These Are Our Stories is a series dedicated to spotlighting the personal identity-based stories of members in the Methodist University community. This program is very much in line with the University's mission of respecting diversity and recognizing the dignity and worth of all human beings. "These Are Our Stories" is really a community program as it involves participation from students, faculty and staff and it shows that we are all connected. We are connected around the idea of story—we all have one. Many times people see themselves as individuals, not part of a greater picture. Within the purpose and scope of this program, we are not just individuals living our everyday lives—we are a community of people with tremendous stories and histories. We are united by those stories and histories. Recognition

of this idea has great potential to bring us closer together and create avenues of understanding and empathy. We will come to learn the stories of individuals in our university community and we truly began to "see" each other—our triumphs and our struggles. In the grandest scheme of things, what we learn will begin to impact what we think of others and how we relate. There is power and potential in OUR STORIES and an incredible opportunity for change.

Our first conversation is Sept. 14, 2012 in the Berns Student Center. The whole campus is invited to attend this event where some of our own faculty and students will be sharing their cultural journeys. This is the kick-off to what will surely be a fantastic year for this series.

Hispanic Students at MU Take Pride In Culture

Q. What is it like being a Latino/a student at MU?

A. "My family raised me to be proud of my culture and to take my language and heritage with me everywhere I go. As a New Transfer student at Methodist, I want to leave my mark on campus and serve as a voice for Latino students. In the Spring, I joined Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Incorporated, and am trying to expand my organization here at Methodist. Thus far, my efforts have allowed me to meet several people [that] have reached out to me about collaborating together to host events catering towards the Latino community, and I can't wait to get started," Glorimar Carrasquillo said.



Glorimar Carrasquillo



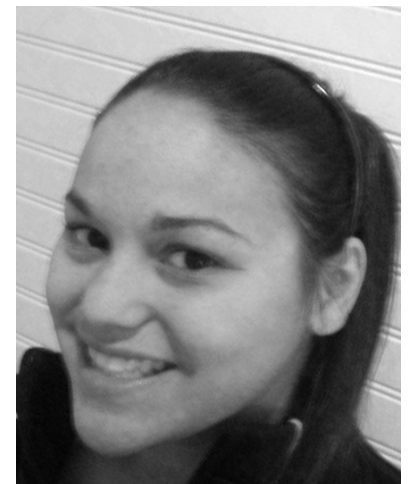
Jennifer Perez

Q. Who are your heroes or role models?

A. "My hero, of course, is Jesus Christ. I also look up to many artists and musicians as they are a major influence in my artwork and song writing," Jennifer Perez said.

Q. What are you most proud of about your culture?

A. "I would say the value we have of family. We value family more than anything because family will love you no matter what and not judge you," Mary Wittenburg said.



Mary Wittenburg

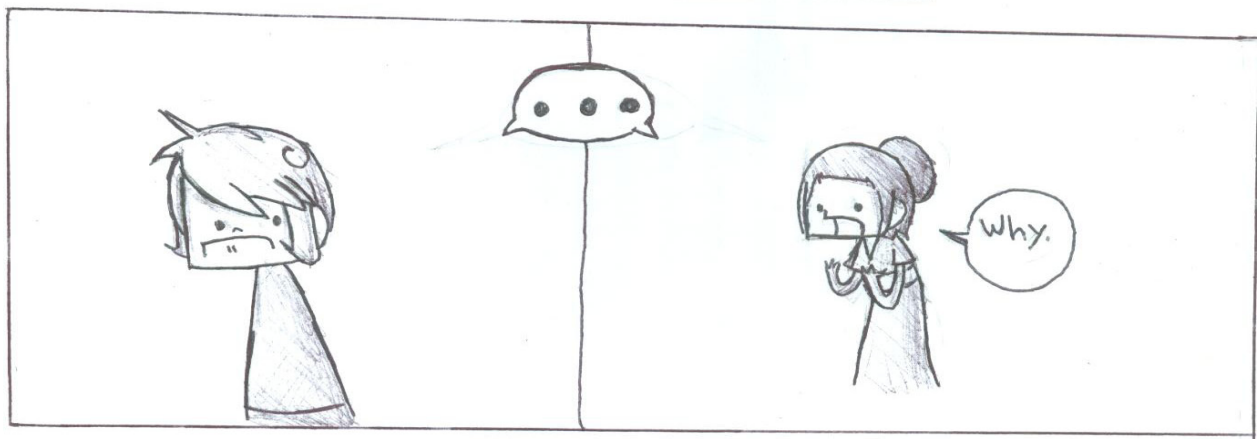
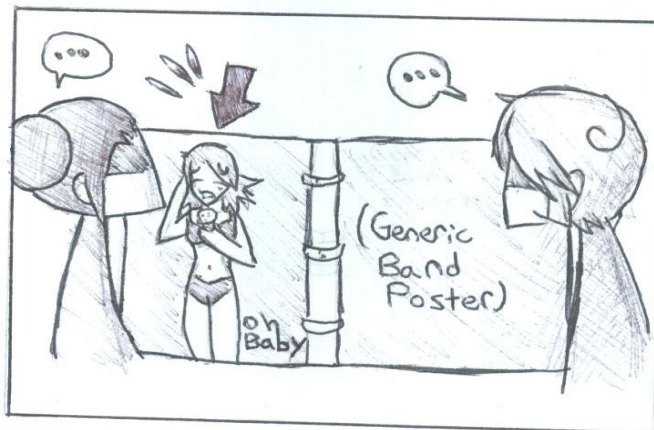


Christian Lopez

Q. What are you most proud of about your culture?

A. "I am proud of the celebrations that take place, especially when it is a birthday. Families take pride in their children to make their birthdays truly special," Christian Lopez said.

Poster Fair



By: Emory Jacobs

Dressing up is Not Hard to Do: Style Profile

Gabrielle Isaac
Editor-in-Chief

The Style Profile gives students, faculty and staff a chance to get tips and tricks on style and fashion. It also gives students a chance to highlight their fashion choices. Here, Courtney Bartlett is sporting flip flops, pale yellow skinny jeans, a white top, gray cover-up and a bright, floral scarf.

“I love colors, especially colored skinny jeans. I have a pretty bright personality and like to show that through what I wear. I tend to add cute little scarves on, no matter the season. I work at American Eagle, so I try to stay with the latest trends. I have a tendency to just grab stuff out of my closet, so dressing nicely doesn’t take any more time than it would to just grab a pair of sweats out of my drawer. To me, style changes all the time and it’s what you’re most comfortable in.”

Courtney Bartlett
Sophomore

Courtney Bartlett



Make Your Own Headband: Do It Yourself

Gabrielle Isaac
Editor-in-Chief

Supply List:

- Wide Plastic head band
- Paint Brush
- Mod Podge
- Magazines/Comics

Directions:

1. After buying the supplies above, sort through different magazines or comic pages and find enough pictures to cover your headband. After you have found pictures that you like, lay them over the headband to make sure that the headband’s surface is completely covered.

2. Next, put some mod podge on a paint brush and cover the very top of the headband. (This is the section that you will see when headband is in your hair.)

3. Once you’ve done Step 2, lay the pictures you chose earlier onto your headband. Make sure to put the pictures on every blank space.

4. After all of your pictures are placed onto the headband, paint more mod podge on top of the pictures on the headband.

5. Let it sit until it’s dry, and you will have yourself a one of a kind headband!

Methodist Munchies: Puppy Chow Snack

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup peanut butter
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1 cup chocolate chips
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 9 cups Crispix cereal (any flavor)
- 3 cups powdered sugar

Instructions:

1. Using a microwave safe bowl, combine the peanut butter, chocolate and butter.
2. Microwave the mixture for one minute then stir to blend all of the ingredients thoroughly. Add 1/2 teaspoon vanilla. Stir well.
3. Place the 9 cups of Crispix cereal in a very large bowl.
4. Pour the peanut butter-chocolate mixture over the cereal and toss. Make sure the cereal gets covered evenly.
5. Place the powdered sugar in a large zip-lock type plastic bag.
6. Add the peanut butter-chocolate cereal mixture to the bag, leaving enough room for the puppy chow to be shaken. You may have to divide the snack
7. Shake the bag vigorously to evenly coat each piece of the puppy chow with powdered sugar.
8. Once the mixture is fully coated, place in a large serving bowl.
9. Coat any additional pieces by shaking the mixture in the powdered sugar filled bag. Add powdered sugar to the bag as needed until all the mixture is coated.

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Men's Soccer Kicks off Year with a Win

Christopher West
Staff Writer

The Men's soccer team began the weekend with a game against The College of Wooster. The Monarchs led the way with a 4-0 shutout win over the College of Wooster on the first of two matches. Three sophomores were able to bypass the defensive line and kick the ball into the net. It was all that was needed to secure the win. The next day, while playing against Marietta College's Marietta Classic, the Monarchs won with a score

of 7-1. The highlight of the game was when Junior Eric McGinnis completed a hat trick by scoring three goals in one game, securing the victory for the Monarchs. The season has taken off with a core of experienced players on the squad, and Students and Faculty alike are encouraged to support the Monarchs! The next men's soccer game will be on Sept. 15 at 12 p.m. against Averett University.



The Men's Soccer team meets before the game. Christopher West.

Football Team Plays Washington-Jefferson College

Christopher West
Staff Writer

On Sept. 1, the Monarch football team began the season on a tough stretch against Washington and Jefferson College with a final score of 6-23, marking the Monarchs first loss of the season. The Monarchs look to their next game on Sept. 15 against Emory and Henry College at 1 p.m.

Throughout the first half of the game, the Monarchs had trouble moving up and down the field. W&J College took advantage on offense

and defense throughout the whole game. Later on, the power went out of the stadium, making it difficult for spectators to keep up with the score. The game stopped for a few minutes to check out the technical difficulties. The game continued after it was found that the technical difficulties could not be fixed at that time. We all look forward to seeing the Monarchs play again. The MU community supports you and your efforts. Go Monarchs!!



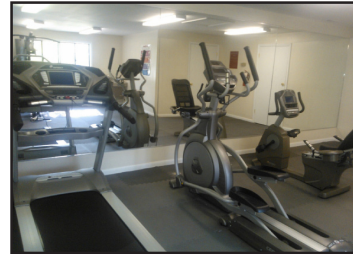
Vaughn Cross getting pulled down by Washington-Jefferson player

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Green and Gold Fridays At Chick-fil-A Ramsey Street!

Beginning Friday, September 7th, 2012, the first 100 Methodist University Monarchs wearing their Green and Gold colors at Chick-fil-A Ramsey Street will receive a complimentary breakfast entrée! This opportunity will last from 6:00 am - 10:00 am, so bring your student or faculty I.D. and start your day off right at Chick-fil-A Ramsey Street!



Tutoring At Chick-fil-A Ramsey Street!

Struggling in your classes? Have no fear, for Chick-fil-A Ramsey Street is here! Some of your fellow Methodist University Monarchs will be available to help you with your classes at Chick-fil-A Ramsey Street every Thursday in September and October from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm.

MU Up All Night At Chick-fil-A Ramsey Street!

On Wednesday, October 3rd, Methodist University Monarchs are invited to Chick-fil-A Ramsey Street from 10:00 pm - 11:00 pm. The first 200 Monarchs to arrive will receive a complimentary entrée, so don't miss out on the fun!

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