

Auditions set for new show choir

By Whitney Larrimore
Assistant Editor

Methodist College has an active music department with many performing groups such as Rainbow's End, the MC Chorus, and the Stage Band. The department is about to gain one more performing group: the Methodist College Show Choir.

Show Choir is being established by Betty Neill Parsons, assistant professor of music and director of Rainbow's End. The show choir will begin in fall semester 1997.

Show choir is, according to Parsons, "a group of approximately 12 to 24 performers who perform popular music by singing and dancing." Show choir is not to be confused with Rainbow's End in any sense, though the two groups are somewhat similar. Rainbow's End sings some popular music, but it most often performs religious music. There is also some choreography, but it is not complex. Show Choir will be different in that the music that will be performed is secular, and the choreography employed will be much more complex. Show Choir will also have a band that will accompany it during performances.

Auditions for Show Choir will be held this semester on Feb. 18,

Feb. 27, and March 3. This group will be a one-semester-hour class and have a syllabus just like any other class. Participating students won't get a scholarship, but can get credit for their arts requirement as an applied music.

Parsons says, "[Students will] follow a curriculum. Included in the curriculum are performance, attitude, physical, vocal and mental presentation, and physical/vocal energy." In essence, Parsons says students will have to "know how to sell a song."

Once the group is assembled, it will include a maximum of 24 performers (12 men and 12 women) and the accompanying band members. The band will be composed of percussion, piano, guitar, and brass sections. Flashy costumes will be worn by the performers and band members alike. The costumes will be made so that slight alterations, like reversible jackets and Velcro pieces, can give them three different looks. The group will perform six times a semester because, according to Parsons, "Twenty-four people have to have room to do the choreography," and only places with large auditoriums can host that kind of performance. The band also limits the group's touring capabilities because

the chorus will have to move a full-size band.

Each time the choir performs, it will do eight to ten musical pieces. This music will range from Broadway pieces to top 40, hip-hop, and rhythm and blues. "The music will be secular big time," says Parsons, with pieces by artists like Janet Jackson and Madonna. The group will not tour abroad; however, Parsons hopes that MC can begin hosting a show choir contest each spring where show choirs from around the east coast will come to Methodist to compete. This will be similar to the type of contest held at James Madison University in Virginia where groups compete for high honors in show choir performance.

The name of the choir has not been established yet; it will be decided upon later by the chorus members. Whatever the name, Parsons hopes it will be a name synonymous with MC. "I would like the MC show choir to be made up of people from all areas of MC," says Parsons, "and [for these people] to be ambassadors for Methodist."

For more information about auditions, call Betty Neill Parsons at 630-4198.

On-line business listings aid job search

MIDDLETON, Mass.-- Looking for a job just got a little easier thanks to BigYellow (www.bigyellow.com), a national on-line yellow pages service that lists nearly every business in the United States. Graduating seniors can find everything they need to help land a great job upon graduation by using this service developed by NYNEX.

It's not too early to start thinking about how to put that new degree to use and how to begin paying off those student loans. Rather than spending hours looking through piles of reference books, graduates-to-be can log on to BigYellow to check out thousands of different products and services available to help find a great job.

Students can use BigYellow to find comprehensive lists of resume services, employment agencies, and career counseling firms. Many of

these businesses are showcasing their products and services with comprehensive Web sites so that graduates can make informed choices. BigYellow also has shopping information to help find a great-looking interview suit or even a new car to get you to those interviews.

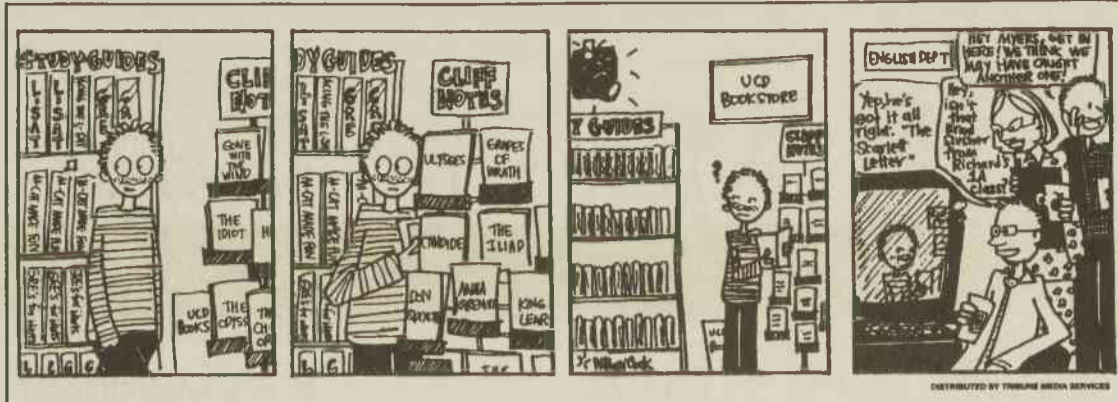
For example, a student can type in Employment Agencies in New York and find hundreds of listings like Career Blazers, a White Plains-based full-service staffing firm. This company helps everyone from recent college graduates to experience professionals find a job. The JobBank is another Big Yellow advertiser whose Web site allows you to submit a resume to their resume database or search the JobBank USA database for a job.

BigYellow's database is extensive, with more than 16 million business listings. Students can use it to find names and addresses of companies

they're interested in pursuing on their own. The companies are categorized by business type. For example, if you really want to work in the field of computer graphics, simply type it in the category box, highlight your desired work location, and within seconds you'll have a list of prospects.

With more than 5,000 advertisers, BigYellow exceeds any other on-line shopping directory in content and is one of the largest advertiser-supported sites on the Internet. The service is free to consumers.

BigYellow also features 75 million residential listings, as well as a directory of 7.5 million e-mail addresses. Complementary shopping information is also supplied by more than 20 content partners for topics including dining, entertainment, health care, computers, travel, finance, education, home improvement, legal, and home-based businesses.



Campus News from around the nation

West Point cadet acquitted of rape

WEST POINT, N.Y.--A West Point cadet accused of raping a female classmate after an off-campus party was acquitted Jan. 24.

James P. Engelbrecht, 22, told a court-martial jury that he did not know the woman had been drinking heavily when she climbed into bed with him. He also said the female cadet initiated the sex.

The party was held last Memorial Day weekend at the New Jersey home of another cadet. The woman testified that she had passed out in a bed, then awoke in pain to find Engelbrecht raping her.

The case marked the first time a cadet has accused a classmate of rape since the academy began enrolling women 20 years ago.

The prosecutor, Capt. Dean Raab, told the court in surrogation that it didn't make sense for the woman, who claimed to have been a virgin, to suddenly become "a sexual predator."

Engelbrecht's defense attorney focused on the woman's inability to remember details and inconsistencies in her story.

Personality may influence TV watching

GAINESVILLE, Fla.--You are what you watch, suggests a new study by a University of Florida researcher.

An energetic guy is more likely to watch *Hard Copy* after a tough day at work, while the stereotypical lazy guy will watch videos on MTV for hours on end, said Cynthia Frisby, a UF advertising doctorate student.

"My study determined that a link exists between program choice and personality type," said Frisby.

Frisby surveyed 289 people spanning a wide range of ages, education, and income. The subjects answered questions relating to five major personality traits: openness, extroversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, and emotionality/neuroticism.

Frisby found the subjects' personality types not only influenced what television shows they watched, but also why they watched them.

Most groups of people in the study watched TV primarily for entertainment and escape reasons. But certain types of personalities were drawn to certain types of shows.

Hostile or rude people tended to watch situation comedies for information, Frisby said. "This could be because they are unable to interact socially with people," she added.

Extroverts tended to tune in frequently to soap operas and news magazine shows. Unenergetic people reported watching music videos often and emotionally related to talk shows.

The results of Frisby's study could be useful to advertisers. For example, if people are sitting down to watch *Seinfeld* each week primarily to be entertained, an informative car commercial may not work well with the audience.

"If we can define these shows by personality types, advertising could be much more effective," Frisby said.

First-generation students lack support

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa.-- Compared to traditional college students, first-generation students take fewer classes, work more hours off-campus, and expect to take more time to complete their degrees.

See **FIRST GENERATION**, page 3

NC Symphony to perform in concert with pianist Feb. 26

The North Carolina Symphony will perform the N.C. premiere of contemporary composer Steve Heitzeg's *Mustang* in a concert featuring pianist Andre Watts on Wed., Feb. 26 at 8 p.m. in Reeves Auditorium.

Music director Gerhardt Zimmerman will conduct the concert, which also features Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's *Francesca da Rimini*. Watts will perform Johannes Brahms' *Piano Concerto No. 1* as part of the symphony's season-long Brahms retrospective on the 100th anniversary of the composer's death.

Single tickets are available. Reserved tickets are \$18, adult general admission is \$15, and student and senior citizen general admission tickets are \$12. For more information or to order tickets, contact Amy Holt at 323-2924 or Adrienne Watts at 433-2382.

Student Leaders Sought

Summer 1997 Internships

The Fund for American Studies is recruiting leaders from colleges and universities to participate in its 1997 summer institutes at Georgetown University in Washington, DC.

Undergraduate students will gain critical work experience through internships in public policy, politics, business, journalism, or international affairs and will earn credits through course work at Georgetown University. The final application deadline is March 15, 1997. There is no minimum GPA requirement, and students who have been active on campus are encouraged to apply.

For brochures and applications, students should contact The Fund for American Studies at (800) 741-6964 or visit our web site at <http://www.dccinternships.org>

History dept. honors African-American contributions in films

Staff Report

The history department is sponsoring a tribute to African-American achievements by showing the films *The Color Purple* and *Hoop Dreams*.

As part of the observance of Black History Month, the department sponsored showings of *Glory* on Feb. 7 and *Malcolm X* on Feb. 14.

The Color Purple, based on the novel by Alice Walker, stars Whoopi Goldberg, Danny Glover, and

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you would like, I can come back another time and finish it at a much higher price." Engel drew laughter in his reference to the marketing scheme set up by Dickens, in which Dickens would sell his books three chapters at a time in order to ensure that the readers would continue to buy his work. Dickens used this strategy in making his novel *The Pickwick Papers* the best-selling novel of the 19th century.

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"I couldn't believe this was the man I see on TV all the time, and here he was in front of me."

Monroe was impressed by the size of Jordan's giant hands; however, he was surprised that Michael isn't as tall as he appears on the screen. Monroe, who plays cornerback on the Monarch football team, stands 6'1" himself. He also hopes to play professional football someday. He is majoring in education, and plans to teach middle school and coach football if the NFL doesn't draft him.

MC football coach Jim Syputt seems to think Monroe has the potential to go professional. "Trayfer was the most productive defensive player we had [this season.] He has the athletic potential and drive to play for the NFL," Syputt said. "He's a

Oprah Winfrey. It will be shown Feb. 21 at 7:30 in T246.

The documentary *Hoop Dreams* depicts two high school basketball players' struggle to earn college scholarships and to earn a spot in the NBA. It also illustrates the influence of their neighborhoods and families. *Hoop Dreams* will be shown Feb. 28 at 7:30 in T246.

Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

Engel closed by offering autographed copies of his latest book for sale as a fundraiser for a children's hospital. Engel was so well-received that he sold the entire box of books and had to take orders from students and staff who were at the end of the line.

Editor's note: The text of Leon Clark's convocation address has been reprinted on page 4 of this issue.

compliment to our team. You only come across a few where you can sit up front and say, 'Be like this.' We wouldn't have any problems if they were all like him."

Athletic talent apparently runs in the Monroe family. Brother Travis has had an excellent recovery from the transplant surgery and is now playing on his high school basketball team in Fairmont, S.C.

So just who is Monroe's favorite NBA star, anyway? He says he likes Jordan's teammate Dennis Rodman "because of his work ethic...he hustles." But, Monroe added, "Basketball is not my favorite sport. It's just a hobby. I like football best."

Oh, and about those exams: Monroe didn't escape them. He took them early.

Counselor's Corner

Editor's note: The Counselor's Corner is a new feature in the *Pride*. The situations and advice herein are drawn from actual cases handled by the Counseling Center. All names and identifying details have been changed to protect the identities of the parties.

Dear Darlene,

I've been friends with this guy for four years. We started off in a relationship which ended badly. I went further sexually than I was comfortable with. He verbally abused me and left me feeling bad about myself. Needless to say, the "more than friends" part of the relationship is over.

He wants to continue to be friends with me. He calls me only when he feels depressed or lonely (using me again?). He continues to be rude to me and embarrass me in front of other people. Still, I care about him and want him to be okay. He has lots of family problems and has attempted suicide in the past. I'm scared that if I cut him off totally, he won't have anyone to turn to. He tells me that I'm the only one he can count on.

Am I being stupid? Should I hang in there with him? Is it advisable or even possible to be friends with someone after so much hurt?

---Friendly

Dear Friendly,

You seem to be caught between your impulse to protect yourself and your impulse to help a hurting human being. That's a tough position to be in. I believe it is possible to do both, provided you get them in the right order. Let me explain by using an analogy.

The last time you took an

airplane flight, the attendant demonstrated the oxygen apparatus and gave instructions. She said, "If you are traveling with young children, give yourself oxygen first before attempting to care for the children." These instructions seem wrong; young children should get immediate attention, you'd think. But after a moment's reflection, it is easy to understand that if you don't care for yourself first, you will be incapable of caring for those you love.

The same is true in relationships. There are some oxygen-like elements that are essential to your emotional health. If you don't have these, you will not be able to have the strength to be of real help to others. These oxygen-like elements include a sense of your own worth and abilities and the knowledge that you are respected by others. If you have these elements in abundance and have the supply replenished daily by other relationships and friendships, then you could probably successfully be in a friendship with someone who is all take and no give. You would know not to expect anything and would be in the friendship in order to be of service.

If you are in short supply of the essential elements of positive regard from yourself and from others, you would be foolish to put yourself in the position to give away what you need most. You will be able to make the right decision, and I suspect that it may vary from day to day. Just be sure and take good care of yourself. You matter, too, you know.

If you would like to submit a problem or request for advice from the counselor, you may send it to Darlene Hopkins, Director of the Counseling Center, Sanford Hall, or call 630-7150.