

METHODIST COLLEGE PRIDE

Fayetteville, NC

Vol. XXXV, No. 11

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Golfers make strong showing in spring break tournament

By Sonya Sparks Murdock
Staff Writer

While many college students headed south for spring break to soak up some sun and party off the winter blues, the Methodist women's golf team had other reasons for traveling to Florida: two golf tournaments.

And while most spring breakers came back with only sunburns and empty wallets to show for their week in the Sunshine State, the Lady Monarchs returned to campus with a strong second place showing and a tournament champion, Tracey Gage.

Gage, a junior majoring in physical education, shot 75-73 to win the NIU Snowbird Intercollegiate Golf Tournament March 12-13. The tournament, hosted by Northern Illinois University, was held at the par 72 Pebble Creek golf course in Tampa, Florida. Gage is a third-year team veteran from Stanberry, Missouri.

Bernie Krick, Head Golf Professional and Director of Instruction, served as interim coach for the

women's team at the tournament. "Tracey gave a very gutsy performance," said Krick. "She overcame the adversity of a really bad start (to win the tournament)." Krick explained that Gage was three over par after the first two holes, but she had a great second round. After the last 16 holes, she was two under par, thanks to four birdies.

Gage's performance helped the team walk away with a second place finish in spite of a bumpy first round, after which Methodist was tied for fourth place with a score of 318. "They turned it around on the second day," said Krick. "The scores were like night and day." The women's second-round score of 305 was the lowest team round of the tournament.

Krick acknowledged the "tremendous team effort" of the five team members who participated in the tournament. Junior Tanice Nilson was the lowest tournament competitor on the first day of play, with a score of 74. Sophomore Stacy Smith shot 73

on the second day, while freshman Melanie Tiptis shot 78. Carol Brogan, another freshman, "fought both days and really came through," according to Krick. Brogan improved by five strokes in the second round.

But Krick credits co-captains Gage and Nilson with motivating their teammates to come back in the second round. "Tracey and Tanice did an outstanding job of keeping everybody up through the tournament," Krick joked, "All I did was drive." The team evidently felt differently. At a post-tournament cookout with the women presented Krick with a team picture to honor him for his one-week coaching effort.

During his one-week stint as the women's team coach, Krick also accompanied the golfers to Orlando, where they placed tenth at the Peggy Kirk Bell Invitational. Eighteen other teams, primarily Division I, participated in the March 9-10 tournament. Methodist was one of only a few teams that represented Division III in

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The Lady Monarch golfers captured second place at the Snowbird Intercollegiate Golf Tournament March 12-13. From left to right are interim coach Bernie Krick, Melanie Tiptis, Stacy Smith, Tanice Nilson, Carol Brogan, and Tracey Gage. (Photo courtesy of Tanice Nilson)

Commuter students' voices sought for improvement in campus services

By Amanda Fellers
Editor

Commuter students make up half of the day student population. They pay the same \$15 student activity fee as resident students. The word is, however, that commuters aren't reaping the same benefits as residents.

Commuter students got the chance to talk about what it's like to be commuters and how the college can improve the college experience for them outside of the classroom at a campus meeting held March 23.

Carla Raineri is the chairman of the committee who sponsored the commuter forum. She described commuter students as a part of the "Methodist College family."

"We don't know how to ad-

dress the needs of commuters," Raineri said. "We're hoping for some solutions." Raineri let the students take the floor in search of those solutions.

Lea Metz, vice-president of the Student Government Association and Mary Johnston, secretary of the Residence Hall Association, offered possible solutions to commuters' needs.

"We do look out for our commuters' concerns and we do listen to what commuters have to say," Metz said.

Metz invited students to visit the SGA office, located in the Student Union, during their office hours of 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Johnson suggested an even

bigger solution--a commuter association similar to the Residence Hall Association.

"If you guys could come together as a student body, that would be awesome," Johnston said.

Johnston encouraged commuters to develop a voice--a voice for the commuter students.

After Metz and Johnston spoke, the meeting shifted to open discussion, and commuters began making suggestions for improvement.

Pat Bryant, a nontraditional student, suggested a common area for commuters. "I am here from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.; I have no place to go," she said.

Other students also voiced the concern of needing a place to go

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Monarch debaters score big at competition



Daniel Charpentier and Greg Thomas won the final round of the American Debate Association's Novice National Championship on a 3-0 decision at the University of Georgia. The team of Susanne Graves and Alexis Parmenter reached the "sweet sixteen" round at the JV cross-examination competition, where they lost a very close 2-1 decision to Cornell University. Debate Coach John Humphreys received national recognition as the recipient of the 1998 Robert Lambert Award for outstanding service to the American Debate Association. (Photo by Bill Billings)

New minor in paralegal studies offered

Staff Report

A new minor in paralegal studies will be offered this fall at Methodist College.

No particular major is required in order to minor in paralegal studies. The most important skills are strong reading, analytic, and writing skills.

The job market and demand for paralegals has been strong in recent years. Some career facts about this profession include:

- a national salary average ranging between \$32,000 to \$35,000 annually;
- high job satisfaction reported;

- interesting topics such as criminal law and procedure, family law, litigation, investigation, and interviewing;
- paralegals are employed in law firms, courts, public defender and district attorneys' offices, governmental agencies, and many business.

- Courses to be offered in Fall 1998 are:
- Law 200: Introduction to Paralegal Studies, Fridays at 12 noon, one semester hour credit.
- Law 320: Research and Writing, Tuesdays/Thursdays at 2 p.m., three semester hours credit.

For more information about a paralegal minor, contact your advisor or see Mrs. Theresa Clark in T123 or Dr. Suzan Cheek in T224.

Suicide: serious problem for college-age people

By Dawn Melvin
Staff Writer

Suicide claims the lives of more young people than any other cause except automobile accidents. Each year, approximately 5,000 American young people kill themselves, approximately one every 90 minutes. This rate is three times what it was 25 years ago.

Suicide attempts, including those which end in death, often reflect the individual's mixed feelings about the action. The individual sees death as the only solution to current problems, but at the same time wishes an answer could be found which would allow them to live without the problems.

According to the Harvard Mental Health Letter, more years of life is lost to suicide than that of heart

disease and cancer.

The suicide rate among people ages 15-24 has increased dramatically in recent decades. Twenty percent of males and 14 percent of females in this group have committed suicide. Suicide attempts by people are among the most common causes of hospital admissions for people under 35 years old, and it is the most common among the elderly.

The causes of suicide can be depression, schizophrenia, alcohol use, and other drug use. Depression is considered the leading cause of suicide. Other factors linked to suicide may include a person who has lost a family member to suicide, individuals who have a low level of the brain chemical serotonin, and serious illness.

"The best way to treat indi-

viduals who are thinking about suicide is to treat the underlying causes. People usually have talk therapy or medication and sometimes both. It is important that they get the help they need," said Darlene Hopkins, director of the Methodist College counseling center.

According to psychiatric experts, many of the signs of suicide are the same associated with depression, including changes in eating and sleeping habits, withdrawal from friends, family and regular activities, persistent boredom, difficulty concentrating, neglect of personal appearance, alcohol and drug abuse and acts of aggression, rebellious behavior and disobedience.

"You never leave a person alone who is showing signs of suicide. You stay with them and talk to

them until help has been arranged," said Hopkins.

Emotional support is important for a person thinking about suicide. A suicidal person needs to know that you care. Ways that you can give a suicidal person support are to reassure the person that he or she does have someone to turn to, not lecturing or pointing out all the reasons a person has to live, and trying to make a contract with the individual to talk to you before he or she commits suicide.

Twenty percent of all successful suicides were alcohol abusers and 70 percent of all successful suicides were caused by depression and manic depressive disorder.

Women are more likely to attempt suicide, but men are usually

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