

small TALK

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J WALKING

FIRST IMPRESSIONS AND PARTING NOTES

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Columnist

Editor's Note: This column can usually be found in the Opinions section, but this week it granted front page attention for all those new students beginning their first years at Methodist College.

Monarchs from all over the United States and even the world converge on the Berns Student Center at Methodist College to begin the long and sometimes arduous task of registration.

The experience can be harrowing even for a seasoned senior like myself. I've been through this seven times now, and even though I consider myself an old pro, I still feel a bit

overwhelmed by the long lines, the new people and familiar friends, and the mountains of paperwork.

I am always eager to see and meet the latest additions to the Monarch family on their first day of college.

As I looked out over the sea of fresh victims-oh, I mean *faces*-and their eyes filled with a curious mix of terror and excitement; I wondered

what could be going through their minds.

Will I like my roommate? Will I choose a major that is right for me? Will the cafeteria food be even remotely edible?

As the first week of the fall

semester

ran on, I had the opportunity to talk to a few of our new Monarchs.

Lawrence Quinnet was scurrying around in Reeves Auditorium one afternoon. Lawrence has grown up around Methodist College. Some veteran Monarchs may remember that he played the character of Randolph in our musical *Bye Bye Birdie* in 2001.

Lawrence likes it at Methodist so far, and he plans to continue his work in fine arts by majoring in music performance.

I ran into Jena Mamon on the balcony of the Student Union. She is a representative of Buffalo, New York. Jena told me that her first impressions of Methodist College

have been great so far. She complemented the new people that she has met and regards everyone to be "really nice."

Brittany Iredale was enjoying the sunshine by the fountain. She told me that college has been everything she expected with one possible exception-the professors talk fast. (I feel your pain, Brittany.)

Erin Lowe was engrossed in her biology book in the Student Center. Erin was home-schooled, and she com-

mented that she felt relieved that Methodist's small, personal atmosphere and dedicated teachers have made her transition to

college much easier.

As I talked with my new friends, a feeling of nostalgia came over me. Four years ago, I was thinking about my first impressions of



photo by Jonelle Kimbrough

Jena Mamon



photo by Jonelle Kimbrough

Chris Kidd



photo by Jonelle Kimbrough

Lawrence Quinnet



photo by Jonelle Kimbrough

Brittany Iredale

Methodist College. Now, I am looking back on what has made my Methodist College experience successful.

I spoke with some sage seniors and asked them what their advice would be to our new students. Gabe Jacobs says that the key to college success is to stay focused and have fun. Michelle Muthiani stresses the importance of keeping up with your graduation requirements so that future college days will be smooth

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