



News..... 1-4
 Opinions..... 5-7
 Entertainment... 8-9
 Sports..... 10-11

Hazing lawsuit settled out of court

KENICHI YOKOTA
 Staff Writer



In the past year and a half, former Methodist College football player and student, Kent Murphy took his hazing case to court against Methodist College where he lost, but just recently settled out of court for an unspecified monetary settlement.

Murphy filed the lawsuit against Methodist College in May 2003 after a Nov. 11, 2002 incident, in which he claimed he was a victim of hazing by seven of his football teammates.

Murphy claimed for unspecified actual and punitive damages of more than \$10,000. Murphy's lawyer, Tron Faulk said she could not reveal the amount of the settlement although Murphy stated he was satisfied with the amount, but it could never change what happened to him according to the Fayetteville Observer.

According to Faulk, the settlement was reached on March



Photo by Malia Kalua

The Methodist Monarch Football Team continued into a successful season after the events that affected 8 of their players. Chris Ronkettii leads the football team into a season of recovery after the hazing events.

5 while Murphy and his family confirmed it two weeks ago. On March 17, 2004, the court dismissed the lawsuit.

The defendant Elton Hendricks, President of Methodist College and his lawyer Rod Pettey remained silent about the case according to the Fayetteville Observer.

The timeline leading up to this settlement is below:

- Nov. 11, 2002 – Murphy claimed he was hazed by seven of his teammates

- Within same year, Methodist College campus police charged all seven players.

- The college expelled one football player and placed the other six on disciplinary probation

- January 2003, a state Court of Appeals dismissed the campus police charges, and Cumberland County Sheriff's office charged one player with 2nd-degree sexual assault and three with misdemeanor hazing

- March 2003, a grand jury decided no players were indicted

on any charges.

- May 2003, Kent Murphy and his family filed the lawsuit against Methodist College

- July 2003, Methodist contracted with Cumberland County Sheriff's office to provide campus police

Methodist has changed some policies since the Nov. 11 incident, which include the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office policing on campus and adding a hazing outline to the school's judicial code in the student handbook, which went into effect Jan. 7th, 2003. In it, a student found guilty of inappropriate behavior will have "a minimum penalty of probation and may receive a maximum penalty of expulsion."

The code also said if a student "is found guilty of having violated the North Carolina hazing status," the student will be expelled from college.

Methodist also requires athletes to read a hazing clause and sign a form agreeing to obey it.

Today, Murphy goes to Sandhills Community College and participates in a rhythm and blues band according to the Fayetteville Observer.

**Inside
 this issue:**



In Theaters:
 Hellboy



DVD Review:
 Pieces of April



Point/Counterpoint:
 Creation vs. Evolution



Kurt Cobain Tribute