

STUDENT FREE PRESS

Sept. 2, 2008

An Independent Publication by Macon State College Students

Vol. 1; Issue 2

I wish I knew ...

Staffers offer advice to new students

... that there is a wonderful health clinic on campus that is paid for by Student Activity Fees.

The Health Clinic, which is located near the MSC Wellness Center, offers many services from physicals to treating minor illnesses. I had the opportunity during spring semester. The nurse was thorough, friendly and correctly diagnosed my problem along with providing some health advice and a prescription of medication.



LaShonda Slaughter, Staff

From STD screening to flu shots and minor health care, the MSC Health Clinic is an asset

of which all students should take advantage.

The clinic is open Monday through Friday and has flexible hours that will fit around any student's schedule.

For information on the Health Clinic, visit www.maconstate.edu/wellness/healthclinic/

- The importance of going to class every day.
- You don't have to go to class every day.
- It's easy to get distracted.
- College is more about making connections than making grades.
- Cheap beer has its price.



JEFraley, Staff

... that Learning Support classes did not count towards your GPA.

I did not learn about it until half way through my first semester. Not to say I did not enjoy the classes, or need them, I just was left with this shock that all the good grades I



- Jamie Bowen, Staff

had been making really did not even matter in the grand scheme of things.

It was as if I were in ghost classes. I did very much appreciate everything I learned (and reviewed) during that semester but if I had known before starting them that they did not contribute to my GPA I would not have fooled myself into believing that I earned a 4.0 GPA, and would have been better prepared for the disappointment it caused.

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MSC student dies after game of football

By Alex Bender
Staff

Domonique Cornelius Edwards, 19, was found dead in his apartment on Friday afternoon. Edwards, of Snellville, Ga., was a sophomore Engineering student at Macon State College.

Reports indicate that Edwards suffered a fall during a game of football on the afternoon of Wed., Aug. 27. Edwards' family became concerned when they were unable to contact him during the following days and friends of Edwards ultimately gained access to his room on Friday afternoon and found him unresponsive.

According to Bibb County Coroner Leon Jones, an autopsy, performed on Saturday, indicated Edwards died as a result of a ruptured kidney. Ruptured Kidneys are most commonly the result of automobile accidents and it is likely that Edwards was not aware of the severity of his injury as it is most commonly diagnosed in the hospital.

According to the Merck Manual, "Symp-



Picture from Domonique Edwards' MySpace page.

toms of a blunt kidney injury may include pain in the upper abdomen or flank (the area between the ribs and hip), bruising of the flank, blood in the urine, or pain resulting from fractures of the lower ribs. With severe kidney injuries, low blood pressure (shock) and anemia may occur if the person loses a significant amount of blood."

Friends and family remember Edwards as a bright young man with warming sense of humor. The "comments" section of Edwards' MySpace page was filled with memories and thoughts of those affected by his death.

Lynn McCraney, Dean of Students at MSC, extended regard over the untimely death of Edwards. "Domonique was an excellent student who will be greatly missed by everyone who knew and respected him. We

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Faculty advisers resign from *Matrix*

By Jenny Murr
Staff

After serving only one year of service, Dr. Sheree Keith, Assistant Professor of Speech, and Dr. Laura Thomason, Assistant Professor of English, resigned their positions as faculty advisers to the *Matrix* on Aug. 20. Their resignations come after a year of flux regarding the daily operation of the student newspaper and the authority of faculty advisers that led to the mass exodus of the *Matrix* editorial board last year.

According to the Recognized Student Organization handbook, advisers are to be a "compass and not a rudder" to student organizations. While the faculty advisers

adhered to this mandate, the *Matrix* editorial board claimed that the newly hired Student Media Coordinator (previously listed as Publication Coordinator), Ray Lightner, along with Dean of Students Lynn McCraney, were implementing changes which usurped the duties of both the faculty advisers and the *Matrix* editorial board.

After the retirement of Dr. Larry Fennelly, tenured faculty adviser to the *Matrix* and former Professor of English and Mass Communications and Chair, Division of Learning Support, Student Life made changes that the editorial board and the Student Press Law Center claimed were surreptitious efforts to censor the paper. Lightner

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Extracurricular activities offered in Jones Building

By Jamie Bowen
Staff

As fall classes begin, the Jones Building is buzzing with activity. While many students are familiar with the classes offered in the building, they may not know about the extracurricular opportunities offered by affiliated student organizations. Faculty advisors explained that quite a few events have been planned to keep students' interest this semester.

Dr. David Davis, Department of Natural Sciences and Engineering Interim Chair, offered information about the Natural Science Network. NSN is planning a camping trip to Helen, Ga., Sept. 19. They are also planning to host a corn maze on Halloween day. In addition, the club will sponsor a blood drive on Oct. 1.


Dr. Barry Monk, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science Chair, said that while Math students are currently meeting regularly with NSN, they are attempting to start a Math club of their own. He also stated that they are discussing holding an Open House for Math and Science majors, which he believes might become a school-wide Open House.

Dr. Donna Balding, assistant professor of biology, said that there would be an Arts and Crafts Festival on Nov. 22. On Dec. 4, the Natural Science Network will host a party in the Jones Building to mark the end of the semester.

For information or to join these clubs, stop by the NSN table at the club fairs on the Warner Robins campus on Sept. 9 or on the Macon Campus on Sept. 10.

CLUB FAIR

W.R. Campus | **Macon Campus**
Sept. 9; 10 - 2 | **Sept. 10; 10 - 2**



AUDITIONS!

September 3-5
Wed. - Fri.
6:00 p.m.
Humanities Bldg.
Theatre
For information,
contact
jason.levitt@
maconstate.edu

Visit our website for a complete calendar:
www.studentfreepressonline.com

Advisers resign

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hindered the *Matrix's* distribution when he denied expenditures that were previously approved by the faculty advisers. When the editorial board questioned Lightner's ability to deny the faculty adviser's decision, Lightner said that he had veto power over all decisions made by the faculty advisers.

Several attempts were made by the students to have autonomy restored to the *Matrix*. Meetings with the Publications Committee and Dean McCraney last year proved to be fruitless. When the paper was suspended indefinitely, students from the publication created an independent student paper. Students who previously did not want to work on the student paper, governed by Student Life, have joined the new publication.

Lightner is now listed as the sole adviser to the *Matrix* according to the Macon State College website. When questioned about the adviser's resignation, Lightner said, "They didn't resign; they weren't renewed." Lightner said that he would be the only adviser to the student publication.

For opinions and coverage regarding the ongoing plight of the Matrix, visit www.studentfreepressonline.com

OP/ED I am a Maconite

By Alex Bender

What the hell are boiled peanuts?

I had never eaten a real BBQ sandwich and the idea of a pink hot dog was quite repugnant. It was 2003 and I was new to Macon. Not just new to Macon, but new to the south, new to this south.

I came from Pennsylvania. Really, it's only ever been the fact that I'm from north of the Mason-Dixon Line that's mattered. I was born and raised a Yankee.

We never drank sweet tea. Pizza and hoagie joints substitute the proliferation of BBQ and soul food restaurants you see down here and the popularity of camo amongst the residents is the probably biggest, if not the only, commonality we share.

To others, I must have sounded like a character out of a Mafia movie. "You ain't from round here, are ya" I would hear, but more often I would just get a stern glare and a "Where you from?" when someone overheard me talking.

It still happens from time to time, but I suppose that elements of the south have gradually been incorporated into my language, and even into my demeanor, enough

Student death

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send our most sincere sympathy to his family", said McCraney. McCraney also wished to remind students that "services of the Counseling Center and the Health Clinic are available to assist them as they work through the tremendous loss of this fine young man." Funeral services are to be held at Salem Missionary Baptist Church in Snellville on Friday, Sept. 5, at 11 a.m., with burial at the Eternal Hill Memory Gardens.

I wish I knew . . .

. . . that the best support and assistance available to students comes from professors and other students. In my experience, when I have tried to get help from MSC I was asked to show my Student ID and fill out paperwork.

As a result, I felt like nobody cared. After many attempts and appointments later, I never received the help I needed.

I appreciate the help of professors and students. I hope that I can help to other students during their time of need, because helping others is an act that benefits the giver and receiver.



-Walter Perry, Staff

For more tips, visit www.studentfreepressonline.com

so that I at least appear to be someone who isn't entirely out of his element.

There has always been a feeling of security that came along with having another place to call home. I never did mind being the out of town guy. In a way, that's been my identity. I've recently started to let go of the idea of having something to fall back on, something to help me resist acclimating to this new environment. "Nope, I'm not from around here, just passing through, I'm from up North".

I didn't want to be from this town and, hell, there's always something more interesting about someone who's not a local, anyhow. But somehow, Macon has become home. Georgia has become home. The South has become my home.

It took me longer than many to grasp this concept and, I admit, I still struggle with it. I'm not a NASCAR fan and I don't follow "The Dogs."

But recently, for the first time, when asked where I'm from I answered "Macon" and I realized that the quirks and oddities that everyone is familiar with, the unusual characteristics that makethis city and Middle Georgia what it is, have become the very things that I find myself missing when I'm not here.