



## Fracas between two fraternities leaves one injured

**JAMES PIERCE**  
FOR THE WICHITAN

Sophia Rodriguez, director of student development who deals with the Greek system, remained mum Tuesday about an altercation that broke out between members of two fraternities, that left one student injured.

A confrontation between members of Omega Delta Phi and Kappa

Alpha occurred Sept. 22, after several Omega Delta Phi members drove to the Kappa Alpha house.

Omega Delta Phi members were reportedly asked to leave and a fight broke out. It is unknown who instigated the fight or what it was about. According to a witness, alcohol was involved.

Wichita Falls police were never summoned. Police records show the matter was never reported.

Omega Delta Phi member David Odell was treated for facial injuries at a hospital emergency room. Odell would neither confirm nor deny reports that he intended to press charges in district court. He said he had been instructed by Josh Ortiz, Omega Delta Phi's regional director in Carolton, not to talk. Ortiz confirmed that he had told all members of the fraternity not to talk to the press.

Ortiz said he planned to have a conference call with Rodriguez Tuesday or Wednesday. He said his office planned to conduct its own investigation "to get the matter resolved as soon as possible." He refused to go into detail.

Repeated attempts to contact Rodriguez were unsuccessful. Rodriguez told a Wichitan reporter she would be in meetings all day Tuesday and had no time to discuss

the incident. She later agreed to be interviewed but remained unreachable, and left the university for the day without getting back to The Wichitan.

Janus Buss, director of public information, said she knew nothing about the fight between the two fraternities.

Omega Delta Phi was one of four fraternities put on alcohol probation in September 2004, following

a drunken brawl at the Tau Kappa Epsilon House. Wichita Falls police had to break up a fight between 30 to 40 fraternity members. A Greek Conduct Committee was created following the incident to deal with future disorderly conduct within the Greek community at MSU.

Ortiz said his fraternity was no longer on probation.

## Sole Man

Shelton Hawkins' 90 pair shoe collection mixes recent trends with an old-school flair



ADRIAN MCCANDLESS | PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Shelton Hawkins lies among his unique collection of shoes.

**KRYSTLE CAREY**  
MANAGING EDITOR

White and blue Adidas boxes tower above the cushions of Shelton Hawkins' blue sofa, clashing with the orange and brown Nike boxes piled around his coffee table. Sneakers peer through plastic bags emblazoned "Ross," "Dollar General" and

other stores.

As Hawkins lifts the lid of one shoebox, his brown eyes glisten like a kid on Christmas morning. "Shoes are my confidence," said the senior art major with a grin.

They must be. He owns about 90 pairs of them.

Hawkins has loved getting new shoes since the second

grade. After bugging his mom to get him a pair of Nike Air Force Ones with the strap on the back, he's become something of an addict.

"I'm a Christmas baby, so I'm naturally spoiled," said Hawkins who was born Dec. 25, 1980. While growing up in Baltimore, he refused to play a basketball game without having a brand-

new pair of shoes.

Each month, his mom sends him about four new pairs of shoes, size 11 1/2. Since she mails them in one box, Hawkins puts each pair in plastic store bags to keep them from getting coated with dust.

All the other shoes he buys, however, he keeps in their original box.

"Gotta keep your shoes right," he said.

Although he has a shoe obsession, he doesn't have to buy the most expensive pairs. Hawkins said he likes to take risks when he makes his purchases.

"I might see a shoe that's on the clearance rack for \$9 that everyone else passes up, but I say, 'you know what, I can make that shoe look all right,'" Hawkins said.

Hawkins said many people buy shoes because of the brand. However, he isn't a snob.

It all depends on the look of the shoe, he said.

A year ago, Hawkins made a \$19 purchase of plain, black Reebok S.Carters.

"Someone might think these

shoes are really plain, but I gave them a chance because I might really like them," he said.

He puts his own style into some shoes by painting them and tying them in a special way.

"Everyone else laces their shoes kind of regular," Hawkins said. "I always skip one and go in the inside."

"I never rush to wear my shoes," he confided. "I never wear my shoes unless I feel like I have something to wear with them."

He said he has shoes that he bought three or four years ago that he has never worn and are still in the box. Some people revolve their shoes around a certain outfit, but Hawkins selects his shoes first then what will go with them.

Hawkins said he is into the bright, flashy colors at the moment. He favors the styles of the late 80s and early 90s.

"Shoes back then were way better than shoes that are coming out now," Hawkins said. "Back in the 80s having good shoes meant something."

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## Athletic director loses his position

**LATIA BANKS**  
FOR THE WICHITAN

In a surprise shakeup, MSU's athletic director has been demoted and its associate athletic director fired.

Kurt Portmann has agreed to step down as athletic director and resume his previous title as associate athletic director.

Andy Austin, associate athletic director and former head of public relations, was fired. Austin had held his current position for one year.

No specific reasons were given for either action by MSU President Jesse Rogers who met with coaches last week. Austin could not be reached for comment.

"It came as a shock to the staff," said Bill Powers, director of sports information.

Beginning Oct. 15, Ed Harris, a retired athletic director from West Texas A&M University in Canyon, will come in temporarily. Harris was athletic director at WTAMU for 11 years and has seen many conferences as well as national championships. Rogers said Harris has had 25 to 30 years of experience as an athletic director at three universities.

"He comes with very high recommendations," Rogers said.

Harris was inducted into the University of North Carolina Asheville Hall of Fame. He was also acknowledged as the outstanding athletic director for division two in the western United States.

In a press release, Rogers said he was pleased Portmann agreed on the change.

"We appreciate all that Kurt has done. I believe he has a good future in athletic administration," Rogers said.

"I'm pleased with the athletes and coaches we've brought in. I simply want to take steps to be sure we're getting the most in our athletic administration."

Rogers said MSU gets many benefits from the program yet some were lacking.

"I want athletics to be a very visible feature of the university. I want to do that in a high quality manner," Rogers said. "We need an up-to-date Web site and we need to promote our athletics program better."

Portmann said he sees the change as an opportunity.

"I think in the long run it will be beneficial for myself and the school. It will be good to learn from someone who has been around for a number of years at the collegiate level," he said.

Rogers said he is unsure when a search will begin for a permanent athletic director.

He said the decision would be up to Portmann.

## Helping others, earning money

**RANDALL MOBLEY**  
FOR THE WICHITAN

Many college students have troubles when it comes to the financial aspect of their lives. Donating plasma is a way to relieve some of the pressure on one's wallet.

DCI Biologicals, a local business here in Wichita Falls, has helped and is helping students earn extra money by giving them the option of donating plasma. Before donating, a few guidelines have to be met.

Students that are eligible for donating must weigh at least 110 pounds, have no history of hepatitis, have not gotten a tattoo or body piercing in the last 12 months, have not had a prolonged residence in Europe, no history of cancer and must live within 125 miles of the donating center.

"I like the thought of making money without having to work,"

said Nate Pierce, junior business major.

Many students like Pierce have bills to pay. Donating plasma takes about two hours on the initial visit and one hour each subsequent visit.

"People don't think \$15 or \$20 is much money, but twice a week for a month adds up," Pierce said.

Money isn't the only driving force for students to donate plasma. For many students, the cause is more important than the money.

"I like to think that when I donate plasma, someone who needs it is getting it. Although having the extra money each month isn't bad, I would still do it for free," said Jonathon Barnes, freshman music major.

Human plasma can be used to help many things such as bleeding disorders, genetic defects and to create new drugs for Staph infections in newborns.

Donating plasma isn't for everyone. There are those who are wary of donating.

"I hate needles. You wouldn't catch me dead around that place," senior Gairy Stewart said.

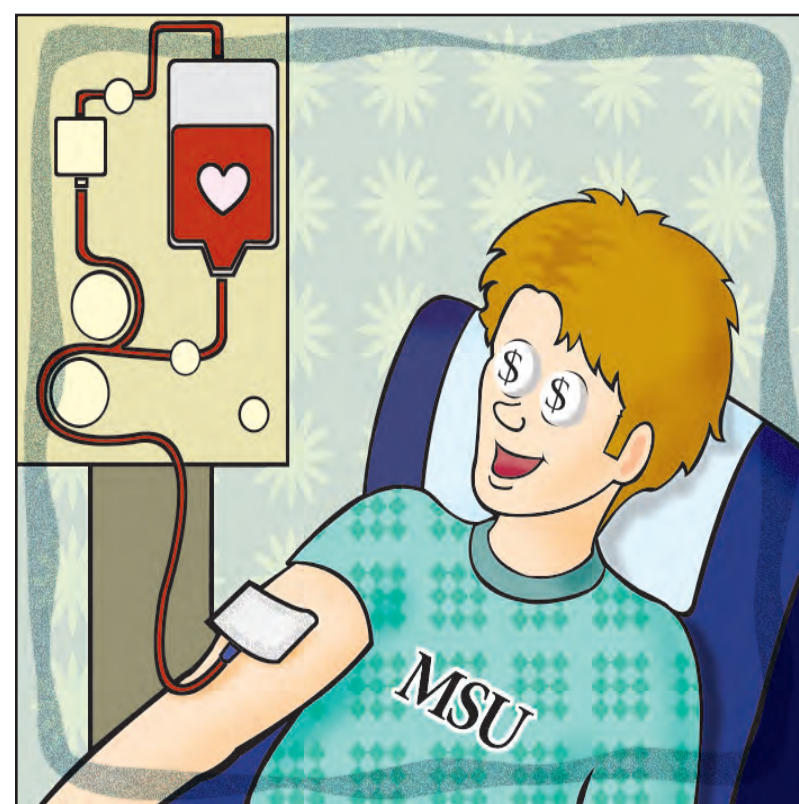
Stewart said he doesn't understand why anyone would want to go through a draining experience like that.

Some side effects of donating plasma are light-headedness during and after the procedure or slight bruising from the needle.

Students also do not need to be afraid of being at risk for disease while donating. Each time a student donates, a new pack of equipment is used.

Donors can safely donate plasma twice a week with a 48-hour period between donations.

To set up a donation call DCI Biologicals at (940) 763-0300 or stop by their office at 1908 9<sup>th</sup> St. #D.



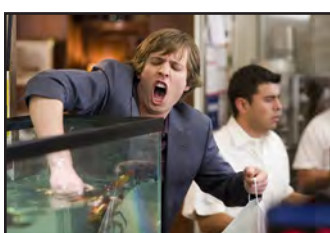
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