



YEAR OF PROTEST

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
SIDELINES

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Underwear the Musical



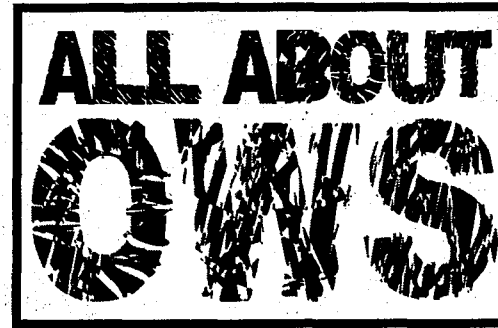
Photos by Kyle Kline, staff photographer

Sidelines Lens

"Underwear: The Musical" is campy, offensive, unapologetic and just plain fun. The musical was performed Nov. 15-19 in Tucker Theater and was written by university alums Heidi Ervin and Brandon James Gwinn. It's easy to see why this musical is such fun— it's homegrown and homemade, with authenticity behind it. Definitely not a show for the kiddos or the faint of heart, this show offers plenty of irreverent humor and near nudity. It's a sexy romp that pays tribute to the shows of yesteryear, but keeps one foot in the present and another planted somewhere "in the future."

By Christopher Kingsley

CONTENTS



- COVER STORY**
08 A year in protest
 By Christopher Merchant
- NEWS**
03 Professors highlight studying techniques for finals
04 University adapts to TBR funding change
04 Trial dates begin for student charged with murder
 STAFF REPORT
- FEATURES**
06 Only God knows
 By Todd Barnes
- ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**
10 Fashion trend dilemmas: How do I wear it?
11 'Skyrim' a landmark in gaming history
13 '72 Hours' well worth your time
- RANTS & RAVES**
12 Upcoming Events
- OPINIONS**
15 I am engaged in the life of this community
- EVENTS**
05 On Campus, Off Campus
- SPORTS**
14 **Blue Raider Spotlight: Malcolm Beyah**
 MT wide receiver continues to impress three years after "Murfreesboro Miracle"



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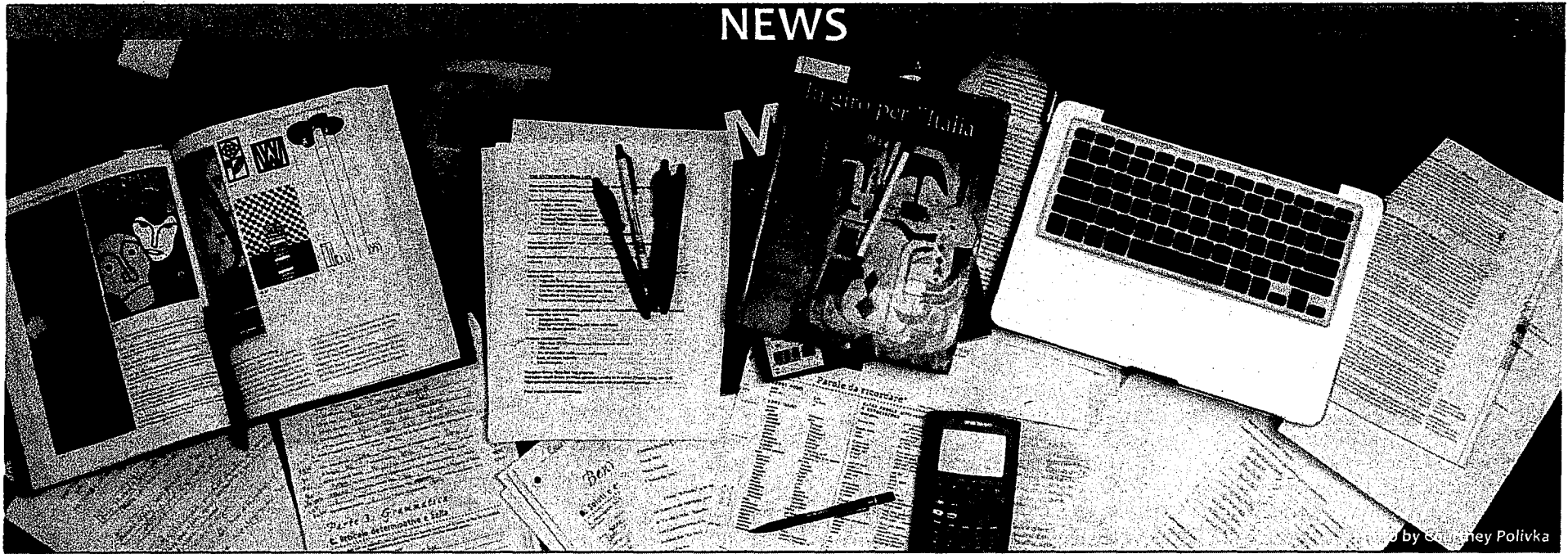
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Professors highlight studying techniques for finals

Final exams can be stressful on students, but with the right amount of sleep, a nutritious breakfast, and setting time aside for studying will reduce stress, university staff said.

Being organized and scheduling time wisely is the key to studying for finals, said Chris Tate, a clinical psychology professor.

"Schedule it so you are not cramming," Tate said. "Cramming is not good. That just makes you anxious."

Tate said he advises taking breaks while studying to have time to catch your breath and clear your mind.

He said if anxiety occurs during a test, practice deep-breathing exercises and try to relax. One can also use deep muscle

relaxation techniques to lower the anxiety the moment it occurs.

Sleep always helps when one is preparing for finals, said Lisa Schrader, director of health promotion at the university clinic.

"Probably the biggest tip that I can give to students in terms that they are physically and mentally ready for their final exams is to make sure that they are setting aside time to get appropriate sleep each night," Schrader said.

Sleep will help to maximize ones mental functioning and to feel your best, Schrader said, adding that appropriate sleep can be one of the first things people tend to let slide with all-night study sessions.

It's great to get six or more hours of sleep, but ultimately eight hours is the

ideal, Schrader said.

It is also important to set aside the time to study and to start early, not waiting until the last night, she said, adding that this may require talking to your roommate to set hours to study or maybe asking off from work if needed.

Stress can be a great motivator, but it should be controlled so as to not overwhelm, Schrader said.

"Laughter is a great stress management tool," Schrader said. "There is truth behind the cliché."

Schrader said that there are great advantages to having humor in one's life to get past stressful moments in life, including final exams.

Breakfast is another important part of healthy finals prep, said Janet Colson, a nutrition and food science professor.

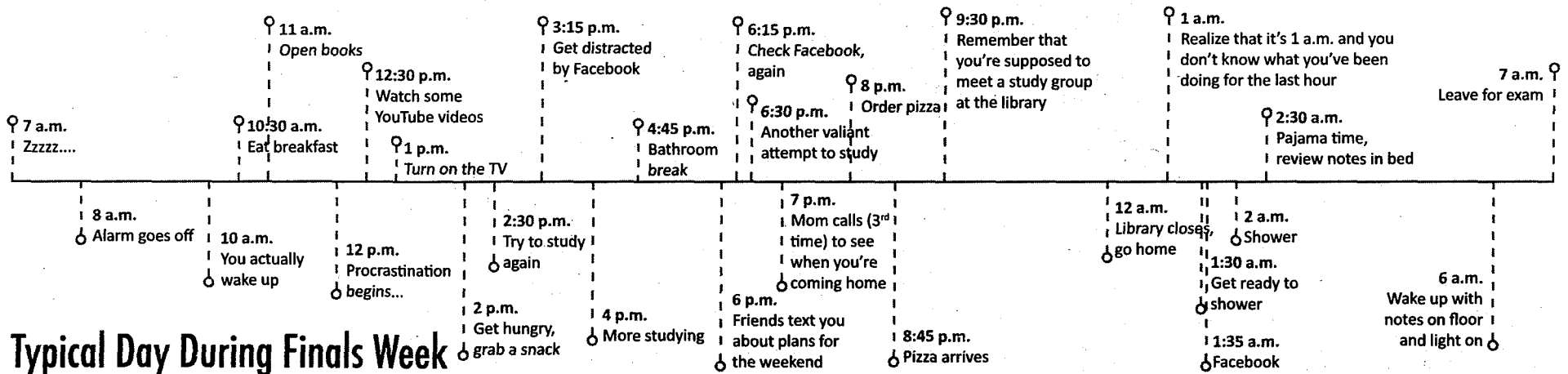
"Stick with foods that provide a good source of protein with healthy fats such as an egg or grilled chicken on 100 percent whole-wheat toast or a cup of Greek yogurt with berries or even peanut butter melted over a hot waffle would be good choices—and fast to prepare," Colson said.

If a student is addicted to a caffeine fix in the morning, it's best to stick with the same dose, Colson said.

"The morning of a big exam is not a good time to drop the caffeine habit cold turkey. So coffee drinkers should have their morning jolt, and those addicted to Diet Coke should drink up," Colson said.

Students should avoid alcohol the night before an exam because it may interfere with sleep and may result in a hangover, Colson said, and added to also avoid new foods in the morning before exams. ■

By Jessica Kryza
Staff Writer



University adapts to TBR funding change

The Tennessee Board of Regents changed its funding formula this fiscal year, and the university has implemented ways of adjusting to this change, said Debra Sells, vice president of Student Affairs.

By April Bailey
Staff Writer

The TBR's current funding formula is outcome-based, meaning funding is contingent in part upon graduation and retention rates, whereas the previous formula was based on enrollment totals, according to the TBR's website.

This year, the university began the academic-alert program, which notifies students of their academic progress throughout the semester. It is intended to better assist students with making progress early on as opposed to discovering low grades close to the end of the semester, said Sells.

"As a university we want to do our part in helping students succeed," Sells said.

She said the university is considering other retention programs, ways to provide better academic advising and possibly expanding tutoring services.

The most recent change to admissions

standards went into effect fall 2004, and the university may have to consider changing the standards again, Sells said.

Universities are constrained to 120 hours to guide students to graduation, which means it is unlikely that University 1010 will be a required course for all incoming freshmen. Also, major field-testing scores are not reflected in decisions regarding TBR funding.

The graduation rate is based on first-time, full-time freshmen students only, so transfer students and re-enrollees are not included in the calculation, though the university does get some points for transfer students, Sells said.

Additionally, the graduation rate is examined throughout six years, which is a TBR-calculated average graduation time for university students.

The university wants to provide for the academic experience of all of its students, meaning the focus of the program will not only be on incoming freshmen but also on continuing education and transfer students, Sells said.

"We want to be sure that the students

we enroll here stay here," Sells said, adding that a good deal of accountability is still left up to individual students.

This fall, a report of enrollment comparisons was conducted by Teresa Thomas, director of enrollment technical services. This report is a summary of new, undergraduate students and includes first-time freshmen, new transfers and new undergraduate special or non-degree-seeking students.

The report showed a percent decrease in each of these categories this fall as compared to the previous year, with the largest decrease being the number of first time freshmen.

None of TBR's institutions are guaranteed a minimum amount of



Debra Sells,
vice president of Student Affairs

funding. Funding varies per year, per institution and is competitive among each institution.

The university is making preliminary plans for a possible budget reduction in state funding, said university President Sidney McPhee to the *Daily News Journal*.

The same article reported a potential tuition increase next school year dependent upon if the legislature requires a cut in the budget.

TBR reported that tuition increases are executed to help recover loss of state funding as well as inflation costs. If tuition increases are approved for next school year, this would be at least the third consecutive year that university tuition rates increased.

TBR is the sixth largest system of public higher education in the nation. It supports six state universities, 13 community colleges and 26 technology centers throughout the state, totaling 45 institutions with an overall enrollment of more than 190,000 students, according to its website. Its mission is to educate more Tennesseans to provide the state with the workforce it needs for economic development. ■

Trial dates begin for student charged with murder

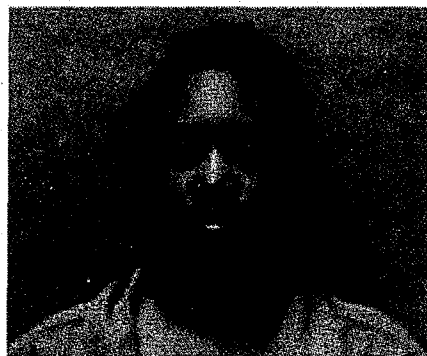
STAFF REPORT

Shanterra Madden, a former student charged on suspicion of murdering a Lady Raiders basketball player Tina Stewart, was represented by her defense attorney Monday at the Rutherford County Courthouse to discuss recently filed pre-trial motions.

Madden, 18, was arrested on suspicion of murder after an altercation at their Raider's Crossing apartment on March 2. Madden was suspended from the university the following Monday.

In an October court appearance, Madden plead not guilty to charges of first-degree murder and tampering with evidence. Madden's attorney, Joe Brandon Jr., said she acted in self-defense and cleaned the knives and concealed them in a moment of panic.

The court ruled on all but a couple of



Shanterra Madden, charged with murder in the first degree

issues, whether photos of Stewart would be shown to the jury and whether jurors would be allowed to ask questions of witnesses.

"The Supreme Court adopted this process, and I'm going to follow it," Ash

said regarding questioning the witnesses, according to a Nov. 28 report in the *Daily News Journal*. He also said he would issue a written opinion about the process.

Madden's trial is slated for Jan. 31 at the Rutherford County Courthouse. Circuit Court Judge Don Ash said he would make a final decision on both issues at the trial.

Photos that have the potential to generate bias within the jury and duplicate photos should be withheld, Brandon said.

He also said allowing witnesses to listen to testimony could potentially taint jurors' perceptions.

"It's patently unfair and unconstitutional for jurors to become biased fact-finders in jury trials," Brandon said. "If a juror is permitted to ask questions, then they must have formed some sort of hypothesis." ■

Brandon would not say whether the defense will request a change of venue, but said it would be closer to the trial date if they chose to do so.

Brandon also said the defense would be allowed to inspect evidence prior to the trial. The Murfreesboro Police Department's currently holds information related to the trial and Brandon said he wanted to see it before January, "especially any evidence that could help prove Madden's innocence or be exculpatory in nature."

The judge also ruled that Stewart would be referred to "Miss Stewart," as Brandon requested because he said referring to her as "Tina" could cause jury prejudice.

"We still contend that this case is an unfortunate series of events that led to an unforeseen result," Brandon said. ■

EVENTS

on campus

Flashback to Murder:
Murder Mystery Theater
 Nov. 30, 6-9 p.m.
 James Union Building,
 Tennessee Room
 Tickets: \$5 (includes dinner)

Percussion Ensemble
 Nov. 30, 8 p.m.
 Wright Music Hall
 FREE

HIV Testing for World AIDS Day
 Dec. 1, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Keathley University Center,
 2nd floor lobby
 FREE

Fit'N MT's
Relaxation Station
 Dec. 1, 3-7 p.m.
 Recreation Center Meeting Room
 FREE

"Jazz Nutcracker"
 Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m.
 Wright Music Hall
 FREE

First Friday Star Party:
"Juno to Jupiter"
 Dec. 2, 6:30 p.m.
 Wisner-Patten Science Building, Room 102
 FREE

Fall Dance Concert
 Dec. 1-3, 7:30 p.m.
 Tucker Theatre
 FREE

Women's Basketball vs. Arkansas
 Dec. 3, 7 p.m.
 Murphy Center
 FREE

Handel's "Messiah"
 Dec. 4, 3 p.m.; Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m.
 Wright Music Hall
 FREE

American Red Cross Blood Drive
 Dec. 5-6, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Keathley University Center, Room 322
 FREE

Honors Students Thesis Presentations
 Dec. 5, 3-3:55 p.m.
 Honors Building Amphitheatre, Room 106
 FREE

Lecture: "How to Prepare for Final Exams"
 Dec. 6, 4:30 p.m.
 James E. Walker Library, Room 248
 FREE

'Ajami'
 Dec. 10, 6 p.m.
 Keathley University Center Theater
 FREE

off campus

Honey Locust and Hymn for Her
 Nov. 30, 9 p.m.
 The End
 Tickets: \$5

Max and the Wild Things
 Nov. 30, 9 p.m.
 Mercy Lounge
 Tickets: \$5

Is She Weird: The Pixies Tribute
 Dec. 1, 8 p.m.
 Exit/In
 Tickets: \$7

Tetsuo, The Subnovas and O Youth
 Dec. 1, 9 p.m.
 3 Brothers
 FREE

Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog
 Dec. 2-3, 7:30 p.m.
 Darkhorse Theater
 Tickets: \$12

"Nuncrackers"
 Dec. 2-3, 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 4, 2 p.m.
 Murfreesboro Center for the Arts
 Tickets: \$12

Afroman featuring Sam and Tre
 Dec. 2, 9 p.m.
 Gilligans
 Tickets: \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door

Trunk Show:
Meet the Ladies of Thistle Farms
 Dec. 3, 1:30 p.m.
 Frist Center for the Visual Arts Gift Shop
 FREE

First Saturday Art Crawl
 Dec. 3, 6-9 p.m.
 Downtown Nashville, around 5th and Union
 FREE

Solidarity Benefit
featuring Take The Power Back,
Ayatollah Gold and Warmachine
 Dec. 3, 9 p.m.
 The Boro
 Tickets: \$5

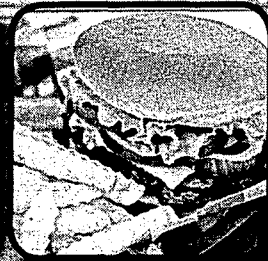
WMTS Benefit
featuring Technikiller,
Thank You Ma'ams and Frojan Horse
 Dec. 4, 8 p.m.
 Bluesboro
 Tickets: \$5

Belmont Bands Benefit Child Soldiers
 Dec. 6, 8 p.m.
 Exit/In
 Tickets: Pay what you want

Carnival Music Christmas Party
 Dec. 7, 7 p.m.
 The Basement
 FREE

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Billy Ray Simmons, Jr., aka. B.o.B. (left), walks with student Jasmine Pratt (right), his backup singer and high school friend from Decatur, Ga., toward another performance during his 2010 summer tour.

By Todd Barnes
Managing Editor

Jasmine didn't realize that this would be the beginning of her journey guided by providence.

A few years passed, and Jasmine found herself an 8th grader riding a generic yellow school bus on her way to Dekalb School of the Arts. She sat next to a skinny boy, scatter-brained yet smart and funny with a wide smile and a notebook at his side filled with song lyrics and poems. His name was Bobby Ray Simmons, Jr.

"We didn't go to the same school together," she says. "We actually lived in the same neighborhood and rode the bus together."

They would catch the bus at dawn and spend nearly three hours trading poems and song lyrics as they talked about the future. They became close and began partnering with each other. She would sing for his family. Their bond seemed unbreakable.

She looked at it as fun. She knew that chasing dreams of musical stardom was impractical and not a career. Just the chance to pretend would suffice.

However, her childhood years sped by, and before she knew it, she was a high school graduate pondering her next step. She asked her father which college she should attend.

"Middle Tennessee State University," he told her.

She wasn't surprised. He had always talked about his alma mater.

She packed her bags and visited her cousin in Murfreesboro in 2008 to check out the university's homecoming festivities. She fell in love with the campus, and singing took a backseat to education. She enrolled as an English major with a double minor in writing and

gender and women's studies.

However, no matter how hard she tried to run far from singing, she couldn't help but wonder how was Bobby Ray. She kept in contact with him through MySpace, but to her surprise, he wasn't the same Bobby Ray anymore. He was B.o.B.

B.o.B. - rapper, singer-songwriter, producer - emerged onto the music scene in 2007 with underground tracks like "Haterz Everywhere," which reached No. 5 on the U.S. Billboard's Top Bubbling Hot Under 100 Singles.

By 2008, he was collaborating with hip-hop artist T.I. on his album Paper Trail, and receiving notoriety by landing two tracks, "I'll Be in the Sky" and "Generation Lost," on About.com's Top 100 Rap songs of 2008.

Jasmine's eyes grew wide, almost popping out of her head. Only a short time ago, Bobby Ray was sitting in her living room confessing his ambitions to be the next big performer to change the Atlanta music scene. And now, his dream was coming true.

She messaged him on MySpace. He probably won't answer, she thought.

He did.

"He was like 'Jas,' " she squeaks in excitement, " 'How ya' been?' "

At this time, he was playing smaller shows across the Atlanta area. He needed a backup singer. He needed his friend.

Although she couldn't sing for him whenever beckoned, she promised that she would sing whenever she came home every other weekend.

"Every time I was in town, I was always there," she says.

The crowds started to grow, and so did B.o.B.'s calls to Jasmine. He needed her to go on a U.S. tour with him for the summer of 2009. It wouldn't conflict with her

As the airliner soars over the bubbling blanket of blue that is the Pacific Ocean, one woman in tears clasps her hands together, nods her head and begins to pray.

Why her? she asks.

Why now?

She thinks of herself as an average 22-year-old from Decatur, Ga., who has never asked God to fulfill any selfish wishes. But, he just couldn't stop interjecting. No matter how hard she tried to run, he would find a way to make her see. And now, she wanted to know why.

Jasmine Pratt grew up in a family of five: two brothers, her mother, father and herself - the baby of the bunch. She considers herself the oddball of the family. Her brothers excelled in sports while she chose the arts.

Her neighborhood - rough. Her

mother - her rock. Singing - her talent.

"My mom used to be a DJ," she recalls. "She always used to play music in our house."

While cooking, her mother listened to the radio. One day she heard something different in a song - not bad, but different.

She turned the volume down thinking the additional noise was coming from outside. But, all was quiet.

She walked to the baby's room.

Jasmine was fine. Awake, yet quiet.

She turned the volume up and returned to cooking. But wait, there it is again. Someone was singing to the song on the radio. But from where?

The mother's ears led her to Jasmine's room. There she was, her little girl was standing up and singing along word for word.

"That's when she first realized I can sing," Jasmine says.

FEATURES

schooling. That's what she wanted to hear.

Travelling and packed in 15-passenger van like a can of sardines, Jasmine and B.o.B. toured across the U.S. performing at venues such as the House of Blues and performing on radio shows.

"I got to see things that I thought I'd never get to see," she says. "We rode everywhere - riding through the Rocky Mountains, going through the desert. Texas. Nevada. We were everywhere."

Soon the summer ended, and it was time to exchange a microphone for textbooks. Meanwhile, B.o.B started to work on his first debut album: B.o.B presents: The Adventures of Bobby Ray. On April 27, 2010, it was released.

The album exploded the name B.o.B across Atlanta, across the U.S. and across the world. Singles like "Nothin' on You" skyrocketed to No.1 on the Billboard charts in the Netherlands, U.K. and U.S. while "Airplanes," climbed to No. 2. It was clear another tour was on its way - a world tour.

The 2010 summer approached. And, as Jasmine finished her spring semester finals, she faced a difficult question: Would she tour the world?

Travelling the world would mean a year away from college, and this created a problem. God knew how much school meant to her, and now he was throwing a curveball right at her.

She called her mom.

"I kind of want to stay on the road," she told her mom.

Her mother was apprehensive.

"I don't know Jasmine," she said. "You need to finish school."

Jasmine trusted her mother. Maybe she's right. School is important.

A few days later, Jasmine's mom called her baby girl again.

"You know what?" she declares. "I prayed about it. Stay on the road. This is what you love to do. School will be here. Who am I to tell you to miss out on this opportunity? Go. You're a free spirit. Go."

It seemed that God was honing in on her. She couldn't run. She couldn't hide. But, she could sing.

She grabbed her passport and was off, travelling to New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Ireland and the U.K., which is where they toured with another famous Middle Tennessee homegrown band.

"Paramore," she reveals. "Who is awesome—I love them so much. They're so much fun. Their crew was fun. The whole experience in the U.K. was amazing. The best parties I've ever

experienced in my life."

And, that was only the tip of the iceberg. "Nothin' on You" featured Bruno Mars, and he was no stranger to the tour. Likewise, B.o.B toured a couple months with Rihanna, who Jasmine describes as quiet at first but soon won over Jasmine's adoration.

"She would come in and dress very down - sweats and stuff," she said. "Her accent is a lot stronger than what I thought it initially was. She's playful. But, she's a nice person."

Shortly after the tour began, she crossed paths with another celebrity. Not an artist, not an actor, but the president of the United States.

"We got the call that Obama wanted us to perform," she said. "I was like 'you're kidding.'"

She and the rest of the B.o.B crew flew to Washington, D.C., to meet and perform for the president.

"We went through security, and they patted us down," she explained. "I'm looking at Secret Service like 'wow.' We're in a hotel, and we see snipers on buildings for like miles."

This had to be a dream. Could this be real, she thought, and what is he like?

"We're all nervous," she recalled. "And, he comes in like 'How y'all doin'?' We're like 'He's so cool.' He's so swagged out. He's like 'How y'all doing - like those shoes.' And, we're like, 'Is this our nation's president. He's so cool.'"

She was star struck. She couldn't believe she shook hands with the president. She was honored.

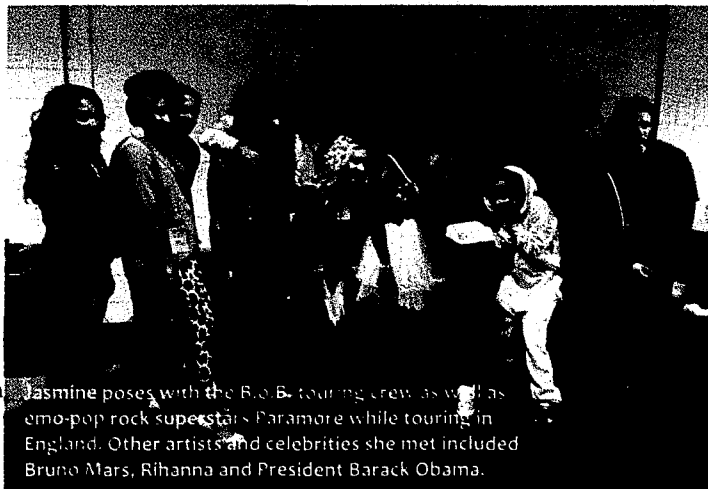
During a night of cocktails before a show they were to perform in Japan the next day, she looked at her childhood friend - the same boy who played the trumpet in high school like her - now the No.1 rapper in three countries.

"Bob, do you realize where we are?" she asks.

He smiled wide.

"Yeah," he exclaimed. "We're in Japan." She laughs.

"We went from Atlanta - Decatur, Ga., riding a yellow-orange school bus together, and we're sipping mimosas in



Jasmine poses with the B.o.B. touring crew as well as emo-pop rock superstars Paramore while touring in England. Other artists and celebrities she met included Bruno Mars, Rihanna and President Barack Obama.

Japan. I need you to realize how big this is right now."

He put all jokes aside.

"You're right," he said.

The two came a long way in three short years. She thought she had won the lottery, but this seemed too planned to be left up for chance. Someone had to be the conductor of this roller coaster ride. The answer came to her as she sat on that airliner, flying to the next stop on the tour.

God was in control.

"Why - why me?" she prayed. "Thank you for choosing me. It's such a blessing - not just to meet the people of different cultures, but just to see the beauty of the Earth. In the entire world - the entire universe - we can do so many things. And, we limit ourselves all the time."

The things that seemed to be so important were just trivial. God had changed her. She finally found her answer to why.

"I think I'm finally learning to accept it," she says. "I spent most of my time trying to run from it, but I just keep getting knocked in this direction."

She dried her tears, rested her hands and soon the plane landed safely.

Now, the tour is over. She intends on keeping her promise to herself, her mom and God.

She returned to MTSU this fall to finish her last two semesters. She has found a way to infuse her two passions, education and the arts, as one.

She doesn't quite know where she will be in the future, which is normal for her. She wants to write. She wants to produce. And above all, she wants to help others feel empowered.

Still, only God knows. ■



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OCCUPY WALL STREET

By Christopher Merchant
News Editor



Unrest and protest are certainly not unique to our time, but this year there have been demonstrations and riots worldwide. From the Arab Spring in the Middle East, to angry mobs in the European Union, to the Occupy movement in the United States and worldwide, people have taken to the streets to voice their dissatisfactions.

The United States

By most accounts, the Occupy Wall Street movement officially started Sept.

17 in Manhattan near Liberty Square. On Nov. 15, nearly two months later, the group was removed from their camp in Zuccotti Park by police. By that time, though, the movement had spread to 1,500 cities globally, according to the group's de facto website, occupywallst.org.

The Occupy movement is a protest of corporate greed. Its slogan, "We Are the 99 Percent," illustrates the disparity between the super-rich and the rest of the U.S.'s population. However, this is one of the few complaints that the individual Occupy groups share; protests are often orchestrated to address local concerns from environmental issues to politics.

The protests have been largely peaceful, though a few standout occurrences have attracted national attention. For instance, on Oct. 25 police disbanded Occupy Oakland with tear gas and bean bag projectiles. The next day, Scott Olson, a former Marine who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, was allegedly struck in the head by a canister of tear gas, putting him in critical condition with a fractured skull. On Nov. 25, a University District bank in Seattle, Wash. was vandalized, which police believe was an act of retaliation for Olson's injuries. Most of the windows at the bank were broken and

the interior was vandalized with spray paint, according to a report made by the *Associated Press*.

Additionally, students at the University of California at Davis who were engaged in a sit-in on campus were pepper sprayed by two police officers, an act that resulted in both officers being put on administrative leave.

Though the progenitors of the movement have been disbanded in New York, Occupiers everywhere from Los Angeles to Murfreesboro have expressed their support for the Wall Street chapter and their determination to continue to protest until things change.



The Arab Spring

The Occupy movement was certainly not the start of this year's dissent, though. Revolts in the Middle East that began in December and continued well on into 2011 have not only focused on economic struggle, but also on a call for new government.

In Tunisia, Mohammed Bouazizi, a 26-year-old fruit vendor, set himself on fire after his produce was confiscated when authorities discovered he did not have the proper vending permit. Bouazizi, like many Tunisians, was struggling to find a job. Before his death, Bouazizi was visited in the hospital by Tunisian President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali, though this failed to silence public outcry over Bouazizi's suicide. Thousands rioted in the streets and reportedly threw Molotov cocktails into government offices.

Ben Ali, who had been president for 23 years, stepped down on Jan. 14 and fled to Saudi Arabia. Since then, the political party Ben Ali headed has been disbanded, and both he and his wife were sentenced to 35 years in prison by a Tunisian court for theft and unlawful possession of foreign currencies. They are still in refuge in Saudi Arabia.

In Egypt, an overthrow occurred that was similar to the one in Tunisia. Riots that began Jan. 25 eventually lead to the ousting of President Hosni Mubarak after 30 years in office. Mubarak, who rose to power following the assassination of Egypt's previous president, continued a state of emergency that was instituted in 1967 and maintained a one-party system.

Mubarak, along with his sons and other key officials from his government, are now on trial in Cairo for compliance with the killing of more than 800 protesters in Egypt. Even this month,

though, as tens – or maybe even hundreds – of thousands of people packed into Tahrir Square to voice their outcry over the slow reform under the newly established government, as Egypt's lower and middle class still struggle economically.

In Libya, dictator Muammar Gaddafi was overthrown and killed after a bloody civil war in response to his control of national politics. Though officially a democracy, Libya was under Gaddafi's control for more than 40 years, as he allegedly manipulated government and military officials to keep him in power behind the scenes.

Further, while the nation was struggling economically, Gaddafi was paying American pop stars such as Mariah Carey, 50 Cent, Beyonce, Nelly Furtado and Usher to perform at his sons' private parties. Gaddafi was also accused of innumerable counts of torture and executions of political dissidents.

These are only a few examples of turmoil in the Middle East, and like many other revolutions that make up the Arab Spring they remain unresolved.

The European Union

While usually less violent than the uprisings in the Middle East this year, marches and protests have attracted incredible crowds in the European Union, primarily in response to austerity measures that have drastically reduced state employment and benefits.

In the United Kingdom, a Sony distribution center in the city of Enfield was set on fire Aug. 8, which caused massive property damage to the structure, had a footprint of approximately 65,500 square feet, and the contents stored there. In the moments preceding the fire, looters

were reportedly seen rushing out of the distribution center, electronics in hand.

Riots and raiding continued across the U.K. for almost a week. Earlier this year, peaceful marches were held to protest austerity measures, particularly the biggest cuts to the government's budget since World War II. However, the looting in August was primarily done by youth from poor families, according to authorities. Although Prime Minister David Cameron said the riots were not in response to austerity measures, national approval ratings for the measures went down in the following weeks.

In 2010, Greece received a 110 billion euro bail-out, or roughly \$146 billion, from other members of the European Union to help them balance their budget after nearly a decade of overspending and borrowing. However, Greece's budget problems were scarcely reported by their media, so much of the people did not realize how depressed the economy was. They found out when the government increased taxes, increased the retirement age and even mandated pay cuts in the private sector.

When the people of Greece discovered that the government was spending \$1.13 for every dollar made, they realized that the economy was broken, and they were being expected to pay for the deficit. During an Oct. 10 rally in Athens, 74 protesters and 32 police were taken to the hospital with injuries sustained from makeshift firebombs and debris; other protests have occurred throughout the autumn.

Austerity measures also led to protests in Spain, where unemployment rates reached 21.5 percent in October. This is the highest level of unemployment in the European Union, and it represents nearly 5 million people. What is more, youth

unemployment is at 43.5 percent, again the highest rate in the European Union.

Since May, thousands of protesters have gathered in cities across Spain, usually for peaceful sit-ins or marches. A few instances of violence have occurred between protesters and police forces. The group that has organized much of the protests, Democracia Real YA, or Real Democracy NOW, shares some similarities with the Occupy movement that came along later. For instance, the branches are broken in to cities and have no individual leaders, they do not condone violence to inspire political change and they argue that government should take a more active role in protecting the people from supposed corporate greed. Both groups took part in the global protests on Oct. 15, the 5-month anniversary of the first protest in Spain.

People of other nations have protested worldwide. In countries where free speech and dissent are not considered natural rights, outbursts have been quelled quickly and violently.

Still, protests and rallies have been held in Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Morocco, Syria, Bahrain, China, Japan, South Korea, India, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Iceland, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Estonia, Poland, Germany, Slovakia, Croatia, Romania, Serbia, Turkey, Switzerland, France, Belgium, Costa Rica, Mexico, Ecuador, Peru, Brazil, Chile and dozens of other countries this year.

The motives and outcomes have been a mixed bag. Some regimes have toppled. New regimes have risen. Some governments have responded with apathy, others with contempt, even amusement. Protest is not unique to our time. Perhaps what is unique is the amount of people who now feel the need to protest. ■

Fashion trend dilemmas: How do I wear it?

By Jane Horne
Staff Writer



Black Skinny Jeans.
Charlotte Russe. \$34.99.



Earrings. Charlotte Russe. \$6.



Boots. Target. \$69.99

Can I wear multiple patterns at one time? Do brown and black go together? What about leggings as pants? Are cropped belly shirts in?

Fashion can be confusing. Trends come and go as swift as the wind, and it is important to know how to wear them correctly.

If you are not sure how to wear certain pieces in your wardrobe, here are a few tips on what to do, and what not to do.

BLACK AND BROWN

This used to be an obvious don't. However, fashion has found a way to mix the two into a seamless combination.

DON'T wear a plain black T-shirt with a plain brown belt and mud-colored shoes. Throwing the two haphazardly together is a major don't.

DO wear black leggings, a black tunic, with a camel leather jacket and matching lace up boots. Add red or turquoise jewelry for a pop of color.

PATTERN AND COLOR CLASHING

This may be an intimidating notion for some people, but don't be shy! It's a fun way to mix up your everyday wardrobe.

DON'T just throw on the first articles of clothing you find.

DO feel free to play with patterns and colors. For example, when mixing patterns, try a polka-dot blouse with a large floral-print skirt. The different sizes of patterns will offset each other for a fun look. As far as colors go, coordinate the colors instead of matching. Mustard-colored items go beautifully with royal blues, forest greens and deep burgundies.

LEGGINGS AS PANTS

This is a sometimes controversial fashion trend. Guys don't get it, girls love it. As much as any other trend, there is a fashionable way to do it, and a very, very wrong way.

DON'T wear leggings as pants with a cropped shirt; or even one that doesn't come past your hips. It is safe to say that if the top doesn't cover all the important things, you should probably choose something else.

DO wear tunics or dresses with leggings. This gives you a little more freedom with the length of a dress, but be at least a little conservative.

CROPPED SHIRTS

These popular tops came onto the scene in full force. When they first appeared, it was feared that these tops would be too reminiscent of those awful belly shirts of the '90s. That has obviously not been the case.

DON'T show too much belly. If you have a flat stomach, flaunt it. However, these tops are not meant to be completely stomach-baring, so a little will go a long way.

DO wear a printed-crop shirt with a pair of fun-colored shorts in the summer. In the colder months, layer with a coordinating tank top, skinny jeans and combat boots for an edgy, casual look.

It is completely OK to get things wrong and be on the don't list every now and then. Fashion is not about being afraid to do something wrong. How do you think these crazy trends came into play? One day somebody took a risk, and it worked. Playing with the don'ts of fashion could make you the next trendsetter. ■



Cardigan. Target. \$15.99.

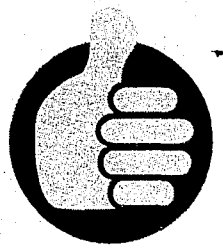


Bag. Fossil. \$158.



Tank top.
Forever 21. \$15.80.

'Skyrim' a landmark in gaming history



It's difficult to explain just how staggering a game like "Skyrim" actually is. You can talk about the gorgeous graphics, the stellar music, the surprisingly epic storyline and countless other details, but you won't really capture what makes the fifth entry in "The Elder Scrolls" franchise such a landmark event.

**By Dietrich Stogner
Associate Arts &
Entertainment Editor**

In 30 hours of gameplay, I have slogged through a swamp, waist deep in green and brown muck, watching the surface ripple as something wriggled through the filth towards me. I have trekked across a frozen wasteland, making my way from one slab of ice to the next, and watched the Aurora Borealis shimmer overhead as schools of silver fish darted through the water, barely visible through the ice. I have crept silently through a vast underground cavern, filled with massive hissing machines and steam pipes as big around as tractor tires, waiting for the skitter of legs and claws to whisper out of the dark shadows.

I have shot a dragon out of the sky, and watched the great beast slam down into the ground, clumps of dirt and grass flying in all directions as his bloody body dug a deep furrow into the earth. I have felt like an unstoppable juggernaut

and confidently gone toe to toe with a looming giant, only to have him club me into a ballistic arc that takes me 100 feet into the air. I have fired arrows and spells in a panicked frenzy as something ugly and dark, made of nightmares and teeth, crawled out of a black pool towards me.

I've talked to kings and peasants, sorcerers and beggars. I've spent hours searching for a mythical enchanted weapon, but I've also spent hours eating mushrooms and cooking over a campfire. I've been a blacksmith, a soldier, a diplomat, a freedom fighter, a priest and more.

And after all of that, I still know that I've barely scratched the surface of this dizzyingly enormous world. While in reality, the size of the world that developer Bethesda has created is somewhere around 16 square miles, every inch feels crammed with new things to discover, new stories to play out. Each individual environment in "Skyrim" is detailed and expansive enough to be the setting for an entire game, and many of the story arcs have more depth and brilliance than other full games.

The main narrative in "Skyrim" circulates around the return of the

dragons to a northern province of an empire currently wracked by civil war. The only hope seems to lie with your character, who is quickly revealed to be one of the legendary "Dragonborn" heroes gifted with the ability to face down the malevolent lizards.

This main story is outstanding and rich, and would be more than enough by itself. But the dozens of villages and castles contain countless more. Occasionally, the fate of the world will be in your hands, but sometimes, it's much more mundane. One of my favorite plots so far was an hour-long narrative modeled after the film "The Hangover," in which I got extremely drunk, woke up two days later and had to piece together the events of the missing days.

Visually, the game is spectacular, although that has more to do with the art design than any particular technical achievement. The gameplay is fairly basic, the only weak point being an uninspired and clunky user interface. (Bethesda has acknowledged the

problem, and claims to be working on a patch to clean up the UI.)

"Skyrim" would not have the grandeur and spectacle that it does without its brilliant score, penned by composer Jeremy Soule, who worked on the previous "Elder Scrolls" games. Soule took the theme that became popular in "Morrowind" and "Oblivion" (the two previous games), and wrapped it in a spectacular orchestral and choir arrangement. The music running through the game supports and intensifies the mood, producing a remarkable experience.

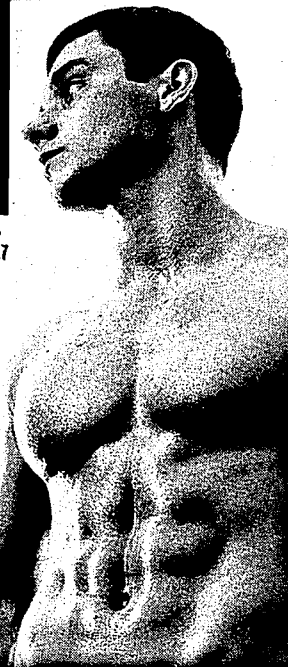

If you're a gamer who enjoys a tight, quick experience that will fit into a lunch break, you need to avoid this game like the plague. With "Skyrim," Bethesda has created a world you can get lost in, and the biggest cost associated with this game is the hours it will swallow up. This is the kind of game people will play for years, and the kind of game that will be copied and studied for even longer. ■




Image courtesy of Bethesda Softworks

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Thursday, Dec. 1

"The Help"
KUC Theater
7 p.m. & 10 p.m.
Admission: \$2

"The Help" stars Hollywood's favorite redhead, Emma Stone. Stone portrays Skeeter, a girl who is fresh out of college with dreams of becoming a writer. When Skeeter moves back to her hometown of Jackson, Miss., she quickly finds that college has changed her. She can no longer tolerate the gossip of her childhood friends. It's then she discovers an idea for her first book. She wishes to find the real story behind the black maids her friends gossip about. As Skeeter delves into the lives of these women, she discovers that she is writing more than an amateur novel, she is giving a voice to the voiceless. (Bailee Jakes)



"The Santaland Diaries"
Tennessee Performing Arts Center, Nashville
6:30 p.m.
Admission: \$45

This comedic play is based on the true experiences of David Sedaris who, as a newcomer to New York, got a job as Crummet the Elf in Macy's Santaland display. This play contains all the usual holiday shenanigans—grumpy shoppers, screaming children, a few impatient parents shouting obscenities. Rather than having a dialogue about all that "Christmasy stuff," Sedaris give a different outlook on what the holidays have really become about. So, if you're over the whole "Christmas cheer" thing, go watch this play. (Bailee Jakes)



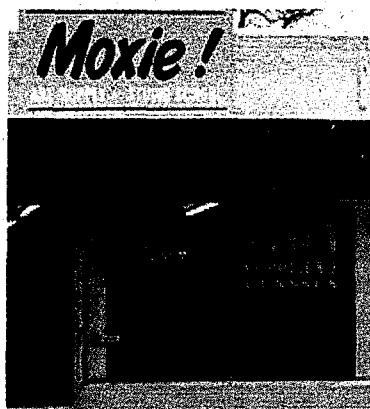
MTSU's Dance Theatre Company Fall Concert
Tucker Theater
7:30 - 10:30 p.m.
Admission: FREE

Come and watch some truly talented dancers. For those that have come to shows in the past, it's easy to say that the dancers are graceful, hardworking and skilled. If you're someone who's lacking in the rhythm department, a.k.a. you can't dance, come watch these folks and be amazed...and envious. This semester's show includes student compositions and works by distinguished guest artists. (Bailee Jakes)

Friday, Dec. 2

Syncopation
Moxie Art Supply
316 N. Maple St., Murfreesboro
6 - 8 p.m.
Admission: FREE

It's always fun to go to art exhibitions and try to guess what the artist was thinking when they created their piece. It makes you feel all worldly and artsy. Attending an exhibition to support your fellow students makes you feel even better. This exhibition features the work of 18 MTSU students enrolled in the Bachelor of Fine Arts program and includes an eclectic variety of small-scaled works including painting, printmaking and sculpture. (Bailee Jakes)



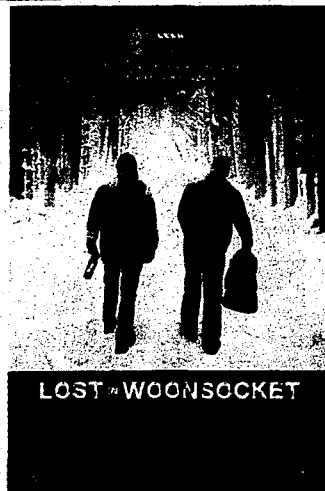
"Nuncrackers"
The Center for the Arts
110 W. College St., Murfreesboro
7:30 p.m.
Admission: \$14

When you hear the word nun, dancing is probably the last thing that comes to mind—that's one of the reasons this show is unique. The nuns in this Christmas musical make those in "The Sound of Music" seem like snoozers, as their personalities mimic the nuns in "Sister Act." So come watch some nuns break it down to their own versions of Christmas songs like, "Santa Ain't Comin' to Our House." (Bailee Jakes)

Saturday, Dec. 3

"Lost in Woonsocket"
KUC Theater
2 p.m.
Admission: FREE

This movie documents the life of Mark and Normand, two homeless alcoholics who try to get their lives back on track. The movie takes the viewer through the systematic process of the pair's detox and recovery as they witness the struggles and challenges the two men face. The movie screams hope when the two recover and find redemption. But what will happen next when one man feels he can no longer stay sober? (Bailee Jakes)

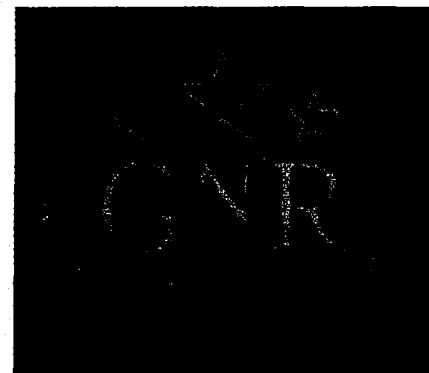


Radio City Music Spectacular
Grand Ole Opry House
2804 Opryland Dr., Nashville
8 p.m.
Admission: \$59

In a word: magical. It's a Nashville-holiday tradition that will get you in the holiday spirit. The stars of the show are the Rockettes, with their flawless precision and super-high kicks. The show also includes Santa Claus and a manger scene with live animals. It's a great way to escape your busy life for one night and experience something special that's only around this time of year. (Bailee Jakes)

Guns N' Roses
Bridgestone Arena
501 Broadway, Nashville
7:30 p.m.
Admission: \$50- \$283.90

If you're nursing an *Appetite for Destruction* and can't get enough of that high-pitched growl of Axl Rose, don't miss Guns N' Roses as they stop off in Nashville for a good taste of the South. See the rockers that death has not stolen from us yet (miraculously enough). These '80s rock gods will jump and gyrate across the stage, hopefully without breaking a hip. Bring your mad-air guitar skills and an ambulance...you never know. (Becca Andrews)



WMTS Benefit feat. The Thank You Ma'ams and Frojan Horse Bluesboro
114 N. Church St., Murfreesboro
8 p.m.
Admission: \$5

If you want to support local music and MTSU's radio station (we can't have another Vanderbilt WRVU on our hands, can we?), come out to Bluesboro. The show will feature The Thank You Ma'ams, a Murfreesboro folk-alternative band that is garnering much attention in these parts, as well as Frojan Horse, a duo that seems to get around Middle Tennessee well. Let's raise money for WMTS so we don't lose it to a classical-music playing radio conglomerate (ahem, RIP, WRVU). (Becca Andrews)



'72 Hours' well worth your time



72 *Hours* wasn't the kind of book I was expecting it to be. The plot didn't follow the path I expected it to, the characters didn't develop in the manner I assumed they would and the novel certainly doesn't end the way I had planned out in my mind.

But then again, this isn't your typical student-written novel – and it thrives on its surprising nature.

The story centers on Mike Whiting and David Lopez, two ex-Navy engineers. In their quest to find some meaningful employment outside of the military, they stumble into something sinister that will transform their hollow existence forever. Simple enough on the surface, but it's

where the story goes from there that makes it a worthwhile read.

The novel is written by 33-year-old MTSU journalism major Dietrich Stogner, but readers who are unaware that he is a student would likely be surprised. Stogner, who is scheduled to graduate in December,

spins a yarn that is not only highly entertaining, but highly personal.

Stogner served in the Navy on submarines for seven years as a nuclear technician, where he gained inspiration for the main characters. Pieces of real-life experience can be pulled from the pages when it comes to the protagonists. This also is true when it comes to the setting, which is the Middle Tennessee area. Stogner has lived in Middle Tennessee for roughly five years, and he uses his

knowledge of the lay of the land to add everything from landmarks to quips about the abysmal Nashville traffic layout.

A few other things set *72 Hours* apart from the typical mystery/thriller. Somewhere amid the pithy dialogue and shootouts, the reader begins to genuinely care about what happens to the characters. The heroes of the story are quite interesting, and that's coming from someone who has no qualms about tossing aside a book if he doesn't mind if the characters die horribly (I seem to recall an ill-fated attempt at reading *Twilight* that falls into this category). Stogner draws you into the characters far better than one would expect from someone so early in his writing career.

Also, the author doesn't rely on any sort of archetype to write his story. Stogner readily declares himself a disciple of Stephen King, and says that the style and plot were heavily influenced by Dennis Lehane. That being said, the book doesn't read like

something that was written by a fanboy trying to emulate his hero. Stogner is very good at throwing the dice in a manner that he deems interesting, and letting the pieces fall in a way that is both unexpected and consistent with his style. Even though Stogner is a remarkable writer, he does from time to time get bogged down in his own inexperience. Good story flow and character development are the marks of veteran writers, and Stogner has not had the time to hone his storytelling skills to that degree.

Finally, it suffices to say that things flow a little less like a Jason Bourne novel, and a little more like *Godfather Part I*. Heroes and villains are blurred, right and wrong is questioned, and you come away asking yourself "Well, what would I do if I were in their shoes?" Stogner has hinted at the possibility of a sequel, and if he finds himself writing the next book, I will find myself buying a copy. ■

By Daniel Kreipe
Staff Writer

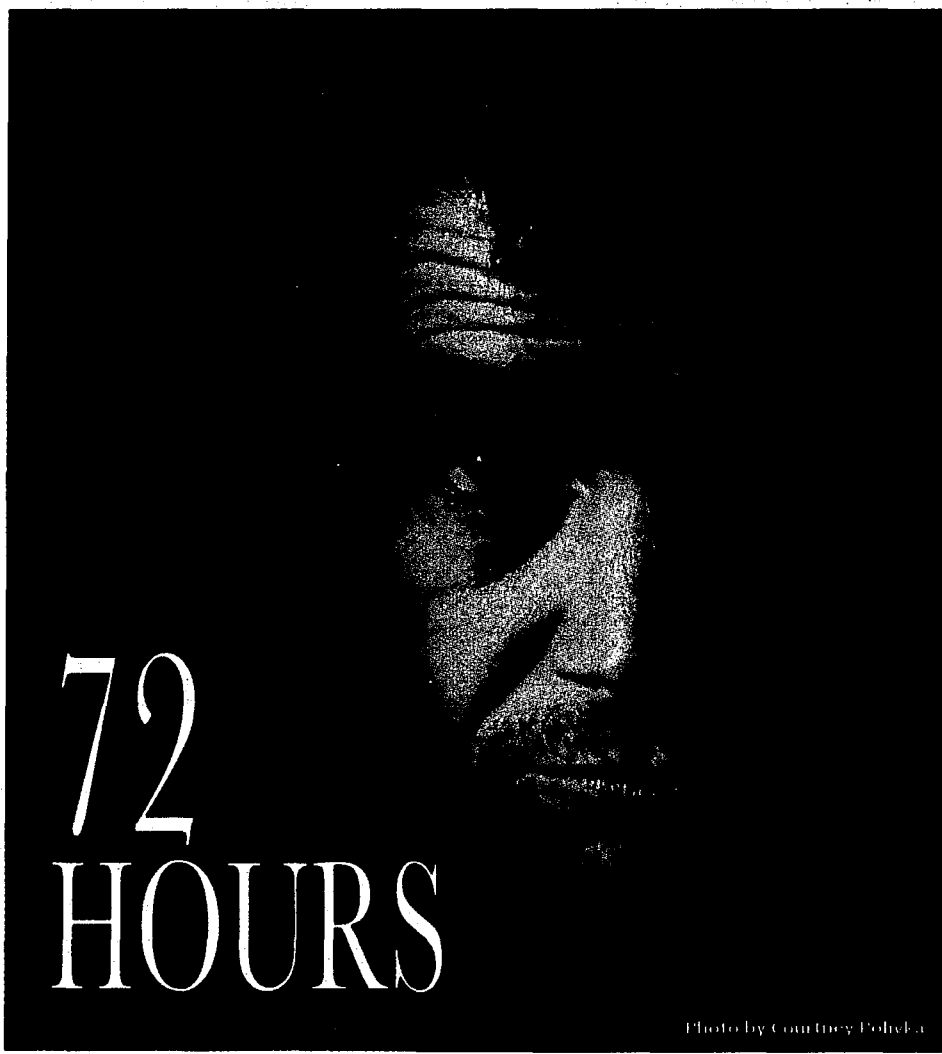
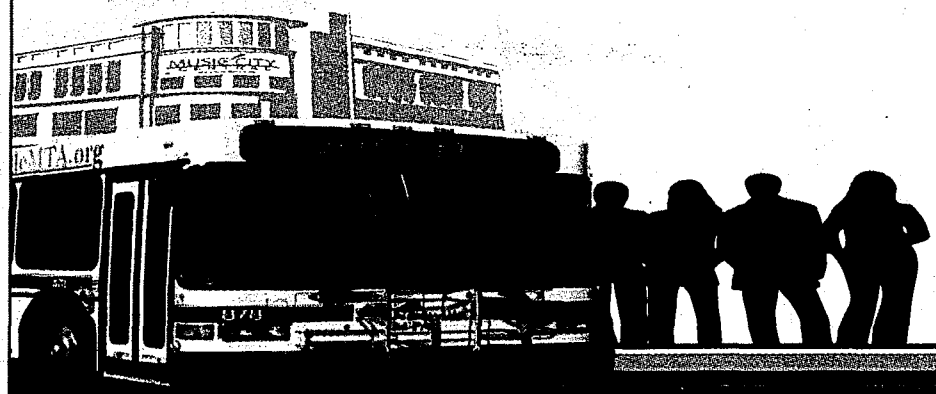


Photo by Courtney Pollock

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Blue Raider Spotlight: Malcolm Beyah

MT wide receiver continues to impress three years after "Murfreesboro Miracle"

Most every child dreams of it, throwing the ball high into the air and catching it in their backyards, surrounded by the imagined cheers of thousands of fans.

They position themselves perfectly, jump up and catch the ball at its highest point, just like their coaches taught them, amid a virtual sea of defenders. The clock hits all zeros, as the child skillfully corrals the pass for what they imagine to be the game-winning touchdown for the home team in front of a packed crowd on national television.

On Thursday, Oct. 1, 2008, in what will forever be known as the "Murfreesboro Miracle," that dream became a reality for MT freshman wide receiver Malcolm Beyah.

The Blue Raiders trailed 13-7 against conference rival Florida Atlantic in the waning minutes of the teams' 2008 matchup. MT had one last chance to pick up a win in front of a crowd of 25,766,

the third largest in school history at the time.

Senior quarterback Joe Craddock marched the offense down the field until the clock ran down to only a few seconds left, with time for one final play.

Craddock took the snap in the shotgun formation and side-stepped a blitzing defender before rifling a pass deep into the end zone.

Beyah went up for the ball, surrounded by white uniforms.

The ball met the freshman's hands as he reached the highest point of a well-timed jump, and Beyah came down with it, as his teammates surrounded him in celebration of the most exciting game any of them would ever be a part of.

Kicker Alan Gendreau nailed the extra-point try, and fans rushed the field on blackout night. It was the first time an ESPN televised game had ever taken place at Floyd Stadium.

Beyah's legacy as a Blue Raider might have been cemented with that one catch, had it

By Mark Mize
Staff Writer

Fast Facts

HOMETOWN: Chamblee, Ga.

YEAR: Senior

MAJOR: Organizational Communication

ROLE MODEL: Mom

FAVORITE FOOD: Candy

FAVORITE MOVIE: In Time

FAVORITE GENRE: Hip-Hop

PRE-GAME RITUAL: Listening to hype music like Waka Flocka Flame

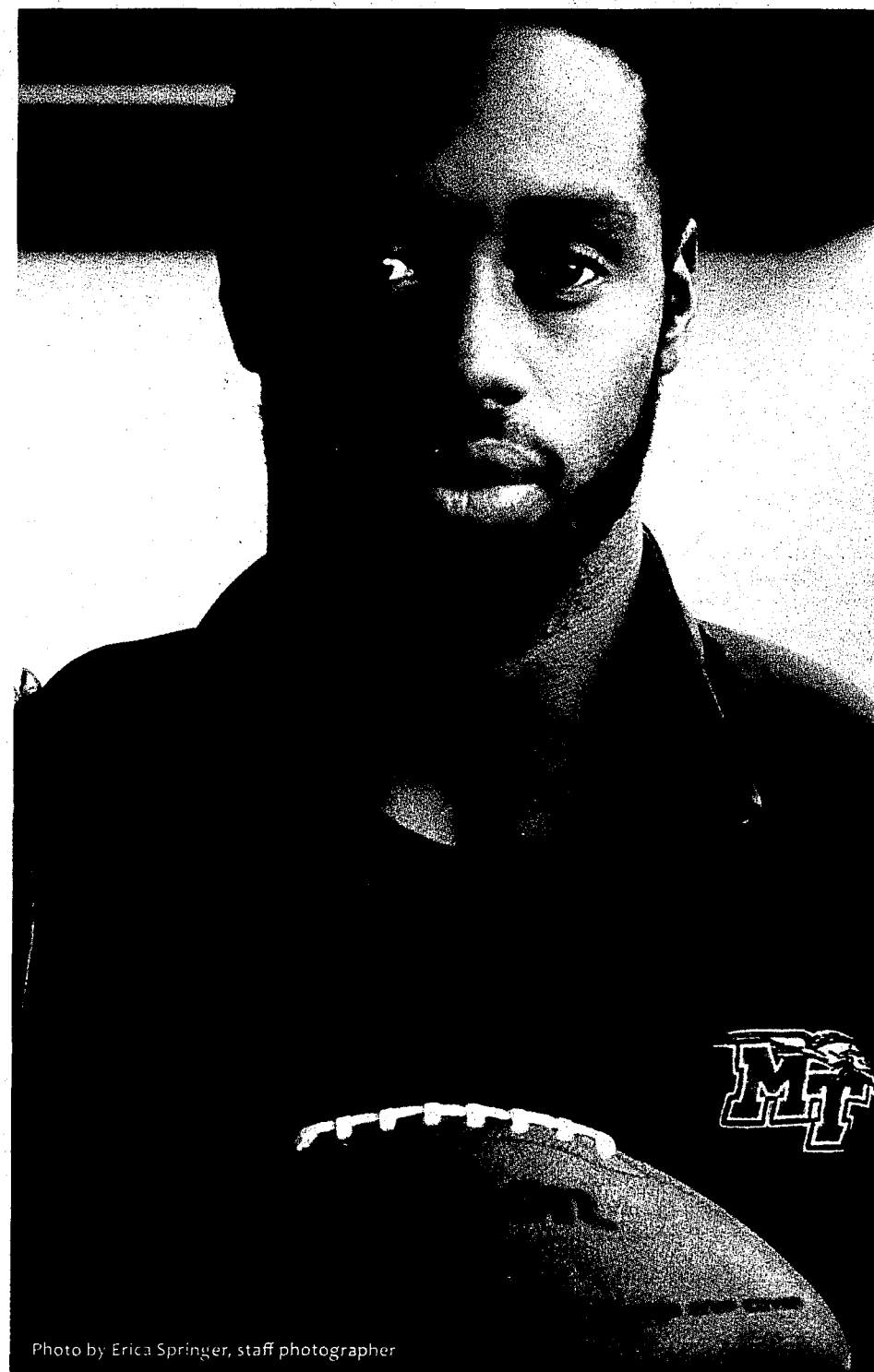


Photo by Erica Springer, staff photographer

been the only one he ever caught, but the MT star's career was far from over.

He is a senior now, and through 11 games in 2011 is fifth on the school's all-time receptions list with 115 in his career. He has accumulated 1,472 career receiving yards and 14 touchdowns at the college level.

His freshman year, he was named to two separate all-conference freshman

teams, and was named third-team All-Sun Belt by Phil Steele.

In the 2010 season, Beyah made the selfless move to switch to cornerback in spring camp, but was returned to his former position at receiver in the fall.

Off the field, Beyah is your average mild-mannered college student. He smiles and laughs readily in his confident, yet polite demeanor.

I am engaged in the life of this community

I think most people want to be successful, although there are certainly many colors in the rainbow of what could be defined as success. Equally diverse are the many strategies that a person might employ to become successful.

I am an example of this. Although my career is in the higher education field, I am most certainly not a member of the intellectually elite. More likely, I fall within the average range of intelligence (some of my colleagues may argue lower).

Yet, I consider myself to have achieved some success in my career because I have developed a simple alternative strategy - I have taken advantage of opportunities provided, and I work hard. Perhaps this is why

it is appropriate for me to write on the importance of becoming engaged as a part of the True Blue series.

You see, I believe MTSU can be a wonderful place. It has the fundamental ingredients for rich educational experiences - great facilities, advanced technologies, and almost limitless classes along with

abounding co- and extra-curricular opportunities. From courses in accounting to zoology, online to study abroad, athletics to performing arts, debate team to the Band of Blue - the prospects for success are here.

So why only "can be" and "prospects?" Because I believe an essential element is missing from the list above: action.

Now back to me. I was a moderately

successful student. Not because I didn't try, but as I mentioned before I was not the brightest student (of theatre, in my case). But, I was highly active outside the classroom through involvement in productions on-and-off campus and through work in the entertainment industry in Nashville. I participated in social and political groups on campus and volunteered for local nonprofits.

I certainly learned in my classes and this was fundamentally important. But, it was through these outside experiences that I created relationships and networks, developed my true abilities and found my passions. It is the combination of these experiences, in and out of the classroom, that have led to my feelings of success - professionally and personally.

No matter what word you use, the bottom line is we can all play an

active part in this community. The opportunities exist. It is just a matter of taking advantage of them.

It's not that tough really. Attending arts or educational events, presenting at Scholar's Week, using our voice in student or faculty governance, engaging in social, cultural or political groups - the list seems endless. The key is- you have to do it.

Then, tomorrow or perhaps years later, you can sit back and enjoy the memories and the rewards of your accomplishments. ■

By Jeff Gibson
Guest Columnist



Jeff Gibson is the chairperson of the speech and theatre department. He can be reached at jsgibson@mtsu.edu.

SPORTS

Interview with Beyah

Sidelines caught up with the star senior to talk about the college game, his time as a Blue Raider and what he likes to do in his time away from football.

SL: Describe what was going through your mind when you caught Joe Craddock's game-winning hail-Mary pass to beat Florida Atlantic on the final play in 2008?

Beyah: I remember thinking, "this is the last play, gotta make this play." I went up and caught the ball, and I was just ecstatic that we came back and won the game. That was the most exciting moment of my freshman season, and one of the most memorable. I don't think there will ever be a game like that again for me to catch the ball as the clock hit zero. It was unbelievable.

SL: Coming out of high school, what led you to pick MTSU over other colleges that recruited you?

Beyah: MTSU peaked my interest. They had my major. It was a good choice and not too far from home. It's only three hours from home, so my parents could

come to the games. My recruiting coach here was very straightforward with me.

SL: In your time at MTSU, you've played with three separate starting quarterbacks in Joe Craddock, Dwight Dasher and Logan Kilgore. How have you adapted to their different styles of play, and what did each bring to the offense?

Beyah: Joe Craddock was a very smart quarterback. He made minimal mistakes but wasn't the running threat that Dash(er) was. He had a really strong arm, though. Dash was a mobile quarterback. He could extend plays, and he kept his eyes down field. Logan is smart. He makes mistakes at times, but has a very quick release. One of his specialties is the deep ball. He also listens well to advice.

SL: How do you physically prepare for the season?

Beyah: In the offseason, I run track. I keep myself in shape and keep my speed up. I lift weights to maintain strength. Stretching is another key to staying in shape for the season. I also study a lot of film.

SL: Has it been hard to deal with the 2011 team's role as the underdog this season after the Blue Raider teams you played with for your first three seasons experienced so much success?

Beyah: I feel that we started out strong. At the Purdue game, we started off as the underdog. That would have really jump-started our season if we had won. It upset me a little coming in as underdogs with what we returned from last year's team. We shouldn't have let it get to us, though.

SL: You've moved into the top five on the all-time career receptions list at MTSU and are being mentioned in the same discussion with some of the great receivers in Blue Raider history. What do you contribute your continued success to?

Beyah: I really owe my success to the quarterbacks and offensive line. Coach [Justin] Watts has really helped me with my route running. Coach Stock[still] has given me a lot of little tips to help me out during the game, like release this way or make your route shorter or longer, always remember down and distance.

SL: If you could compare your style of play to any current NFL player, who

would it be?

Beyah: I wouldn't say just one style. In speed, I'm kind of like DeSean Jackson. In terms of play, I play a little bit more like Anquan Boldin or Larry Fitzgerald, strength and ability to get positioning on smaller corners and make a play on the ball. I can break tackles after the catch like Adrian Peterson.

SL: What do you do for fun when you're not on the gridiron?

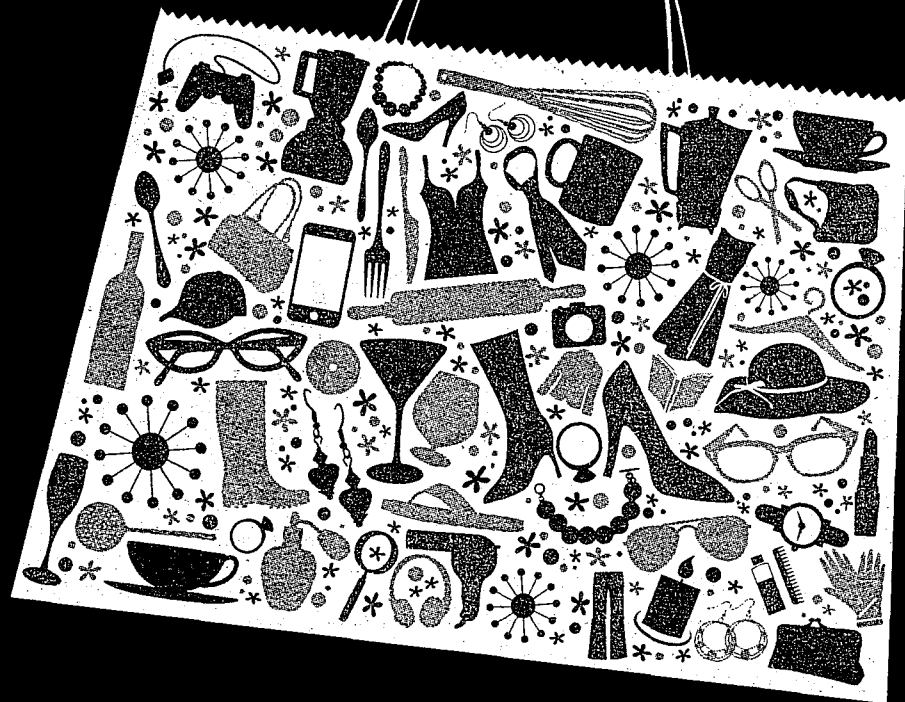
Beyah: Hang out with friends. I really like to play video games. I have the new Call of Duty.

SL: If you could pick any team to play for at the next level who would it be and why?

Beyah: The Atlanta Falcons because they're the home team. I've been living in Georgia my whole life. They have a lot of good talent, and I feel I could really contribute there. Another team is the San Diego Chargers. They're in need of wide receivers there, and I feel like could contribute there too. What originally attracted me to them was LaDainian Tomlinson, but he's not there anymore. ■

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