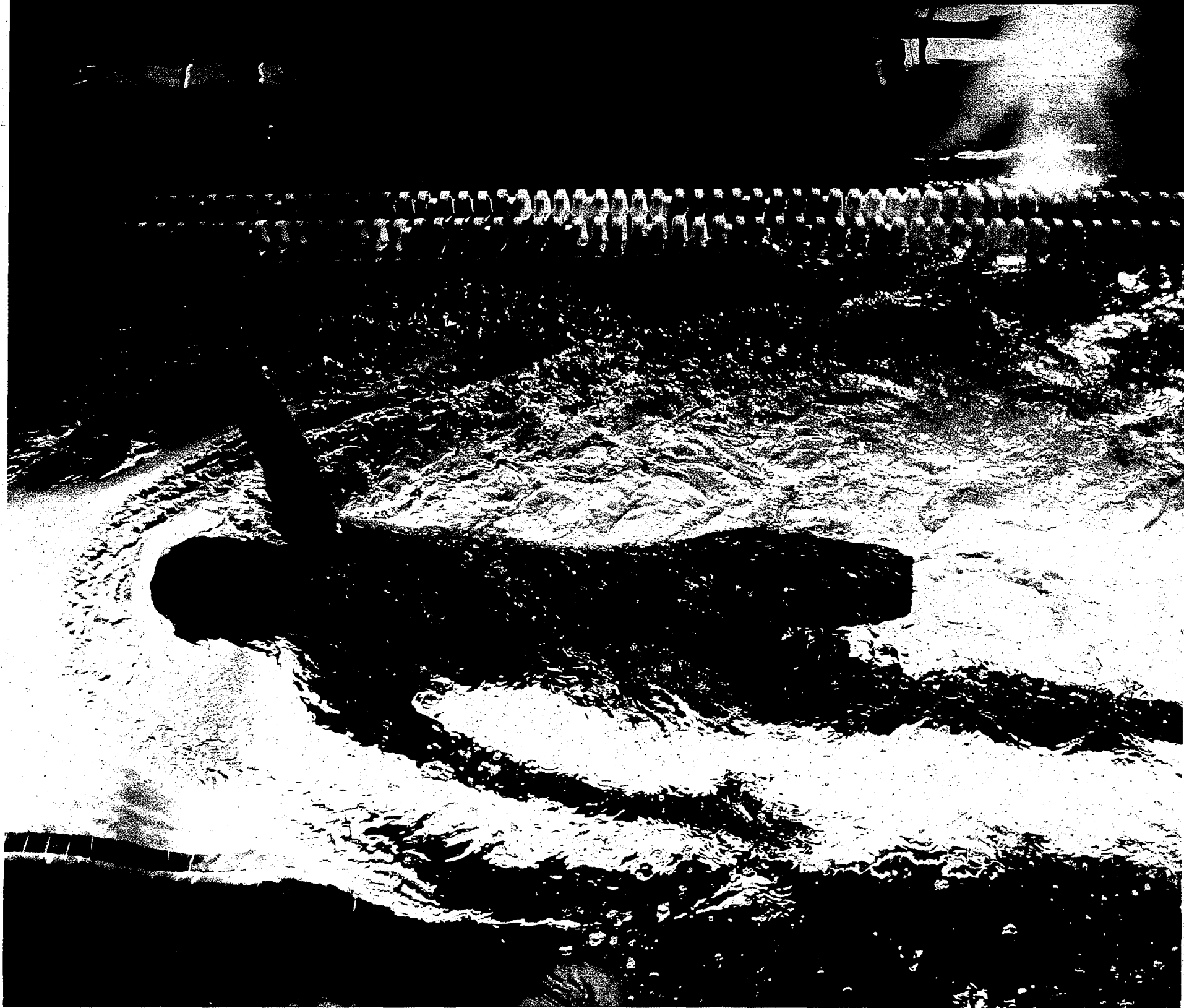


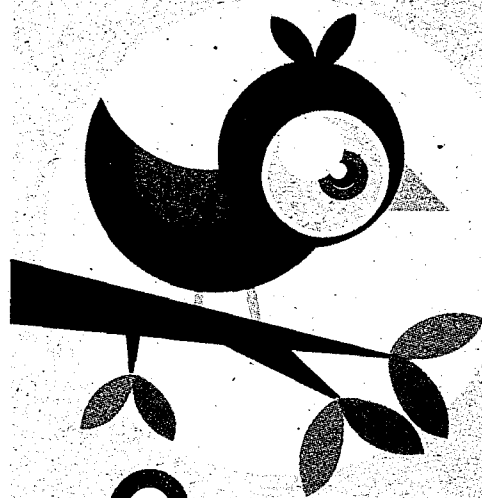
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY  
**SIDELINES**

DEC. 7 - DEC. 13, 2011 | VOL. 89, NO. 14

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

**SOMETHING LOST,  
SOMETHING GAINED**





# Free to Tweet

**D**uring a daylong online celebration of First Amendment rights, college students nationwide can win one of 22 \$5,000

scholarships through "Free to Tweet" on Dec. 15, the 220th anniversary of the right to free expression.

Beginning at midnight on Dec. 15, students between the ages of 14 and 22 can tweet their support for the First Amendment with the hash tag #freetotweet, which will enter them in the "Free to Tweet" scholarship competition. Students are encouraged to freely express themselves in their entries, which can be on any publicly viewable social media platform, including blogs.

The initiative is funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and organized by 1 for All, an unprecedented educational and public service campaign that builds understanding of the First Amendment and its five freedoms: speech, press, religion, assembly and petition.

"It matters what young people say about the First Amendment because each generation re-interprets these fundamental rights, often using the latest tools and technologies," said Michael Maness, vice president of journalism and media innovation for Knight Foundation. "Today's high school and college students are tomorrow's defenders of the First Amendment and all the other freedoms set forth in the Bill of Rights."

All Americans are urged to join the online celebration by tweeting their support for the First Amendment and help reinvigorate the often-overlooked Bill of Rights Day. In late November of

1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed Dec. 15 a national holiday on the 150th anniversary of the amendments' adoption, declaring Americans "will not, under any threat... surrender the guarantee of liberty our forefathers framed for us in our Bill of Rights." Just days later, Pearl Harbor was attacked and the United States entered World War II. The holiday declaration was largely forgotten.

"December 15 is the anniversary of the day America embraced the First Amendment and the entire Bill of Rights, but unfortunately it is all but forgotten as a national holiday," said Ken Paulson, a founder of the 1 for All campaign and president of the American Society of News Editors.

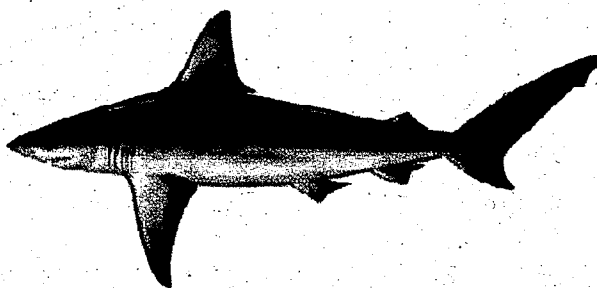
"Free to Tweet is a dynamic, multi-platform effort to rekindle appreciation for freedoms we dare not take for granted," Paulson said.

Joining in support of 1 for All and the "Free to Tweet" campaign are such artists as Ke\$ha, Joe Nichols, Mary Chapin Carpenter, The Civil Wars and Sarah Jarosz. Other celebrity tweeters will be announced in coming weeks.

The tweet can be self-contained or link to original content on a website or other social media platform. A panel of educators and First Amendment experts will review the entries and award 22 \$5,000 scholarships, one for every decade since the ratification of the Bill of Rights. Judging criteria and complete rules can be found at [FreetoTweet.org](http://FreetoTweet.org).

As part of the celebration of the First Amendment, the Newseum in Washington D.C. will host a conference for educators on how to use social media to teach freedom of expression. The event will also be webcast and available to teachers nationwide. ■

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of Larry McCormack/  
The Tennessean

# Cain comes to campus amid campaign decisions

**R**epublican presidential candidate Herman Cain made a stop on the campaign trail Dec. 1 to visit the Jennings A. Jones College of Business and talk pizza, not politics.

Shortly after the speech, Cain announced on Fox News that he would make a decision about whether to continue campaigning for election after several allegations of sexually inappropriate behavior and an accusation of a 13-yearlong extramarital affair, according to the Associated Press. Less than a week after the visit, he announced he would suspend his campaign for president.

Nearly halfway into his lecture on "Leadership Lessons Learned in a Turnaround—The Godfather's Pizza Story," some audience members interrupted him, chanting "we are the 99 percent" and saying that Cain owed apologies to everyone in the nation.

Some members of the audience disagreed with the protesters, some shouting "get out!" and then rising to applaud Cain after the protesters left.

"It's obvious that those people aren't 'the 99 percent,' since only about six people left during his presentation," said Landon Beirnes, an MTSU junior majoring in criminal justice. "I agree with what he had to say, and I can see the well-developed leadership principles in his life."

Andrew Nash, the student who introduced Cain before his presentation, said the candidate was asked to speak to entrepreneurship students about leadership qualities before he decided to run for U.S. president.

**By Emily West  
Staff Writer**

"I promised the dean of the college (Jim Burton) that I'm not going to talk about anything about political,"

Cain said. "I am not rattled by those who stood up while I was talking. Some people just abuse free speech."

Cain then explained his experiences at Godfather's Pizza, Burger King, Coca-Cola and the U.S. Navy.

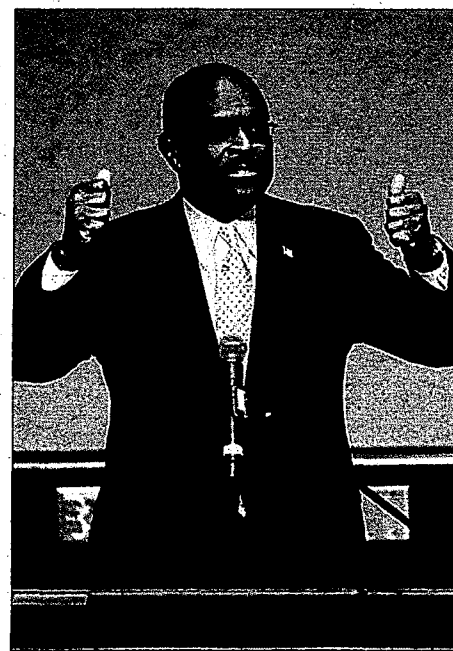
"Great leaders are born, but good leaders must keep working for it," he said. "Good leaders figure out the right problem to focus on, ask the right questions and remove barriers."

He also mentioned people who have inspired Americans with their leadership, such as presidents and civil-rights activists.

"You know, I don't ever remember hearing about Abraham Lincoln attending a leadership conference," Cain said. "He just did it. He addressed the right problem first, and he kept this nation together."

Entrepreneurship students' written questions for Cain after the lecture focused on how students can keep up with the job market and economy.

"In the technological age, you can never stop learning," the former CEO



Businessman Herman Cain gives a thumbs-up during his Dec. 1 lecture on entrepreneurship at the Business and Aerospace Building. (MTSU photo by J. Intintoli)

responded. "If you stop learning, you will be left behind. I recently read ... about how the United States contributes 25 percent of the world GDP (gross domestic product). The total GDP of the world is \$60 trillion. We produce so much with so little, and this is why we have enemies."

Cain said that even though the

U.S. government is on "life support," the United States is still one of the best nations in the world.

"We wouldn't have had some of the advances and technology we have today without this nation's moral values, Constitution and free market economy," Cain said. "We wouldn't have had people like Steve Jobs; for instance, if we had been a communist country."

The candidate emphasized the importance of focus in success, adding that self-motivation is a key factor in being a leader, along with having faith in oneself, one's nation and creator.

"He has the vision and good direction that he can apply to all things in his life," Beirnes said after Cain's lecture. "It's nice to see him speak about something else outside the political arena. However, I would have been here had he chosen to talk about political issues."

Cain also said that this nation cannot lose its optimistic values and that Americans must remain inspired to make the country better.

"Overall, what he had to say was pretty motivational," said Bryant Stevens, a junior majoring in electronic media production. "Even though his speech felt a little rehearsed and cliché, he's a true businessman. But he didn't convince me that he's the best choice to run the nation." ■



Less than a week after his Dec. 1 visit to campus, Cain chose to suspend his presidential campaign. (MTSU photo by J. Intintoli)

# Professor to travel country on 10 gallons of gas

**A** coast-to-coast trip using alternative energy and only 10 gallons of gasoline is being planned by a longtime professor of agriscience.

"I call that car 'The Beginning and the End,' because I'm using 35 years of research in it," said Cliff Ricketts, a 35-year university professor of agriscience.

The car being used, a Toyota Prius, will travel 100 miles by solar electric power. Hydrogen gas will be the fuel for 200 miles of travel, and the next 350 miles will be travelled using 85 percent ethanol. Finally, an additional 100 miles will be gained from onboard regeneration of the batteries during travel.

According to Ricketts, this will give him a total distance of 750 miles traveled per fill-up.

Ricketts' work with alternative fuels first began around the time of the revolution in Iran in 1978, the coming to power of the Ayatollah Khomeini, and the subsequent energy crisis, Ricketts said.

"At that same time, OPEC started shutting down the world's oil supply in the Persian Gulf, and the reason I got started in this is the fuel prices tripled. There was a span in 1978 to 79 that the American farmer was afraid that they weren't going to have any fuel to harvest their crops," Ricketts said.

The first alternative fuel he began to work with was ethanol, but his passion since childhood has been to find a way to fuel engines with water, Ricketts said.

Ricketts' first success with water-based energy came on Oct. 14, 1987. Through a process called electrolysis, he was able to convert water into its gaseous state and use it as fuel to run a small Briggs & Stratton engine for eight seconds.

"We were giving high-fives and thought we were the Wright brothers, flying the first airplane," Ricketts said.

Over the years, Ricketts, his students and colleagues have converted many engines to run on hydrogen fuel, including one that has only failed to start three times in 20 years and that set the land speed record in 1990, which it held onto for 15 years, Ricketts said.

"A car powered by hydrogen runs just as well as a car powered by gasoline does,"

Ricketts said.

As far as cost-efficiency compared to gasoline, the best that Ricketts said it would cost is about \$4.75 per gallon.

"I will not tell you anything I'm doing here is more economical,

nothing is more economical than gas when it gets to under \$2.50 a gallon," Ricketts said.

"The thing is, most people

who get into alternative energy usually quit when gas prices go back down, and I've just never quit."

There are many reasons Ricketts said he continues his research.

"First, for peace, because we're at war, indirectly due to oil, starting back with Iran, and then later with Iraq," Ricketts said.

"Also, I do it for the economy, because the biggest problem with the trade imbalance is the purchase of foreign oil. So if we produce

our own fuel in the country, then we're going to have a better economy."

It's also a clean energy, so clean that the water that comes out of the tailpipe is drinkable, Ricketts said.

His main reason, though, is for national security. Ricketts said he wants the American people to have a fuel that they could revert to if there was a national emergency.

"For example, if the bad guys, whoever the bad guys are, wanted to shut down the Persian Gulf - I think it's 60 percent of the world's oil supply - if 60 percent of the world's oil supply was shut down, America would be shut down," Ricketts said.

"Commuters would not be able to get fuel and get to work."

His process of producing hydrogen gas from water through electrolysis is such that it could be installed and running within a

month, Ricketts said adding that in a time of national emergency, the country could quickly begin using its own fuel.

"It's kind of like life insurance," Ricketts said. "You don't want to use it, but when you need it, it's good. This is almost like an insurance policy that MTSU has a model for the country to follow if we have a national emergency. If we don't have one, we're in better shape anyway."

According to Ricketts, he has built his own refinery at the university. Instead of refining oil into gasoline, he refines water into hydrogen gas, using energy from solar panels located outside of his building.

He said he has teamed up with the Tennessee Valley Authority through a process called Green Power Switch. The program was created "to produce electricity from renewable sources and add it to the TVA's power mix," according to its website,

Ricketts' solar panels produce electricity, which is monitored by the university and Murfreesboro Electric. The number of kilowatts produced is the number Ricketts has available to use in his account through the Green Power Switch program.

"When I run my electrolysis unit, or charge the electric component of my Prius, that's like using a debit card or writing a check," Ricketts said.

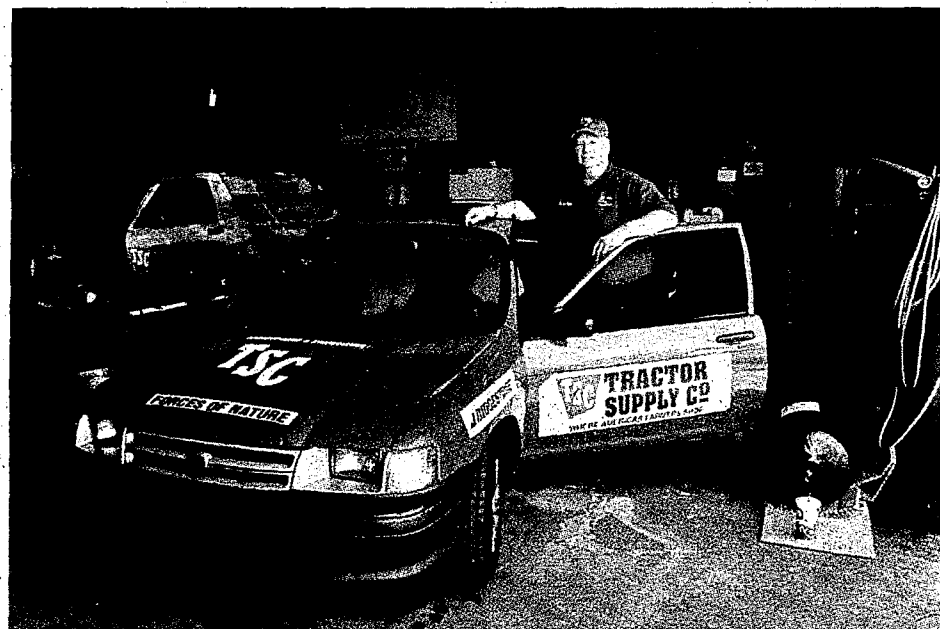
The biggest issue with water to hydrogen fuel conversion isn't the cost of converting vehicles to use the hydrogen, which costs less than \$1500, Ricketts said. The big issue is the cost of storage, as the tanks Ricketts has cost around \$4000 a piece.

"But that doesn't concern me that much, because we're so much on the front end of the technology," Ricketts said. "I have no doubt if there were more than 2 million of those tanks, they'd easily get down under \$1000 a piece."

After more than 30 years of working with alternative energy, Ricketts said that after he completes this coast-to-coast trip using multiple sources of alternative energy, he still has one more goal.

"My next goal, before I ride into the sunset, is to do the same thing I did across the state," Ricketts said. "I want to go coast to coast, the Atlantic to the Pacific, on nothing but sun and water. If I do that, I think I've made my contribution to mankind." ■

**By Alex Harris**  
Associate News Editor



Cliff Ricketts drives his hydrogen-powered Toyota Tercel on I-40 toward Memphis on Nov. 1, 2010. Over the years, Ricketts, his students and colleagues have converted many engines to run on hydrogen fuel, including one that has only failed to start three times in 20 years and that set the land speed record in 1990.

## Study Abroad program has excess money

By Reshma Pudota  
Staff Writer

**T**hough there is a surplus of funds available for students interested in studying abroad, the fund is not being fully utilized by students, according to campus officials.

Every year the MTSU Study Abroad and Student Exchange program has more than \$500,000 available to fund study-abroad scholarships, which aids in covering traveling and tuition costs for studying in different countries.

However, last year only 200 received funds from the program, equaling \$325,000 of funding. Funds from previous years roll forward into the next year's available funds.

Travelling abroad is a good way of learning about other people and oneself, said Jan Quarles, a journalism professor who has lived and taught abroad extensively.

"For students in study abroad programs, the study and travel open up new windows for experience in life and expose students to new ways of thinking," Quarles said. "Meeting people from another culture and studying in that culture, helps students understand there are many ways of looking at the world."

Professor Robert Spires of the mass communication department has the same view.

"Students will become more cosmopolitan," Spires said, "and realize the world is a big and fascinating place, and that beyond political and geographical differences, most people are the same. Even if they won't admit it or see it, they will not be the same person as before they went abroad—their life will be changed in so many ways".

MTSU has study programs with France, India, China, Italy, Japan and many other countries worldwide.

"In general, I believe American culture is too ethnocentric and inwardly-focused," Spires said. "Our education system doesn't require much competency in a foreign language through high school, and most university degrees don't require foreign languages. Even outside education, most American families don't emphasize the value of learning about other people and places beyond the shores of the U.S."

Joshua Gilliland, an alumnus who studied in Japan for a year during his enrollment, said that spending time in another country affected him once he returned to the U.S.

"Going to a civilization that is alien to you will open up so many different facets of your personality that even



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you didn't know existed," Gilliland said. "Until you actually get there and experience it there is no way to tell what new things you will learn."

Quarles shared a similar perspective.

"For me, learning about and living in another culture is a rich life experience," Quarles said. "It deepens my curiosity about the world".

Lee Roganstand, a graduate student who studied in

Korea, said his time abroad made him think about his future academic career and drastically changed his view of music.

"Being around so many international students, eating the local food, learning their language and at the same time studying in a classroom has helped me learn so much more about myself and the people around me," Roganstand said. "It has helped me to respect and be more open to different cultures." ■

# Cain speech at best, uninspiring; at worst, offensive

It is a downright shame to see how our business department at Middle Tennessee State University handled the Herman Cain speech in regards to the limited interaction allowed between Cain and students.

Why would a department at our institution bring a political powerhouse to campus and then say, "No political questions?" Bringing a figure like Cain to the university, but ignoring the opportunity to allow students to participate in the political process, is irresponsible, especially given the fact that most college students are not as engaged as they should be.

Saying "no political questions" only perpetuates this notion that the millennials need to sit down, shut up and let the old farts speak for us.

Cain's speech was a poor attempt at motivational speaking, with not-so-funny laugh lines and Dr. Seuss-like rhymes. Although the rhymes seemed silly at first, their energy and cadence sounded like something coming from a strong black preacher.

However, there was one main difference. Unlike those preachers, Cain's three or four rhyming remarks were quoted entirely from others, and seemed more like a memorized script than something coming from the heart.

There were many misleading and shortsighted points to Cain's speech. Cain touted American exceptionalism by stating

that the U.S. makes up only 4.5 percent of the world's population, but produces 25 percent of the world's GDP. What Cain failed to acknowledge is the amount of pollution we produce as a nation and the fact that we consume 24 percent of the world's energy resources.

Cain also mentioned Steve Jobs and Apple, saying that an entrepreneur like Jobs could only emerge in America ("And certainly not in a communist country!"), ignoring the fact that Apple's success depends entirely on the subpar working conditions in the third world countries in which their products are manufactured.

A less problematic but still disappointing aspect of Cain's speech was the way that he addressed race - or rather, sidestepped it. Cain told the story of his first day as president of the failing Godfather's Pizza chain.

He was relocated to Omaha, Neb., on April Fool's Day, 1986. He knew that the others had never seen a picture of him, so he chose to start the meeting by saying "Yes, I am Herman Cain, and this ain't no April Fool's joke."

While it was clear from the way Cain told the story that he was implying that he knew they would be surprised to see a black man as the president of the company, the words white, black, or African American were never used.

This is recurring issue for Cain, who seems to think that addressing

race directly will lose him conservative votes. Indeed, many politicians of color, including our president, seem to think this way. When we already have a society that encourages post-racial policies, we can never hope to address racial inequities when even politicians of color refuse to acknowledge them.

For someone who wasn't supposed to "talk politics," Cain managed to do so when he told his audience that the main barrier to economic success is "too much government."

Keeping in tradition with how Cain likes to contradict himself, when he was interrupted by Occupy protesters in the middle of his speech for a mic check, he initially said that he had made a commitment to the dean to not talk politics, and so he was not going to respond.

However, near the end of his speech, he brought up the protesters again, voicing a disturbing view of the First Amendment.

"We have freedom of speech," he said. "Some people simply abuse it."

While it may not have been polite of the protesters to interrupt Cain's speech, it is certainly not an abuse of free speech.

Additionally, what does Cain expect when he comes to a university that has, as he himself acknowledged, many different viewpoints, but does not allow students an opportunity for open dialog?

Cain, sensing that the crowd supported his view of the protesters, then decided to go even further, saying "I think

they decided to ruin my party because not enough people would come hear them speak." This immature comment was certainly (as Rep. Jim Clyburn called Cain's earlier "Princess Nancy" comment) "conduct unbecoming of a Southern gentleman," especially one running for the highest office in the nation.

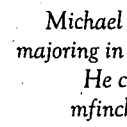
He later advised students to stay informed about the goings-on in our country, though he hastened to add that he didn't necessarily mean they should become protesters.

Speaking solely on the merits of Cain's speech as a lesson on business, the content was cookie cutter and unremarkable. Some of his points were also oddly disheartening. Cain repeated many times that "great leaders are born and good leaders keep working at it."

This flies in the face of actual research done on leadership. It's very surprising that Cain would choose to imply that the only way to be a great leader is to be born with that special something, when he is speaking to a crowd of business students he is ostensibly trying to inspire.



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# Newspapers dying from obstruction of change

I'm not from the field of journalism; I'm an economics major with a love for writing. That being said there are fewer things more valuable to society than the information provided by many journalists. That's why I worry about the future of newspapers and the model that is touted by so many in the field of journalism.

The fact of the matter is that journalism is flourishing, there are more people today reading and writing about the news than in any other time. You can see it all around you, but you have to look through the modern lens. The

new journalism doesn't look too much like the journalism of yesterday; it's more opinionated, more interactive and personal, and in many cases more niche driven.

Notwithstanding the undeniable growth of amateur reporting around the world, there is a mentality of those in the field of journalism that mirrors the clergy bellowing that the public couldn't possibly decipher the Bible without their deep knowledge and insight.

No, newspapers are a business of wisdom and social responsibility, of course, something that must be upheld and worshipped! Yet the only thing that

has come to its knees is the business of newspapers.

Over centuries we now have varying views of religion and I think you'll be astonished to know that the same divisions exist in journalism. Still, the view that is drilled into most peoples' heads by even the most well-meaning people is one that has put an industry in shambles.

Journalists cover the change of business, politics, etc. Those with their heads still in that imaginary honey pot say journalists don't fear change, they just fear failure and a changing industry requires some failure. Unfortunately if you want failure, look around. The most "favored"

newspapers in the world are constantly on the brink of financial collapse.

Newspapers for decades used their geographical monopolies to inflate advertising rates to reap profits and filled their pages with news that hardly anyone cares about, all the while acting as if the paper was acting in the community's best interest.

In the meantime the ballsy journalism, that is essentially timeless, has been lost to sloth and withered on the vine. Perpetuating this decay are the chickens coming home to roost in the form of falling advertising rates and fewer subscribers, causing staffing cuts and more

# EVENTS

## on campus

**Commercial Music Ensemble**  
Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m.  
Wright Music Hall  
FREE

**Study Buddy Café with refreshments and tutors**  
Dec. 8, 4 p.m.  
Lyon Hall Basement  
FREE

**MTSU After Dark: Exam Jam Late Night Breakfast**  
Dec. 8, 10 p.m. – 12 a.m.  
McCallie Dining Hall  
FREE

**International Film Series: "Ajami"**  
Dec. 10, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
Keathley University Center Theater  
FREE

**Women's Basketball vs. Georgia Tech**  
Dec. 11, 2 p.m.  
Murphy Center  
FREE

**Intercultural Graduation Reception**  
Dec. 13, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.  
Tom Jackson Building  
FREE

**People-watching: See sleep-deprived and overworked students**  
When: Any given time  
Where: Campus and surrounding areas  
FREE

## off campus

**Radio City Christmas Spectacular**  
Dec. 7 – 24, showtimes online at  
radiocitychristmas.com  
Grand Ole Opry House  
Tickets: \$25 - \$79

**Music City Christmas**  
Dec. 7 – 14, 7 p.m.  
Studio Gallery at Fontanel  
Tickets: \$59

**Les Miserables in Concert:  
Benefit for Tennessee  
Teens Rock Camp**  
Dec. 7 – 8, 8 p.m.  
Mercy Lounge  
Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door

**"A Christmas Story"**  
Dec. 8 – 22, showtimes online at tpac.org  
Tennessee Performing Arts Center's Johnson  
Theatre  
Tickets: \$52.50

**"Nuncrackers"**  
Dec. 8 – 10, 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 11, 2 p.m.  
Murfreesboro Center for the Arts  
Tickets: \$12

**Rachael Yamagata  
with Mike Viola**  
Dec. 8, 8 p.m.  
12th and Porter  
Tickets: \$15

**Wilmesherr, Ravenhill and Dave Armstrong**  
Dec. 8, 8:30 p.m.  
Bonhoeffer's  
FREE

**G.E.D Soul Records Christmas Revue  
with Coolin System, Sky Hi and Jigawatts**  
Dec. 8, 9 p.m.  
The Basement  
Tickets: \$7

**"A Christmas Carol"**  
Dec. 9 – 10, 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 11, 4:30 p.m.  
Springhouse Worship and Arts Center  
Tickets: \$8

**Half Priced Hearts Acoustic Show and Video  
Game Day**  
Dec. 10, 12 p.m. – 3 p.m.  
Rockettown  
FREE

**Deep Fried 5 with Montezuma  
Fire Machine & Funkonauts**  
Dec. 10, 9 p.m.  
Gilligans  
Tickets: \$7

**The Buddy System with Your Otherself,  
Bradbury and Babyshaker**  
Dec. 10, 9 p.m.  
The Boro  
Tickets: \$5

**Hypnotist Rich Guzzi**  
Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m.  
Zanies  
Tickets: \$15

**Pageant with The Lion in Winter,  
Frontier Sons, The Foxery and  
The Paranormals**  
Dec. 11, 8 p.m.  
The End  
Tickets: \$5

**Young Entertainment  
Professionals  
presents 90s Night**  
Dec. 12, 7 p.m.  
Exit/In  
Tickets: \$5

**Nashville Predators  
vs. Calgary Flames**  
Dec. 13, 7 p.m.  
Bridgestone Arena  
Tickets: \$24 - \$260

**Blues Jam with C.J. Vaughn**  
Dec. 13, 8 p.m.  
Bluesboro  
FREE

**A Celtic Christmas**  
Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m.  
Ryman Auditorium  
Tickets: \$29.50 - \$49.50

## Industry shifting

...from previous page

lazy journalism promoted in the name of cost cutting.

No doubt being a good journalist is hard work, essentially having to be connected to the happenings of the world through an IV. There are many respectable journalists out there but unfortunately some of them get their wings cut by crusty old editors driven by the "traditional" dogma.

The religion of newspapers, aside from its traditions, is "objectivity." This of course is why Congress and the media have approval ratings that closely resemble one another. Yet, I know some that would have you believe that this "fourth pillar" of democracy has such a low standing because people are too stupid to know what they want or need or that the media is too "liberal" or "conservative."

I have a few alternative theories. Perhaps the religiosity of "objectivity" has actually made news soft. The modern industry worships power of celebrity and politics and thus revels in those who wield

it, when truth all along was never objective. The backbone of the industry is gone, the innovation is gone, and the personality is dead. The years of struggling with new media is coming to a head and instead of changing, many in the industry have further entrenched themselves.

Challenge the view of the tradition of newspapers or their methods of dispensing information and you'll quickly find your opinion near the obituaries, which coincidentally is where you may soon find many newspapers that are too focused on dogma and not focused on their readers.



Josh Fields is a senior majoring in economics. He can be reached at josh@virtualblend.com.

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# SOMETHING LOST, SOMETHING GAINED

By Emma Egli  
Features Editor

The last semester of college is a pivotal point for most seniors. This is a time to focus on juggling final exams, projects and above all, the task of figuring out what exactly to do after graduation.

Craig Hutto is, in all respects, just like any senior. He's got more than enough on his plate - 16 hours of coursework, working as a part time research assistant at Vanderbilt University and a membership with Sigma Chi fraternity.

You would never really know that six years prior, this 23-year-old nursing student went through something so painfully traumatic. But even with his stoic outward appearance, the physical scar of that fateful day is still evident - the slight limp that occurs every time he walks.

Craig lost something irreplaceable that day nearly six years ago that most of us take for granted. Because where his right leg should be, instead exists a fully-functioning prosthetic.

It was June of 2005, and the then-16-year-old Craig was in the thick of back-to-back basketball tournaments playing for his school, Lebanon High School. The idea of going to the beach with his family sounded like a perfect, well-deserved break from the exhaustion.

Their destination was Cape San Blas, Fla., a section of peninsula near the Gulf of Mexico, nearly 50 miles from famous Panama City Beach. But unlike the famed spring break hot spot, this quiet beach was not a touristy area.

"My plan was just to go fishing every day with Brian," Craig says of his plans with his older brother. "That was really the only thing to do."

Slightly bored, but content nonetheless, the boys obtained their fishing license, some poles and some frozen shrimp and took to the ocean. They waded out to a sandbar, cast

off and were rewarded for their patience with a few small fish.

The boys decided to try their luck again the next day, taking to the nearly-deserted beach around 9:30 the next morning. Craig and his brother again waded through the chest-deep water to reach the shallow sandbar and cast out over it. This time, his brother was more successful.

"We had been out there for about an hour and a half when Brian catches one that's probably a foot and a half long," Craig says. "Me, being a competitive person, said 'let's go back out there,' because I knew I could catch a bigger one than him."

A seemingly innocent, yet slightly ambitious idea, it would be one that Craig would come to regret for the rest of his life.

It was murky and overcast that morning, the murky water impossible to see through. Craig and his brother once again waded out to the sandbar about 40 yards offshore.

"We start making our way back to the sandbar and Brian was about 10 feet from me to my right," Craig says. "Right before we hit that gully before the sandbar, suddenly something bumps me on my leg."

The force of whatever collided with Craig's thigh sends him into a state of panic. He frantically twirls around, looking for the cause of it, but can see nothing in the dull, dark ocean around him.

"I immediately freak out and yell, 'what was that?'" he recalls. "I start to backpedal and as soon as I do, something grabs me on my right leg and takes me underwater."

What happens next seems to play out like a bad horror movie.

"Since the water wasn't too deep, I got my footing back and stood up," Craig says. "At that point, I still wasn't even aware that it was a shark. Then it started dragging me under again, this time pulling me out towards the ocean."

Brian, who had been watching the horrific scene the entire time, immediately knew it was a shark after seeing its body flip out of the water in an attempt to drag

his younger brother out to sea.

"He started swimming towards me and started hitting it with its fishing pole," Craig says of his brother's attempted, but failed rescue. "Then he grabbed me underneath my arms we started to swim back to shore."

All the while, the shark made no attempt to let go. Craig felt no pain, as his body had gone into shock. But he still knew it was there.

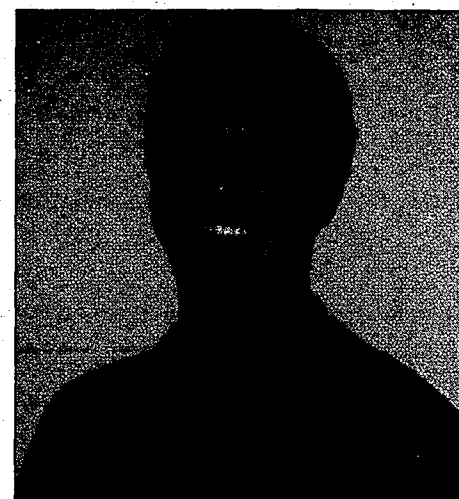
"About halfway back to shore, I came up with this bright idea to reach my hands down and try to pry open its mouth off my leg," Craig explains, his idea seemingly ridiculous now, but perfectly logical at that traumatic point in time. "But when I bring my hands up out of the water, my left hand is completely shredded on my palm, and my right hand had been bitten on my index and middle finger."

The scars are still quite evident on his palm and fingers, but are not even half the proof of the mutilation caused by this nearly 8-foot bull shark.

"When the shark bit me, it bit my right femoral artery, so with every heart beat, I was just pumping blood out," Craig says. "To this day, I still never actually saw the shark. But I do remember seeing from the point at which it bit me to where we were at the shore, a trail about 4 feet wide of blood in the ocean."

At this point, a small crowd had gathered on the shore after hearing Craig's panicked screams. Horrified onlookers watched the scene unfold, one of them being his father, who rushed out to aid his brother.

"When we were about 2 feet from shore, my dad and another man grabbed my arms with the shark still on my leg," Craig says. "Brian sort of rolls the shark on top of me and just hits it in its snout three times,





## COVER STORY

and it finally lets go and swims away.”

That was history for the shark. But unfortunately, things were only getting worse for Craig.

“They pulled me onto shore, and I’m lying on my back, barely able to breathe because I had lost so much blood,” he says. “Then out of nowhere, there were three nurses by my side.”

In a miraculous fashion, the trained specialists who just happened to be vacationing on the same beach rush to Craig’s aid and immediately take turns putting pressure on his gushing leg.

“Later, the doctors would estimate that I had lost 3,500 units of blood,” Craig explains. “With my weight to height ratio at the time, I probably had about 6,000 units of blood in my body.”

An ambulance arrives within minutes, thankfully with blood products on it to help replace the substantial amount he was losing. Unfortunately, the Life Flight helicopters did not arrive as promptly, leaving Craig to suffer for another 45 minutes until he could be transported to Bay Medical Center in Panama City.

“When I was finally put on the helicopter, there wasn’t enough room for someone to be there putting pressure on my leg, so they had to put a tourniquet on it,” Craig explains. “From that moment on, I started feeling the pain. It was excruciating.”

In agony, Craig asks the flight nurse if it’s OK to pass out – the pain was too much to bear in a conscious state. The nurse says yes, and with that, Craig shuts his eyes.

• • •

Craig woke up the next day in the hospital, disoriented as the memories of what occurred the previous day came flooding back. His mother was there by his side.

“I looked over at her and said, ‘please don’t let them take my leg,’” Craig recalls.

His mother immediately bursts into tears, confirming his worst fears.

“She went and got the hospital chaplain and he came in and told me everything that had happened,” Craig says. “I was pretty devastated.”

Craig’s right leg could not be saved. He would spend the next two weeks in the hospital, getting moved to Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital in Nashville halfway through the recovery. He would undergo a total of seven surgeries, two of which were to repair his mutilated hands.

“I only had about 20 percent usage

in my hands when I got out of the hospital because the shark had bit a lot of the tendons and nerves,” Craig says. “I still don’t have feeling in the tip of my left index finger and right middle finger, but I regained 90 percent usage after fully recovering.”

Those two weeks in the hospital were the hardest of his life. Even with family and friends there to support him, Craig couldn’t escape the morphine-induced nightmares or the realization that he had lost something that would change his life forever.

“It messed me up psychologically with the bad dreams and my hands bundled up to where I couldn’t even use the bathroom by myself,” Craig recalls with discomfort. “I guess that’s why now I’m an extremely independent person.”

But it was his brother Brian who would quickly snap him out of the depression he was sinking into.

“Brian told me I needed to suck it up and quit being a baby about it because I had already experienced the worst and it was only going to get better now,” Craig says. “After he told me that, I realized I couldn’t change what happened to me, but I make the best out of a bad situation. Since that talk, I haven’t really thought about it that much.”

Craig would spend the next three months confined to a wheelchair while he attended hand therapy nearly five times a week to regain function of them. He would finally get fitted for his first prosthetic leg that September.

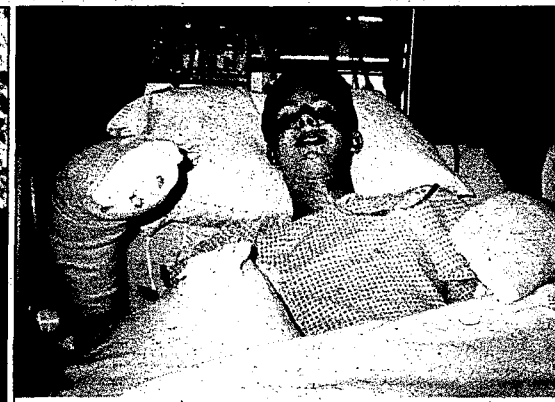
“It probably took me about two solid months to get to the point where I could walk as good as I was ever going to,” Craig explains. “I still use the same prosthetic that I got six years ago. I’ve gotten better at using it – I try to stay active.”

A year after the accident, Craig was contacted by the Challenged Athletes Foundation, an organization that supports people with physical challenges by providing sports opportunities. After a frustrating year of watching his teammates play basketball while all he could do was sit on the bench, Craig took interest.

After flying out to California with



Craig has logged hundreds of hours testing Vanderbilt’s bionic leg with a team led by Dr. Michael Goldfarb. Since being attacked by a bull shark at age 16, spending weeks in the hospital and months in therapy, Craig is excited to be the primary test subject for the first powered prosthetic leg. (Left - photo courtesy of John Russell/Vanderbilt)



his family and watching the San Diego triathlon challenge, Craig and his two brothers knew this was something they wanted to do. He spent the next six months training in an indoor pool, his brothers Brian and Zach training for the running and biking portions.

This would be the first time Craig would be getting back in the ocean since the attack.

“It really doesn’t affect me as much as [news reporters] were probably hoping it did,” Craig jokes. “I got back in the water. It was murky and I thought I might freak out, but they blew the horn and I did the 1.2 mile swim in 35 minutes.”

• • •

Fast-forward to the present, and Craig has his sights set on Vanderbilt’s acute care nurse practitioner master’s program after graduating this December. When he’s not at MTSU working on his nursing clinicals, he’s working part time at Vanderbilt as a primary test subject for a new prosthetic leg.

This revolutionary leg is the creation of Dr. Michael Goldfarb and his team of researchers at Vanderbilt who work in the mechanical and electrical engineering department. Unlike the current prosthetic that Craig uses, along with the majority of legs on the market, this new leg has the ability to provide power to the knee and ankle.

“He is especially helpful at providing

feedback on the leg’s functionality from a user’s perspective,” says Brian Lawson, a PhD candidate who is part of Goldfarb’s research lab. “This feedback does not necessarily correlate with our perceived goals, and so it can be critical in keeping us on the right track for development.”

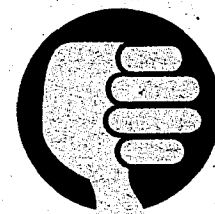
Lawson says they are preparing to deliver a prototype of the leg to a commercial partner. Craig, who has played a crucial role in its development, says the leg is already quite astounding in its capabilities.

“Most prosthetic legs use a passive hydraulic device,” Craig explains. “This new leg makes it easier to walk on regular, flat ground as well as up slopes and stairs.”

With all this experience under his belt, Craig maintains a positive attitude towards the future. He’s enjoyed his time at MTSU, as busy as he’s been, and is thankful to have family and friends who have never stopped supporting him along the way. He doesn’t dwell on what happened to him six years ago – it might have changed his life, but it definitely doesn’t define who he is.

“Everybody always asks me, if I could go back, would I change what happened,” Craig says. “It’s just kind of an irrelevant question. I feel like I’m a much better person now after this accident just because I matured a whole lot. Before, I took things for granted. Now, I’m just thankful that I’m still here.”

# 'Skyward Sword' a pale imitation of Zelda's legacy



When I picked up the controllers for the latest iteration of Shigeru Miyamoto's legendary series "The Legend of Zelda," I was ready to be transported back to my youth. These games were some of the first titles that made me think about the potential of games as an artistic and creative medium, and I still consider "Ocarina of Time" to be one of the greatest games of all time.

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

That's why "The Legend of Zelda: Skyward Sword" makes me so angry.

It's not that this is a bad game. "Skyward Sword" is balanced well, its graphics are as good as the underpowered Wii can handle, and the game uses the Wii Motion Plus as well as any other title out there. In fact, if this were five years ago, I would consider this an extraordinary game.

But it's not five years ago. The same gameplay that used to be revolutionary is stale and uninteresting. "Skyward Sword" still suffers from the bland and numbingly dull introduction. There are brief moments of grandeur, such as when Link takes to the skies for the first time, but these are rare exceptions in an unending string of fetch quests.

In the introduction of "Skyward

Sword," Zelda has begun chastising Link, who is revealed to be a lazy, apathetic teenager. But when a tornado snatches Zelda to parts unknown, Link must once again set off to rescue his soul mate. If this sounds awfully familiar, that's because it's not all too different from half of the previous "Legend of Zelda" titles.

The game has fallen into the trap that all franchises must struggle to avoid. There's the fear of changing your game too much, as long-time fans of the series will react to any alterations with outrage. But "The Legend of Zelda" has become stagnant, holding onto the same tired storytelling and game mechanics for decades. The rest of the video game industry has evolved and improved. "Skyward Sword" feels obsolete and predictable.

The first few moments of exploring each dungeon still have that same level of excitement, but that quickly fades as you realize that Nintendo padded every inch of this game with extraneous details that add nothing to the experience. The art style is beautiful, but rehashed. The music is grand and sweeping, but repetitive. The combat is simple, but uninspiring. "Skyward Sword" is a well-designed game, but despite the polish, it

manages to fail on almost every level.

With any other game, I would simply toss it aside and forget about it. But this isn't any other game. This is the legacy of Shigeru Miyamoto, a man who has become an icon of game design. This is the latest iteration of a series that used to be the standard by which other games were judged. This should transport me

back to a time when I was young and innocent, and games were something inexplicably wonderful. I wanted this game to be extraordinary, but "Skyward Sword" is a flavorless mess that just makes me pine for the past. ■



# 11/22/63 a masterpiece from Stephen King



Fans of Stephen King have become accustomed to raising an eyebrow when they hear the plot of upcoming novels. Homicidal cars, pyrokinetic girls and rabid dogs are all ludicrous ideas that produced some of the most legendary horror novels in history. With *11/22/63*, King tackles the idea of a time traveler who attempts to prevent the Kennedy assassination, and gives us one of the finest books he's ever written.

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

Jake Epping is a high-school English teacher from Maine (King's longtime home and favorite setting for his novels) who is given knowledge of a portal that will allow him to travel back to 1958. Epping steps through this window in time to try to

correct a number of tragedies, culminating with an effort to stop Lee Harvey Oswald from firing that fateful bullet.

Time travel is usually the province of science fiction, but King crafts a surprisingly moving tale as Epping navigates the years between 1958 and 1963. As he tests the waters by attempting to prevent a multiple homicide, Epping learns that the past is stubborn and will go to extremes to protect history. The buildup to each attempt to change the past is terrifying and riveting, and provides the familiar fear that anchors all of King's books.

Epping is an instantly likeable character. We see the world of 1958 through his eyes, both the good and the

bad. As Epping finds a home and falls in love, the cost of doing what he passionately believes to be right grows every day.

While Epping and his love interest, Sadie, are the core of the story, the narrative is constantly drawn closer and closer to Oswald, who becomes a vivid character of substance rather than a flat boogeyman from the history books. King has clearly done his research for this one, and it shows. Historical figures such as George de Mohrenschildt, FBI agent James Hosty, and Bonnie Ray Williams make an appearance and give the story depth and color.

Epping travels across the country in the course of his mission, and King brings two distinct settings to vivid life. Jodie, a small town in Texas that Epping settles down into, is a wonderful realization of

small-town life. But the real treat is the early visit to Derry, a town disturbingly familiar to King's readers as the setting to "IT." Derry is a dark, ugly town that has given birth to some horrible events, and in *11/22/63*, King writes a gut-wrenching sequence that reinforces Derry's role as a focal point of nightmares.

*11/22/63* is one-part love story, one-part historical drama and one-part horror. Normally, mixing so many genres is a recipe for disaster. King is far from a normal author. He has written dozens of books that are terrifying, but with *11/22/63*, King has created something truly extraordinary. It's one of his finest books and should not be missed. ■

# reinventing the spatula!

## EATIE NOT FOODIE

**A**t the Webb School Arts and Crafts Festival in Bell Buckle, Tenn., I was looking for the perfect, one-of-a-kind coffee cup when I ran into a piece of kitchenware I'd never seen before.

It was a garlic grater, a shallow dish with a rough center for grating garlic. After the garlic is grated, one can add spices and olive oil to dip bread in as an appetizer. Depending on the pottery, it's even possible to put it in the oven and warm it up.

A few weeks ago, my roommate found a butter-keep while cleaning out the cupboards. It's a piece of pottery with a deep lid where butter is kept upside-down, which can stay at room temperature for soft butter. As it turns out, we had three.

I didn't even know what it was, and we had three of them.

I started to have an overwhelming desire to see what I'm missing in the world of kitchen tools. I wanted a mandolin for slicing, a juicer and a rounded knife with two handles like Nigella Lawson has. I could stock a kitchen with all of the items I thought I could use.

I fell into the bottomless pit that is Williams Sonoma and Etsy websites.

Soon, the overwhelming want for things was replaced with just being plain overwhelmed.

Williams Sonoma's online shop has a plethora of junk- it's just junk.

I started searching through this junk, before I knew it as junk, and thought, "I can get this for my sister, and this for my roommate and that for my friend, and another thing for another friend."

I found an avocado slicer and pitter. Stupid me, I've been using a knife for years to slice and pit my avocados when I could have had another device in my "not-really-sure-what-it's-for" drawer in the kitchen (the one right next to the "I-know-what-it's-for-but-don't-really-use-it" drawer).

I was also silly enough to flip my pancakes with a spatula made without the

By Rozalind Ruth  
Staff Writer



face of a Marvel Comics super-hero or one of the characters from "Cars."

Oh boy, there are many gadgets I've been cooking without that somehow I seem to need now that I know they exist.

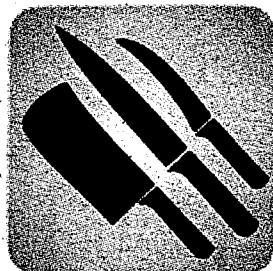
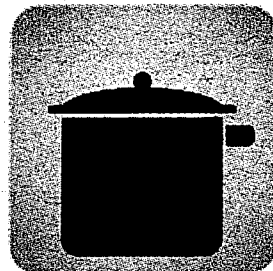
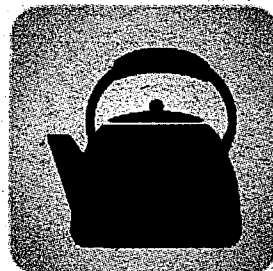
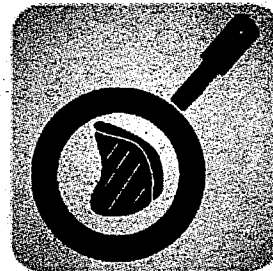
How did I live without a garlic grater before this? How did I serve my olive oil with herbs and garlic for dipping bread in before? Oh, wait... I didn't do that.

Come to think of it, that's probably not something I would do regularly anyway - at least not regularly enough to justify spending \$15 on a dish specifically for that function.

Though, \$15 is not a huge amount of money. If I bought everything I saw on Etsy.com, I would be the most broke person in Murfreesboro, but I'd have some bad-ass cooking utensils!

Oh, to be caught between two worlds again. I still want a butter-keep and a garlic grater, despite the logic of adding more junk into my life. Maybe I could just invent a new frivolous cooking device for other people to fill their kitchen. Ideas are welcome.

I remember when I started cooking. It was in an effort to simplify my life, but that complexity keeps appearing in my life. This time, however, I'm taking a step back, reprocessing and reevaluating what I need and what I want. ■



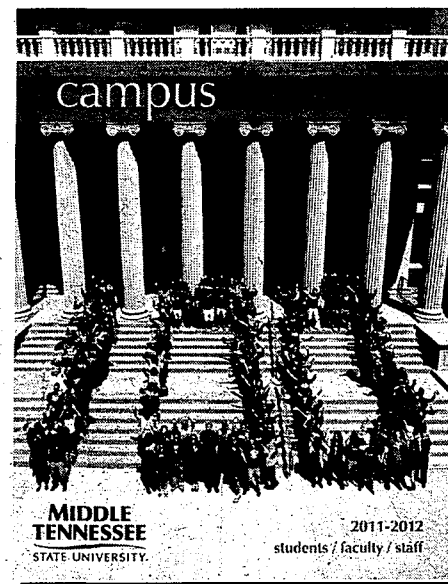
## • • • ATTENTION • • •

Students who do not live on campus

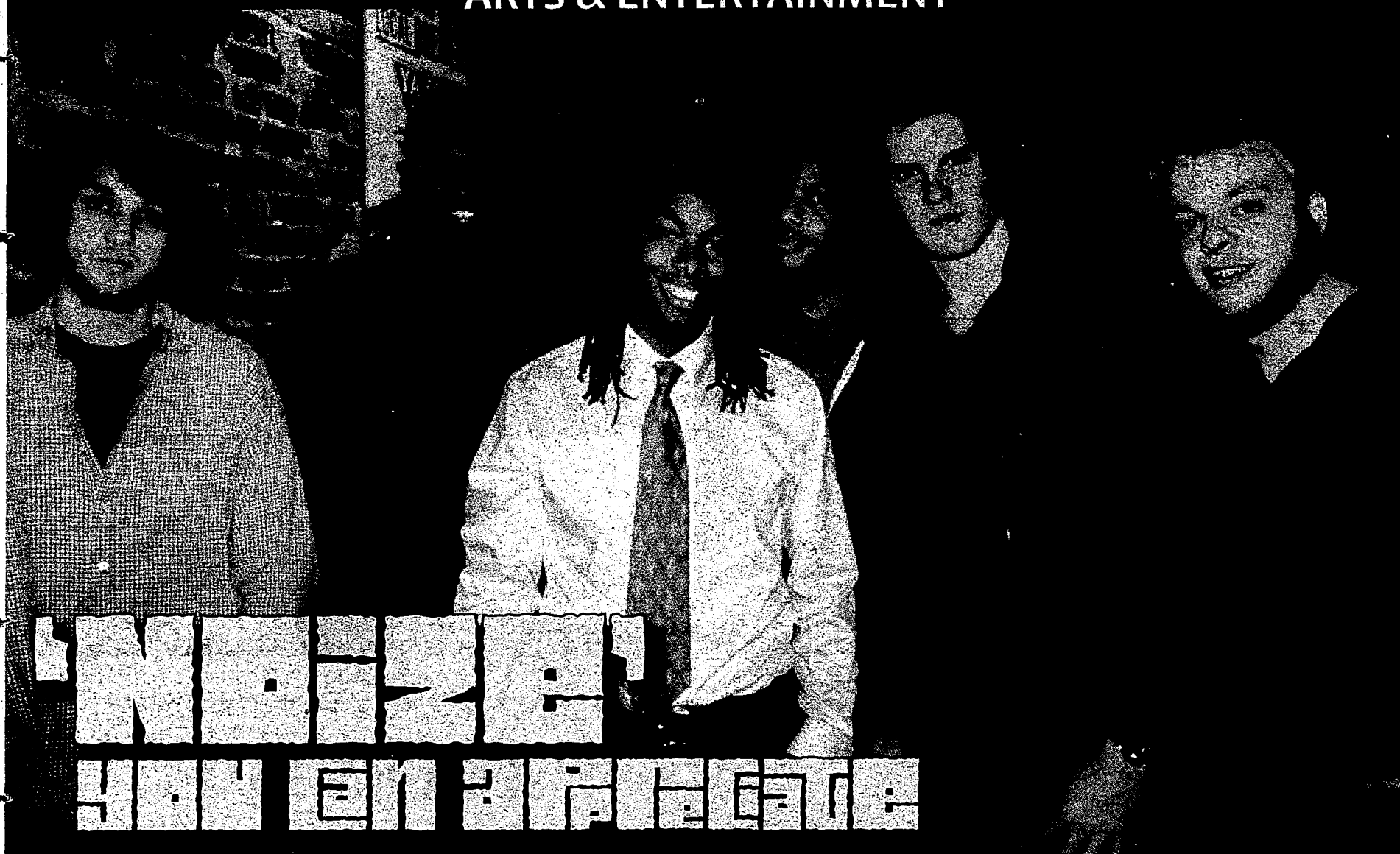
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distributed through Telecom-  
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## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



**G**ood music is Noize. Black Noize, a 22-year-old local hip-hop artist with the message, "You gotta show this world that you're 50-feet tall," to be specific.

Black Noize, known as Flex or his real name, Jerome Anderson, is a recording industry management major with a concentration in music business. And that's exactly what he is—music business. He's the guy with the dreads who always wears a button-up and a tie. His music is more profound than most of the mainstream rap getting radio play right now.

"Breathing poetry," he said. "I feel like I'm poetry more than anything. For me, it's deeper than hip-hop."

Black Noize fell in love with rapping when he was 13. He has almost 30

composition books full of raps, or poems, that he's proud of. His lyric content is everything he experiences, whether it is representing his hometown, Nashville, or having a direct conversation with God. He can switch up his flow from smooth to rapid, from soothing to sharp.

When Black Noize performed at The Rutledge in Nashville on Nov. 20, he was not a rapper on stage rhyming over a track. He had a full band—electric guitar, keys, drums and bass. The stage lights changed from blue to red to represent the emotions he was trying to convey. Although he admits to getting the butterflies, Black Noize was captivating. The crowd was dancing, clapping and snapping along.

"I really like his style. It's pretty classy actually, more than you'd see from your average rapper," said Brandee Patton, a

junior majoring in liberal studies. "The band was really good, real jazzy and upbeat."

At one point during the show, Black Noize brought another artist on stage, an R&B artist named Montez Terrell. His voice offered serious soul to the show.

"It was really energetic," said Jeremy Nance, a junior majoring in public relations. "It was powerful. I loved the live band; it gave it a really edgy, in-your-face kind of feeling. He really connected with the audience."

Black Noize's goal is to be a universal artist so he can "hit all types of people," he said. He succeeded.

"He's really centered around hip-hop, but he brought more of a rock influence into it, sort of a pop influence," Nance said. "I love how he incorporated all different emotions from different genres of music into one performance. An amazing

performance by an amazing artist."

The only thing that would have made his performance better was if he had physically moved around the stage more. A little more oomph could have given him the boost he needed to complement his high-energy songs.

To the right of the stage was Black Noize's fan base, a large group of people singing every lyric and dancing to every song. When he left the stage, they showered him with compliments, handshakes and hugs. The congratulations were well-deserved.

Black Noize is chasing his dreams to become a legend and build a music empire. Next semester, he will release his next mix tape, "Gone Til Mayvember."

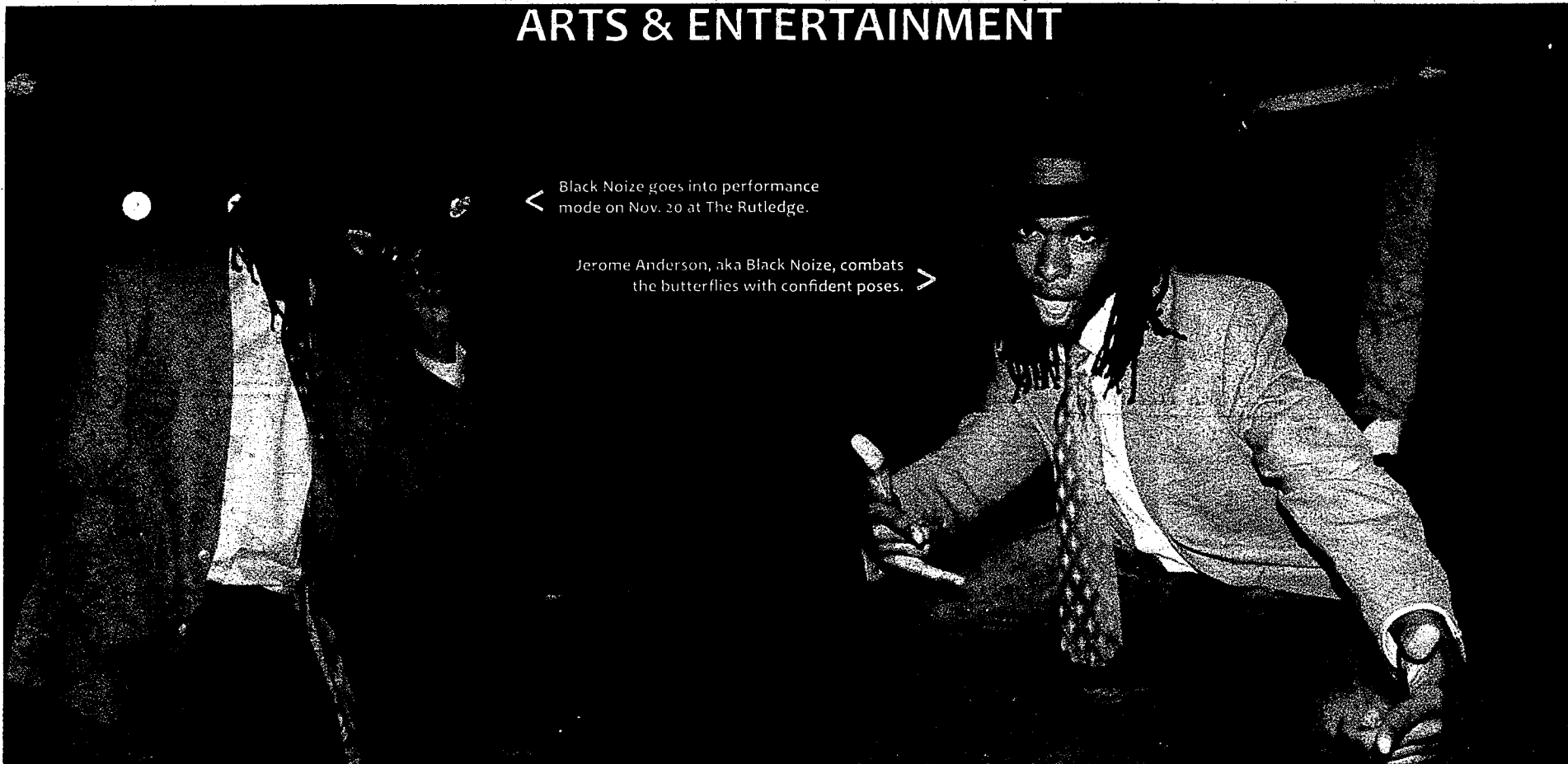
"I know I'm bigger than where I'm at now," he said. "I'm going to make sure that the world sees that." ■

**Kelsey Griffith**  
Staff Writer

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

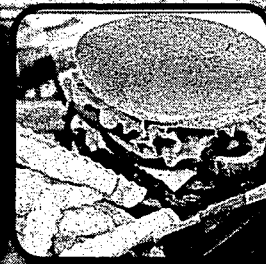
< Black Noize goes into performance mode on Nov. 20 at The Rutledge.

Jerome Anderson, aka Black Noize, combats the butterflies with confident poses. >



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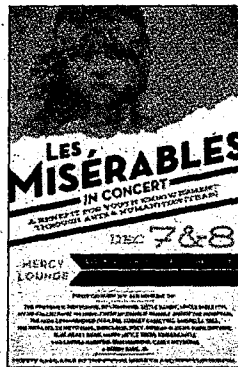
## Thursday, Dec. 8

**Thursday, Dec. 8**  
**Arpetrio**  
**Gilligan's**  
**527 W. Main St.,**  
**Murfreesboro**  
**10:30 p.m.**  
**Admission: \$8 underage,**  
**guys \$6, ladies free**



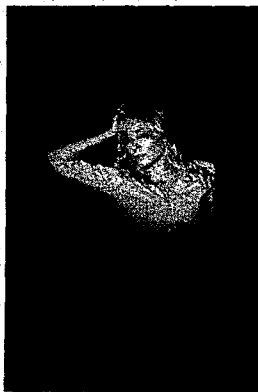
Knoxville-based electronic outfit Arpetrio is shaking up the usual Thursday night scene at Gilligan's. They have replaced the usual generic act, DJs (boring), with robotic psychedelic music (probably also boring). The bro crowd will probably be there, drawn by promises of "free beer" and "ladies night." The most fun to be had here will be watching pretentious polo'd men get shot down by women they usually wouldn't look twice at. Enjoy. *(Becca Andrews)*

**Les Miserables: A Benefit Concert for YEAH! Summer Camps**  
**Mercy Lounge**  
**1 Cannery Row, Nashville**  
**8 p.m.**  
**Admission: \$18**



This performance promises to be no less than stellar, and the proceeds are going to a good cause. The cast is made up of Nashville artists, and the production has been tweaked to reflect Music City in all its glory. Proceeds from the event will go to Youth Empowerment through Arts and Humanities, Inc., an organization that keeps Middle Tennessee teens involved in the arts. *(Becca Andrews)*

**Home for the Holidays with LeAnn Rimes**  
**Schermerhorn Symphony Center**  
**1 Symphony Place, Nashville**  
**8 p.m.**  
**Admission: \$52-\$144**



Adultery and bad Lifetime movies aside, you gotta admit this girl has some pipes. And while we're admitting things, I have a confession—LeAnn Rimes' Christmas album is one of my favorites. The Nashville Symphony is one of the best in the biz, and is currently up for a Grammy nomination. At the very least, count this a very expensive Christmas caroling concert. Just sing quietly, you don't want to upset the suited-up guy beside you that dropped a hundred bucks to attend this shindig. *(Becca Andrews)*

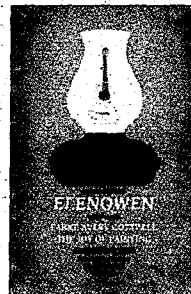
## Friday, Dec. 9

**Friday, Dec. 9**  
**RIM Listening Night**  
**Mass Communication Building 101**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
**Admission: FREE**



Each semester, audio labs and studios deep in the bowels of the Mass Comm building are booked for weeks on end by RIM kids desperate to complete their projects. Professors will display the best of the best audio productions from their protégés out of the university's audio engineering and audio production classes. And most importantly, there will be door prizes, like gift cards to Steak 'n Shake and Starbucks. You could win free coffee. It's good enough for me. *(Becca Andrews)*

**An Evening with Elenowen, Parke Avery and Joy of Painting**  
**Walnut House**  
**116 N. Walnut St., Murfreesboro**  
**8 p.m.**  
**Admission: \$10**



While the price of this event is a bit of a bummer to those who remember the free show during last year's JAM week, that \$10 is totally worth it. Parke Avery and Joy of Painting are two leading acts on Murfreesboro's scene right now, and Elenowen is currently taking the folk-pop world by storm. This is also their first appearance in the 'Boro since the announcement they would be competing on "The Voice." It's going to be amazing, you won't want to miss this show! *(Becca Andrews)*

## Saturday, Dec. 10

**A Christmas Story**  
**The Belcourt Theater**  
**2102 Belcourt Ave., Nashville**  
**10 a.m.**  
**Admission: \$5**

If you haven't seen *A Christmas Story*, a look at a boy who dreams of a Red Ryder BB gun, you can see it on the big screen at...Wait. How have you not seen *A Christmas Story*? You do know that it comes on all the time in December, right? And TNT plays the movie over and over on Christmas Day until the thought of hearing Ralphie talk about that stupid gun again makes you want to beat him with that leg lamp? Okay, well, if you've never seen it, you can check it out on the big screen at the historic Belcourt Theater. It's good the first time. The 50th, not so much. *(Dietrich Stogner)*

**ZOSO: A Tribute to Led Zeppelin**  
**Exit/In**  
**2208 Elliston Place, Nashville**  
**8 p.m.**  
**Admission: \$12**



Christmas music can get a bit repetitive this year, but the Exit/In has you covered. ZOSO has been performing Led Zeppelin songs for more than 15 years and will be performing a tribute to the legendary band this Saturday. If you're a Led Zeppelin fan, this is a real treat, but if you're not familiar with the stylings of Jimmy Page, Robert Plant and company, this is a fantastic way to experience this music for the first time. *(Dietrich Stogner)*

## Sunday, Dec. 11

**Johnny Cash Christmas Show**  
**Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum**  
**222 5th Ave, Nashville**  
**2 p.m.**  
**Admission: Free**

An icon of American music, Johnny Cash was known for his powerful lyrics and rebellious behavior. But for two Christmas seasons, he swapped the black clothes for something a bit more jolly as he hosted a variety Christmas show. Featuring appearances by June Carter Cash, Kris Kristofferson, Steve Martin and Rita Coolidge, this is an excellent opportunity to see the Man in Black in a much different role. Sponsored by the Country Music Hall of Fame and free to the public. *(Dietrich Stogner)*

**Laser Holiday, Sudekum Planetarium**  
**Adventure Science Center**  
**800 Fort Negley Blvd., Nashville**  
**8:30 p.m.**  
**Admission: \$20**

If you're like me, you've always thought that the only thing missing from the traditional holiday decorations and traditions was lasers. If you've always wanted to hear Mariah Carey croon holiday songs while lasers sketch Rudolph's path across Nashville airspace, the Sudekum Planetarium at Nashville's Adventure Science Center is where you need to be.

Stick around afterward to see laser shows focused around the music of Queen and Pink Floyd. Flash Gordon is expected to make a guest appearance, so you can see him and Bing Crosby sketched in light within hours of each other. *(Dietrich Stogner)*

**The f-Stops Here**  
**Studio East Nashville**  
**1520 Woodland St., Nashville**  
**6 p.m. to 9 p.m.**  
**Admission: Free**

An exhibit featuring the work of six tremendously talented Nashville photographers, The f-Stops Here is an excellent opportunity to see the style and technique of some exceptional artists. This juried exhibition features six women from an underground group of photographers in Nashville.

Held at Studio East Nashville, this collection of images from Tennessee and around the world is an excellent opportunity for aspiring photographers. The artists will be on hand to answer questions. *(Dietrich Stogner)*

# South's only hockey team fighting to stay alive

The University of Alabama in Huntsville hockey team made history last January when UAH and Merrimack played in the first two Division I hockey games in Tennessee.

But UAH's return to Nashville for two games against Nebraska-Omaha, came with sadness.

In October, University of Alabama systems chancellor and UAH Interim President Malcolm Portera announced the hockey program would revert to club status. Portera cited a budgetary concern in finding a conference for UAH, which has been college hockey's only independent since 2010.

The decision would mark the end of a program with two national championships from its days in Division II in the 1990s and two Division I NCAA-tournament appearances in the past five years.

Nathan Bowen, a former player at UAH and a leader of an alumni group that has raised money to save the program, said the interim president seemed uninterested

in alternative solutions.

"There was no opportunity for us to come up with or develop solutions to help fund the program," Bowen said. "Everything that we tried to do and put together, we did so on our own as a group and as a community."

Bowen said the alumni have raised nearly \$600,000 so far.

Portera told the *Huntsville Times* that the hockey program takes up a disproportionate amount of the athletic department's budget.

"Two ADs said to me that the best measure of the amount of money you can raise in a community to support a collegiate hockey program is what history suggests; what has been done in the past," Portera told the *Huntsville Times*. "The NCAA data does not suggest that it's possible to support a program on contributions."

Portera also told the *Huntsville Times* the program would require about \$1.5 million to compete with programs on its level.

By Alex Hubbard  
Staff Writer

The movement to save hockey at UAH has gained steam online with the website, [saveuahockey.com](http://saveuahockey.com), and a Facebook page with more than 5,000 supporters.

Geof Morris, a student at UAH and a leader of the online effort, said the campus reaction to the decision to scrap the program was obvious.

"The decision to drop the program was all anyone talked about on campus that day, from the dorms to the classroom," Morris said. "While there is an attraction to using the money saved from operating the program on academics, I think that a lot of people, faculty, staff, and students recognize that hockey is a part of the identity of the school and changing that is something that people seem uninterested in being a part of."

Robert Altenkirch, who took over as UAH president just days after Portera's decision, agreed to meet with Bowen and the alumni group on Nov. 29, breathing life into the group's effort once again and signaling the potential for a different outlook from the permanent president.

Trouble began for UAH in 2009

when College Hockey America, UAH's conference, announced its decision to fold.

UAH's independent schedule features top-quality opponents, including Merrimack, Denver and Ohio State, but the long road trips and tough home games have taken a toll. UAH's 3-1 win over Nebraska-Omaha Friday night in Nashville is the team's only victory this season and came after a 15-game winless streak.

Bowen admitted a successful fight to save Charger hockey had to result not only in reversing Portera's decision, but also in UAH somehow finding a conference home.

"We have to get into a conference, bottom line," Bowen said. "There is no sense in sustaining a program that's independent. It's just not viable."

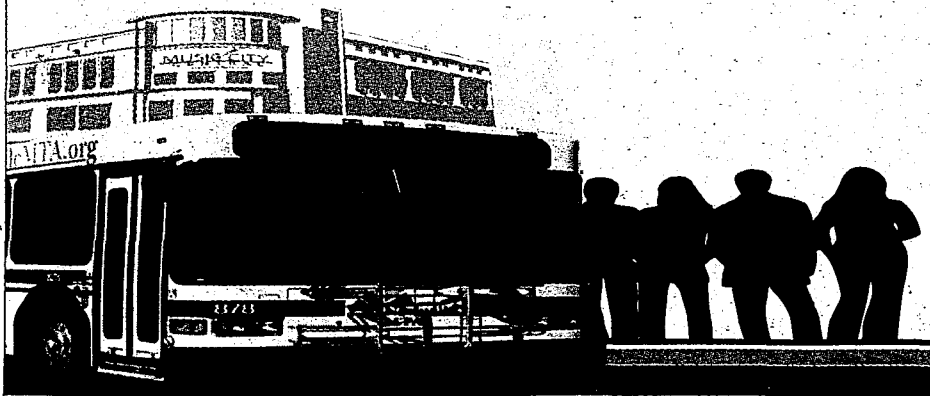
Morris said the athletic department may actually lose donations if UAH moves ahead with its plan to drop the sport.

"I know that I will never give UAH another dime if they do end up cutting the program, and I have considered stopping my studies to further the point," Morris said. ■

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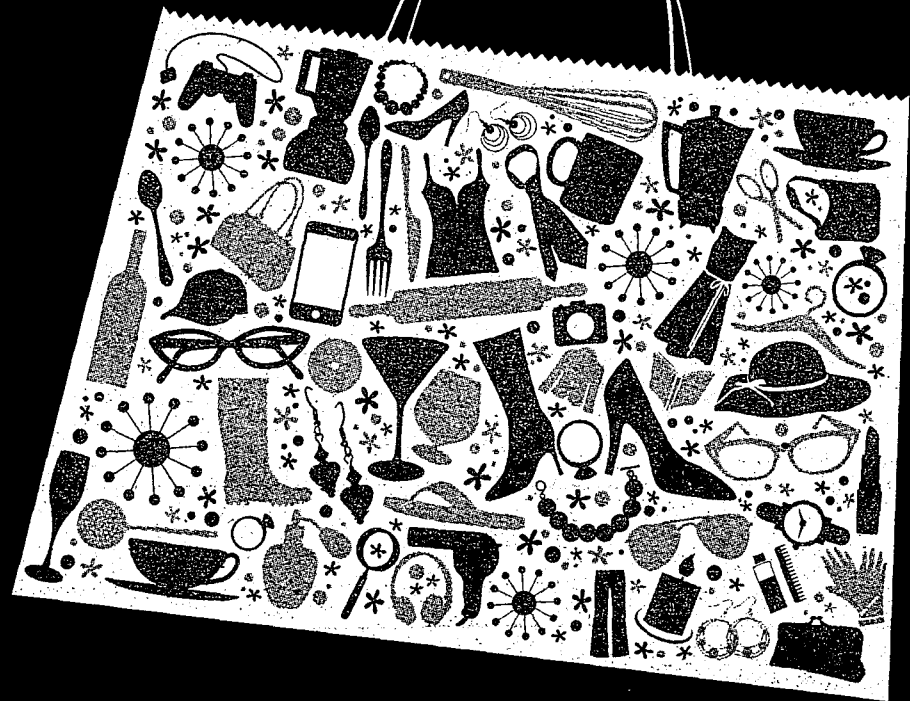
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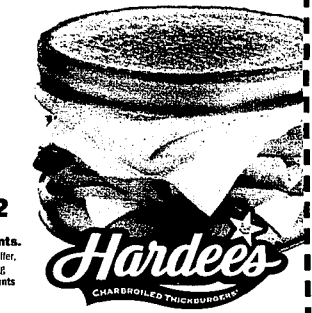
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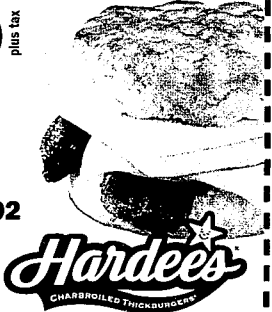
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