

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

SIDELINES

JAN. 30, 2013

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT



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2.07.13

at Tucker Theatre

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Art student Christian Eichelberger expresses his love for duct tape in his work at MTSU's Todd Gallery. Photo by Kati Baird.

Cover by Christine Craft.

Visit us at www.mtsusidelines.com

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Two garages provide more spaces, possibly increase crime

By **Sinclair Sparkman**
Assistant news editor;
Colleen Casey
Contributing writer

Members of the MTSU community hope that the benefits of the two new parking garages being constructed on campus will outweigh the possibility for enhanced campus crime.

According to Ron Malone, assistant vice president for events and transportation, parking garages are just as secure as flat surface lots, but administration is taking measures to make the garages as safe as possible.

"For a higher level of security, we have opted for a high resolution camera system and

a high intensity motion sensing lighting system in both decks," Malone said.

He also said students need to be aware of their surroundings at all times and have keys ready when approaching their vehicle.

University of Tennessee Knoxville is home to eight parking garages, and according to Mark Hairr, director of parking and transit services at UTK, crime is no worse around the garages.

A former student of UTK disagrees.

Patrick, now a senior majoring in business at MTSU, said that he remembers the parking garages at UTK being a hot spot for crime.

Two new parking

garages will provide MTSU with 980 additional parking spots by early summer for university students suffering under the strain of congested lots.

One lot is located at the corner of Lightning and Champion Ways, and the other is next to the Campus Recreation Center. LED signs will display space availability.

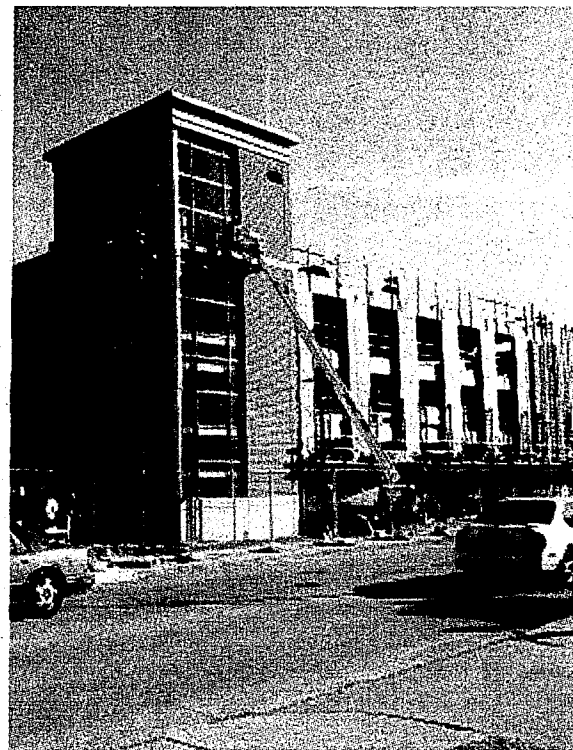
"The decision to build the garages is tied to the increasing parking demand of a growing campus population and a finite amount of available land available for surface lots," Malone said.

Many students are frustrated by the lack of parking availability on campus.

"I think we need more spaces because I'm tired of getting tickets," said Patrick Edmonson, a junior majoring in psychology, referring to being ticketed for parking in a white parking lot. The sign for the entrance to the lot had been turned the wrong way, so he parked there – unaware that he would receive a \$30 ticket.

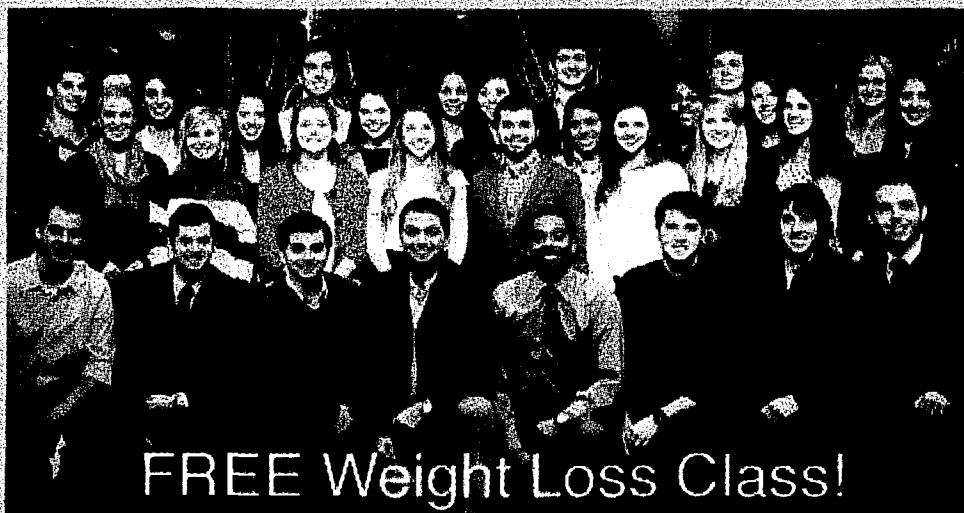
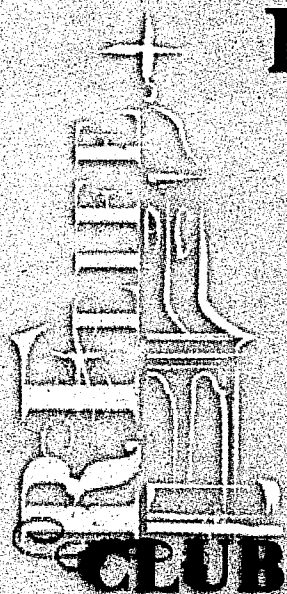
Biren Alexander, a senior Spanish major, said parking made it difficult to get to her job at the campus Starbucks punctually.

"The parking lot over there would be full by 7:20 a.m., and it was incredibly frustrating trying to get somewhere on time," Alexander said. ■



MTSU's future parking garage under construction. Photo by Matt Masters.

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Maxine lost 55 lbs.



New recording industry chair plans to rejuvenate program

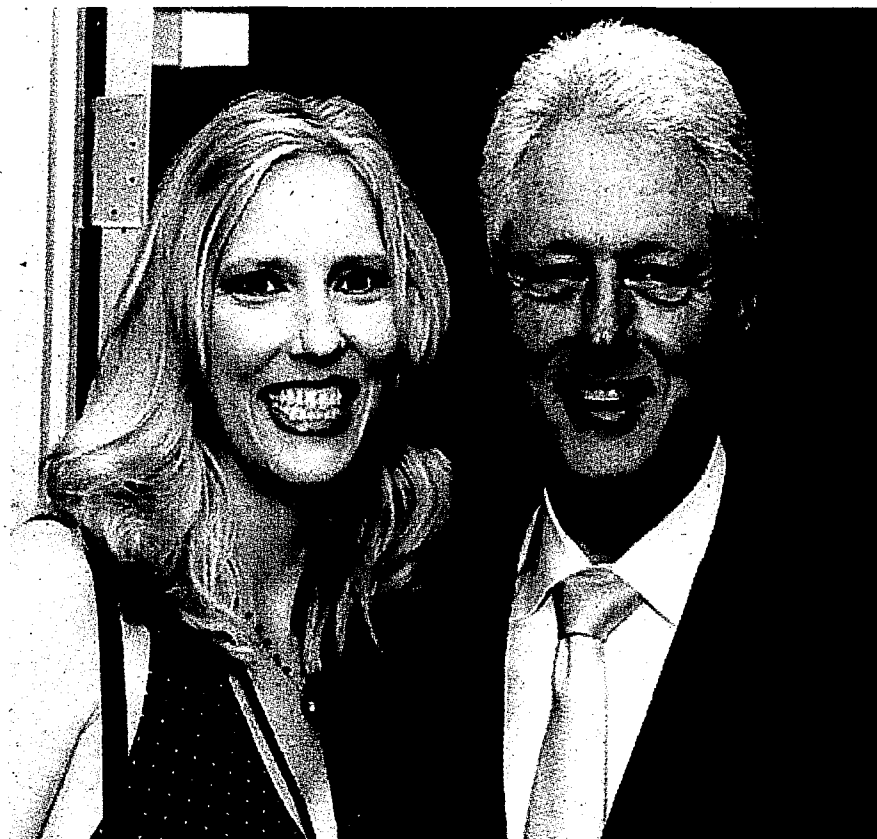
By Quint Qualls
News editor

After working in the music industry and writing about American pop culture icons, professor Beverly Keel starts her new job as chair of the department of recording industry starting in the fall.

"I have several goals," Keel said. "I want to increase alumni involvement in the department, maybe with in-class speakers or mentors. I want to work with our faculty and staff to come up with ways to help retain our students. My job will be to work with the faculty because they're the experts in their own areas to improve the department."

Keel has a vast background as an executive in the music industry that ranges from positions as the vice president of media and artist relations for Universal Music Group in Nashville to director of the John Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies at the university. She comes highly qualified for the position, said Roy Moore, dean of the College of Mass Communication. Moore said the curriculum of the recording industry has been undergoing change and will continue to do so. As chair, Keel will have the opportunity to have great impact on the changing curriculum.

"The business models of the recording industry are changing,



Keel poses with former President Bill Clinton. Photo courtesy of Beverly Keel.

due primarily to the Internet, piracy and social media," Keel said. "The music industry has lost a lot of income as a result of this. All the mergers and the downsizing of the music industry mean our students will need larger skill sets. Namely, they need to know how to utilize multimedia, but it's equally as important for them to have a solid traditional foundation: critical thinking, communicating, history and knowledge of our culture."

According to the incoming recording industry chair, MTSU's College of Mass Communication stands out from others across the nation. Unlike many other programs, Keel pointed out that at the

university recording industry studies go well beyond the realm of theory.

"Our recording industry students are in the studios every day doing hands-on work — working the equipment, producing sessions and playing instruments live in the studios," Keel said.

Keel, a native of Donelson, Tenn., graduated from MTSU after attending McGavock High School. She then went on to get her master's at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

"I was fortunate at MTSU," Keel said. "Since I was 18, my mentor in my career and in life has been Professor Ed Kimbrell. He made me a better

person and a better journalist. He's the one who encouraged me to apply to Columbia Journalism School."

Following her graduation from Columbia University, Keel made a career out of not just covering the music industry and American culture, but also the artists.

"I'm fascinated by the people behind the art and, also, what our culture tells us about ourselves," Keel said. In one instance, which she describes as one of the most profound interviews of her career, she did a story on Walter Cronkite for "American Profile." Once he was called "the most trusted man in America," and it's hard to forget his iconic report of President Kennedy's assassination or his denunciation of the Vietnam War following the TET Offensive.

"That was a big deal for me because he was sort of an icon for me and for journalism in general," Keel said. "So, I got there early and was sitting in his

office. I was incredibly nervous, but when he got there, it was like being with a family member because he had been in my kitchen on TV every day growing up. It was a little surreal."

Keel currently serves on many organizational boards in Nashville, such as the Tennessee Performing Artist Center and "The Journal of Popular Music Studies." She is also a member of the International Women's Forum and formerly a member of both the Nashville Mayor's Music Council and The Recording Academy.

The current chair of the department of recording industry, Bill Crabtree, will continue to serve as chair until Aug. 1. ■

Jordan Farrell contributed to this report.

CRIME BRIEFS

ARREST 285 N. Rutherford Blvd Jan. 21

Murfreesboro Police Department arrested Quinin L. Garvin, 19, for simple possession, tampering with evidence and possession of drug paraphernalia. Authorities also arrested Ryan Shea Adams, 20, for felony possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a Schedule II drug.

VANDALISM Fairview Building Jan. 22, 2:29 p.m.

A complainant reported that her vehicle was vandalized in the parking lot of the Fairview Building.

VANDALISM Scarlett Commons Parking Lot Jan. 22, 10:10 p.m.

A complainant reported vandalism to a vehicle parked outside Building 4.

THEFT Student Services Construction Site Jan. 24, 7:40 a.m.

A complainant reported equipment stolen from the site.

ARREST Scarlett Commons Parking Lot Jan. 24, 11:50 p.m.

Authorities arrested Seagle Hunt, 18, for driving on a suspended license, possession of drug paraphernalia and underage possession of alcohol.

DRUGS Judd Hall Jan. 25, 12:20 a.m.

Authorities issued a state citation to Otis Littlejohn, 19, for simple possession of marijuana.

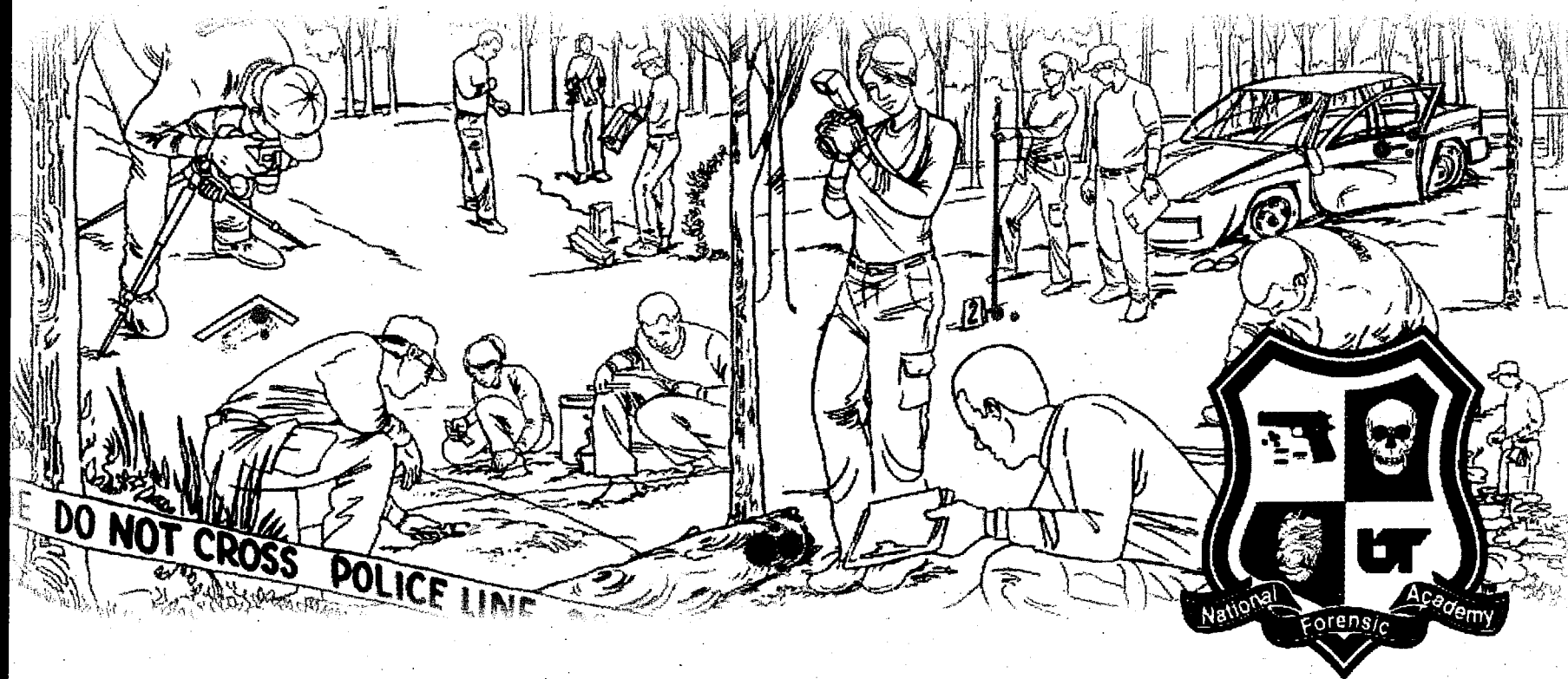
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Reggae inspires professor to pen encyclopedia on genre

By Kayla Moore
Contributing writer

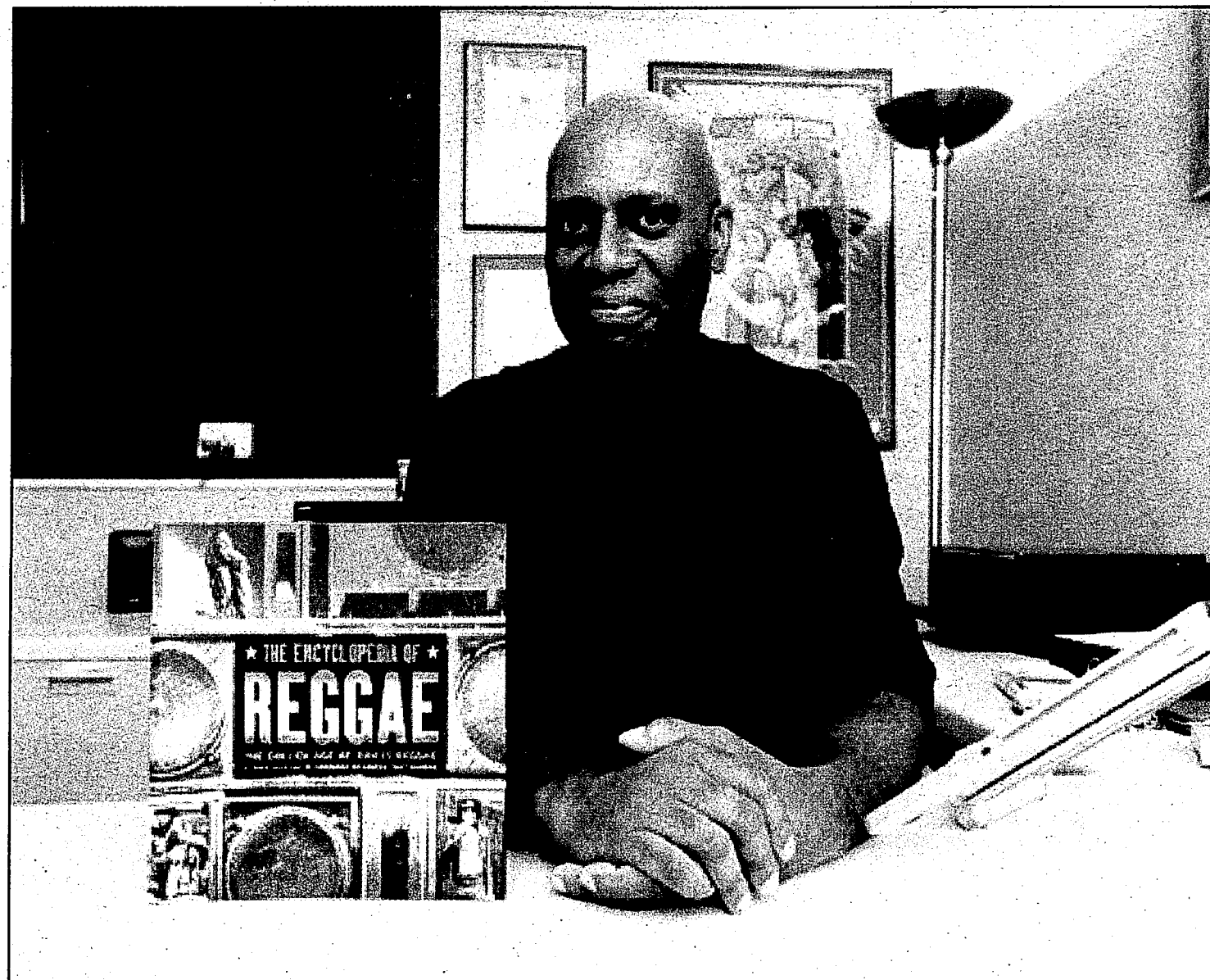
Anyone who steps into his office can clearly see the passion that recording industry professor Mike Alleyne has for music. From posters on the walls featuring Bob Marley to the advertisement for the Uppsala Reggae Festival, this professor's connection to reggae is no secret.

However, a new memento has a special place in his office — which represents his longstanding career in music as well as his Caribbean heritage — his new work entitled “The Encyclopedia of Reggae.”

Although he was born in London, England, both of Alleyne's parents are Caribbean and hail from the island of Barbados. In the 1970s, the Alleynes moved from the United Kingdom back to Barbados, exposing Alleyne to his Caribbean heritage and the transitioning popular music of the time.

“Part of my background is based in the U.K., and the other part is based on living in the Caribbean,” Alleyne said. “So I think [that] turned out to be quite useful in terms of a broader, intercultural understanding of the dynamics of music crossing borders.”

Alleyne had an interest in music from a young age, playing the piano and violin in school. Some of his musical talent stems from his musically inclined father and



Professor Mike Alleyne shows off his new book, “The Encyclopedia of Reggae.” Photo by Davion Baxter.

uncle, who are both musicians.

Reggae specifically did not exist as a genre when Alleyne was born, but it did appear within the first decade of his life, igniting a spark in popular music.

“[The creation of reggae] was something that coincided with the awakening of my own music consciousness,” Alleyne said. “When [reggae] artists actu-

ally scored hits, it was something of a cultural revolution because those things had never happened before. So I think the curiosity was ignited at that point.”

Alleyne pursued this interest in popular music throughout his higher education, incorporating his Caribbean roots into his Ph.D. studies. His thesis, “The Transnationalization of Caribbean Mu-

sic,” laid the groundwork for the creation of “The Encyclopedia of Reggae,” which is meant for a much wider audience than academics. However, Alleyne incorporated his interest in reggae into his classes, covering segments of reggae music in both his International Recording Industry and History of the Recording Industry classes.

Having worked in ra-

dio, taught as a recording industry professor, co-produced and played on an album with another professor in 2010, Alleyne is familiar with a theoretical and hands-on approach to music. It is no surprise that his book has been positively received so far, having been exported to a number of countries including Australia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore,

Greece, Italy, Spain, Lebanon and China.

Alleyne's hope for the book is to give a broad overview of the history of reggae, covering the introduction of enslaved Africans and indentured laborers in China and India in the 1800s that actually precedes the birth of the genre. For those not familiar with reggae, the book is designed to introduce the key



Alleyne's book boasts colorful graphics and illustrations that reflect reggae culture. Photo courtesy of Facebook.

aspects of the genre as well as the history. To those already well-versed, it will provide a historical reference for a variety of bands, including British and African reggae bands.

"The encyclopedia is just an attempt to broaden the knowledge base, so readers and listeners will understand more about where the music came from," Alleyne said. "And, that it's not just the vaguely exotic music, but has a history that is very complex, very political, and some would even say, revolutionary. [This book] also allows

you to get a broader understanding of the challenges that were faced in making business sustainable in markets that generally did not embrace reggae as a mainstream musical commodity."

Alleyne is trying to further promote and distribute "The Encyclopedia of Reggae" to a wider audience, some of which might not necessarily be die-hard reggae fans. He hopes readers will be able to appreciate the mission of the book, which cannot be seen simply by looking at its Technicolor cover.

"When people think of reggae, they don't normally think of the extent to which it has had wide influence in popular music," Alleyne said. "If you look at the sub-genre of 'dub,' which is discussed in the book, you realize that reggae is really the foundation for all electronic dance music. It's difficult to understate just how influential that style has been in revolutionizing the approach to mixing in record production."

"The Encyclopedia of Reggae" is not the end of Alleyne's career as an author. In

the future, he plans to write another book, possibly on a different genre or focusing on a specific artist. A textbook partially written by Alleyne that will be released later this year, entitled "Rhythm

Revolution," and is a chronological anthology of essays dealing with American popular music.

He also aims to expand his career past that of author and begin to create film documen-

taries on popular music, potentially using reggae as the template for that endeavor as well. ■

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Rampant gun security debate raises campus safety questions

By Samantha Hearn
Contributing writer

National tragedies like that of Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., and the Aurora, Colo. movie theater shootings last summer have sparked media and political debate across the country about gun control. Last week's shooting at Lone Star College in Texas only enhanced the national conversation.

In a university setting, "What if it happened here?" is a question that leaves room for heated debate.

Police departments across the country and at MTSU have been trained to deal with active shooter situations by going straight toward the sound of gunfire and bypassing all other emergencies — even wounded victims.

In an interview with WMOT's Mike Osbourne last September, Anne P. Glavin, police chief at California State University at Northridge, said the changes in protocol have come in the past five years in light of the Virginia Tech shooting.

"If you have these types of situations where you have an active shooting going on with a person killing people indiscriminately and the police arrive on the scene, their goal is singular — to go after that shooter and take him or her out so that they don't create any more deaths," Glavin said. "That can be difficult for bystanders and people in the area,

GUNS TENNESSEE

43%

41%

12%

Infographic designed by Kelsey Kligenmeyer.

particularly if, say, they were wounded, because they're going to expect, 'oh, here's the police, they're going to stop and take care of me.'"

During the early weeks of January, MTSU campus police were trained in the Ezell dormitories and the Tennessee Live-stock Center using realistic weapons and "simunition," a non-lethal training ammunition. The training was not a direct reaction to the string of mass shootings the country has faced over the past year.

"We're not doing the training directly be-

cause of that, but those incidents remind us those things can happen anywhere no matter how much you prepare and try to mitigate or prevent bad incidents," Buddy Peaster, MTSU police chief, told WMOT.

MTSU has taken such measures as a mass-text emergency notification system and hiring additional security to prevent violence on campus.

Security precautions on campus have even gone mobile — MTSU Guardian is an upcoming application for students' phones that will alert them to emergency

situations on campus.

"Anything that happens on campus, you get an immediate alert," said Coby Sherlock, Student Government Association president. "They call your cell phone, leave you a voicemail, give you an email and send you a text message all at once. It's going to help students feel safer and hopefully deter criminals from acting out."

The application, which will debut later this year, will be used strictly for emergency situations.

"We've been working extremely hard to make sure that this is

the safest campus in Middle Tennessee," Sherlock said. "We realize that not everywhere is going to be perfect, especially when we have no walls, no borders and campus is wide open. We've actually increased the patrol of police in response to safety concerns."

The university has a contract with Allegiance Security Group, LLC, to hire additional staff.

"The unarmed security personnel will be utilized as an additional visible and integrated presence in high traffic areas of campus such

as the new Student Union, Walker Library and the Student Health, Wellness and Recreation Center," said Sgt. Bröede Stucky, department training coordinator for MTSU Public Safety. "However, this was in the works well prior to recent national events and was not in direct response to gun violence."

Despite preventative measures, many students have reservations about gun control on campus.

"I think that in instances like Virginia Tech and Sandy Hook, if a teacher had been armed or trained in gun defense, the situation could have ended with fewer deaths," said Eric Norris, sophomore computer science major. "Lives could have been saved. I think it's almost necessary for our teachers to know gun safety and how to operate one."

Stucky said he feels the issue is a societal one, not a legal one.

"Society cannot 'legislate' good character, common sense or the appreciation of human life as being extremely important and valuable," he said. "Our society, consisting of parents, teachers, religious leaders, friends, co-workers and our community in general, can work together to instill the values that support these necessary social skills."

National organization Students for Concealed Carry pushes for student-owned guns to be allowed on college campuses.

COVER STORY

Their website identifies them as "a student-run, national, nonpartisan organization which advocates for legal concealed carry on college campuses in the United States as an effective means of self-defense."

Reid Smith, Midwest regional director for Students for Concealed Carry, said signs and laws won't stop criminals with an intent to kill – guns do.

"Law-abiding citizens – recent data in nearby North Carolina shows that CPL holders are 20 times less likely to commit a felony (at a rate of .017%) than the general population – do not suddenly become dangerous when they cross an imaginary line onto a college campus," Smith said. "While a cell phone was of no use

to a Central Michigan University student who was abducted and raped last week on CMU's campus, a firearm may have prevented that tragedy. SCC strongly believes that students who have undergone appropriate training and background checks and safely carry throughout the state should not be

as a non-issue.

"I just don't think it's necessary," he said. "I think if we were to have an incident, it would cause more people to get hurt, not less."

Reed has traveled extensively to other countries such as Costa Rica, El Salvador and Nicaragua working for the government as an

adviser to a United Nations agency. "When I was working in El Salvador and in Nicaragua, civil war was going on," he said. "In El Salvador, we could hear artillery up in the mountains. Certainly compared to most of the other developed countries, we have much looser gun controls in the U.S. From what I have read, countries with stricter gun control laws typically have less crime. There seems to be a correlation."

Conservatives and liberals are clashing over gun-control policy, yet misconceptions and exaggerations occur on both ends.

"I got my first gun when I was 10," said Reed. "I'm not advocating repealing the Second Amendment, but I do think that reasonable regulations are certainly necessary. The founders couldn't have possibly foreseen the technology that would occur in firearm production. They were using muskets back then, so our laws have to adapt to the times."

MTSU is a gun-free campus, and while that is not likely to change, there are measures students can take to avoid violence and threatening situations.

The university's safety website pro-

vides students and faculty instructions for what do if they are held at gunpoint. The website suggests not resisting an armed gunman and turning over wallets or cash. As soon as the area is safe, students and faculty may turn to leave and are suggested to scream loudly if people are around.

Becca Andrews, editor-in-chief, contributed to this report.

Society cannot 'legislate' good character, common sense or the appreciation of human life as being extremely important and valuable. Our society can work together to instill the values that support these necessary social skills."

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Adjunct professor of political science Gerald Reed said he sees allowing guns on campus

advised on MTSU or any other college campus."

adviser to a United Nations agency. "When I was working in El Salvador and in Nicaragua, civil war was going on," he said. "In El Salvador, we

President Obama's gun control proposal includes addressing mental health concerns in youth, as well as stricter regulations on who can purchase a gun.

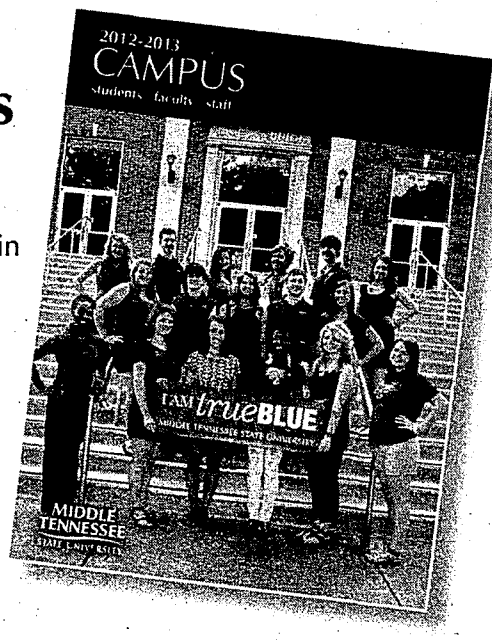
ATTENTION

Students who do *not* live on campus

Pick up your **FREE campus directory**

at the information desk in either the KUC or the Student Union Building.

Books for faculty, staff and residential students already have been distributed through Telecommunication Services and Housing and Residential Life.



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RANTS AND RAVES

January 30

Argo
Jan. 30-31, 7 and 10 p.m.
Feb. 1-3, 7 and 10 p.m.
Student Union Video
Theatre Rm. 208
Admission: \$2



In this Golden Globe-winning film directed by and starring Ben Affleck, the stage is set in 1979 when protesters capture the American Embassy in Iran. Fifty-six Americans are taken hostage, and six manage to escape into the home of the Canadian Ambassador. The CIA

steps in, and ex-filtration expert Tony Mendez (Affleck) devises a plan to rescue the hostages by the means of a faux movie, "Argo." This film will have you chewing your nails in anticipation, but you won't leave without a few good laughs. "Argo" is full of quick

one-liners and witty banter, mostly among Affleck, Bryan Cranston and Alan Arkin. Since its debut in October, "Argo" has grossed \$115.2 million at the box office. It is playing on campus for \$2. Better clear your schedule because we're going to the movies.

January 31

Brian Hester, Island Wren and Broken Folk
Bonhoeffer's
610 Dill Lane
8 p.m.
Admission: Free



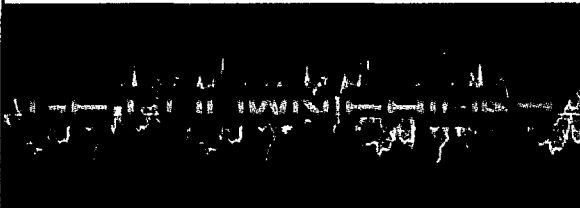
American-folk musician Brian Hester, folk group Island Wren and folk-rap group Broken Folk are all coming together at Bonhoeffer's. The bands will be performing original songs, and Island Wren's "Ticking Clocks" will relax any problems you have right out of your

head. As far as covers go, Brian Hester's rendition of The Avett Brothers' "In The Curve" is worth a listen. While folk music is a fairly recognizable genre, folk-rap may be new to you. Broken Folk uniquely incorporates both genres into their style and after hear-

ing several songs off of their soon-to-be-released record, you'll consider yourself a fan. Believe me, you will want to hear them too. In case great music isn't enough to entice you, Bonhoeffer's provides free coffee, and hot tea.

February 1

Get Down Friday featuring DJ Soccaboi
Student Union Food Court
12-1 p.m.
Admission: Free



If you happen to be grabbing lunch in the Student Union between classes this Friday afternoon, and notice your Coke from Panda Express is vibrating, do not be alarmed. As part of the bi-weekly DJ sets in the Student Union, DJ Soccaboi plans to get everyone mov-

ing with his high-energy dance mixes. DJ Soccaboi's energy and passion make him a hot commodity, playing at fashion shows in retail stores like Macy's and Nordstrom. He is currently the resident DJ at Main St. Live in Murfreesboro and Karma Lounge in

Nashville. You can hear DJ Soccaboi's mixes by visiting his SoundCloud profile. Be sure and give his beats a listen during your lunch, and let your brain have a break.

February 1

"The Room"
Student Union Video
Theatre Rm. 208
11:30 p.m.-3 a.m.
Admission: Free with MTSU student ID



Quirky cult-film stars writer, director and producer Tommy Wiseau is a banker with a seemingly perfect life. Johnny (Wiseau) has great friends, a great job and a loving fiancée he adores, Lisa (Juliette Danielle). Slowly Johnny watches his perfect world crumble. The

acting in this movie is pleasantly sub-par – think "Napoleon Dynamite." It is difficult to tell if the actors are intentionally performing badly for comedic effect, or if they're really that awful. Regardless, it is quite funny to watch. If you're looking for something to do and

low on cash, I suggest popping in to see this movie. Have a friend who doesn't go to MTSU? No problem. Each student is allowed to bring one friend without an ID. So really, we've got it all covered.

February 1

Coffee with the Congressman
City Café
113 E. Main St., Murfreesboro
4 p.m.
Admission: Free



This Friday, Fourth District Congressman Scott DesJarlais will be at City Café for a cup of coffee and a little constituent chatter. All who are interested can meet DesJarlais and join the open discussion about his future plans for the new district. This is a unique

opportunity for students to meet our congressman and ask questions. A lot of DesJarlais' dirty laundry was aired this past year, and many citizens have voiced doubts and speculations about his ability to serve honestly. Now is the time to ask for clarity. As a student body,

it is important we stay involved and informed. Dress code for this event is casual. Congressman DesJarlais' office is located at 304 W. Main St.. His office can be reached at 615-896-1986. Go and let your voice be heard.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Life on [Bruno] Mars

By Megan Richmond
Contributing writer

Memphis native Kameron Whalum has turned his childhood dream into a prosperous reality as the trombonist of the platinum-selling recording artist Bruno Mars.

Whalum has performed at major award shows such as the 2012 Grammy Awards, nationally-syndicated talk shows like "Jimmy Kimmel" and "The Ellen DeGeneres Show," is featured in Bruno Mars' newest music video for his hit single "Locked Out of Heaven" and has performed in front of thousands of fans. Even with all of his accomplishments, Whalum is a laid-back, up-and-coming artist with an authentic love for music. *Sidelines* chatted with Whalum about his musical upbringing, his future and what it is like to be one of Bruno Mars' Hooligans.

Sidelines: When did you first become interested in music?

Kameron Whalum: Well, when I was like four, I had my first singing solo. I can't even remember exactly when I first became interested. As far back as I can remember, I guess. I started out singing, then the bass guitar, then drums and then settled on the trombone. I've been playing for almost 14 years.

SL: Who were some of your first musical inspirations?

KW: My uncles Kirk and Kevin, my dad, granddad and my



Band member Kameron Whalum plays the trombone in Bruno Mars' band. Photo courtesy of Cutting Edge.

brothers. Everybody in my family does music, pretty much. I can remember when I was younger, singing with them at my granddads' house. And my family inspires my music because I'm hoping they'll enjoy it, and hoping to make them proud.

SL: When you were young, did you always see music being your career? Were you always pretty serious about it?

KW: I always knew I was going to be doing it – it was just a question of how soon. It was either that or basketball. Basketball is my other love. I played in middle school, my church's team and at The New School for Jazz that I

attended in New York. I tell people all the time that when I settle down for a couple years, I'm going to train, then try out for the NBA.

SL: What was the first show you performed with Bruno Mars & The Hooligans? Were you nervous? And what was the most fun show you've done?

KW: The first show was the American Idol finale show in 2011. I wasn't nervous just because that wasn't my first performance on TV. I had done SNL with Jesse J a month before. That was my first time, and I was a little nervous – I can't front. After that, I was cool. The most fun was the Victoria's Secret Fashion Show in 2012.

SL: What are some of your favorite places that you've visited with the band?

KW: We went to Hong Kong for a day, which was really cool. But my favorite place was probably London. I would live in London.

SL: What are you working on right now: with the band and with your own music?

KW: With Bruno, we go to Japan for 10 days on Jan. 20 to do promo for his album, like TV shows and stuff, and we have a show there. As for myself, I'm just riding this wave right now. Eventually, I want to do my own project, but I'm going to wait until the right time.

SL: Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

KW: I see myself

with a couple of albums out, a couple of Grammy's. I see myself just living well to the point where I don't have to work, just comfortable to work when I want to.

SL: Who are some of your favorite artists besides Bruno Mars?

KW: D'Angelo, Frank Ocean, Beyoncé, Kanye West, Brandy, Drake, Pharrell. I never really get starstruck, but we met Pharrell at the MET Ball in NYC, and he told us we did a really great job, and I just froze up.

SL: What sets you apart from other musicians?

KW: I don't feel like I have to prove myself to other musicians. When I think about making music, I think about music that people just want to listen to. I don't want it


to be all complex and complicated. And I'm confident in myself – I don't need somebody else's approval.

SL: What advice would you give to young, aspiring musicians?

KW: Follow your dreams – not someone else's – and take your own path. Don't lose sight on what you want to do. Because that's really easy to do.

For more information on Kameron Whalum, follow him on Twitter at www.twitter.com/KameronWhalum.

Also, look out for Whalum on Bruno Mars' tour later on this year and check out Bruno's new album, *Unorthodox Jukebox*. ■



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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Lemongrass impresses with authenticity, hospitality



Sushi chef Sahawat Suwanaheep shows off a one-of-a-kind sushi creation. Photo by Davion Baxter.

By Kaela Dalecke
Contributing writer

Combining authentic taste with genuine tradition, this sushi joint is making its mark on Murfreesboro. At Lemongrass Sushi and Thai, customers can satisfy their Asian cravings while experiencing homestyle comfort. For seven years, the Lemongrass staff has offered customers their dishes with a rare hospitality.

"I never say we make the best food ... We just try to make good food that people enjoy," said Sahawat Suwanaheep — Erk for short.

Erk may be mistaken for the owner, but he will quickly correct you.

"This is a family business. We are all owners," Erk said.

Everything is made fresh daily — all ingredients are shipped directly from Japan and Thailand, and they grow some herbs themselves.

"In the summer, we try to grow some ingredients ourselves, like garlic, lemongrass, mint, basil and other

spices," Erk said.

The menu includes traditional dishes, including pad thai and chicken teriyaki, along with unique selections created by the chefs and patrons. Customers will never hear "no substitutions, please."

"When people go out to eat, they want to eat what they want, so I let them," Erk said.

If customers are feeling creative, they can work with Erk to customize a sushi roll.

Erk's sushi rolls are culinary works of art. His training is a little unorthodox, but successful nonetheless.

"When people ask me where I went to culinary school, I tell them 'YouTube Institute,'" Erk declared proudly, laughing.

When their sushi chef left shortly after the restaurant's opening, Erk faced an exciting challenge to fill his position — he became a self-taught sushi chef.

"I spent months learning from the Internet and creating my own sauces and recipes," Erk said.

Before his sushi-making days, Erk

pursued a bachelor's degree in religion and philosophy in Thailand.

"I wanted to work for the U.N.," he said. "I wanted to help people."

As a soldier in the Royal Thai Army and a volunteer aiding in the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami, Erk has helped many people. Now, he helps customers feel at home.

"We treat our customers the way our culture treats people — with respect and hospitality," Erk said. "I don't cook for customers. I am cooking for my friends and family. My customers are my friends and family."

Erk wants to expand as the family grows.

"Eventually, I would like to expand the restaurant space to offer a family lounge where people can come hang out and enjoy good food," Erk said.

Anyone looking for an authentic taste of Japanese and Thai cuisines and a unique dining experience should walk into Lemongrass, order some sake and enjoy. ■

NyQuil before nonchalance: Clinic leaves much to be desired

By Jane Horne
Arts & Entertainment
editor

Flu season is rampant, and the start of a new semester brought thousands of students and billions of germs together, crammed into a small number of buildings.

Most students unfortunate enough to come down with the flu or the stomach virus that is going around turn to the campus health clinic for treatment. However, after an unfortunate experience with the campus clinic, I can attest that it is less stressful and safer for your mental health to just stay home and wait the illness out.

My battle with the stomach virus last week consisted of two trips to the campus clinic – one after a day of nausea and a second the day after my stomach virus took a toll on my body. On both of these trips, parking proved to be a problem.

Student Health Services is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and on Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. – all normal hours that students are on campus taking classes. The parking lot located next to the recreation center where the clinic is located is a green lot. There are four spaces reserved for students with appointments.

Students can park, go inside and get a temporary parking pass, bring it back to the car, then finally go



Jane Horne

inside for their appointment. This might be a good idea if a few things were not an issue: there are only ever less than four students in the clinic for appointments (illogical), other vehicles did not temporarily park there (I saw this at both appointments), or if there was extra parking in that lot (not going to happen). Because these things are not the case, this proves to be very problematic as the reserved spots were not open. Such was the case at both appointments.

The day of my initial appointment, my doctor asked me to come back the next day if I felt worse. I felt so much worse that I did not consider making another appointment. But what if I had? I physically would not have been able to park in the gravel lot or the parking lot next to the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building and make it to the campus clinic. And, since I am not from Murfreesboro, have no family here and my friends and roommates' schedules

do not revolve around me, I would have had no one to drive me and conveniently drop me off at the front door. I would imagine at a school as large as MTSU, this is the case for many students.

The parking issue could have been overlooked, if it had not been for the poor, demeaning attitude of those working in the clinic.

When anyone walks in the campus clinic, there is a sign that asks those with appointments to check in on the computers. Then it asks walk-ins to check in on the computers. This would make any logical person believe that walk-ins are more than welcome.

They are not.

For my return appointment, I checked in on the computer after coming straight from class. I waited a few minutes and was taken back by a nurse who took me into another room only to explain to me 10 different ways – I never asked any questions or challenged her – that I should have just called and made an appointment. A simple, “Miss Horne, we’re a little busy at the moment and actually prefer that you make an appointment with us in the future. Would you care to come back today at (insert time)?” would have done splendidly.

After arriving back that same day for my appointment 10 minutes early, I drove around the lot waiting for a space. I am normally a

full supporter of walking 15 or more minutes to class, but walking that amount of time to go to the doctor when I still did not feel well is not only illogical, but inhumane. I finally got a reserved spot, went inside for my pass, put it in my car and came back inside to check in on the computer – a full three minutes past my appointment time.

The nurse called me, and informed me that because I was late for my appointment, I was going to have to wait an extra 20 minutes. When I explained my parking dilemma and that I had to get to work, she went on to belittle me for being concerned about not finding a parking space that was close to

the clinic. She simply responded that that was “my choice.” Yes, it was my choice to want to park my car within sight of the building my doctor was in instead of walking my still-sick body halfway across campus.

I am appalled with the lack of consideration for parking for sick students, and I am disgusted with the way the nurses at the campus clinic treated me. I am more concerned for other students who are in Murfreesboro without family or doctors that they are familiar with, who are treated the same way I was.

For many of us, college is the first time we have to go to the doctor by ourselves

while actually battling a significant illness, and that can be scary and emotional. We deserve to be treated with the utmost kindness, respect and understanding – not made to feel like ignorant children when we do not follow an unclear appointment rule, and for not being able to physically walk long distances while battling a stomach virus.

The doctors at the campus clinic have always been understanding and helpful, but that’s not enough to make up for their humiliating staff. So, the next time you feel like you’re coming down with a cold, go buy some NyQuil instead. ■

Student Ambassadors

2013-2014

We are now accepting applications for our newest group of Student Ambassadors, the official hosts of the University.

The Student Ambassador program, sponsored by the MTSU Alumni Association, is a group of students who serve as representatives and hosts for MTSU. The Alumni Association is looking for enthusiastic, motivated, TRUE BLUE students who love meeting people and sharing their excitement about MTSU.

Details about the program, criteria and the application are available at the MTSU Alumni House or online at www.mtalumni.com/SA/Application

For more information, contact Michelle Stepp at 898.2922 or michelle.stepp@mtsu.edu



TN-000088206



SPORTS

Blue Raider baseball opens spring practice under new coach

By Mark Mize
Sports editor

The Middle Tennessee baseball team took the field last week for its first spring practice of 2013, just three weeks before the 2013 season opener versus Ball State.

The team returns all but four players from a 2012 season that saw the Blue Raiders post the most-improved record in the Sun Belt conference at 31-28, just one year removed an injury-plagued 2011 that saw the team finish 18-37.

The team was forced to replace the entirety of its full-time coaching staff, although the new leader in the dugout should be a name familiar to most MT fans. Jim McGuire took over the head coaching position after serving 20 years under former Head Coach Steve Peterson as an assistant and associate head coach for the Blue Raider program. The new coach has already made his presence known in this final year in the Sun Belt conference.

McGuire signed the largest recruiting class in program history this fall, as nine student athletes from both the high school and junior college ranks formally announced their intentions to play for MT. However, he is quick to deflect the credit to his new assistant coaches, both in their first years on the staff.

"I think [recruiting] went very, very well."



Senior second baseman Johnny Thomas hammers a ball into the outfield in the fall's Blue vs. White World Series at Reese Smith Jr. Field. Photo by Mark Mize.

McGuire said. "Scott Hall is the recruiting coordinator, and he's done a very good job of putting it all together. Skyler Meade, our pitching coach, they've kind of worked hand in hand."

The staff accomplished all of this despite an inability to bring in recruits until Sept. 1 due to the late coaching hire, and this class could expand even further with spots still left on the 2014 roster.

On the field, McGuire affirmed that although the team features a new coach, he still plans to run a similar program to that of recent years. He also noted that the transition was not only for the team, but also for himself.

"Off-the-field stuff has been the biggest difference; more the administrative side of it and just a lot more things to do away from the team and way from the players, the individual-type stuff," McGuire said. "As far as the on-the-field stuff, we've kept things the same as far as how we run our practices. Hav-

ing an older team with 14 seniors, I thought that was the best thing to do, try to keep their routine fairly similar."

The Belleville, Ill., native said the team could see a more aggressive approach this season on the base paths, in the batter's box and on the pitching mound under the new regime.

"I think we'll be a little bit more aggressive. On the bases, I think we'll run more ... We'll try to steal more bases and put more pressure on their defense offensively, try to do a few more things: maybe more hit and runs, run and hits to try to create a little bit more," McGuire said.

Blue Raider fans can get a sneak peak at this year's on-field product over the next three weeks in several scheduled inter-squad scrimmages at Reese Smith Jr. Field.

The home-opener is set for Feb. 15 when MT takes on BSU in a three-game home series to kick off the 2013 baseball season. ■

Blue Zoo roars to life in support of MT basketball

By Jordan Mayton
Staff writer

Student sections have become a vibrant part of college athletics throughout the past few years.

Be it the giant cardboard heads or chanting during free throws, rowdy college kids can be found in virtually every gym and have come to make home-court advantage the what it is in college basketball.

Formerly known as "The Rowdy Raiders" or "The Kermit Kra-zies," Middle Tennessee's student section has made a transition to a new name and a new moniker this season.

"The Blue Zoo" is the newest name for the university's student section. While this title is also shared with a band and a movie, the Blue Zoo got its name from a poll question on Facebook. Students were allowed to submit their favorite names to determine the new section name, and the name stuck from there.

"You can credit Kermit and the men's program for [getting more fans to the game]," Rick Insell, women's head coach, said. "As they have more success, that kind of trickles down to us. Kermit and his coaching staff have done a good job getting them here, and our students really appreciate good basketball."

Kermit Davis, men's head coach, also gave his thoughts in on the



MTSU's Blue Zoo cheer on MT basketball in Jan. 26's ESPN 2 game against rival WKU. Photo by Emily West.

newest fan-inspired phenomenon.

"I think [the fan participation] is great," Davis said. "I love that name [the Blue Zoo]. Our students have been fantastic. I saw that they're moving up to getting rated in the top 15 of 20 in student bodies in basketball."

MTSU was recently nominated for the Naismith Student Section of the Year competition, which annually awards the winning school a \$10,000 general scholarship fund donation.

The Blue Zoo has gained such popularity that a Twitter page was created in the student section's honor. @BlueZoo was created by sophomore marketing student, Brian Taylor, who made the page after MT's last-minute win over Vanderbilt.

"I was driving home with my friend, and we were talking," Taylor

said. "I said, 'Why don't we make a Twitter page to get people excited about the game?' We decided to make one by the students to retweet anything a student sends us."

The Twitter page has become a hit at 750 followers in a month. As the page's notoriety grows, Taylor has a message for all students.

"Show up," Taylor said. "It's free for students. We have one of the biggest student populations in the state. We have one of the better teams in the league. We're 38th in the RPI ratings in the nation. We're on track to make the NCAA tournament. There's no reason we shouldn't sell out every game."

Students can help the Blue Zoo in the Naismith Student Section of the Year competition by voting at facebook.com/ILoveCollegeHoops. ■

ALL THINGS MTSU

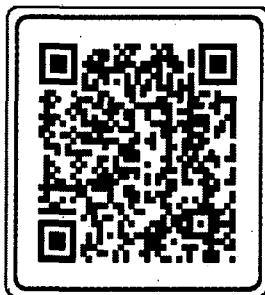


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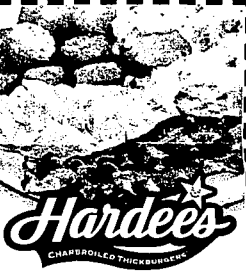


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