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CONTENT

NEWS

- 3 Graduate produces cancer-awareness documentary
By Samantha Hearn

FEATURES

- 4 Jazz faculty bring the 'cool' for a concert in jazz history
By Jay Powell

COVER STORY

- 6 MTSU drone program expanding despite national restrictions
By Mamie Nash and Quint Qualls

RANTS AND RAVES

- 8 Check out local happenings
By Ashley Clark & Jane Horne

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

- 10 Fairytales – Trendy or Tired?
By Claire Osburn
- 12 Dead Space 3 more about action than horror
By Logan Barnes
- 13 'Happy New Year, Mr. Kates!' already winning awards
By Kayla Moore

OPINIONS

- 14 Cannabis legalization produces path to hemp growth
By Alex Harris

SPORTS

- 16 Further C-USA expansion could still be on the horizon
By Mark Mize

Sidelines Lens



Ryan Thurman, a sophomore commercial songwriting major, plays his guitar on the stairwell of the student union. Photo by Emily West.

Cover design by Kelsey Klingenmeyer.

Visit us at www.mtsusidelines.com

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NEWS

Graduate produces cancer-awareness documentary

By Samantha Hearn
Contributing writer

MTSU alumnus Jeffrey Brant is fundraising for his documentary "Head Up Heart Full," a story about his grandmother Carol who was diagnosed with stage-four lung cancer in early January.

Brant will go back to his Native American roots to the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation Reservation in Ontario, Canada, to film not just the struggles of cancer, but the importance of living life to its fullest potential.

Edward Bowen, assistant professor of electronic media communication, taught Brant during his time at MTSU.

"It's a very important story from a very important perspective. He's got a generation of Native Americans represented by his grandmother who stayed on the reservation their entire life," Bowen said.

Brant's grandmother was given three months to live when she was diagnosed in January. Upon this discovery, Brant went to visit her.

"My mom went to bed early one night, and my grandmother and I had our first real heart-to-heart conversation then," Brant said.

They spent the next four hours that night talking about her life. At 70 years old, she had a lot to say about how she had lived.



Brant shoots for his upcoming documentary. Photo courtesy of Jeffrey Brant.

"One of the biggest things she said was that she felt she hadn't lived a life she had originally planned," he said. "She started to feel like maybe her life had been deprived somehow, that maybe she hadn't lived it to its fullest potential."

This conversation represented a pivotal moment for Brant. Already an independent filmmaker and entrepreneur of his company, JBrantFilms, he decided to start a project that would give his work a deeper purpose.

"Our plan was to do a short film to highlight not taking life for granted. Then the idea of a documentary came along. It had a good message ... these are real people with real situations," he said.

Brant's producer, Curtis Crawford, handles the business side of JBrantFilms and will travel with him to Ontario to film the documentary.

"It's not about money or superficial things," he said. "Everyone deals with cancer. This is about appreciating life."

The Mississaugas reservation setting will offer a glimpse into Brant's heritage.

"What's cool about this being filmed on a reservation is that even though the world has all of these different cultures, everyone still can relate to being affected by cancer," Crawford said.

Brant and Crawford have set up a campaign with indiegogo.com, a website that helps people build funding platforms.

Brant and Crawford are asking for \$20,000 in donations to cover the costs of production and travel.

To donate, visit indiegogo.com/projects/head-up-heart-full-documentary. The fundraiser will close on March 10, and the team will then travel to Ontario to start filming. ■



taste

Prepare your taste buds! Check out taste, The Daily News Journal's new online guide to local dining out in Rutherford County. Featuring Dining Out columnist Samantha E. Donaldson.

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The Daily News Journal dnj.com

Jazz faculty bring the 'cool' for a concert in jazz history

By Jay Powell
Features editor

History was revisited Valentine's night as the jazz faculty paid tribute to a landmark moment in jazz history – Miles Davis's masterpiece, *Birth of the Cool*.

To understand the recording's importance, you have to travel back to the late 1940s. The world of jazz exploded with the bebop movement and all eyes were on Charlie "Bird" Parker and Dizzy Gillespie, the key players to watch and idolize.

Bebop's style consisted of simple arrangements, frenzied, note-packed virtuoso solos and a sense of urgency that created the impression that the music was about to explode. These musicians treated their craft as art for the sake of expression and did not play for the masses.

Dizzy Gillespie once said, "The music proclaimed our identity; it made every statement we truly wanted to make."

It was jazz only the most highly skilled musicians could pull off. Its raw, furious style caught the attention of one jazz musician in particular, a young trumpet player known as Miles Dewey Davis.

Davis came to New York in 1944 to study music at Julliard, but quickly dropped out after meeting Charlie Parker. Davis idolized Parker, who became his mentor, ushering him into the jazz world by hiring him on as Dizzy Gillespie's replacement



Faculty from the MTSU jazz department came together for a Valentine's Day performance of Miles Davis's *The Birth of the Cool*. Photo by AJ Netherland.

on trumpet.

Davis became infatuated with Parker. He shared a room with him, took heroin for the first time with him and learned from his master's unpredictable nature, which led Davis to become one of jazz's most notorious innovative rule breakers.

But Davis could never properly copy Gillespie's style to his liking, claiming that he didn't possess the chops

to pull off such lightning fast solos the way Gillespie played. Such long, improvised solos also seemed improper and too limiting. He preferred music that was more arranged and contained space and subtlety.

After he left Parker's band, he was free to pursue this style further, creating a highly distinctive approach to jazz known as the "cool jazz" sound. The sound

placed more emphasis on arrangement, creating lyrical melodies that were easier to follow and much more accessible to both listeners and players.

In 1948, Davis, then 22, assembled a group of young musicians inside Gil Evans' New York basement apartment. Evans' apartment became the magnum of the New York musical arts community, and Evans became one of

Davis's most important collaborators.

The sessions for *Birth of the Cool* were recorded between 1949 and 1950, and the album was initially a commercial failure. The group only played a few gigs at New York's Royal Roost before disbanding.

The music the nonet recorded created a buzz that made musicians think of new ways to approach jazz arrange-

ment and style. It rejected the strict confines of bebop and opened up a new world for musicians and listeners.

The MTSU Jazz faculty brought all of this history to life onstage during last week's concert. The project was done once before in Nashville and was originally conceived when Professor Don Aliquo discovered that the music for the nine-part ensemble was

FEATURES

available.

"When we thought about doing a kind of a different concert that we never tried before, we batted around some ideas, and we came to the conclusion that the music for this very historic recording was available," Jamey Simmons, trumpet and director of jazz studies said.

The concert began a little after 7:30 p.m. to a packed house, with everyone sharing smiles and applause as the faculty-led group took the stage, each adorned head-to-toe in black attire — the only way to ooze cool kind in jazz.

"Bebop was about being hard charging and fast and angular rhythms and long solos. What you are

going to hear tonight is a little bit in contrast to that," Simmons said after the hard charging opening number, "Move."

Denis Solee, the group's guest baritone sax player who boasts a stature almost as large as his instrument, played technically dazzling solos on most of the songs, filling in the shoes of original sax player Gerry Mulligan.

After slowing things down with the atmospheric "Moon Dreams," Solee spoke about his adoration for the music and his appreciation for getting to play it again for the second time.

"That's some nice textured stuff there," he said. "This is actually the second time I've had the chance to play

this music, and I'm certainly not tired of it yet."

The excitement of playing this historical music onstage was in the smiles, crackups and nods each member took. Aliquo and Solee traded fabulously improvised solos each tune, an enlightening bass solo was performed by Jim Ferguson on "Godchild," a revisit to the bebop piano stylings was contributed by Bud Powell, a key innovator of the movement, in "Budo," which featured a solo from Pat Coil on piano.

The rest of the band consisted of Angela DeBoer on French horn, or "the horn," Ben Miles on tuba, David Loucky on trombone while Darrek

Phillips classed up the night on drums.

The final song of the night was a rousing rendition of "Rouge" by John Lewis, another of the group's favorites.

"I think 'Rouge' is a really cool tune. After we played that we were all in agreement that, it's such a masterpiece, really a masterpiece of the art form."

The same can be said of the concert as a whole, celebrating a milestone in jazz that was not only ahead of its time, but continues to influence the way jazz is approached.

If the *Birth of the Cool* concert is any sign what the jazz program has in store as we enter into the spring jazz festival, you won't want to miss it. ■



The group ended with "Rouge," by John Lewis. Photo by AJ Netherland.

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COVER STORY

MTSU drone program expanding despite national restrictions

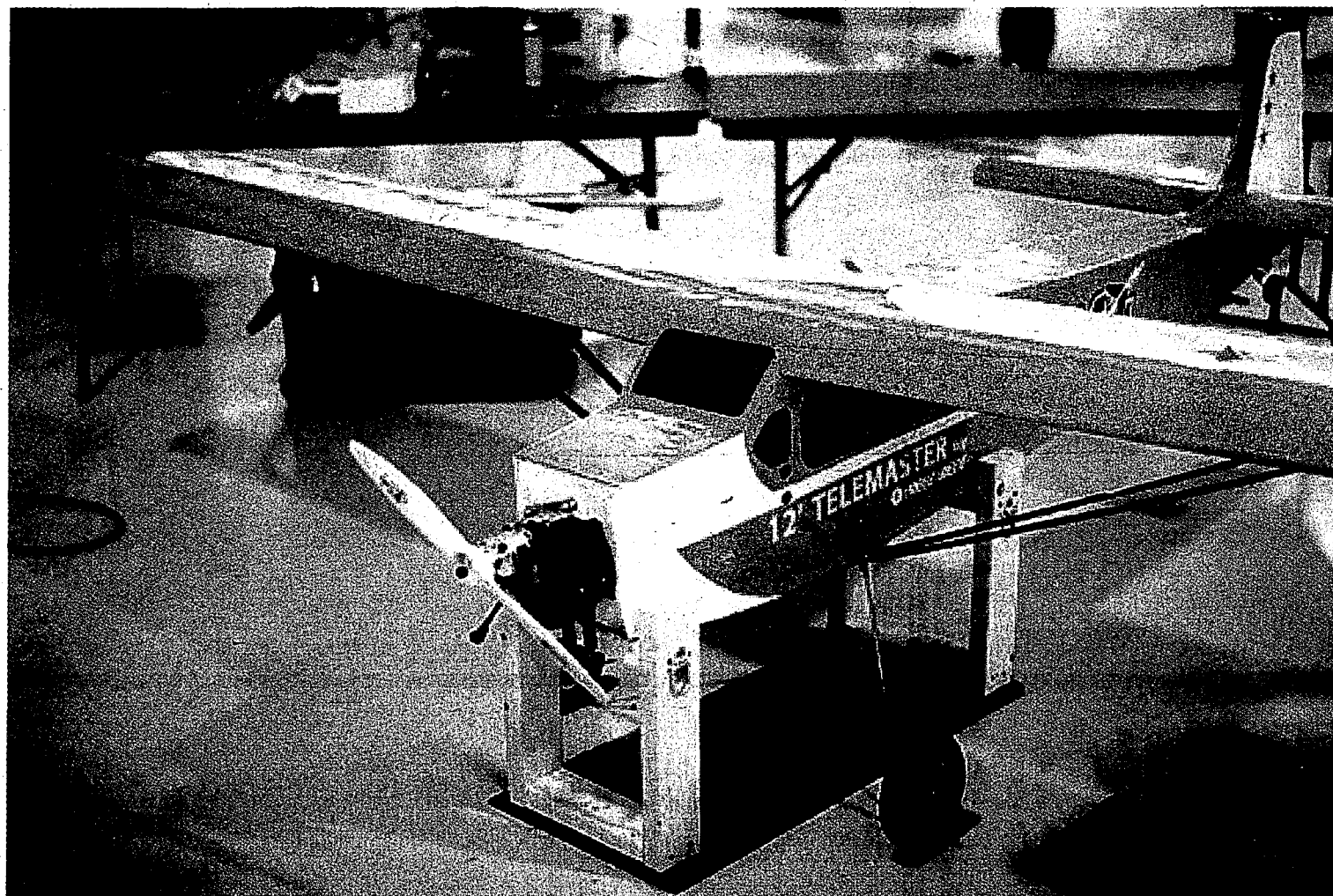
By Quint Qualls and
Mamie Nash

The positive commercial use of unmanned aircraft systems has taken a backseat to military usage after a leaked memo from the Department of Justice stated that drones could be used for targeted killings of American citizens.

MTSU's Department of Aerospace is engaged in developing its own UAS program for a curriculum focused not on targeted killings and military reconnaissance, but with an emphasis on civilian benefits ranging from agricultural production to environmental land survey.

"Civil uses are what we're looking at because they can be used for geophysical surveys, monitoring agriculture, inspecting dams, pipeline and power line patrols, extinguishing forest fires and law enforcement agencies," said Ron Ferrara, chair of the Department of Aerospace. "When you use a UAS, you reduce the risk to personnel obviously. Low-flying helicopters do a lot of the stuff a UAS can do. There's always an inherent risk to personnel that you wouldn't have if you were using a UAV or UAS."

The university's UAS program began in 2010, but it has yet to reach full maturity. Thus far, it has seen little in the way of funding and some resistance from within



MTSU is looking to incorporate drones into its aerospace program with models such as the Telemaster. Photo by Davion Baxter.

the university, though recently the administration has signed on in full force. The department is designing a collegiate program, and classes will be offered next fall.

"We have four student workers who are the core of the program," said Terry Dorris, director of the UAS program. "We'll have three additional UAS specific classes, and we're going to turn that into a minor in aerospace with a UAS emphasis. Our interest is to bridge the gap

between people coming out of the military and people interested in the field from the civilian world to create an avenue for people to get a degree in operations management."

The program has established a partnership with ISR Group, a major UAS training and operations company that will provide financial, technological and personnel support.

"The first thing would be to develop a UAS minor and see how much interest is generated," Dorris said.

He explained that the final goal is a four-year collegiate program, but several obstacles must be crossed before it's possible.

Dorris said that UAS opposition within the university has been overcome, and now the road is open to expand the two-year-old project to bigger proportions.

Drones have been used by the military for years, but bringing them into civilian operation will require crossing a lot of red tape and creating new regulations. A lot of

gaps must be filled and a lot of bridges crossed, according to Dorris, but once it has been streamlined into a widely used field, drones could be the means to saving both money and lives.

The Oak Ridge National Laboratory in East Tennessee put in an application for a drone license last year. The ORNL, the site originally commissioned to develop plutonium for the Manhattan Project and ultimately the atomic bomb, now represents a science and technology

hub for the Department of Energy.

"ORNL does research and development on sensor packages used by drones to detect environmental contamination," said David Keim, ORNL communications director. "Drones can provide detailed geographic information on radiological or chemical releases."

Oak Ridge represents a major player in the expansion of UAS into the commercial and civilian world.

"Drone technology



Terry Dorris, associate professor in the aerospace department, talks about the planned usage of drones in the curriculum. Photo by Davion Baxter.

offers the same advantage as automation or robots, only in this case, the robots fly," Keim said. "If a task is potentially dangerous to a worker or is cost prohibitive, a drone may perform the function equally well and at lower cost."

From the ability to take high-resolution pictures for the police and fire departments to monitoring crop rotations, the potential uses for drones seem limitless, and the partnership between MTSU and the military will bring students into this rapidly-evolving field.

"I grew up flying RC Planes. I stumbled in on a class taught by our previous director titled Intro to UAS," said Brent Taylor, a senior with a double major in aerospace and busi-

ness. "I started talking to him about different applications as far as what UAVs can be used for, and there's a huge opportunity."

The first mission for students will be using drones to map out the university's dairy farm, which will lead to monitoring crop rotations with such advanced technology that it can tell if dirt has been moved down to a millimeter.

The Tennessee Army National Guard is also heavily involved in bringing UAVs to the state, though details on the project have not yet been released.

"It is a little too premature to talk about at this time," said Randy Harris, director of Joint Public Affairs at Joint Force Headquarters.

Dorris cited the

manhunt for ex-LAPD officer Christopher Dorner, whose shooting rampage gained national attention, as an instance where an unmanned aircraft vehicle could be used in the place of ground personnel.

"Why put 500 people on the ground walking around with the opportunity for that guy to shoot them, when they can throw a UAS at 5,000 feet and have it fly around with photography capabilities and try to find the guy," Dorris said. "If MTSU's program created an avenue to save one life in my tenure here, it would be the best investment MTSU has ever made. Now, that's the avenue that MTSU's looking at."

CRIME BRIEFS

DUI
Division Street
Feb. 15, 3:05 a.m.
Authorities arrested Patrick Embler, 22, for driving under the influence.

DUI
Lytle Street
Feb. 14, 10:53 a.m.
Authorities arrested Brittany Danielle Mitchell, 24, for driving under the influence.

THEFT
Monohan Hall
Feb. 14, 1:06 p.m.
Complainant reported his backpack stolen from the third floor lobby of Monohan Hall.

DRUGS
Greenland Drive
Feb. 14, 10:31 a.m.
Authorities arrested Jamichael S. Hatcher, 19, Jeancarlo G. Bvenaventura, 19, and Norvell S. Turner, 18, for simple possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

FIRE
Kirksey Old Main
Feb. 14, 8:53 a.m.
Authorities responded to a fire alarm in the KOM set off by a Pop-Tart catching fire in a microwave. Authorities removed the microwave from the building.

HARASSMENT
Jim Cummings Hall
Feb. 13, 6:00 p.m.
Complainant reported that her ex-boyfriend had contacted her several times with harassing phone calls and text messages after she indicated that she no longer wanted to see him.

Authorities spoke to the ex-boyfriend about no longer contacting the complainant; however, no charges were filed.

STALKING
Judd Hall
Feb. 12, 11:51 p.m.
Authorities issued an arrest warrant for Jon Galyen, 21, for stalking.

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RANTS AND RAVES

February 20
Langoliers, Crayons
and Antidotes, MA-
COS, The Ford The-
ater Reunion
The Boro Bar & Grill
1211 Greenland Drive,
Murfreesboro
9 p.m.
Free



Flyers, Facebook events and conversations in class promote the name of Murfreesboro band The Langoliers. We don't know who they are or where they came from, but if a cross between indie rock and garage punk sounds like the perfect combination, then head to

The Boro Bar & Grill and get ready to do a little drinking and dancing.

They've been around since 2011 and are constantly playing shows, so if you can't make it this time, there will be other chances.

Friends of The Langoliers are dedicated ones,

so be prepared for a packed evening and eager audience members. The event is free to get into, but the Facebook page for this night suggests bringing some extra dollars for the touring band. Be warned, The Boro's Facebook page says only cash is accepted.

February 20
Wreck-It Ralph
Student Union Theater
7 p.m. & 10 p.m.
\$2



Gamers, what's better than an old-fashioned arcade game? You remember games like Pac Man and Frogger. How about a movie about arcade games?

"Wreck-It Ralph," starring the voices of John C. Reilly, Jack McBrayer and Jane

Lynch, is a movie about the secret lives of arcade game characters. Ralph is the villain in the game "Fix-It Felix, Jr." Tired of being shunned by fellow characters, Ralph leaves home and soon finds himself part of a new first-person shooter game, "Hero's Duty," where he

hopes to win a medal and become a hero. Ralph accidentally unleashes an enemy that could destroy the world of arcade games forever.

How about turning off the Wii and coming to the Student Union to watch a great movie with cool people?

February 21
The Static Trees
12th & Porter
114 12th Ave. N.,
Nashville
\$5
18+



Thursday pop-rock-meets-blues duo The Static Trees is playing at 12th & Porter. Fans of cigarettes, leather and Ray Bans might want to cancel other plans, because this band is one of the hippest you have ever seen. The Static Trees blend the melodies of

chart-topping pop songs with the raspy blues-inspired vocals of frontman Dylan Whitlow.

It is easy to hear in their music that Whitlow and his partner, Nikki Barber, draw inspiration from artists like Bob Dylan and The Rolling Stones.

The band recorded and released their first studio EP, *Necessary Risks*, in 2011 and made their stay in Nashville permanent in September 2012.

February 21
The Turnpike
Troubadours
Mercy Lounge
1 Cannery Row,
Nashville
8 p.m.
\$10



Country music has developed a reputation for being primarily based on lying, cheating and drinking the pain away. With artists like The Turnpike Troubadours around, is it any wonder why? Hardcore country fans and those who love the likes of Waylon Jen-

nings and Merle Haggard should head to the Mercy Lounge Thursday, where The Turnpike Troubadours will perform original songs like "Gin, Smoke and Lies" and "Diamonds and Gasoline."

However, if you are planning on going to this

concert, be forewarned. Those of you who just sort of like country music should probably skip this show and hit up Redbox instead. You will probably find something in there that could hold your attention just as well, if not better, and it can be done without a fiddle.

February 22
Judd Hall
3 Brothers Deli and
Brew House
223 W. Main St.,
Murfreesboro
9 p.m.



If someone invited you to see Judd Hall, what would cross your mind? Would you think Judd Hall is a solo artist? You probably would not guess that they're a band bearing the namesake of an old boys' dorm at MTSU. Big Kev, Will Brooks, Shane Keenan, Antjuan

Johnson and James Harrison met in the dorm as college students. In the room, they listened to music and discovered a shared passion. The music of the band can be described as a cross between classic rock and jam band. The boys create all kinds of songs

ranging from the slower-paced, piano heavy ballad, "Hurricane," to the upbeat, Huey Lewis-esque instrumental tune, "Vaya Con Diaz." Regardless of what kind of mood you're in, this band will definitely get you on your feet.

RANTS AND RAVES

February 22
The Oscar Nominated
Short Films 2013: Live
Action
Belcourt Theatre
2102 Belcourt Ave.,
Nashville
6 p.m.
\$7.25 w/ student ID



How would you like to be a part of all the Oscar excitement this year? Okay, so maybe you won't actually walk the red carpet or have your picture taken with Robert Downey Jr., but you can get as gussied up as you desire. This Friday the Belcourt Theater is

showing an assortment of this year's film nominations, as well as a batch of best pictures from previous years. Previews of the films last up to 20 minutes. The films being shown include "Death of a Shadow," which revolves around a fallen soldier who attempts to

save his soul from death; "Henry," which is about an elderly concert pianist; "Buzkashi Boys," a tale of two young boys living in Afghanistan, and "Asad," about a boy from a village in Somali. Find a date, dress to the nines and enjoy the Oscars.

February 22
"Cats"
Street Theatre
Company
1933 Elm Hill Pike,
Nashville
8 p.m.
\$16 for students, \$18 adults



At some point or another we have all done laundry or washed dishes and found ourselves singing "Memories, all alone in the moonlight..." and wondering how in the world that song made its way into our minds, and where in the world it came from? Well, the

song is "Memories," and the play is "Cats." "Cats" was on Broadway for 18 years and follows a tribe of cats called the Jellicles. Throughout the play, the Jellicles anxiously await to find out which of the members will be chosen to start a new life on the Heaviside layer.

The play itself is plenty reason to go, but if you need a little something extra, how about real cats? The Nashville Cat Rescue will be at each performance with cats who need homes and are available for adoption.

February 23
Mae Reunion Show
Rocketown
601 4th Ave. S.,
Nashville
\$22
7 p.m.



Head over to Rocketown to celebrate rock music, birthday parties and the venue's 10th birthday where special guests Mae return to the stage to sing well wishes.

Each album by Mae is different than the last, but equally as fantastic as the one before. Mae's

albums are made up of songs that tell a story, and by the end of the CD, you feel like you've been on a journey. The songs are full of upbeat guitar and danceable synthesizers, as well as slower piano ballads. Mae's music has something for everyone.

Beginning in 2001, the

band released three studio records and five EPs and B-sides. Unfortunately in 2010, the band announced on their website that they would begin their indefinite hiatus. Now, for one night only, they are coming together again. You don't want to miss this.

February 23
Framing Hanley
Main St. Live!
537 W Main St.,
Murfreesboro
7 p.m.
Ages 13-20 \$15,
21+ \$10



Anyone looking for a way to liven up this weekend should look no further. Rock group Framing Hanley is coming to Main St. Live! to put on a show that will leave everyone wanting more. Framing Hanley has been making a huge name for themselves

since they first started making music together as EMBERS FADE. In 2006, the band recorded their first EP with former Creed bassist, Brett Hestla. The boys had a fantastic year in 2007, when the band signed with the indie label Silent Majority Group. After

changing their name to Framing Hanley, the band had a song, "Hear Me Now" break the Top 40 charts on rock radio. Since then, the band has toured with artists like Red Jumpsuit Apparatus and Hinder.

February 24
Free Yoga
Rocketown
601 4th Ave. S.,
Nashville
2 p.m.



After a busy weekend of concerts and parties, what better way to relax and prepare your mind than with a little yoga? On Sundays, Rocketown provides a free yoga class. Anyone interested is asked to meet in the Hub Café and to bring their own

mat and workout attire. It doesn't matter if you do yoga every morning, or if it's your first time doing downward dog. If you are a first time yogi, it is encouraged that you bring plenty of water and sit behind someone more experienced. The health benefits of yoga include

easing aches and pains, increasing healthier sleep patterns, toning the body from top to bottom and promoting an overall sense of calm. The people are friendly, the class is free and there is no reason to miss this.

Fairytales - Trendy or Tired?

By Claire Osburn
Assistant Arts &
Entertainment editor

The past few years brought an explosion of mythical-themed movies and television. This resurgence could be caused by boredom, lack of fresh ideas forcing creators to recycle, or childhood nostalgia. Either way, it looks like these modern-day fairytales are here to stay. Here's a look at what this revamped genre has to offer.

"Once Upon a Time"

ABC's fantasy-drama is part enchanted tale, part present day drama, neatly tied together through "Lost"-style flashbacks. Created by former producers of the beloved sci-fi series, Adam Horowitz and Edward Kitsis, "Once Upon a Time" gained a loyal following and is nearing the end of its second season.

Set in the fictional town of Storybrooke, Maine, the plot centers around protagonist Emma Swan's (Jennifer Morrison) quest to return the residents, who are actually fairytale characters trapped in the real world, to their rightful realm. With personas ranging from Disney creations to original Grimm brothers' characters, boredom is not a concern. The show has a solid reputation and is receiving predominantly positive reviews from critics and viewers alike — it looks like season three might be a part of our foreseeable future.



(Top to Bottom) Mirror, Mirror, Jack the Giant Slayer and Red Riding Hood have all been part of the fairytale resurgence. Photo courtesy of Facebook.

"Beastly"

Cruelty, fantasy, inner beauty and young love are the lifeblood of "Beastly," a modern-day adaption of "Beauty and the Beast" set in New York City.

Handsome and popular Kyle Kingston (Alex Pettyfer) is cursed after bullying fellow classmate and secret witch Kendra

Hilferty (Mary-Kate Olsen), resulting in a disfigured physical appearance. If Kingston does not find someone to love him in this state before time runs out, he will remain deformed forever.

Vanessa Hudgens stars as Lindy Taylor, the "beauty" to Kingston's "beast."

Although "Beastly"

obtained generally negative reviews, fans of teen romance and fairytales should consider giving this one an unbiased chance.

"Red Riding Hood"

Directed by Catherine Hardwicke, ("Twilight," "Thirteen") "Red Riding Hood" is

loosely based on the well-known fairytale. The movie is more like the fantasy-horror version of Romeo and Juliet than the children's story. Valerie (Amanda Seyfried) is in love with humble town woodcutter Peter (Shiloh Fernandez). But alas, she is already betrothed to the wealthy Henry Lazar (Max

Irons).

Did I mention Valerie's village is also plagued by evil in the form of a werewolf by night, human by day? When deaths continue, everyone becomes a suspect.

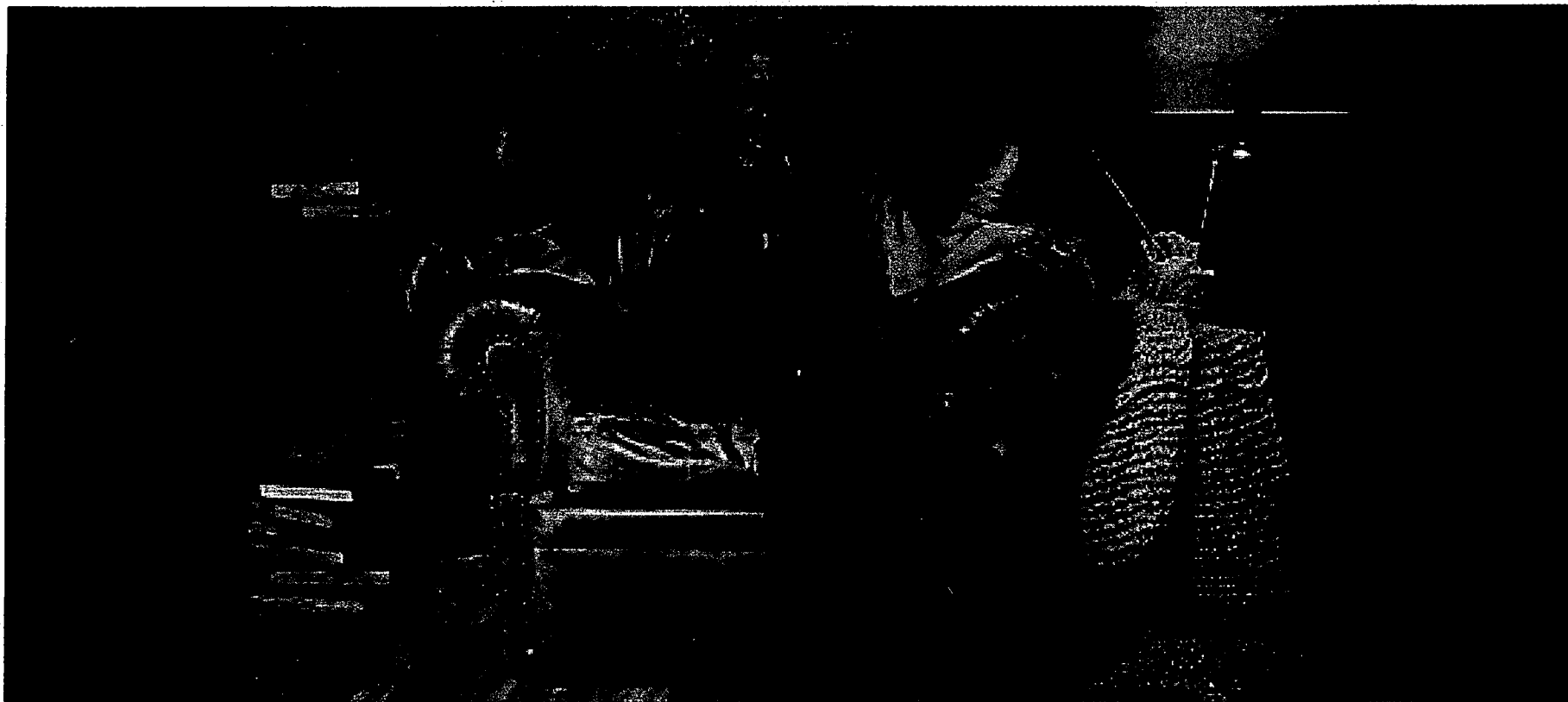
Compared negatively to the "Twilight" saga and earning itself mostly poor reviews, it's a shame a gem like Seyfried was lured into this one.

"Snow White and the Huntsman"

A dark take on the classic Grimm's fairytale, "Snow White and the Huntsman" tells the story of Snow White (Kristen Stewart) and her evil stepmother, Queen Ravenna (Charlize Theron), duking it out over control of the kingdom. Chris Hemsworth plays Eric the Huntsman, tasked with braving the dark forest to capture the runaway Snow White for the Queen's eternal youth. Although it was praised for its epic special effects and costume design, the film was criticized for its storyline and the (lack of) acting chops of its lead actress. Receiving generally mixed reviews, Theron's performance and Hemsworth's looks were applauded. It seems that "Snow White and the Huntsman" is a little less "Snow White," and a little more huntsman.

"Mirror Mirror"

"Mirror Mirror" uses comedy for a unique approach to tell Snow White's (Lily Collins) story. Her evil step-



Rumpelstiltskin steals the show as everyone's favorite villainous good guy in "Once Upon a Time." Photo courtesy of Facebook.

mother, Queen Clementianna (Julia Roberts), gains control of the kingdom and Snow White after the king's prolonged absence. After rebellious behavior, such as escape attempts and falling for Prince Alcott (Armie Hammer) who is the Queen's love interest, Snow White is to be punished. Eventually finding solace and comedic relief with the seven dwarfs, Snow White must find a way to save the kingdom from Clementianna's wicked ways.

With beloved costumes and set design, "Mirror Mirror" earned mixed reviews for its light and fluffy storyline and childish adaption. Better take the kids to see this one, even if you are a huge Julia Roberts fan.

"Hansel & Gretel:

Witch Hunters"
Another Grimm brothers' adaption takes place in the form of "Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters," a German tale of brother, sister and witch.

Only this version of the story is a darker, grownup, action-filled fairytale. Hansel (Jeremy Renner) and Gretel (Gemma Arterton) are abandoned as children, only to be captured by a gingerbread house-residing witch. Due to this traumatic ordeal, the siblings grow up to be bounty hunters, and witches are their specialty. Armed with heavy artillery, Hansel and Gretel are hired to kill witches and save children.

Perhaps they should worry about themselves – the film received mostly negative reviews, and it

seems another film has fallen prey to the poorly developed plot that is apparently typical for high action films.

"Jack the Giant Slayer"

"Jack the Giant Slayer" is to be the next of the fantasy adaptations, based on the fairytale "Jack and the Beanstalk."

With a release date set for next month, this film stars Nicholas Hoult as Jack, a farmhand who accidentally opened the entrance to the giants' world and is forced to save himself, the town and, of course, the princess (Eleanor Tomlinson).

Seasoned actors fill out the rest of film's cast, so here's hoping this one actually lives up to the hype. ■

Dead Space 3 more about action than horror

By Logan Barnes
Contributing critic

Does "Dead Space 3" have you clamoring for your adult diapers, digging out your favorite blankie and turning on every light in your house in anticipation of the raw fear generated by previous entries in the series?

That may be overkill, as horror takes a backseat to action in the newest title of Visceral Games' critically acclaimed series.

Some players may be apprehensive about this shift from terror to action, but despite the lack of fear-generating atmosphere, "Dead Space 3" manages to be a pretty fun game.

"Dead Space 3" starts players off in a flashback, setting the back story of the planet Tau Volantis. After fighting off the familiar Necromorph menace in the past, the player is thrust into the future to an obviously worn out and lonely Isaac Clarke. Soon Clarke is accosted by newcomer Sergeant John Carver and his team, who tells Clarke that his ex-girlfriend, Ellie Langford from "Dead Space 2," has left for Tau Volantis. She is believed to be the key to stopping the "markers" from previous games. Clarke reluctantly agrees to go with the team and must fight his way through a horde of new Necromorphs and terror-cult Unitologists in hopes of finally ending the "markers."

In addition to a new story, "Dead Space 3" brings several elements



Dead Space 3 improved its weapons design in the latest installment of the game series. Photo courtesy of Facebook.

that push the series in an action-based direction.

First off, the game introduces human enemies wielding guns. Surprisingly, these human enemies are less of a threat than the talon-wielding Necromorphs. Many times, they will stand directly in front of you, not firing a single shot, as you lop off their head with your plasma cutter.

Second, Isaac now has a few more tricks with his arsenal of weapons.

The bench system has been upgraded to allow Isaac to customize his old and new weapons and build items. Fusing two or more guns into interesting combinations, such as a plasma cutter/force gun or a double machine gun, is possible.

This system also replaces the old power nodes. Players can now upgrade specific stats of their weapons with a limited number of "circuits" and purchase upgrades for their suits at the cost of various

"resources" that are also used to build guns.

Finally, "Dead Space 3" now lets you experience the game hand-in-hand with a buddy in the new online cooperative campaign — provided you have the online access code from a new copy of the game or you purchased a code online.

Players can link up with a friend or a random stranger and experience a storyline that actually differs in minute ways from the solo story.

In co-op, you may choose to play as Isaac Clarke or Sgt. John Carver. As Isaac, the story is the same except for some colorful banter with Carver. Carver will experience various hallucinations and bouts of insanity throughout the game because he was never exposed to a madness-inducing "marker" like Isaac.

Problems appear within the game, however, with the introduction of these elements.

A lot of the time the

action can be too much for the same sluggish movement that was present in the previous titles. Necromorphs come in greater numbers than before, which can lead to being stuck behind a pile of dead bodies that block shots and stasis blasts at bad times.

Also, some scenarios are obviously designed for co-op play and, while not impossible, are an uphill battle when playing alone. The settings are designed to be larger, which cuts away the claustrophobic fear of the old titles.

Still, the co-op is well done and unique. The gun-crafting is a joy to experiment with, and the story serves to answer questions that have been burning because the first installment of the series. At 12-15 hours to complete the story and side missions, the game is quite long.

New players should find the game solid and accessible, while older players may be turned off by the absence of the horror that was key to previous titles.

I implore those players to at least give it a shot. While I wasn't scared or amazed, a veteran fan like myself still had fun.

Non-scary "Dead Space 3" manages to get a 7 out of 10.

Check out Barnes' gaming blog, *SideQuests*, weekly at mthsidelines.com. ■

'Happy New Year, Mr. Kates!' already winning awards

By Kayla Moore
Contributing writer

Even in its beginning stages, a new movie by two electronic media communication professors is being celebrated in the film world.

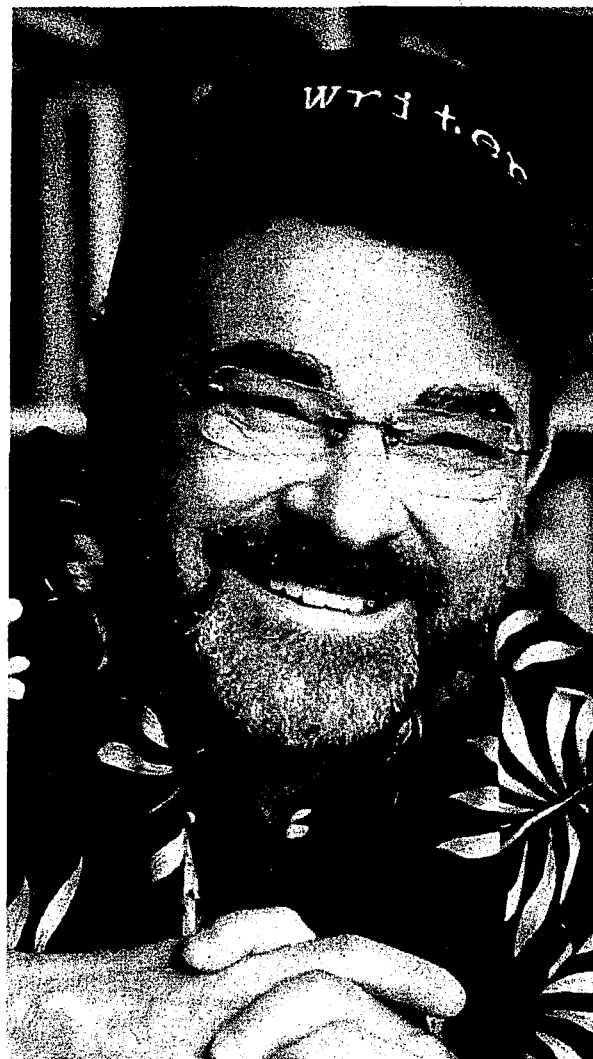
In association with executive producer and fellow mass communication professor Mary Nichols, Pondillo is working in the pre-production stages of his new film, "Happy New Year, Mr. Kates!" Filming is not set to begin until mid-March, but the movie has already received the "Best Screenwriting – 2012" award from the American International Film Festival in Chicago, Ill.

"This movie is a comedy/drama," Pondillo said. "It's a lot like life. It's funny, and it's sad. It's a look back over a life."

The film revolves around protagonist Mr. Kates, an elderly man who lives in an assisted living facility. Although he is surrounded by people, Kates is ultimately alone as a result of pushing people away all his life. On New Year's Eve night, a few hours before midnight, Kates escapes from the nursing home.

After his breakout, Kates goes to the park where he thinks about his life, reminiscing about some of the sweeter moments as well as the ones that led to his present solitude.

Eventually, he runs into an old man, Father Time, who is carrying around a satchel with lifeless baby Hope inside, the New Year's



(Left) Pondillo is MTSU's resident filmmaker. Photo courtesy of Bob Pondillo. (Right) His latest release, "The Miracles on Honey Bee Hill," gained national attention, and "Happy New Year, Mr. Kates" has already begun to win awards for its screenwriting. Photos courtesy of Facebook.

baby. Father Time, who is preparing for the new year, tells Kates that he can redeem himself through one final act – ushering in the new year and giving life to baby Hope.

"That's where the sadness comes in," Pondillo said. "[Kates] dies to allow the new year to be born. The idea of the film is that everything's connected – beginnings and endings, life and death, the baby and the old man."

Pondillo is no strang-

er to successful filmmaking – he produced numerous award-winning short films such as "Would You Cry if I Died," "My Name is Wallace," "Wait," "The New, True, Charlie Wu" and "The Miracles on Honeybee Hill."

However, not all of Pondillo's films have been well received. His most recent work, "The Miracles on Honeybee Hill," focused on marriage equality, used child actors and was told like a fairytale. The

main character, Millie, is searching for a friend and finds her soulmate, who happens to be a girl. As a result, her church turns its back on her, which calls God down to speak with the congregation.

"It was called a lot of things, including a 'lie of Satan.' There were even rumors that children were being exploited," Pondillo said. "But the message was to quit breaking each other's hearts and to love each other. What's

wrong with that?"

The controversy did not dispel Pondillo's desire to create another movie. He was somewhat grateful for the publicity that "The Miracles on Honeybee Hill" received.

Although he does not expect it to be as controversial as his last film, "Happy New Year, Mr. Kates!" also has a powerful message that Pondillo hopes viewers appreciate.

"A lot of this movie came out of the fact

that my dad passed away about a year and a half ago," Pondillo said. "I was with him for a week at his assisted living nursing home, and I wrote down what I saw and heard. Many things I saw there that I used in this film."

Filming for "Happy New Year, Mr. Kates!" will begin during spring break and is slated for a spring 2014 release. ■

Happy New Year, Mr. Kates!



COMING SOON!

The MIRACLES ON Honey Bee Hill

Cannabis legalization produces a path to hemp growth

By Alex Harris
Opinions editor

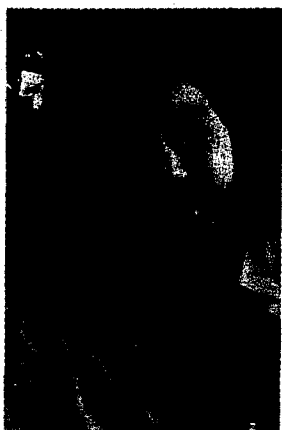
With successful state-level legalization efforts in Colorado and Washington, the American prohibition of marijuana appears to be coming to an end, along with the prohibition on hemp production.

American government tends to have a problem admitting mistakes made in past policy decisions and takes a long time to reverse those policies. Such is the case with our national policy on hemp production and cannabis.

Potheads, cannabis growers, medical patients, prisoners and prison budgets won't be the only ones to benefit from successful cannabis legalization efforts; hemp has the potential to positively affect our economy and lifestyles in many ways.

Hemp has historically been used to produce items such as food, oil, paper, rope, textiles and fabrics. Additionally, it can be used to produce construction materials such as fiberboard, or it can be mixed with mineral lime to create a sturdy, concrete-type material, and can be used to produce biodegradable plastics.

Hemp is also one of the best biomass sources for biofuel production. Its only major barrier to production, as identified by *Biodiesel Magazine*



Alex Harris

in 2007, is that it's economically nonviable at the moment due to low numbers of industrial production. Given an increase in industrial hemp production, this barrier to use hemp as a biofuel could disappear, according to the magazine.

Hemp production is a part of American history. It was a major crop in the United States throughout colonial times, even mandated by law to be grown by colonists in some places. The crop maintained its dominance up until the mid-1800s, when cotton took over as the dominant American crop.

Hemp continued to be produced in the nation for the purpose of ropes and sails. The most was produced in Kentucky until the Marijuana Tax Act of 1937 effectively outlawed its production.

It remains illegal to this day to cultivate hemp without a permit from the Drug Enforcement Administration, and permits are never given. The DEA and

most law enforcement groups remain opposed to legalized hemp production on the grounds that marijuana cultivators would be able to hide their crop in hemp fields, and it would be too difficult for law enforcement officials to tell the difference.

This is a weak argument. In the first place, they are from the same family of plants, and they may possess many similar qualities, but they do not look identical. Hemp tends to be a tall, single-stalk plant with the intent to produce more fibrous material, whereas marijuana tends to be short and more squat, with

fact, this is a concern held by even indoor marijuana growers in Colorado if the state allows for the growth of industrial hemp.

Just as states began standing up to the DEA and the federal government on marijuana policy, many state legislatures looked at legislation to allow for the growth and production of industrial hemp. When the citizens of Colorado voted in November to legalize marijuana, they also voted to legalize hemp production.

Likewise, the Kentucky state legislature has a bill this session to legalize hemp growth

own bill in Congress to remove hemp from the Controlled Substances Act to allow farmers nationwide the freedom to produce hemp if they desire.

If both marijuana and hemp production were legalized, this change in policy could produce potential economic benefits.

According to the Hemp Industries Association, Inc., the retail sales of products made with imported hemp were more than \$450 million in 2011. And in spring of 2012, more than 300 economists, including three Nobel laureates, signed a petition in support of the

magnitude, it makes little sense to continue an outdated policy of prohibition of an intoxicant that is not only less addictive than alcohol or nicotine but also — with a total of zero attributable deaths over the course of human history — much less harmful.

The U.S. is the only industrialized nation in the world to prohibit the growth and cultivation of industrialized hemp. And given the economic potential of industrial hemp growth and production, this prohibition makes little sense.

Whether you view the growing changes

“ According to the Hemp Industries Association, Inc., the retail sales of products made with imported hemp were more than \$450 million in 2011. And in spring of 2012, more than 300 economists, including three Nobel laureates, signed a petition in support of the legalization of marijuana. The economists estimated the economic benefits at \$7.7 billion saved annually in enforcement costs, as well as an additional \$6 billion in tax revenue if it were taxed similar to alcohol and nicotine.”

the intent to produce the most flowers and buds.

In addition, most marijuana growers would not want to plant their crop in a hemp field due to the danger of pollination, a process which could contaminate their product with hundreds of seeds. In

and production. The bill has passed the state senate and has support from Sen. Rand Paul, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell and the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to throwing his support behind the bill in the state legislature, Paul has his

legalization of marijuana. The economists estimated the economic benefits at \$7.7 billion saved annually in enforcement costs, as well as an additional \$6 billion in tax revenue if it were taxed similar to alcohol and nicotine.

With potential economic benefits of this

in public opinion as to marijuana's danger, economic potential and legality, in a positive or negative light, the potential societal and economic benefit offered through the subsequent legalization of hemp cultivation is a clear positive side-effect. ■

Further C-USA expansion could still be on the horizon

By Mark Mize
Sports editor

Conference-USA Commissioner Bitton Banowsky made an appearance at the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville last week to get to know some of the individuals surrounding one of his conference's newest members.

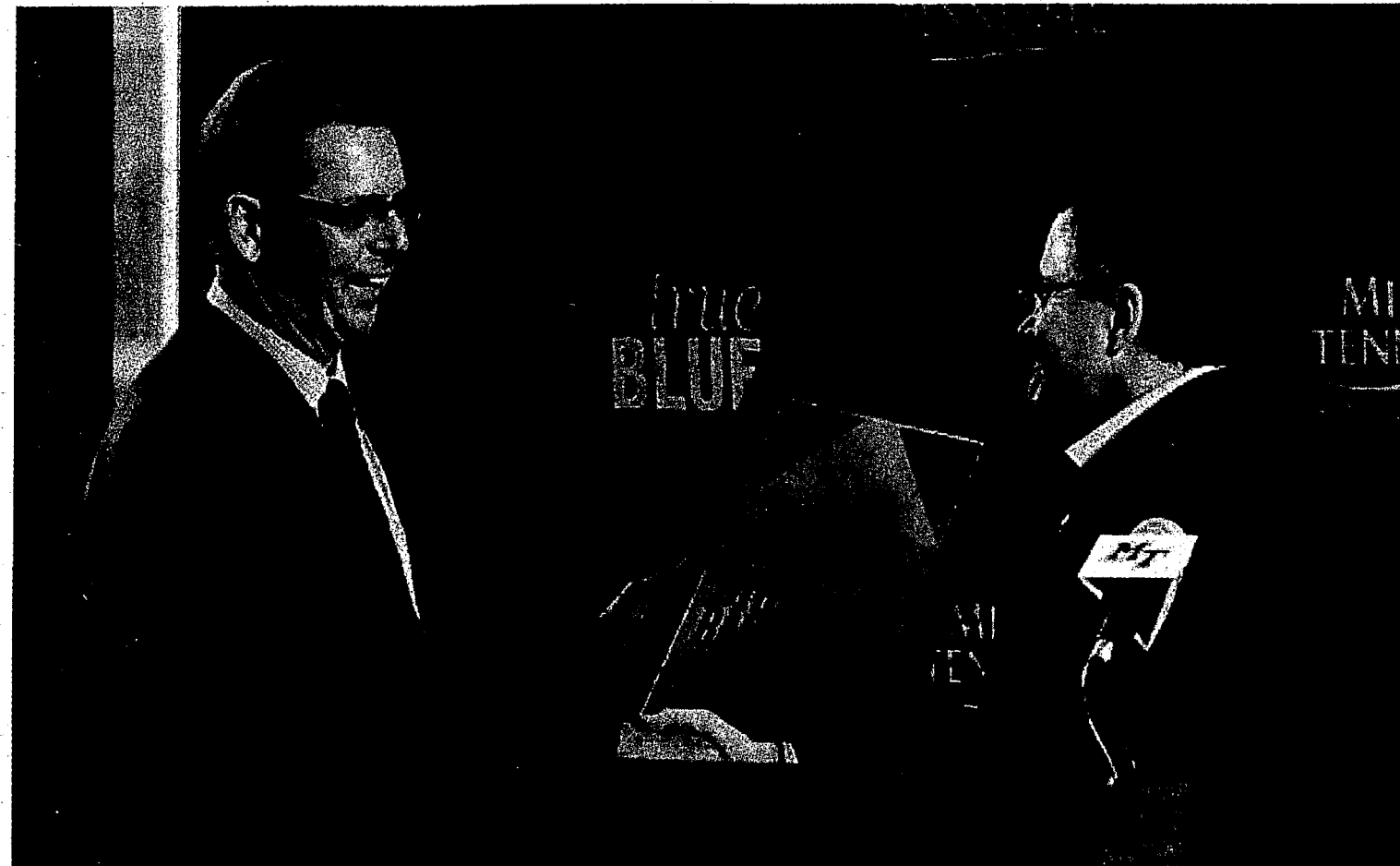
The topics discussed by Banowsky ranged from his tour of the Country Music Hall of Fame to his opinion that MTSU is a positive addition in both athletics and academics for the conference, of which he has served as commissioner since 2002.

"We think the university is an absolutely perfect fit for what we want to accomplish going forward in C-USA," Banowsky said. "They're, I believe, the largest state university in the state of Tennessee ... They're a wonderful market."

However, Banowsky's statements raised another pertinent question about the Blue Raiders' new conference destination.

What does C-USA want to accomplish, and will the landscape of college athletics see further expansion from this conference just months after the decision to make the jump to 14 schools?

MT's new conference mates are currently set to include Rice, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Marshall, Southern Miss., Tulsa, University of Texas at El Paso, Charlotte, East Carolina, Louisiana Tech, Old Dominion, as



Banowsky receives a gift from the Grand Ole Opry's Pete Fisher. Photo courtesy of MT Athletic Communications.

well as the four other Sun Belt Conference teams that are set to make the jump: Florida International, Florida Atlantic, North Texas and University of Texas at San Antonio.

Banowsky said he was more excited about his job now than he has ever been in more than a decade with the conference. He went on to explain how C-USA laid out its expansion strategy.

"We were all about trying to identify the next generation of great programs and great universities — ones

that have wonderful upside potential, large schools, large markets," Banowsky said.

He said that the conference has already expanded its television footprint by 43 percent and has contracts that include Fox, CBS and ESPN.

However, he also noted that there is always room for expansion. He did nothing to dispel rumors that Western Kentucky could join the conference in the near future, as he had in late 2012 when he vehemently denied them and said, "I'm not going

to speculate, but I have no idea where those [rumors] got started."

Now that Memphis has elected to exit C-USA in favor of the Big East, the Blue Raiders are left without a natural rival. This would not be the first time WKU and MT were separated only to be reunited in a different conference. The teams were Ohio Valley Conference rivals until WKU left for the Sun Belt in 1982. Just 18 years later, the two found themselves conference neighbors again in the newly expanded Sun Belt.

Banowsky closed his statement with an announcement of what he wants to accomplish a decade from now if he were still commissioner.

"If I am [here 10 years from now], I want to look back and see universities that competed really well on a national stage," he said.

Since MT joined the Sun Belt 12 years ago, the Blue Raiders have taken home eight Bubas Cup trophies, the award given for the conference's all-sports champion, but the Hilltoppers have won three of the four not claimed by the

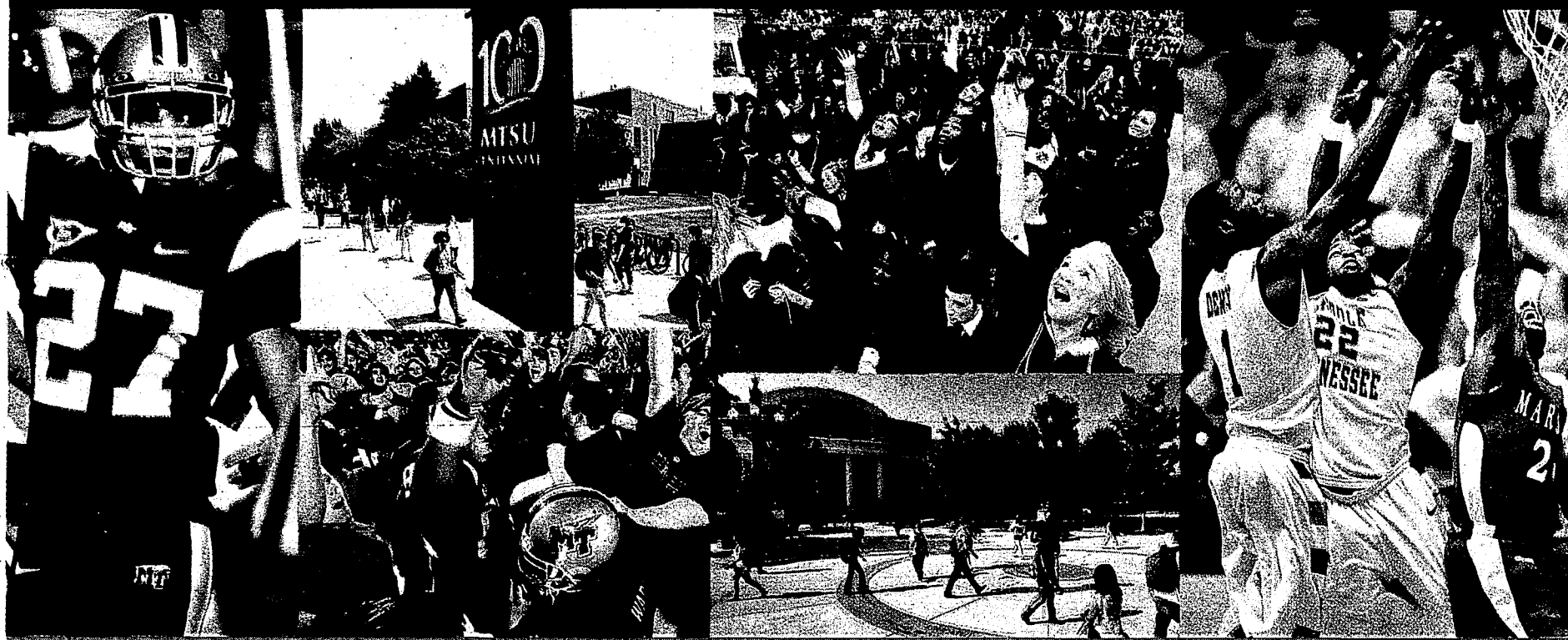
Blue Raiders.

WKU has also won more than 60 Sun Belt titles during that span and advanced to more than 20 NCAA Tournaments.

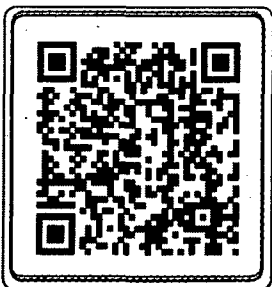
The Hilltoppers are just one of several possibilities in the expanded discussion of conference realignment, though. C-USA has made eight moves to add teams in the last 18 months and could be ready to make more there.

"There's always room for expansion," Banowsky said. ■

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