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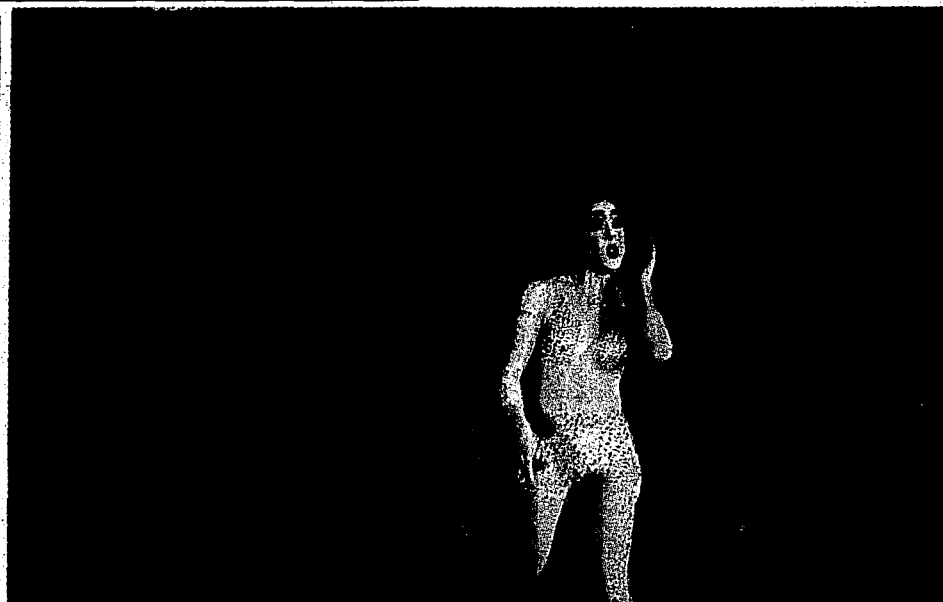
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Tyrah Hunter performs Alicia Keys' recent hit "Girl on Fire" at MT Lambda's Spring Out Drag Show. Photo by Kati Baird.

Corrections for April 10 Issue

In "Student filmmaker featured at Nashville Film Festival," a photo taken by Briana Mailley is incorrectly attributed to Facebook.
In "Widespread campus space issues threaten instructional rooms," K. Watson Harris' name is incorrectly hyphenated. The graphic on the left side of the spread also incorrectly labels office and storage space as Electronic Media Communication instructional space.
Sidelines regrets these errors.

Cover photo by Trent Wilkinson.

Visit us at www.mtsusidelines.com

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SGA looks to continue initiatives with next executive board

By Emily West
Managing editor

SGA President Coby Sherlock's office wall on the third floor of the Student Union Building is a white board filled with blue, red, purple and green names of each student who has voiced concern to him about campus issues.

Sherlock knows the end of his term is quickly approaching, but he said this year's Student Government Association has followed through on the majority of the goals they set for the school year. Sherlock's initiatives involved wanting to improve relationships with administrative and SGAs from Tennessee Board of Regents schools.

"When I leave and give my speech, I am excited," Sherlock said. "I am not excited because it's over, I am excited to see what happens next, and let someone else take the next stairway."

A variety of administrative figures have stepped foot in the parliamentary room on the second floor of the Student Union Building as a result. MT Dining most recently came to hear ideas, as did the Information Technology Department, who wanted to see how senators felt about doing away with unlimited printing.

Sherlock has also traveled the state to other schools and met with different SGA and university presidents.

He said compared to them, MTSU's SGA is far ahead and has already handled the problems years ago that other organizations are experiencing now.

In his time as president, Sherlock has heard a variety of student proposals from water filtering stations to students wanting more thorough course descriptions on Pipeline. The course description suggestion is being worked on.

"I'm a student just like everyone else," Sherlock said. "I don't know what's best for everyone, and that's why I love when people come in with these types of ideas. Student Government can be students best tool or the worst ... I feel like the mayor of a 26,000 person city, and it's amazing."

However, Sherlock never got to accomplish an issue with student programming — he wanted Ludacris to come in the fall for Homecoming.

"We were so close, and we were right on the brink," Sherlock said. "Ludacris was the best artist at the time, and everyone loves him. I just wanted to do something cool for students: The promoter really let us down."

Sherlock wanted the university to implement a Raider fund, similar to that of Tennessee Technological University and East Tennessee State University. The fund would be a solo fund that comes out of student fees for



Incoming SGA president, James Lee, asks a question about MT Dining's reusable food container project during a meeting. Photo by Emily West.

one large entertainer per semester. Fees still remain an issue, and students now only pay \$20, which is divided five different ways, and student programming only receives \$3.

He is hoping the next executive board will implement change after different senators brought up proposals throughout the year for this issue. The next executive board for SGA is unofficially in place because no one is running uncontested.

"I hope I can continue to reach out to all students, not just because I'm the only choice now, but because I am the right choice for the position," said James Lee, who is the sole choice for student body president.

Only 1,094 students voted in spring 2012 out of the almost 27,000 that are enrolled. Election commissioner Anit Patel hopes the senate elections drive up

numbers this semester. His goal is to have between 2,000 and 2,500 students vote. The only colleges who have senators running uncontested are graduate studies, education and undeclared.

"Usually ballots are uncontested for senate," Patel said. "This year's senate is contested, and the executive board is uncontested, but senate is the bulk of the vote."

Sherlock said he was hoping that if this executive board performed well, other students would want to run for those same positions. However, the exact opposite happened.

"It doesn't make sense," Sherlock said. "If you have an opportunity in front of you to make something great even greater, you should be lined up at the door to take it."

He said students often ask him what kind of incentives or perks he gets for hav-

ing the position. The SGA president's tuition is paid for, Coby must work 10 hours to cover the scholarship. He receives a paycheck for extra hours worked and a white parking pass.

Sherlock said that when he looks at his wall, he is reminded that the financial struggles and staying at school endless amounts of hours were worth it for his job.

"If you want to do it big, you don't think about the benefits," Sherlock said. "Of course, they are helpful, but they are nothing glorious. I am not sitting on a king ship making ballin' dollars. We do face challenges, but you think about great it's going to feel when you are done. It was the best opportunity of my life."

Daniel Jansouzan contributed to this report.

CRIME BRIEFS

VANDALISM

James Union Building
April 11, 5:43 p.m.

A complainant reported her parked vehicle vandalized near the JUB.

ASSAULT

Cummings Hall
April 11, 4:32 p.m.

A complainant reported that she was punched and verbally assaulted.

TRAFFIC

Jones Hall lot
April 11, 2:20 a.m.

Authorities reported that the parking barricades were struck by a vehicle that then left the scene.

THEFT

Lyon Hall
April 10, 12:26 a.m.

A complainant reported his bicycle stolen from Lyon Hall.

ASSAULT

Ned McWherter Learning Resource Center

April 8, 10:05 a.m.

A complainant reported another student threw a cup of juice at her and left the area. Authorities escorted her to the sheriff's office to obtain a criminal summons.

ASSAULT/BURGLARY/ALCOHOL

Greek Row

April 7, 1:01 a.m.

Authorities arrested Cameron Matthew Titus, 21, and Jacob Aaron Percy, 21, for aggravated burglary and assault, and Kendal Day Kermick, 20, for public intoxication.

Human trafficking issue reaches campus community

By Quint Qualls
News editor

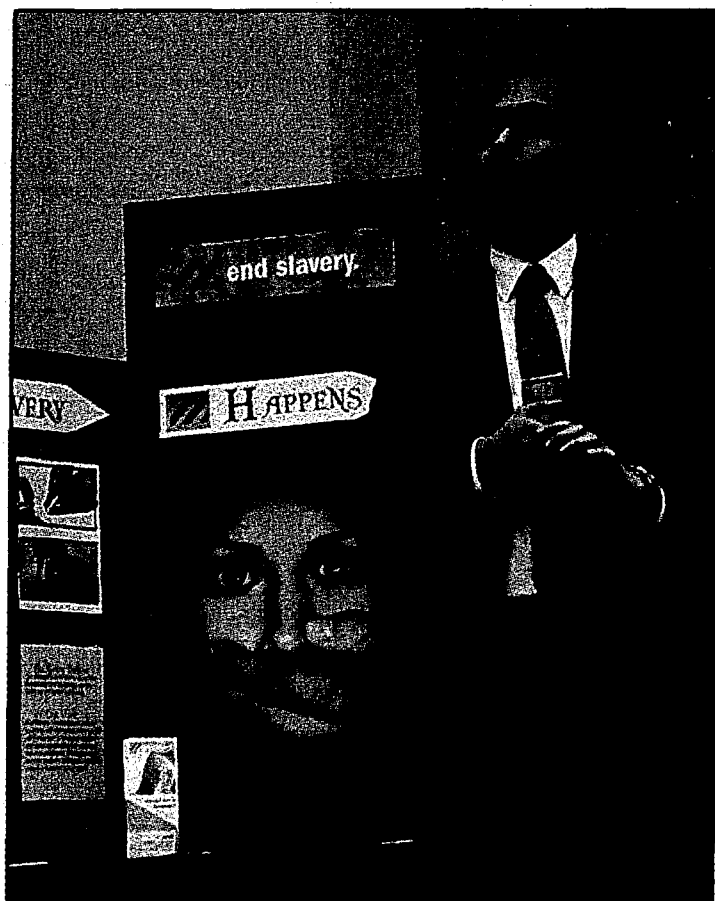
MTSU Global Studies partnered with End Slavery Tennessee for a forum and film screening April 11 concerning sex trafficking in Tennessee in an effort to raise awareness among students and localize an international issue. "Awareness is action. Raising awareness gets people moving, talking about the issues and learning about them," said Justin Phalichanh, adjunct professor of global studies who led the discussion. "We really want to start a grassroots movement in not just the classrooms, but in the community – in the streets, parks and churches."

Rutherford County ranked among 16 Tennessee counties that reported an excess of 50 sex trafficking cases involving minors, according to a 2011 Tennessee Bureau of Investigation study conducted during the course of two years; 85 percent of counties reported at least one case of sex trafficking.

"When you hear 'case,' you think of one person, but it can be hundreds of people involved in one case," said Dana Montgomery, community educator of EST.

Ninety four minors are trafficked each month in the state of Tennessee, she said.

"We did find that sex trafficking was taking place in Tennessee," said Kristin Helm, public information officer



Left: Professor Justin Phalichanh said sex trafficking is one of the leading world industries under guns and drug sales. Right: Phalichanh discusses his presentation with event organizer Lindy Mathews. Photos by Quint Qualls.

for the TBI. "The TBI put together training programs for law enforcement to help them recognize victims of sex trafficking, and we worked with legislators to pass a law that prevents child prostitutes from being arrested. The children would instead be sent back to their families or taken into DCS [Department of Child Services] custody, but every situation varies."

The discussion and presentations were followed by a film screening of "Nefarious, Merchant of Souls," which dramatized the brutal realities of the sex traf-

ficking industry. Human trafficking represents a \$32 billion-a-year illegal industry, which ranks third behind arms and drugs, according to Phalichanh. Victims are often kid-napped, enticed by false-employment opportunities, or

are sold into slavery. Sexual acts comprise a majority of the offenses, but often victims are forced into domestic

servitude or marriage and may be used as involuntary organ donors.

"It's great to see students and profes-

"Awareness is action. Raising awareness gets people moving, talking about the issues."

sors working together to raise awareness for global issues that are happening right next door," said Leyla Scott, a junior electronic

media production major and event organizer.

"The International Documentary Series has had a tremendous start for its first semester, and I

have even higher expectations for next semester."

Students from Phalichanh's issues in human trafficking course will be partnering with EST and have the opportunity to intern. Students and

EST volunteers hung informative door hangars on Murfreesboro residences April 14 to raise awareness in the community.

"It was a great class. I studied human trafficking in South Africa. It was a really heavy film, and it gave everybody a lot to think about," said Iris Montes, a junior visual communication major.

Many of the students are interested in the issue and in working toward ending the practice of human trafficking, according to Montgomery.

"A lot of the students want to make a difference in their community, so I think it's important to get them the information that they need to get involved," Montgomery said. ■

Federal student loan interest rates set to double

By Christopher Merchant
Staff writer

Though interest rates on subsidized Stafford loans are scheduled to double on July 1, officials have indicated that Congress will likely step in before the rate hike takes effect.

Currently, subsidized Stafford loans, which are student loans offered by the federal government, have an interest rate of 3.4 percent. Unsubsidized Stafford loans have an interest rate of 6.8 percent.

However, unless Congress acts before July, the interest rates on subsidized loans will rise to match the rate on unsubsidized loans — a 100 percent increase.

Subsidized loans were designed for students with financial complications, so they have a lower interest rate than other student loan options. Before the financial crisis, the program was scheduled to be phased out so that both types of Stafford loans had the same interest rate.

In 2007, Congress slated the rate increase for July 2012, but a vote passed last year in the House to delay the augmentation for a year due to the financial woes of the country.

Some experts expect a similar delay or rate change will be voted on in the coming weeks.

President Barack Obama's budget proposal, which was released a week ago, includes a move to deter-

mine the interest rates of student loans based on the federal government's cost to borrow rather than having the

Tennessee's 4th congressional district and is a member of the House Committee on Education and the

“While we hate that it may cause students to pay more, we do not expect it to prevent them from borrowing”

rate set by Congress, as is currently the practice.

Some members of Congress expressed similar ideas. The office of Rep. Scott DesJarlais, who represents

Workforce, released a statement April 12 on his stance on the scheduled rate increase.

“Congressman DesJarlais looks forward to working with his colleagues ... to tackle this

important issue affecting many students and their families within his district,” stated the release. “Students and their parents are better served when student loan interest rates match current economic and market trends, rather than arbitrarily set by Washington politicians.”

The president's 2014 fiscal budget aims for a “more sustainable fix” for rates, said Megan McClean, director of policy and federal relations for the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators in Washington, D.C.

On the local level, MTSU officials are watching to see whether the rates will be increased.

“I would be surprised

if they were,” said Stephen White, director of the Financial Aid Office.

If the rates are increased beyond what the private sector offers, it would defeat the purpose of subsidized loans, White said.

Financial aid officials said they still expect to see students taking loans, regardless of whether Congress acts.

“While we hate that it may cause students to pay more, we do not expect it to prevent them from borrowing,” said Leann Eaton, assistant director of the Financial Aid Office.

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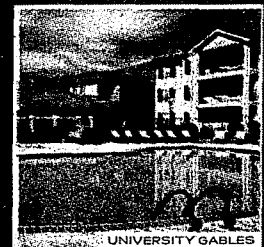
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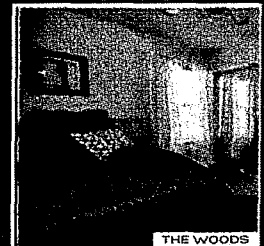


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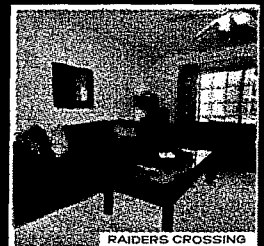
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UNIVERSITY GABLES



THE WOODS



RAIDERS CROSSING

Snakes and lizards all are family in the MTSU Reptile Club

By Jay Powell
Features editor

Some students believe the special bond of pet ownership should be shared with all animals, not just the common domestic types. Snakes, geckos and reptiles of all shapes, sizes and colors are commonly becoming household pets.

The MTSU Reptile Club is a fairly new social group that shares a common interest for raising and interacting with reptiles. Club President Morgan Armstrong says she started the club after a previous alumni-run club disbanded last year.

"A friend of mine and I decided to restart it because we kind of just liked the people. We tend to be the oddballs, and together we're great," she says.

The club is young and trying to draw more members, but it hopes to become a more educationally-focused club where members could interact with and learn about different species of reptiles, how to properly care for and raise them as pets and attend special events such as Repticon.

The club originally met every two weeks at Armstrong's apartment, but she says that her home evolved into somewhat of a reptile zoo. Now the club brings its animals to the Stark Agribusiness and Agriscience Building.

"The Ag building is very, very gracious about it, and they are



Top left: Jessica Rush cradles her pets – two geckos and tree frog. Top right: Morgan Armstrong's Colombian red tail boa occasionally reaches up to kiss her on the cheek. Center: Snitch, a crested gecko, is ready to leap from his owner's hand on to the nearby coffee table. Photos by Jay Powell.

like, 'Just don't let them loose or anything,'" Armstrong says.

Armstrong's apartment is indeed a reptile exhibit similar to the one at the zoo. The only difference is that the reptiles can be held. A large tank holds an affectionate Columbia

red tail boa. Next to it are four geckos, three of which are kind and will nestle in your palm or on your head and shoulders.

Mordor the Tokay Gecko, however, opens his mouth to bark.

"When they bark, it's the equivalent to

like a teenage girl screaming," says club member Zainan Gale- rion as Mordor clings to the side of his abdomen.

Not all of the club's reptiles are grumpy like Mordor. Many are intelligent and affectionate and highly

entertaining to watch.

Snitch is a crested gecko that immediately stands out from his gecko brothers and sisters. His face is scarred, and he wears a patch of white on his head like a badger or a skunk.

"He was a rescue, that's why he looks so

strange," says Jessica Rush, club vice president. "He's supposed to have crests all the way over his little points on his head, but they got chewed off and that is scar tissue, so he's kind of like a war veteran, I guess you could say."

Snitch is a tree

FEATURES

dweller, which means he is prone to jumping from high distances with expert accuracy. He spreads his hind legs and takes a long plunge from the coffee table into Rush's lap to crawl excitedly onto his mother's shoulder and gives his eye a good lick because he has no lids.

"It's funny. You can tell when they're sleeping because their little eye crests fold in a little bit, but they can't close their eyes," Rush says. "So their pupils become really tiny little slits, and then their little crests kind of fold in on themselves, and it's almost like their version of closing their eyes, but they definitely can't."

The one thing the Reptile Club would like to raise awareness toward is that reptiles are misunderstood

creatures. The students aim to dispel misconceptions. Many reptiles are affectionate like a typical family pet; they only come in different shades of green.

"There are so many misconceptions I would love to debunk," Armstrong says. "You know, 'They're slimy; they'll bite you.' If you're careful, they're not going to do it, and they don't really care that much. I'm a big believer that they truly have personalities."

In the coming weeks, the club plans to set up outside of the Keathley University Center to share its reptiles with students. Armstrong hopes that it will attract new members, and if anything, grab the attention of a few people who weren't expecting to see snakes and lizards on their way to morn-

ing classes.

"I just want to see the club grow," Armstrong says. "I think that the club is a really good group of people, you know. They're just very open minded. Obviously, we like snakes."

The club has a website and a Facebook page, or you might see one of its flyers pinned up around campus. It's easy to spot. It's the one with the big, green snake. ■



Ellie the tree frog sits on a notebook. Photo Jay Powell.

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COVER STORY

Children draw two college students into community service

By Ben Mills
Contributing writer

It's another typical day at the after-school program in the low-income community of Wherry Housing that houses Burmese people of the Karen tribe.

Shouts of "You're out!" and "She's cheating!" echo across a field behind the neighborhood community center, as a dozen small children enjoy a fiercely competitive game of dodgeball. It's boys versus girls, and the girls are putting up a tougher fight than expected.

Inside the building, children play computer games, and others receive much-needed help on their math and reading homework. The two-hour period between 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. is greatly valued by the kids of Wherry Housing.

Afternoons like this are all made possible not by a daycare company or paid workers, but by a handful of college kids who love the people and children of this Smyrna community. So much so that they decided to pack their things and move there too.

Wherry Housing is not a fancy neighborhood. Pothole-covered roads and cracked sidewalks surround the red-bricked duplexes of the former Air Force base housing unit. Decade-old satellite dishes lean off the side of units, hanging by their last screws. The monthly group of volunteers



Left: Paul plays with a child after school. Photo by Brandon Tomlin. Top right: Kids are encouraged to play outside while volunteers watch over them during the program. Bottom left: Paul and Gronbach help students with their homework. Photos by Trent Wilkinson.

who work on the housing units improve the buildings, but only so much is done with limited resources.

Of these people is John Key, a 64-year-old Smyrna resident and co-founder of Community Servants.

Community Servants, whose mission

statement reads "Love God, Love People, Serve Others," is a nonprofit organization founded in 1994 to provide for the residents of Wherry Housing.

The organization aids the community through the efforts of interns, who live in the community to build relation-

ships with residents and help in various ways, including aiding kids with homework in an after-school program in the neighborhood. Two of these interns are MTSU students Dylan Gronbach and Erin Paul.

"I started coming here my sophomore

year of high school," says Erin Paul, a 19-year-old freshman majoring in education. "I started coming to the kids' center once a week to get community service hours for student council. Then I began to fall in love with the kids and started coming more

and more."

She remembers her first visit.

"As soon as I walked in, a kid ran up to me and wanted to read me a book," she says. "I was blown away by how much they loved people. They didn't even know me, and they just loved me. I

COVER STORY

couldn't stay away."

Sophomore liberal arts major Dylan Gronbach, 20, recalled a similar introduction to Wherry Housing.

"I came here my junior year of high school with a couple of friends to the kids' center. We would just play with the kids and stuff, and it was really fun," he says.

After routine visits, the two students realized their love for the community and wanted to do more.

"My junior year of high school, I played volleyball my first semester, so I never got to come see the kids," Paul says. "I realized how much I loved Wherry, because I missed it so much. My senior year I decided not to play any sports, so I could devote more time to it. I just felt that God was definitely calling me here."

After graduating high school, she decided to join the Community Servants program and moved into Wherry Housing to serve full time as an intern.

Gronbach had a similar revelation, citing his Christian faith and desire to follow Jesus' command to love the poor as motivation to serve the community.

"I knew I wanted to move in, because after my first year of college, I realized that I needed to step my game up

if I was going to call myself a Christian," he says. "I was an example of 'Oh, I'm a Christian, but there's no way you can tell by looking at

nity helpers. Gronbach describes his daily activities as a Community Servants intern as a balance of work and fun.

Later, I'll probably go to the kids' center and help kids with their homework. Or maybe play some dodgeball."

Paul shared similar

an opposite effect.

"Wherry really helps me with my stress level," she says. "I could be having a crappy day at school

want to do. It's never a burden at all."

Both students come from middle class families and are immersed in a completely different environment that has had a profound impact on their lives.

"I think I've become much more selfless through coming here," Paul says. "I don't really think about me as much. I try to think about the people here and helping them. I want to love people like Jesus loves me. It's just taught me how to love."

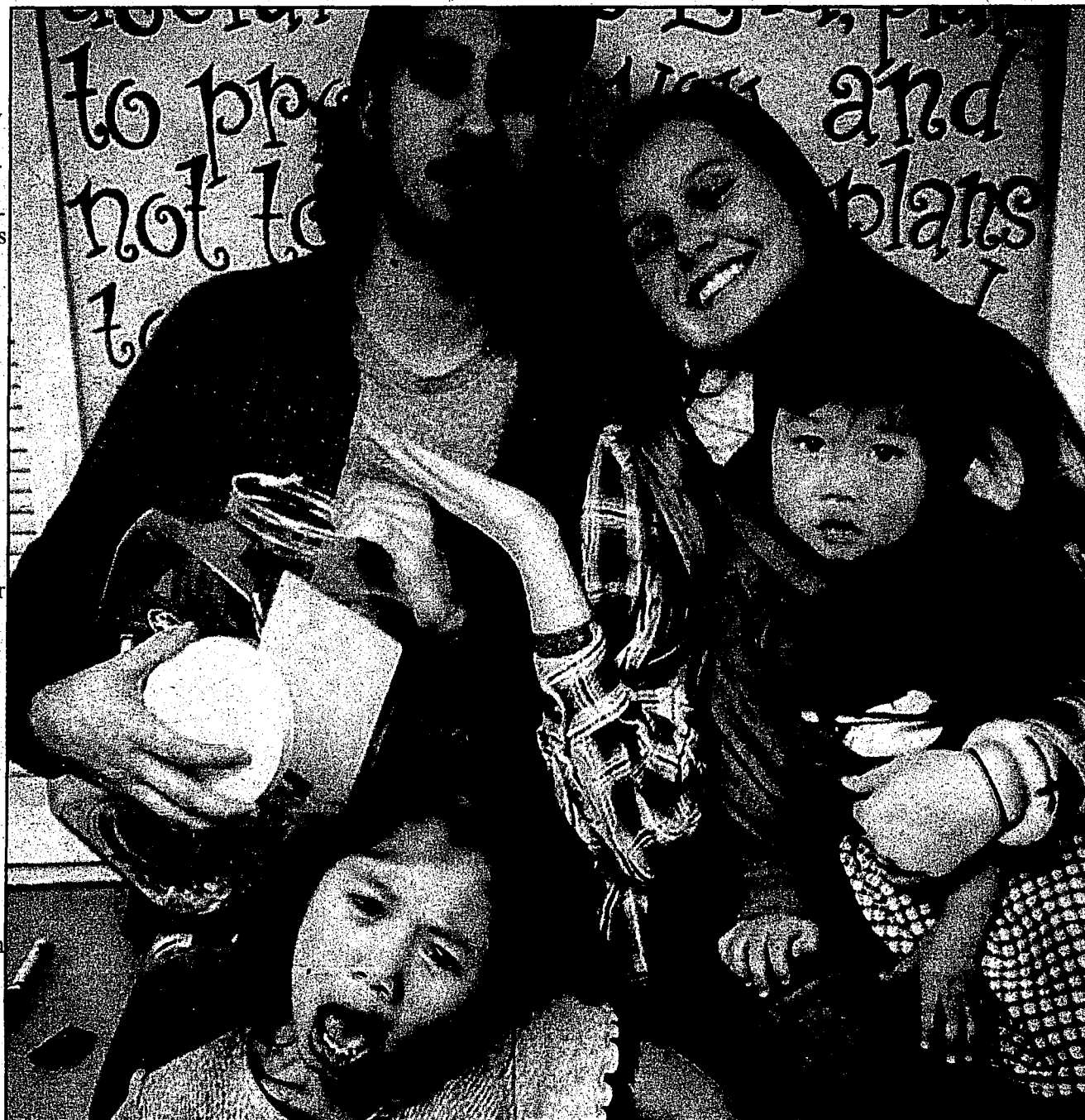
Throughout the last few years, more parents have given their trust to the interns and allowed their children to attend the after-school program to receive homework help that they would otherwise not have accessed.

"This internship really teaches you how to get outside your comfort zone," Gronbach says.

"I've been able to understand that I don't need everything. I just realize that a lot of things are nice to have, but they are not necessities. We don't need them."

Their selfless efforts have not gone unnoticed.

"There is no doubt," Key says, "these interns have changed this community for the better."



Gronbach, left, and Paul, right, entertain the kids with animal crackers and playtime while they work in the Wherry after-school program in Smyrna. Photo courtesy of Erin Paul.

my life.' I wanted to change that and truly serve people."

After moving in, the two assumed the roles of full-time commu-

"For example, today I woke up and went around and picked up all the trash," he said. "Then I mowed yards for a couple of hours.

feelings about working at Wherry. Although some would burn out from dealing with a full class schedule and responsibilities, she feels

and be totally stressed out, then I come here, and it just goes away. I have a lot of stuff here to do sometimes, but it's always stuff that I

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

MT Fashion Week boasts talent, suffers from chaos

**By Jane Horne, Meredith Galyon and Lauren Mandrell
Arts and Entertainment Staff**

A celebration of fashion, fairytales, self-love, style and student-created, high-end designs collaborated for MT Fashion Week April 8-12.

Following Nashville Fashion Week, students majoring in textiles, merchandising and apparel design took part in their own week of showing off what Middle Tennessee has to offer.

Personal and sustainable style was the theme Monday and Tuesday. Alumni and outside designers contributed to the Curvy Couture fashion show on Monday evening. Using models sizes 10 and up, designers and audience members celebrated that fashion comes in all shapes and sizes. The show sent the message that trends can be transformed to complement any body type.

The popular '60s and '70s trends, which are coming back, were in three of the four collections. Midi and maxi length dresses proved that full-figured girls can work the comfortable and practical trend in the D. Michelle Design collection by Detriea Burr. This collection also played on

sleeve trends including cut outs, off the shoulder and sheer accents. This trend is perfect for curvy women because it draws attention to unique places on the body.

Peplum continued to be a popular trend

proved, it can actually be effective in camouflaging flaws and making the waist look smaller. The designers also honored the female body in proving that all women are and can be sexy in flattering mini-dresses, leather accents

and fashion enthusiasts. Designer Manuel told the audience about his plans for a Nashville fashion parade in 2014 and comically shared his story of being called into the fashion industry. Quality student

and side projects, yet no alumni were to be found. The location for this also changed last minute to the Sun Trust Reception Room of the Business and Aerospace Building – a small, overcrowded room that lacked in cooling and ventilation.

The celebration picked back up at the Tom H. Jackson Building with the MAD (Models and Designers) Fashion Show. The event was crafted around the tale of Alice in Wonderland.

Students Liz McLean and Andrew McGowan took advantage of MT Fashion Week to show off their fantastical designs. The duo's biggest strength was their ability to take current trends and make them unique. They used velvet in dramatic shades of black and red. White came in the form of a simple, beautiful floor-length gown. Vertical black-and-white stripes were used in several outfits. Their interpretation of the high-low hemline trend

was transformed to create dresses that looked like minis from the front, and grew into flowing tails in the back to resemble a cape. Despite the quality of the collection, the show should have been



D. Michelle Designs (left and center) and Plush Boutique (right) featured glam looks for the April 8 Curvy Couture show. Photos by Matt Masters.

in the collection from Plush Boutique. Many women are hesitant to try out this trend as it draws attention to the mid-section. However, as Plush Boutique

and dresses with sheer paneling down both sides.

Tuesday was dedicated to two different events – eco-friendly fashion and designer

and hype. Tuesday night, however, brought the Rhinestone Rembrandt to campus and offered knowledge and encouragement to students

designs were combined with disappointment at the Student and Alumni Trunk Show on Wednesday evening. Six students displayed their senior showcase

and grew into flowing tails in the back to resemble a cape. Despite the quality of the collection, the show should have been

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

executed more professionally. The show was advertised to begin at 6 p.m., but it failed to mention this was the beginning of an "art exhibit and refreshments," neither of which were in obvious locations.

Both of the hostesses seemed unprepared, and the unnecessary intermission was an awkward time slot filled by the hostesses who made failed attempts to get the audience members to participate in a walk-off. This tactic was more effective in Monday night's show, but should have been passed over Thursday evening.

The celebration came to its peak on Friday evening at the Dear McQueen:

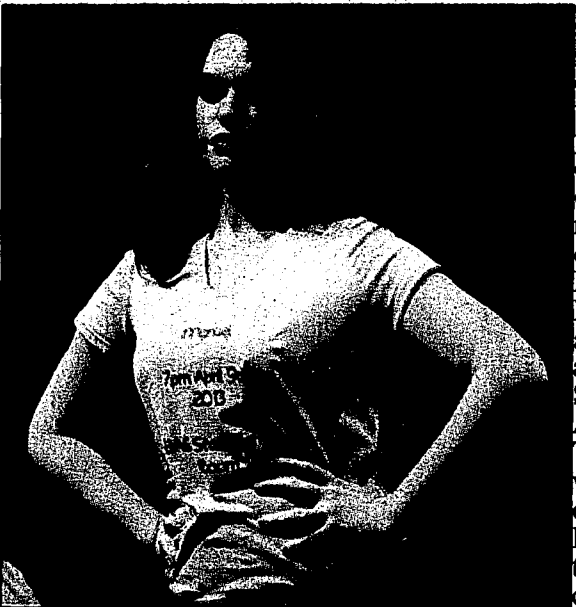
Walking Into Models represent Feminine Funk on the catwalk. Photos by Wonderland Matt Masters.

Fashion Show. Inspired by designer Alexander McQueen, student created designs started out with variations of plaid, roses as accessories and headpieces and veils.

The show moved to a lighter feel with leather shorts paired with neutrals, orange platforms with yellow

feathers, which was not very pleasing to the eye.

The most stunning piece in the collection



everyday wear included a variation of floral dresses. Neutrals were paired with bright florals, and peplum made an appearance as well.

A grunge-inspired collection featured black turbans with plenty of sheer material. A sheer black crop top and puffy gold dress shorts were chic and on trend with fashion from the big-name fashion weeks.

A 1930s dust bowl-inspired collection was another pleasing combination of playful neutrals. The designer, Bethany Bowen, was also present at the MTSU Student and Alumni Trunk Show with her collection. However, the designs could have stood on their own without the

was a bright red dress with a train and black lace detailing on the plunging, open back.

The show, which was combined with the annual TXMD Fashion Show, then showcased the senior collections.

The collections that could most likely be

straw hats.

Fashion students are on their way to joining the designers of Nashville, New York and Los Angeles. All that's left now is for the business and administrative side to give the students the extra push they deserve. ■



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A GANNETT COMPANY

RANTS AND RAVES

April 17

Aer
Exit/In
2208 Elliston Place,
Nashville
10:15 p.m.
\$10 GA
\$12 at door



Will the real Slim Shady please stand up? No, Aer, despite your efforts, you are going to have to stay seated.

This Wednesday, a pair that combines reggae, rap and pop is bringing their odd take on music to Exit/In.

Aer is the musical partnership of Massachusetts natives David von Mering and

Carter Schultz. Mering and Schultz's music is a bizarre mix of Eminem's rapping, the vocal styles of Chumbawamba and pop beats that can be found on any Top 40 Chart from the last 10 years. The boys of Aer are only 19, and it shows.

In "Floats My Boat," the boys charmingly describe

their sophisticated lifestyles with lyrics like, "Get some food and dine and dash, too hungover to know the difference between this and that," and "Blowin' smoke in the sky, ignoring advice, on the roof getting high."

Please, don't spend your money on the smoking babies.

April 18

Leon Russell
3rd and Lindsley
818 3rd Ave. S.,
Nashville
7:30 p.m.
\$25



Unlike a fine wine, musicians don't typically get better with time. Let's not think about The Rolling Stones, and focus more on a 45-year-old Justin Bieber. Can you imagine? It's always a good idea to quit when you're ahead.

However, Leon Russell did not receive that message,

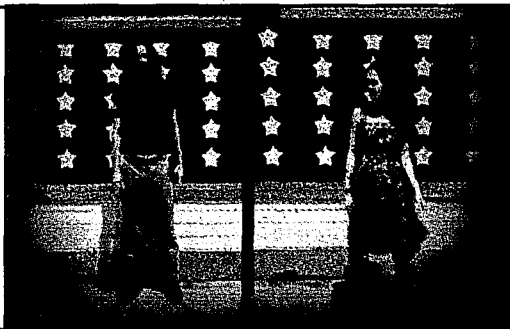
and he is still at it 50 years into his career. He has collaborated with musicians like Bob Dylan, George Harrison and B.B. King, and his music has been covered by artists such as Ray Charles and The Carpenters. Russell, who is still rocking the same long hair and Santa beard after half a century, achieved most

of his success as a songwriter.

Unfortunately, great writing ability and vocal talent do not go hand and hand. Unless Russell is going to surprise everyone by inviting the late George Harrison on stage to sing his songs, this show is not worth your time or money.

April 18

The Smoking
Flowers
Mercy Lounge
1 Cannery Row,
Nashville
9 p.m.
\$10



Husband-and-wife duo, The Smoking Flowers, are coming to Mercy Lounge, and they're bringing a little something for everyone. The Smoking Flowers blend rock, country and blues to create a sound that encompasses both sides of Nashville: The honkytonking, country roots side that is SoBro and the

trendier, hipper side that is East Nashville.

Before forming, Scott and Kim Collins performed in an alternative country group called Pale Blue Dot. They traveled with the band for several years before writing their first song together, thus forming their musical partnership.

Kim carries most of the instrumental weight in the band, playing mandolin, accordion, guitar and drums, while Scott's guitar technique and vocal style create a cool sound that fits somewhere between Neil Young and Jack White. The Smoking Flowers are a lot of fun and worth the money.

April 19

"The Effects of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds"
Murfreesboro Little
Theater
702 Ewing Blvd.,
Murfreesboro
7 to 9 p.m.
\$10 adults, \$5 students and seniors



No family is perfect. Mothers are always going to be controlling, and it's only natural for sisters to argue. The Hunsdorfers, on the other hand, take dysfunction to a whole new level.

This Friday, Murfreesboro Little Theater is performing their rendition of Paul Zindel's Pulitzer Prize-

winning play "The Effects of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds." The play is about Beatrice Hunsdorfer, an incredibly self-centered, single mother, and her daughters, Ruth and Tillie. Tillie is very intelligent but shy, which makes her the center of her mother and sister's abuse. When

Tillie enters the science fair with an experiment involving marigolds raised from seeds, Beatrice and Ruth do everything imaginable to thwart her success. The play stars the Little Theater's own Jamie Storvik, Laura Frizzell and Mariah Storvik.

Murfreesboro Little Theater never fails to entertain.

April 19

R5
Rockettown
601 4th Ave. S.,
Nashville
6 p.m.
\$18 online
\$20 at door



Calling all Aaron Carter fans. Since Carter went insane after realizing his vocal ability was shot after puberty hit, you probably will not be hearing anything from him anytime soon. You can rest easy though, because a new band on the scene will give even Carter a run for his money — R5. The band

members' names are Riker, Rydel, Rocky, Ross and Ratliff. If you got confused for a second, no, those aren't the names of their dogs; those are their names.

In case you think they might be some talent worth seeing, here's a little sampling of R5's lyrics from the song "Fallin' For You."

"You like mismatched socks with polka dots, you like your pizza cold, I think that's hot," one of the R-named boys sings.

Also, Ross, the youngest member of the band, is currently a Disney Channel star. So that's a big no.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Trend Report from Nashville Fashion Week's Runway

By Kaela Dalecke and
Claire Osburn
Arts and
Entertainment Staff

Designer collections at Nashville Fashion Week presented trends that can effortlessly be taken from the catwalk to the sidewalk. Whether you follow the trends or consider yourself a trendsetter, fashion lovers can welcome these styles or creative variations into their wardrobe.

'60s

The mod '60s are back, and designers paid homage to style icons of the decade — Twiggy, Gene Shrimpton and Edie Sedgwick. Dresses in A-line, and shirt and shift styles were on the runway from several designers, including Tuft and Leona. Details such as Peter Pan collars and fabric-covered buttons added a touch from this era to garments. Bold graphic prints were also a popular design trend, and now designers usher these trends back on the racks with a modern twist.

'70s

Collections like Black by Maria Silver, Kal Rieman and Sand brought us back the free love of the '70s. Neck bows and ascots were popular details that designers added to blouses channeling Mary Tyler Moore. Paisley print appeared on scarves, jackets and dress shirts. Hair accessories, leggings and dresses came in velvet. Multi-colored and muted stripes were popular patterns on

blazers, pants and tunics. Fringe detail was also on garments and accessories.

Dress Shorts

Retire your cut-offs, ladies. Dress shorts have taken over. Leona, Nonoo and Red Doll presented this trend and proved that shorts can be fashionable. In leather, cheetah and tweed, these shorts were paired with blazers and peplum blouses. Details like cuffed hems, buttons and darts added a touch of flair to make this stereotypically casual garment worthy of the catwalk.

Fur and Feathers

Collections by Memeka, Modern Trousseau, Nonoo and Pink Elephants added elegance to outfits with fur accents. Whether it was a statement jacket, Russian-inspired hats or a shawl that draped the bodice of an evening gown, this trend added warmth to the runway. Not always in neutral tones, the fur pieces also came in royal blue and light pink. Feather embellishments on jackets and dresses were used in Abi Ferrin's collection. Nonoo alluded to this trend with a peacock-printed black satin dress that closed out the opening night show.

Leather

Collections presented at NFW proved that leather continues to be a wardrobe staple in both classy or edgy styles. Leather jackets

came in both motorcycle and blazer styles. Peplum tops and dress bodices added flair. Dresses, skirts and shorts were all offered in various colors, such as black, brown and red. Both men and women wore leather leggings and pants.

Shades of Emerald and Red

Dubbed "color of the year," it is no surprise that emerald green was found throughout the week. T. Rains featured a form-fitting emerald green dress, and Leona added touches of the color to her collection.

Red was another prominent color in several collections. This trend was first noticed at Red Doll's show with a show-stopping red lace gown.

Sheer Fabric

The sheer fabric trend is guaranteed to make any woman feel delicate and feminine. Many designers at NFW presented their own versions in different colors and styles. Red Doll utilized sheer in high-low dresses and peplum tops paired with dress shorts. Abi Ferrin's collection featured a black sheer dress accented with peacock feathers and as the bodice of a jumpsuit. Sheer got a flirty spin as dress and skirt accents by Tuft. Leona even gave the fashion trend a retro flair in the form of a hot pink shift dress with sheer sleeves. ■



Left: Red Doll's showpiece was a dramatic red dress with a lace bodice and a hi-low skirt. Right: The Pink Elephants collection is modeled by MTSU student Valerie Biles. Photos by Nhu Duong.

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Social issues can't be solved politically

By Alex Harris
Opinions editor

Debates on social issues belong in social institutions. Legal debates belong in institutions of law and government.

Whenever social debates spill into governance institutions, the results are rarely beneficial: the War on Drugs, prohibition, the Defense of Marriage Act, etc.

The debate surrounding same-sex marriage provides a prime example of negative consequences resulting from government involvement.

Government first became involved in restricting then socially-undesirable marriages, such as interracial marriage, and encourage those marriages deemed socially acceptable by the majority through incentives.

Originally, the institution of marriage was wholly the realm of the church – a decision that only involved the engaged couple and the church's leader.

One argument against same-sex marriage is that it should be restricted to the traditional religious purview of the institution. However, this is an invalid argument given the nature of the system today.

Though marriage used to be solely a religious institution, that changed when the government began



Alex Harris

granting licenses for it. Once the church abdicated its responsibility for overseeing the institution of marriage and allowed government to take control, the church also lost its right to claim exclusivity.

Once benefits are extended to individuals and couples by a government, equal application of the law and the ideal of justice demands that the same benefits are available to all who qualify.

The ultimate issue is that many family-related concerns in our nation, such as who can visit you in the hospital, who has automatic power of attorney, etc., are reliant on a government sanction of who you decide to make a family with.

Marriage and the subsequent benefits are more a legal issue than a religious issue, and restrictions based on purely social objections are wrong, unjust and unbecoming of a nation that calls itself "the land of the free." ■

Hydraulic fracturing not the perfect energy solution

By Sinclair Sparkman
Columnist

We as a society are very dependent on gas and oil.

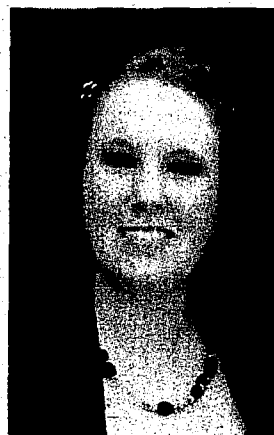
We use it for quick transportation and easier living. There is a cost though – many are the trepidations caused by extracting natural gas and oil.

While it may be a better source of energy than coal, it's unlikely that natural gas can ever be a sustainable solution.

Natural Solutions is a campaign run by advertising and public relations students in the capstone campaigns class. While focusing on the "benefits" of natural gas, such as job creation and the large number of homes that use it, these students completely missed the drawbacks to natural gas usage, and that it should not be used as any kind of solution to the energy issue.

Natural gas is a nonrenewable fossil fuel. Not only does the extraction of the gas create emissions, but burning it does as well. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, natural gas is most dangerous because of the emissions and land resource usage.

Natural gas is used to power electricity. Electricity is not going away, and it shouldn't. We've found an advancement to human society that generates



Sinclair Sparkman

the resource needed to make our lives more productive. The way we power that energy is the issue.

Burning and extracting coal is extremely hazardous and causes extreme health issues, according to the American Lung Association. Burning natural gas may be better than coal, but there is no way that it is a "natural solution."

Just because we can extract it from shale – which is made up of fossilized animals and plants, kind of like coal – does not mean that it's a renewable solution to the question of energy.

The main problem with natural gas is the way the corporate gas companies get it out of the ground.

Hydraulic fracturing is the process of shooting water and a brew of harmful chemicals into the ground to get to the layer of shale hidden beneath groundwater and aquifers. The chemical brew reacts

with the shale and up spews the gas or oil. The extracted fuel is pumped into trucks and sent off, often into the territory of country backroads that quickly erode into ruin because of the heavy trucks constantly running on them.

The most striking reality about this situation is how it affects the people living there. Their water catches on fire, and they cannot swim or fish in their streams or grow their own food.

What causes this to happen? All of the waste water that comes out of the ground with natural gas and oil gets seeps into wells beneath the water table. It permeates the ground and contaminates the soil and water, which makes the water undrinkable and the land too polluted to grow food.

During spring break I visited West Virginia to learn about a community facing the hardships caused by hydraulic fracturing through a program called Mountain Justice. I've heard gut-wrenching stories from people living in West Virginia. This is happening in their backyards, because they only own the surface rights to their land, not the mineral rights to the land underneath. The land underneath the surface has been bought up by the oil companies. This is happening all across

the country too, not just in West Virginia, according to an article published by *National Geographic*.

The Natural Solutions campaign should recognize how detrimental this "solution" has become to our earth.

Advertising creates campaigns because it is their job. The students running the campaign don't really get to choose the project, but they have to go with it once it is given to them. It is not fair to use college students to promote the agenda of money hungry gas companies.

Such is the case with Natural Solutions. The Natural Solutions campaign is done fairly well, and that scares me. A sustainable and renewable future should be the goal, not another fossil fuel.

Editor's note: Sinclair Sparkman is the assistant news editor at Sidelines, but she writes this as the vice president of Students for Environmental Awareness. ■

Pitchers don't shake off Coach Skylar Meade's new system

By Mark Mize
Sports editor

New Blue Raider pitching coach Skylar Meade has brought his own unique style that paid dividends on the field for the team's staff this 2013.

The 28-year-old was hired this past fall after five seasons at Eastern Illinois where he served first as a graduate assistant and then as a pitching coach. During his stint in Charleston, Ill., the Panthers led the Ohio Valley Conference in staff ERA in four of five seasons, and three different pitchers on the team signed onto Major League Baseball rosters.

In under a year since joining the Blue Raiders' staff, the changes Meade instituted include a renewed emphasis on pitching out of the stretch, holding runners on base and a hands-on approach to work with individual pitchers.

"I'm really particular about what they do," Meade said. "It's tough because I demand a lot in terms of focus and throwing the baseball right every single time they throw, and that may or may not be something new to every guy. But I think as they get to know me more, and what it's like to go through another fall and another spring with me, I think you'll see even more benefits from it in year two."

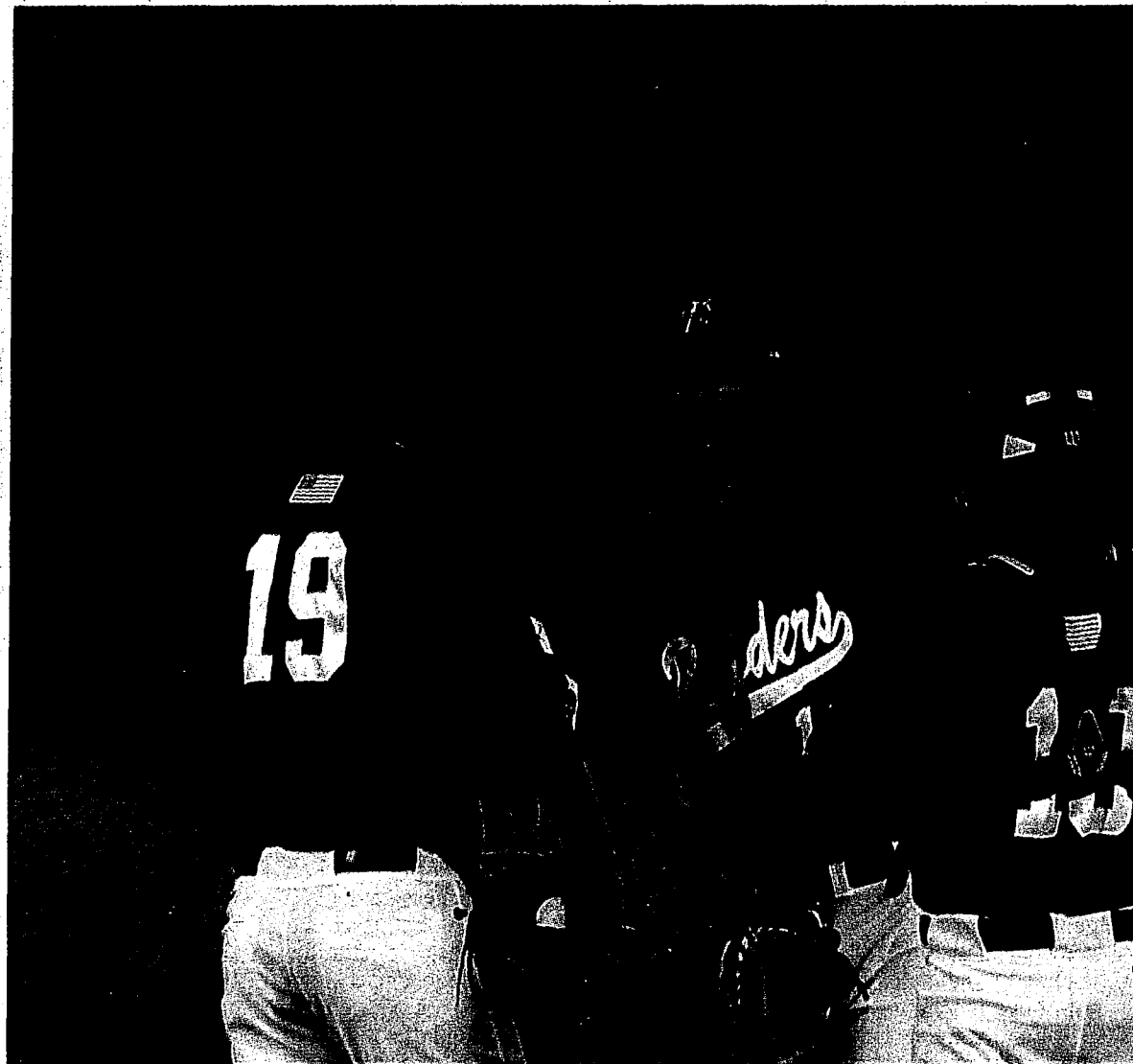
Benefits might already be showing in the box score. Through 35 games this season, the Middle Tennessee pitching staff ERA has

dropped by 0.67 compared to 2009, and the team's strikeout rate and strikeout/walk ratio each improved. Pitchers, such as seniors Hunter Adkins and Aaron Hyder, recently saw considerable improvements under their new coaches' tutelage.

The most notable change Meade instituted is that he now calls the pitches from the dugout, a practice that he says takes pressure off the pitcher and catcher who called their own games in seasons past.

"The way I look at it, I want our pitchers to be focused on throwing strikes and executing pitches ... I don't want them to be worried about reading the hitter as much and seeing so many different things," Meade said. "So, you know, I have to believe in the reports, and what I see on video. I think it helps the catchers, too, that they can just focus on being a great receiver of the ball or blocker of the baseball."

Meade went to the university mathematics department and asked for help in creating a series of 20 sheets and corresponding cards that feature a random assortment of numbers between one and 250. Each number corresponds to a certain pitch and location, which Meade will give to the catcher who can then check his card that he wears on a wristband. After every inning, Meade and the catcher switch to a different sheet and card in order



MT pitching coach Skylar Meade heads out to the mound for a discussion with senior pitcher Jordan Cooper. Photo courtesy of MT Athletic Communications.

to keep opposing teams from attempting to steal the signs.

"It makes it really easy. They can look right at their card, and if I give them 250, they can look at the card and say, '250, oh okay, slider.' Boom, put the old number down, and then the pitcher sees it, and we roll," Meade said. "I think it helps pace the play. I'm huge on tempo."

The team's pitchers

and catchers heralded the new system, which allowed them to focus on other aspects of the game and to work together with their pitching coach.

"Coach Meade can see stuff that I can't see, and I can see stuff that he can't see, too, being behind the plate," said Dain McNabb, senior catcher. "We basically work together, especially throughout the game as things change, [and]

hitters get in certain counts. It's definitely a good thing because he trusts me sometimes, which goes back to the confidence factor. He's confident in things that I do, and I'm confident in what he's going to call."

Pitchers still shake off pitches they don't feel comfortable throwing, but the players expressed confidence in Meade's film study and knowledge of the game.

Meade expressed a

similar confidence and emphasized the importance of the team buying into the new system.

"It's just something I've always done," Meade said. "I trust that those pitchers and catchers are going to buy in to what's being called, and you're going to execute more times than not, and therefore have a lot more success." ■

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