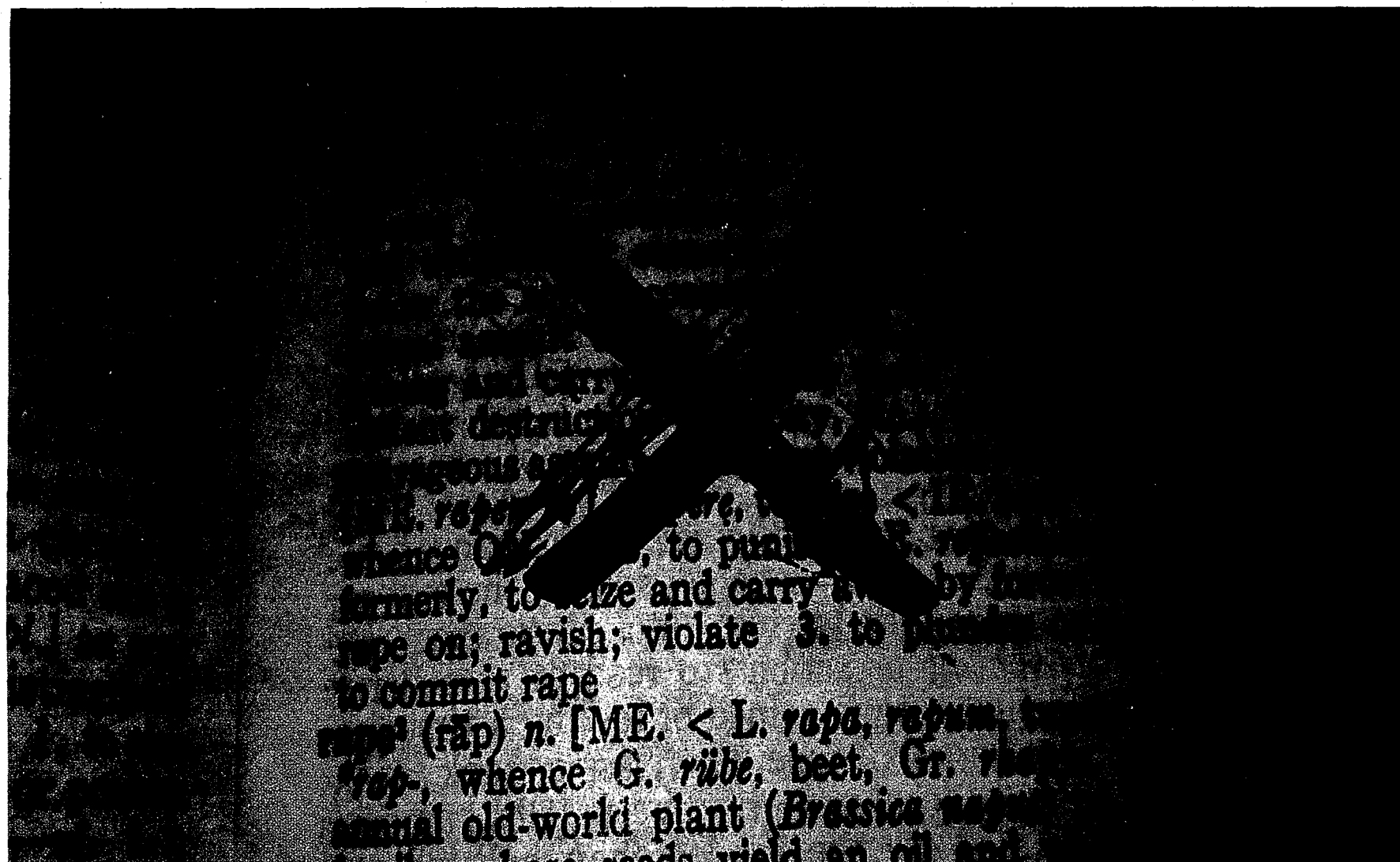


# MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

JAN. 18, 2012 | VOL. 89, NO. 14

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT



## CHANGE OF RAPE DEFINITION TO IMPACT STATISTICS, CULTURE



## SideLines Lens



Students in the Department of Human Sciences present the "Peace Felt" project they created as part of the Textiles, Merchandising and Design Program. The pieces of fabric were sent to Foothills Fiber, a fiber-guild group, in Nevada City, Calif.

Each student felted a letter of the phrase "Peace Be with You." In exchange, the students received a Peace Felt project from Craftland, a shop in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, specializing in needlecrafts, quilting, embroidery, dressmaking, knitting and crochet.

(Photo courtesy of MTSU News and Public Affairs)

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY  
**SIDELINES**

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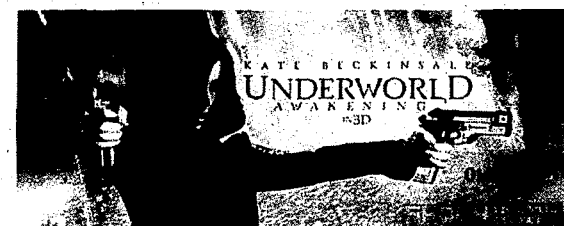
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## Spring semester ushers in new tobacco-free policy

**O**n Jan. 1, MTSU became the fourth four-year Tennessee Board of Regents university to become a tobacco-free campus, receiving a \$495,000 grant for initiating the policy.

"Two years ago, all TBR schools stopped selling tobacco products," said Lisa Schrader, director of Health Promotions. "At that time, only a couple schools decided to go completely tobacco free."

Those involved with the process of bringing the policy to campus are also counting on the accountability of students and faculty to tell someone to stop smoking when it is seen on campus.

"Our approach is the respect of the entire campus," said Dr. Debra Sells, vice president of student affairs at the university. "We want people to politely approach the smoker and remind them of the policy."

While it is still early in the semester, Dr. Sells feels that the new policy is "so far, so good," and people are respecting it.

With the major focus on the accountability of others, there has been a policy put in place for persistence violators. Those who persistently violate the new policy will more than likely be classified as "failure to comply direction of institution officials."

"Judicial affairs is really our last resort," said Dr. Sells. "I know it's a big campus and you can't get everyone, and that's not what we're trying to do. But those who persistently cause a problem, it won't be hard to figure out

who they are.

Since July, the university has been making an effort to make the students and faculty aware of the upcoming policy change.

"We've had signs around campus,

put up notifications on the official MTSU Facebook page," said Schrader.

"We've even gone so far as to put signs in the ashtrays."

On a campus with over 26,000 students, the question is, how will this

by Richel Albright  
News Editor

"We will be enforcing it, but it's not our main priority."

A goal of the policy is to make the campus a healthier, happier place. "We really want to change the atmosphere," said Dr. Sells.

The university has been promoting the new policy on Facebook. Schrader commented on the fact prior to Jan. 1, hundreds of students would like the post, but wouldn't speak up against those commenting against it.

"After that Jan. 1 date, non-smoking students really began to speak up," said Schrader. "I feel like this new policy has given a voice to the silent majority, so many people have said they now feel empowered to make it stop."

The health department is also making an effort to empower students and help them financially with the process of quitting.

"We're making an effort to make quitting more affordable for those who want to," said Schrader. "All of our over-the-counter medications for quitting are now discounted and we're working on find coupons for those who want to use prescriptions, like Chantix, which is the number-one prescription to help quit."

If students or faculty who have no plans of quitting need a cigarette during the day, they are allowed to go to their car. ■



new policy be enforced?

"It's going to be more about the accountability of peers," said Maj. Jason Morton, of MTSU campus police.

# Graduate studies program expands for equine students

**A**fter a year of working out the kinks, the graduate studies program for horse science majors continues to emerge as more students filter into the equine industry.

The master's degree program for horse science majors started in the spring 2011 semester. The program comprises 10 students this semester.

By adding new faculty positions to the equine program and moving to the Horse Science Center next to Miller Coliseum over the past few years, the department now offers graduate level courses.

"I envision that we will eventually have 20 to 25 master's students at one time," said Patrick Kayser, equine health professor. "For example, for now we have 10 students within their first year, so hopefully if we get 10 more, we will have 10 in their second year, and 10 to 15 in their first year within 2012."

The program offers three concentrations—equine physiology, industry management and equine education. While two of these concentrations can be found in other schools across the United States, the industry concentration gives students a different kind of opportunity that will be hard to find anywhere else.

"I thought that we should start using the Miller Coliseum since we have it," Kayser said. "We are very fortunate that we have this type of facility right in our backyard, so I suggested that we started holding courses there and giving students the opportunity to see what is more on the business side of the horse industry."

While the graduate program lasts two years, students who chose the industry concentration can receive their master's degree in horse science.

In addition, students can obtain a bachelor's degree in business if they choose to extend the two-year program to three.

"This program sets them up to have a good combination of potentially agriculture plus business," said Rhonda Hoffman, equine nutrition professor. "Students can use this degree to work in limitless areas because there are so many options in the horse industry for this type of work."

Allison Armstrong, one of the graduate program's first 10 students,

chose the industry concentration as her focus of study.

"I am different than the others because I want to pursue writing and write for an equine magazine," Armstrong said. "I plan on taking marketing classes, which will definitely help, and I want to take my elective classes in the mass communications department to get the writing portion of it." Armstrong plans to graduate next fall.

"There was a feeling of being a guinea pig last spring," Armstrong said. "I attended MTSU the last two

years to finish my undergraduate, and I knew when transferred they were thinking about the program. Things are definitely getting in motion now, and I am feeling really good about what I am doing."

In addition to the industry concentration of the graduate program, the other concentrations produce multiple job opportunities in the equine industry.

"These concentrations all prepare these students to potentially continue on to get Ph.D. at another university," Hoffman said. "They can maybe be a university professor or work for companies producing different products for the industry. Students can also work in the nutrition aspect. The goal is to give our students the extra ability to go out and get a better job in the world."

The program expects to keep expanding, but Hoffman said she was unsure of future plans.

"We have a thriving undergraduate program," Hoffman said. "Somewhere we have to find the cap as to how many students we can have. I would expect to be double that, but we have to find a comfortable number that we can work with. We are still new, and we are still growing. I am excited to see where this program is going to go." ■

by Emily West  
Associate News  
Editor



Rhonda Hoffman, equine nutrition professor



Through new faculty positions and moving to the Horse Science Center next to the Tennessee Miller Coliseum, the department now offers graduate level courses.

# Student murder trial date moved to May

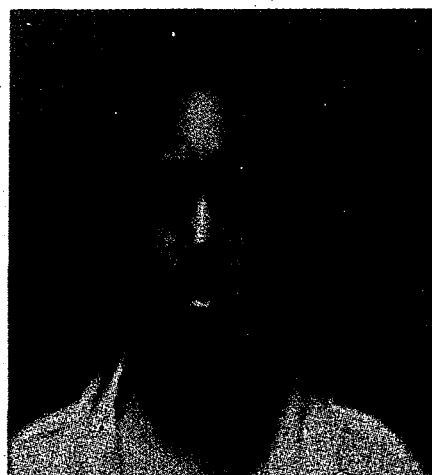
Staff Report

**T**he court date for the case concerning Shanterrica Madden, the primary suspect in the murder trial of Lady Raider basketball player Tina Stewart, has been set back to May 7, due to a request made by the state.

Madden is charged with first-degree murder in the death of Stewart during an alleged fight that occurred March 2 in their Raider's Crossing apartment. Madden said she acted in self-defense, and is pleading "not guilty" on all charges. Along with her murder charge, she

is accused of tampering with evidence.

The original court date was set for Jan. 31. The trial date



Shanterrica Madden

changed per request of the state.

The court is still deciding whether the jury will be allowed to ask Madden questions, and if pictures of Stewart will be allowed in the courtroom. Madden's attorney requested that duplicate photos not be used in the trial.

There is also a possibility the defense will request a change of venue before the May hearing. Madden's attorney, Joe Brandon Jr., requested that it be changed due to media attention that

would likely create bias.

Brandon could not be reached for comment.

Since the pre-trial hearing in October, Brandon recently asked Judge Don Ash to recuse himself from the trial because of ties with the university. Judge Ash refused and said that he held no bias in the case.

According to reports, Judge Ash graduated from MTSU in 1977, and he has been a financial contributor for the past two decades, which includes fundraising for MTSU athletics. ■

## Crime Briefs

### Alcohol

Alma Mater Drive  
January 12, 2:25 a.m.  
Caldwell Fox was arrested for domestic assault, public intoxication and underage consumption.

### Vandalism

Sigma Nu House—Greek Row  
January 12, 8:24 a.m.  
A complainant reported a window has been broken on the fraternity house.

### Assault

Scarlett Commons Apartment 3  
January 12, 3:18 a.m.  
Tenese R. Scott was arrested for aggravated burglary and aggravated domestic assault.

### Alcohol

### MTSU Blvd.

January 10, 2:04 a.m.  
Cody Parton was arrested for public intoxication and underage consumption of alcohol.

### DUI Arrest

East Main Street  
January 8, 3:28 a.m.  
Sloane Brasher was arrested for DUI, underage consumption, paraphernalia, simple possession of marijuana, open container and implied consent.

### Drugs

Greenland Drive  
January 4, 5:18 p.m.  
Authorities issued Brett Boone a state citation for simple possession of marijuana.

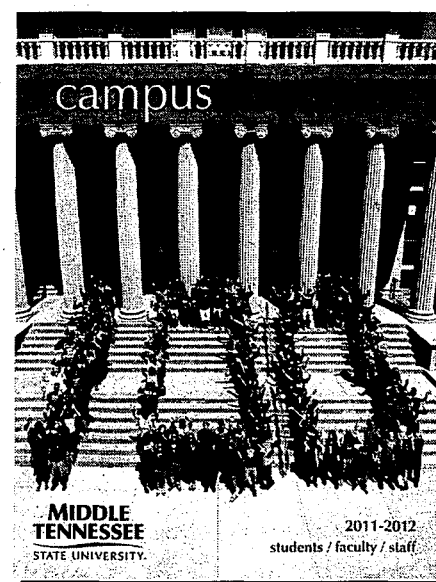
## • • • ATTENTION • • •

**Students who do not live on campus**

## FREE campus directory

KUC lower level or near the theater

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



# features

## NO REST FOR THE PFUNKY: A NASHVILLE DIY BREAKFAST WITH A TWIST

**F**reshly-brewed coffee. Succulent sliced fruit. Sautéed vegetables, spices, frying bacon and the syrupy fog of sweetened griddle

grease lazily waft their morning song through sun-dazed windowpanes to invigorate your senses. It could be the best part of waking up, but if you aren't helping set the table at The Pfunky Griddle, you'll be waiting in line at one of the hottest eateries in one of Nashville's hippest satellite cities.

You'll need one part appetite, a dash of DIY ingenuity, and a little morning effervescence to fully immerse yourself in Berry Hill's Pfunky Griddle.

Motor, bike or jog long enough through the manicured and eclectic Berry Hill community, past art galleries, holistic medicine boutiques, ice-creameries, wonder emporiums, and some of Nashville's top-notch recording studios, and you'll succumb to the enticing smells and chipper doo-wop floating from the little '40s-style breakfast and lunch cafe.

Fifties-era rock-and-roll plays over Sirius radio channels tailored to suit the styling of the home and the fun and lighthearted environment. Aged hard-

by Noah Fagan  
Contributing Writer

wood floors creak with the undeniable shimmy, toe-tap, or twist. Paintings by local artists, a full tree branch canopy, knickknacks and artifacts, and honey-toned murals add to the aesthetic of a lived-in home. And be sure a little bit of business takes place at these breakfast tables.

Interactivity is the name of the game. At The Griddle, a party is seated around a sizzling 375-degree flat-grill, recessed in the middle of hand-built cooking stations. Ingredients are provided upon request, and breakfast tutorials are on the house. Jars full of organic white and whole-grain wheat batters flank the skillet, and it's your job to pour, conjure and create.

Chef Penelope Pfuntner and her stepmother, Beth Taylor, pioneered in-house production The Pfunky Griddle in 2007. Operating from a renovated house built in the '40s, the restaurant

has every room bustling with the to-and-fro of morning commuters, neighbors, students from the nearby Vanderbilt campus, and curious, hungry newcomers. It's still family-owned and operated today by Penelope's 24-year-old son Matthew.

"We've never done a lot of marketing. It's always been by word-of-mouth," Pfuntner explains. "It's nice that most everyone here already wants to be here." Good for the Griddle, the Pfunk garnered local and regional acclaim, eventually appearing on Tennessee Crossroads and in various news publications as a must-see for tourists and locals alike.

The restaurant wagon-wheels through 300 pounds of batter every week, but all-you-can-eat pancakes are just the foundation—the customization is where it gets funky.

From chocolate treats to banana slices, walnuts to cottage cheese, fruit preserves to granola, the Griddle's got it all, and you can't go wrong.

"It's all about having fun together," Pfuntner explains. An active input is essential to the communal experience mealtimes can provide for many families, and makes restaurant dining less of a passive activity.

To accentuate the pancake experimentation, additional breakfast favorites are served up as à la carte accoutrements.

At The Pfunky Griddle, a party is seated around a sizzling 375 degree flat-grill, recessed in the middle of hand-built cooking-stations. (Photo courtesy of Facebook)

Continued page 16, Pancakes



# features

## NASHVILLE POP FROM THE GROUND UP

by Noah Fagan  
Contributing Writer

**T**he music industry is a farm. It's a cold and muddy affair where the fa-

vorite cows stay fat and the milk-ing's done early. Rows and rows of pop hits sprout like indiscriminate stalks of indis-criminate produce, despite an apparent drought.

Enter Levi Ray. At 22, he's a record-ing industry graduate living in Nashville and part-timing downtown as a cook at The Whiskey Kitchen.

When he's not writing era- and genre-fusion masterpieces or hand building his own stage-lights from Mason jars and planks of cedar, he's a prodigious, soul-pop guitar-for-hire, and he's here to work.

"I'm motivated by what I want to hear," he enthuses, tuning a sweat-faded Fender Telecaster through a small and gritty combo amp, "and a lot of what's called pop today doesn't move me."

Ray picked up the guitar in his early high-school years, quickly mastering classic rock, pop and R&B standards, while writing his own music. "You've got to know all the favorites: the guitar-god solos, all the riffs," he says over a blistering fit of finger-tapped, sweep-picked arpeggios.

But he says his hardest-struck chords have always been from older generations of

pop artists. "You can't find a top-40 song without some remnant of Marvin Gaye, or song structures going back to Motown."

To many a musician's dismay, the role of the electric guitar as a seminal ingredient for top-40 radio hits has fallen to the wayside. Lone-ranger guitarists like John Mayer, or virtuosic sidemen such as John Frusciante of the Red Hot Chili Peppers, are becoming a rare breed. Even less likely are popular guitarists or licks that are as funk or soul-infused like the love-rockers of Maroon 5.

"I think people want an interactive experience - a real-life performance," Ray muses. "Real people actually playing the music you're hearing is more human and accessible than some of the technol-ogy that does a lot of mainstream pop's legwork." He leans into the distorted

howl spark-ing from the amplifier he enforces with a pinched

brow. Ray's in the midst of refining a set list of new material from an EP he's launch-ing around the Nashville hotspot venues and Mur-freesboro house-show circuits.

It's a gamble being self-made, but he's got the playing chops, the attitude, the voice, the ethic, engineering and production savvy, as well as an eco-nomic poise and understanding of the biz. He says majoring in the

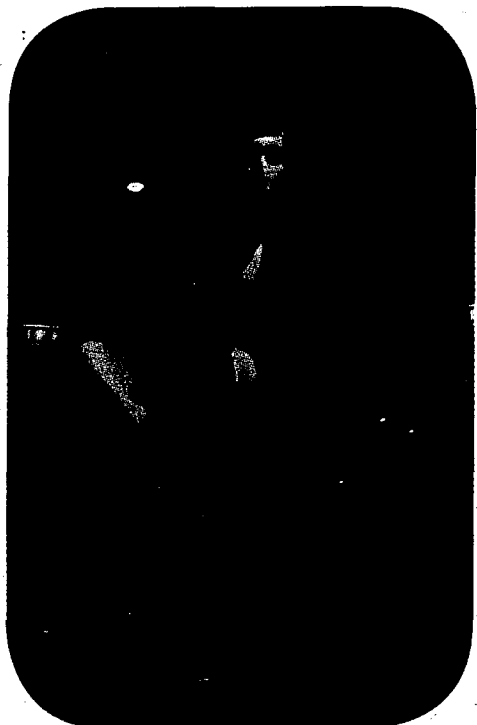
recording industry made him dangerous.

"I want to be a triple threat. Knowing my way around the faces of the industry helps me as an artist set myself up in the right directions," he says.

Levi records and produces all his songs, after writing and performing them.

He comes to his successes honestly, marketing his shows, honing his band, lighting and running sound for the throngs populating living room and barroom ven-ues. But with as many artists that are trying to break into the stardom stratosphere, he hopes the modern pop formula will consider the homegrown.

"I don't purposefully go against the grain- I listen to the grain, I believe in it," he confesses. "I just think it needs to be tilled once in a while." ■



Levi Ray croons his handcrafted songs at popular Nashville venue, Hotel Indigo.



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# Change of rape definition to impact statistics, culture

**O**n Jan. 6, the Justice Department announced they would be changing the definition of rape for statistical purposes when collecting data from local law enforcements regarding these crimes.

The new definition, which is replacing the definition of

"forcible vaginal penetration" that has been in place since 1927, will remove the term "forcible," and include men as victims, as well as considering a wider range of sexual acts.

These statistics that the FBI compiles every year goes into its Uniform Crime Report, which is expected to expand since the agency has underreported rape for over the past 80 years.

In a statement on the White House website, White House Advisor on Violence Against Women Lynn Rosenthal said, "Changing this definition is about more than statistics - it's about the women and men behind the statistics and what happened to them."

According to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation the state recognizes the definition of aggravated rape to be: "Unlawful sexual penetration of a victim by the defendant or the defendant by a victim accompanied by any of the following circumstances: (1) Force or coercion is used to accomplish the act and the defendant is armed with a weapon or any article used to fashioned in a manner to lead the victim reasonably to believe it to be a weapon;

(2) The defendant causes bodily injury to the victim; (3) The defendant is aided or abetted by one or more other persons; and force or coercion is used to accomplish the act; or the defendant knows or has reason to know that the victim is mentally defective, mentally incapacitated or physically helpless."

"The change in the justice department is for the FBI to

now accumulate more accurate statistics for victims of rape," said Judge Larry Brandon, general sessions judge for Rutherford County. "Tennessee state law is already not gender specific so that any unlawful penetration for male or female, no matter the circumstances, can be prosecuted."

While states are allowed to make specific laws addressing sexual abuse, there are federal laws that act as an umbrella for all sexual abuse crimes and cases.

Prior to the definition change, the charges for aggravated rape were gender specific and did not include a broader range of unwanted sexual acts at MTSU.

"If we were to arrest someone who

committed those acts [aggravated oral or anal penetration] we would charge them with sodomy or sexual battery," said Lt. Jim Fanguy, MTSU's campus police. "But we will now be including the new parts of the definition to rape charges."

In 2011, the MTSU Police Department media logs had one case of rape, four cases of sexual battery and two cases of sexual offenses. With the new definition in place, it will help victims be better protected from the defendants.

For instance, within in this past year, one known rape case occurred at an off-campus apartment complex to a 19-year-old student. According to the Murfreesboro Police Department incident report, the three men were reported for

**According to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation the state recognizes the definition of aggravated rape to be:**

**"Unlawful sexual penetration of a victim by the defendant or the defendant by a victim accompanied by any of the following circumstances:**

- (1) Force or coercion is used to accomplish the act and the defendant is armed with a weapon or any article used to fashioned in a manner to lead the victim reasonably to believe it to be a weapon.
- (2) The defendant causes bodily injury to the victim.
- (3) The defendant is aided or abetted by one or more other persons; and force or coercion is used to accomplish the act; or the defendant knows or has reason to know that the victim is mentally defective, mentally incapacitated or physically helpless."

## Tennessee



## COVER STORY

rape and assault.

The defendant said the three men gang raped her in her apartment while she was intoxicated. She also reported that she awoke to discover all three of the men in her bedroom. As of January 2012, the three men were indicted.

If the case were to go on trial and these men were convicted, this woman would be considered a statistic in the FBI, because it formerly did not add any statistics that involved drugs or alcohol.

The FBI reported more than 84,000 rape cases in 2010 and with this new definition, and these numbers are sure to rise to include all victims.

In Jan. 2011, a Toronto Police representative made a statement that would shake many women who were victims of sexual violence, after seeing a rise in rape cases at a university in Toronto.

"Women should avoid dressing like sluts in order not to be victimized," said the representative.

This spurred the SlutWalk Toronto movement. Their website states, "We want to feel that we will be respected and protected should we ever need them (the police), but more importantly be certain that those charged with our safety have a true understanding what it is to be a survivor of sexual assault - slut or otherwise."

After the success from SlutWalk Toronto, there were more than 75 cities around the United States and abroad that participated in these walks, including Nashville in Oct. 2011.

Other incidents receiving national attention in 2011 included former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky. Sandusky was indicted with 40 counts of sexual crime against at least a dozen young boys, spanning over a 15-year period.

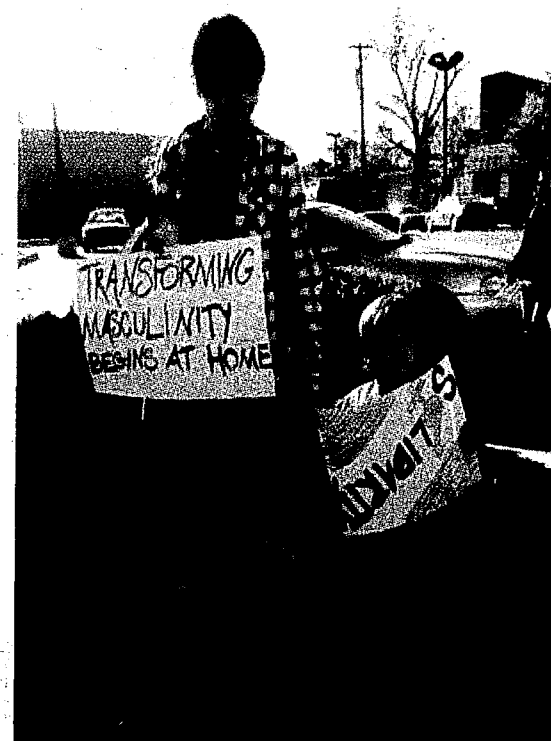
Vice President Joe Biden has been an advocate on improving the nations response to rape and sexual violence as a part of his platform. Biden has worked to make the White House Council on Women and Girls a priority and worked with federal agencies to find the gaps in the response to violence and abuse.

With the new definition, not only will more people be protected, but Americans are hoping more victims will come forward with their cases now that they are protected.

MTSU students also agree with the FBI change and are glad more victims

will be included in the statistics.

"I think that it would be eye opening to the whole world and liberating to women who have been victimized," said Nick Lombardi, a junior majoring in organizational and industry psychology. "I think there won't be such a stigma attached to rape anymore, and since the statistics now include men too, it will become more across the board



Shelley Maddox, an MTSU alumna, walked with her son at Nashville's Slutwalk. Slutwalk is a nationwide march to promote rape awareness. (Photo by Julia Fenn, contributing photographer)

that is something that could happen to anybody. It becomes less marginalizing and doesn't single anyone out. When the new statistic arises it will really shock people into awareness for it and a passion for it." ■



The new definition of rape, which is replacing the definition of "forcible vaginal penetration", will remove the term "forcible," and include men as victims. (Photo by Julia Fenn, contributing photographer)

# In the world of words, Pinterest's images are refreshing

What if there was a social networking site where only the coolest things were to be posted? What if a site focused on the positive things in life? What if that site hosted images with their many colors and textures instead of stale words or catty comments many have become accustomed to on other sites? The answer may be in a site called Pinterest.

by Rozalind  
Ruth  
Staff Writer

Found at [Pinterest.com](http://Pinterest.com), members and non-members can all see the main page, updated by the minute, with recent posts from all of its members. These posts range from fashion to recipes, from cleaning tips to cute hairstyles. Anything members find inspiring can be posted on the walls through images from the web, or by uploading personal photos.

At a loss for gift ideas? Search 'boyfriend gifts,' or 'gifts less than \$25.' Want to change your hair, but don't know what to do? Search 'short, curly hair.' Need to cheer up? Search 'cutest puppy ever.' One search I often make is for recipes containing ingredients I have to cook before they spoil. If I'm sick of the same old blanched broccoli, but I have to make it tonight, a quick search on Pinterest is the answer. The saying "you eat with your eyes first" is totally true. Countless images of delicious broccoli are the way to make my stomach rumble.

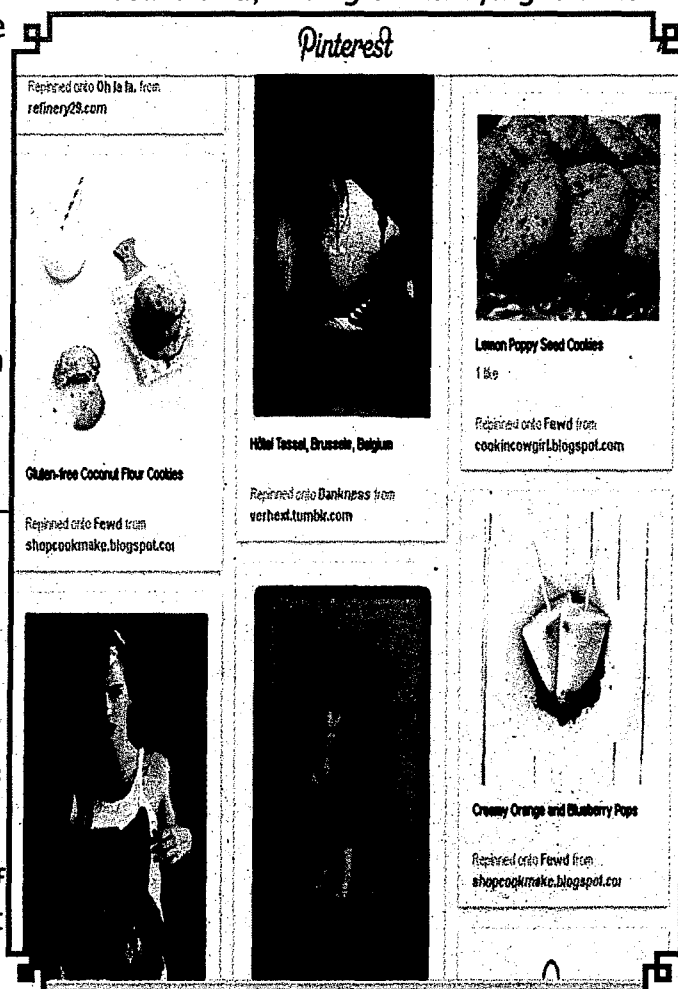
Pinterest is like any social network, cyber or not, so choose your friends wisely. The company one keeps dictates the subject matter. Pinterest is linked to the users of Facebook, so friends from one site are friends on the other, and once a Pinterest user decides to follow – or have their pins updated on your board – there is no "unfriending." Unlike the real world, boring or annoying friends

Furthermore, an invite is necessary to post images and to follow specific friends. After waiting for weeks to get my invitation, I was finally deemed worthy of entry. It didn't take long to realize I wasn't really using the new features, and they ended up being more of a headache than fun.

After a while, I was bored with the people I was following and the same sorts of posts made over and over again. I wanted my old Pinterest back, the one without a thousand pictures of Pug dogs and hopeful wedding dresses. Get ideas, plan occasions and menus, and get off lest ye be sucked into the world of the decoupage drop-out and a knitting n'er-do-well – one who starts, but does not finish.

There is something more concrete about Pinterest. It is a site designed for getting out and doing things, not remaining stagnant in front of a screen. It shows real people, the things they do, and the things they want to do. The corkboards many American teens have nailed above their desks have now reached a new level – they are now infinitely large and can be broadcast to friends across the world.

Pinterest and I have an interesting history. Sometimes I love it, sometimes I hate it, but I guess that's how a lot of relationships go. But overall, Pinterest is a great way to inspire ventures in home, fashion, traveling, cooking, crafts and an infinite amount of projects. Like most other technology, it is supposed to be a tool for our lives, not something that takes it over. ■



cannot be left behind. Make new friends, keep the old, some are silver and some post a bunch of crap on your Pinterest boards.

## ARTS & entertainment

# 'Inheritance' fails to live up to its name

**I**nheritance, the fourth book in Christopher Paolini's epic fantasy cycle also dubbed "Inheritance," was released in early November to much excitement. The final chapter of Paolini's saga has been a long time coming, and fans of the series have been waiting with bated breath to finally see how it all ends.

Unfortunately, Paolini does not deliver this time.

His books, always a target of criticism for their unoriginal plot and lack of differentiation in a seriously overcrowded fantasy genre, have nonetheless always met with success thanks to phenomenal editing and Paolini's flowing and visual— if not brilliant— writing style. Unfortunately, "Inheritance" seems to have benefited from neither of these.

This book is full of problems, but what kills this novel is its ungodly length. Weighing in at over 800 pages, it could easily be two books in its own right. However, much of it seems to be filler— Paolini could have easily told his story in half the length. The book feels redundant, with entire chapters neither moving the story forward nor having an effect on the rest of the plot. If there's anything avid readers deserve less than too little, it's too much.

What the length leaves the reader with is the feeling that Paolini was scared to death to write this particular book. He seems overly protective of his young protagonist, Eragon, and dances around having the hero actually do anything of merit for several hundred pages. It's as though Paolini was afraid Eragon couldn't finish his quest. When it

comes to unveiling of the arch-enemy, Galbatorix, Paolini seems unsure of how the evil king ought to be written. A mystery for three books, Paolini's unveiling of the mad king was supposed to be the coup de grâce— and yet when the reader encounters him, they are left feeling slightly empty. Paolini appears to have gotten stuck between making his bad guy stereotypically evil (yes, he threatens to kill children) and awkwardly misunderstood by having his characters acknowledge that he's been an all right king, aside from a few misdemeanors. At the end, Eragon's inevitable victory seems almost pointless.

That being said, this book has some good aspects. Paolini returns with writing chapters dedicated to Roran, Nasuada and Murtagh— arguably Paolini's best characters and certainly redeeming factors of the previous two books. Roran's story, which continues to be a passion-filled battle against the odds, is once again more interesting than Eragon's boring and dispassionate quest.

Likewise, as Nasuada and Murtagh develop their relationship, we get to see much more of Murtagh, a twisted and utterly complex character who actually provides some analog to real life. That being said, these factors really aren't enough to justify dropping 20 bucks on this idiotically bloated book— wait and buy a beaten and much cursed— a copy at McKay's. ■

by Charles Latrobe  
—Bateman  
Contributing Writer

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## "THE WALKING DEAD" or How I Spent My Winter Break

**P**erusing the entertainment section of the Charlotte, N.C. Target, I was fully prepared to spend my Target gift cards wisely.

And then I saw it—season one of “The Walking Dead,” an AMC show that had been the bane of my existence for months.

by Becca Andrews  
Managing Editor

My friends wrinkled their noses. “Why would you buy that? It looks disgusting.”

I smiled slowly and patiently.

For the past semester, I have endured constant reminders of a trait in myself that I despise in others—ignorance. Walking through the halls of the Mass Comm and loitering in the Sidelines office, I encountered the same question over and over.

“Hey, Becca, have you seen ‘The Walking Dead’?”

But what was worse was the silence or the carefully-coded conversation that would follow my entrance into a room where my peers and professors were discussing the show’s latest developments in hushed, reverent tones. I simply couldn’t stand it any more.

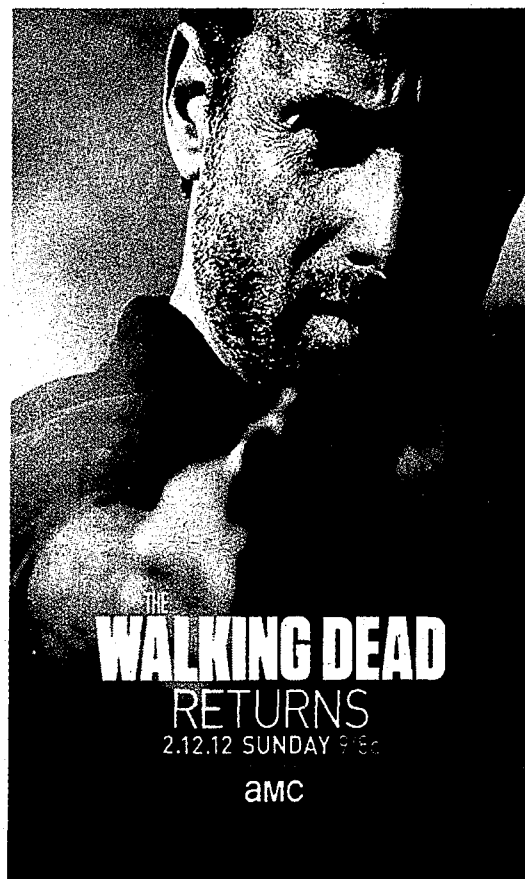
“Never again,” I whispered victoriously to myself as I strode to the check-out line.

After that, tearing myself from my laptop-viewed “Walking Dead” sessions became a problem.

A serious problem.

292 sweat-soaked, heart-hammering, gut-wrenching minutes later, I stared numbly at the screen. It was over, and now my hope was in Comcast’s On-Demand. Thankfully, the second season (so far) was there.

This brilliantly-crafted series set in post-apocalyptic Atlanta is so much more than blood, gore and zombies. The characters are carefully developed over the course of the series, and the overarching themes leave the viewer considering their own humanity. The cast is well-balanced and incredibly talented. The only true “bad guys” are the perfectly stomach-churning zombies who are determined to eat the survivors of the disease for lunch (or breakfast or dinner, I get the impression they aren’t



picky).

And for those of you who are more about the dead than the living, the zom-

bies are entirely disgusting, with empty eyes (if they have eyes at all), torn flesh and dangling organs.

The band of survivors is a complex one, full of interesting back stories and clashing personalities, portrayed with a style slightly reminiscent of the notoriously mind-boggling series, “Lost.”

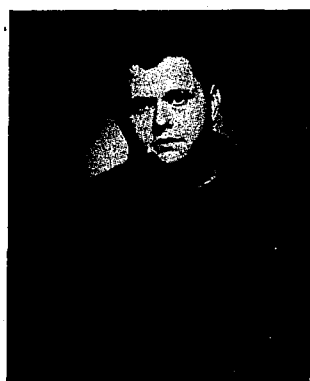
“The Walking Dead” is also endlessly frustrating, with plots twists and close calls that make even the most collected fan jump. I find myself getting annoyed in the best possible way about the amount of caution the group must use to keep themselves alive and fully human. The show also has a nasty habit of taking predicaments and stretching them out as long as possible for maximum drama. It’s this aspect of the show that has taken my addition to the unhealthy level that it is currently at.

The writers of “The Walking Dead” are clearly geniuses of the highest degree. The way the characters are built blows my mind. Don’t expect the shallow, two-dimensional sort of acting that runs rampant in today’s entertainment world. No, these actors and writers know their stuff. The humanity in this show is heart-breaking, thought-provoking and complex. The characters grow and regress in ways that constantly surprise me, but at the same time, make perfect sense. It fascinates me in a sick sort of way what desperation to survive will do to someone.

Run, walk or stagger to your nearest television and give into the zombie-like state you will soon find yourself in, because AMC has made this one completely worth it. ■

# rants&raves

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 19**



**Ralphie May**  
7:30 p.m., Zanies Comedy Club  
2025 8th Ave. S., Nashville  
Admission: \$25

I have always wanted to go a comedy club. Clubs are fun, and funny people are fun. So what's not to love about this combination? Fortunately, for those in a similar situation, Ralphie May will be doing his final night at Zanies tomorrow.

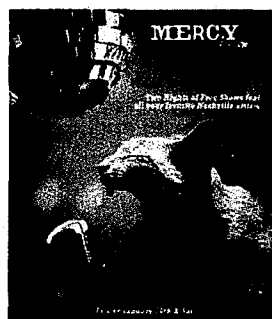
\$25 is a little steep for most things that I would like to be doing on a Thursday night. But you can check out [ralphiemay.com](http://ralphiemay.com) and decide for yourself if he's the funny you pay for, or the funny you enjoy on YouTube. (Daniel Kreipe)

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 20**

**Underworld: Awakening**  
Your Local Theatre  
Admission: \$10-\$15

I will say this up front: It's completely possible, if not entirely likely, that Kate Beckinsale's return to the "Underworld" series will be terrible. Most franchises of the action/fantasy/horror genre don't age gracefully, and it's not like the originals were admirable cinema. But if you're like me, and you got a few cheap thrills out of watching vampires kill werewolves in the originals, then this might be something worth looking into. (Daniel Kreipe)

**Mercy Lounge 9th Anniversary Show**  
9 p.m., Mercy Lounge  
1 Cannery Row, Nashville  
Admission: FREE



You know what's better than live music? Live music that doesn't put a dent in your wallet. If you're living in the general Middle Tennessee and not taking the time to enjoy diverse and talented local artists, you're missing out.

Mercy Lounge's ninth anniversary shindig is a great way to do just that, completely free of charge. Featuring How I Became the Bomb, Cheer Up Charlie Daniels, Kyle Andrews and more, it should be a good night of

independent/electronic music. If that doesn't sway you, the full bar certainly doesn't hurt either. (Daniel Kreipe)

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 21**

**Nashville Predators vs. Chicago Blackhawks**  
7 p.m., Bridgestone Arena  
501 Broadway, Nashville  
Admission: \$54-\$198



I have a list of major goals in my life: study literature in London, live in New York City, work for a music magazine, have a red-headed baby. But much more interesting is my minor-goal bucket list. And smack-dab in the middle of this bucket list is to go to a Preds game. Weird for a girl not into sports, but during hockey season, these games are all I hear about. I want to eat the greasy food and hear the scraping of ice skates against ice and see the violence that I am told will inevitably ensure. Call it barbaric, but I want to. And so should you. (Becca Andrews)

**Murfreesboro Anime and Comic Con**  
10 a.m.- 6 p.m., Clarion Inn  
2227 Old Fort Parkway  
Admission: \$5 per person, or  
\$30 all-access pass



Vast majority of my knowledge of comic con comes from an unhealthy addiction to The Big Bang Theory, but somehow I suspect I have a pretty good grasp it. Special guests include Eric Powell, Stephanie Gladden, Sam Flegal and Jacob Rougemont. So dust off your old comic books (or take them out of their carefully-maintained plastic cases, whatever) and headover to our local comic con. Closet nerds, unite, and show pride! Believe it or not, girls are into nerds. (Becca Andrews)

**Digital Camera Class**  
9:30 a.m., Made in Murfreesboro Photography Studio  
123 E. Main St.  
Admission: \$150



Let's get the negatives out of the way (no pun intended). For those madly in love with sleep, 9:30 is an ungodly hour. And in addition to the caffeine that will have to be taken intravenously for immediate affect, there is also the whopping \$150 to take into account. However, that refund money in your checking account might as well be put toward something that

will be fun and beneficial in capturing those Facebook-worthy moments. Also, isn't it about time you actually knew what your artsy photographer friends have been saying to each other? Get with the program, people. (Becca Andrews)



# opinions

## • **Redefinition of rape benefits victims, society**

On Jan. 6, in a long-awaited decision, the FBI rewrote its official definition of rape. Instead of being defined as "the carnal knowledge of a female, forcibly and against her will," the federal definition of rape now includes all genders of victim and attacker. It also includes rape while the victim is incapacitated, and statutory rape.

The FBI's redefinition of rape is an important step toward sending the message that anyone can be a victim of rape, and all alleged victims should be afforded the same respect.

While female victims—I use this terminology instead of "accusers" intentionally, to combat the common assumption that all victims are lying until proven oth-

By Michael Finch  
Columnist

erwise—deal with many biases against them, male victims also face misunderstandings and stereotypes that cause them to hesitate before reporting sexual assault.

Some believe that a man cannot be raped. Just like with female victims, it is assumed that if a man physically responds positively to the act, it was not rape. This could not be farther from the truth, as the involuntary reactions of the body often have nothing to do with a person's feelings about the situation.

There is a lot of misunderstanding in our culture about rape, such as the belief that there are different "levels" of severity, or, as Whoopi Goldberg once implied on an episode

of "The View," the idea that there is rape, and "rape-rape."

This way of thinking completely disrespects victims of rape that did not experience physical force. Rape via coercion, or while the victim is intoxicated or otherwise incapacitated, are just as much rape as the stereotypical "holding a gun to the victim's head" scenario.

This redefinition will also go a long way toward starting the necessary conversation surrounding many people's assumptions about gay men and rape. A surprising amount of people hold the vile belief that gay men enjoy sex so much that they cannot be raped.

This sort of belief, or one like it, is likely the underlying cause of the Franklin Police

Department's recent reluctance to actively investigate the rape of a gay man who was raped by another man he met online.

However, it's not only the police who need to have the conversation this redefinition will hopefully start. Even people in the LGBT community are using some awful rhetorical tactics against this victim.

They say he was looking to "hook up" anyway, or that he shouldn't have been using "hook up" sites while already in a relationship. One online commenter even said that the accusation that the victim's attacker drugged him was probably not true; he had probably asked the other man for the drugs, and taken them voluntarily.

It is shocking how

many people don't realize that a person cannot technically consent to sex while incapacitated by drugs or alcohol. However, think about it like a business contract: if you signed one of those while blackout drunk, its legality could never be upheld in court.

I hope this redefinition will start a lot of much-needed conversations about the topics I mentioned above. The dialogue in our culture surrounding rape needs a major overhaul, and I hope this is a significant step toward that.



Michael Finch is a senior majoring in political science. He can be reached at [mfinch13@gmail.com](mailto:mfinch13@gmail.com)

## **True Blue: recipient and a giver**

I am true blue—and I am a recipient and a giver. Since 1997, I have been involved with the students, staff and faculty here at Middle Tennessee State

By Harold Bryer

University. During these years, I have watched the university grow in enrollment, diversity and program opportunities.

I have received so much from this

university. I enjoyed my own academic experience in the doctoral program. My professors not only enriched my knowledge about history but also challenged my thinking in other areas—and the

Rec Center is simply amazing.

I have loved being a volunteer in the international program at MTSU. I have enjoyed getting to know international students and learning from them.

I always feel that I learn more from them than they do from me.

When we begin to delve into an individual's cultural traits, values, traditions and worldviews, the differences can

Continued page 16

# New faces powering Blue Raider basketball success

If Blue Raider basketball fans think the success of the team seems different, it could be due to the unfamiliar faces.

Major factors in MT's record (17-2, 6-0 Sun Belt) are four players who have started all 19 games, three of whom never played a game for the Blue Raiders previous to this season.

by Alex Hubbard  
Sports Editor

These include guards Marcos Knight and Bruce Massey, as well as forward LaRon Dendy. Returning forward J.T. Sulton has also started every game, and another Blue Raider newcomer, guard Raymond Cintron, has started with some regularity.

Dendy is the obvious face of a sharp-shooting offense that regularly shoots 50 percent or better each game.

"With the team that we have and the coaching we have, I figured that we would have a pretty good season, but I never figured that we would be 16-2, the record we have now," Dendy said.

With established guards Jason Jones and Kerry Hammonds on the bench for most of the early season due to injury, Coach Kermit Davis found production in Knight, a junior college transfer who ranks just behind Dendy, scoring 12 points and six rebounds per game while averaging nearly 30 minutes a contest.

Along with Sulton, Knight and Dendy formed the brunt of the offensive power that scored over 80 points six times in route to an 11-2 non-conference record.

Since entering Sun Belt play, the team has scored 71 points or fewer in each contest.

"You don't really know the team as well as you know a team in your conference," Massey said of non-conference opposition. "In conference you play each team twice, so you get really good scouting going into the game."

Dendy compared MT's fierce competi-



A redshirt senior who transferred from Iowa State, LaRon Dendy, 1, averages nearly 14 points and seven rebounds per game.

tion to something a nationally-ranked team would face.

"We know that teams are going to come out and try to play their best against us," Dendy said. "We're like the Duke of our conference right now... It's going to be tough every night playing SBC."

In this regard, good defense remains as important as the stout offense. MT's opponents score just 61 points a game.

Massey is the most defensive natured the Raiders' starters. He leads the team in assists per game with 65 assists to just 31

turnovers.

"I'm a point guard, so my job really is to play defense, distribute the ball on rebounds and stop the other team's point guard," Massey said. "I have a lot of weapons on my team, so I don't really have to score 15 or 20 points a game."

With conference play proving to be no easy road, MT's final non-conference opponent is also nothing to take lightly.

The Blue Raiders will travel to Vanderbilt on Jan. 28.

Vanderbilt's national ranking to begin the season, followed by its subsequent losses to Cleveland State and Indiana State, created some disappointment for Vanderbilt fans, while the Blue Raiders have largely exceeded expectations.

Already boasting one win against a SEC opponent and one from the PAC 12, MT will look to improve the team's hopes for a run into March with a victory over Vanderbilt.

MT's 63-53 victory over Troy saw Dendy score seven points, but rack up nine rebounds, while Knight dropped in only six points, but also got nine boards to go along with four assists and two steals.

It's really hard to lose when it's like one heart beating," Dendy said, indicating his understanding of the team's by-committee approach.

With the newcomers living up to expectations and a high level of commitment on both ends of the court, the Blue Raiders present an appearance of a team secure in itself.

"Anybody can lead on any given night," Dendy said. "We're a talented team, but to be 16-2, that's a big thing. That lets you know that we have to be good leaders to accomplish something like that." ■

# continued

## A unique pancake experience...cont. from page 6

"You have to try our French toast and the Amazing Breakfast Potatoes," suggests Pfuntner, who assures the spuds' name is worth its garlicky salt.

Biscuits and gravy, grits, vegetarian alternatives, toppings galore, and a complete grilled cheese menu with Extra Love— a savory special sandwich spread available for just a quarter— compound the plethora of meal combinations.

If you're not an early-riser, that's all right, too: The Griddle has a wide range of soups, salads, wraps and sandwiches for lunchtime. However, it's not just what you cook— the environment plays as much a role in setting the scene as its delectable treats.

"We really are a family. Everyone can tease and help each other. We try to make sure everyone, including our staff, is having a good time." Pfuntner adds.

Close-knit community isn't the only benefit to becoming a part of The Pfunky Griddle family.

"It's a great place and general area to network," explains Griddle server Quinton Parker.

Pfuntner couldn't agree more.

"We have music industry reps and marketing teams from nearby studios stop in," Pfuntner relates, "and so much of our demographic has always been students." So come in, make friends, make food, join the family, and feel at home. ■

## True Blue...continued from page 14

sometimes threaten to overwhelm us.

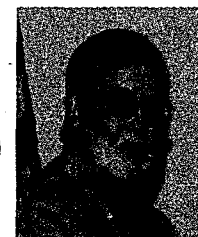
Indeed, some of the international students who come here feel overwhelmed by differences, and some have admitted to feeling a lack of control over their circumstances, cultural environment and social exchanges.

For many students — even perhaps freshmen students from Tennessee — the temptation is to either flee or to fight.

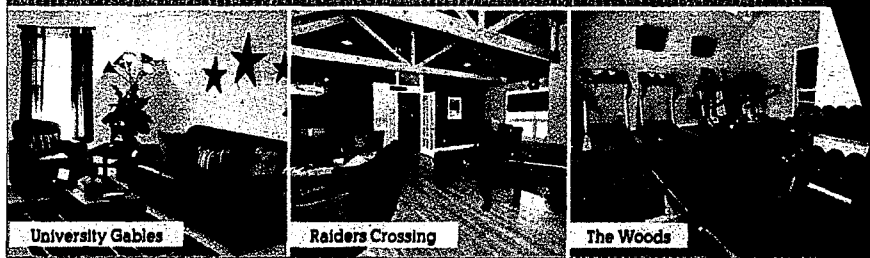
Over the years, I have noticed that many successful students learn to give as well as to take; to be a giver. They seek to understand as well as to be understood.

Perhaps this is what John F. Kennedy meant when he challenged Americans in his 1961 Presidential inauguration speech, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country." JFK realized that each American has to be not only a recipient but also a contributor.

Altruism is an unselfish concern for the welfare of others. It is a generous way of expressing gratitude for all that you have been given. The gifts that one receives from giving back and from reaching out to help others are immense and priceless. ■



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