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Students don beads in celebration of Mardi Gras at last week's basketball game. Photo by Kati Baird.

Cover photo courtesy of Ben & Emily Roberts.

Corrections

Last week's article, "Fashion student's design wins national competition," was mistakenly credited to Jane Horne. It was written by Kayla Moore.

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Women gain confidence in STEM fields

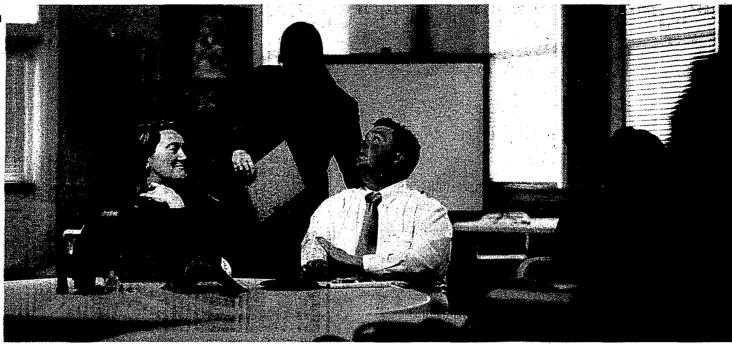
By Sinclaire Sparkman Assistant news editor

Southern collegiate females will see more opportunities in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, thanks in part to one MTSU professor.

These strides in women's rights and education emanate from Judith Iriarte-Gross. professor of chemistry at MTSU and the director of the Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and **Mathematics Center on** campus. Through her work she hopes to interest more middle school and high school girls in STEM careers and keep women interested once they start a college program.

Iriarte-Gross recently received a \$10,000 grant from the American Association of University Women Foundation to help sponsor Expand Your Horizons and Girls Raised In Tennessee conferences that will be held not just in Tennessee, but all across southern states as well.

"We want to get more conferences around here so that the girls can meet other girls who en-



Attendees at the STEM conference hosted at MTSU discussed ways to get more women involved in STEM careers and retain them. Photo by Davion Baxter.

joy science and math," Iriarte-Gross said.

One of the conferences held Feb. 6-8 aimed to educate graduate students, undergraduate students and faculty on how to become role models for younger women pursuing studies in STEM.

Iriarte-Gross has received numerous grants to help her raise, awareness and interest for women in STEM programs, which she hopes will help share her passion for STEM. She and her associates started the Girls Raised in Tennessee Science initiative to broaden participation in STEM for middle and high school girls. The program provides Expanding Your Horizon conferences to educate young women about STEM careers.

"We want them to come to our conferences, so they can learn about careers that they can be successful and be happy in," Iriarte-Gross said. "And STEM pays more."

According to the Department of Professional Employees, STEM careers do pay more. In 2010, STEM workers earned 26 percent more than those in non-STEM fields.

Although the pay is better, the allure is lost on many women who can't see themselves fitting in with the malepopulated culture of STEM.

"Everything is about identity," said Heather Gibbons, CEO of Expand Your Horizons. "If you look and you see all men doing these things, it's subconscious. You won't even add that into your self-image."

According to statistics published by the National Science Foundation, women are a minority in nearly every STEM field. Fewer than 30 percent of those earning bachelor's degrees in engineering and mathematics for STEM in 2010 were women.

"You may see yourself doing science, but you get into a college campus, and the culture is still male. It may throw you off a little bit," Gibbons said.

Gibbons and Iriarte-Gross are concerned that more women drop out of STEM programs in colleges than men. They believe this is because there is not enough community among women in these male-dominated fields.

"You can be a girly girl and still be a scientist," Iriarte-Gross said.



NEWS

Decision in Boy Scout case postponed until May

By Lani Choate Contributing writer

The Boy Scouts of America voted to postpone its decision on whether to lift the ban on gay, lesbian or bisexual people in the organization.

A meeting will be held in May to further examine the issue and possibly vote on the ban. In the months leading up to the negotiations, various groups and individuals rallied for and against the ban.

"[The Boy Scouts of America] wants the people to speak up and let the national level know their wishes," said Hugh Travis, local BSA council representative. He stressed the importance of the community coming together and the Boy Scouts' desire to do the best for the nation. Travis declined to give a personal statement on the issue.

Rick Perry, governor of Texas and author of "On My Honor: Why the American Values of the Boy Scouts Are Worth Fighting For," spoke out in favor of the ban in his speech covered by CBS News.

"I think most people see absolutely no reason to change the position, and neither do I," Perry said.

Scout leader Jennifer Tyrrell of Bridgeport, Ohio, was ousted for being openly lesbian and said her position to fight the ban was to inform people of the policy.

"This isn't about the politics for me," Tyr-



The Boy Scouts of America are under fire for the controversy surrounding a court case that will determine if it will allow gay members. Photo courtesy of Facebook.

rell told CNN. "This is my life that they get to vote on. This is the life of so many people A scout is supposed to be brave, and the Boy Scouts failed to be brave today."

According to Cornell University Law School's website, the deliberation over the ban began with the landmark case of Boy Scouts of America v. Dale.

James Dale sued BSA in 2000 for revoking his position as an assistant scoutmaster in New Jersey. The state law prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation in places of public accommodation. Several New Jersey courts agreed with Dale and the case went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court where the previous judgments favoring Dale were overturned.

The Supreme Court. ruled that another decision would violate the right of expressive association if the Boy Scouts were required to include homosexual members. If the BSA allowed gays or lesbians to be a part of the system, it would undermine the values

DRUGS/TRAFFIC Alumni Drive Feb. 8, 12:34 a.m.

Authorities issued a citation for simple possession of marijuana to Autumn D. Reimink, 19, and a citation for driving on a suspended license to Angelique R. Slone, 19.

VANDALISM Scarlett Commons Apt. 3 Feb. 7, 6:47 p.m. Complainant reported that her roommate vandalized some of her property as the roommate was moving out. of the organization. The Boy Scouts believed that homosexual conduct would conflict with the Scout Oath and Law, which provides the terms "morally straight" and "clean" and is not a legitimate form of behavior.

The BSA's official website totals youth membership in 2000 at slightly under 3.4 million. After Dale's court ruling, membership in 2011 decreased by 17 percent to 2.8 million. Leadership in the organization has also dropped from 1.2 million in 2000 to 1 million in 2011. The reason for the decline in membership of both scouts and leaders is under much debate.

Protesters including Tyrrell and Dale argue that the gay ban made many parents and boys reluctant to join the Boy Scouts.

On the other hand,

the long-term partnership between The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and the Boy Scouts continue to automatically enroll boys to produce "morally straight" men.

In contrast, the Girl Scouts of America announced last October that all females are welcome, regardless of sexual orientation.

"The troop leaders know what they are there for," said Megan Seeman, a publicist for the Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee.

She also noted that no complaints or issues from parents or scouts regarding gay rights or discrimination.

"We don't discriminate, but we ask to look out for the best interest of the girls," Seeman said. ■

CRIME BRIEFS TRAFFIC

Faulkinberry Drive Feb. 7, 3:58 p.m. A contract employee reported a reckless driver in the area, describing the vehicle as a red BMW driven by a white male. Authorities responded but were unable to make contact with the vehicle.

THEFT Kirksey Old Main Feb. 6, 6:51 p.m. Complainant reported that her iPhone was stolen in the KOM.

DRUGS Greenland Drive and Middle Tennessee Blvd Feb 4, 9:03 a.m.

Trevor Anton Rogers was arrested and charged with the manufacture/sale of marijuana, tampering with evidence, drug paraphernalia and possession of a schedule II drug.

BURGLARY
Greek Row
Feb. 6, 12:05 a.m.
Authorities arrested
Adrian Demond Simmons, 33, for unlawful
entry. He was charged
with aggravated burglary and public intoxication.

University professor archives homefront war stories

By Quint Qualls News editor

One MTSU professor made it his goal to collect and preserve World War II-era stories and memorabilia, many of which now face oblivion and the void of time. The project's survival depends on civilians of a younger generation.

"We've almost run out of World War II veterans. The other part of the project includes people who were on the civilian side of the war effort," said Jim Williams, professor of history and director of the Albert Gore Research Center.

The Gore Center made strides in Tullahoma. They focused on the impact war-era Camp Forrest had on the community and collected more than 400 recordings of interviews with veterans and civilians.

"Virtually every family in Tullahoma had a connection [with Camp Forrest]," Williams said. "What the women talk about especially is that there were all these men stationed there for training. The people of Tullahoma look back on this as kind of an idyllic period, and people across the nation generally look back on this period in the same way."

Camp Forrest – torn down in 1946 almost immediately after the war's conclusion – not only quartered and trained troops during the war, but later incarcerated German prisoners of war in 1943. Much of the land is used today by Arnold Engineering Development Center.

Searcy Couch-Hopkins, a Tullahoma local who was in her 20s when the war began to escalate for Americans, remembered vividly the impact the era had on her life.

"Daddy, Billy and I had been sitting on the front porch, and the radio was on in our living room, and we were right there in the hall, and we heard that Pearl Harbor had been bombed," Couch-Hopkins said. "We didn't know what to think. It was scary."

Last week, Couch-Hopkins sat down with Williams in his office in the Albert Gore Research Center to provide an oral history from a female civilian's perspective.

"If you got to dating officers, you could go to the officers' club at the camp. It was a nice building. You could go out there and have dinner," Couch-Hopkins said. "I remember one night I went with a guy to a dance out there. We got out there and started dancing, and everybody just backed off cause he was such a good dancer. It was a Polka."

As the war dragged on into 1943, the soldiers were replaced by German prisoners of war. Most of the men once stationed at Camp Forrest for maneuvers and training had gone overseas.

"Well, I have a Christmas card that I let Dr. Williams make a copy of for his archive," said Joanne Roberson, a Tullahoma native who was a child during the war. "It was sent to my parents by soldiers who stayed in our house and were in the Normandy invasion. They sent it to our house from France. It's my most prized possession."

Dot Couch-Watson, the younger sister of Couch-Hopkins who was also a child in Tullahoma during the war, remembered the war as a very happy time.

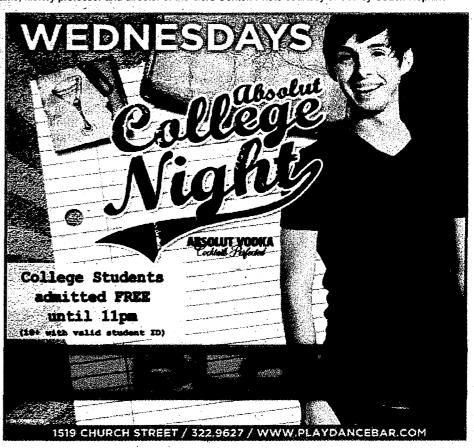
"My mother helped chaperon USO dances. Many of the soldiers talked to me when I would tag along because they had young children or younger siblings at home that they missed," Couch-Watson said. "I loved all the attention. I have fond memories of that."

Williams and his team at the Gore Center's initiative represents an ongoing part of the Veteran's History Project, mandated by Congress in 2000. With limited, dwindling funding, however, the enterprise has become more of a personal matter for Williams and his archivists.

They will keep up hope for donations and grants, said Williams. ■



World War II evokes a romantic feeling in those who grew up during that time, according to Jim Williams, history professor and director of the Gore Center. Photo courtesy of Searcy Couch-Hopkins



FEATURES.

An unread letter to an almost-unknown mother

By Kaela Dalecke Staff writer

Life is a gift. A person's life is not an accident. One of the most precious gifts we have in life is family. Whether we share DNA with them, the people we claim as family did not walk into our lives by accident.

The following is a letter that I will likely never send. It is a letter to my birth mother. Although she may never read these words, I hope they remind those who do to cherish their life and the people they choose to share it with.

To Teresa:

As I begin writing this letter, my heart is overwhelmed with a wave of emotions. This letter is my way of expressing to you how difficult, yet fulfilling the journey of getting to know you has been.

This journey, for me, began with my shaking voice on the phone saying, "Hello ... my name is Kaela and 21 years ago, you gave birth to me." For you, this journey began long before that when you made the brave decision to give birth to me and allow two strangers to adopt me.

The decision you made at 18 years old must have been the most challenging you have ever made. However, as I told you in our first conversation that muggy August evening, I am forever grateful for your courage.

If you had not been courageous, my life would be completely



different. I am amazed every time I think about how truly different my life might have been if you decided to keep me. I do not doubt that I would have been loved. However, I am not certain, and I know neither are you, that I would have been given the opportunities I have.

My decision to dial your number for the first time resulted after many years of thinking about who you are and praying for the courage to say "hello" to you. I want you to know that

I have always known about you. Actually, I don't recall, as much as I try, the moment my parents told me I am adopted. Because my adoption was closed, I did not have the option of contacting you until I turned 18. All I knew about you was your name. I was told that I have a sister who is two years older than me. I didn't even have a picture. I would ask my mom to tell me what vou looked like, and she always said, "You have her big, expressive

eyes."

When July 17, 2008, came around, I began searching for you. My mom gave me a tattered pink file folder. It was labeled "Kaela's Adoption."

Adoption."

In the file, I found my hospital records, your date of birth and your social security number. I had all the information I needed to find you. So I did. My motivation was not to find my "mom." My motivation was curiosity and the need to thank the person who

was selfless enough to give birth to me and realize they could not care for me.

I found your address and phone number through a free people search online. It's crazy what you can find by a simple Google search. I wrote your number and address on a folded piece of paper and tucked it into my iournal. Although I found what I needed to contact you, I wasn't ready. Honestly, I don't think I can tell you the reasons why I wasn't

ready to reach out to you. I believe everything happens in God's timing, so there's a reason why we did not speak for another three years.

Three years later, I never pulled out that piece of paper, which is now creased by my journal. Just as I believe everything happens in the right moment, whether we have a say in it or not, I believe God uses people to help us take steps we don't have the strength to take ourselves. As you

know, you received a letter from a stranger. I will never know what the letter said.

My fear that you would want nothing to do with me was put to rest when I received vour letter. When I unfolded the two sheets of notebook paper, a small photo fell out. I think I stared at it for several minutes before reading your message. I studied every part of your face. My mom was right. I do have your eyes. The letter is stained by tears now and rests inside the pages of my journal. along with all the letters you have written since then.

We talked for over an hour that night. We laughed. We cried. We shared stories and answered questions. Ultimately, I finally had the chance to thank you for making the decision you did.

In September, I drove six hours to see you face-to-face. I had dreamed about that moment for years, just like you. I learned a lot that weekend. The morning we were supposed to meet, I woke up with my heart pounding inside my chest.

The middle of a Target parking lot is not where I had imagined seeing you for the first time. Of course, I guess I never really imagined where we would meet. We both cried.

Standing in the driveway of your father's house, you showed me an album filled with photos of you as a child, your parents, you pregnant with me, me minutes after birth and a photo



Kaela found her biological mother through a Google search after she turned 18. Photo courtesy of Kaela Dalecke.

of a young man – my father. Flipping through the yellowed pages of the album, you pointed out unfamiliar faces to me – "This is your grandmother. Oh, this is your aunt and your cousins. This is your sister." I don't know those people. I know my grandmother, my aunt, my cousins and my sisters. They are not in that blue album.

I can't call those people in the album my relatives. I have tried, but I can't bring myself to call you "mom."

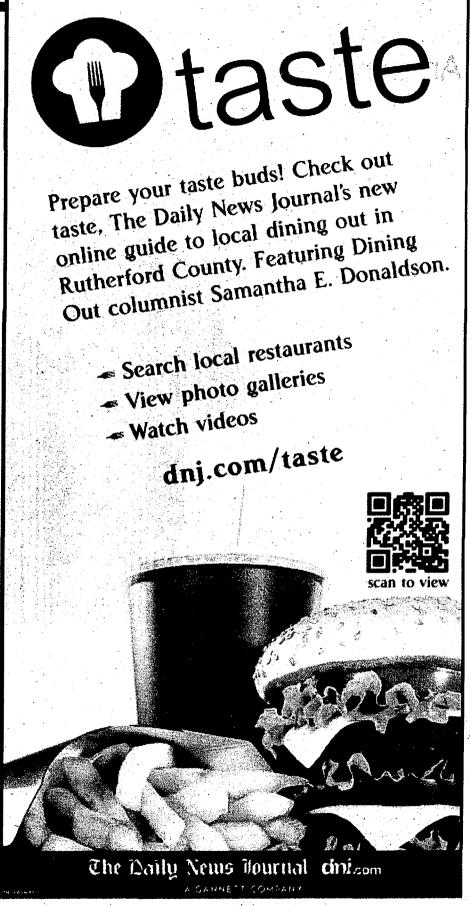
That word is sacred and reserved for the woman in my life who knows the first word that left my lips, my favorite toy as I child, every scar on my body, my childhood dream to be a ballerina and the movie I watch when I have the blues.

On my way back home, I had time to reflect on everything. Being adopted has always been an important aspect of who I am, and the realization I had from my experience meeting you has been life changing,

Although you gave birth to me, my "mom" is the one who taught me how to live. I hope you understand and realize that you have a special place in my heart because you chose to give me life, which is the greatest gift I have been given.

Thank you for that gift. Thank you for choosing to give me life; what a beautiful one it has been.

Always, Kaela



COVER STORY The not-quite fairy tale of a Carolina Story

By Jane Horne Arts & Entertainment editor

The best memories are the unexpected ones. The best relationships are the ones that happened on their own. The best stories are ones worth telling over and over again.

Ben and Emily Roberts' lives revolve around those stories. More than five years, 400 shows in 36 states and untold amounts of people have combined to make those memories worth the hard work that the lady and gentleman of modern folk-duo Carolina Story have committed to.

Sitting down with Ben and Emily is like sitting down with old friends while watching the stories behind the music come to life. They have a unique way of making fans feel like family.

"We like to say we make friends instead of fans," Emily said.

Ben, 26, is the funny brother figure who you know will pick on you one moment and encourage you the next. Emily, 27, is the cool, inspiring role model who you love spending time with. Even the waitress at a small barbecue restaurant in Ben and Emily's neighborhood of East Nashville immediately connected with them over their Memphis roots. The three chatted enthusiastically over their combined experiences in the city and reflected on familiar barbecue joints and Carr Avenue - the road in the city where their story began.

AROLINA STORY

Carolina Story has written and released two albums, the second of which was *Home*, and one EP. Their third release is coming out in April and will feature more songs inspired by the couple's relationship. Photo courtesy of Carolina Story.

Ben moved from Arkansas and Emily came from South Dakota to meet at the Visible Music College in Memphis. At a school with 120 students, it wasn't long before they crossed paths.

"Emily caught my eye early on," Ben said. "I pursued her and tried to go after her, but she didn't want anything to do with me."

"He was pretty obnoxious," Emily laughed.

Music started shaping their relationship, and the two began playing together. Emily introduced Ben to the sounds of Brandi Carlile (a favorite of Emily's), and he learned and sang her songs — a total change of pace

from the melodic hardcore band Ben was in.

But still, Emily took her time.

"I didn't want to get married until I was 30," she explained.

"She wanted to do music," Ben finished her thought, "and she thought that having a guy in her life would totally derail that plan, but lo and behold, it was part of the plan."

It was on a camping trip to North Carolina that the band solidified. They wrote their first songs, and the name Carolina Story was born, representing everything they are as a couple and a band.

Their story continued with their wedding on June 13, 2009. Ben and Emily knew their

lives were leading them to Nashville, so they made the move to Ben's parents' new home in the upstairs bedroom in Kingston Springs where his family relocated to from Arkansas.

Emily's hometown is another stop on Carolina Story's roadmap. Located eight miles outside of Sioux Falls, S.D., the two often visit her family – who enjoy that Ben is a musician and equally loves sports – and find inspiration in the small town that allows them to step back in time.

Yet, it was traveling across the country and the upstairs room at Ben's parents' home that left a huge mark in the Carolina Story.

"And I guess I'll make you share the grocery store story," Emily smiled at her husband, and they exchanged knowing glances.

Traveling across the

Traveling across the country nonstop and spending more time on the road than not can take a toll on anyone. On one trip back home, Ben and Emily both gave up. They decided they were done with music, at least for a while.

They went about their day and left for the grocery store, where they crossed paths with a fan.

"[A woman stopped us and said] 'I've seen you a few times in the local coffee shop, and your music has really spoken to me, and it's really encouraging," Ben said. "And we were in such a weird head space that even that, we were just kind

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of like, 'Thanks, cool,' and said our goodbyes and parted ways, and literally, it was like a movie — I know I'm making it dramatic," the couple laughed. "And we parted ways and she turned back around and called at us and said, 'I just feel like today I'm supposed to tell you guys to never give up."

So they didn't.
When they have
doubts about where
they are or what they're
doing, they are approached by a stranger
at a show or a bar who
tells them the same
thing – never give up.

As much as Carolina Story loves traveling and the road, they found home in their corner of East Nashville. Their house is conveniently located near the I Dream of Weenie hot dog stand, much to Ben and Emily's enjoyment. They personally recommend the pimento cheese dog, to be consumed for Sunday brunch. A hashbrown casserole dog and the French toast bun with a smoked sausage, topped with syrup and powdered sugar apparently make the trip truly worth it.

"It's not like we're super prideful East Nashvillians, but, like, maybe a little? You know, we love our neighborhood," Ben said.

"You are," Emily cut in. "Ben literally will not venture over the river."

"Well, like, Emily's like, 'We're going to Green Hills to eat and stuff' and I'm like, 'Nah, I'm not,' cause I've got my little neighborhood bars and

restaurants right down the street," Ben defended. "It's like people over here, their guard is down. They long for community and it's cool, ya know?"

Carolina Story isn't the average "married couple duo." The songs on their three albums are not solely comprised of love songs. The ones that stand out aren't love songs at all. "Hey There Mr Sir" from the When the River Met the Sea album simply tells the story of their neighbor.

The song quotes the old adage, "I've heard there are no strangers, only friends we've yet to meet." They have only stayed in motels about 10 times in their five-plus years of touring; they mainly stay with friends, fans they meet or the bartender from the show — whoever has a spare couch or open floor space.

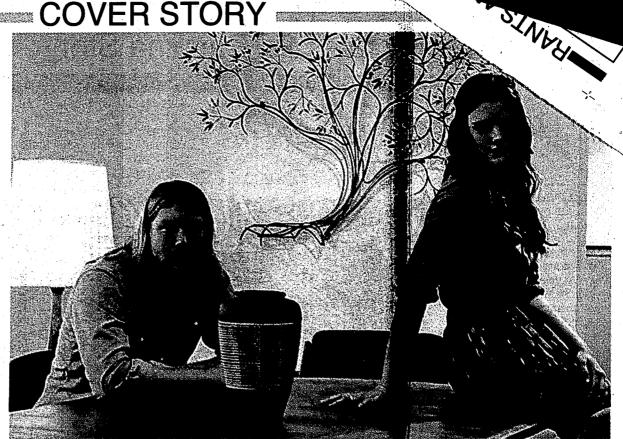
"I'm so grateful for the people we've met," Emily said. "I feel like we have friends all over the U.S. I don't remember the buildings or the places we've been; we remember the people."

As they continue to shape their musical career, don't expect Carolina Story to be creating the next generation of acoustic musicians any time soon.

"All of my friends, they have desk jobs and they're having kids and they'll ask me like, 'What's your plan, man?' And I'm like, 'Well, to do this.' Beyond that," Ben laughs, "I'm not really sure."

But they're in the plan sometime soon, right?

"Yeah, I've got to figure out which liquor



Ben and Emily Roberts met at Visible Music College in Memphis, Tenn. They've been married since the summer of 2009. Photo courtesy of Carolina Story.

store to rob first," Ben grinned.

Carolina Story's third full-length album drops in April. Stories of friends from across the country are sure to have inspired this one as well, but it will be a bit of a change of pace.

"I think it's going to surprise people a bit," Emily said. "We're not the typical mushy love song type. But this, what we've been writing lately, seems a little bit more so."

"We're sort of rediscovering each other and falling in love again," Ben said. "The songs aren't ballad-y – they're still junky, old country, have a lot of energy. But it's been kind of cool to write about us."



RANTS AND RAVES

February 13 Knocked Up Student Union Video Theatre (208) 9-11 p.m.

Free



Need something to get in the Valentine's Day spirit? You can head to the Student Union to watch the heart-warming tale of two people in love.

Okay, so "Knocked Up" is nothing like that. However, watching this spunky rom-com starring Seth Rogen, Katherine Heigl and Paul Rudd is a great way to spend the night before Valentine's. In this film, lazy-boy bachelor Ben Stone (Rogen) has a drunken one-night- stand with Alison (Heigl), a beautiful broadcast journalist. Shortly after their fling,

Alison reveals to Ben that she is pregnant and wants to keep the baby. Ben and Alison learn about being parents by watching Alison's sister Debbie (Leslie Mann) and her husband Pete (Rudd). The movie follows the pair's journey as they learn about each other

February 14

Night Catches Us Student Union Video Theatre 6 -7:30 p.m. Free



February, as you know, is Black History Month and MTSU is doing its part.

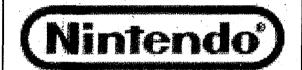
"Night Catches Us." starring Anthony Mackie and Kerry Washington, is set in 1976 and follows former member of the Black Power movement Markus Washington

(Mackie) returning to his neighborhood in Philadelphia after years of being M.I.A. Upon returning, Markus's old friends exile him, believing he is the killer of a fellow organization member. The only refuge Markus finds is with an old friend (Washington) and her

daughter. Throughout the film Markus struggles to keep a secret that could change everyone's lives, while resisting his feelings for Patricia. The soundtrack, scored by The Roots, completes the film, making this a movie you don't want to miss.

February 15 Retro Video Game

Night Student Union Game Room 7 p.m. to Midnight Free with Student ID



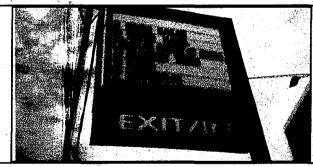
Leave your Wiis, Kinects and Xboxes at home, and come to Retro Video Game Night in the Student Union Game Room this Friday. You and your friends can come play Nintendo, Sega Genesis and Super Nintendo games from your childhood. Not

familiar with any oldschool games? If you come to Retro Video Game Night you could have fun as Sonic the Hedgehog running away from Doctor Eggman. You always have the option of going wild as everyone's favorite gorilla in Donkey Kong. Play

as the King of the Apes himself, while hopping crazy jungle obstacles. If neither of those sound particularly enticing, all that is left to do is decide ... Mario or Luigi? Hatch a baby Yoshi and help Mario and Luigi keep Dinosaur Land safe from Bowser.

February 15 Wintour 2013

Exit/In 2208 Elliston Place, Nashville 5 p.m. \$10 18 +



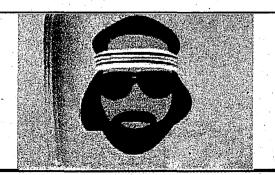
Music fans: Love concerts, but have a hard time justifying \$20 for two or three bands? Worry not. There is something especially for you. This Friday, Wintour 2013 is coming to Exit/ In. The party begins at 5 p.m. with host Jennifer Arroyo, former bass-

ist for the metal band Kitties, and wraps up at 3 a.m. with this year's headlining bands Ionia and Saint Diablo. Fourteen independent bands will play in between. Since 2010, EXPOSED Music has partnered with Stand and Deliver Records to produce the

Wintour. Wintour's mission is to expose unsigned solo artists and bands across the country in hopes of helping them spread their music locally and even nationwide. Be there so you can say you heard them before they were stars.

February 16 The Royal Tenen-

baums & Moonrise Kingdom Student Union Theatre 5-9 p.m. Free



The news of Raider Entertainment and International Affairs presenting two of director Wes Anderson's films should be considered a treat for movie newbies and film buffs alike. "The Royal Tenenbaums" and "Moonrise Kingdom" are showing back-to-back in

the Student Union Theatre. "The Royal Tenenbaums" focuses on Royal Tenenbaum and his children, who he abandons. When he returns with the news that he has weeks to live, the family struggles to release their bitterness and forgive him. "Moonrise Kingdom" is a tale

of two misfit preteens who fall head-over-heals in love and run away together to live in the woods. Their plans are spoiled, however, when Sam's Boy Scout troop and Suzy's family hunt down the star-crossed lovers. Don't miss out.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT Single on V-Day: Be miserable, or milk it for all it's worth

By Nick Georgiou Staff writer

Earn the Sympathy of Couples if You're Single

1. Drink alone.

You may have roommates or friends who suffer from the kiss of social death and seem to have forgotten to take down the mistletoe from every bedroom dooriamb in the house. Either way, as long as you're of age, you can still make it down to the local bar and order a Jameson on the rocks - or 12 (Jameson is the drink of those who enjoy contemplation, after all). Or just get a bottle of your favorite liquor or wine and drink on the couch while watching a sappy rom-com.

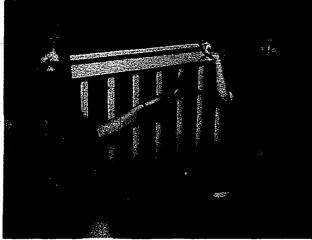
2. Watch "500 Days of Summer"

This can be done on a laptop in a coffee shop or while enjoying a liter of scotch on the couch. Ponder your loneliness with a box of tissues and try to time it right. You want to be blotting your eyes when the couples look at you.

3. Reserve a table at a nice restaurant.

Tell the waiter you're waiting for someone ... who will never show up. You'll appear to be stood up, gaining sympathy from the entire restaurant. You might score a meal or a drink at the least. Be sure and tip the server because you'll have to occupy the table for a while.

4. Take an older relative on a date.



Throwing wine is a good way to relieve stress and angst on Valentine's Day. Photo by Matt Masters.

Guys, take mom - or better yet - grandma. Girls, daddy dates are cute and granddaddy dates are cuter. Try and be overheard thanking them for a lifetime of love and quality upbringing. The sappier, the better. If you have no relatives, or no relatives worth the effort. I'm sure there are some grandparents for hire on the Internet.

How to Annov the **Cupid Out of** Couples

1. Be the third or the fifth wheel.

This one has everything to do with attitude. You have to own your singleness for this one. On any other day of the year, it's the worst thing that could happen. But on Valentines Day, we all know how it's going to godown, so have fun with it. Be messy while you eat. Burp and fart loud. Forget your wallet. And stick around until it gets uncomfortable.

2. Flaunt Your Singleness.

You're a hot commodity. Single life can be awesome, or it can be lame. If it's lame for you, suck it up and flaunt the fact that you exist sans ball and chain. You can do whatever you want. Whatever. You. Want. So rub it in their faces.

3. Go to the store and mix up all the cards.

The most effective method here is to take the "Happy Birthday, Grandma" or the "Sorry for Your Loss" cards and put them all over the Valentine's Day section and vice versa. All the guys who inevitably procrastinate will be rushed and looking in that section for the romantic cards. If done properly the morning of Valentine's Day, the employees probably will not have "fixed" it yet. Maximum annoyance completed.

4. Throw a party for single people only.

Invite everyone you

the invite, say it's for single people only. And make it a killer party. Themes are always fun. For example, try having

know, but at the end of a "Rubik's Cube" party. Everyone has to wear six articles of clothing that are all six colors of the Rubik's cube. Over the course of the night,

you have to trade things to get to a solid color. People might arrive single and leave a couple. but that's kind of the point.



ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT
Valentine's Playlists: For lovers and broken hearts

By Kelsey Griffith Staff writer

Ah... Feb. 14, Valentine's Day, la jour de l'amour. It's the day for couples, lovers and romantics. Well, sort of. It's also the day that single folks are reminded that they are flying solo. Whether you're deeply in love, brokenhearted or proud of your freedom, here's a couple playlists to pluck your heartstrings.

For the loved:

1. "Such Great
Heights" – The Postal
Service. With opening
lyrics, "I am thinking it's a sign/ that the
freckles in our eyes
are mirror images/ and
when we kiss, they're
perfectly aligned,"
this indictronic gem
echoes sweet lyrics
over a unique
melody.

2. "Home" Edward Sharpe & The Magnetic Zeroes. This sweet duet with horns, tambourines and whistling is the epitome of raw love told through modern folk music.

3. "Eight Days A Week" – The Beatles. The Beatles' unmatchable songwriting is exhibited in this simple song: "Eight days a week is not enough to show I care." 4. "I Will Always Love You" – Dolly Parton. "And IIIIIIIIIIIIIIII will alwaaaays love yooooou." No further explanation necessary.

5. "No One's Gonna Love You" – Band Of Horses. The vocalist's unmistakable, cooing voice sings kind words to his lover, telling her no one can love her more than he will.

6. "Let's Stay Together" – Al Green. If there was ever a man to sing his way into a woman's heart, it was Al Green. His voice is soft and smooth, sure to woo any lady.

7. "I Don't Want To Miss A Thing" Aerosmith. Aerosmith performed this memorable song for the 1998 film, "Armageddon." "I don't want to fall asleep cause I'd miss you. babe/and I don't want to miss thing," Steven Ty-

ler's voice

wails.

es / and y're me ses / and y'r

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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

spoken over a beat with a jazzy Bobby Caldwell sample.

10. "I Believe In A The Darkness. This rockin' hit features' of-a-kind vocals and light-hearted lyrics.

8. "At Last" – Etta

James. A true classic.

song. At last, her love

9. "The Light" - Com-

mon. This hip-hop song

poetic, and

is perfectly

is an oral love letter

Common wrote to

his "queen,"

as he calls

has come along.

this tune is a staple love

1. "Black To Black" - Amy Winehouse. Amy tells a story of losing her cheating man. dy-

ic hand twist to show naked ring finger*

5. "Someone Like You" - Adele. This beautiful ballad sung by powerhouse Adele rings a bittersweet farewell to her past.

6. "Somebody That I Used To Know" - Goye ft. Kimbra. Överplayed? Maybe, but rightfully so. This duet is beautifully written and performed. eaving feelthat emptiness ing of

7. "What Goes Around.../...Comes Around" - Justin Timberlake. JT laughs

from a break-up.

"Skin-

ove" 3on

₹e-

tic

in a

setto

with

Iver:

corded

an acous-

guitar and

3. "I Remember" –

Deadmau5. The thump-

ing rhythm Deadmau5

created in this progres-

sive house song will

bined with an angelic

female voice that sings

4. "Single Ladies (Put

A Ring On It)" – Beyoncé. "If ya like it

then you should've put

a ring on it!" *cue icon-

cure any love lost, especially when com-

lyrics that prompt

long-

lost memories.

in his ex's face while holding on to his gentlemanly sophistication with this tune about karma.

8. "Psychotic Girl" -The Black Keys. The songs of a tale of that crazy returning ex who doesn't realize she is unwanted.

9. "The Boy Who Blocked His Own Shot" - Brand New. The perfect apology song: "If it makes you less sad, I'll

take your pictures all down/ Every picture you paint, I will paint myself out."

10. "Opposites Attract (Tomorrow W/O Her)" - Kendrick Lamar. Kendrick Lamar questions the founda-

tion of his relationship throughout this song. "We hurt people that love us/ Love people that hurt us."

Whether you're doodling X's and O's, or recalling exes and "Oh..."s, there's a cure in the music. Keep loving, or get a carton of ice cream and cry it

Happy Valentine's Day. Like these musical treasures? Listen to The Plus Side with DJ Kelsey G every Wednesday from 2-4 on 88.3 WMTS, live

or stream at wmts. org.

Student Ambassadors

2()| 3-2()|4

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

Striver actilization Sir Sillong Real Community information, contact

Michelle Stepp at 898 2922 or michelle.stepp@mtsu.edu







tortured, falvoice. Bon Iver asks his lover what happened to their decayed love.

Thing Called Love" solid guitar riffs, one-

For the tainted:

ing a hundred times from the pain. "You go back to her, and I'll go back to black.'

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SPORTS : McGuire, upperclassmen lead veteran-heavy club into 2013

to hit and hit for power

to get in that lineup

the off-season when

Sunday starting pitcher

Jonathan Sisco also un-

derwent labrum surgery

after he won five games

and posted 3.49 ERA in

2012. Sisco will redshirt

this season, and the final

starting spots could now

weekend and midweek

fall to Keaton Baker

and Jordan Cooper or

newcomer pair junior-

college transfer Zac

man Garrett Ring.

Curtis and true fresh-

McGuire also had his

share of returning talent

in the bullpen at his dis-

By Mark Mize Sports editor

Middle Tennessee baseball took a major step forward in storied Head Coach Steve Peterson's final year in the dugout in 2012.

This season, the Blue Raiders look to translate 2012's momentum and an upperclassman-laden lineup into the team's first Sun Belt Championship and NCAA Tournament appearance since 2009.

The team is headed by long-time assistant Jim McGuire, who took over as head coach after 20 years in the dugout as an associate and assistant head coach under his former mentor, Peterson.

Along with his position, McGuire also inherits a team that returns all but three players from last year's final roster and features 14 seniors and eight juniors, a fact that the Belleville, Ill., native said he believes could bolster the team's chances of taking home the Sun Belt trophy this May

"They've been through opening day and all the jitters and the hype and everything that goes along with it," McGuire said. "I think all those things are important, and that's what should allow us to get off to a good start. That's what I'm hoping that with that experience we've got that we can overcome some things early, get off to a good start and be consistent through the whole year."

The season's lineup includes six hitters who started at least 58 of the

team's 59 games last year squad, but the batting order could hinge on the play of a pair of juniors in the middle of the lineup in Trent Miller and Hank LaRue.

Miller, who is expected to step in from the outfield this season to man first base, will look to pick up where he left off after 2012's breakout season for the St. Louis native. Miller belted a team-high 13 home runs and knocked in 49 RBIs, while he finished second on the team in batting average with a .345 mark at the plate.

After an off season that included surgery to repair a torn labrum, LaRue's position on the field to start the season is in doubt for the former all-conference third baseman, However, McGuire expects to have the Evansville, Ind., native's bat in the lineup on opening day, a bat that hit .338 last season and compiled 39 RBIs and 34 runs scored. LaRue could spend time at first base or designated hitter until the staff believes he is fully healthy.

The infield will be rounded out by a pair of three-year starters in the middle who helped the Blue Raiders lead the Sun Belt in double plays in 2011 and served as a pair of fairly consistent bats near the top of the lineup for much of 2012.

Shortstop Ryan Ford leads all current players with 167 career starts in three years in an MT uniform. After he struggled in the lineup as a freshman, Ford's

bat has come alive over the last two seasons – he has collected 104 hits to complement his defensive prowess.

Senior Johnny Thomas has started every game at second base for the Blue Raiders over the past two seasons after he transferred from New Orleans following his freshman season. Thomas was always consistent in the batter's box, but last season he saw a power surge that resulted in 24 extra-base

"The middle infield should be the strength of the team," McGuire said. "They've both started since they were freshman in college. So we're looking for them to provide the leadership, be solid defensively and just be the biggest part of the team that's going to center with those two right in the middle."

The outfield enters the season with considerably less experience than its infield counterpart.

If Miller does indeed start at first base on opening day, then junior Ryan Stephens will be the only returning starter in the outfield. The Murfreesboro local started all 59 games in center field in 2012 and batted .261 at the dish.

Junior-college transfer Jake Ellison will get the start in right field and could make an immediate impact on offense.

[Ellison] has tremendous power. He's probably our best defensive outfielder, but for him to be in the lineup every day, he's going to have

around Trent to try to give us a little more balance in our Jordan I Trevo lineup," McGuire said. The pitching staff will be led by a pair of aces in DH: Hank LaRue Johnathan Frebis and Hunter Adkins. Frebis, a southpaw, garnered Freshman All-American honors after the former Riverdale posstar posted a 6-3 record, al. 3.65 ERA and 61 strikewhich outs. The right-handed only lost-Nick Adkins was drafted by Montgomery and Matthe Milwaukee Brewers thew Drake from last in the 18th round of the year. The back end MLB first-year player's of the bullpen will be draft, but elected to headed by senior Joey return to Murfreesboro McClung and redshirtfor his senior season. iunior Paul Mittura. The Blue Raiders suffered a key loss in

Projected opening day lineup

The duo shared the closer role last season and each had his share of success in a combined 52 appearances. Mittura, a right-hander by trade, finished the season with a 4-1 record and a staff-low ERA of 1.98. The lefthanded McClung won four games as well, as he posted a 3.11 ERA and held opponents to a team-low .195 batting average.

The 2013 installment of the Blue Raiders boasts arguably the most talent since the

campus. "It's kind of a farewell tour, going through it," McGuire said. "Ironically, that year we won the conference tournament and went to a regional that year. I think we're going to show that we really belong, making the move to Conference-USA and being able to kind of put our last mark, our last stamp on the league before we leave like some of the sports have done."

lison

team's

seniors'

first year on

The Blue Raiders begin that quest on Friday, Feb. 15, when the team takes on Ball State in a weekend series within the friendly confines of Reese Smith Jr. Field.

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កំណុងស្សានិស្សក ខណៈ जिल्हा हो। है। इन्हें के प्राप्त के लिए

Droning policy incompatible with due process

By Alex Harris Opinions editor

"There's a battle outside, and it is ragin'. It'll soon shake your windows, and rattle your walls, for the times they are a-changin'."

Times are changing. And although the changes sung about by Bob Dylan aren't the same as the changes I speak of, the lyrics ring no less true.

A confidential Justice Department memo on the use of drones against American citizens leaked to the press has revealed the United States government's policy for ordering the extrajudicial "self-defense" killing of Americans suspected of being leaders in al-Qaeda or an associated group.

According to the memo, "The condition that an operational leader presents an 'imminent' threat of violent attack against the United States does not require the United States to have clear evidence that a specific attack on U.S. persons and interests will take place in the immediate future."

This memo takes us a few steps beyond the already-codified-in-law breach of due process included in a provision of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2012. The provision made it legal for the federal government to "indefinitely detain" without charges Americans who are suspected of associations to terror



Alex Herris

groups. Now, it's policy to assassinate some.

This policy has been hailed by neoconservatives, such as former ambassador to the UN John Bolton and South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, as consistent with Bush policies and worth supporting. Graham has even urged fellow Republicans to stand with Obama against "the libertarians and the left."

Although some on the left side of the political spectrum – such as MSNBC's Ed Schultz – have remained critical of policies that infringe on the civil liberties of Americans, others such as Toure, of the same network - have done a 180 from views held a few months ago. Additionally, a survey of Schultz' viewers revealed 78 percent of his audience supports the drone policy.

This would suggest that many Americans, both on the right and the left, tend to think that the policy of drone warfare is a good one in the war on "terror."

Most view this through the lens of over

a decade at war with terrorism. It sounds reasonable that if Americans associate with al-Qaeda, they could be killed without due process. They chose to associate with al-Qaeda, a known terror group, so of course they are probably up to no good.

Such is the case with Anwar al-Awlaki, an American citizen, and an al-Qaeda propagandist. He had links to the Underwear Bomber and the failed attempt to detonate a car bomb in 2010 at Times Square, and was connected to a couple of the 9/11 hijackers. Yet, he had never been indicted or charged for any crimes by the federal government

And, while al-Awlaki may have been an enemy of the U.S., does the same go for his 16-year-old son, who was killed in a separate drone strike a couple of weeks after the one that killed his father? Or the innocent civilians, including women and children who have died as a result of our drone policy?

As a result of the drone campaign in Pakistan between 282 and 535 civilian deaths, including more than 60 children, have occurred since Obama took office, according to a February 2012 report by The Bureau of Investigative Journalism.

Also, at least 50 civilians have been killed in follow-up strikes while assisting the victims, and 20-plus civilians have been attacked at targeted funerals and

memorials.

The total number of civilian casualties is hard to calculate due to the Obama administration's active policy of counting all military age males in a drone strike zone as "militants." However, according to a December 2012 BIJ report. the number of civilian deaths from the start of operations in 2004 until the end of November 2012, was at least 472 to 885 - 176 of which were children.

This is a bad policy. A policy such as this turns America into the terrorist in the eyes of many and fuels the anger toward our nation. It helps build the anti-American sentiment and creates more

enemies for our nation in the long run.

Our intelligence community has made mistakes in the past. And under the current broad interpretations of "militant" or "imminent danger," is it unthinkable that mistakes could be made again? Through this policy, innocent Americans, as well as innocent civilians across the Middle East, could become casualties.

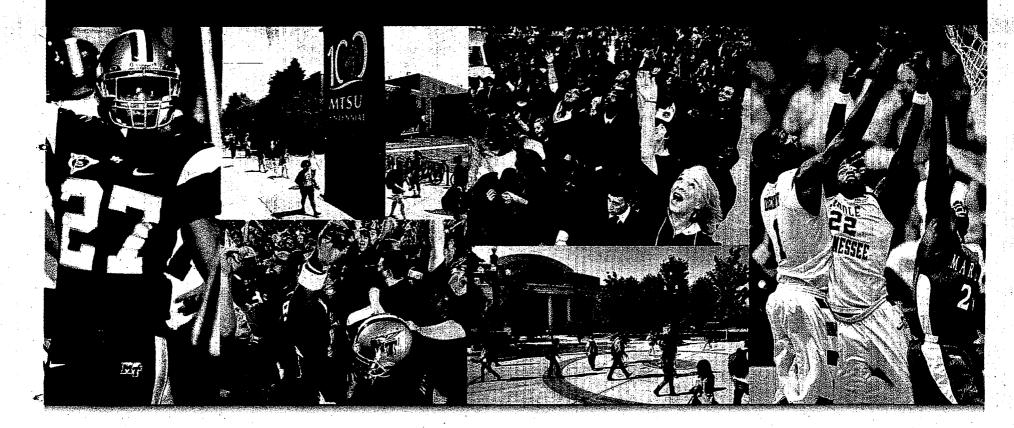
In a case of mistaken identity or simple proximity to those considered enemies of the U.S., where you could find yourself in the shoes of those who are being killed indiscriminately in the name of safety and national interest, wouldn't you want the right to due process, and a chance to clear your name before your death is ordered?

Is there really any individual or organization so infallible that the life and death decisions that they make shouldn't be verified by adequate evidence of wrongdoing?

The right to due process is too important to allow it to fade away. It's the right to face your accuser and provide evidence as to your innocence. The accused are just that: accused. They are innocent until proven guilty. And if you were to find yourself in their shoes, you would want those rights, too, ...











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