

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

[EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT]

MONDAY, AUGUST 30, 2010

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Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor

The construction site of the new Islamic Center was vandalized Saturday, leaving one piece of construction equipment destroyed and the others soaked in gasoline. The FBI, ATF and local law enforcement are investigating.

More issues in mosque debate than just religion

By JOSHUA M. WARD
Assistant News Editor

While the controversy surrounding the construction of the new Islamic Center of Murfreesboro has sparked several instances of vandalism and threats of violence, opponents argue that the issue at hand is about more than just a conflict of religious beliefs.

One construction vehicle was set ablaze Saturday before dawn, and three others were doused in gasoline, according to officials with the Rutherford County Sheriff's Department. Both the FBI and Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Agency, are now investigating the incident as well.

The Islamic Center began construction of a new

52,000-square-foot building on Veals Road last week, a topic that has been the subject of much debate since the permits were issued in May. Once the building is completed, it will include a place for worship, a gymnasium, outdoor playground and 10,000-square-foot mosque.

Imam Osama Bahloul of the Islamic Center of Murfreesboro maintains that actions such as these are limited to a small group of individuals and do not reflect on the community as a whole.

"You can't expect everyone to agree with you all the time, and I can't expect everyone to accept us," Bahloul said. "Although this is very sad, I know that the majority of these people are nice people and we



Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor

Opponents of construction of the Islamic Center marched July 14 to the Rutherford County Courthouse.

will continue to pray that peace and tranquility will enter their hearts."

Many residents spent most of the summer organizing protests and meetings to voice their objections to the Rutherford County Commission's handling of its approval of the new center, while others have expressed concern about Islam in general.

The issue at the forefront of the debate has been portrayed as a conflict of religious ideologies and suppression of religious freedom, but a large group of those in opposition to the mosque have declared that their concerns are not solely founded on religious beliefs.

MOSQUE, PAGE 2

Dasher suspension thrusts QB Kilgore into spotlight

By ALEX MOORMAN
Editor-in-Chief

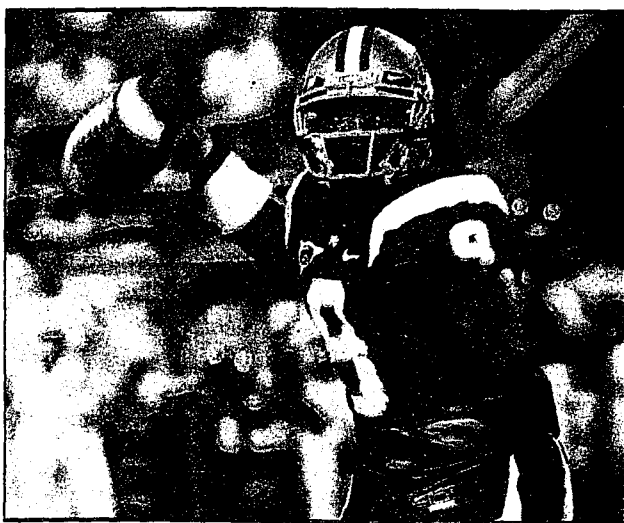
The fall semester is the time for football, but due to a violation of NCAA regulations senior quarterback Dwight Dasher will be placed on the bench leaving junior quarterback Logan Kilgore to fill his shoes.

Dasher was declared ineligible for competition and suspended indefinitely until the NCAA finishes its investigation of reports that he accepted a \$1,500 loan, putting him in violation of NCAA regulations.

Investigators have yet to determine what the exact conditions were surrounding the transfer of funds. However, Oli-

ver Donnell, an 80-year-old patient at the Alvin C. York VA Medical Center, said the loan was for gambling purposes. Donnell, who loaned the money to Dasher, "ran a sports book during the '80s" according to a report by The Daily News Journal.

"While there are a lot of sides to the story involving student-athlete Dwight Dasher, all parties agree that there was a \$1,500 loan," Chris Massaro, director of Athletics, said during a press conference Friday. "Therefore, due to a violation of the NCAA amateurism legislation, we are declaring Dwight Dasher ineligible for competition but will be allowed



File Photo

Senior starting quarterback Dwight Dasher throws a pass during the Oct. 24 game against Western Kentucky.

to practice."

President Sidney McPhee, who was recently appointed to serve on the NCAA Division I Board

of Directors in July, said MTSU is investigating the matter.

DASHER, PAGE 4

Students line up for federal loans

More than \$83 million borrowed for fall semester

By CHRISTOPHER MERCHANT
Assistant News Editor

Students have been approved for more than \$83 million in Stafford Loans as of Aug. 19, compared to the \$79 million they borrowed at this same time last year, said Leann Eaton, assistant director of Financial Aid and Scholarships.

While the amount of federally funded dollars MTSU students are relying on to pay for college rises, preliminary indications reveal that this increase is quickly surpassing the university's 2010 fall semester enrollment rate.

Debra Sells, vice president of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services, said the final tally regarding MTSU's fall enrollment rate has not yet been determined, but university officials expect it to rise by only 3- to 4-percent.

In March, the U.S. Congress passed legislation that took control of the student loan industry as a provision in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, commonly referred to as the health care bill.

These loans are now serviced by the U.S. Department of Education, and the option to accept federal loans is packaged alongside other financial aid money, such as Federal Pell Grants and scholarships.

Stephen White, director of Financial Aid and Scholarships, said there could be various reasons factoring into the increased amount of money students have to borrow for school, including higher unemployment rates.

"Literally, as soon as one phone call ends, there is another one on the line," White said, referring to the call center Financial Aid temporarily opened to address students' questions and concerns. "It's nonstop."

There are also more non-traditional students returning to school, and many are responsible for taking care of their families, which can add to the financial strain placed upon enrollees, White said.

"I'm not surprised that the percentage of money being loaned to students has risen," MTSU President Sidney McPhee said.

LOANS, PAGE 3



Photo by Christopher Merchant, assistant news editor

Students line up outside the Financial Aid Office at MTSU on Aug. 24 in preparation for the fall semester.

SIDEFACTS

FACT: Website founder Mark Zuckerberg cannot be blocked on Facebook.

It's not that Zuckerberg is really vain. It's actually a result of an internal system that was put in place to prevent a large number of Facebook users from all blocking the same individual.



Fact courtesy of omg-facts.com

With numerous public complaints about the changes to Facebook's privacy policies, many users blocked Zuckerberg as a form of protest, thereby making him 'unblockable.'

In fact, there was a campaign called "Block Zuck," whose intent was to get a mass number of people to block Mark Zuckerberg. The people who started this group are the first people who found out he was 'unblockable.'

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Local clothing store provides unique shopping experience, options for every personality.

IN TODAY'S ISSUE



New university provost prepares for new semester, eager to start with clean slate.

ONLINE @
MTSUSIDELINES.COM

MONDAY FORECAST

AM SHOWERS
30% CHANCE OF RAIN
HIGH 88, LOW 66

Controversy continues over new Islamic Center

CENTER FROM PAGE 1

In spite of this recent attack on the mosque, which authorities are investigating as a possible hate crime, the majority of the opposition suggests that the primary issues at hand are those related to due process, safety and public notification of construction in a rural area such as Veals Road.

Kevin Fisher, who is actively involved in Rutherford County politics, is among community leaders who have expressed disapproval about the new center. He has led marches and distributed petitions to further his cause.

"We came seeking relief," Fisher said during a County Commission meeting Aug. 12. "We came seeking justice and due process."

Instead, Fisher said that he and others opposed to the mosque have been stereotyped as racists, and told by many that their concerns mean nothing.

"My main objection is that it was not given due process of notifying people," said Sally Wall, a well-known businesswoman and lifelong Rutherford County resident. "I thought you were supposed to publish it in a paper that most people read and is distributed throughout the county, and I also thought you were supposed to notify every adjoining property owner - they didn't."

Bahloul said that proper notification did take place, and that there were plenty of opportunities for Rutherford County residents to learn about and discuss the proposed mosque.

"We posted a big sign informing [local residents] that this was the future site of the mosque," Bahloul said. "It was given even more importance after the sign was vandalized, [and] we held two seminars, hosted a dinner, and we also published our intentions in The Murfreesboro Post."

Bahloul said the site on Veals Road was chosen for purely economic reasons, and that the Islamic Center has followed all the necessary procedures for planning the construction. However, many residents have taken this statement into question.

"What bothers me is that it got through the Planning Commission in 17 days," Wall said. "I've been in the real estate business for 40 years, and I've seen the Planning Commission ruin people by holding up the process [of construction] - they just passed it so fast that your head would swim."

Fisher said that Doug Demosi, director of the Rutherford County Planning Commission, has "let [Rutherford County residents] down," saying Demossi's failure to inform the community was part of the reason some residents felt the decision to approve the mosque may have appeared hastily.

"[Doug Demosi] did not properly inform the public that [the Rutherford County Commission meeting hearing the mosque's plans] was to be held on May 24," Fisher said. "This meeting over the mosque issue was the only one not posted on the website."

Fisher also said that Demosi didn't inform Commissioner Robert Peay



Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor

Protesters, both opposing and in favor of the construction of a new Islamic Center, gathered outside of the Rutherford County Courthouse on July 14. Middle Tennesseans for Religious Freedom were among the participants.

Jr., who represents the district in which the mosque is to be built, about the plan or its progress. Many have brought the politics involved in the approval of the center's construction into question, and there has been some concern about exactly how the proposal was passed by the Planning Commission.

"There are times when we have had very political Planning Commissions, and the commissions have a political agenda a very big part of the time," Wall said. "It's human nature - I'm not being accusatory, but I've seen it."

"One man on the Commission told me that he was blindsided by it," Wall said.

"I asked him, 'Why didn't you say something to the planning director about it,' and he just got a glazed-over look in his eyes and didn't answer that."

Bahloul said the timetable and procedures of the mosque's planning should be of no concern, and that any fears of potential wrongdoing are misplaced.

"We are doing everything 100 percent right, and we will obey the law," Bahloul said. "We have no intention of any illegal activity, and at the mosque we wish to uphold the law."

Marie Kempf, news editor, contributed to this report.

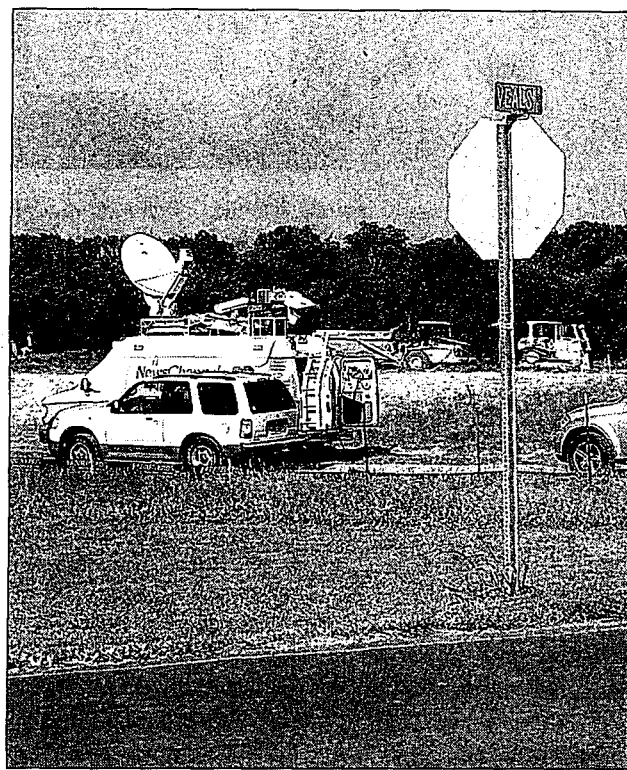


Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor

The FBI, ATF and local law enforcement responded to a fire Saturday at the site for the new Islamic Center. One piece of construction equipment was set fire and the others were covered in gasoline. No suspects have been named in the case.

Go Blue Raiders!

Lightning Goes True Blue at Walnut Grove!



Join Lightning, MTSU students, and alumni for a pre-game celebration at Walnut Grove.

Participate in games, giveaways, music, and the traditional Raider Walk with the team!

- Photo Bobbleheads
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- Wax Hands
- Fun Certificates
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- Live music at Gate 4, Football Stadium
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- Laser Tag
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- One Student Club or Greek Organization
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- Basketball Shooting Game (Sponsored by the Army National Guard)

For more information, text (615) 692-8329 or (615) 427-1423 or visit mtsu.edu/events.



Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders vs. Minnesota Golden Gophers



TRUE BLUE and College Colors Day
Thursday, September 2, 2010 2:30 p.m.

STUDENT PROGRAMMING

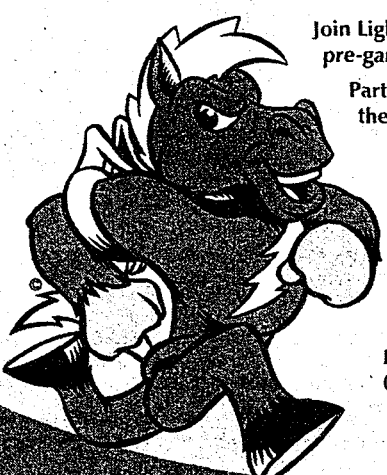


College Is More Than Just Going To Class!

For more information go to:
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or
www.mtsu.edu/whatsup

Go Blue Raiders!

Lightning Celebrates Legends at Walnut Grove!



Join Lightning, MTSU students, and alumni for a pre-game celebration at Walnut Grove.

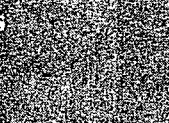
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- Gaming tent
- Laser tag
- Super Tailgater of the Week (Make your own ID)

For more information, text (615) 692-8329 or (615) 427-1423 or visit mtsu.edu/events.



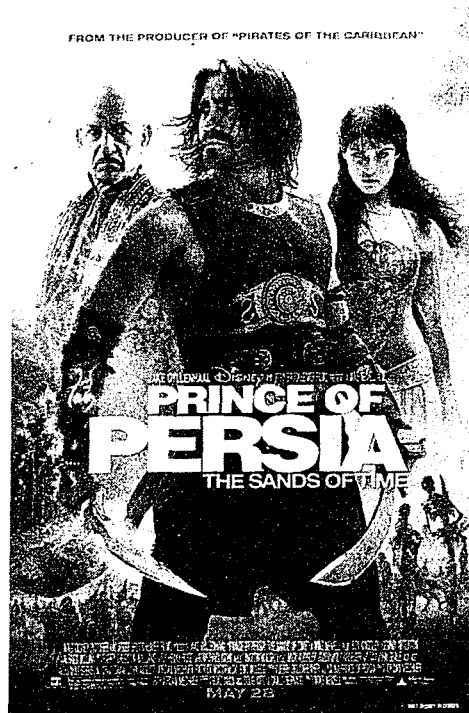
Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders vs. Austin Peay Governors



Hall of Fame Game
Saturday, September 11, 2010 2:00 p.m.



Monday 8/30-Wednesday 9/1
7pm and 10pm
Friday 9/3: 7pm Only
KUC Theater \$2
Sunday 9/5 - KUC Knoll at dusk
Free!



Tuesday 9/7-Thursday 9/9
7pm and 10pm
Friday 9/10: 7pm Only
KUC Theater \$2
Sunday 9/12 -KUC Knoll at dusk
Free!

Phi Mu treats Band of Blue

Music fraternity hosts annual cookout

By CHRISTOPHER MERCHANT
Assistant News Editor

MTSU's Band of Blue was given a warm welcome by the Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia fraternity and local businesses last week when the fraternity decided to sponsor its 4th annual cookout to welcome musicians to Band Camp.

The fraternity members wanted to give back to the music community to show appreciation for the Band of Blue's efforts, said Chris Salt, president of MTSU's Phi Mu Alpha chapter. The event was held outside of the Wright Music Hall as a way for the community to show their appreciation for the MTSU music department and gets to know each other.

"The Band of Blue works so hard," Salt said. "This [cookout] is just a way of saying thank you to the band for putting so much good music out there."

Phi Mu Alpha members rented a large, green, dragon-shaped bouncing house from Jump Jump Bounce, a local business that supplies inflatable play structures. The fraternity also bought and cooked 240 burgers and 120 hotdogs for the event, and even provided vegetarian hotdogs.

"Obviously, we know that not everyone eats meat," Salt said. "If they

want [a vegetarian option] we will cook it up for them."

"That's a first," said Salt, a graduate student pursuing his master's degree in business.

The band program contributed chips, cookies and drinks to the cookout, as it has for the past three years, said Jennifer Stemberidge, coordinator of MTSU Bands.

Stemberidge said the meal came at the right time because incoming students did not receive their meal allotment until noon last

ing done for them," said Jeff Whitwell, director of Phillips Bookstore.

The 372-member band is the largest in MTSU history, said Craig Cornish, associate director of bands and director of the Band of Blue marching band at Middle Tennessee State University.

Murfreesboro's Fifth Third Bank also hosted a Mexican-style buffet from Los Panchos for the Band of Blue on Friday.

"Band Camp is turning into a community

"Band Camp is turning into a community sponsored event."

JENNIFER STEMBRIDGE
COORDINATOR OF MTSU BANDS

Monday, so this event allowed students to eat on campus.

The business community also contributed to the cookout, as well: Sonic Drive-In at 1650 Middle Tennessee Blvd. contributed cups, the Kroger at 1622 Middle Tennessee Blvd. and 2050 Lascasses Pike donated \$30 in gift cards, and the Red Bull Wiiings Team girls handed out free beverages to the attendants. Phillips Bookstore provided free pizza to band members for dinner.

"We saw that a large group was coming in, and we didn't realize that anything else was be-

sponsored event," Stemberidge said. "The band puts a lot of time into it, so it's nice for them to see that people appreciate their efforts."

During its first week on campus, the Band of Blue learns its pregame show and begins doing drills for parts of the main show they will perform at football games during the upcoming season.

The band's first performance of the season will be Thursday, when the Blue Raiders face off against the Minnesota Golden Gophers.

"I am confident the band will help to drive us to victory," Cornish said.



Photo by Christopher Merchant, assistant news editor

Hours before students who hadn't paid tuition would be purged from their classes, people lined the hallway outside of the Financial Aid Office on August 24 in an effort to confirm their registration status.

Direct lending program provides more funding

LOANS FROM PAGE 1

"We are concerned about the [number of] students' growing in debt," McPhee said. "It's very clear that as the state reduces its support, not just of the university, but of the lottery, more financial burdens are placed on parents and students to cover the costs of tuition."

Some financial analysts worry that this increase in borrowing could be detrimental to students' financial futures.

"The government is offering students a lot of money that they simply don't need," said Benjamin Alton, a personal banker at Fifth Third Bank.

The problem does not lie on the fact that the funds from student federal loans should go toward a college education, Alton said, but on the fact that many students do not spend that money wisely or prepare a way to pay the loans off.

"Student loans are a necessary evil," Alton said. "Where people are being taken advantage of, is when they don't know how these loans work – the knowledge isn't there, and the government isn't providing it."

Even with this added funding, some nontraditional students are finding that they still cannot afford a college education.

"Our purge numbers [of students who did not paid tuition by deadline] are a little higher than in the past," Sells said. "This could be because even with student loans, students can't afford to go to school in this economy."

Alton said usually, traditional college students do not experience as much difficulty paying for college because their living expenses are generally lower than that of a nontraditional student.

However, White said that the new federally controlled student loan program has so far been easier for the university's staff and students to navigate than in past years when privately owned financial institutions handled such matters.

"Many private lenders were unable to fund their student loans," White said. "Approximately two years ago, with most of the schools in Tennessee, there were delays in getting student loans processed in the fall semester."

Following the passage of the Higher Education Act of 1965, private lending institutions began providing subsidized loans to college students. In 1972, the U.S. Congress authorized the creation of Sallie Mae, which then expanded the federally subsidized student loan program.

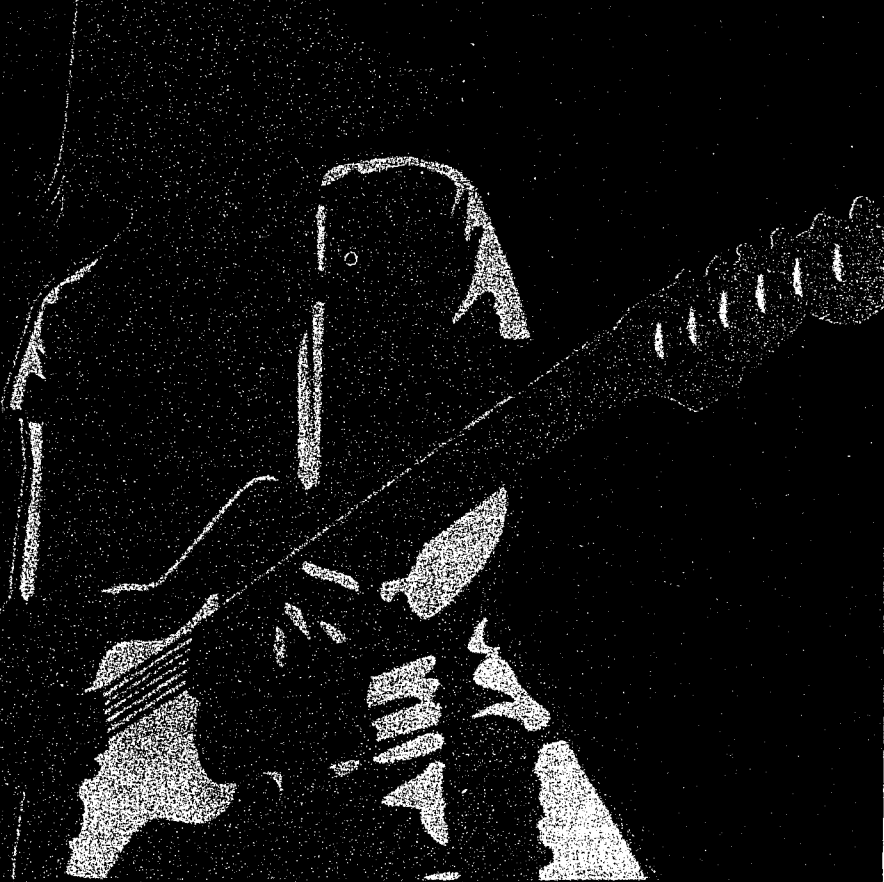
Marie Kempf, news editor of Sidelines, contributed to this report.

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Dean earns prestigious certification

STAFF REPORT

Jim Burton, dean of the Jennings A. Jones College of Business, has earned the status of Certified Director from the John E. Anderson School of Management at the University of California at Los Angeles.

The three-day program was designed to train participants to sit on corporate boards of directors for major companies in the United States. The designation represents a higher level of endorsement that will allow Burton to participate in the corporate governance of large corporations, according to an MTSU press release.

"There are a number of schools of business in the country that offer train-

ing programs for directors, but this is the only one that I'm aware of that has any sort of certification process at the end of it," Burton said in a press release

"There were discussions that heightened your awareness and made you think about them in new ways."

JIM BURTON

DEAN OF THE JENNINGS A. JONES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

last week.

Burton, who has served as dean for the past 11 years, said the certification becomes a point of recog-

nition and distinction, which could result in additional requests to serve as director in companies across the country.

Thirty participants partook in the program, including board directors, business owners and higher education officials who were interested in learning more about corporate governance, liability issues and performance-based pay.

In addition, the group also examined how pending federal legislation could change the way business would be conducted if passed by the U.S. Congress and signed into law by

President Barack Obama.

"There were discussions that heightened your awareness and made you think about them in new ways," Burton said. "It re-energized your thinking."

Since 2006, Burton has sat on the board of Piedmont Natural Gas, which is an energy services company that distributes natural gas to one million customers in Tennessee and the Carolinas.

"It was an arduous three days, jam-packed with reading, speakers and workshops," Burton said. "Several people out there knew of MTSU through athletics, a particular academic program, or they knew someone who was here."

Local businesses seek out more students' support

STAFF REPORT

Several Murfreesboro businesses and organizations will be on campus this week to give students an opportunity to find out about local shops and services, as part of MTSU's "Week of Welcome."

Participants in the event will have products displayed on Tuesday and Wednesday outside of the Keathley University Center from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

"We encourage businesses to bring free samples, specialty giveaways and coupons to give to students," said Gina Poff, director of the Office of New Students and Family

Programs, in an MTSU press release last Monday.

According to the press release, economic impact studies have shown that the MTSU community spends more than \$6 million at local businesses during the school year, meaning businesses have an incentive to reach out to students.

As a result of this spending, recent estimates place the university's local annual economic impact at more than \$1 billion, according to the press release.

"The students really enjoy the event, and in past years, we have had vendors tell us they gave away as many as 5,000 items per day," Poff said.

Recent graduate hopes to inspire younger generations

By TAYLOR HIXSON
Staff Writer

At 81 years old, William "Bill" Boyd may have been the oldest of the more than 900 graduates that paraded down the procession aisle during MTSU's graduation ceremony this summer, but his determination and charisma is what really made him stand out.

After a lifelong career as a referee, Boyd followed his two granddaughters' advice – complete the 30 hours of classes he lacked in order to finally graduate from college.

More than 45 years after Boyd first enrolled at MTSU, the now great-grandfather grinned from ear-to-ear as he relished in his success, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Liberal Arts.

Boyd finished his degree by taking online classes through the University College and the Adult Completion Degree Program.

"The instructors that I've had are very good, and I imagine they would be just as good in class," Boyd said.

When Boyd was younger, he attended schools all across the United States, including Georgia, Florida, Tennessee and California, before deciding to quit school so that he could become a referee.

"I thought refereeing football and basketball was more important at the time," Boyd said during an interview prior to MTSU's commencement ceremony earlier this month.

"I've thought about it thousands of times since then," he said. "I probably could have gone on to have my master's [degree] if I would have stayed with it, but I thought refereeing was a lot more fun than going to class."

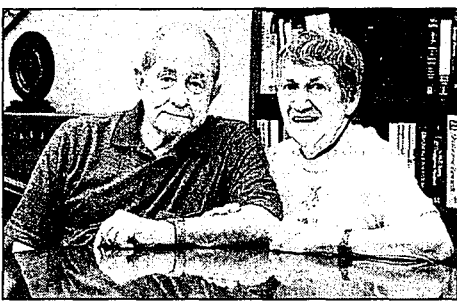
Boyd said that although he enjoyed being back in college, he had to work harder in class than when he was younger.

"I don't have the memory capacity I had years ago," Boyd said. "I'm still very thankful that coming up on 82 years in October, I have the memory that I do have, but it was difficult at times – it took a lot of reading and research."

Even though Boyd has experience working as a substitute teacher for the Tullahoma City School District, he said he was initially worried about returning to the classroom – if only virtually – and doubted his ability to graduate.

So, his advisor, Sumer Patterson, made him a deal: If he graduated, she would learn to swim.

"Everybody here has been so good to me and helpful," Boyd said. "They went out of their way to help me."



"Don't give up. Stick with it even if you make an 'F' — stick with it because you will get something out of it..."

WILLIAM "BILL" BOYD
MTSU GRADUATE

Boyd said he plans on teaching Patterson to swim even if he "has to throw her into the pool" at the MTSU Health, Wellness and Recreation Center.

"He is a pleasure to work with and very determined once he sets his mind to something," said Patterson, who serves as an advisor in the University College Administration. "I'm going to miss him when he graduates."

In addition to his granddaughters' encouragement, he said the rest of his family provided him with much needed support while he was navigating his way through the online-learning process. Boyd said he is grateful for not only Patterson, but also everyone that has helped him succeed.

"You need support from your wife, in my case, and also support from anyone living in the same home as you," Boyd said.

Boyd said the support system his family provided was necessary for him to get through any difficulties that arose, and he believes anyone who chooses to go back to school should be lucky enough to receive the same type of support and encouragement from friends and family.

"I'm just so proud of him," said Effie Boyd, his wife for the past 60 years.

As he spoke about his appreciation for those who guided him through the process of returning back to college, his lower lip began to tremble. Through teary eyes, Boyd encouraged people to remain in school, even if it may seem impossible to do well at times.

"Don't give up," Boyd said. "Stick with it even if you make an 'F' – stick with it because you will get something out of it that might or might not help you in your future."



File Photo

On Oct. 24, Dasher lead MT to a win against Western Kentucky and now with numerous preseason accolades to boast, senior quarterback Dwight Dasher has been suspended from competing in up to 30 percent of this coming season's games.

Coach plans season without starting QB

DASHER
FROM PAGE 1

"When you are a student athlete or in any leadership role, there are responsibilities that come along with it," MTSU President Sidney McPhee said in an interview Thursday. "With Dasher, we are reviewing that information, and we are trying to investigate exactly what happened, and as an organization we will take the necessary action."

Head Coach Rick Stockstill said the team remains confident in its abilities to perform well during the upcoming season.

"I'm confident that the Dasher situation will not effect the progress of the football team this season," Stockstill said during a press conference Friday.

Stockstill told *Sidelines* Sunday that while no one could replace Dasher, that junior college transfer quarterback, Logan Kilgore will be competing as starting quarterback in Dasher's absence.

While Stockstill was unsure of whom would replace Dasher on Friday, he said both Kilgore and Jeff Murphy could both handle the position. However, on Sunday Stockstill was confident in Kilgore's ability.

"Logan was named over (junior quarterback) Jeff Murphy because he sim-

ply has had more practice time and was able to go through spring ball," Stockstill said. "I have a lot of confidence in both guys, but Logan has about 40 practices under his belt compared to 25 for Jeff."

Kilgore threw 2,512 yards and 22 touchdowns in 2009 at Bakersfield College before transferring to MTSU. He has earned National Northern Conference Offensive MVP honors and is the third quarterback in Bakersfield history to exceed 2,000 yards in a single-season.

McPhee said the Office of Judicial Affairs will also be reviewing facts of the Dasher investigation, adding that all students are required to follow the Student Rights and Responsibilities' handbook-athlete or not.

"We are not every going to be able to stop people from getting into trouble," McPhee said. "The question is, when it's brought to our attention, are we dealing with it?"

Stockstill said Dasher was unlikely to suffer an institutional penalty, and that the university is seeking reinstatement, but the star quarterback is expected to miss the first few games of the season.

Stockstill said MTSU officials are planning to send a reinstatement letter Monday. Once the letter has been sent to the NCAA, he said there was

no timetable in which the verdict had to be reached.

According to NCAA regulations, the prescribed penalty on this type of violation is a 30 percent reduction in the number of games in a season, however, that number can be extended or shortened depending on the outcome of the investigation.

Stockstill stood behind his player on Friday, saying Dasher made mistakes but is a talented young man. He said Dasher is confident about the investigation and trying to stay positive.

"[Dwight Dasher] is doing really good – he's disappointed obviously," Stockstill said. "His teammates have rallied behind him, and his coaches have rallied behind him. He is humbled in this situation, and he knows he made a mistake."

Officials with the university said no further comments will be made until the NCAA investigation is completed and resolved.

Dasher earned MVP honors in the 2009 New Orleans Bowl victory and set an NCAA record for rushing yards. He also became the fourth player in NCAA history to rush for 1,000 yards and throw for 2,500 yards in one season.

Marie Kempf, news editor, and Joshua M. Ward, assistant news editor, contributed to this report.

CURRENT EVENTS

Middle Tennesseans for Religious Freedom:
Candlelight Vigil for Islamic Center of Murfreesboro
Rutherford County Courthouse
Monday, 7 p.m.
FREE to public

Guest Lecture:
J-Spot Speaker on "Sex and Dating"
State Farm Room, Business and Aerospace Building
Tuesday, 7-8 p.m.
Free for students

Concert:
She & Him
Ryman Auditorium
Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
\$30 per person

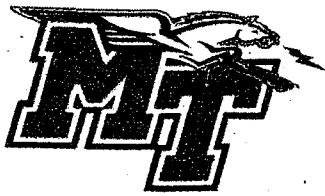
MTSU Football:
Game Day Celebration
Walnut Grove
Thursday, 4:30-6:30 p.m.
Free for students

Blue Raiders vs. Minnesota Golden Gophers
Floyd Stadium
Thursday, 6:30 p.m.
Free for students

Greek Affairs: Informational Sessions about Greek Life
Keathley University Center
Sept. 7, 6-8 p.m.
Free for students

Events Policy

Sidelines welcomes current campus and community events submitted by all readers. Please e-mail events to snews@mtsu.edu or slcampus@mtsu.edu, and include the name, date, time and location of the event, as well as your name and a phone number for verification. We reserve the right to refuse events at our discretion as our space is limited.



SPORTS

For information on upcoming games and other sporting events, please visit us online. To read more, visit us online. **online** www.mtsusidelines.com



File Photo
Senior quarterback Dwight Dasher (left) and Head Coach Rick Stockstill raise the Sun Belt trophy the team took home after beating Southern Mississippi in the New Orleans Bowl.

QB receives multiple preseason accolades

By WILL TRUSLER
Assistant Sports Editor

Despite an ongoing investigation surrounding his recent violation of NCAA regulations resulting in an indefinite suspension from game participation, MTSU senior quarterback Dwight Dasher has been racking up the preseason accolades. This follows the 2009-10 season in which he led the Blue Raiders to a 10-3 record and a New Orleans Bowl victory.

As well as being named preseason All-Conference and preseason offensive player of the year, Dasher was featured on several national watch lists.

Dasher was listed as one of 30 players to watch for on the prestigious Walter Camp Player of the Year award. In garnering MVP honors in last year's bowl victory, Dasher set an NCAA mark for rushing yards in a bowl game.

The senior is also one of 48 players across the country

named to the inaugural Paul Hornung Award watch list set to honor the most versatile player in college football.

Last year Dasher became the fourth player in NCAA history to rush for 1,000 yards and throw for 2,500 yards in one season.

Dasher has also been awarded The Davey O'Brien National Quarterback Award, the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award and the Manning Award committees honoring the country's best quarterbacks.

Last season's Sun Belt win leaves MT with tough act to follow

MTSU Head Football Coach Rick Stockstill and his football team had a memorial service for their 2009 season. The service included a burial of the New Orleans Bowl trophy the 2009 team earned with a 42-32 victory over Southern Mississippi. Stockstill is intent on burying the successes of last season and focusing his team's attention on the successes to come.

"Last year does not guarantee anything this year," Stockstill said during a preseason press conference on Aug. 6.

Polls across the nation have predicted the Blue Raiders to win the Sun Belt this season. The added pressure could make or break the program depending on how the team responds to all of the attention.

The recent hype hasn't escaped the attention of the MTSU coaches. Stockstill said during the press conference, "Our program has never been talked about as much as it was this summer."

With two new coordinators added to the coaching staff, a recent suspension of the team's starting quarterback and the loss of several key players on defense, the Blue Raiders have no time to reflect on last year's Sun Belt Conference record 10-3 season.

The Blue Raiders will start the season without their star quarterback. However, the team has two junior college transfers behind him, Jeff Murphy and Logan Kilgore, who have both been receiving repetitions in the team's summer workouts. While Kilgore is slated to fill the position of starting quarterback, the coaches feel both players are strong, which will help MT this season.

The Blue Raider backfield is overflowing with talent and experience coming into 2010. Fifth-year senior Phillip Tanner returns as the starter with backups D.D. Kyles and Benjamin Cunningham. Their return will help to provide depth and competition to the running back position.

Phillip Tanner earned an

extra year of eligibility from the NCAA after injuring his knee early in the 2009 season. D.D. Kyles earned valuable experience last season in the wake of Tanner's absence. The speedy junior rushed for 879 yards last season. Kyles is expected to provide a change of pace to the running styles of Tanner and Cunningham.



Orrin McCullough
Sports Editor

Volleyball set to serve up winning season

By WILL TRUSLER
Assistant Sports Editor

The MTSU volleyball squad returns this year looking to continue its recent surge of success under Head Coach Matt Peck.

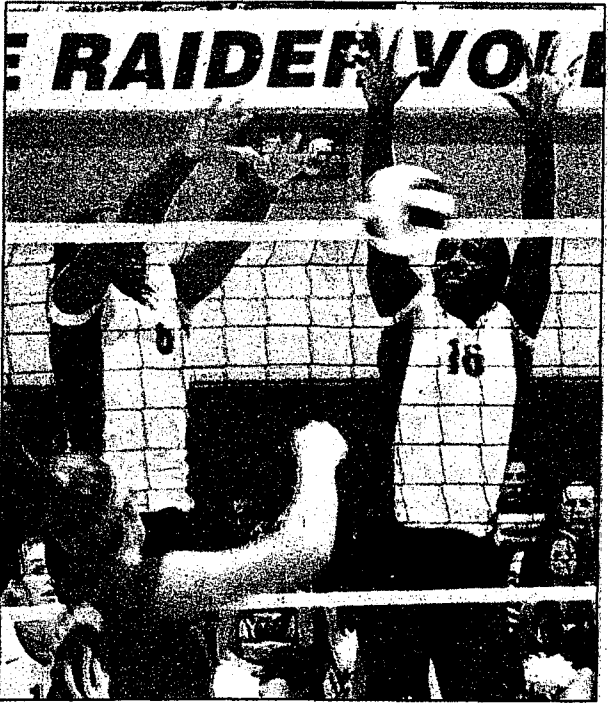
"We're very excited about this season," Peck said. "We have a great group of athletes here. We have some seasoned veterans as well as some outstanding athletes."

The team enters the season with a target on its back as it was voted the favorite to win the Sun Belt Eastern Division by the league's head coaches.

Last season, the Blue Raiders spiked their way to their third Sun Belt Tournament Championship in four years, and in turn, made their fourth consecutive NCAA tournament appearance. MT finished the season with a 25-10 record including a 15-2 mark in conference play – good for second place in the regular season.

With the transfer of junior Marie Szivos, MT now boasts three returning All-Conference players to lead the team back to championship contention, as senior outside hitter Izabela Kozon and junior middle blocker Stacy Oladinni also earned Sun Belt honors last season.

The three girls have been named to the Pre-



File Photo
Stacy Oladinni, MB (left), and Janay Yancey, MB (right), lost 3-1 against Florida International Nov. 7, however, took home a Sun Belt Tournament Championship later that season.

season All-Sun Belt Team for this year as well.

Kozon and classmates Sasha McGlothlin and Alyssa Wistrick, both middle blockers, hope to take the team back to the Sweet Sixteen they got to experience together as freshmen when they knocked off then 9th-ranked Hawaii.

The trio will also serve as team leaders for a squad featuring five newcomers.

"We have a lot of new people on the court, but it doesn't change a lot," Kozon said. "We're as good or even better than we've been in other years."

As has been the case in

recent years, in order to get there, MT will play some of the toughest competition in the country.

"We want to play the best teams we absolutely can," said Peck. "It makes us better, it makes the conference better, and I think a number of conference teams have decided to do the same thing."

Sixth-ranked Illinois will join top programs including Long Beach State, Georgia Tech, Auburn, Miami and Duke on the 2010 slate.

MTSU is also serving as the host school for this year's conference tournament Nov. 18-20.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Local festival proves 'all the world's a stage'

By EMMA EGLI
Staff Writer

The mention of William Shakespeare can sometimes provoke unpleasant memories of being force-fed old English plays in a stuffy high school classroom. Let's be honest: There's really no way to easily digest "Hamlet" without feeling like the only thing 'rotting in the state of Denmark' are your fried and dying brain cells.

But what if you could enjoy the works of the most famous playwright in a laid back atmosphere under the stars in the company of friends and family, with a picnic to complete the picture? It sounds too good to be true, right? Almost better than discovering the "No Fear Shakespeare" tab on the SparkNotes website was in high school.

The Shakespeare in the Park summer series, sponsored by the Nashville Shakespeare Festival, is the answer to the prayers of anyone who might find ole' Bill's works a little intimidating, or to the theater enthusiast looking for a not so average take on the famous plays.

Founder Donald Capparella saw the makings of something significant more than two decades ago when he helped start the annual event held in West Nashville's Centennial Park in 1988. This year's play, "Love's Labor's Lost," opened on a warm summer weekend to crowds of more than 500.

"This show is a whole horse of a different color," Capparella said with a pleased grin. "[Shakespeare] was an alternative theater guy just like we are."

Alternative is right, as audience members get to stretch out on their own blankets in front of the bandshell and snack on picnics, as well as food sold by



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, staff photographer

The Shakespeare in the Park summer series is a way for people of all ages to experience a professional play while still relaxing in the outdoors.

numerous vendors.

Patrons will appreciate one of Shakespeare's most accessible comedies as it incorporates numerous puns and hints of slapstick humor. The play revolves around men, women, love and nature — fitting themes for the warm summer months. As if that weren't alluring enough, the costumes and set design give even more eye-catching appeal to this humorous play.

"This is fantastic because for so many people, Shakespeare is such an intimidating thing to begin with," said volunteer Christy Whit, a senior at Belmont University who has been part of the apprentice company for three years. "It's great that we get such a wide variety of people because it's free."

While many of the cast members of "Love's Labor's Lost" are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers, a surprising majority of them are part of an

apprentice company.

"The apprenticeship is a training program for those who want to get involved with a professional play," said Ryan Brennan, a sophomore at Belmont University who took a lead role as the character Longaville. "We're all in college and high school and just trying to get as much experience as we can."

Brennan said Shakespeare in the Park is the best hands-on experience he could ever have asked for.

"I personally don't have a lot of experience," the humble actor admitted. "In this, you get to work with the Equity actors — you get to work with the people that are going to be in the four main theater companies throughout Nashville."

"You get to perform to crowds of 300 plus people every night for an entire month. Who wouldn't want to do that?" Brennan asked enthusiastically.

Skills such as stage combat, clowning and dancing

were crucial in producing wonderfully entertaining and flawless performances.

"We put the apprentices through 50 hours of intensive training, and then they get thrust into this full rehearsal process," Director Denice Hicks said.

The apprenticeship may be intense, but Capparella and Hicks both agree the young students add something to the show that a regular Shakespeare stage production just wouldn't have.

"I don't think either of us appreciated how much they would add to the company in terms of just joy and energy," Capparella fondly said.

While the show is free, a \$5 donation is gladly accepted to help pay for the Equity Actors' salaries and production. J.R. Knowles, a sophomore majoring in theater at MTSU, added to the list what justifies students making the drive to Nashville to see the play.

SHAKESPEARE, PAGE 9

SPICE IT UP

By ROZALIND RUTH
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Popcorn is one of the oldest known foods to man at about 4,000 years old, and yet still some of the yummiest. Used by the Aztecs and other Native American people in rituals for years, the gusto for popcorn is not lost on modern-day movie-watchers and garland-hangers.

With 17 billion quarts sold to Americans each year, reports popcorn.org, one can't deny the fascination with these beautiful nibbles.

It has also become a favorite of college students nationwide because of its ease of preparation and small strain on the billfold. Popcorn is dorm-room and small-kitchen accessible, and it comes in many bag and packet sizes, making this delicious snack an easy-to-tote item for students rushing to and from

class each day.

But the monotony of the snack can't be ignored any longer.

Blue Raiders; break free of this boring, uninspired concept of popcorn! Curl up to your favorite movie, munch on popcorn at your next party, and do your homework without having to go hungry by kicking up your maize with some of these brilliant recipes submitted by fellow MTSU students.

BUFFALO-STYLE POPCORN

- add Buffalo-style wing sauce as desired
- grated Parmesan cheese (optional)

POOR MAN'S CARAMEL CORN

- 4 fluid ounces of maple syrup
- 4 small handfuls of the nut of your choice (cashews pictured)
- a dash of chocolate chips (optional)

HOT BALSAMIC POPCORN

- 2 fluid ounces of balsamic vinaigrette
- 2 teaspoons of salt
- 3 teaspoons of pepper
- a dash of cayenne red pepper (optional)

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Fashion ~~ME~~ Something

Save money, keep organized with one-of-a-kind pen and pencil cases

It is that time of the year again. That back-to-school time when you are buying pencils, paper, book bags and new clothes. I get tired of buying, buying, buying and buying even more. I want to be able to have something that doesn't cost much, if anything, and I can say it's all mine.

So, if you're like me, and are looking to save money, you might be interested in making your pen and pencil case. If you're trying to figure out how you can be more organized, then this project is also just as perfect for you.

Buying school supplies can be quite expensive, especially in this economy, so learning how to create your own accessories is an affordable and inspiring way to show off your personality.

Why not take half an hour to sit down and make your own?

Pencil cases can be made with little expense and effort because they can be made from almost anything like fabric, magazine covers, or even brown paper bags.

Here are two versions in paper and fabric of an easy, fashionable and inexpensive way to stay organized this semester:

- INSTRUCTIONS:
- Step 1: Lay the paper or fabric out in front of you so the 12-inch sides are parallel with you.
- On your chosen material, make a mark using a pencil or marker to create a center-line. Mark again on either side of the line 2 inches, and again at one-half inch from both of the edges.
- Step 2: Fold the material at the one-half inch mark to make a folded, sturdy edge, and secure by either gluing or sewing that edge. If you are using a sewing machine, decorative stitches can be used.
- Once you have a nice, folded edge on either side, fold the paper once again at the marks you made 2 inches away from the centerline.
- Step 3: Once you have completed Step 2, the material should be tri-folded with both of the folded edges facing you.
- Fold your material all the way down, so it will overlap about 1 inch.
- Step 4: Pin the overlapping sides, if using fabric, and stitch the sides. If us-



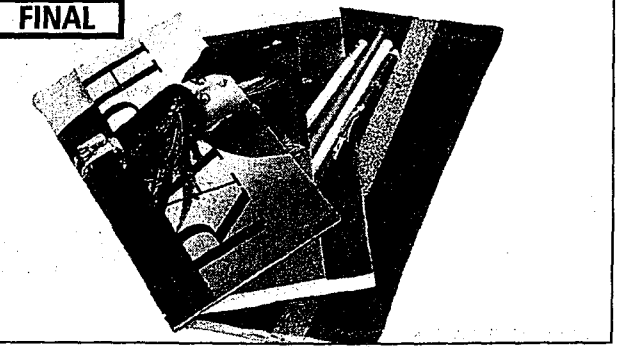
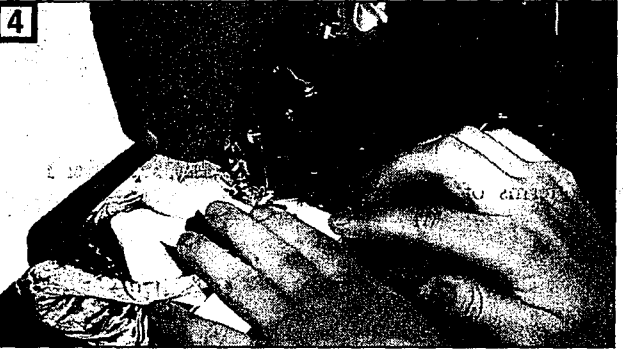
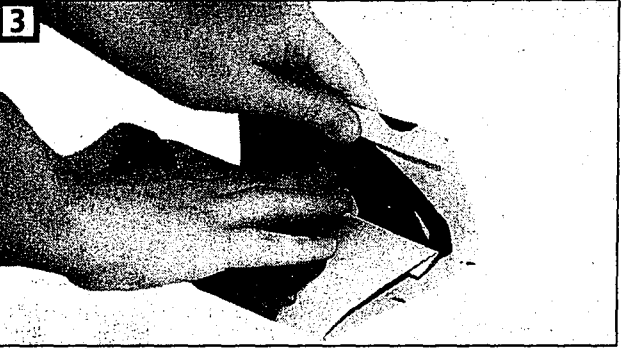
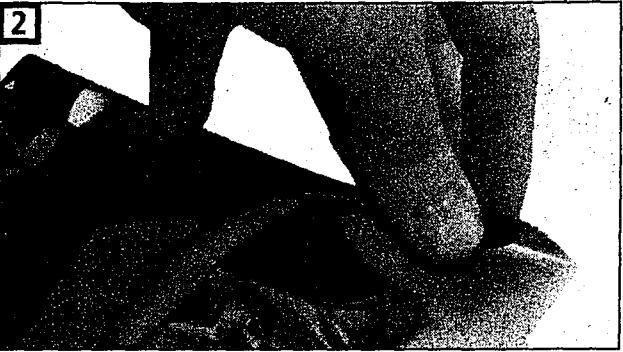
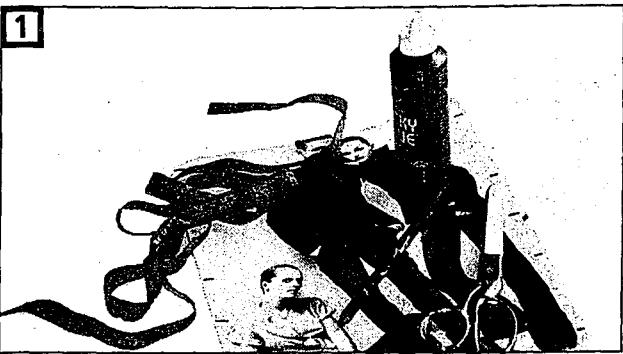
Margaret May

FMS CHECKLIST

Construction time:
10 minutes, plus dry time for glue

Items:

- 10 x 12 inch piece of fabric or heavy paper
- needle/thread or fabric glue
- ruler and marker
- clothespins



ing paper or glue, push the sides down and clothespin them until the dry.

Once the glue is dry, the bag is stitched, you are ready to put pens and pencils in your handmade case. Simply punch holes in one side, if wanted, and keep it in a binder.

Finding ways to save money and get organized can be fun, and you even might discover you've got

a knack for creating something beautiful and new that's a perfect expression of just you.

Margaret May is a senior majoring in textile, merchandizing and design. She can be reached at mem4s@mtmail.mtsu.edu.



SIDEWORDS

The weekly *Sidelines* crossword puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21		22			23			
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27	28	29					30			31	32	33
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45			46				47					
			48				49					
50	51	52			53			54		55	56	57
58				59				60		61		
62				63						64		
65					66							

Crossword courtesy of bestcrosswords.com

Across

1- Beginning; 5- Bellowing; 10- Back talk; 14- Edible corn; 15- Slow, musically; 16- Busy as ____; 17- A wedding cake may have three of these; 18- In all places; 20- Freud contemporary; 22- Actress Balin; 23- Like Cheerios; 24- Walked back and forth; 26- Sheet music abbr.; 27- Disown; 30- Wears away; 34- Dinner course; 35- Forever's partner; 36- AOL, e.g.; 37- Internet writing system that popularized "pwn3d" and "n00b"; 38- Treegum; 40- Organization to promote theater; 41- Song syllable; 42- Decree; 43- Short swordlike weapon; 45- In any case; 47- Pink-flowered, "candid" climber with thorns; 48- It may be picked; 49- Where Columbus was born; 50- Severe; 53- Pound sound; 54- Wine fruit; 58- Holder of public office; 61- Bakery worker; 62- Camaro model; 63- Move rhythmically; 64- "So be it"; 65- Taboo; 66- Summed; 67- Emperor of Rome 54-68;

Down

1- ____ boy; 2- Aforementioned; 3- Pitcher Hershisier; 4- The north half of a northbound horse, e.g.; 5- Bass, e.g.; 6- Critique; 7- Upright; 8- Gillette brand; 9- Siegfried's partner; 10- North African desert; 11- Assist, often in a criminal act; 12- Shriveled, without moisture; 13- Observed; 19- Fret; 21- Pan's opposite; 25- Get along peacefully; 26- Forsake; 27- 4th letter of the Greek alphabet; 28- Inactive; 29- Pilfer; 30- Nabokov novel; 31- Wild dog of Australia; 32- Adlai's running mate; 33- Surplus; 35- Cockpit abbr.; 39- Sun ____-sen; 40- Agricultural; 42- Lacking brightness; 44- Awestruck; 46- Physicist Fermi; 47- Disfigure; 49- 9 to 5; 50- Whirl; 51- Bull; 52- North Carolina college; 53- Mil. School; 55- Apex, pinnacle; 56- Juror; 57- Cube creator Rubik; 59- Agency of the United Nations; 60- Actor Beatty

SHAKESPEARE FROM PAGE 8

"In seeing the show, you're getting professional Shakespearian actors doing a professionally done Shakespearian show for free," Knowles said. "As a theater student, it's great to watch and meditate on the craft, and just in general, it's culture."

Setting the play in a not-so-typical atmosphere can have its drawbacks as Hicks and her actors have learned. Not only does the set have to be taken down after every performance, but actors must also compete with outdoor elements like helicopters, torrential downpours, and the occa-

sional bat flying out of the bandshell or any rowdy park goers. But, those challenges aside, Hicks said the fruits of their labors are never lost.

"This event is for people who just want to sit on the ground, look at the moon and watch great Shakespeare," Knowles said.

"Love's Labor's Lost" runs every Thursday through Sunday and Labor Day until Sept. 12 at the Centennial Park Bandshell, located at 511 Oman St. Nashville, off of West End Ave. Shows start at 6:30 p.m., and patrons are encouraged to arrive early to get a good blanket spot.

For more information on Shakespeare in the Park, visit www.nashvilleshakes.org.

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FEATURES



Photo submitted by Jolina St. Pierre

Jenna (left) and Jolina St. Pierre (right) live on campus, which Jolina believes has been a rewarding experience. Jolina takes Jenna to her classes and organizational meetings in an effort to highlight the importance of school to her daughter while also strengthening their relationship.

Preparing for the future

Mom, daughter put emphasis on education, bond through schooling

By LAURA AIKEN
Features Editor

Jolina St. Pierre, a senior majoring in public relations, is cramming for tests and lugging around a backpack that's overflowing with responsibility. She has a full-time school load, copious amounts of homework and an internship with PR Communications in Jackson, Tenn.

But Jolina, 37, isn't like most college students. She has a 10-year-old daughter living with her on campus in Womack Lane Apartments.

Originally Jolina attended Chaffey Community College in Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., but dropped out because she was juggling too many jobs—even though she'd maintained a 4.0 GPA.

She spent 15 years after high school graduation performing various jobs in retail, the fast food industry and customer service. At one point she almost made it back to school full time but the costs of her upcoming marriage delayed her return.

"It felt like something was missing and it was time for a change," Jolina explained.

It wasn't until she moved to Tennessee in 2006 and started taking classes at Columbia State Community College that she gained the momentum to pursue a degree in mass communication and a career that would alter her and her daughter's lives forever.

So far, the process of obtaining her college degree has proved to be a life-changing experience.

"I'm finally getting that college experience—I'm older and wiser, but my priorities are different so I think I take education more seriously than other students," Jolina said. "I made sacrifices to finish my education, and because of that, my daughter has gained more appreciation for school."

When Jolina and Jenna moved into on-campus housing a year ago, Jolina noticed a change in her daughter's study habits. Jenna started applying herself more in school and showing

enthusiasm for her future career. Living on a college campus seems to motivate her more than anything, Jolina said.

As a member of the Public Relations Student Society of America, Jolina attends meetings throughout the school year and takes Jenna along for the experience, hoping the collegiate atmosphere might encourage her daughter to excel even more in school.

"I love living here," Jenna announced proudly. "I think I want to go to MTSU when I get older—or Yale, like Rory Gilmore from the TV show *Gilmore Girls*."

Settling for a position within a company that couldn't provide any opportunities for promotion or further development wasn't an option, Jolina said.

"I was over the fact that there was nowhere to go, but I didn't want to sit on the phone and listen to people yell at me all day," Jolina admitted. "I never really figured out what I wanted to do, and I knew if I could

just get back into school and start chipping away at those core classes, then I could have the opportunity to advance."

Now, Jolina leads a dual life as a Dean's List student and dedicated parent. She said her biggest sacrifice in her pursuits is forfeiting time with Jenna. Once you have kids there are dance recitals and soccer practices—life doesn't necessarily slow down, she added.

"It's hard for me because I have to make sure Jenna's doing what she needs to do," Jolina said. "I have a child, so I can't just go lay out at the pool."

With one more year of school ahead she sees the finish line as a long-awaited achievement.

While MTSU is no Stars Hollow, Jolina said living on a college campus is a great place for a mother and daughter to reside because it's safe and very convenient.

"Everything Jenna and I need is right here on campus," she gushed. "This is home."

Boutique provides unique fashions

By JANET MPOYI
Contributing Writer

Bella's Boutique is a store you can't overlook when circling the Murfreesboro square. From the elegant jewelry pieces in the front of the store, to the exclusive attire all around, Bella's is sure to offer trendy, quality pieces to fit anyone's style.

Bella's is one of the newest additions to the area, which opened on Aug. 6. The shop targets all age groups. Mothers and daughters can shop together with ease knowing that both will find that what it is they're hoping to find. It has something for everyone—all shapes and sizes will appreciate the choices. The first thing you become aware of when you walk in is the historic feel.

"It has something more to offer than your customary retail stores at the shopping mall," said Judy L. Goldie, the owner of Bella's Boutique. "The brick inside of here is 200 hundred years old—it's just attractive—and it gave me a chance to branch out and try something new."

Judy is also the owner of Phase II and Trendy Pieces, which is also on the square. She came up with the idea for Bella's in May, and within three months, this fashionable boutique opened for business.

Judy said she primarily depends on word of mouth as a form of promotion, and people took note of it because the decorating had been in process ever since Jazz Fest weekend. Her decision to open it on tax-free weekend was a success—a huge number of people stopped by that Friday to take a look at the chic little shop.

"There was also a concert that day on the Square, as there is every Friday at the beginning of the month, so that also gave us a boost," Judy added. "I couldn't have asked to open it on a better weekend."

Judy decided to name it Bella's Boutique because the word *bella* means "beautiful" in Italian, and she wanted to emphasize the term "beautiful woman" to show that the store is focused on highlighting and boosting customer confidence.

"What we really have to bring is excel customer service," Judy said. "We really want to make the store remarkable so that our consumers can come back."

Born in Bowling Green, Ky., Judy has been involved in the fashion industry since she was young. She said she was an outgoing, upbeat cheerleader during high school, providing the foundation for her career today. She wanted to transform her life and career, so at 26 years old, she started her first business, Phase II.

Two years ago she decided to expand her business and opened Trendy Pieces, a lively store aimed toward younger trends.

Path to culture paved in Cobblestone

I've just spent countless hours on a crowded airplane bent in the seat like a pretzel.

I arrived at the hotel where my hair dryer caused the European fuse to blow, damaging my dryer and leaving me with an air-dry-only option. Argh! This stuff tends to happen at the precise moment when the jet-lag peaks and the recently ingested airplane food starts a revolution in my stomach.

None of this compares to the dizzying jolt I experienced when I set my sights on Perpignan, France for the first time.

I don't think I'll ever be able to shake the initial image from my mind. Cobblestone alleys meander to the edge of town where the ground quickly ascends to lush mountains that encompass the small city. I half expected Heidi and some yodelers to pop around the corner. Pastel-colored buildings line the narrow streets and little cafes extend out onto the walkways, tempting tourists to sit down and indulge in some European coffee—life's greatest treasure.

I became confused easily as I strolled around the city. How can you navigate through alleyways that connect to other alleyways and eventually lead to yet more



Laura Aiken
Still on France Time

alleyways? Perpignan is an intricate web. The streets of the city branch off and reconnect somewhere else along the way like a spider's web. It's almost too easy to get lost—but that's not always a bad thing.

Many of the city's locals have said that all routes lead to Perpignan. Ironically, the cultural heritages intertwine and flow as these alleyways do. On one corner you'll find yourself on the steps of a Catholic Church and on another, a Catalan restaurant or a French patisserie. Even though there's an obvious distinction between cultures, all are connected by the routes.

The most intriguing marvel in France isn't actually tangible. I am fascinated with the French concept of time. Time seems to pass differently there. First, there's a strict 35-hour workweek, six-week vacation minimum and two-hour lunch break. Restaurants stay open from twilight to sunup



Photo by Laura Aiken, features editor

On top of Le Caseastillet, visitors can see a complete view of the city, which by all accounts is as rich in culture as it is wine.

or until the wine runs out—which is highly unlikely because wine is like air to the French community.

In one of the city's central markets, I sat and watched some social interaction among families. No one rushed to buy goods or wolfed down food to make it back to work on time. No one anxiously checked the time. Everyone appeared to be genuinely enjoying

the lunch break, appreciative of the time to mingle with friends, relatives and acquaintances.

Are these people happier and more optimistic because of the emphasis on social interaction as the best time spent?

In the United States the competitive drive is so pervasive that I wonder if it harms our society and family life. I always feel like there is never enough time

—it seems to vanish. As I observed these families, I was astonished at how dedicated they are to savoring every aspect of life.

Perhaps, the rest of Europe doesn't adhere to this and France flies solo when it comes to understanding the quality of life.

Perhaps, France is merely a wrinkle in time. It's definitely worth losing your hair dryer to find out.

The truth about ZEBRAS

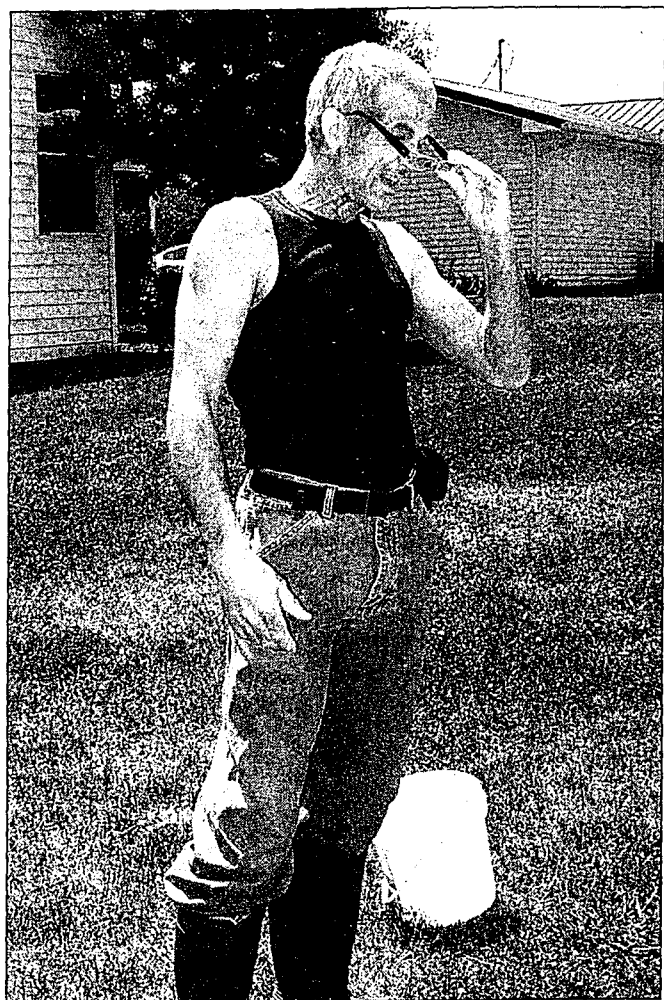


Photo by Alex Moorman, editor-in-chief

Billy Boner Jr. runs Cripple Creek Farms in Cannon County to help create a safe and comfortable environment for children.

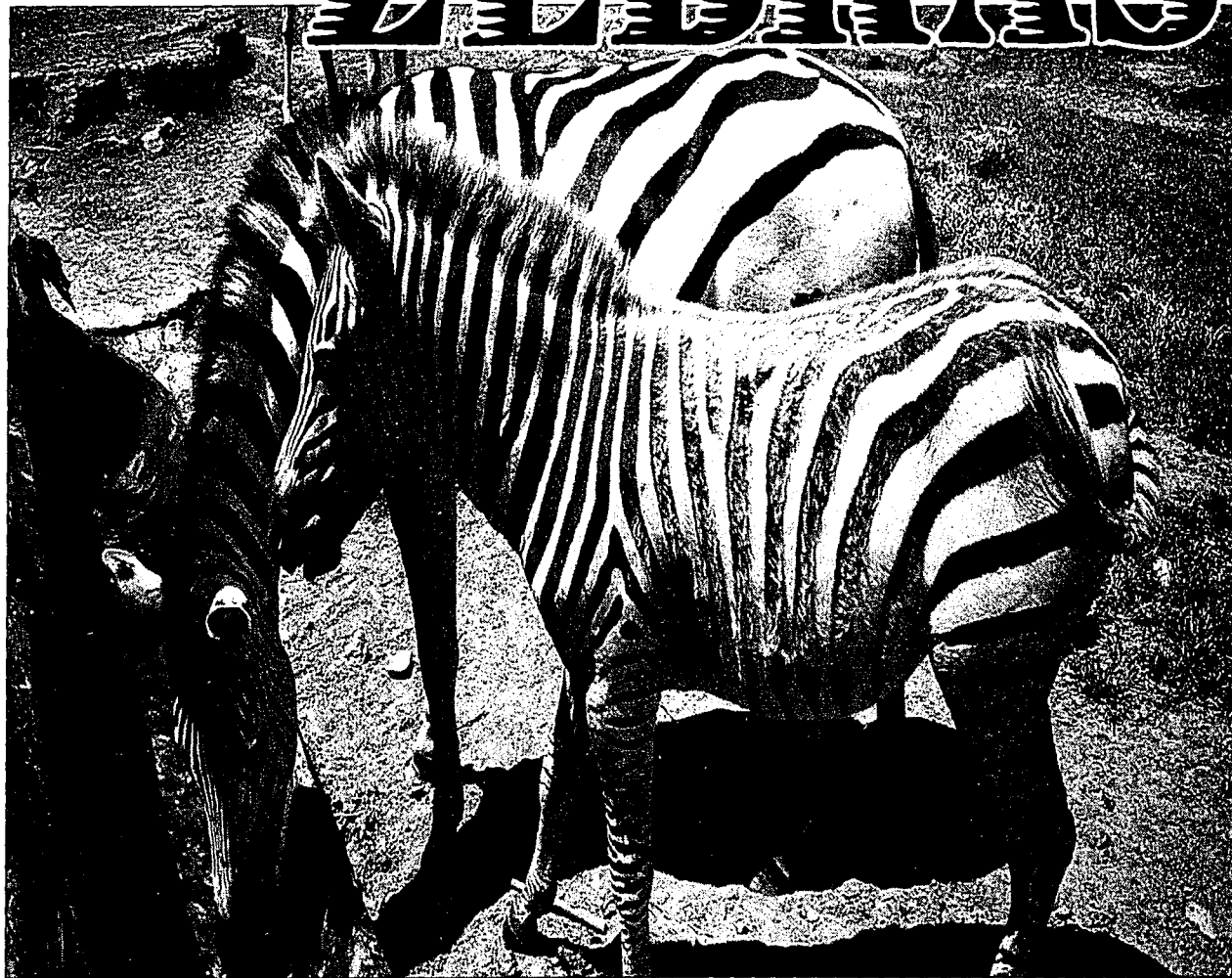


Photo by Alex Moorman, editor-in-chief

Zebras are just a few of the animals the Boner family owns. Others include; camels, buffalo, kangaroos, just to name a few; and according to Billy Boner Jr., his father has had a passion for raising animals since he was a boy.

By ALEX MOORMAN
Editor-in-Chief

The air was dusty, hot to the taste, as the car bumped over gravel toward the illusive white house nestled in a thicket of trees on the Rutherford and Cannon counties' border. As the car stopped, the window blinds parted and two glassy white eyes peered outside taking in the visitors. The front door swung open.

"Welcome," Billy Boner Jr., 46, shouted.

Billy was not your average good ole' boy; no he was something of a rare breed, an aspiring novelist who spends his days shoveling hay. Billy's father Bill runs Cripple Creek Farm, an oasis for children and animal lovers.

"Dad started it. He used to work at Rudy's Farm and Packing House in Nashville. When I was born he used to ride the ferryboat to work. At the packing-house they always had buffalo," Billy grinned. "They had a few little exotics like turkey, buffalo and llamas, and he always wanted a buffalo. About 11 years ago, he got himself a buffalo and

then some llamas, alpaca, then the whole door just opened up."

Billy's father started the farm to bring children together in a safe and welcoming environment. Billy said that while the plan was not always to have a farm, but once the first couple of animals started coming it was impossible to stop.

"We just started getting a little bit of everything," Billy laughed. "He tried to pair everything up so all the kids would have something to compare a mama to, to compare baby to, to see their growth rate process."

While many of the animals are of the petting variety, the zebras are observed from a distance.

"Zebras are super mean," Billy said shaking his head.

According to the San Diego Zoo, zebra's aren't hostile toward humans or any other animal unless taunted or threatened.

"I got mauled by a zebra," Billy said, pointing to his legs and chest. "He shredded my clothes, I was all tore up. They put stitches in here and taped me all up here. He mauled all the muscles

in my shoulder."

Billy said that while this was an isolated incident, he would never trust zebras around children without proper supervision.

Zebras aside, the Boner family has a copious amount of animals ranging from regular house cats to camels and everything in between. Billy said that finding animals and purchasing them was much easier than one would imagine.

"The animals basically come from everywhere," Billy smirked. "There's a place in Macon, Missouri called Lolli Brothers and you can get everything from an alligator to a giraffe. Matter of fact, when I was once up there for an auction I got to hold a baby cougar and a baby monkey. They had everything in there from scorpions to giraffes."

In Tennessee, owners of exotic animals are required to have a permit. Billy said that while they have a permit to own some animals the elk at Cripple Creek are exempt from state law because they were already in place when elk were added in the legislation.

Boutique FROM PAGE 11

"Judy is not only a saleswoman, but a woman who cares about her customers and employees on more than just a business level," boasted April Creech, the manager of Bella's Boutique. "She is a person you want to be around."

Judy was careful in her selection process for employers in her business. She has 15 employees who rotate between the three stores. And about four times a year, she and some of her employers travel to trade shows in Las Vegas, Atlanta and New York City.

"I was looking for someone who was outgoing," Judy said. "For me, it's all about attitude and personality, [and] I can teach people a little bit about fashion, and everything comes into place later."

Some hot trends that seem to be booming at the moment are animal prints, flowery cardigans, camouflage combat boots and adorable tops for layering. In addition, Bella's offers some furniture for sale from Kenya. To top it off, there are pieces of jewelry, flowers and even Buddha bags.

"If you want to shop at a high-trend, yet affordable store with unique fashions straight from vendors, Bella's Boutique is the place to come to," Judy proclaimed.

Locations closest to Campus:

235 W. Northfield Blvd
(Next to Hollywood Video)

2904 S. Church Street
(Next to Starbucks)

2706 Old Fort Parkway
(Across the street from Kohls)

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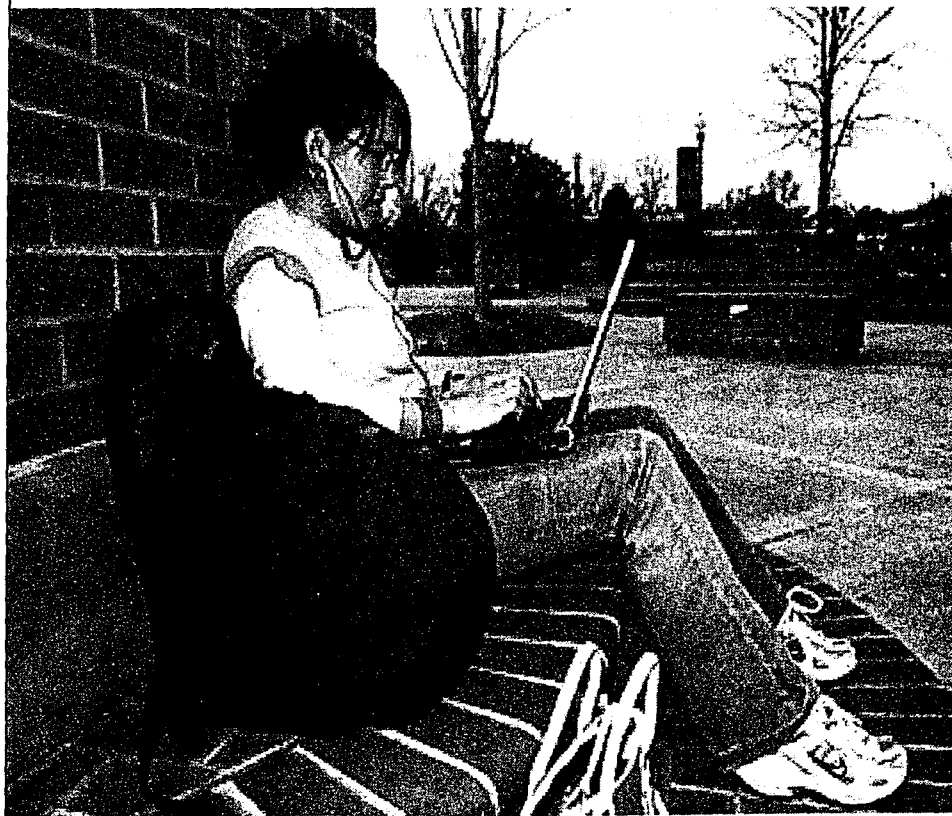
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OPINIONS

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Mainstream 'news,' not so much news
Americans' obsession with Hollywood unhealthy, media fuels bad habit

The other day I was watching MSNBC when suddenly I saw a camera shot of a large crowd swarming outside of a courthouse. Live helicopter shots showed the crowd from an aerial perspective so the whole crowd could be seen.

My first thought was, "This is serious, what's going on? Did something happen overnight that I didn't know about yet? Was Joran van der Sloot extradited to the United States? Was a decision made on Proposition 8?"

No. They were waiting on Lindsay Lohan to turn herself into jail at the Central Regional Detention Facility in Los Angeles, Calif.

Maybe I had accidentally changed the channel, but then I noticed the colorful peacock on the corner of my television screen and realized that I was on the correct station. MSNBC cut back to the Lohan story every 20 minutes or so of programming. I changed the chan-



Catherina Davidson

I'm Just Sayin'

nel with slight disgust that this was really happening.

When I think of news outlets like MSNBC, FOX and CNN, I think about real news, the kind of news that affects the world – not Paris Hilton being sued over hair extensions or Lindsay Lohan and her most recent trip to jail. News about celebrities should be saved for shows like Entertainment Tonight and websites like Perezhilton.com and TMZ.com.

With everything going on in the

world, wouldn't you think these news stations would have far too many important, serious events to cover? Why is there enough programming time to even mention Lohan going to jail, let alone report on the story every 20 minutes?

News stations aren't the only ones guilty of this malpractice; newspapers and magazines are as well.

Why did The New York Times run an article about Britney Spears losing her kids in a section that was not the Arts and Entertainment section? Every major gossip magazine covered Spears exactly the same. It's not as if the Times broke the story to the public, it was just following the trend.

We officially live in a world where the National Enquirer runs a story about the John Edwards' affair and gets nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

It shouldn't come as a surprise to know that most media outlets report the news that people want to

hear, not always what the need to hear. They need to score ratings like any other show.

This poses an even deeper question: Is America too celebrity obsessed?

If you do a simple Google search for the word "gossip," in less than a second, dozens of celebrity gossip websites appear. Hollywood gossip is definitely in high demand.

Our obsession with Hollywood has gotten so intense there is now an official psychiatric condition. Researchers say that as many as one-third of us have "celebrity worship syndrome," an unhealthy interest in the rich and fabulous.

There are three different levels of celebrity worship syndrome:

- Entertainment social: the normal everyday interest in celebrities.
- Intense personal: the person feels they are connected to the celebrity in some way.
- Borderline pathological: the per-

son takes a left turn into Crazytown and starts stalking the celebrity or believes they have a relationship with them.

For those of us who have a healthy interest in celebrities, it still makes you wonder why we even care a little bit. Some may say that we are unhappy with ourselves and are trying to live vicariously through these celebrities. Others say that we are studying what they do so we can hit it big just as they did. I think that we focus on news that doesn't really matter because everything going on in the world is just so depressing.

So, America I ask you this: Have we become so extremely shallow, to the point where we really care about this nonsense tabloid fodder, or is it that Hollywood's most recent gossip is far less depressing than what's going on in the world today?

Catherina Davidson is a senior majoring in public relations. She can be reached at mcd2q@mtmail.mtsu.edu.

'Progressive' just another word for 'progress'

In November, we as Americans are facing yet another critical election season. One in which all the massive efforts of our current seated government officials could be reversed – forcing our country further into financial ruin and halting the progress of social programs that haven't been seen since the New Deal.

First of all, let's take a look at what exactly the Democratically led leadership of the country has done so far: reinstated America's global position in the world by revolutionizing our foreign policy choices and engagements; stabilized the national economy through the efforts of the stimulus package; reversed the total job losses left in the aftermath of President George



Dustin Evans

Cheers!

W. Bush's administration; expanded federal hate crime laws; brought three women to the Supreme Court and signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act; and fixed the massive problems with the student loan programs in the country, while increasing the levels of student enrollment through extended tax credits.

While it is understandable

that a nation that has grown to believe that the word "liberal" means "terrorist," it is not possible to deny the progress that has been made.

Now, let's take a moment to look at what our government has not been able to accomplish: a single-payer health care system, a ceasefire in the Middle East, a revolutionary solution to end the energy crisis, freeing us from dependence of foreign oil; an extension of civil liberties to all citizens – thus making them "created equal," and the list goes on.

Do any of these items seem remotely possible? Not entirely. And while many of these topics were on the list for "Change" and "Hope" during the 2008 presidential campaign, it is difficult to find

a feasible solution that would survive debate in either chamber of Congress.

Mainly, this is due to the unbelievable number of filibusters that have risen from the right-hand side of the Senate. During the 110th and 111th U.S. Congresses, there have been 256 motions of cloture filed. That breaks down to 139 motions in the last Congress – leaving 117 motions filed thus far in the current Senate. In the 109th with a GOP majority, only 68 were filed.

In fact, it is hard to place a finger on the bills at hand that have not been filibustered in the past year. And yet, the Republican National Party headquarters is urging Americans to "Fire Pelosi" because she and Harry Reid are respon-

sible for the lack of progress in America. Interestingly enough, the Democrats are urging the GOP leadership to keep their signs of negativity held high.

They know a secret the GOP doesn't. American voters asked for this change in masses, and they have not yet been completely satisfied.

This is why it is so crucial for supporters of this Great Progress to mobilize and help by bringing more voters to the polls. The Murfreesboro chapter of Organizing for America is actively working to motivate constituents to participate in this election cycle, and I encourage you to join in its goal of mobilizing voters.

Just because the upcoming elections do not involve

a presidential campaign, this does not mean that your civic duty as an American is any less important. The trend in politics since the 20th century is that the seated Congress is almost always up heaved in midterm elections.

Allowing that to happen this time would be detrimental to everything that has been accomplished. It would either halt all progress toward freedom from oil dependency and freedom from tyrannical religious oppression, or it would place us on the one path that we must not follow – the one behind us.

Dustin Evans is a 2010 organizational communication graduate and former managing editor of Sidelines. He can be reached

A QUICK WORD

From the Editor-in-Chief

- Alex Moorman, sleditor@mtsu.edu

Everyone seems to have the perfect formula for how to get through college unscathed, finding a job you're interested in and joining the millions of people in the daily grind. But, I say it is important to enjoy your time in college instead of rushing into a new chapter.

It is easy to get caught up in planning the future, but I've learned from being in college that if you are constantly looking toward the future, you often miss important things in the present. Since my freshman year, people

have been telling me to pick a career, plan my future, and up until a year ago that is precisely what I did. However, I realized that I'd spent so much time preparing for the future that I let my present go to waste.

So, my advice for incoming freshmen is to balance both. Focus on your degree and future but have a little fun. Get involved and enjoy your university in the process. After all, this could be your last chance to experience it.

Get involved on campus

A letter from MTSU President Sidney McPhee

Welcome Back! The start of a new academic year is always a time of great excitement and renewed energy for our students, staff and faculty. If you're a first time student here or a newly hired member of our academic community, we are especially pleased to have you join the MTSU family.

We are committed to providing the highest quality education to students. As you embark upon this new academic year, I encourage each of you to strive for excellence, both in the classroom and in your non-academic pursuits. We work hard to ensure that you have everything that you need for academic success. Please take advantage of the many student services that are available to enhance your academic experience as well as the numerous co-curricular activities provided to help you develop into a more productive and well-rounded global citizen.

I also encourage you to be active in your Student Government Association and become engaged, or maintain your involvement, in the more than 200 student organizations that have been established here on our campus. Your participation in these groups not only provides the chance for you to develop your leadership skills, but also provides opportu-



Sidney McPhee

nities for the institution to gain positive exposure among a variety of important institutional stakeholders.

MTSU is now recognized as a national leader in a number of exciting programs from equine science to concrete industry management and from aerospace and aeronautical sciences to management in the recording industry, just to name a few.

The development of the institution as a major comprehensive university has not limited itself to just our classrooms – there is change literally going up all around us. Currently we are working on a number of new construction projects. Among the most visible are the new student union and a new home for our College of Education, but there are sev-

eral more important projects underway that help enhance the quality of campus life and improve the educational environment we provide our students. Each of these projects not only adds value to our campus, but they are also visible reminders of our commitment to quality and maintaining a student centered learning environment.

As an MTSU student, you have countless reasons to be proud of your University. Not only are we growing in size and numbers, but we continue to grow in the quality of students that we are able to attract. Your presence here is a testament to that. As our reputation as a top public University continues to spread far and wide, we know that you are a significant reason for our success.

You made MTSU your personal choice for a quality college education and I want to say thank you for being a part of the Blue Raider family. We will do our best to ensure that we not only meet your expectations this year but also exceed them in every way possible. As the fall semester begins, I hope that you will make your academic success a major priority and hold fast to the foundational principles that have made Middle Tennessee State University "Tennessee's Best".

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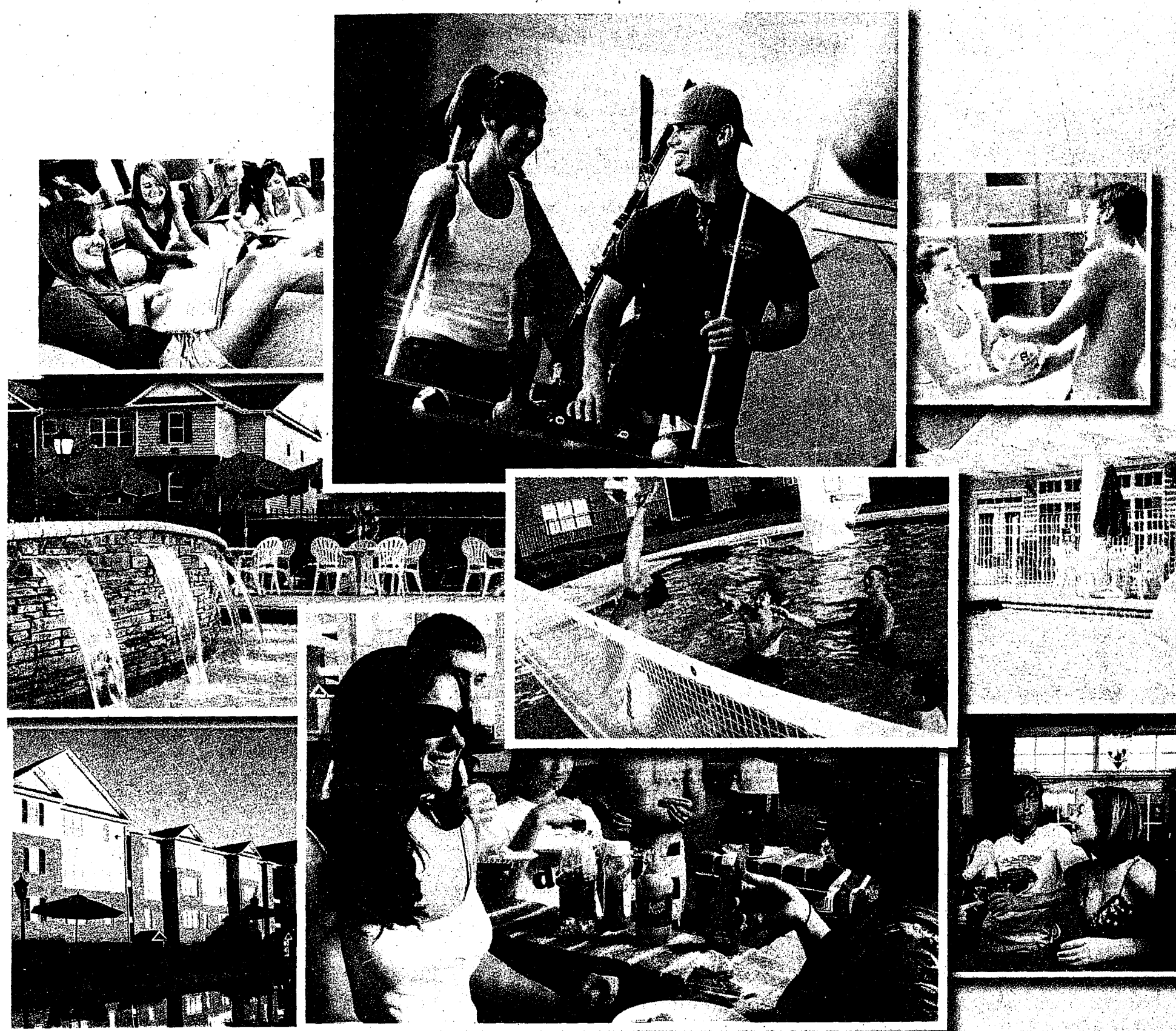


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