ENNESSEE STATE UNIVI

|EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT|

VOL. 87 NO. 23

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2010 Offidals examine applicational effects on waterways.

Seasonal rains cause the Stones River's water levels to rise Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2010, below the pedestrian bridge on the Murfreesboro Greenway System. The City of Murfreesboro's drinking water comes from the East Fork of the river.

By CHRISTOPHER MERCHANT Assistant News Editor

While the majority of streams that supply Tennesseans with drinking water meet federal standards, over according to the report. 10,000 miles of streams have elevated contaminant levels, according to state officials.

According to the biannual Status of Water Quality in Tennessee report issued in November by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Division of Water Pollution Control, 67 percent of the miles of streams designated for fish and aquatic-life protection meet federal Environmental Protection Agency standards, and only 57 percent of the miles of streams designated for recreation were found to meet the federal standards

However, 99 percent of the miles of streams designated for use as domestic

water supply meet EPA standards, and 99.99 percent of the miles of streams designated for use to water livestock and wildlife meet EPA standards,

"[In other countries] around the world, most of the people are in the hospital because of bad water," said Paul Davis, the director of the Division of Water Pollution Control. "We don't have a lot of people getting sick from water-borne diseases, but we see some areas where there are higher risks than we would like to see."

While Tennessee's drinking water is relatively safe, Davis said, pollution in other parts of the water table could have an effect on drinking water.

"There's a difference in the water quality in streams, and then what we drink," said Sally Palmer, the director of science for Nature Conservancy Tennessee, a nonprofit

environmental organization. "Anything we do that adds more pollution to the water makes treatment at plants more complicated and more expensive. It's getting more and more expensive to create healthy drinking water."

The three biggest factors negatively impacting Tennessee's streams are bacteria, silt and an over-abundance of vital nutrients, Davis said, adding that land-use issues are a leading cause in elevating all of these factors.

For instance, clearing a construction site near a stream or diverting water flow for development can cause an increase in silt in the stream for multiple reasons, such as stirring up debris and removing vegetation and ground cover that holds soil away from stream banks.

WATER, PAGE 3

Student woes deepen amid bankruptcy regulations

By AMANDA HAGGARD Staff Writer

Crystal Calhoun, a University of Kentucky alumna, never thought she would only find a part-time job after graduating college with a business degree, and after taking out several federal and private student loans, she is sinking fast.

"Unfortunately, filing for bankruptcy isn't going to do anything to help with my student loans," Calhoun said. "I have been steadily looking for work since I graduated. How am I supposed to pay these loans back on a part-time salary?"

Calhoun has not filed for bankruptcy yet, but she said that given the current circumstances, filing Chapter 7 bankruptcy is inevitable.

Non-business bankruptcy cases filed in federal courts totaled more than 1.5 million during the 2010

fiscal year, up 13.8 percent compared to 2009, based on data released in November by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.

Since 2006, total bankruptcy protection filings were up 12 percent nationwide. Although, the total increase of filings in Rutherford County was less, hovering at 7 percent, overall the number of bankruptcies was still up by 11 percent since 2006, according to the report.

According to the American Bankruptcy Institute, Tennessee and Kentucky are among the Top 5 filers of bankruptcy. The institute was founded in 1982, three years after the Bankruptcy Code was written, to provide the U.S. Congress an unbiased analysis of bankruptcy issues.

DEBT, PAGE 2

Women in music to be explored

By MARIE KEMPH, KYLE MCCORMICK

The School of Music is adding a new Women in Music class that will focus on a variety of women's musical activities as composers, performers, patrons and symbols through a historical context, according to an MTSU press release.

The course is scheduled to begin next semester and will be taught by Felicia Miyakawa, an associate professor of musicology and assistant director of the MTSU School of



be the only course in the School Music to address gender roles.

Music.

The new

class will

"One of the missing threads in the typical [music] history narrative is what women do,"

Miyakawa said. "This course gives students an opportunity to discover what other music histories can be told if we look at gender as our dominant narrative."



To read more, visit us online. www.mtsusidelines.com

China's aviation soars toward flight advancements

By KRIS SAGE Contributing Writer

Chinese and American experts in aviation discussed the issue of air traffic control, along with other flight topics in a conference hosted by the department of aerospace Wednesday at the university's Flight Operations Center at the

Murfreesboro Airport. The department is serving as host for the first National Conference on General Aviation Trends in China.

More than 120 individuals, including an estimated 40 MTSU students who are majoring in aerospace, attended the event that lasted from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. The conference will resume today at 9 a.m. and slated to end at 3:30 p.m. with guest speakers from both the United States and China discussing regional airline development and the role of charter in aviation.

"Our goal is to foster communication and bridge building and collaborate and expand our understanding of how we are going into a very exciting time in aviation," said Micheal Vaughn, president of Corporate Flight Management-China and director of government services for Smyrnabased Corporate Flight Management.

The conference on general aviation in China aims to explain how the U.S. is improving its efforts for operating in international affairs and air traffic control, while building a stronger set of air traffic control for the future.

"We're extremely excited about this conference, as it is one of the first in the U.S. that will have members of one of the larges universities in China here to learn about U.S. general aviation," said Wayne Dornan, the chair of the aerospace department, in a press release Monday.

AVIATION, PAGE 2



Mark Libby, manager of National Airspace, discusses aviation advancement Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2010, during his speech entitled "Airspace Management and Air Traffic Control," during the National Conference on General Aviation Trends in China in the university's Flight Operations Center at the Murfreesboro Airport.

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A&E

"Tangled" not enough to be a Disney classic, still worth watching Page 7

IN TODAY'S ISSUE



Musician struggles to achieve his defining moment.

ONLINE @ MTSUSIDELINES.COM

THURSDAY FORECAST



MOSTLY CLOUDY NO THREAT OF RAIN HIGH 49, LOW 29

Students encouraged to enter scholarship contest

News Editor

Students have until Tuesday to enter the ENTITLE DIRECT College Tips Scholarship Contest for a chance to win up to \$7,000 in awards to pay for the spring 2011 semester.

"We created the contest as a reflection of our commitment to success through education," said Ed Baum, the head of Sales and Marketing for Entitle Direct Group, a title insurance company

The contest is being offered nationwide until midnight Dec. 7, and the winner will be awarded up to 35 percent off a semester's tuition, excluding room, board and ancillary expenses, or up to a maximum of \$7,000.

College students and high school seniors, who are at least 17 years old, are encouraged to submit their best tip - up to 100 words - for navigating the college admission process, according to a company press release.

"It's easy to enter the contest via the Internet," Baum lished Entitle Direct Group, the said, adding students are not parent company of EnTitle Inrequired to pay an entry fee to enter the contest.

He said this is the first time the company has offered the privately funded scholarship contest.

"Students are aggressively looking for scholarship opportunities, and they are really doing their homework when it comes to scholarship money," Baum said, adding more than 10,000 students have already entered the contest.

CEO Timothy Dwyer estabsurance Company, in 2006. Two years later, the company started ENTITLE DIRECT, an online platform that delivers title insurance directly to consumers at significantly lower rates - on average 35 percent lower than those available through traditional insurance companies, according to its website.

In September, Inc. Magazine

named the insurance provider, which is based in Stamford, Conn., one of the fastest-growing private companies in the country.

That average of 35 percent savings was the inspiration for the scholarship amount, Baum said.

"We're very committed to educating consumers about how to lower closing costs [because] buying a home can be very complicated," Baum said. "As part of that dedication, we believe education is vitally important."

Overwhelmed by mounting debt, graduates find few options

DEBT FROM PAGE 1

"Discharging student loan debt is next to impossible in any form of bankruptcy," said J. Michael Combs, a Nashville bankruptcy lawyer.

Combs said the undue hardship clause in bankruptcy law is used only in extreme circumstances, such as terminal illness or a situation that renders the debtor unable to work.

In 1998, bankruptcy law changed, making it more difficult for borrowers like Calhoun to file Chapter 7 and 13 bankruptcies that would discharge student loans. With those changes, federal student debt could no longer be released with bankruptcy unless student debtors could prove undue hardship, according to the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts website.

In 2005, bankruptcy law changed again, adding private student loans to the list of those no longer dischargeable under bankruptcy, according to the government website.

The U.S. Courts evaluate undue hardship in the discharge of a student loans under three major conditions: the debtor cannot maintain, based on current income and expenses, a minimal standard of living if forced to repay the loans; there are indications that the state of affairs is likely to persist for a significant portion of the repayment period; and there must be proof that the debtor has made an acceptable amount of attempts to repay the loans.

"It has to be something more than you're just not getting the benefit of your education," Combs said.

Jaclyn Guilbault, an MTSU alumna, said she graduated from college without any student debt. She is not currently working in the field she earned her degree in, psychology, but she does have a full-time job as a waitress.

"I am fortunate that I was able to have a clean slate when I graduated," Guilbault said. "My parents helped a lot, and I was super thrifty when I was

in college." Guilbault said she would often go to the library and use books there instead of buying them every semester. Although she accumulated some credit debt in college, she said she has been able to remain relatively debtfree since graduating a little more than a year ago.

"I definitely have the advantage of not having that cloud of debt hanging over me," Guilbault said.

She also said she often spent more than her income because she was con-

Department of Education released new regulations, and some of those are aimed at "aggressive recruiting practices, resulting in students being encouraged to take out loans and credit they could not afford, or enroll in programs where they were either unqualified or could not succeed."

"I wish I would have felt like I had the same kinds of protection," Calhoun said. "I just feel like people had more options 20 years ago."

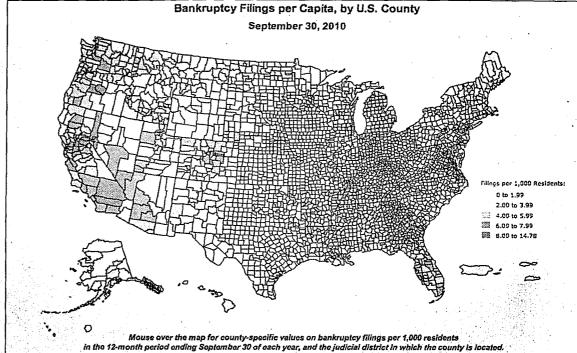
Calhoun said she was irresponsible for taking on as much debt as she did while attending the University of Ken-

tucky, but she also blames creditors for aggressive soliciting. Her part-time job was never really enough to keep her household afloat, so she said she often took out more loans than necessary for classes in order to help with her cost of living.

stantly receiving credit offers.

At the end of October, the U.S.

Calhoun's bankruptcy lawyer also told her there were very few cases in which discharging student debt in which the debtor is freed from through bankruptcy would be possi-



Graphic courtesy of Statistics Division of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts

completing college and then filing bankruptcy to get rid of the debt immediately.

According to a U.S. Courts press release, most people in America file either Chapter 7 or Chapter 13 bankruptcy.

The American Bankruptcy Institute defines Chapter 7 bankruptcy as a "fresh start bankruptcy," their debts but must liquidate their

Combs said the Bankruptcy Code gradually changed from discharging under both Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 to not allowing discharge under either.

While Calhoun would not give an exact figure for her student debt, she said her payments are more than the \$400 she pays her parents in rent so that she can live in their home. She said she is four months behind on her student loan payments and feels sure she won't qualify for an undue hardship.

Federal loans offer troubled borrowers options, such as forbearance, extended terms and alternate repayment. But, because of existing bankruptcy law, the debt statute of limitations does not apply to student loans. A student could be sought after indefinitely for their school debt.

Abuse of bankruptcy protection is also somewhat of a concern to the Department of Education.

"We want to be as thoughtful as possible as we move forward," said Arne Duncan, the secretary of the Department of Education. "We're taking additional time to strike the right balance between holding these programs accountable to protect students and taxpayers from loan abuse, and making sure we keep whole those

programs that are doing a good job." Calhoun said she understands why people may not be as sympathetic to her financial situation.

"I realize that people would probably say that wanting to discharge my student debt is foolish or irresponsible," Calhoun said, "but so is racking up thousands of dollars on credit cards."

According to an American Bankruptcy Institute press release, the average consumer is 12 times more likely to file for bankruptcy now than in 1980 and are 16 times more likely to file than the average consumer in 1990.

"Consumers with heavy household debts stormed the bankruptcy courts this year," said Samuel J. Gerdano, the executive director of the American Bankruptcy Institute, in a press release.

Since 1996, the number of people who have filed for bankruptcy has steadily increased nationwide, Gerdano said.

In an economy where more people feel that bankruptcy is the only option to relieve them from consumer debt, Calhoun said she doesn't understand why there is seemingly less protection for those individuals who are drowning in student loan debt.

"I wish I could go back and change the amounts of the loans I accepted," Calhoun said. "But, I don't think my student loan debt should be treated any different than a person's credit card debt. I owe money, but I

"I wish I could go back and change the amounts of the loans I accepted. But, I don't think my student loan debt should be treated any different than a person's credit card debt. I owe 'money, but I need help"

CRYSTAL CALHOUN UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY ALUMNA

ble. The U.S. Courts only allows graduates relief from their loans if they can prove without a reasonable doubt that there exists an undue hardship, which was not required in the past.

Combs said when he started practicing law 24 years ago, student loan debt could be discharged in bankruptcy much easier than it could be now. He said the current law keeps students from current assets.

Chapter 13 is generally reserved for people who want to pay off their debts over a three- to five-year period, according to the American Bankruptcy Institute. People who file Chapter 13 normally have some form of assets, a job that provides a predictable income, and enough disposable income after living expenses to pay their debts back.

International aeronautics focus of two-day conference

AVIATION FROM PAGE 1

Adam Peterson, a senior majoring in aerospace administration, said the conference was "very informative and [I would] recommend it to any student who is looking to learn about aviation."

Peterson added that these types of forums can open doors for students looking to for information in the aerospace field.

Mark Libby, the manager of National Airspace, discussed how air traffic control works throughout the U.S. He said every two hours tactical planning takes place within each airport including 20 domestic en-route traffic control centers, which are strung out throughout the country.

These domestic control centers are overseen by one command air traffic control center, which has 51 percent of the power for making air traffic decisions, he said.

Libby said that one interesting fact about flight delays was that only 10 percent of airports cause more than 90 percent of traveling delays.

Libby further explained that the U.S. is helping China move air traffic more efficiently by upgrading its planes, airports and pilots. He said technological upgrades will help airport personnel to better interpret and analyze geographic regions, changes in weather conditions, flight and air traffic information.



Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor Capt. Sun Xin Qiang (Left) speaks about China's aerospace industry Dec. 1, 2010, during the National Conference on General Aviation Trends in China, held in the Flight Operations Center at the Murfreesboro Airport.

Kathy Swann, a program manager of systems operations, planning and procedures for the Federal Aviation Administration, gave a presentation on a new set of projects called NextGen Air Traffic Control.

Swann, who is based out of Washington, D.C., said these programs are an integration of many projects, concepts and technologies that will bring about new

systems, new procedures, more advanced aircraft performance, and renewable fuels.

Swann said NextGen will dramatically change the way airlines run their operations in the future. For example, instead of groundbased navigation, she said, NextGen will use satellite-based surveillance and navigation, which will increase focus on metropolitan

areas, as opposed to the current program, which puts more focus on major airports.

need help."

By 2018, NextGen will reduce delays at airports by an estimated 21 percent, Swann said. She added that it will also help from an environmental aspect, and it will reduce the carbon dioxide emissions by 14 million tons and fuel by 1.4 billion gallons.

The advancement in aviation for the U.S. has created a partnership with China in hopes of improving China's overall aviation capabilities.

Capt. Qiao Xin Shan, the director of the traffic control system for the Civil Aviation Administration of China, said his country has been in need of pilots, mechanics and more aircraft for years. He said the small number of aircraft has resulted in few job opportunities for pilots and that pilot training facilities are also in need of improvement. He speculated that this increase in numbers would give China more opportunities to expand its aerospace program.

"Our goal is to expand and build upon the relationships that exist," Vaughn said. "Based on those relationships, we thought it would be great to bring together business and government academia and have a discussion about general aviation trends and start a dialogue about it."

Jay Bailey, photography editor, contributed to this report.

Agricultural landscape contributes to contamination

WATER **FROM PAGE 1**

One big cause of all three of these factors, Davis said, is agriculture.

· Agricultural business in Tennessee annually generates \$2.5 billion in farm cash receipts and \$381 million in timber sales, according to the Tennessee Department of Agriculture's website. Goods produced vary from corn, soybeans, tobacco and cotton; to trees and shrubs for nursery stock, and cows for beef and dairy products.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's "2007 Census of Agriculture," farmland contains more than 41 percent of the state's total

Davis said the practices that generate these goods are "not largely regulated" when it comes to how they affect water by the Natural Resource Conservation Service, an agency of the USDA.

Clearing out brush or forests to develop fields or pastures reduces the buffer that protects streams from pollutants and silt runoff, and livestock that have open access to running water can contaminate streams with waste, Davis said. He said fertilizers can introduce an overabundance of nutrients into the water table. However, these negative effects of farming are avoidable and many farmers are becoming more educated about stream conservation.

"Agriculture doesn't have to be a cause for pollution," Davis said. "It will be if it's not handled properly, but it doesn't have to be."

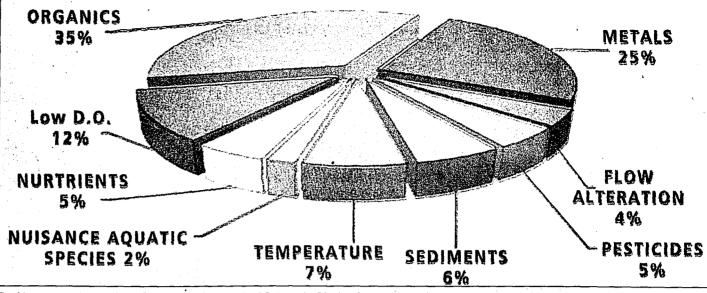
The Water Resources Program, established by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, is designed to lessen "the impact of land-based activities upon the waters of our state" through education and voluntary on-the-ground improvements "focused on the agricultural enterprises of Tennessee," according to the program's website.

In addition to agricultural practices, urban development and the increase in impervious surfaces that do not absorb storm water and collect pollutants also contribute to water contamination.

"The reality of it is we know that all of our urban streams are polluted," said John McFadden, the executive director of the Tennessee Environmental

CAUSES OF POLLUTION IN RESERVOIRS AND LAKES

Some of the same types of pollutants that occur in rivers and streams impact reservoirs, although in different magnitudes. The main pollutants in Tennessee reservoirs are toxic organics such as PCBs and dioxins. Other pollutants include mercury, nutrients, sediment/silt, low D.O. and pesticides such as chlordane. The effects of most of these pollutants are the same as in flowing water. However, persistent substances are more likely to accumulate and remain in reservoirs for a very long time.



Graphic courtesy of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Division of Water Pollution Control

Council, a nonprofit organization that works on environmental and conservation issues.

Outdated sewer infrastructure and an increase in roads and parking lots that gather debris and pollutants have "failed us largely," McFadden said, adding that they add to stress on streams and contribute to avoidable events involving wastewater overflow.

McFadden said a new approach to construction and urban development, which he called biological engineering, is needed to mitigate damage to streams by pollution from human activities.

"It's not civil engineering that we need, biological engineering," McFad-"Civil engineering fails over said. time. Biological engineering gets stronger

Biological engineering involves incorporating mechanisms into urban developments that contribute to the health of the environment, Mc-Fadden said, such as rain gardens in parking lots. Rain gardens are islands of plants that are lower than the parking lot and are full of lush vegetation that gather water and distribute it into the soil by means of a complex root system.

Over time, such gardens can become stronger because they gather large amounts of water. In addition, pollutants that pass through plants and topsoilarelargelyfilteredoutofwateranddonotendup in streams.

This type of engineering is already being done, McFadden said, though more

"I would call [biological engineering] smart civil engineering," he said. "A lot of people use the term 'green infrastructure."

Another concern in urban areas is the introduction of pharmaceuticals into streams, Palmer said. When drugs pass through a person's system or an expired prescription is flushed down the toilet, they ultimately end up in drinking water.

"Quite frankly, right now these things aren't

being treated for," Palmer said.

Such buildup of pharmaceuticals could have unexpected results on the development and health of humans and wildlife, McFadden said.

"Any time you have a populated area, pharmaceuticals find their way into the environment," McFadden said. "I'm not aware that any of those pharmaceuticals or personal care products have been found in waters in Tennessee in levels thought to be harmful, but we would prefer not to have any."

Research on the effects of pharmaceuticals in drinking water and how to properly treat the water for such contamination is on-going, McFadden said.

While the state's drinking water meets EPA standards, McFadden said he would prefer that all of Tennessee's streams stand up to scrutiny.

"The best situation is the natural situation," McFadden said.

CRIME BRIEFS

Theft

Nov. 24, 9:52 a.m. Greenland Drive Parking Lot B

A complainant reported that textbooks and an iPod had been stolen from his vehicle.

Vandalism

Nov. 24, 11:06 a.m. Jim Cummings Hall

A complainant reported vandalism to the chairs and wall on the

seventh floor.

Alarm

Nov. 24, 1:38 p.m. Greek Row

Kappa Alpha Fraternity House Police officers responded to a fire alarm and notified the Murfreesboro Fire Department that a smoldering lamp and a blanket set off

the alarm. Firefighters removed the

lamp and blanket from the house.

Theft

Nov. 24, 1:44 p.m. Health, Weliness, and

Recreation Center A complainant reported that his

backpack had been stolen from an unsecured locker.

Theft

A complainant reported that his backpack was stolen from the State Farm Room.

Corlew Hall

dorm room.

Vandalism

Nov. 29, 1:16 a.m.

A window was reported to have been broken.

Vandalism

Nov. 29, 9:02 a.m.

Sigma Alpha **Epsilon House** A complainant reported that a

garage door window had been broken.

Greek Row

a window on the building's tower had been broken.

Silent, Anathesia

Point of Grace with

Dec. 6, 7 p.m.

The Muse

Tickets: \$10

Chris August

Dec. 10, 7 p.m.

World Outreach

Trans-Siberian

Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m.

Bridgestone Arena

Tickets: \$27.50-\$59

Events Policy

events submitted by all read-Please e-mail events slcampus@mtsu.edu or

cation of the event, as well as your name and a phone num-

ber for verification. We reserve

the right to refuse events at our discretion as our space

Sidelines is the editori-

student-produced newspaper

of Middle Tennessee State

University. Sidelines publishes and Thursday during

the fall and spring semesters and online during June and July

The events listed are not nece

s@mtsu.edu. and include the name, date, time and lo-

Church

Tickets: \$13

Orchestra

An article in the Monday, Nov. 22 issue of Sidelines entitled "Reduced cost necessary for Science Building" may have confused readers by leading them to believe that MTSU is seeking to reduce the overall cost of the

working to reduce the state's share in the project so that it is less than \$100 million. It is looking to find other sources for financing the remainder of the project.



Performing Arts:

Guitar Ensemble Dec. 3, 8 p.m.

Hinton Hall Wright Music Building

Dance Theatre Fall Concert Dec. 3-4, 7:30 p.m.

Tucker Theatre FREE

Symphony Orchestra

Dec. 5, 4 p.m. Hinton Hall Wright Music Building FREE

Handel's "Messiah"

Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m. Hinton Hall Wright Music Building Tickets: \$10

Symphonic Band/ Brass Ensemble/ **Chamber Winds**

Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m. Hinton Hall Wright Music

Building

FREE Commercial Music

Ensemble

Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m. Hinton Hall Wright Music Building

String Studio Recital

Dec. 9, 7 p.m. Hinton Hall Wright Music Building FREE

Student Life:

Karaoke Night Dec. 5, 10 p.m. Cyber Café FREE

Salt

Dec. 1-3, 7 p.m. Keathley University Center Theatre Tickets: \$2

The Nightmare

Before Christmas Dec. 6-10, 7 p.m. Keathley University

Concerts:

Dec. 2, 8 p.m.

Walnut House

Tickets: \$8

Relient K,

Sherwood,

Deas Vail

Rocketown

Tickets: \$15

Dec. 4, 8 p.m.

Music Hall

Tickets: \$7

Old 97's

Dec. 4, 9 p.m.

nery Ballroom

Michael Buble'

Bridgestone Arena

Tickets: \$52-\$92

The World We

Knew, Goodbye

Apathy, Sirens Fall

Dec. 5, 8 p.m.

Tickets: \$18

Mercy Lounge/ Can-

The Compromise

Blue Rooster Bar and

Dec. 3, 6 p.m.

Conert

WTMS Benefit

Burglary

property was stolen from his

Nov. 24, 2:35 p.m.

Business and Aerospace Building

Nov. 28, 10:33 p.m.

A complainant reported that

and strict time springs

Beta Theta Pi Fraternity House

Greek Row

Vandalism

Nov. 29, 11:37 a.m.

Beta Theta Pi Fraternity House A complainant reported that

proposed Science Building. However, MTSU is actually

Letters Policy

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopinio@mtsu.edu and include your name and phone number for verification. Sidelines will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit grammar, length and content.

OPINIONS

Sidelines is the editorially independent, nonprofit, student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. Sidelines publishes Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and online during June and July. The opinions expressed herein are those of individual writers and not necessarily Sidelines or MTSU.

Arr, I'm a pirate

Confessions of a music fiend

There has been much buzz about the controversial issue of media piracy. With a bootleg here, and a torrent there, here a boot, there a boot, everywhere a bootleg - oh, how the times are a changin'.

Despite the fact that some would question the true substance of today's music, it is interesting to note the various genres of listeners and groups that are more likely to participate in the potluck of tune euphoria.

Thus, country music is among the few in its industry to remain afloat in the drowning flood of record sales. This theory could not have been better proven by the sold-out Garth Brooks concert, which went on sale Oct. 28 as part of the Nashville Flood Relief concert series.

I commend all of the loyal country fans for their support of these artists, but I can't help but earning a paycheck. They



Yum, Tastes Like Happy

ask, "Why not occasionally take advantage of a free download?"

I am aware that most may validate their actions by arguing integrity and principles, while at the same time offering support for their favorite artists. However, in this era of technology that changes as often as Lindsay Lohan's drug charges, it is safe to nior majoring in pubassume that most artists are not in the industry with the mere intention of

are also in this business to promote their messages - to entertain and engage listeners during this music revolution.

While a sheer fraction of my iTunes library consists of purchased songs, I have done my part for artist contributions - music promotions via fitted T-shirts, word-of-mouth, and bumper stickers, in addition to attending pricey music festivals and packed concerts.

Make the world a better place by sharing a tune with a colleague or friend. Either reference an inspirational lyric, or broadcast a favorite song of the week. Just remember file sharing is caring, but never share without protection.

Binny Soumaré is a serelations College of Mass Communication. She can be reached at sbs2y@mtmail.mtsu.edu.



Photo courtesy of Microsoft Corp. Microsoft founder Bill Gates (Above) plays an Xbox car racing game Jan. 5, 2005, during his keynote at the International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Nev.

Microsoft's policies not really censorship

Brett Parsons

Reasonably

Irrational

On any given day, you can find groups of videogame enthusiasts expressing dissatisfaction with the perceived lack of free speech rights concerning Xbox LIVE, Microsoft's online gaming service. When you mass enough nerds with all the arrogance Wikipedia offers them into an enclosed space, friction is

bound to occur. In March, the uproar involved allowing users the ability to express their sexuality - specifically just homosexuality, actually - in their names and profiles. Prior to Microsoft's policy change, claiming to be gay or a lesbian was grounds for suspension.

More recently, Stephen Toulouse, the director of Policy and Enforcement for Xbox LIVE, was asked on Twitter if a swastika could be used in "Call of Duty: Black Ops." Toulouse cited the tweet in a post on his personal blog, but given the satiric nature of his writing and spotty grammar, I'm not sure if what he wrote is a verbatim transcription of the question, so I won't

His answer was, "No, of course you can't, we'll ban you."

Apparently, it's against the company's code of conduct policy, which is vague enough to give Toulouse the power to deem anything as "offensive" should he

In his blog, he lists a firestorm of counter arguments that were thrown at him for the usage of a swastika. A common point is that despite being the unequivocal symbol of the Nazi party, when rotated slightly, Hitler did not invent the symbol. He merely adopted it to his own use; although the logic of using a marking that represents good luck and well-being in Eastern religions to symbolize the hard work and dedication of the Aryan race is... well, backwards.

He explains other people claimed that the Star of David, the Christian cross, and the infinity symbol could also be interpreted as "hateful" symbols. It does not escape me that the crescent and star of Islam is missing from this list, but that is beside

The second half of that logic is that all symbols should be open and usable on Xbox LIVE because Microsoft should defer to the First Amendment. But, therein lies a terrible misunderstanding of our right to free speech.

Some people think freedom of speech is a golden ticket in their back pocket, giving them the ability to say what they want,

when they want, wherever they want, and for any reason they might think of at any given moment. Truth be told, if they wanted all those things to be simultaneously true, they would probably have to be deep in the woods somewhere. Assuming, of course, that the woods were where they wanted to be in

Under reasonable conditions, someone might be able to manage three of the four.

Freedom of speech only guarantees that the federal government cannot prevent us from speaking our minds. That is a wonderful thing we should be proud to possess. But, what the First Amendment does not do is guarantee us the right to use someone else's resources to express ourselves, which is something people often weasel into arguments concerning the First Amendment so that they can cry censorship.

the first place.

When Dr. Laura announced she would be ending her radio program at the end of the year after controversy over slinging the "N-word" nearly a dozen times in a single call, she claimed it was because she wanted her "First Amendment rights" back.

Since there were never reports of FBI agents storming Dr. Laura's studio and taking her captive to prevent her from offending anyone else, I'm pretty sure she never lost those rights in the first place. Advertisers understandably jumping ship does not equate to censoring. It's their money. They're going to spend it where

they feel it's safest for their image. Similarly, we don't have freedom of speech on message boards, comment sections, or Facebook or anything else for that matter, on the Internet unless it's something we have direct control over. This includes Xbox LIVE. The Internet is a giant playground, but somebody owns every inch of that playground in one form or another. If what we say doesn't agree with their sensibilities, they can wipe it away like dust, and the government can't come in and make them put it back.

So, there won't be any swastikas on Xbox LIVE, and there's nothing that can be done about it. Microsoft is allowed to set the rules for its own corner of the playground. We have a say in it, if Microsoft lets us. But, that is on the company's good graces, not the U.S. Constitution's protections.

Brett Parsons is a senior majoring in journalism in the College of Mass Communication. He can be reached at bep2y@mtmail.mtsu.edu.

COMIC



Middle Tennessee State University 1301 East Main Street P.O. Box 8 Murfreesboro, TN 37132

> Editorial: 615-904-8357 Fax: 615-494-7648

Advertising: 615-898-5240 Fax: 615-904-8193

www.mtsusidelines.com

Editor-in-Chief Alex Moorman* sleditor@mtsu.edu

Managing Editor Marie Kemph* slmanaqe@mtsu.edu

Production Manager Andy Harper sldesign@mtsu.edu

News Marie Kemph* slnews@mtsu.edu Asst. News Christopher Merchant slcampus@mtsu.edu

Wittenberg

Asst. News Becca Andrews slcampus@mtsu.edu

Sports Will Trusler slsports@mtsu.edu

slfeatur@mtsu.edu

Features Laura Aiken* Rozalind Ruth slflash@mtsu.edu

Opinions Aimee' Schmittendorf* slopinio@mtsu.edu

Photography slphoto@mtsu.edu

Multimedia Business Eveon Corl

Copy Editor Courtney Polivka slcopy@mtsu.edu

Campus Advertising Chelsea LeMay sl4ads@mtsu.edu

Adviser

Leon Alligood alligood@mtsu.edu

Shelbyville Times-Gazette **Hugh Jones** Sissy Smith adsforsidelines@

sidelinesmanager@gmail.com

Off-Campus

Advertising

Tiffany Gibson



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DO YOU PREFER BOTTLED WATER OR TAP WATER?

FEATURES

DID YOU DITCH THE **RAZOR AND** PARTICIPATE IN NO SHAVE NOVEMBER?

BASED ON VOTES FROM MTSUSIDELINES.COM.

By CHRISTOPHER KINGSLEY Contributing Writer

Applause. The sound fills auditoriums nightly and can be heard in the streets all way from Main Street America to 42nd Street in New York City. It's also evidence of a good show.

Doyoufindyourselfhumming show tunes or popular songs featured on the hit TV show "Glee?" If you do, you can thank the world of Broadway and its cadre of supporters. Without songwriters, lyricists and the influence of Broad-"Glee" probably way, wouldn't exist.

The award-winning series, "Glee" is an example of a revived introduction of Broadway and popular songs into society, a feat not seen since The Golden Age of Television.

This new breed of musical comedy highlights the best of popular music and Broadway standards, introducing a younger audience to a culturally rich realm

of theatrics. But, as costs rise and theatergoers watch

their closely, more. will applause still be heard from

lowed theatrical halls? Or could stage productions die out?

"There's No Business Like Show Business"

"It's like publishing and film production when the economy is wacky - producers are less likely to risk their money so less gets produced," says Eric Dale Eubanks, a former student at the University Tennessee-Knoxville and local theater aficionado.

Eubanks points out a glaring problem with the economics of live theater on Broadway.

"It's pricing has long been so ramped up that it's been a financially elitist thing not accessible to a lot of people, which means the multitudes can't afford to go," Eubanks says.

In its infancy, producing a live theatrical show on Broadway was relatively easy. All one had to

person now requires veritable army people with deep pockets. "Live theater entertainment is secondary to most people's spending," says

what once took a single

dollars.

thousand

Marcus Gualberto, the director of The Actors Conservatory and communication assistant for the University of South-California School ern of Theatre.

The soured economy doesn't just affect the glitz and glamour of New York City productions.

"Most people forget that Hollywood actors started out in theater," Gualberto says. "Without the proper base of theater acting, these performers would not be as successful in film."

Smaller

theater

companies are also suffering because of show cancellations and reduced show runs, but other parts of the entertainment industry are growing exponentially.

"Many of today's biggest names in film are returning to their theatrical work, because they believe in the work," Gualberto says ecstatically.

More often than not, the lack of financial support from donors, charitable persons or institutions is the demise of otherwise thriving shows.

"We as artists cannot dismiss that in such tough economic times people still crave that escape from reality," Gualberto says. "So, a show may not have any monetary issues and be well attended, but the [economic situation] varies development [and] new work suffers."

Art Isn't Easy

"Let's face it, producing is the business aspect of theater - just because it's the arts doesn't mean you can't have business sensibility," Gualberto declares.

"Being a good producers means being smart about projects."

The book "The Enjoyment of Theatre" cited a survey proving that Broadway ticket prices soared from \$12 to \$71 from 1972 to 2006.

The Broadway League estimates that \$1.02 billion in gross revenues was made during the 2009-2010 season, and 11.89 million people filled the seats on Broadway. During the 2005-2006 season 12 million people attended shows in New York.

ation, and while costs may outweigh ticket sales, performing for an audience is what's important.

"Audiences continue to determine what shows stays afloat and which shows disappear," Eubanks adds. "Even in a slump, creative and performing art will

For decades, naysayers in and cynics alike have foreshadowed and predicted the eminent death of Broadway, yet no one has satisfactorily defined how such an art form would die.

evolve and change."

Money woes may have slowed artistic advancement, but the Great White Way still beckons those who dream of having their name in lights. The fabled Shubert Alley still enchants those wanting to tap their toes in a Broadway chorus.

There are shows yet to be written, songs yet to be sung, dances yet to be choreographed, and audiences yet to be thrilled and captivated.

So, when you watch "Glee" next week, perhaps a Broadway standard, thank those who successfully climbed the entertainment's version of Mount Everest.

As Stephen Sondheim wrote, "Every little detail plays a part, having just the vision's no solution. Everything depends on execution, putting it together, that's what counts."



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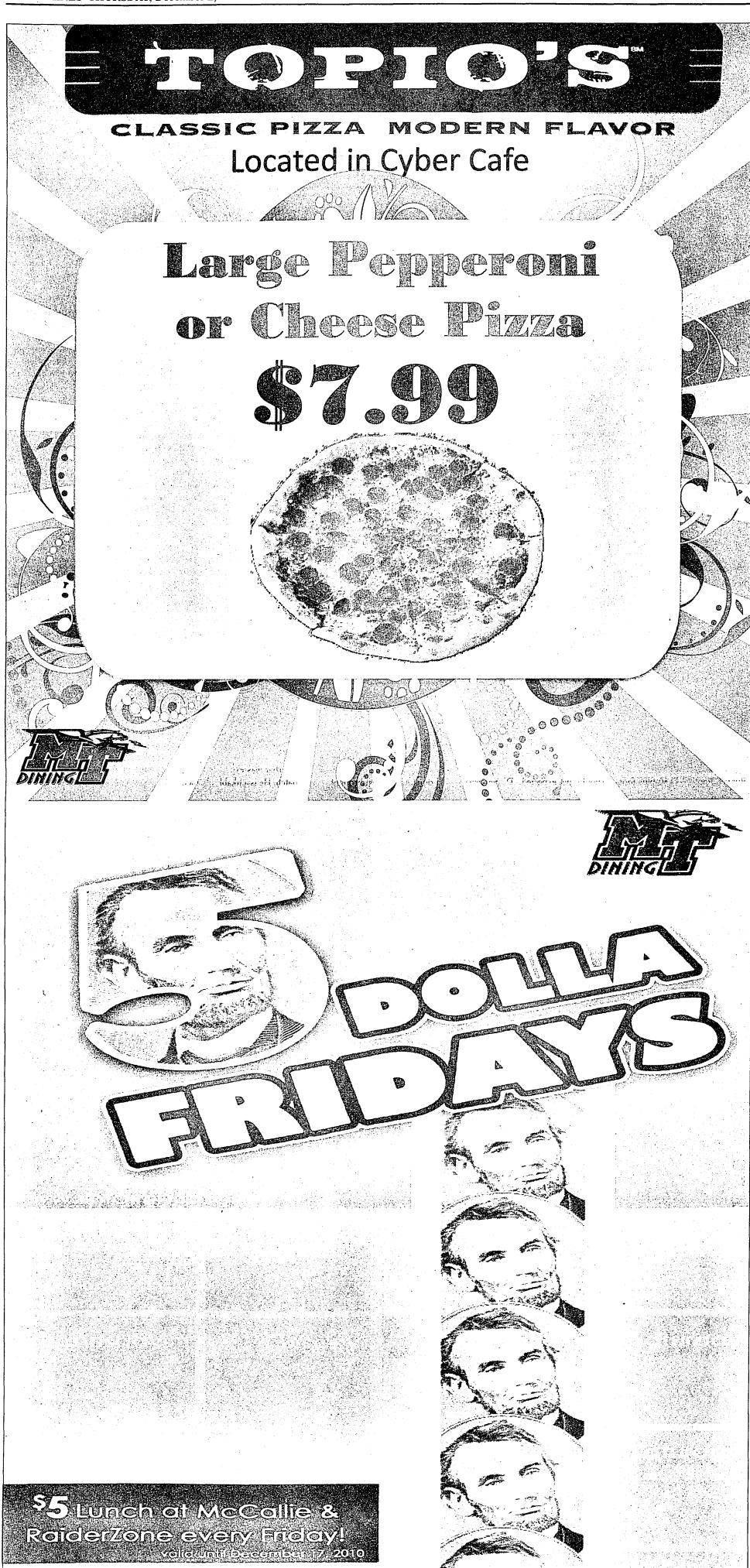
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



'Tangled' entertaining, not a classic

By BRETT PARSONS Staff Writer

There's something about the story of Rapunzel that makes it seem like an awkward choice for a cartoon. Left as it is, it's nonsense with no reason behind why she has such long hair in the first place. There's no hero; the valiant prince isn't so much valiant as a predator and a horn dog, finding a woman in the wilderness and seducing her. The most evil person in the story is Rapunzel's thieving father for selling her to the witch to save his own hide.

"Tangled" puts the plot through the Disney prism, swapping the role of royalty between Rapunzel (Mandy Moore) and the "valiant" prince, personified here as the far more suitable and smarmy rogue Flynn Ryder (Zachary Levi). The witch (Donna Murphy) is stripped of her powers and left as a mundane, decrepit crone who abducts the princess and stashes her away in a secluded tower to feed on the life-giving power that flows from her golden hair.

But yes, Rapunzel's 30-plus-footlong hair is magical and loses its gift when cut, giving some explanation for why she has it all in the first

place. For some reason, Flynn never questions the length of her hair and the very idea of cutting it is conveniently ignored for most of the film - despité how heavy it would seem to be. Rapunzel is likely very near the event horizon where washing her hair would require so much time that when she finished she would need to start all over again.

Despite being a captive for her entire life, the princess is eager, brave, and talented, but she's also bored. According to the film's excessive introduction, the royal family launches thousands of paper lanterns on her birthday every year. Seeing these lights from her tower window, Rapunzel desperately wants to go and see the lanterns for her 18th birthday, but her oppressive and maddeningly self-absorbed "mother" refuses to allow it. Flynn, having recently stolen the princess' own crown, escapes from the law by climbing her tower, whereupon he is unwillingly beaten into a deal to take Rapunzel to the castle to see the lights.

There are no surprises from here out in the plot, which, in itself, should be expected. Disney isn't aiming to turn the world of fairy tales on its heels here; they tried that with "Enchanted," which actually

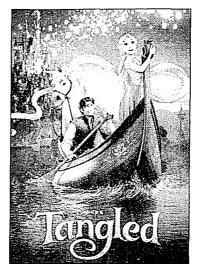


Photo courtesy of The Walt Disney Co.

did well. Instead, this is more of the same - not necessarily a bad thing.

"Tangled" is full of good humor. Sight gags have always been Disney's strong suit, it's easy to wonder if they locked a group of people in a room until they brainstormed a few dozen silly tricks that could be done with Rapunzel's hair. Hiding in a pile of it as if it was a turtle shell got a chuckle out of me.

The sharp dialogue also earned its share of laughs.

"I don't know what brought you here," Rapunzel says, tugging on her hair as it serves as Flynn's bindings. "Call it fate or destiny."

"A horse," Flynn replies flatly.

And what kind of Disney movie doesn't have a plot-extraneous animal character? Rapunzel keeps a pet chame-

leon but never explains how the jungle-dwelling creature came to live in her tower in an Englandlike fantasy kingdom. The little creature is employed as another source of laughs as its colorchanging abilities are displayed.

Mandy Moore makes for a perfect Rapunzel, both in the quality of her voice and the feeling of bountiful eagerness and recessed strength behind it. It's always nice to see a princess character not being pushed into the damsel in distress role, though smashing people in the head with a frying pan or a tree branch might have been a little too far in the other direction.

Zachary Levi, known for playing the title character on NBC's "Chuck," however, rests a bit behind Moore in the quality of his performance. Many of Flynn's lines feel out of place, as if the emotion placed in the line and the emotion that was expected don't quite match. He is a likable character, although the title of "hero" remains by and large well out of his reach. The most danger he willingly rides

into is what he thinks is a fist fight with an old woman. There is definitively no comparison between him and, say, Prince Phillip from "Sleeping Beauty," which leaves him ultimately forgettable.

The only key detraction from the film is the reliance on musical numbers. Maybe that will seem like an odd criticism for a Disney film, but it may want to take some cues from Pixar when it comes to music. Most of the songs serve little purpose to the plot or character advancement, dragging what was otherwise a well-paced scene to a standstill for two tiresome minutes of rehashing obvious character traits. Musical pieces are expected in this territory, but in "Tangled" its overuse upstages the characters and the story.

The inevitable love song is pleasant and worthwhile, however, as well as a silly song about a band of barbarians with tender hopes and dreams.

When the movie is allowed to be a movie, it's a happy romp through this old tale. But, without a heroic figure or a grand sense of wonder, like in "Aladdin," it's not likely that this one will stand amongst Disney's classics, though that second shelf in its trophy case is still a high honor.

Mars and Venus do not

like each other, and you're

the only person who suffers

from their wrath. Be prepared for computer crashes.

burnt pizzas, and the loss of

Congratulations, Nep-

tune's presence aided you in academic organization

this semester. Now, you just

need another planet to step

in and save your ever-waning social life. Good luck.

You wanted to quit

smoking last semester. This

semester you want to quit

drinking. But, you haven't

done either. Maybe if you

work on more homework,

Venus will help you drink

your porn collection.



Treat your palate to a Festival '34 this holiday

No matter what the cost of the bottle, the savoring moment belongs to the sipper. However, one can't always afford a glass of Sonoma-Cutrer Coast Chardonnay or Zenato Ripassa

Valipolicella Superiore. Carefully considering the needs and limitations of a well-deserving pupil, there are a few wine stores that offer a vast assortment at the bargain prices of three bottles for \$10.99, \$15.99 or \$21.99. Two such stores are Main Street Liquors on Gallatin Avenue or Colonial Wines and Liquors off 8th Avenue in Nashville. Stones River Totally Beverages, on North Thompson Lane in Murfreesboro, carried the line in the past as well.

Festival '34 Cabernet Sauvignon rings up in most wine shops at less



One, Two, Wine

than \$9 and under \$4 if purchased at the aforementioned locations. Even if you live in Murfreesboro, driving to a store with such a value is worth the trip – especially if you buy by the case and are looking for good holiday gifts, hostess gifts or a gift to yourself.

Festival '34 wines are screw-top bottles, which means if you don't have a

wine-kev. vou're still able to

partake. Festival '34 make a merlot and chardonnay as well, but the cabernet is inarguably the best.

The wine gets its name invoking the first vintage after the repeal of prohibition in 1933. It also contains a bit of merlot, cabernet franc and petite sirah, which is blended for taming of the tannin, to add complexity, and yet not so much as to take away from the integrity of cabernet sauvignon. American winemakers must have at least 85 percent of a certain type of grape with other varietals for blending and still be able to call the bottle by its primary varietal name.

One thing is for sure, this juice doesn't shirk quality for its cost-efficient value.

WINE, PAGE 8



approaching, and all you've come to realize that another year has gone by and that biology lab you had actually didn't teach you anything. But, at least you passed.

Your birthday is quickly

As the holiday season approaches, Mars is over-

cast by Venus. This means nothing to you because

no matter how much Ve-



nus is hidden, there will be no mistletoe kiss for you - sad.

Watch out for Jupiter, she isn't your friend. Try not to stare too hard at the crush you have, that person will just think you're creepy. Don't say anything to your **PISCES** crush either, you'll just

be rejected.



ARIES

The stars are laughing at you, but not because of the haircut you got a few weeks ago or because of that unfortunate rash. Mostly, because you didn't study for your final, academic failure.



about those dishes you didn't wash - and neither is your roommate. Clean up after yourself or bad things are going to happen, like you waking up with no hair.

Mercury isn't happy

AFR. 20 - NAY 20

TAURUS



day photos? Uranus says you're stuck with him all winter break. But, maybe you can get some awesome gifts. Just don't sit on his MAY 21 - JUNE 20 lap, you're too old.

Remember that creepy

uncle in your family's holi-



CANCER JUNE 21 - JULY 22



JIIIV 228 - AIGA, 222





LIBRA

Uranus watched you disgustingly engorge yourself over Thanksgiving break. To punish you for your carb intake, you'll loose your car, bike and scooter. Looks like you're "hoofing it" for the rest of the semester. NEPT. 221 - OCT. 221

SCORPIO 007. 24 - HOV. 21

Saturn is actually pleased with you. Unfortunately, nobody cares what Saturn thinks. But still, your luck is looking good. So, try not to choke on that final for the class you skipped all semester.



Happy birthday. You've been reveling under the season of your sign. Party it up because in about two weeks the party is over, and it'll be another year before any astrological body cares about you again.





Photo by Aimeé Schmittendorf, opinions editor

WINE FROM PAGE 7

The first breath of this wine is warm. You can smell the intoxicant with all of its tannin and majesty as soon as you pour it into the glass. It does lack a little oak, although the winemaker boasts both French and American oak. A discerning palette will find plum, chocolate covered cherries, mulling spices, tobacco, cranberry and olives.

One that imbibes might enjoy this wine with a medium-rare filet or a good hamburger. Having it with a plate of marinara isn't a bad idea either.

If you're the kind of wine drinker that asks yourself, "What did I just slip my tongue into?" The answer: a sweet, little white tank top and your favorite pair of blue jeans. This wine is low-maintenance.

Warning signs of a bad bottle in these racks would be a cork that pooches above the lip of the bottle. This often means that the wine has been stored in a warm place and is now as cooked as Brittany Spears's previous two marriages. Also, be careful of vintages older than three years before the current year. For lesser quality wine, there is lesser shelf life.

If you buy a bad bottle, don't dump it out. Re-cap it, and take it back to the store. The store will send it back to the wine purveyor, and you will get a fresh chance at a new-to-you bottle.

As a wine appreciator and steward of this delicious juice, this drink is recommended. They'll make more. Put the wine in your glass, and put the glass in your hand. Put the glass to your mouth, and enjoy the fruits of your labor and those of the winemakers who aim to please.

Work hard and well so that you can get a good glass of wine later. It makes the job so much sweeter to end with an acknowledgment to your efforts. The better the work gets the more valuable the wine-time becomes.

Aimeé Schmittendorf is a senior majoring in public relations and wine steward qualified by the Court of Master Sommeliers. For wine related inquiries, she can be reached at Aimee.schmittendorf@gmail.com.

Local band rocks stage with 'Budda Pop' style

By JACKIIE RIPPEE Contributing Writer

Awesome Possum is not just a phrase used when faced with good news or excitement. It is also the name of a curious local band rocking the stages of Murfreesboro.

Awesome Possum comprises an interesting line up of students at MTSU's campus – Stephen West the smooth guitar playing front man, Dave Armstrong the laughing bassist, Holly Cunningham the trumpet-playing eye candy, and Nate West the politically opinionated drummer.

The formation of Awesome Possum started when Dave approached Stephen about the band.

"He did have to convince me," Stephen said.

At first, Stephen was intrigued with the idea of the band, but the busy life of a college student kept him from fully committing to the band.

It was apparent that Stephen needed a pep talk from Dave in order for the band to get started.

The bassist said, "You've got to step it up a notch. You've got to use your time. Live your life. You're not living your life to its fullest."

With these words, Stephen was on the Awesome Possum bandwagon and began to compile the other members of the band.

Only a few simple phone calls were needed for Holly and Nate to join the band. Finally, the roots of Awesome Possum had formed.

Awesome Possum is a



band that has "serious fun" Holly said. She said one of the great aspects of the band members is fans can tell they have fun when they are on stage—the band wore pajamas and their possum costumes to their first show.

"We're all jokesters," Holly reveals.

Awesome Possum has a unique type of music. It's so unique that even Stephen, the main lyricist for the band, has trouble categorizing its genre.

"It's a mixture of pop and some other element I don't know," Stephen said.

Dave coined the term "Buddha Pop" as the band's music genre.

"It's pop with meaning,"
Dave explains. "We don't
know what it means, but it
means something."

The band's genre is hard to place because of the trumpet – an atypical instrument for a pop band. When making calls to find the next band member, Stephen said he was looking for personalities rather



Photo by Erica Springer, contributing photographer
Awesome Possum pose during a photo shoot in October
2010. The unique Murfreesboro band consists of Nate
West, Holly Cunningham, Dave Armstrong and Stephen
West (Above, left to right).

than nontraditional instruments. Holly was the perfect fit for the group.

Since Stephen is the lyricist for the band, Awesome Possum works together to make his songs better. Band members aren't simply a backup band for their front man, Dave said.

"We really try to make the songs entertaining for everybody," Dave said. "We don't just take Stephen's songs as they are

and put a beat to them – we drive him."

Awesome Possum is working on a three-song EP, and the release of a music video for the song "On the Run." Although Awesome Possum has only created small local buzz, the future is likely to be busy with projects and performances.

As Dave put it, "I don't know if we're celebrities, but I know we're having fun."

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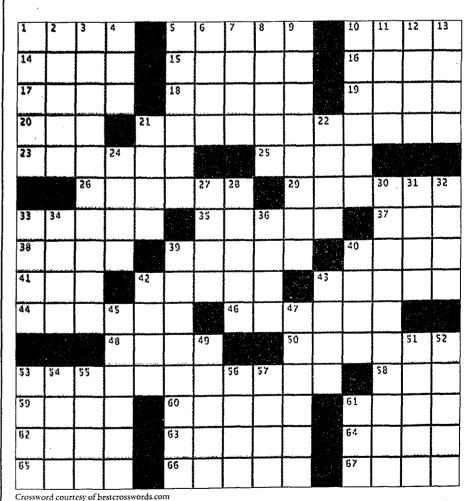
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SIDEWORDS

The weekly Sidelines crossword puzzle



ACROSS

1- Exposed; 5- Give it ____!; 10- Portico; 14- Warts and all; 15- Pilfer; 16- Like some orders; 17- Trent of the Senate; 18- Plant anew; 19- Inter ___; 20- Brian of Roxy Music; 21- Charitable donation; 23- Thin and watery; 25- German Mrs; 26- Bedwear: Var.; 29- Bass's counterpart; 33- Backs of feet; 35- Thorny flowers; 37- Battery size; 38- In a bad way; 39- Jabbed; 40- Donations to the poor; 41- Gal of song; 42- Western; 43- Monastery; 44- Grunts; 46- Barrister; 48- Seine feeder; 50- Concealment; 53- Supervisor of bellhops; 58- Sticky stuff; 59- Like some history; 60- Stupefy with drink; 61- Pearl Mosque city; 62- Movable barrier; 63- Sierra ___; 64- Coarse file; 65- Belgian river; 66- Ruhr city; 67- Child support?;

DOWN

Nashville E

1- Bundles; 2- All together; 3- Orchestral interlude between arias; 4- Cornerstone abbr.; 5- Anew; 6- Nothing, in Nantes; 7- Additional; 8- Deride; 9- Frustrated; 10- Carved image; 11- Anklebones; 12- A dish with many ingredients; 13- King of comedy; 21- Insects; 22- Autos; 24- Greasy; 27- Horse's gait; 28- Country bumpkin; 30- Plain-knit cotton fabric; 31- Gammy; 32- New Orleans is The Big ___; 33- Sibilate; 34- Brio; 36- Antitoxins; 39- Adequate; 40- Asleep; 42- Auricular; 43- 16th letter of the Hebrew alphabet; 45- Wheel; 47- Blanch; 49- Sporting blades; 51- Like Thor; 52- Flip out; 53- A hobgoblin; 54- Ages; 55- After the bell; 56- General ___ chicken; 57- Bang-up; 61- Biblical beast boat;

