



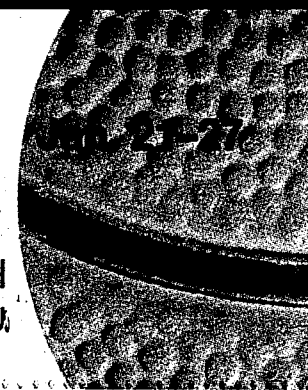
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true **BLUE WEEK**

Jan. 26
ESPN 2

Men's Basketball
vs. WKU

Jan. 27 Women's Basketball
vs. WKU



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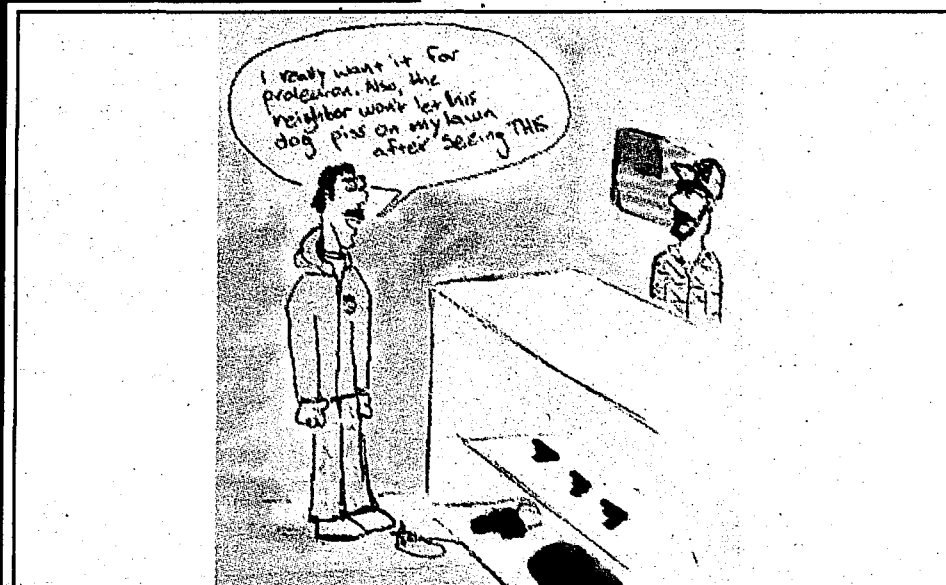
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Comic by Matt Masters.

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Visit us at www.mtsusidelines.com

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Gun control debate reaches zenith in Middle Tennessee

By Quint Qualls
News editor

A wave of controversy washed over Middle Tennessee and the nation at large following President Obama's unveiling of his three-point gun control plan Jan. 16.

President Obama signed 23 executive orders advocating congressional action against assault weapons and ineffective background checking, joined by four children who wrote letters to him campaigning for stricter gun laws in the wake of the elementary school shooting in Newtown, Conn.

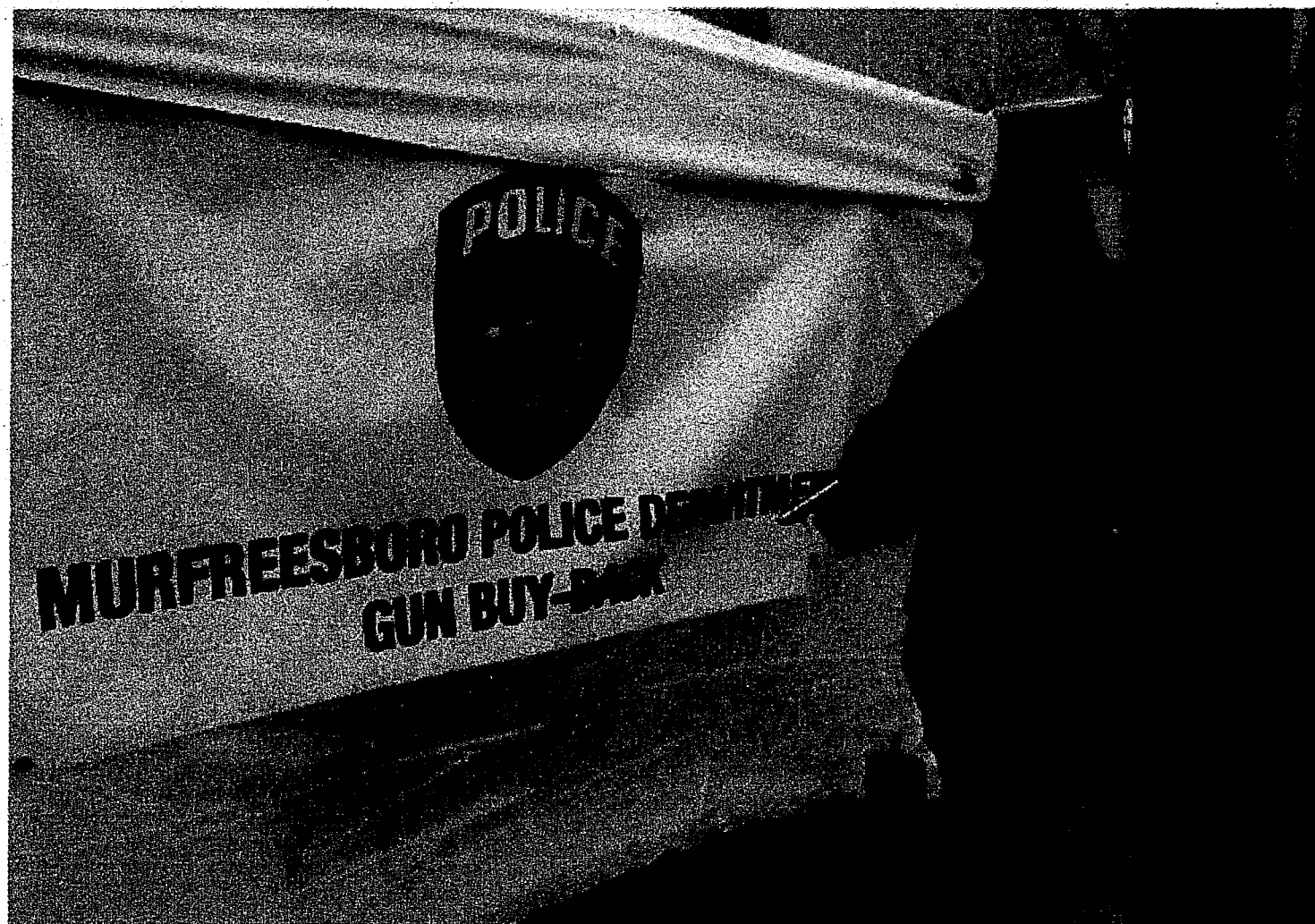
"The most important changes we can make depend on congressional action," Obama said.

According to Obama, approximately 900 Americans have died from guns in the days since the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

The president's plan revolved around three general points of action: universal background checks on all gun purchases, more tools for law enforcement to deal with gun violence and a ban on all military-style assault weapons.

Sgt. Broede Stucky, public information officer of MTSU Public Safety, was skeptical of the president's plan to curb gun violence. In his professional opinion, a weapon is only a tool in the act that it is used for.

"I think in general



Major Clyde Adkison of the Murfreesboro Police Department displays a .22-caliber semi-automatic pistol and a single shot rifle recovered in the city's first gun buyback program. Photo by Quint Qualls.

if you restrict or take away one means of committing an act of violence, then a perpetrator will merely find another way to commit the act of violence," Stucky said. "Never underestimate the creativity or resourcefulness of someone that is bent on causing death and destruction. I realize that sounds very grim; however, we are talking about very grim people."

The move to place more limits on the Second Amendment began to stir up vicious

controversy almost immediately after its unveiling. Tennessee State Rep. Joe Carr filed legislation Jan. 15 that would warrant the arrest of any federal agent trying to enforce a ban on firearms.

"This most blatant assault on the Second Amendment by the Obama Administration is a systematic effort to disarm the law-abiding citizens of the United States," Carr said in a press release issued just after the address from the president.

The day after the

president issued his executive orders for stricter gun control, the Murfreesboro Police Department teamed up with the local NAACP chapter and Central Christian Church in the city's first ever gun buyback program.

According to MPD Chief Glenn Chrisman, the aim of the event was to simply get guns off the streets away from unsafe hands such as children and to help to curb gun violence in Murfreesboro.

The gun buyback occurred as the de-

bate over gun control reached its peak after 20 first graders were gunned down in Newtown, and bystanders said some participants jumped to the conclusion that it was inherently anti-gun.

"A lot of people have said that the gun buyback was poorly timed, and some have said that it was really well timed, but we had been planning this well before the president's statements yesterday," said Clyde Adkison, public information officer for the Murfrees-

boro Police Department. "This is not about politics in any way. It is about safety."

The event was conducted anonymously in its entirety. No questions were asked and no records of the participants were taken. The guns were simply taken in and embedded with wire ties to lock back the barrel, totally preventing the loading and firing mechanisms, before placing them in evidence storage. ■

Photo gallery finds new home after year of displacement

By Emily West
Managing editor

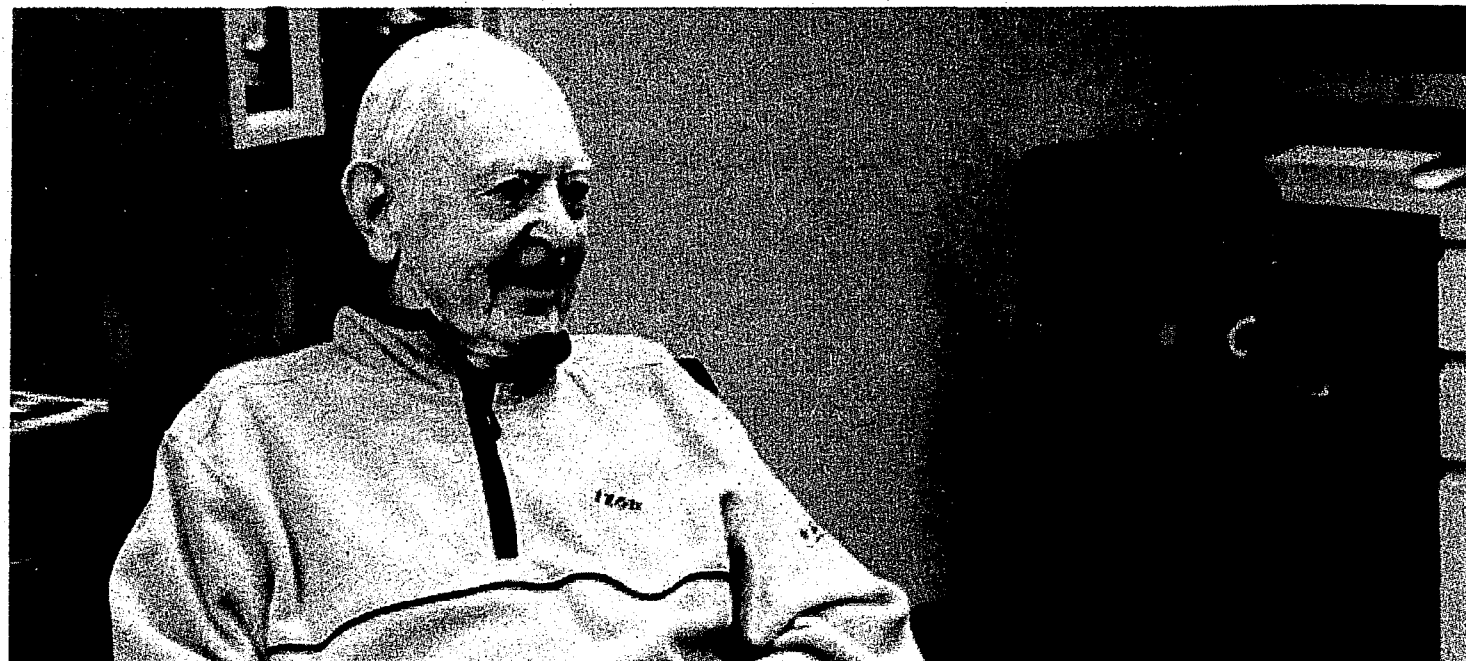
After several location changes since the 1960s, the Baldwin Photographic Gallery will finally claim a room on the second floor of the John Bragg Mass Communication building as its new home, starting in the fall semester.

Through a donation of \$100,000 from its namesake Harold Baldwin, the gallery received the extra financial push it needed to start remodeling what is now a studio for the student-run TV station MT10. The new gallery will have about 200 square feet with movable walls and new lighting.

Having a door that viewers have to walk through means more positive changes, according to Tom Jimison, the gallery's curator. This means the gallery can be more secure and have figured work.

"Museums and galleries are full of figured work, and that is something that is just part of art," Jimison said. "With the door, viewers have to make the choice to go in rather than when it was a hallway, so this is how we are going to be able to show figured work, if we ever have any. I can't imagine why it makes people so upset at a modern issue. If it's going to offend you, don't go."

Jimison has been curating the gallery for more than 20 years



Gallery namesake Harold Baldwin sits in the Center of Innovation of Media while being interviewed. Photo by Kati Baird.

and watched the archive grow to almost 1,000 pieces. The new gallery can showcase up to 50 pieces at a time, depending on the size of the work. For its grand opening in the fall, he is hoping photographer Jerry Uelsmann, who has shown his work in galleries across the globe, will speak at the opening.

For more than a year now, the photo department lacked a space to display its art after having its last show Dec. 11, 2011, due to remodeling in the Ned McWherter Learning Resource Center. Before closing, the gallery brought in up to four artists per year, put on a senior show and provided a class practicum to prepare students to run a gallery.

"It's wonderful to have our voice back," said Jonathan Trundle, photography professor.

"The gallery prepared students for working in that setting, and it's been a bit problematic for faculty without having one. We sought out off-campus locations, but that didn't work out either."

In place of the gallery, professors use the department's Facebook page as an online gallery and the blank wall space in the building for prints. Trundle said he created a smaller hallway gallery for one of his classes, and it generated a positive response.

The gallery itself started with Baldwin in the Tom Jackson Building, which was once referred to as the drawing building, after he arrived from Colorado to work with the university. He then created the photography program that stemmed out of creating and organizing the photography archives. Baldwin

arranged them in the lounge of the building so students could view more professional art.

"Students before never got the opportunity to see real work," Baldwin said. "I wanted to improve the visual experience for photography students, and after that we began to collect and purchase. I remember we bought an Ansel Adams print for \$90, and now they are

worth thousands."

When he realized the school needed more attention for its program, Baldwin began the "Lightyear" publication that showcased students' work alongside that of professional photographers. However, with university expansion, the gallery found its way in to the LRC and was renovated to accommodate the lighting and supplies needed

for hanging the art.

After Baldwin's retirement in 1991, the gallery was renamed for him in 1996.

"I think we are all a little anxious for this to happen, and I can't wait to see what this becomes," Baldwin said. "I just started it because I wanted to supplement my teaching. I never had any idea this would become what it is now."

CRIME BRIEFS

VANDALISM Scarlett Commons Building 5

Jan 15, 1:18 p.m.
A complainant reported that her vehicle was vandalized in front of her apartment building.

ALCOHOL Sam Ingram Building

Jan 16, 12:57 a.m.
Authorities arrested Jared W. Henley, 30, for driving under the influence and violation

of the implied consent law.

THEFT Womack Lane Apartment B

Jan. 16, 8:06 p.m.
A complainant reported that her tricycle was stolen over winter break.

INDECENT EXPOSURE James E. Walker Library

Jan. 17, 8:17 a.m.
A complaint reported that a black male exposed himself on the second floor of the library.

**ALCOHOL
Gentleman Jim's
Jan. 18, 12:41 a.m.**
Authorities issued Alexandra Morgan Kinnie, 19, a state citation for underage alcohol consumption.

Tennessee hit hard by new flu strain

By Sinclair Sparkman
Assistant news editor

Few are left unaffected by the flu this winter season as society scrambles to swing into a new year, particularly in Tennessee where the number of reported cases have eclipsed those of the rest of the country. Of all 47 states hit by the influenza epidemic, Tennessee is one of 13 experiencing the most cases reported statewide, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Each year, up to 20 percent of the U.S. population come down with the flu. During the first week of 2013, influenza was reported

by the CDC to have infected nearly 33 percent of the nation's people, and week two weighed in with about 30 percent having the flu.

Though the trend of number of flu cases reported to the CDC has started to decrease within the first two weeks of the new year, Tennessee remains among one of the states with the most severe flu outbreak reported this season.

Residents of Tennessee are at a high risk for attracting the flu due to the high number of those infected. To help prevent the spread of the flu around campus, the university's student health services provides flu shots for

students and faculty. According to Dr. Eric Clark, the medical director of the clinic, even if someone gets the flu after having a flu shot, the symptoms will be less severe than if the individual had taken no precautions.

"Good hygiene is a must," Dr. Clark said. "Cover your cough, wash your hands and get lots of sleep."

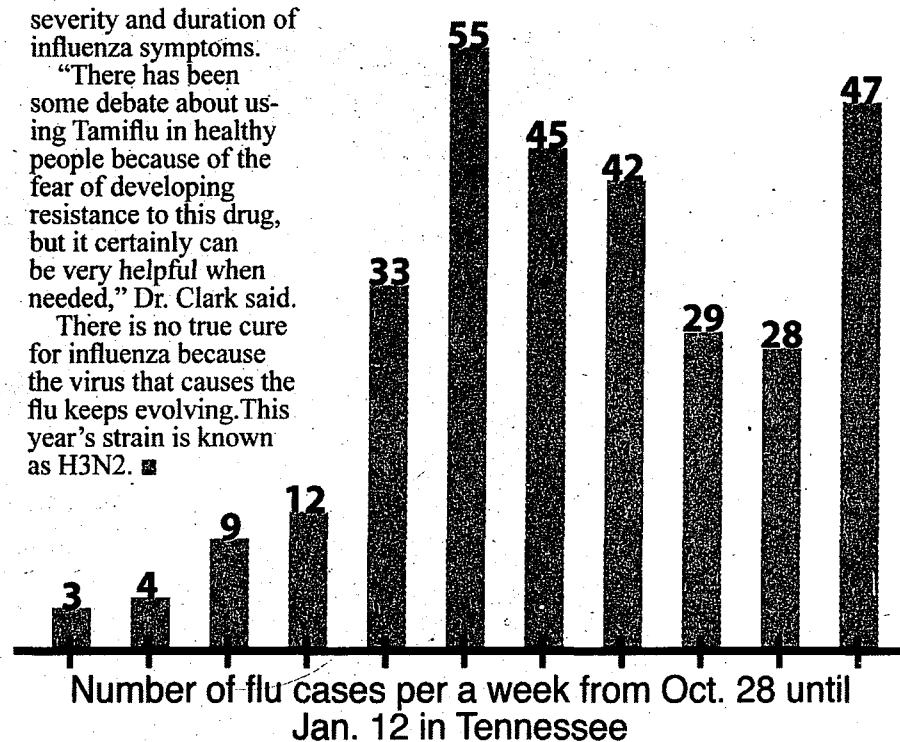
For those who already have the illness and want a speedy recovery, Dr. Clark recommended letting the illness run its course along with drinking lots of fluids and getting plenty of rest.

The clinic can prescribe the anti-viral medicine Tamiflu, which may reduce the

severity and duration of influenza symptoms.

"There has been some debate about using Tamiflu in healthy people because of the fear of developing resistance to this drug, but it certainly can be very helpful when needed," Dr. Clark said.

There is no true cure for influenza because the virus that causes the flu keeps evolving. This year's strain is known as H3N2.



Infographic designed by Kelsey Klingemeyer.



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move in today

great location to campus + private bedrooms & bathrooms + individual leases
fitness center + fully furnished apartments + swimming pool



mtstudenthousing.com

Gateway Grill offers fine dining, respite from chains

By Jay Powell
Features editor

Murfreesboro has its fair share of places to eat on a given night.

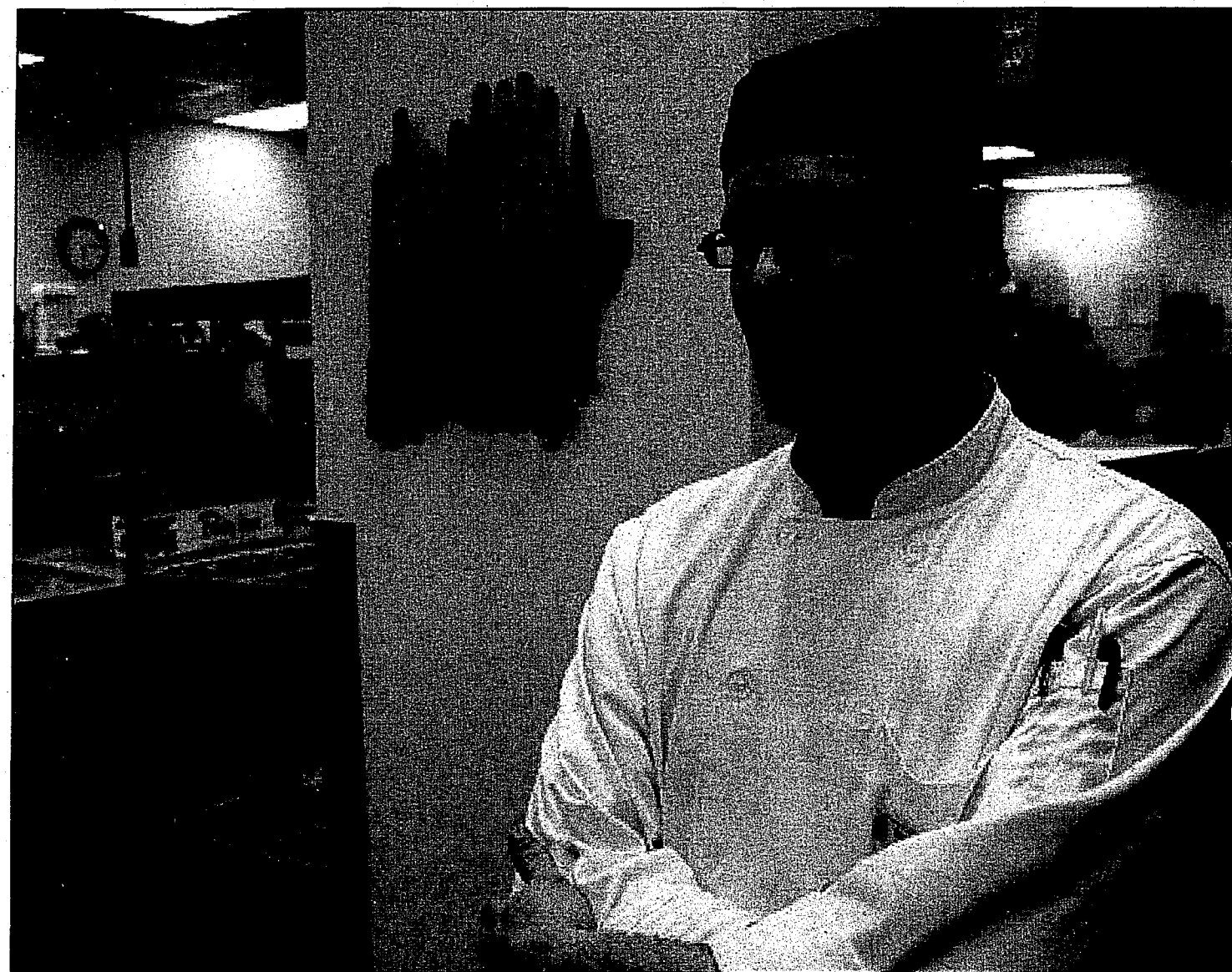
Roads like Broad Street and Thompson Lane are lined as far as the eye can see with choices like Chili's, Logan's Roadhouse and more Asian specialties than you could shake a couple of chopsticks at; it is easy to get bogged down by so many options, and oftentimes the best places fall between the cracks.

If you were to drive the extra mile just beyond The Avenue on Medical Center Boulevard and take a chance on the Embassy Suites' in-house restaurant, The Gateway Grille, you would be pleasantly surprised.

As you enter the sliding doors of the main entrance, your ears will immediately pick up the soothing sounds of a fountain located in the middle of the skylight atrium. Its sleek design offers natural lighting during the day, both saving energy and giving its guests respite from the hustle and bustle of downtown Murfreesboro.

Though one might not think of a hotel as a typical spot for a romantic meal, The Gateway Grille is open to the public and has the potential to become your new favorite spot for date night. A meal for two could cost as low as \$25 to \$30.

Will Gray, an MTSU graduate and the Grille's sous-chef,



MTSU graduate Will Gray is the sous chef for The Gateway Grille in Murfreesboro. Photo by Matt Masters.

says his mission is to provide a fine dining experience to guests at an affordable price. His only wish is that more people knew there is a place to experience fine dining right in our own backyard.

"It seems like it's a pretty well-kept secret across Murfreesboro," he says. "Not very many people even know this place exists, but it's one of the nicer

places to eat in town for a pretty moderate price."

The menu boasts varying types of East Coast-West Coast Americana including pulled pork with spicy slaw and pepper jack cheese (\$9) or the grilled rib-eye steak topped with caramelized shallots and shiitake mushrooms (\$23), which is sure to send any steak lover's taste

buds into ecstasy.

The Grille also offers a number of fresh gourmet sandwiches, each under \$10. You could enjoy a nice turkey panini (\$9), consisting of smoked turkey sliced in-house, red pepper jam, white cheddar, bacon, avocado, red onion and a garlic herb mayo, all stuffed between two slices of freshly baked asiago garlic ciabatta bread.

For starters, the seafood lover could enjoy a plate of pan-seared sea scallops, which comes served with sweet potato cakes and a creole mustard sauce. Others could sink their teeth into the buffalo mozzarella: heirloom tomato slices, aged balsamic and extra virgin olive oil, all topped with fresh cracked peppers, basil and thyme.

The menu caters to

most tastes. There are a number of soup and salad options for vegetarians, such as The Gateway Salad (\$8) or the Tennessee Onion Soup (\$4 a crock).

The chef's special, which Gray designs himself, is different every night. This, according to Gray, is how he continues to build his skills as a chef and practice his philosophy in the tradition of pre-

FEATURES

paring meals, which he believes is one of the world's oldest and final true art forms.

"It's one of the last industries where you can actually do that. It's not so much based on how much knowledge you have out of a textbook; it's about what you can do with a pot and a pan," he says. "If you can send good tasting, good looking food out, then people are going to eat it. You don't necessarily have to have the pedigree, so to speak, as being a doctor or a lawyer, all you have to do is be able to make good food."

The evening's meal begins with a petite crap cake (\$12) served over a bed of spicy carrot slaw and Napa cabbage, all topped with a zesty Sriracha aioli sauce. For those allergic to seafood, you will have to fight the urge to take a little risk for the sake of something so delectable. The coolness of the slaw mixed with the heat from the crab cake offer an unusual balance that makes the spicy dish much more accessible.

The chef's special for the evening *Sidelines* dropped in was a petite filet served over a nest of loaded mashed potatoes topped with grilled shrimp and a side of steamed white asparagus. The steak was cooked to a nice medium rare, and its juices cleverly provided a natural gravy for the potatoes. Such a well-prepared steak could give specialty restaurants like Long-



An entree from The Gateway Grille's menu. Photo by Matt Masters.

horn and Chop House a much-deserved run for its money.

The presentation of the meal could not have been better. Patrons feel as if the dish was personally crafted for them, and that it is a shame to cut into something that obviously took much skill and attention to prepare.

A good dinner must always end with a little something sweet, and after a meal at The Gateway Grille, you would be a fool not to enjoy a slice of Snickers cheesecake.

Unlike the typical New York style that can be found just about anywhere, the Snickers cheesecake is a bit denser, fresh and a delight for the sweet tooth. The caramel and fudge beautifully blend with the peanut butter

crust, causing an explosion of flavor unlike anything you might have tasted.

With a cuisin  that can please nearly every taste and prices that even the most modest college student's budget can afford, it's hard to find a better place in the 'Boro that could offer such a classic and laid-back atmosphere for an evening out of the house.

"I would like for people to realize that this is a great asset," Gray says. "This is a great place for dates, moderately priced, attached to the hotel, which is always nice, and it's right here in town." ■

COVER STORY

Jones finds inspiration through death of fallen teammate

By Alex Hubbard
Staff writer

At the end of the 2011-12 women's basketball season, Middle Tennessee Lady Raiders Head Coach Rick Insell praised his leaders in no uncertain terms, but he said just a little bit more about one player in particular.

"I think the last two months or month-and-a-half of our season, I saw Kortni Jones step up and try to lead in the way that I was hoping that she would from the very beginning of this year," Insell told *Sidelines*.

Insell, a veteran coach of more than three decades in high school and women's college basketball, rarely singles out anyone for specific praise. He came close to doing so with Jones for a good reason.

Jones's leadership was particularly noteworthy because of the role she adopted out of necessity following a team tragedy, the murder of Lady Raiders' guard Tina Stewart.

Stewart died in a March 2011 altercation with her roommate in their off-campus apartment—an incident from which Stewart's roommate was later convicted of second-degree murder.

Her death came two days before the team was set to leave for the Sun Belt tournament. Dazed and upset, a group of bewildered, hurting basketball players chose to play on. But they never won again that season, los-



Kortni Jones has developed into an all-conference player during her time at MT and is among the team's leaders in several offensive categories as a senior. Photo by Mark Mize.

ing to Arkansas State in the conference tournament and to Georgia in the NCAA tournament.

Anne Marie Lanning, the team's emotional leader who brought the team in tears out on the Murphy Center floor to face TV cameras for the first time after Stewart's death, graduated that May, taking her natural 3-point-shooting skills with her.

Insell's problems were compounded. He intended for Stewart to take Lanning's place. Insell immediately turned to Jones, who started regularly at point guard, and asked her to make a move to

begin her junior season.

"Luckily we had a point guard coming in, Shanice [Cason]," Jones said. "So they came to me, and they told me that they would be looking at putting me at the shooting guard position."

Jones, who played her high-school basketball at Oak Ridge, is listed at 5 feet, 9 inches on the team roster, but that could be a slight exaggeration. She graces the court with a certain smooth determination and vision that affords her a commanding presence without appearing overbearing.

Without the seri-

ous muscular tone of many post players or the squatty appearance of some point guards, Jones is somewhere right in the middle.

The change Insell asked of her was a difficult move. Nothing in her past had ever allowed her to develop shooting skills.

"It was a hard transition because I had been playing point guard all my life," she said. "I never played another position. So, it was a whole new scenery for me."

Jones put in long summer days in the gym with the trainer and away from her

home. Now her position forced her not to act so much as a bridge between offense and defense, but rather as a mechanism to make the offense work under any condition.

To do that, she had to mesh with Icelyn Elie and Ebony Rowe, her post players, and find a new concentration to squeeze the basketball into tighter places and more quickly. Shooting was even tougher.

"I was not a good shooter my freshman and sophomore years," Jones said. "They told me that was something they were going to need me to do, so I took it

upon myself because I knew that was what my team needed."

In the 2011 season opener, Jones racked up a career high 25 points against North Carolina-Wilmington. Two more times that season, she dropped in 25 points. Against Troy in January, she perfected both shooting and passing when she scored 24 points and dished out 16 assists in a home rout of the Trojans. She accounted for 73.2 percent of the team's offense that night.

Her 3-point shooting earned her the most attention though. Her 115 made 3-pointers ranked second in the nation, ranked No. 10 in all-time made 3-pointers for a single season and broke school and conference records.

The Lady Raiders marched through the regular season, even upsetting No. 6 Kentucky in Murfreesboro and posting a 16-0 mark in conference play, but Arkansas-Little Rock nabbed the team again in the Sun Belt tournament for yet another early exit. The NCAA selection committee smiled upon the solid regular-season schedule and offered MT an at-large bid to the big dance—a rarity for the Sun Belt Conference.

The Lady Raiders matched up against Vanderbilt, but the Commodores had the luxury of playing at Memorial Gym, the team's home court. A venerable gym that opened in the early 1950s, Vanderbilt fans displayed no trouble

COVER STORY

packing the house for almost any occasion, and this NCAA tournament game was no exception.

It was a particularly warm day in March—near 80 degrees—and the gym sweltered.

“Wear short sleeves because it’s going to be hot,” one sport-information director joked with a reporter the day before the game.

Vanderbilt more than offset MT’s quickness and athleticism with size. Even so, the Lady Raiders scrapped for every rebound and eventually won that battle, 41-39—not an easy feat considering that Vanderbilt’s post players measured several inches taller than MT’s regular posts.

But the Lady Raiders’ downfall came in shooting. The guards struggled to find open lanes to Elie and Rowe down low, and even when a missed shot resulted in a rebound, the Raiders were so far out of position that the process had to begin afresh.

Jones’s baskets from distance were noticeably absent. Final stats revealed that she attempted six shots from 3-point land and made only two. For the game, Jones amassed just 12 points, which also proved that Vanderbilt succeeded in keeping her from going to the basket herself. Shooting, which amounted to just 28 percent, proved the most devastating factor for MT in the 60-46 defeat.

Only after the game did it become apparent how much the Commodores made Jones the

focus of the contest.

“We kind of did almost like a box and one, but more like a man-to-man, and we face guarded her,” said Vanderbilt guard Elan Brown after the game. “We just wanted to deny her as much as we could getting the ball, and I think it worked out for us, especially when we went to a switching man.”

That statement, translated from basketball speak, meant that Vanderbilt recognized how much Jones triggered the offense. Rowe was a threat under the basket and a fierce rebounder. Nothing could stop that—in fact, Rowe and Elie both grabbed 16 rebounds in the contest. But Jones, who a year before had never played a single minute at shooting guard, became so successful that Vanderbilt recognized if they kept her away from the ball, the rest of the offense would suffer.

Her team needed her to fill a void. It was a void that, in many ways, no one could ever be expected to fill. But rather than submit to the intimidation of replacing Stewart, Jones turned it into motivation.

“Tina was only a year older than me,” Jones said. “I saw her grow, and I saw her mature into a great leadership position or a great leader in general. It would have been her senior season, and I think it definitely would have helped if she would have been here. That was one reason that I really took pride in working hard and trying to get myself to

a level, that we could have some success in particular for her.”

Now a senior, Jones’s 13-point average ranks third on the team this season. MT struggled early, culminating in the team’s first home conference loss in nearly five years.

Insell took to rotating his guards in an effort to find a workable combination, and although Jones remains principally a shooter, she has taken some turns at her native point guard.

But she remains, above all, the leader in the way she hoped Stewart would be.

“I just try to take it as a good thing that I was going to be in a position that she would have been in,” Jones said, “and I feel like she’s there with me still.”



Tina Stewart was killed in March of 2011 after an altercation with roommate Shanterrica Madden just days before the Sun Belt Championship. Photo courtesy of MT athletic communications.

HAPPY HOUR SPECIALS

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Fajita Dinner \$12.99 & 16 oz. Draft Beers \$1.50

Taco Tuesdays!
\$1 Taco and Trivia Night begins at 7pm

Margarita Wednesdays!
Chambray Nachos \$7.99 & 16 Margaritas and 25 oz Pitchers

Thirsty Thursdays!
Chambray Dinner \$12.99 & Draft Beer Pitchers \$5

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RANTS AND RAVES

Wednesday, Jan. 23

Catch Me If You Can
TPAC

505 Deaderick St.
Nashville

Jan. 23-27 (Show times
vary by date)
\$15-70



If you were a fan of the DreamWorks film "Catch Me If You Can," featuring Leonardo DiCaprio, odds are you will equally enjoy this Broadway adaptation, based on the true story that inspired the film. This musical tells the story of Frank Abagnale, Jr., a young

teenager who runs away from home in search of a more glamorous life. With nothing but his own wit and several million dollars in forged checks, Frank was able to successfully pose as a doctor, a lawyer and a pilot before he was 19.

However, his crimes do

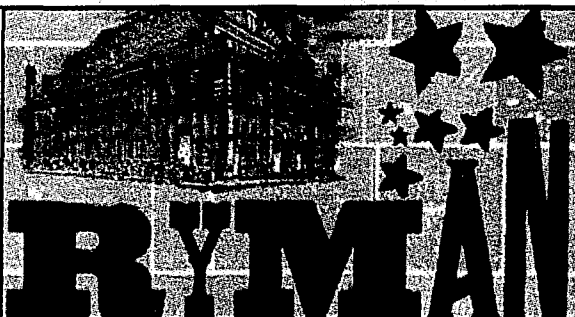
not go unnoticed, eventually catching the eye of an FBI agent who will stop at nothing to apprehend this master con artist. This show is a must see, and tickets can be obtained relatively cheap.

However, for the better seats you will pay hefty prices, up to \$70.

Thursday, Jan. 24

The Gift of Music
Ryman Auditorium
116 5th Ave. N., Nashville

7:30 p.m.
\$50-65



When we experience a great loss, those of us left behind want to find a way to remember those that we have lost and help others in the process.

"The Gift of Music" is a show that features some big names in music, including Lee Greenwood, Peter Frampton,

Peter Cetera, and others. Attending this show gives you the opportunity to hear good music and impact the lives of others in tremendous ways.

This concert benefits The Dustin Wells Foundation, an organization that was created to remember Wells, who was killed in

a car accident in 2005.

Friday, Jan. 25

MT Idol Tryouts
Student Union Video
Theater
Room 208
12-6 p.m.
FREE



Do you have what it takes to be the next Kelly Clarkson or Chris Daughtry? If so, MTSU is giving you the opportunity to prove it. Sponsored by the university concerts council, MT Idol is an annual singing competition that allows the voices and talents of all interested

students to be heard.

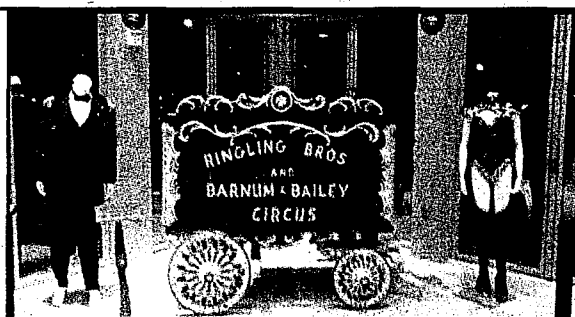
Although not aired on national television, students competing in MT Idol will perform in front of a panel of judges who will determine who is worthy of being the 2013 MT Idol winner. If you are interested in participating, you need to fill

out the entry form online and return it to Room 340 in the Student Union Building by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 22.

Friday, Jan. 25

Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Circus:
Dragons
Bridgestone Arena
501 Broadway, Nashville

Jan. 25-27 (Performance times vary)
\$15-100



You may have been to the circus as a kid, but you've probably never seen it like this. Dragons is a never-before-seen event that was created in honor of the Chinese Year of the Dragon. Performers from all over the world have assembled, presenting typical circus

events blended together with dragon mythology for an unbelievably creative and beautiful show. There are even more options available an hour prior to show time, when all ticketholders can be admitted into an Interactive All Access Pre-Show for free. The pre-show

allows for all sorts of neat extras, including meeting the clowns, learning to juggle, trying out your balancing skills, as well as getting performers' autographs. This is considered a "once in a millennium" event, so be sure not to miss it.

Saturday, Jan. 26

Once Upon a Crime
Miss Jeanne's Dinner
Theatre
Gleaves & 600 9th
Ave. S., Nashville
7 p.m.

\$50 - adults
\$35 - children ages
5-12
Free - children under 5



Miss Scarlet in the library with the candlestick. Sound familiar? Miss Jeanne's Mystery Dinner Theater allows you to enjoy a meal and be entertained simultaneously. It's a little on the expensive side, but completely worth the fun of trying to solve a murder

mystery. In this fairy tale spin-off, one of the characters is mysteriously murdered, but the killer must be found before dessert is over. Now there are even more opportunities, since the dinner theater has been selected by an independent film group to be part of a doc-

umentary. If you make your reservations now, there is a chance that you and your party could be a part of it. Make sure you check out this entertaining and imaginative new way to enjoy dinner.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Get caught up— or not— on TV shows in the new year

By Amanda Gambill
Contributing critic

A new year means many things: resolutions, a new semester and new television shows, with the latter likely to distract you from the prior two. Whether you are taking this semester easy and want a new show to fill spare time, or you're mixing up your priorities, here are *Sidelines'* four shows that you may— or may not— want to be wasting time on.

Portlandia
IFC | Friday 10/9c
Fred Armisen and Carrie Brownstein are back for a third season of "Portlandia" with brand-new characters and old favorites. They seem to have kicked their guest starring up a notch, and their comedy may have even gotten stranger. If you're new to the show, just know Fred and Carrie play a multitude of characters in sketches all based in Portland, Ore., known as the "birthplace of hipsters." Its subtle and sometimes laugh-out-loud comedy can only be classified as amazingly weird.

The Carrie Diaries
The CW | Monday 8/7c

This new drama inspired by "Sex and the City" and "The Carrie Diaries" series by Candace Bushnell (author of "Sex and the City") is considered the prequel to Carrie Bradshaw's Manhattan columnist days. Avid SATC fans will find a lot of holes in the



Portlandia's Fred Armisen and Carrie Brownstein, playing one of their many rolls in a comedy sketch.

storyline. For example, Carrie says in SATC her dad abandoned her when she was young, but in the show her dad is raising her alone after the passing of her mother. The first episode fell flat, using every moment of no dialogue to plug cheesy '80s music, and every moment with dialogue to create a melodramatic show reserved for teens who didn't know and love our SATC Carrie.

Community
NBC | February 7, 9/8c

"Community" finally has a return date. This quirky sitcom's return has been threatened, teased and pushed back so many times it's almost hard to believe

it's coming back. Last season, "Community" went further out of the box than ever. One episode aired as an eight-bit game, while another was in the format of a Ken Burns documentary over a pillow fort war. Now on the brink of cancellation, there's no telling how intense and strange its comedy will go.

If you've never seen "Community," spend a few days marathoning its first three seasons before its return. It will be worth it.

1600 Penn
NBC | Thursday 9:30/8:30c

If you enjoy annoying main characters, any character by Jenna Elfman that is not Dharma and/or a

laughable president, then "1600 Penn" is for you. Considered a fail by multiple TV reviewers, this new comedy

is about the president's son who causes constant kerfuffles and his cliché family tries way too hard to create

laughs. Instead, you're left with grated nerves and a hankering to watch "West Wing" or "Dharma & Greg." ■

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'Girls' continues with hilarity, dysfunctional relationships

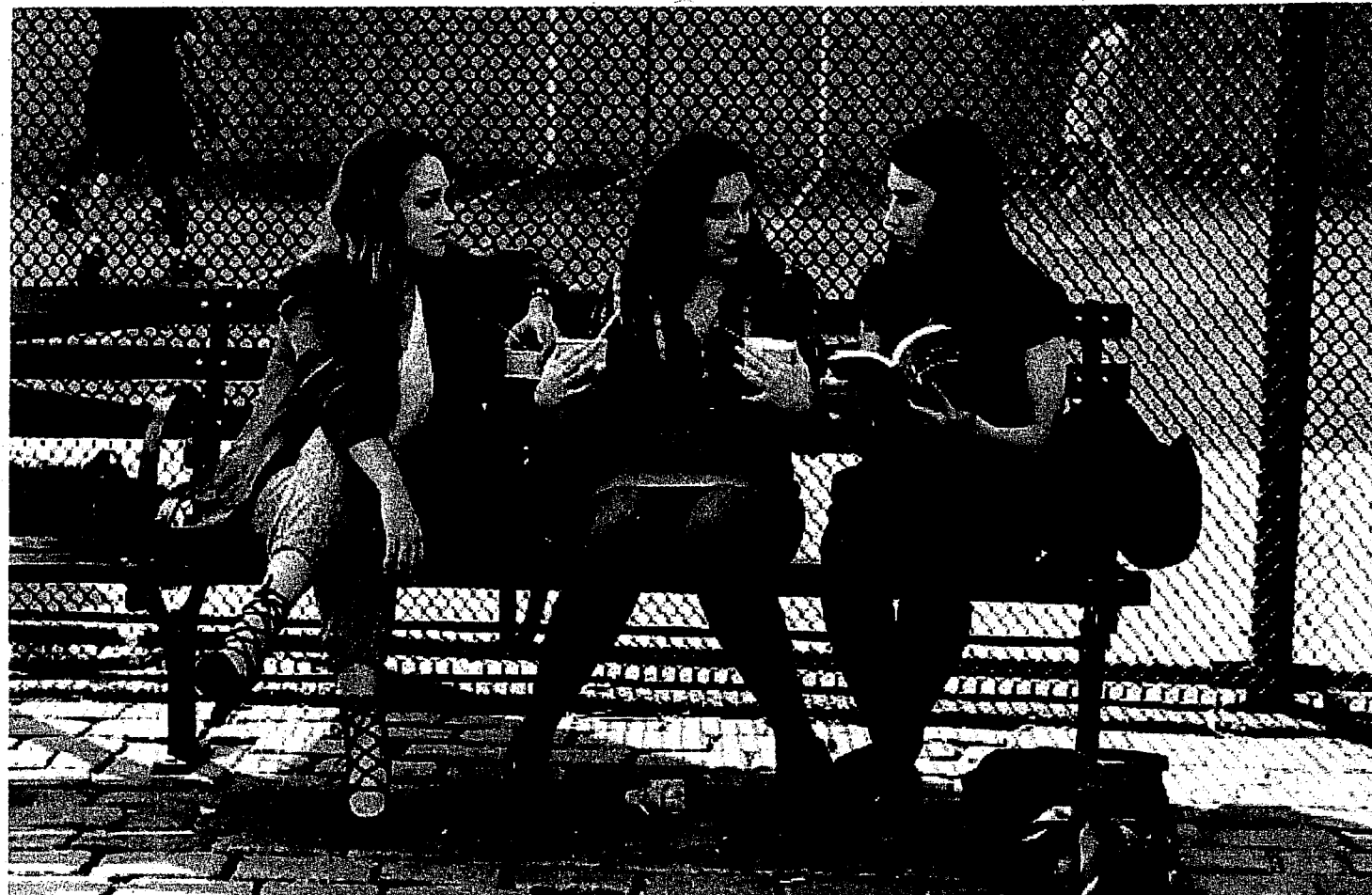
By Meredith Galyon
Staff writer

HBO's new comedy "Girls" immediately became the talk of 20-something girls everywhere after its first season aired, and the second season premiere on Jan. 13 kept the excitement going.

After the first season finale, viewers were left wondering what would become of Hannah and Adam's relationship: They were stunned by the loss of one of Shoshanna's most prized possessions. They were sad for Marnie when she lost her boyfriend and job and confused as to why Jessa married Thomas John. Some issues were clarified during the season premiere, but some still left "Girls" fans clueless.

The episode opens with Hannah lying in bed with her new roommate and former boyfriend Elijah, which would confuse me— if I didn't already know that he was gay. Then Hannah is seen kissing Sandy, a new character played by Donald Glover ("Community") who was supposedly introduced because of the show's lack of racial diversity.

Critics hounded the show's creator, Lena Dunham, for lack of racial diversity after it was apparent that the main characters were four white girls. Dunham responded to this criticism by saying she wrote what she knew about because she wanted to avoid tokenism in casting, but this



Characters Jessa, Hannah, and Shoshanna, of HBO's Girls, have "girl talk" while later deciding they are "the ladies." Photo courtesy of Facebook.

season proves that she is going to try to make it more universally relatable. So far, Glover's character doesn't seem like anything more than a distraction from her dysfunctional relationship with Adam, but the following episodes will prove whether or not Dunham can write for a different racial viewpoint.

Despite her relationship with Sandy, Hannah is still taking care of Adam because he broke his leg in the last season. She repeatedly tells him that she doesn't want to be with him romanti-

cally anymore, but it's obvious that isn't true, and that this will be a recurring story line throughout the rest of the season.

Adam is known to say things that are pretty off the wall, but the first real gut-wrenching laugh I had during this episode was after one of his rants about why she needs to stay with him. It's safe to assume that he will continue to provide the majority of comedic relief throughout the season.

Marnie and Hannah's relationship seems to be getting back to normal after their dramatic

roommate breakup, but things will inevitably start going downhill once Hannah finds out about her indiscretion with Elijah, who suddenly starts questioning his sexuality and using Marnie as an outlet for that confusion.

We're used to seeing lots of nudity from Dunham, but it would be surprising if she's the only one that participates in it throughout the season. Sure, Marnie's character is known for being somewhat prudish, but seeing nudity from girl characters other than Hannah might end up

being refreshing. It is HBO, after all.

Shoshanna is still adjusting to the aftermath of her encounter with Ray, and it's heartwarming to start to see the maturity that comes with this experience as she learns to stand up for herself and declare her self worth after being ignored by him. As they appear to make amends, an air of mystery remains as to whether or not this will turn into a functional relationship, or if she just chalks it up to a lesson learned.

Jessa makes a very slight appearance

toward the end, only to show that she and Thomas John are still married and doing adventurous things. She seems happy, but maybe that's because the reality of what she has done hasn't fully set in yet.

So, women and girls everywhere will continue to schedule their Sunday nights to see if Hannah and Adam will work things out, or if she pursues this new relationship with Sandy. And I will still watch, frustrated that I can't help Charlie and Marnie realize they need to move on. ■

ALL THINGS MTSU



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Gun control means losing battle with no clear solution

By Alex Harris
Opinions editor

The gun control debate is raging—the airwaves, news networks and social media feeds are full of statistics and proposed solutions to the problem of gun violence.

However, despite the solutions proposed, and the reasons and statistics supporting them, logic suggests gun control cannot make people safer.

But wait—how could restricting more dangerous weapons and high capacity magazines NOT make the world a safer place? A rational look at the problem reveals that safety cannot be achieved with a gun ban.

Gun control advocates propose to make it illegal for individuals to own high capacity magazines and certain firearms. While this will work great to restrict law-abiding, responsible individuals from owning these items, criminals usually don't seem interested in not breaking laws anyway.

If these bans are instituted, will criminals really decide to do the right thing and turn in their high-capacity magazines and illegal firearms?

If felons, who are not supposed to own guns in the first place, can easily get their hands on weapons that are already illegal for them to own, how



Alex Harris

would making certain guns more illegal for them solve the problem of criminal gun violence?

Drug restrictions don't prevent drug users from finding drugs. It is illogical that restricting guns will prevent those we don't want having guns from getting them.

Restrictions on firearms will only truly impact the responsible, law-abiding gun owner who now has to consider which is more important to him or her: following the bad law and turning in his or her now-restricted property to the government, or the protection of himself/herself, family and property from those who will not voluntarily turn in their weapons.

We don't want criminals or the mentally unstable to have access to firearms. But it is unclear how stricter laws will prevent this in the case of criminals, and responsible, law-abiding members of society should have the

ability to decide how to defend themselves and family.

Those who opt to follow the law, because they are law-abiding even if they don't agree with the laws, will now be at a disadvantage to criminals who are unlikely to follow gun restrictions if they're already breaking other laws.

And those who opt not to follow the law, because they believe that the law is unconstitutional, invalid and makes them less safe, are now criminals even though they took no truly criminal actions.

Additionally, it seems as if gun control doesn't deliver as promised: Cities with more restrictive gun laws don't necessarily have less violence.

Chicago, a city with some of the most restrictive gun-ownership laws, has a homicide rate already outpacing the rate for 2012, while, according to FBI statistics, the national homicide rate is continuing to drop.

While that doesn't mean gun control causes violence—New York City (another city with restrictive gun laws) is on track for 2012 to be a record low year for murders—it is interesting to note that restrictive gun laws don't necessarily prevent violence either.

Although gun control is sold as a reasonable proposal to keep us safe, in reality it falls far short of providing

Reinstatement necessary for assault weapons ban

By Torrie Tovar
Contributing columnist

With eight mass shootings in 2012, now, more than ever, it is imperative to reestablish the assault weapons ban and increase screening for people who purchase guns.

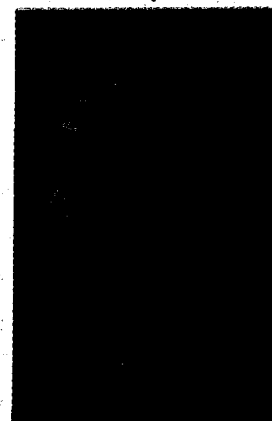
Our Second Amendment states that everyone has the right to bear arms. However, owning a hunting rifle or a small handgun for protection is different from owning an assault weapon that can kill multiple people without having to reload often.

There were too many mass shootings for the country not to take a look at our system, which allows assault weapons to get in the hands of people who are capable of taking the lives of 20 children.

The Second Amendment was ratified so that people would be able to rebel against a tyrannical government—if it ever came to that—not so innocents could be slaughtered.

People argue that “guns don't kill people, people kill people.” Of course, people could choose to kill with other weapons, or even their hands, but they would not be as likely to commit mass murder.

In the wake of the Newtown, Conn., tragedy, people are arguing



Torrie Tovar

that teachers and school officials should carry guns. But some teachers, as well as other school officials, could be just as likely to lose control.

A few years ago, a teacher at McGavock High School became so upset at students talking back to him that he began screaming, cursing and turning over desks. One student caught it all on camera. Teachers carrying guns is not a solid solution.

The answer is quite simple: the assault weapons ban needs to be reinstated, along

Yes, this will make the process to purchase a gun longer and more painful, but in the end, if there are people who are making it through the process who should not have access to a gun, it may allow them time to rethink their decision.

This nation needs to protect its people first and foremost, and those arguing about gun rights need to realize the situation at hand: someone can go into an elementary school to shoot innocent children, or to a public place to shoot innocent people.

Citizens of this country should not have to be afraid to send their kids to school or to go out in public for the fear of violence.

People should be allowed a gun for protection or a rifle for hunting; however, they should not be able to own an arsenal capable of mass killing.

All freedoms come with responsibilities and consequences,

“Citizens of this country should not have to be afraid to send their kids to school or go out in public for the fear of violence.”

with a limit to how many guns one person can own and a criminal and psychological background check on everyone living in the same house as the gun owner.

and now it is time for this country to decide whether the right to own assault weapons is as important as the lives lost. ■

SPORTS

Last season's mistakes could help Blue Raiders reach new heights

By Mark Mize
Sports editor

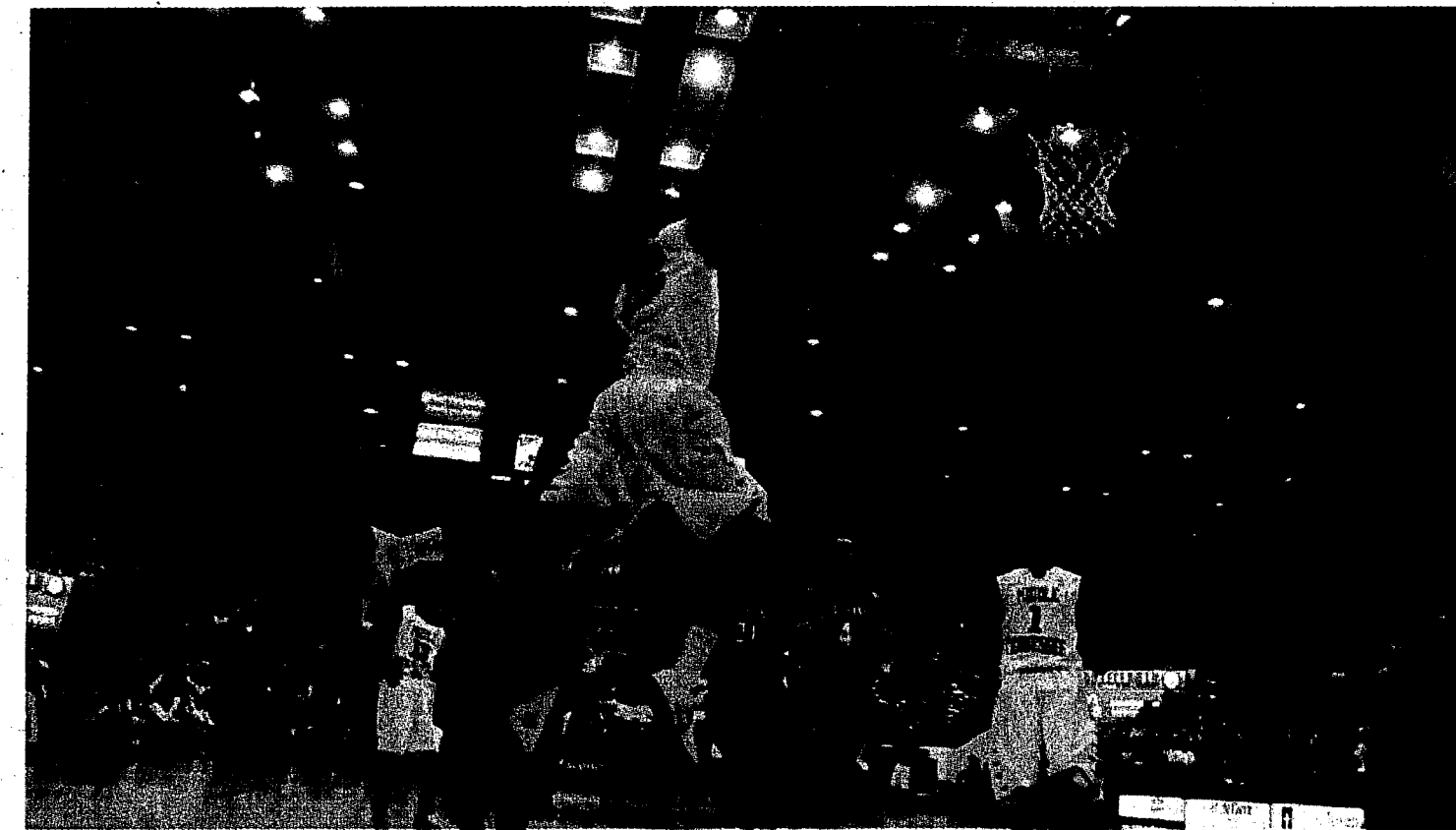
A late-season slip-up against Arkansas State in last year's Sun Belt Championships dashed the hopes of the Middle Tennessee men's basketball team's NCAA Tournament hopes last March for a 23rd straight season.

Although an improved early season résumé boost in 2012 could give the Blue Raiders the extra boost it needs in the minds of the tournament committee members this spring, this year's team cannot afford another mid-season hangover.

MT returned the majority of last year's squad and currently boasts a similar rating percentage index (RPI) to that of last year's team on Jan. 20 at 37. RPI is a metric used by the NCAA tournament committee to help judge which teams played well against quality schedules. Teams are judged on a rating system based on their winning percentage, opponents' winning percentage and opponents' winning percentage.

However, the Sun Belt has been a one-bid league historically, and this year's team still has work left to do in order to enter the March 8-11 Sun Belt Championships with the security of knowing that a loss will not virtually disqualify them from a chance at the "Big Dance."

This 2012 installment of Blue Raider basketball's RPI is in the top 20 percent in the nation,



Former transfer Jason Jones drives for a layup over the Ragin' Cajuns. Photo by Kelsey Klingemeyer.

despite having doubled last year's losses on this date with a 16-4 (8-1) record. The difference this year is not necessarily the quality of opponents the team beat, but the quality of opponents it has lost to.

Losses to Florida, Belmont, Akron and Arkansas State this year may look like major setbacks toward the team's tournament hopes, but with the exception of Arkansas State, each of these teams are projected by at least one outlet to be the champions of their respective conferences and win at least 20 games along the way. Belmont and Florida rank in the top 30 with RPIs of 24 and 6, respectively.

Five of the 2011 team's six pre-tournament losses came against teams that would finish outside the top 55 in the final RPI rankings, along with none of the team's 25 wins coming against a team in that category.

This year's team already may have its signature win with a 65-62 victory in Murfreesboro over an Ole Miss team that has taken off since dropping the two teams' Dec. 8 meeting.

The Rebels have won six in a row, including handing No. 10 Missouri its first SEC loss and are now 15-2 overall and 4-0 in conference play and could very well dominate an SEC field that under-

achieved in non-conference play.

There are still obstacles to overcome before March, and the inevitable debate of which teams have proved themselves worthy of an at-large bid.

The Sun Belt also struggled in non-conference play early this season, and North Texas, who was picked to finish among the top mid-major schools in 2012 with projected NBA lottery pick, Tony Mitchell, is 8-12 and posts the Sun Belt's second-lowest RPI at 273.

Of the Sun Belt's 12 teams, only the east-leading Blue Raiders rank in the top 125 in that nation in RPI, with

Florida International coming closest at 128.

The Blue Raiders will need to win at least a large majority, if not all of its remaining games, to significantly raise its RPI, and it will need to do so impressively.

But possibly the greatest fault of the RPI system is the fact that it does less to account for how teams win games and focuses more on who the wins are against.

With its strength of schedule likely to plummet as Sun Belt play winds down, this year's team will need to impress committee members outside of the oft-used numbers by passing the eye test on the court over the last 11

regular season games. This chance could come in Jan. 26's Coaches vs. Cancer classic against WKU, which will be televised on ESPN2 and will most likely draw the attention of committee members.

In the end, the only way the Blue Raiders can truly know on Selection Sunday that its ticket has indeed been punched will be to hoist the Sun Belt trophy in Hot Springs on March 11, a goal that has eluded the program since joining the conference in 2000. ■

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