

# MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2010

VOL. 87 NO. 17

## Volunteer State bleeds red

By MARIE KEMPH  
News Editor

As a result of Tuesday's midterm elections, the Republican Party controls the executive branch and both chambers of the General Assembly in Tennessee for the first time since the Civil War.

Tennessee voters handed Republicans victories in numerous elections, including several key state legislature races, in addition to the gubernatorial race. The GOP picked up 14 state House spots and an additional state

Senate seat.

"I feel an earthquake in Tennessee," said Chris Devaney, the chairman of the Tennessee Republican Party, to GOP supporters Tuesday night. "For the first time in modern history, Republicans are going to lead at every level of government in this state."

Governor-elect Bill Haslam, a Republican who has served as mayor of Knoxville for the past seven years, won by a decisive 65-percent victory against Democratic candidate Mike McWherter, who received 33 percent of

the vote.

"Bill Haslam is going to make an outstanding governor," said Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour, who serves as chairman of the Republican Governors Association. "He combines the mind of a top business executive with a servant's heart. The people of Tennessee could not have done better."

Haslam will succeed Democratic Gov. Phil Bredesen, who has held the top spot in the state for the past eight years.

State Sen. Bill Ketron of Murfreesboro de-

feated Democratic challenger Debbie Matthews by a 73- to 27-percent margin.

State Rep. Joe Carr of Murfreesboro was re-elected to his second term in office by a 62- to 38-percent margin against Democrat challenger David LaRoche, while state Rep. Pat Marsh, who was elected in an October 2009 special election, won his first full term by a 77- to 23-percent margin, beating Democrat Jenny Hunt.

ELECTION, PAGE 3

## Speakers bring 'garbage' to campus

### Social Science Symposium highlights environmental impact of energy use

By BECCA ANDREWS  
Assistant News Editor

More than 1,000 people attended the 19th annual Tennessee Undergraduate Social Science Symposium that was focused on how garbage and energy use by Americans affects the environment.

The two-day conference included a variety of activities, but the two headlining events featured Tuesday's keynote speaker William J. Rathje, a consulting professor at Stanford University and a lecture given Wednesday by Duane Gill, who serves as head of sociology at Oklahoma State University.

Attendees also watched "Garbage: The Revolution Starts at Home," a film about "how the family household has become one of the most ferocious environmental predators of our time," according to film's website.

"We the people of the United States give power to these corporations and we the people need to control that. How do we do that? I don't know," Gill said. "[We] should consider weaning ourselves from carbon-based energy to greener energy alternatives."

Gill is a part of a research team investigating the human impact of the 1989 Exxon Valdez

and 2010 BP oil spills. While speaking to attendees, Gill compared and contrasted the two major oil spills, labeling them both as "technological disasters caused by human error."

An hour of Gill's lecture was devoted to the logistics of the two disasters. He meticulously spit out statistic after statistic about the damage to the Gulf Coast and Alaskan communities, and he discussed the causes behind the spills.

However, the final 15 minutes of Gill's lecture was a call-to-arms for citizens to take action against some of the largest energy corporations, which rely on natural resources to produce profits, for damaging the environment.

"The same lies have been told in both situations: 'We will make you whole, oil doesn't sink.' Neither one of these statements are true," Gill said, but then adding that he apologized for his "socialist" views.

In a conversation with a student after the lecture, Gill said, "We need to hold our politicians' feet to the fire," and several students said they enjoyed listening to him speak about environmentally related issues.



Photo by DuWayn Sterling, staff photographer  
Students stand in line Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2010, in the James Union Building as they wait for Duane Gill to sign autographs. Gill spoke to students about the dangers of oil spills during the 19th annual Social Science Symposium.

GARBAGE, PAGE 2



Photo courtesy of Kaitlyn Thomas  
MTSU alumna Kaitlyn Thomas stands atop a hillside Monday, Nov. 1, 2010, in northern Peru, which is located in South America.

## Peace Corps enrollment increases

STAFF REPORT

The Peace Corps reached its goal to increase overseas volunteer positions, resulting in the largest amount of volunteers in foreign countries than has been reported since 1970, according to a press release.

"I am honored to announce the creation of 1,000 volunteer positions in 2010, complementing our goal to increase overseas leadership opportunities," said Aaron S. Williams, di-

rector of the Peace Corps.

As of Sept. 30, 8,655 Peace Corps volunteers are serving in 77 host countries, according to the press release. This is a 13 percent increase over the statistics the Peace Corps reported for last year.

"This is the legacy of President Kennedy's concept of international service, an idea that continues to capture the imagination of thousands of service minded Americans today," Williams said.

The Corps has also reached a record for the largest operating budget since the program's founding in 1961, totaling \$400 million, according to the press release, an increase of \$60 million of federal funding from the 2009 fiscal year.

As a result the Peace Corps expanded its programs, added new programs, and increased volunteer's length of service.

PEACE, PAGE 2

## Federal regulations aim to combat student debt

By AMANDA HAGGARD  
Staff Writer

For the first time in history, student loan debt has surpassed credit card debt, with student loan debt totaling more than \$830 billion as of June 2010, according to FastWeb.com, a website that provides information for students about financial aid and scholarships.

The Department of Education released new regulations for nonprofit, for-profit and public institutions in an attempt to improve the quality of degrees, define "gainful employment" standards for universities, and potentially conserve tax payer and student dollars, according to a U.S. Department of Education press release sent last week.

Even considering changes in regulations, the cost of going to college keeps increasing, and students fall deeper into debt in an attempt to pay their way through school.

The majority of student loans at MTSU come from federal aid programs, said Leann Eaton, an assistant director in the Financial Aid and Scholarships Office.

The average college federal loan debt for a four-year university exceeds \$19,000 per student, according to collegeinsight.org.

"Students should definitely be aware of their student debt in relation to their career potential," Eaton said.

Rules and regulations were set in 14 dif-

ferent areas by the DOE to certify program integrity and ensure that students can use their degrees following graduation.

"These new rules will help ensure that students are getting from schools what they pay for: solid preparation for a good job," said Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

Such rapid growth of enrollment, debt load and default rates at for-profit institutions in recent years is what prompted the President Barack Obama's administration to embark on an 18-month negotiation with the higher education community over new regulations, according to the press release.

"When the stock market crashed, college savings accounts lost worth, parents' jobs vanished, and state budget cuts trimmed down scholarship and endowment funds for college students," said Mary O'Ceal, a junior majoring in economics at the University of Kentucky. "This perfect storm meant students would be taking on more federal loans to compensate for the difference."

One section aims at ensuring that eligible students and programs receive aid in their respective areas, enabling students to use federal funds to the best of their abilities, rather than waste taxpayer money, according to the press release.

LOANS, PAGE 2

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Holistic cosmetic line provides healthy option for students.  
Page 7

IN TODAY'S ISSUE



SGA responds to public criticism of proposal to change university's name.

ONLINE @  
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### THURSDAY FORECAST



MOSTLY SUNNY  
NO THREAT OF RAIN  
HIGH 58, LOW 38

# Student debt increases

## LOANS FROM PAGE 1

This gainful employment clause in the set of regulations is mostly directed at for-profit universities that often offer job placement as the main reason students should attend their universities, while many of them don't provide any real data or statistics on their graduation or job placement rates.

Of all higher education students, for-profit institutions, like the University of Phoenix, Full Sail University and Strayer University, embody merely 11 percent of students, yet 26 percent of all student loans and 43 percent of all loan defaulters come from these types of universities.

Under new regulations, for-profit universities will be required by the DOE to present accurate job placement records and graduation rate statistics to applicants and new students.

The regulation is designed so that students will also gain protection from insistent or misleading recruiting practices that can contribute to massive post-graduation debt.

The median federal student loan debt sus-

tained by students earning associate degrees at for-profit institutions was \$14,000, while most students at community colleges that offer similar programs do not borrow at all.

"While a majority of career colleges play a vital role in training our workforce to be globally competitive," Duncan said. "Some bad actors are saddling students with debt they cannot afford in exchange for degrees and certificates they cannot use."

Consumers will also have more access to effectiveness and graduation rates of career colleges and training programs, as opposed to state universities and community colleges.

Eaton said that because loans have been sold to the government in the past five years, students should be aware of who services their loan debt. She also said that keeping track of your loans could make the difference of "living like a college student now, or for the rest of your life."

"Mslds.ed.gov is a website that allows students to check their current loan debt," Eaton said. "It is extremely important to keep track of your loans yourself. It will allow you to be more cautious of the money you're spending towards your future."



Photo courtesy of Kaitlyn Thomas

Kaitlyn Thomas smiles Monday, Nov. 1, 2010, while enjoying a day of relaxation in Peru.

# Number of volunteers rises

## PEACE FROM PAGE 1

"Every day, Peace Corps volunteers strive to make a difference and have improved the lives of millions of people, not just in communities around the world, but also in their local communities in the United States once they return home," Williams said.

One Peace Corps Trainee said she is looking forward to exploring opportunities in a new community.

"I love the idea of integrating into a community very different from what I am accustomed to and becoming part of that community," said Kaitlyn Thomas, who is taking her post in Peru this month. "I want to teach them about American culture and traditions, but at the same time teach Americans about Peruvian culture and traditions."

Primarily, the focus of her visit will be promoting healthy and sanitary habits in rural communities and healthy sexual behavior, Thomas said.

The three posts that grew the most were Rwanda, with a growth of 210 percent, Georgia, with a growth of 125 percent, and Ethiopia, with a growth of 94 percent. The growth of posts across the world was due to requests for more volunteers by host countries, according to the press release. Fifty-one of the posts increased in size, represent-

ing more than half of the Peace Corps.

In addition, three new posts have been opened, and one in Madagascar has been re-opened.

People considering serving in the Peace Corps should be aware of potential culture shock, Thomas said.

"Everything concerning Peace Corps is usually a long and potentially frustrating process, but if you are patient and flexible, you can make it through," Thomas said. "My best advice is just laugh at anything and everything. Make sure you do your research because the Peace Corps is not for everyone."

The organization also reported a large amount of diversification among its volunteers. Nineteen percent of the volunteers are minorities, and 60 percent are women. While the average age of volunteers is 28, 7 percent are older than 50, and the oldest volunteer is currently 86.

Ninety percent of the volunteers hold at least a bachelor's degree.

While the Peace Corps received nearly 13,500 applications for volunteers in 2010, fewer than half of them have been placed in overseas assignments.

There are more Americans applying to serve with Peace Corps than there are positions available, according to the press release, and roughly one in three applicants will serve with a Peace Corps program overseas.

# Oil spill, landfills topic of lectures

## GARBAGE FROM PAGE 1

"I feel like I got more power from his opinion," said Alandrea Cox, a sophomore majoring in chemistry. "It's good to hear somebody say the truth—that there's a problem with corporate America."

Rathje's lecture was based largely on his book, "Rub-bish: The Archaeology of Garbage," and he spent much of the time explaining how Americans misunderstand how foods affect their health, what types of products are biodegradable in landfills, and how the general population's consumption levels are misrepresented.

"There are two things I want to achieve in that lecture:

No. 1, let's get a [less] decadent mindset, and No. 2, large garbage cans get the opposite effect that we want," Rathje said.

Rathje is the founder of the Garbage Project, which studies fresh refuse to document household food waste by excavated landfills, and he detailed that work in "The Garbology of Us."

"We're looking at America from the back end... and that's really what the garbologist project is all about," Rathje said, who also serves as professor emeritus at the University of Arizona.

Gill said he wanted students to leave the symposium more engaged with the community around them.

"I want students to know that sociology is an exciting discipline," Gill said. "It gives

individuals insight into real-world problems."

Meredith Dye and Brian Hinote, both of whom are assistant professors in the department of sociology and anthropology, served as co-chairs for this year's program committee.

The symposium was sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts, the department of sociology and anthropology, the MTSU Distinguished Lecture Series, the College of Graduate Studies, the University Honors College, the Municipal Technical Advisory Service, Students for Environmental Action, the MTSU Sociology Club, the Middle Tennessee Anthropology Society, in addition to student fees.

Marie Kempf, news editor, contributed to this report.

# MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

is looking for a Spring 2011 editor-in-chief.



Applications are available in the *Sidelines* office, Mass Communication Building, Room 269.

We are also hiring the following positions:

- |                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Managing Editor     | Features Editor |
| Production Manager  | A&E Editor      |
| Online Editor       | Sports Editor   |
| News Editor         | Opinions Editor |
| Assist. News Editor | Copy Editors    |

**DEADLINE:**  
**Wednesday, Nov. 24**

# NAACP offers scholarships to minorities

## College students offered funding in an effort to modernize programs

### STAFF REPORT

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has redesigned applications for both of its scholarship programs as part of its process of modernization, according to a press release.

The NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund Scholarship Program is accepting applications for the 2011-2012 academic year.

"We are proud to announce the opening of this year's application process and to assist the next generation of civil rights defenders in pursuing their degrees at the

nation's top colleges, universities and law schools," said Karen Thompson, director of the NAACP's Scholarship Program.

The scholarships are designed to provide "important financial and practical support to young people who will shape and mold our society and advance the cause of civil rights," according to the press release.

The Herbert Lehman Education Fund and the Earl Warren Legal Training Program are designed for high school seniors and college freshmen who are "committed to social justice" and "have a demonstrable interest in advancing the cause of

civil rights."

Herbert Lehman is a former governor and U.S. senator from New York. The scholarship was named after Lehman "in recognition of his integrity, persistence and valor on behalf of numerous civil rights causes."

Earl Warren who served as chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court led the fight to "end school segregation and transform America's legal landscape" in cases like Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka, according to the press release.

"As a central part of its mission, the Legal Defense Fund has helped students achieve their educational goals with undergraduate and law scholarships for over 50 years," Thompson said.

# CRIME BRIEFS

### Traffic

**Nov. 1, 12:02 a.m.**  
Ezell Hall parking lot  
Eric Adler Yocum, 20, was issued a state citation for having expired registration and financial responsibility.

### Vandalism

**Nov. 1, 8:42 a.m.**  
Greek Row - Pi Kappa  
Alpha House  
A complainant reported that a window had been broken.

### Theft

**Nov. 1, 2:42 p.m.**  
James E. Walker Library  
A complainant reported that his cell phone had been stolen.

### Theft

**Nov. 1, 6:04 p.m.**  
University Honors College parking lot  
A student was issued a Dean Citation for failing to display

his parking permit in his vehicle. The student said he found the permit on the ground.

### Traffic

**Nov. 1, 6:45 p.m.**  
Greenhouse parking lot  
A complainant reported a hit-and-run accident.

### Motor Vehicle Theft

**Nov. 1, 8:49 p.m.**  
Greenland Drive parking lot B  
A complainant reported that his black Hyundai Tiburon had been stolen.

### Vandalism

**Nov. 1, 8:53 p.m.**  
Bell Street parking lot  
A complainant reported that his vehicle's taillight had been damaged.

### Traffic

**Nov. 1, 10:05**  
Greenhouse parking lot

A complainant reported that her vehicle had been struck while parked.

### Traffic

**Nov. 2, 12:16 a.m.**  
MTSU Boulevard  
Edward King, 26, was issued a state citation for driving with a suspended license.

### Alarm

**Nov. 2, 4:50 a.m.**  
Lyon Hall  
A fire alarm reportedly malfunctioned and went off. The Murfreesboro Fire Dept. found no sign of fire.

### Burglary

**Nov. 2, 10:32 a.m.**  
Business and Aerospace Building  
Several faculty members reported that text books had been stolen from their offices.

# State elections mimic GOP gains in country

## ELECTION FROM PAGE 1

Republican challenger Mike Sparks beat Democratic incumbent Kent Coleman by a 58- to 42-percent margin — meaning as of Tuesday night, all of the legislators who represent Rutherford County in the state House are Republican, in addition to the state Senate.

“We’ve captured the governorship, we now have a majority in Tennessee’s congressional seats, and we’ve significantly strengthened our majorities in the General Assembly,” Devaney said. “Tennesseans have called for more conservative leadership and recognized that’s exactly what our Republican candidates are offering.”

The red wave sweeping over the state extended beyond its borders Tuesday night with the Republicans winning six seats in the U.S. Senate and more than 60 in the U.S. House of Representatives.

During a press conference Wednesday, President Barack Obama said the Democrat Party received a “shel-lacking” during Tuesday’s midterm elections.

“But, what is absolutely true is that with all that stuff coming at folks fast and furious — a recovery package, what we had to do with respect to the banks, what we had to do with respect to the auto companies — I think people started looking at all this and it felt as if government was getting much more intrusive into people’s lives than they were accustomed to,” Obama said.

Republicans garnered enough seats in the U.S. House to gain majority, while the Democrat Party stopped the GOP just short of taking control of the U.S. Senate.

“I am honored to stand before you tonight as your next [congresswoman],” said Diane Black, the Republican state senator who was elected to be

the next 6th Congressional District representative in the U.S. Congress.

Black defeated U.S. Army Capt. Brett Carter, the Democratic congressional candidate, by a 67- to 29-percent margin. The two competed for the U.S. House seat held by longtime U.S. Rep. Bart Gordon, a Democrat from Murfreesboro.

“I am so grateful for your support and for the support of so many people across the 6th District, and I am very thankful for all of the energy that you brought to this campaign,” Black said during her acceptance speech Tuesday night.

Of the nine U.S. House seats allotted to Tennessee, the GOP now holds seven. Republican newcomer Scott Desjarlais ousted longtime Democratic U.S. Rep. Lincoln Davis, but Democratic U.S. Reps. Steve Cohen and Jim Cooper managed to hold onto their respective seats.

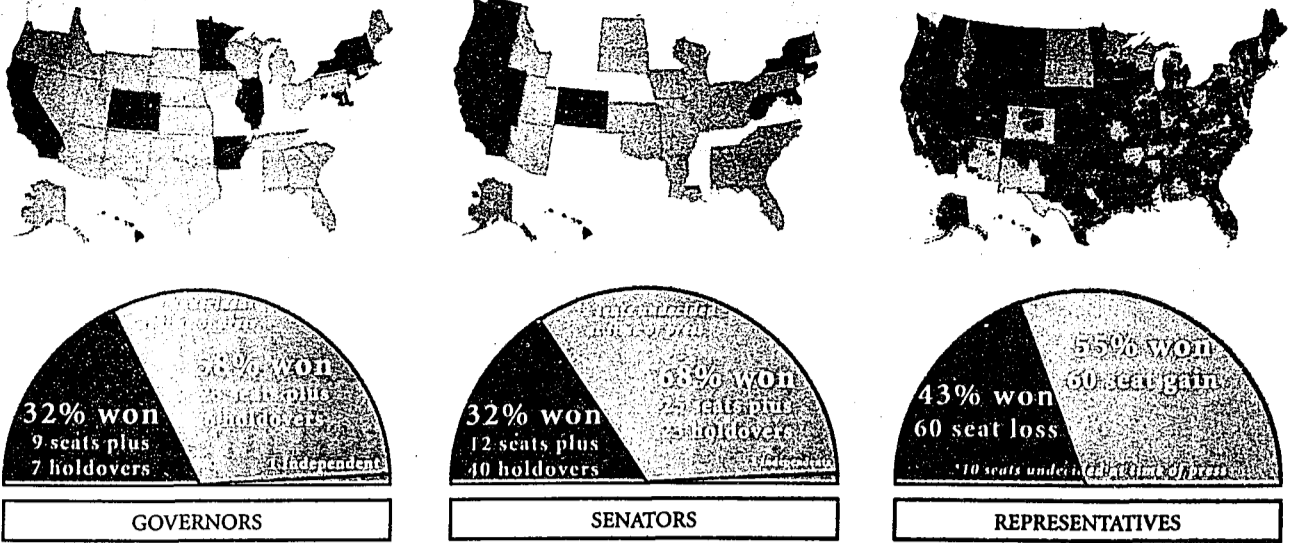
Nationwide, the Republican Party gained nine governorships, of which the Democrats lost the same amount. As of Wednesday, five gubernatorial races were still undecided: Connecticut, Illinois, Minnesota, Oregon and Vermont. Apart from the results that are still undetermined, Republicans now hold 29 governorships, and Democrats trail by 14, holding executive leadership in 15 states.

“Yesterday’s vote confirmed what I heard from voters all across America,” Obama said. “People are frustrated — they’re deeply frustrated.”

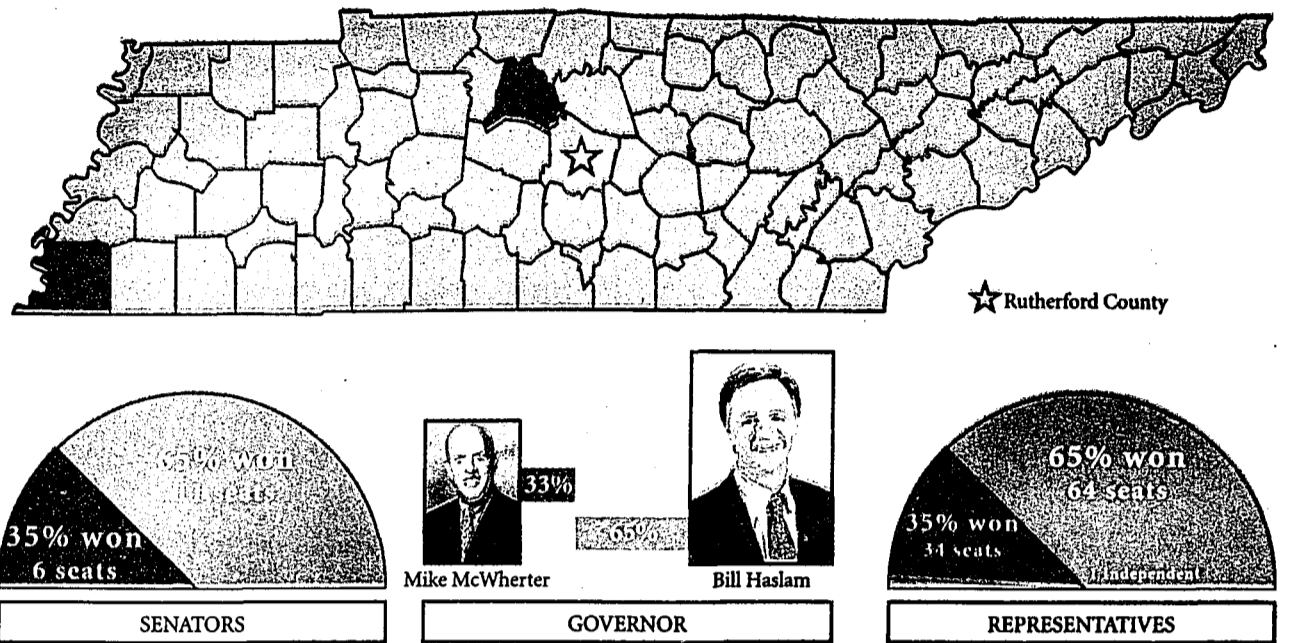
He continued by saying Americans are fed up with Washington, D.C., and that voters want Congress and his administration “to work for them and not against them.”

“I’m doing a whole lot of reflecting, and I think that there are going to be areas in policy where we’re going to have to do a better job,” Obama said, adding he would work with the GOP in the future.

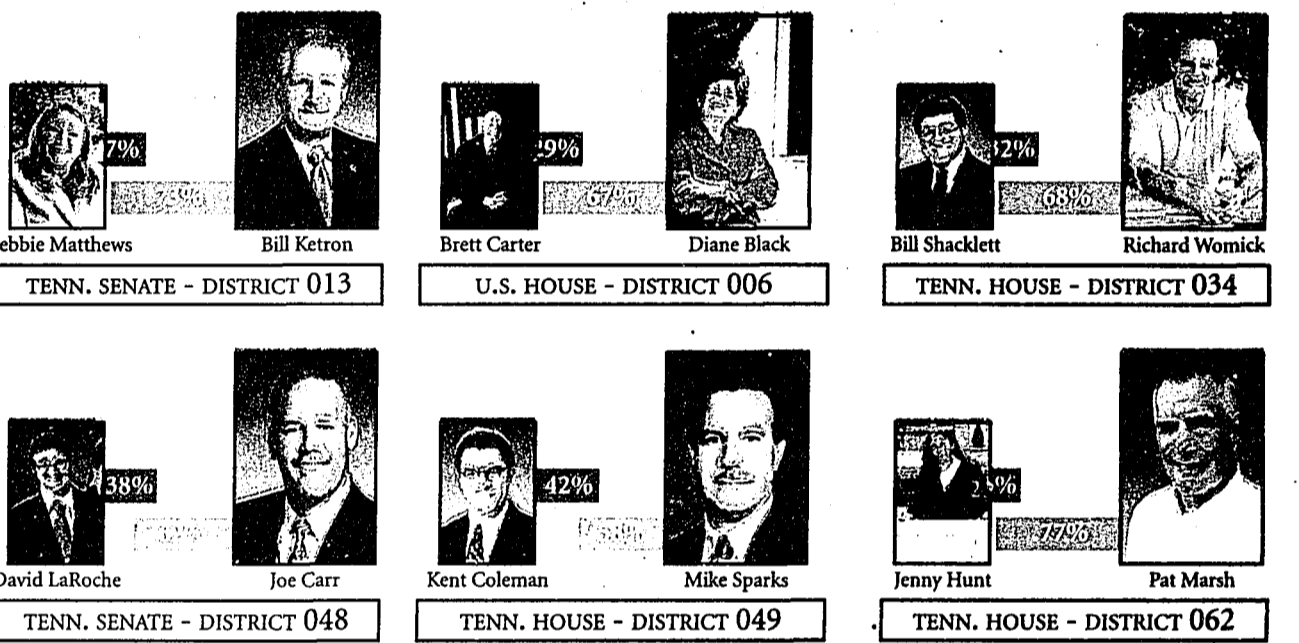
## FEDERAL ELECTION RESULTS:



## STATE ELECTION RESULTS:



## RUTHERFORD COUNTY ELECTION RESULTS:



Graphic by Andy Harper, production manager

# LOCAL EVENTS

## On Campus

## Off Campus

**Student Life:**  
 Strictly Dubstep  
 Vol. 10 Promotion/Showcase  
 Sponsored by Student Programming  
 Nov. 4, 12:30 p.m.  
 Keathley University Center Courtyard/Knoll  
 FREE

**Hacky Sack Day**  
 Sponsored by Housing and Residential Life  
 Nov. 4, 4 p.m.  
 Corlew Stoop  
 FREE

**“Scott Pilgrim vs. The World”**  
 Sponsored by Student Programming  
 Nov. 4 and 5, 7 p.m.  
 Keathley University Center  
 Tickets: \$2

**Paintball**  
 Sponsored by Student Programming and Student Health Services, Student Government Association, and Campus Recreation  
 Nov. 5, 10 p.m.  
 Intramural Fields  
 FREE

**Share Your Love of Music**  
 Sponsored by Housing and Residential Life  
 Nov. 7, 8 p.m.  
 Corlew 2nd floor Lobby  
 FREE

**Karaoke Night**  
 Sponsored by Student Programming  
 Nov. 7, 10 p.m.  
 Cyber Café  
 FREE

**“Inception”**  
 Sponsored by Student Programming  
 Nov. 8, 7 p.m.  
 Keathley University Center  
 Tickets: \$2

**Nigerian Cultural Night**  
 Sponsored by Housing and Residential Life  
 Nov. 8, 7 p.m.  
 Corlew Classroom  
 FREE

**Concerts:**  
 Keith Carter  
 Nov. 4, 6:15 p.m.  
 Warkins College of Art and Design  
 FREE

**MGMT**  
 Nov. 4, 7:30 p.m.  
 Ryman Auditorium  
 Tickets: \$32.50

**OK Go with Those Darlins**  
 Nov. 5, 9 p.m.  
 Mercy Lounge/Cannery Ballroom  
 Tickets: \$15

**Tootsies Orchid Lounge 50th Anniversary**  
 Nov. 7, 7:30 p.m.  
 Ryman Auditorium  
 Tickets: \$50

**Events:**  
**“Barkaroo”**  
 Middle Tennessee Dog Festival  
 Nov. 6, 10 a.m.  
 Murfreesboro Bark Park  
 FREE

**Beer, Bourbon & BBQ Festival**  
 Nov. 6, 12 p.m.  
 Nashville Municipal Auditorium  
 Tickets: \$20 - \$40

**Performing Arts:**  
**“Noir Suspicions”**  
 Murder Mystery Dinner Theater  
 Nov. 5, 6:30 p.m.  
 The Center for the Arts  
 Murfreesboro  
 Tickets: \$30

**Events Policy**  
 Sidelines welcomes current campus and community events submitted by all readers. Please e-mail events to [scampus@mtsu.edu](mailto:scampus@mtsu.edu) or [sinews@mtsu.edu](mailto:sinews@mtsu.edu), and include the name, date, time and location of the event, as well as your name and a phone number for verification. We reserve the right to refuse events at our discretion as our space is limited.

**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 events listed are not necessarily associated with Sidelines or MTSU.

## D.U.I. - DEFENSE

The State of Tennessee is Serious!

If you or someone you know have been charged with a D.U.I., underage consumption, or drug charge. There are things you should know!

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November 9  
 KUC Knoll  
 10-2

## CORRECTIONS

In the Nov. 1 issue of *Sidelines*, the story titled “Insell preps for upcoming season” was incorrectly printed as being written by Will Trusler. The attribution should have read, Alex Hubbard, staff writer.

Also in the Nov. 1 issue of *Sidelines*, the story titled “Flood” included a factual error. The name of the public information officer for the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency was incorrectly spelled as “Jeremy Heights.” However, his correct name is “Jeremy Heidt.”

*Sidelines* regrets these errors.

**Letters Policy**

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to [slopino@mtsu.edu](mailto:slopino@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.

## Americans got hosed

The media has been set ablaze by a house fire in Obion County, Tenn., where firemen stood aside to watch a resident's home burn because he didn't pay his yearly fee of \$75.

As a result, it has been written by various progressive commentators that this is a demonstration of the futility of libertarian principals or a preview of what the Tea Partiers want.

There is a significant problem with this premise though: The fire service was municipal. Not only that, but merely a few years ago the Fulton Fire Department didn't respond to fires outside city limits, period. As a result of lacking coverage, it began to offer a service for \$75 a year, which allowed the fire department to expand its borders, and yet it's where this story rose from the ashes of a resident's house.

Iain Murray of the Competitive Enterprise Institute looked at historical records to see how the "heartless capitalists" handled such situations. Murray found that there is no record of a private insurance company simply allowing a home to burn. Quite the contrary, private companies would put out fires of people who didn't hold policies for public image reasons and to prevent the spreading of fire.

As you might imagine, this led to a problem dubbed the "free rider" problem, as people simply began dumping their policy, and it was passed on to municipalities because it was no longer profitable. The Fulton Fire Department faced the same problem, except it merely needed to break even.

Ironically, Paul Krugman, an economist who works for The New York Times, noted on his blog that, "this is essentially the same as denying someone essential medical care because he doesn't have insurance. So the question is, do you want to live in the kind of society in which this happens?" The great thing about Krugman is that he often makes great points and then totally misses them.

In 1986, under President Ronald Reagan, the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA) was passed. The bill requires hospitals and ambulance services to provide care to anyone needing emergency care regardless of citizenship, legal status or ability to pay. So, much like the insur-



**Josh Fields**  
Columnist

ance company putting out the fire of those who don't hold policies, the same became true of hospital care. How so? The hospitals began passing financial losses on to those who do pay, and by association, insurance rates and Medicare liabilities started to sharply increase pushing people to "free ride," even as they strive to pay.

Now, more than half of all emergency room care goes uncompensated, and yet it makes up much more than half of hospital costs. Not only that, but just between the years of 1996 and 2006, emergency departments decreased by about 5 percent, adding more strain to existing emergency care providers. Medicare and Medicaid help to compensate this discrepancy by spending more than \$600 billion a year on EMTALA practices alone, more than 45 percent of all medical costs in the United States.

The mandate under "Obama-care," which refers to the health care bill that passed earlier this year, attempts to expand the pool of policyholders in an effort to spread out costs more evenly. This too has a problem because you can opt out by paying a penalty. Seeing as the cost and benefit is greatly in favor of not having insurance, the cost continues to add up in liabilities and health care costs. It's a rather familiar story.

EMTALA will probably never be repealed because it's seen as immoral to do so. However, as I see it, it's a piece of legislation that has contributed to a large majority of health care's rocketing costs and increasing financial burdens on the taxpayers, employers and employees. So, it hardly seems like the tale of morality.

Health care is the only sector that has had its costs increase despite advances in technology, yet it's already socialized - we just don't say that it is. I hardly see a coincidence there.

*Josh Fields is a senior majoring in economics in the College of Business. He can be reached at [josh@virtualblend.com](mailto:josh@virtualblend.com).*

## Financial aid practices absurd

### Office shouldn't hold student loans until first day of classes

By LEE MILLER  
Contributing Columnist

I'm a transfer student at MTSU returning to college after an extended hiatus, and I went through the financial aid process for the first time this summer. I was pleasantly surprised at the ease with which I was able to complete all the paperwork to the government's satisfaction, and everyone in the Financial Aid and Scholarships Office was extremely helpful with my many questions. When I renewed my FASFA for the fall semester, everything appeared to be in order; I signed a new promissory note for my student loans and was given a date to expect my deposit.

For any of you who have never received a bank loan in the "real world," this is basically what happens. You fill out your application. A loan officer reviews it, and if it's approved, a closing date is set. At closing, a lot of things can happen, depending on the type of loan you are receiving, but the transaction is basically finished. All checks are dispersed to their recipients.

My student loans had been approved for more than a month, and my account information on Pipeline informed me that I could expect my funds to arrive on Aug. 21 - a Saturday. I tried to plan accordingly and arranged movers for the following Tuesday. By Monday, my Pipeline account showed that funds were received; yet, the balance wasn't credited to my account. I went to the Financial Aid

Office to make sure I had written the account number correctly and was informed, in an extremely condescending manner, that the business office held the funds until the first day of classes.

I want to make sure I have this correct: My student loans are for expenses such as housing utilities and books. I don't even have to come to campus on the first day of classes to get my money. The loans are pre-approved - electronic transfers that take only nanoseconds to complete, and MTSU was given the money on Aug. 21 specifically to hand over to me, yet this money sits in MTSU's account for another week. How can this make sense?

In short, here's the reality: I need a place to live before I start school. It's easier to set an alarm clock with electricity. Most of my teachers sent e-mails regarding the required materials for their courses before classes started and asked me to begin looking over them so I would be prepared. If I just went to Amsterdam, the University Business Office wouldn't know for weeks. We don't use a sweatshop in Singapore where children work their fingers to the bone writing checks for days on end. MTSU isn't in the banking business, per se - the money still comes from the government.

Using nice round numbers because I'm mathematically challenged, if 50 percent of the 25,000 students who enrolled here this semester took out federal student

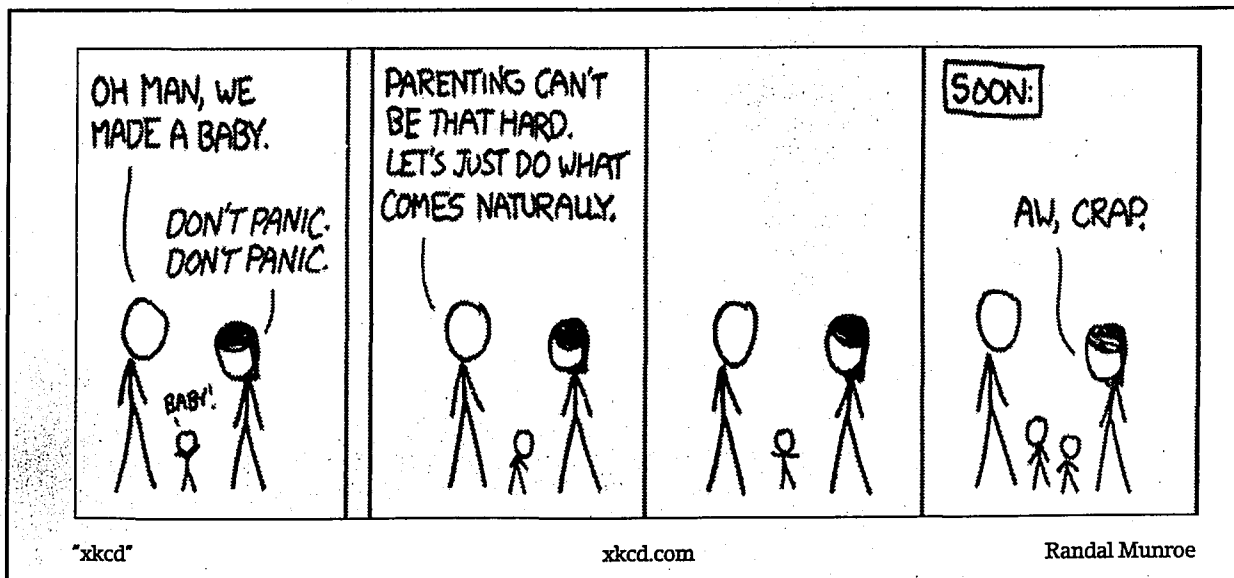
loans for \$3,000 a piece, then that's \$37.5 million that MTSU funnels through its account before passing it along to the student. At very conservative estimates, the university could earn \$150,000 per year in interest by holding onto students' money for that extra week every semester.

MTSU has an excellent reputation that allows its graduates to compete in the job market with other alumni from much more expensive private universities. This isn't a diabolical scheme by the Business Office to add a few bucks to a multi-million dollar budget. This is a standard policy at colleges across the country, created by accountants, to maximize profits. Who could doubt that those profits increase as students drop and fail some courses and are forced to re-take them? Does it make financial sense to give students every opportunity to graduate in four years when you could keep them here for five? Of course not, but that doesn't make it right.

I feel sure that I'm reading too much into this. I usually do. The federal government wouldn't knowingly allow underprivileged members of society to be taken advantage of for money. You might as well believe that state run ABC boards are dope dealers that keep low-income neighborhoods with extremely high rates of drug addiction and alcoholism stocked with copious amounts of cheap booze to systematically keep minorities from improving their lives... and that's just absurd!

*Lee Miller is a junior majoring in commercial songwriting. He can be reached at [jlml2bi@mtmail.mtsu.edu](mailto:jlml2bi@mtmail.mtsu.edu).*

## COMICS



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

As a proud MTSU alumnus, I was very interested to hear that the Student Government Association wants to start discussing a name change to the university. From what I have read, students want MTSU to be competitive to the University of Memphis and the University of Tennessee. Why do we want to conform to these other schools? If MTSU changed to "The University of Middle Tennessee," it might get confused

with University of Memphis, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, University of Tennessee at Knoxville, University of Tennessee at Martin, etc. Won't this name change just put us into a group of other "University of" schools? By being Middle Tennessee State University, we stand out when people look at schools in Tennessee. How can a name make all the difference? MTSU should

become different from the inside. There are great schools that are state schools, such as Ohio State University, Penn State University and Florida State University. If the SGA wants MTSU to be competitive to other schools, it should focus on the other problems the university needs to deal with: Pay full-time workers a living wage, actually use the MTSU Raider X-Press shuttle bus that was built to run on biofuel, lower the

price of food on campus, try to get students involved on campus and get students to stay in Murfreesboro on the weekend, speak out against the budget cuts, get early voting on campus, and get students to actually stand up for what they believe in. If you fix these problems, then MTSU will be become a better university. You can't just change the name and expect MTSU to shine. You can change the name, but

the problems will still be the same.

*Zack Barnes is an MTSU alumnus and Ball State University graduate student. He can be reached at [zfbarnes@bsu.edu](mailto:zfbarnes@bsu.edu).*

### Letters Policy

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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 Wednesday during June and July. The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual writers and not necessarily Sidelines or MTSU.

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

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](http://www.mtsusidelines.com)

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Alex Moorman\*  
[slexeditor@mtsu.edu](mailto:slexeditor@mtsu.edu)

**Managing Editor**  
Marie Kempf\*  
[smanage@mtsu.edu](mailto:smanage@mtsu.edu)

**Production Manager**  
Andy Harper  
[sdesign@mtsu.edu](mailto:sdesign@mtsu.edu)

**Campus Advertising**  
Chelsea LeMay  
[s4ads@mtsu.edu](mailto:s4ads@mtsu.edu)

**Photography**  
Jay Bailey  
[sjphoto@mtsu.edu](mailto:sjphoto@mtsu.edu)

**Features**  
Laura Aiken\*  
[sjfeatur@mtsu.edu](mailto:sjfeatur@mtsu.edu)

**Opinions**  
Aimee Schmittendorf\*  
[slopino@mtsu.edu](mailto:slopino@mtsu.edu)

**Multimedia**  
Larry Sterling  
[slonline@mtsu.edu](mailto:slonline@mtsu.edu)

**A&E**  
Rozalind Ruth  
[sflash@mtsu.edu](mailto:sflash@mtsu.edu)

**News**  
Marie Kempf\*  
[snews@mtsu.edu](mailto:snews@mtsu.edu)

**Asst. News**  
Christopher Merchant  
[slcampus@mtsu.edu](mailto:slcampus@mtsu.edu)

**Asst. News**  
Becca Andrews  
[slcampus@mtsu.edu](mailto:slcampus@mtsu.edu)

**Sports**  
Will Trusler  
[sisports@mtsu.edu](mailto:sisports@mtsu.edu)

**Copy Editor**  
Courtney Polivka  
[slcopy@mtsu.edu](mailto:slcopy@mtsu.edu)

**Adviser**  
Leon Alligood  
[alligood@mtsu.edu](mailto:alligood@mtsu.edu)

**Business**  
Eveon Cori  
[ecori@mtsu.edu](mailto:ecori@mtsu.edu)

**Media Convergence Director**  
Tiffany Gibson  
[sidelinesmanager@gmail.com](mailto:sidelinesmanager@gmail.com)

**Off-Campus Advertising**  
Shelbyville Times-Gazette  
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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

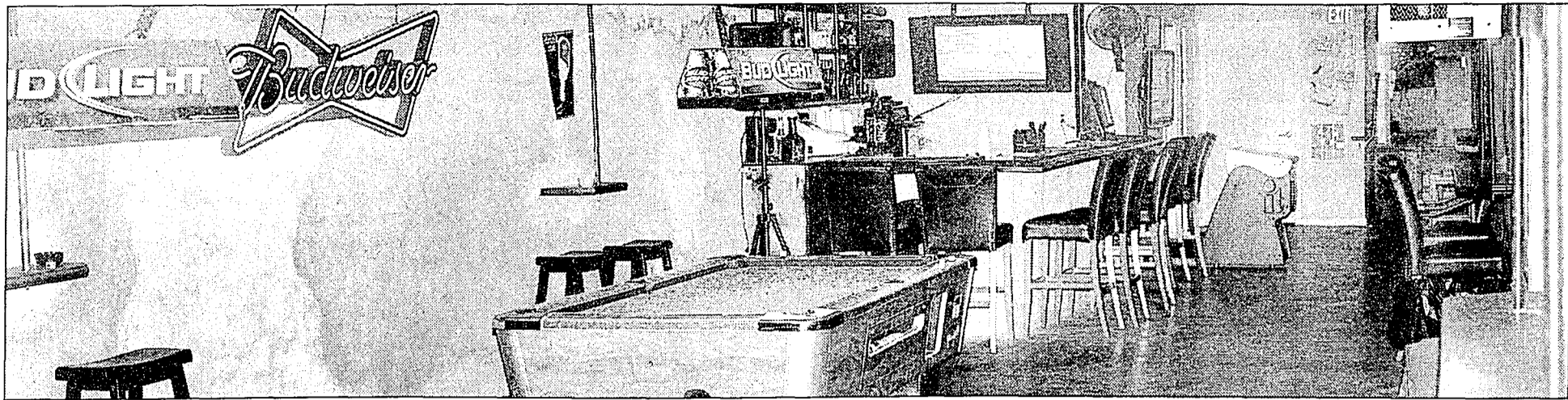


Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor

Lying below Aura Lounge in the Murfreesboro Square, the Man Cave employees prepare to open on Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2010, for customers looking for a good time and casual atmosphere.

## Man Cave 'unga bunga' goodtime

### New bar open under Aura Lounge 'rocks'

By ROZALIND RUTH  
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Beneath the Aura Lounge is a deep cave that offers a release from the more glamorous upstairs. While the hip, clean, modern atmosphere of the upstairs offers a touch of new class to the Murfreesboro Square, with the cocktails in crystal-like tumblers and the sound of jazz ruminating through the hardwooded salon — downstairs is where the primal party begins.

Aura is split into three levels: Upstairs at the Aura lounge is a candlelit tavern that meets the fine dining needs of the 45-plus crowd; One floor lower, the many bottles of the chic sport bar glisten and twinkle with the music being played; Underneath that... the Man Cave.

Those ready for the dive bar atmosphere now have an escape from the good clean fun expected to have in the upstairs lounge. The Man Cave offers relief.

"We cater to everybody," said Cary Kendall, owner of all

three bars at the Aura Lounge. "I have 21-year-old college students all the way to 70-year-old judges every night."

Kendall quoted one of his regulars, "It's a place you can go to have your first date or your 50th anniversary."

Walking into Aura Lounge, it is impossible not to notice the florescent glow greeting patrons immediately at the entrance to the left. The faint sound of classic rock flows up to meet the singer-songwriter tunes coming from the small stage in the middle level bar. Time to investigate.

"It's a place to go, not to end up," Kendall jokes.

Walking down the concrete stairs, entering the Man Cave really does feel like spelunking at first. It's hard to see the barstools and neon beer company signs that separate it from the fancy-pants Aura Lounge. But as one's feet become level with the concrete floor, the faux-finished walls and billiard tables become apparent. This is Aura's version of a dive bar.

The small bar is 'cave-manned' by a bartender dressed like a sexy cave woman. Wearing a leopard print miniskirt with matching halter top, bartender Amber Serrano smiles as she pours a vodka cranberry from modern shaped bottles with skill. She seems to be having fun with the anachronisms all around her as she fiddles with the satellite radio and big screen television to make guests comfortable.

"You're not going to get this crowd anywhere else," Serrano smiles, looking at her guests.

This bar is a bit more of the style for patrons looking to play games, talk loud and laugh comfortably while watching the big game, or getting rowdy on a Saturday night.

Thankfully, for the gals, the Man Cave is a bit of a misnomer. Women and men are more than welcome to relax in its shelter and everyone is free to become a member.

For a one-time fee of \$100, members gain access to drink specials and discounts on their

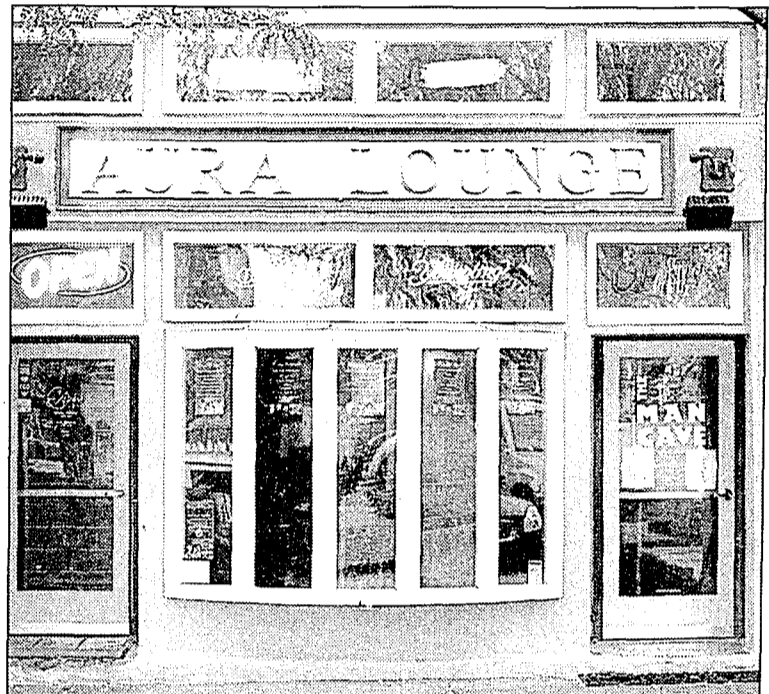


Photo by Rozalind Ruth, arts and entertainment editor

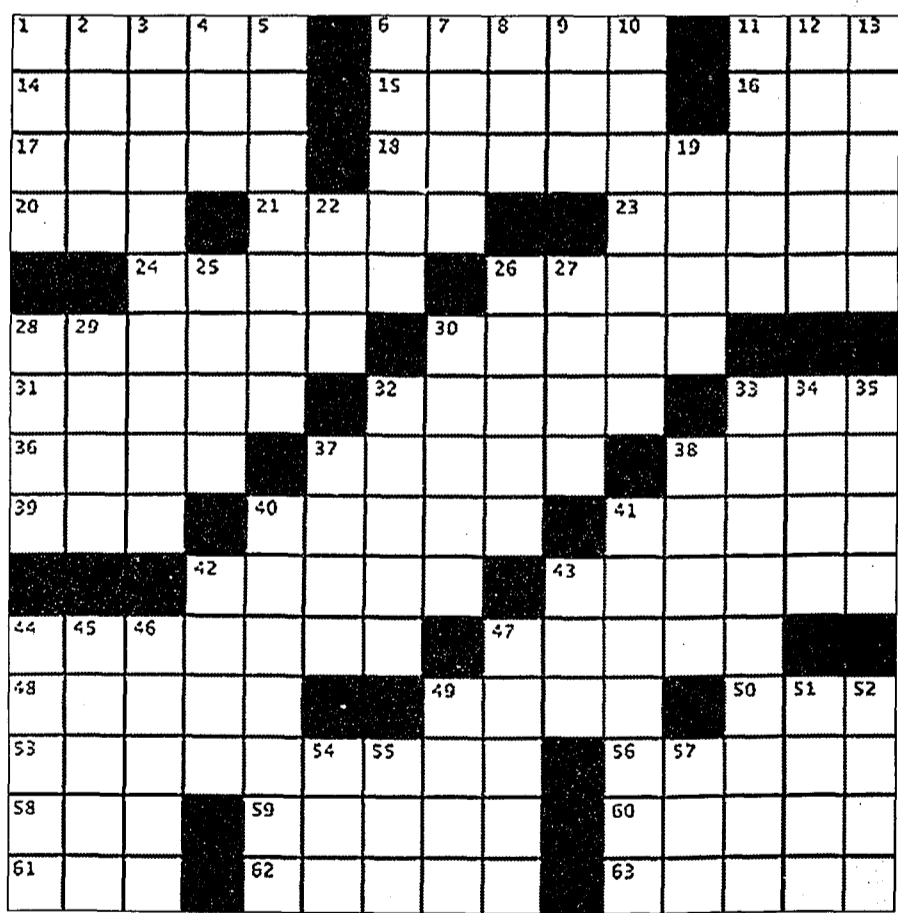
The Man Cave, opened below Aura Lounge on the Murfreesboro Square, prepares for another night of fun Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2010.

favorite games. As Amber explains the perks, it seems like a great deal. "Man Drinks" 32 ounces mixed beverages for \$5, and \$2 pints are available to Man Cave members, as well as discounts on billiards. Plus one more perk, the first man drink is free!

"On the square, you've had the same bars for a long time, and the bars each shoot for a certain demographic, each for a certain customer," Kendall claims. "I wasn't shooting for that customer, I was shooting for everybody. I want to give everybody a place to go."

## SIDEWORDS

The weekly *Sidelines* crossword puzzle



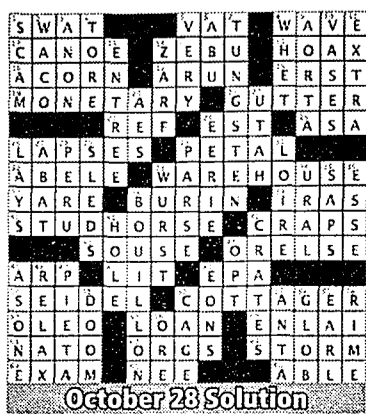
Crossword courtesy of bestcrosswords.com

#### ACROSS

1- Bring to mind; 6- Malfunction; 11- Capp and Capone; 14- Nigerian city; 15- Path; 16- Back muscle, briefly; 17- "M\*A\*S\*H" name; 18- Motherhood; 20- Boxer Laila; 21- Bunches; 23- Golfer Calvin; 24- More pleasant; 26- Delicate net; 28- Absence of passion; 30- Insurgent; 31- Cavalry weapon; 32- Spiral; 33- Where some vets served; 36- Foot part; 37- Be silent, musically; 38- Fresh-water fish; 39- Driving aid; 40- Dispute; 41- Crowbar; 42- Facial expression used by Elvis Presley; 43- Separate; 44- Muslim opponent of the Crusaders; 47- Fundamental; 48- Nicholas Gage book; 49- Offers a price; 50- Actress Merkel; 53- Cut up; 56- Lowermost deck; 58- Hail, to Caesar; 59- Bridget Fonda, to Jane; 60- Castle water pits; 61- After taxes; 62- Small nails; 63- Causing goose bumps;

#### DOWN

1- Poet Pound; 2- South African river; 3- Decree; 4- Sportage maker; 5- Otagia; 6- Defense covering; 7- Cover; 8- Boy king; 9- Salt Lake City athlete; 10- Confuse; 11- Extra-terrestrial being; 12- Starbucks order; 13- Eye sores; 19- Singer Sedaka; 22- "Conquest of Space" writer Willy; 25- Need a scratch; 26- Donnybrook; 27- Slightly; 28- Came down to earth; 29- Sheet of stamps; 30- Happen again; 32- Broadway actress Uta; 33- Boat-shaped; 34- Served perfectly; 35- Nothing more than; 37- Corner; 38- Hindu mother goddess; 40- Aged; 41- Supple; 42- Lacking; 43- June honoree; 44- Four-door; 45- In play; 46- Adjust to zero; 47- Waits; 49- "Loser" musician; 51- Words of denial; 52- Church recess; 54- The Company; 55- Gumshoe; 57- Fish eggs;



October 23 Solution

## Movie explores alternate world

By BRETT PARSONS  
Contributing Writer

"Hereafter" is unfortunately not a film that will interest as many people as it deserves, nor is it a film that will entertain all the people that it interests — if the man seated behind me in the theater was any indication.

The psychic story is one that offers interesting characters and moving cinema for any die-hard fan of the famous actor and director Clint Eastwood, or the stellar ensemble of actors he has managed to pull together once again.

Whether you buy into their claims or not, psychics, or mediums, are a part of our culture. For many people, the cruelty of death is too much

for time to heal and the opportunity to speak to a loved one just one more time is too alluring. Some psychics are scam artists, preying on emotions. Others genuinely believe they are blessed with an ability few others share and their sight provides comfort for the bereaved. I have never met or heard of a psychic who refers to his ability as a curse, but if that was the case, I might be more willing to believe him.

Perhaps that is why so many people in "Hereafter" seek out George Lonigan (Matt Damon), a reluctant psychic trying to get out of the business and live as normally as he can, if only his brother would quit bringing people to him for readings.

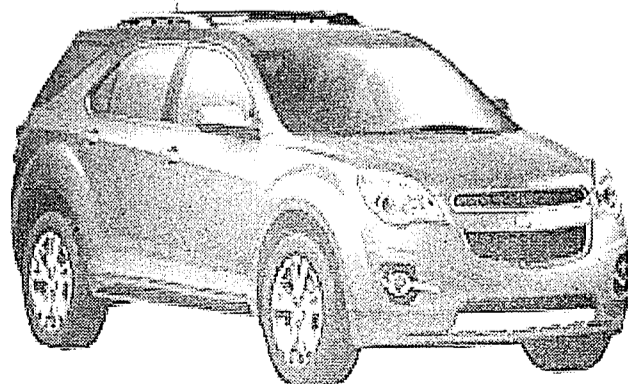
Skeptics, suspend logic for a moment: Lonigan is the real deal, and the movie presents it as such. He doesn't indulge in parlor tricks or "cold reads," the art of tricking people with information they've already given. Damon plays a personable, relatable human being, not a puffed-up cartoon character draped in robes and wielding a magic scepter. He is a loner, if only by nature; his touch allows him to see and hear your dead relatives, which makes for awkward handshakes.

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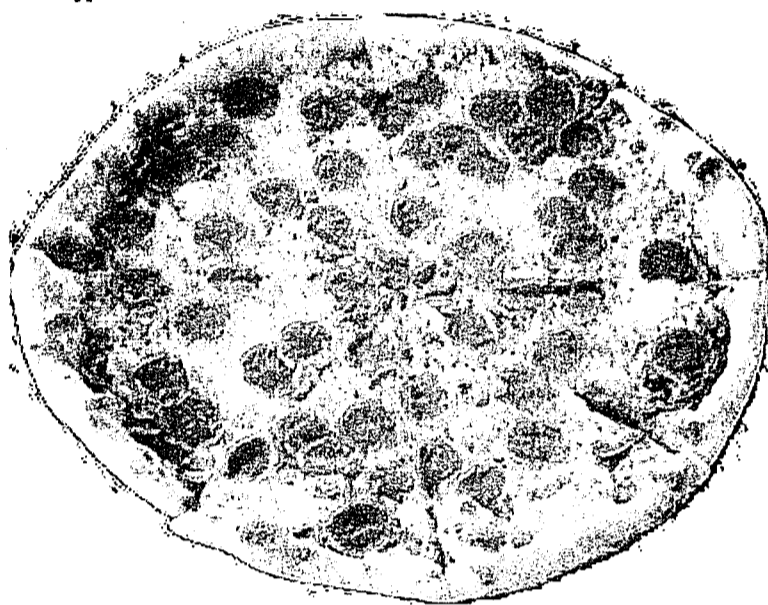
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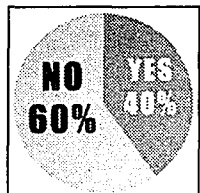
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# FEATURES



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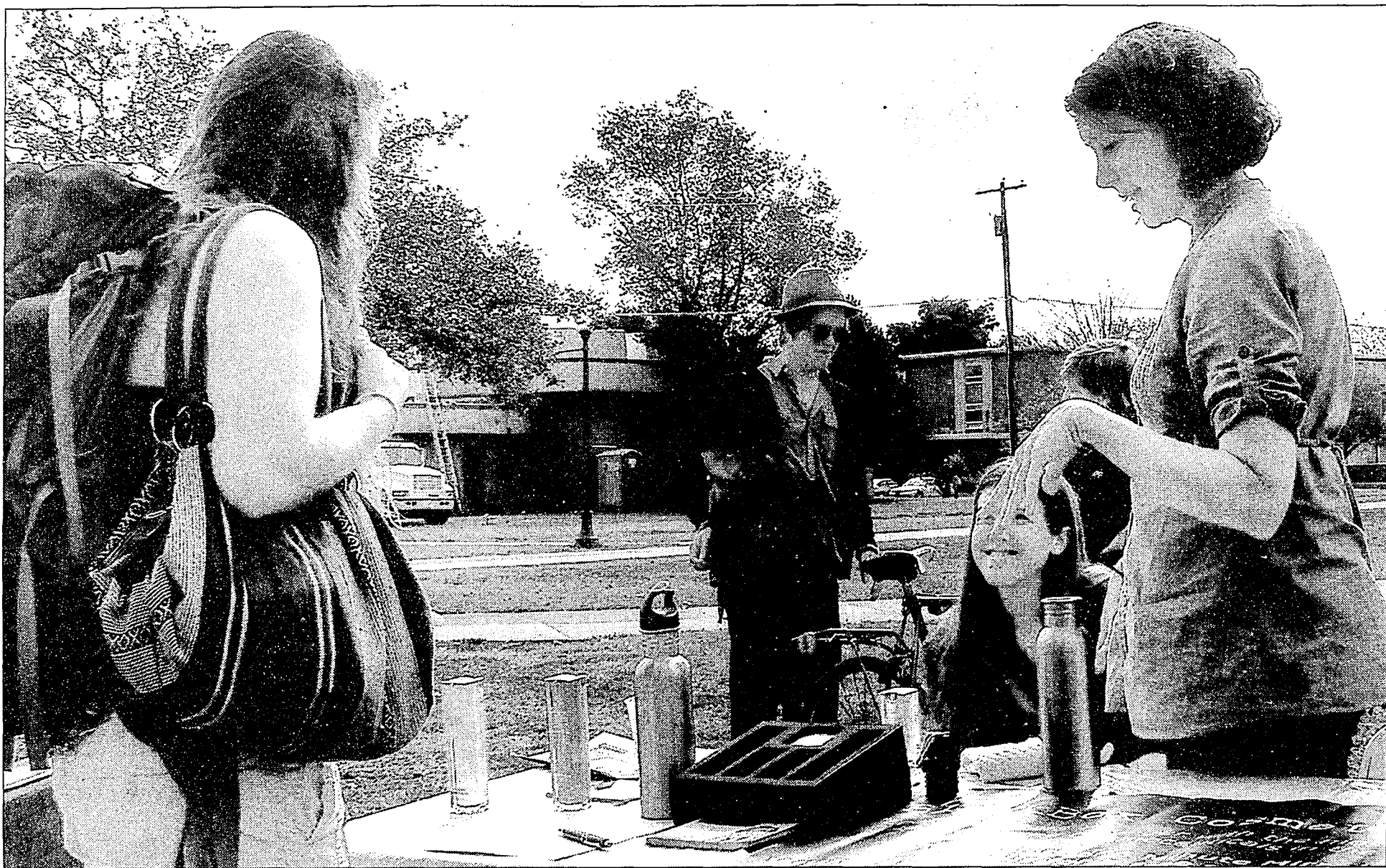


Photo by Ray Ingram staff photographer  
Lauren Whaley (left) admires Vicki Lewis' table at the Students for Environmental Action's Holistic Expo on Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2010, outside of the Keathley University Center.

## Holistic health offers heavenly beauty

By TAYLOR HIXSON  
Staff Writer

Holistic health, in the most simplified terms, is all aspects of human health being considered as a whole. Holism isn't entirely about New Age health trends, using magic crystals and chants to heal the body. Living a holistic lifestyle can start with something as simple as a beauty regime.

"Holistic living to me is sort of having a healthy balance of mind, body and spirit, so all aspects of your life are in the flow of consciousness," said Charles White, who serves as secretary of Students for Environmental Action.

White, a senior majoring in anthropology, organized the Holistic Expo, which was held Oct. 27, to expose people to different ways of being healthy. He invited local professionals in the holistic health field to set up tables outside on the Knoll outside of the Keathley University Center.

SEA and MTSU's Yoga and Meditation Group had tables set up beside the more abstract tables like Synergy, an acupuncture center in Murfreesboro, and a medical Qigong practitioner.

Among the tables of people pressing on pressure points and reading Tarot cards was Vicki Lewis from True Joy

Wellness. Lewis has had 15 years of experience practicing and studying areas of holistic health, according to her True Joy Wellness website.

Lewis is in her 30s, but it would be hard to tell her age from her youthful appearance and glowing skin. She sat barefoot at her simply set table with her business cards and a box on top.

Lewis, an MTSU graduate, was

**"When something knocks twice, I answer the door, and I have not looked back - these products are amazing."**

VICKI LEWIS  
TRUE JOY WELLNESS

not at the expo to only advertise her free, one-hour consultations. For the past six weeks, she has been using and selling BlackBox Cosmetic products.

She found out about BlackBox Cosmetics from a Craigslist ad but disregarded it at first for its too-good-to-be-true qualities. Lewis' skepticism changed after a hike in the woods.

She was hiking with two friends when she saw a woman who was almost sparkling. The sparkling woman is a friend with one of Lewis' fellow hikers, and she just so happened to be the same woman that placed the Craigslist advertisement, Lewis said.

Lewis decided this was not

a coincidence.

"The product came into my life two times, and I believe in synchronicity," Lewis said. "When something knocks twice, I answer the door, and I haven't looked back—these products are amazing."

BlackBox Cosmetics is a fairly new company. It's been on the market for seven months.

"Macy's and Sephora wanted to buy this company, but the owner

didn't want the products sitting in warehouses," Lewis said. "He wanted it sold fresh, and he

also wanted to create jobs for the everyday person."

The skin care company was started in Sarasota, Fla., by Kevin Evans, who was disheartened by the high water content, lack of nutritional value, and unsustainable packaging in skin care products, according to the BlackBox Cosmetics website.

"The products will never be available through big-box stores, online or in brick-and-mortar [stores]," Evans said. "They will only be found in locally and management-owned retail outlets where the owner is an [independent sales associate]."

Hair salons, spas and physician offices are already selling



Photo by Ray Ingram, staff photographer  
Vicki Lewis displays her holistic, all-natural makeup product line Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2010, during SEA's Holistic Expo on the KUC Knoll.

the products.

Evans said he decided to use a light scent and vibrantly packaged colors so the products can appeal to both men and women.

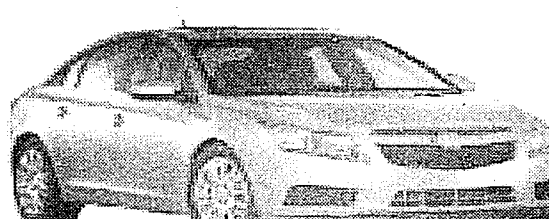
The six skin care products are packaged in vibrant blues, greens and oranges. Environmentalists can jump for joy because behind the sleek, sexy packing are vegan and sustainable products.

"You pop out the cartridge and order a new cartridge, saving you money and also saving waste," Lewis said.

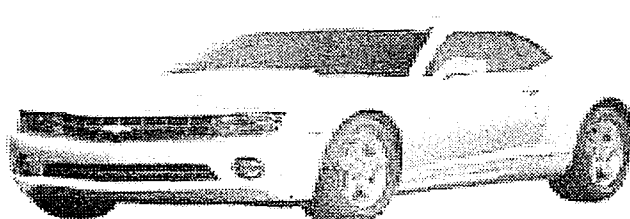
The skin care line is made from super foods like acai berry and mangosteen, and it is aloe vera based, not water based like most products.

HOLISTIC, PAGE 8

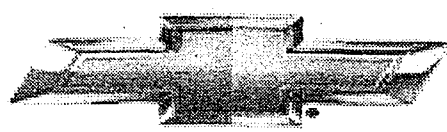
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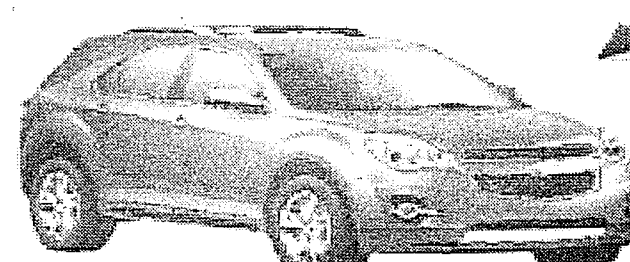


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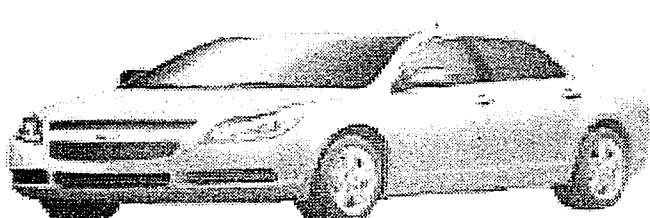


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# MT Lambda looks to expand

## Student organization stands united for LGBT community

By JANET MPOYI  
Contributing Writer

One may have heard the word "Lambda" mentioned on the MTSU campus, but wasn't aware of its meaning.

Lambda, is the Greek letter for liberation and freedom, which is precisely what its members feel the MT Lambda organization represents. Lambda is the legal LGBT fund. It is the only student-led organization that represents gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual students.

It provides educational programming about and for the LGBT community about MTSU and Murfreesboro.

"Being a gay-straight alliance, we welcome everyone here at MTSU," says Brandon Farrar, a 28-year-old graduate student in the College of Education. Brandon serves as the president of MT Lambda.

The organization meets every Wednesday at 7 p.m., in Room N111 of the Casen-Kennedy Nursing Building. On average, an estimated 50 students attend. Recruitment was held during CUSTOMS, and the organization recently sponsored Hate Crime Awareness Week.

"We like to focus on discrimination of every kind," Brandon describes. "If one person is being denied the rights, then we are all being subjected to not having our full rights. We are a voice for the people who don't have a voice."

Lambda started 13 years ago, at a time when MTSU wasn't addressing such dis-

crimination issues. Meanwhile, sexual orientation wasn't incorporated in non-discrimination policies, Brandon explains.

"Students and teachers were being removed from classes and fired for being gay," he says.

In light of recent inequities, such as Proposition 8 and the Defensive Marriage Proposal, there couldn't have been a better time to have a such alliance on campus, Brandon says.

"It's easy to say that you hate gay people," Brandon proceeds to explain. "It is much more difficult to declare that you hate one individual person. When a person knows you personally, they're twice as likely to vote for you and your rights."

At meetings, he said he stresses how important it is to put a face to every member of the LGBT community.

"We don't really need to promote much on campus - people show up to meetings, and then go and tell their friends about it," Brandon proclaims. "It's a great place to meet new people and get plugged into the university."

Sara Croft, a freshman in the College of Liberal Arts, said she couldn't agree any more. Coming from the small town of Columbia, she says at the time, she was one of the only ones at her high school who was openly gay.

"I was browsing through the school website over the summer - I clicked on Lambda's link and felt connected," Sara describes.

During organization week, she said she spotted

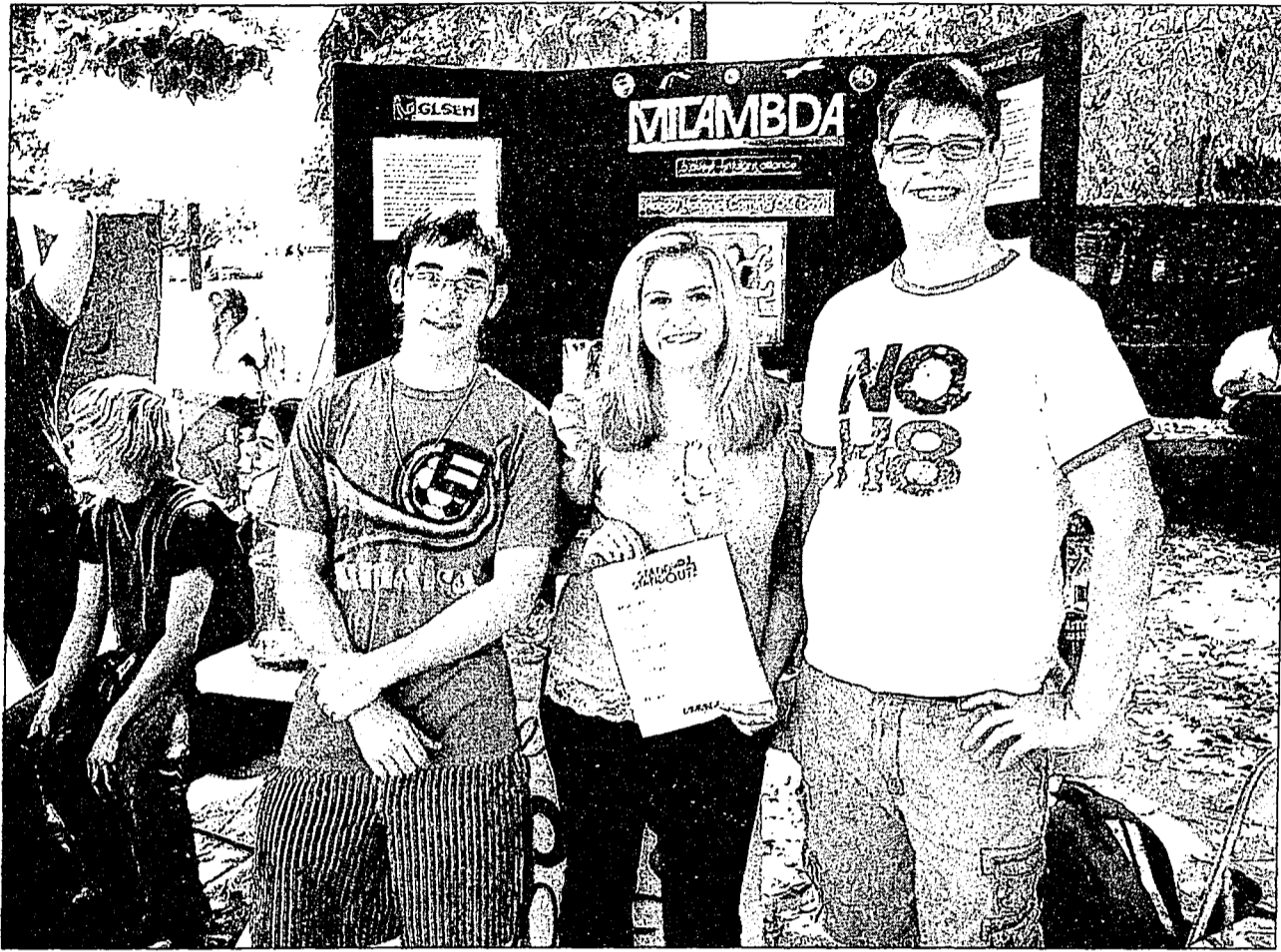


Photo by Ray Ingram, staff photographer  
Brandon Farrar (Right), Lauren Qualis (Center), Andrew Farris (Left), members of MT Lambda, hand out flyers Oct. 11, 2010, outside of the Keathley University Center to promote the group's first ever drag show on campus, which was held Oct. 15, 2010.

the booth for it and signed up for it.

"Where I'm from, nobody speaks about such matters," Sara says. "You know who you are, but don't talk about it."

It wasn't hard for her to network with other students here.

"As soon as I got to the first meeting, I had people walk up to me and say hi and invite me to different things," Sara explains.

Lambda provides many different events on campus. In addition to Hate Crime Week, they work in schools and console bullied students.

The next influential function held by Lambda is on Dec. 1, which is World AIDS Day. That day, members will be teaming up with the Rutherford County Health Department and will be

**"People need to know that we are here and not going anywhere. It does not matter what orientation you are. It's not gross, it's just love."**

SARA CROFT  
FRESHMAN IN THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

conducting free HIV testing on campus, which is being partially funded by Nashville CARES, a Middle Tennessee community-based AIDS organization.

In addition, cookies with the trademark red ribbon logo will be sold, and the sum of those proceeds will also be donated Nashville CARES.

Next semester, there will be Spring Out Week. Lambda will partner with a different organization each day. Megan McCain will make an appearance on campus. She

writes for The Daily Beast, and she is the daughter of U.S. Sen. John McCain, who is a former Republican presidential nominee.

"As president, people call me a lot and ask for advice," Brandon says. "It's the best thing to advise a student on how to come out to their parents. Suddenly, at the next meeting, you see them smiling brighter, because this huge weight is lifted off of them."

He adds that this past year the club has been becoming stronger as a family than in the previous years. This se-

mester, they all went to the Black Out game and together and attended homecoming as a big group. For Halloween, they met up and went to a haunted house. The club's slogan is "I'm One," stating how every student at MTSU should feel.

All MT Lambda officers agreed that when you are allowed to be yourself and don't hide anything, that is when you can experience life for the first time.

Brandon and Sara agreed that although at times the club does have to face issues such as crude comments and minimizing looks, the best way to handle it is to brush it off.

"People need to know that we are here and not going anywhere," Sara proclaims. "It does not matter what orientation you are. It's not gross - it's just love."

# Cosmetic company provides environmentally friendly products



Photo by Ray Ingram, staff photographer  
Members of Students for Environmental Action hand out brochures on campus during the Holistic Expo on Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2010.

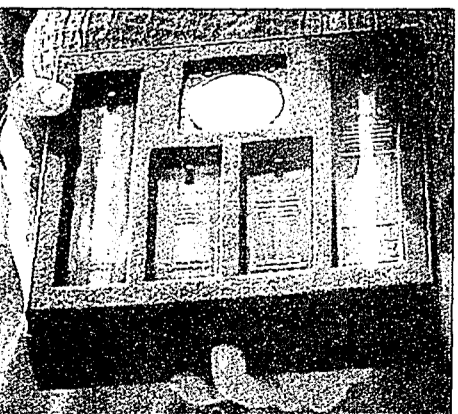


Photo by Ray Ingram, staff photographer  
Vicki Lewis displays BlackBox Cosmetics products to customers during the Holistic Expo outside of the Keathley University Center on Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2010.

## HOLISTIC FROM PAGE 7

"These products are safe for sensitive skin because they're natural," Lewis said.

Lewis emphasized that these products are different from most others on the market because they go down to the dermal level of skin where collagen production happens.

"Most products go down to the first or second level," Lewis said.

Next year, the company is coming out with a teen line that will compete with Proactiv, a hair care line and a makeup line, Lewis.

MTSU alumna Hailey Traver, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in apparel design, helped at the Middle Tennessee Outdoor Pursuits table next to Lewis. She decided to give Traver a free test of the BlackBox products.

Traver's skin hardly needed any help: Her skin was clear and fresh, which she attributed to washing her face with Dial soap.

Nonetheless, Lewis dropped a dime-size amount of the Six Minute Miracle microdermabrasion scrub on Traver's right hand and got to work.

Minutes later, Lewis was finished and Traver was astonished by the difference.

"[My hand] feels vibrant and alive," Traver said. "I wish my whole body felt this way."

As the afternoon wore on, Lewis left, and April Caspari, another independent sales associate, came to take her place.

Caspari has been selling and using the products for about three months. She was drawn to the company because of its philosophy: BlackBox Cosmetics gets to the core of dry skin, oily skin, wrinkles, bags and other symptoms on the outside of our skin with one line that does it all.

"There are so many companies that claim to help with acne, anti-aging or wrinkles and things like that, and they are laden with chemicals," Caspari said. "Our products have no chemicals, they are 80 to 95 percent organic, and it's never too early to

start skin care."

Caspari recommended becoming an independent sales associate for BlackBox Cosmetics because students can set their own schedule.

"This company is brand new, so anyone who starts to sell BlackBox right now is getting in on the ground level of the company," Caspari said.

All marketing and advertising is done through grassroots sales, but next year the company will start print and online campaigns, Caspari said.

"We're going to be a household name next year," Caspari said.

Jessica Galligani, a senior in the College of Liberal Arts, stopped by the table to check out the products.

Galligani prefers natural cosmetics

because they help her skin not break out. She especially likes the products from the natural beauty store Lush. Because Lush doesn't have any Tennessee locations, she is always on the lookout for natural products that don't use animal testing.

"I'm excited [about these products]," Galligani said.

The co-chair of SEA Brandy Potter, a senior majoring in anthropology, visited every booth at the Holistic Expo, including Lewis and Caspari's.

"Every time you purchase something, you should think about how it affects the environment, how it affects other species, and how it affects other people," Potter said. "And, I think that her products did that."

## GALLIGANI'S

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