

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2010

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Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor
Representatives from Hangzhou Normal University, the Chinese institution in partnership with MTSU, tour campus with President Sidney McPhee on Monday, Nov. 8, 2010, in an attempt to better understand teaching methods and facility design concepts in Tennessee.

Explosion unnerves employees

By CHRISTOPHER MERCHANT,
AIMEE SCHMITTENDORF

More than 100 people were evacuated from RockTenn Company yesterday when a boiler room exploded, injuring none of the 15 employees who were inside the two-story room at the time of the incident.

Preliminary investigations suggest that a low-pressure tank fueled by natural gas and propane malfunctioned and ignited, demolishing the walls and ceiling of the boiler room, said Owen Roper, a production overseer at the plant.

All of the employees at the facility were accounted for, Roper said.

"It sounded like a war bomb," said Jimmy Harris, a mobile equipment mechanic who was the last person out of the boiler room.

EXPLOSION, PAGE 4

East meets West through joint venture

By CHRISTOPHER MERCHANT
Assistant News Editor

Sidney McPhee said.

One of primary focuses of the visit has been an examination of the differences between urban and rural education.

On Tuesday, Zhengfan highlighted how varied the learning conditions are at primary schools in developed areas and provincial villages during a slideshow presentation entitled, "The development and future perspective of the primary school—teachers in the rural areas in China." The stark contrast of the facilities was immediately evident, as city schools appear modern and pristine, and rural locations are often built of timber and earth.

"The majority of the students [in China] are in the countryside and rural area," Zhengfan said during his speech. "If we do not understand China's rural areas, then we do not understand China."

Two graduate students accompanying the delegation expressed interest in how lan-



Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor
MTSU President Sidney McPhee and Lin Zhengfan, a representative for Hangzhou Normal University in China, test out workout equipment in the Health, Wellness, and Recreation Center on Monday, Nov. 8, 2010, during the delegate's visit to MTSU.

guage and science are taught to primary school students at rural schools, Zhengfan said, as they had already observed teachers instructing their classes at The Discovery

School at Reeves Rogers, Siegel Middle School and Siegel High School in Murfreesboro on Tuesday morning.

CHINA, PAGE 3

Technology increases bullying

By TAYLOR HIXSON
Staff Writer

Bullying is now easier than ever with avenues like social media websites and texting open for teenagers and young adults to use, according to a Harris Poll released in September.

According to the poll, erasing something from cyberspace is much more difficult than stopping "malicious gossip." In 2010, teenagers are more often looking to suicide as their way out of a bullying situation.

One out of four teenagers said they are sometimes bullied to a point that makes them feel angry or upset. Another one out of four teens said they would not tell anyone if they felt like hurting themselves, according to the poll.

BULLYING, PAGE 2

Environmental ethics course to be offered next semester

By JORDAN BRIEN
Staff Writer

The philosophy department is adding a new "Environmental Ethics and Native Wisdom" class to its curriculum next semester that will offer a Native American perspective on how to live holistically.

Phil Oliver, a philosophy professor in the College of Liberal Arts, said he will teach the course, which will include curriculum from his past environmental ethics classes, such as climate change and industrial agriculture, but the new class will now include a section on indigenous people's philosophies.

Oliver said he was inspired to teach the class with a native twist after Scott Pratt, a philosophy professor at the University of Oregon, visited MTSU to lecture about how modern day Americans can learn more about environmental sustainability by examining nature through the eyes of ancient civilizations.

The class would incorporate three new texts, Oliver said. "Red Alert," written by Daniel Wildcat, is a book Pratt considered to be essential for the class. It examines the damaging ways in which daily habits affect Earth and draws upon ancient Native American wisdom and nature-centered beliefs to advocate a modern strategy to combat global warming.

"The class will be different because it will look at indigenous people's development of 'native wisdom' and how we are connected to the planet," Oliver said.

Oliver said he would also be using the book "Native Science" by Gregory Cajese, which explores native astronomy, cosmology, psychology, agriculture and the healing arts. Another book, "Whole Earth Discipline" by Stewart Brand, supplies a holistic approach to environmental ethics, he said.

Charles White of Students for Environmental Action said he wishes classes like this would be required of all students.

"It's exciting to see a class like this being offered because an integral part of SEA's vision for MTSU involves requiring classes or parts of classes that discuss a wide variety of topics regarding sustainability in the past, present and future," White said.

Oliver said the class would look at what lessons might be learned about living lightly and harmoniously on Earth from native and indigenous peoples. This not only includes native American sources, but also imaginative and fictitious ones like "Avatar," and how the lessons in that story may either complement, challenge, or contradict the dominant western scientific-technological worldview.



Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor
Nora Maznavi (Left) and Hamza Perez (Right) speak to students, faculty and staff on Nov. 10, 2010, in the Learning Resource Center about their roll in "The New Muslim Cool," a documentary that attempts to break stereotypes against Muslims through hip-hop.

Muslim stereotypes challenged

By BECCA ANDREWS
Assistant News Editor

Puerto Rican rapper Hama Perez, who is a Muslim, said he hopes that a documentary film "The New Muslim Cool" will break stereotypes against Muslims and inspire a general movement of love.

The film, which features Perez, was shown

last night in the Learning Resource Center, followed by a town-hall meeting led by journalist, activist and political analyst Bakari Kitwana.

"I want for people to sit down with each other and watch the film as human beings," Perez said, "not as Muslims or Christians or atheists, but as human beings."

Perez said that he wants to "put down ste-

reotypes" and educate his audience about the Muslim community.

The documentary was originally intended to promote Perez as a Muslim hip-hop artist and one half of the hip-hop duo M-Team, Perez said.

"As [filming continued], the film became less about music and more about my community," Perez said.

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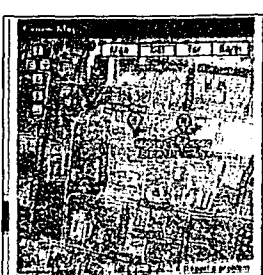


Features:

North Carolina mountain retreat no longer South's best-kept secret

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IN TODAY'S ISSUE



Check out the virtual crime map, keep yourself informed about crime on campus

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THURSDAY FORECAST

SUNNY
NO THREAT OF RAIN
HIGH 76, LOW 44

Harassment continues after high school

BULLYING FROM PAGE 1

The poll called for parents and schools to take action by ensuring that bullies know the potential consequences for their actions and that those being bullied know they have adults they can turn to for help.

Katie Hazlehurst, a freshman majoring in biology, was bullied as a teenager. Hazlehurst said the harassment made her feel like dying.

"Today, it makes me so mad when I see people being bullied," Hazlehurst said.

In Waltham, Mass., Bentley University's "One Goal, One Community" anti-bullying campaign is one of many that have sprouted up across the nation in reaction to bullying and bullying related suicides.

The student-run program extends into local schools and nearby communities "to help change behaviors and put an end to bullying," according to a press release from Bentley University.

"Our students are providing parents and teachers with the knowledge and tools they need to help them and their children deal with a growing epidemic," said Greg Hall, a Bentley University psychology professor.

Debra Sells, vice president of Student Affairs, said she does not think numbers for harassment at the high school level and below are hopeful. Sells said she thinks bullying can be a problem with the college-student age group too, especially with those living in dorms or away from home for the first time.

Sells said some people are just mean and inappropriate, but others really might be ignorant to the situation they are putting other people in due to a lack of exposure to other backgrounds.

"I think that it's a matter of degree, and it's a matter of students developing some sense of understanding the difference between outright bullying and what might just be ignorance," Sells said.

MTSU offers programming around campus like "Domestic Violence Awareness Week" and "Diversity Awareness Week" because it helps students become more sensitive to what is harassment, what is uncomfortable language, and methods to help students feel supported when confronted, Sells said.

The anonymity of the Internet can provide a cover for bullies. Some people are not edu-

cated in communicating across the Internet, which leads to unintentional harassment, Sells said.

"It's a learning experience for everybody on the cyber frontier," Sells said.

Some cases do step too far over the line and need to be reported to a faculty member if it's in the classroom, or to Judicial Affairs if it's outside the classroom, Sells said.

"Some of it is developing a sense of judgment of what you can take on yourself and should you because you have to learn that skill," Sells said. "Someday you're not going to have a resident assistant."

The office does not have a direct policy against bullying, but that activity falls under a broad category of disciplinary offenses known as "conduct dangerous to self or others," said Amanda Newman Samsel, coordinator of Judicial Affairs and Mediation Services.

Conduct dangerous to self or others is defined as behavior that is dangerous to any person's health, safety or personal well-being such as physical abuse, verbal abuse, threats, intimidation, harassment of any kind and harm inflicted on self, according to the 2010-2011 MTSU Rights and Responsibilities of Students.

"We take threats of any kind seriously," Samsel said.

In 2009, Judicial Affairs received 91 instances of conduct dangerous to self or others, 67 of which were for disorderly conduct. However, there is no way to tell how many of those cases were from bullying, Samsel said.

Ryan DeBooy, a senior majoring in international relations, is a resident assistant for the second floor of Judd Hall. DeBooy said he is a strong advocate for mediation.

"Talking about problems solves problems," DeBooy said.

DeBooy said people should not be afraid to confront the bully because it all comes down to communication.

Kristen Bean, a freshman in the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, said she was bullied when she was a teenager.

"Bullying makes you feel as if you're not wanted," Bean said.

Bean said she decided to stand up to the bully by asking why she was being victimized. In Bean's case, the bully told her it was the only way they knew how to deal with their own problems, she said.

Bean said talking out problems helps,

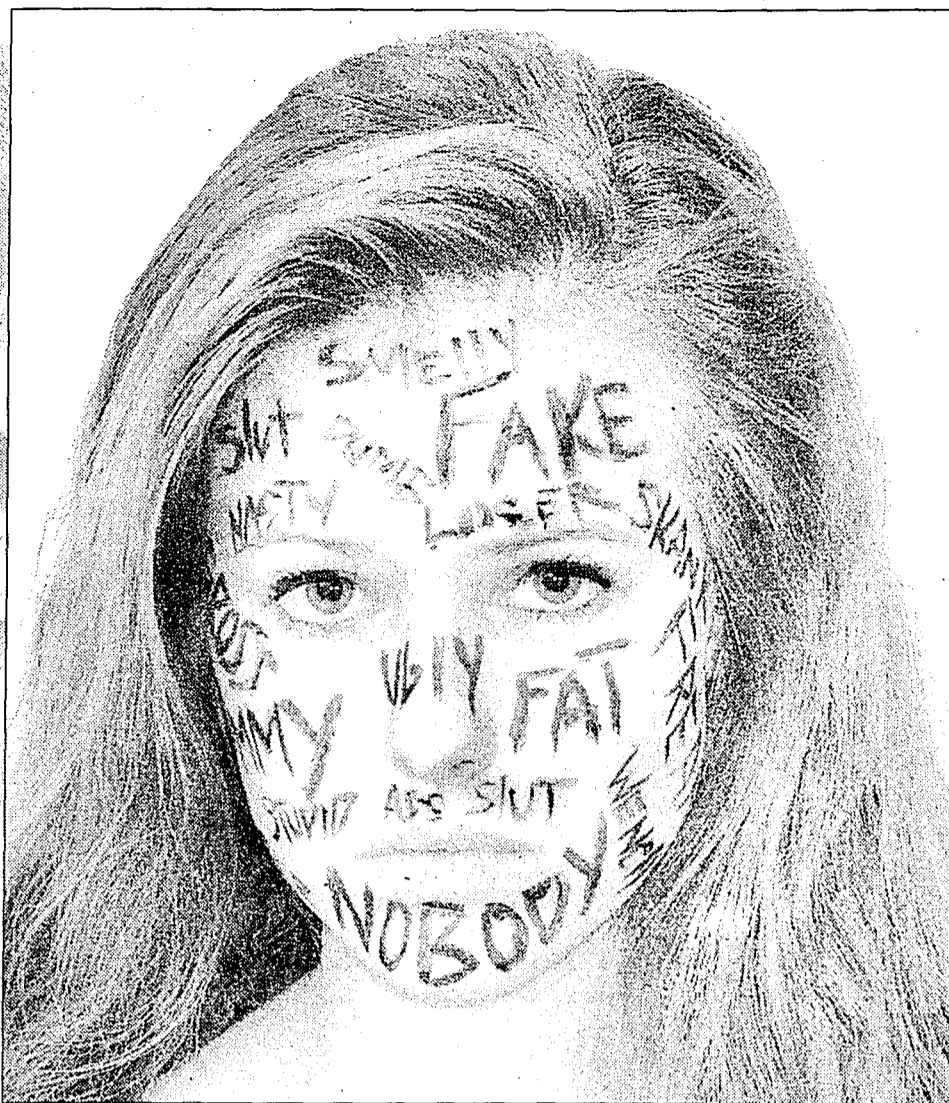


Photo illustration by Jay Bailey, photo editor.

According to a Harris Poll, which was released in September 2010, one out of every four teenagers said they are sometimes bullied to a point that makes them feel angry or upset.

whether it is at home, at school or with friends, because it is important to figure out how the bully feels.

"Everyone has an issue, and everyone needs to talk about it," Bean said.

Rachel Nutt, a senior majoring in journalism and Spanish, said she was a victim of cyber bullying when she started college. She said the bullying started in high school, but the same people continued to harass her once in college.

"People bully over text messaging because they feel more disconnected," Nutt said.

The office takes preventative measures against conduct dangerous to self or others by offering outreach through a required CUSTOMS session and in University 1010 courses.

"We let them know we aren't just an office for people when they're in trouble, but we're

here when they need it," Samsel said.

The office also offers mediation services if students have issues with a roommate or another student through Judicial Affairs, Samsel said, but both parties must be willing to participate for it to work.

"We do unfortunately see the cattiness on Facebook," Samsel said, adding mediation is an informal process compared to the disciplinary process.

"The fun part is creating sanctions that are unique to that individual, because what works for one student might not work at all for another," Samsel said.

Sanctions for actions have included expelling the student, withholding a degree, writing papers, and giving presentations to a student organization, Samsel said.

"Our office tries not to be cookie-cutter in nature," Samsel said.

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:

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|---------------------|-----------------|
| 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**



Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor.

Students watch "The New Muslim Cool," a documentary that attempts to break stereotypes against Muslims through religion and hip-hop, on Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2010, in the Learning Resource Center. Afterward students were given the opportunity to participate in a Q&A session with Hamza Perez and Nora Maznavi, the couple who were covered in the documentary.

Hip-hop unites Islamic community

MUSLIM FROM PAGE 1

"The New Muslim Cool" depicts Perez not only as a hip-hop artist and a man of faith, but as a father and a husband. His courtship and eventual marriage to his wife was shown, along with the birth of their first child together. Family is a central theme of the documentary, particularly in regards to Perez's predominantly Catholic family accepting his Islamic faith.

A main conflict within the film is the raid of Perez's mosque, which he said forced him to come to grips with the realities of being a Muslim in a post-9/11 America. He said he faced discrimination at his job, when he was fired without legitimate explanation by authorities in the jail where he taught spiritual classes.

After the screening of the documentary, Perez described his conversion from Catholicism to Islam. Perez was a drug dealer as a young man and lived with three other men in housing projects in Massachusetts when one of his room-

mates left because he was uncomfortable with a situation going on in the house at the time.

Perez said he went looking for his roommate and discovered that he had been taken in by the Muslim community, and his friend had converted to Islam.

"He just looked like he had tasted happiness," Perez said. "I embraced Islam upon seeing him, right there in the middle of the street."

Perez said he has since witnessed many people convert to Islam. The residents of the housing projects in Massachusetts underwent a mass conversion soon after he converted, Perez said.

Perez's family has also undergone a transformation since he embraced Islam. He said his father had converted Sunday, and his grandmother converted in April after seeing the documentary.

Perez's passion also affected students who were in attendance for the film and lecture.

"This was a good experience," said Amber Hansen, a junior majoring in violin performance. "I wish more people had known about it."

Chinese delegates examine Tennessee's education system

CHINA
FROM PAGE 1

The delegation plans to visit rural schools later this week, including Jones Cove Elementary School, Pittman Center Elementary School and Gatlinburg-Pittman High School, which are all part of the Sevier County School System in East Tennessee, Zhengfan said.

"I think [the delegation] will find that our rural schools are much better equipped," said Nadine Harris, an assistant professor in the College of Education, who has visited rural schools in China. "I'm encouraged that China is going to address rural schools."

The Chinese government consists of a single-party socialist republic that is controlled through a dual leadership system theoretically shared by the Communist Party of China and the Central People's Government.

Government officials are looking to equalize the level of training provided to teachers in rural areas and improve on the quality of equipment and materials that educators use during class by 2020, Zhengfan said.

"Even in tough economic times, other governments are putting money into education," McPhee said. "In the West, when we have tough times, education is the first thing to get the axe."

However, federal funding is not the only solution to the struggles of any academic institution, McPhee said.

Zhengfan said incentives should be offered so that teachers will be more interested in teaching in rural areas, such as paying them a special bonus, giving them more opportunities for promotion, and special training at urban schools.

Chinese institutions should also consider sending trained teachers who are currently working at schools in metropolitan areas to smaller villages, Zhengfan said, and the amount of money provided by the government to rural schools should be increased.

Hangzhou Normal officials have begun constructing a new campus, Zhengfan said, and the institution has received government funding to support the project.

"The provincial government has put billions of dollars into the new campus," McPhee said.

The delegation took note of environmentally friendly programs and equip-



Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor
President Sidney McPhee (Left), Lin Zhengfan (Middle), a representative from MTSU's partner school, Hangzhou Normal University in China, and other representatives discuss teaching methods and design concepts Monday, Nov. 8, 2010, at the cafe in the James E. Walker Library.

ment on MTSU's campus, Zhengfan said, adding that Hangzhou Normal officials are determined to limit the university's use of electricity on the new campus by utilizing natural light.

"What we take for granted, they view as a bare necessity," McPhee said.

Of particular interest to the delegation was the recycling program at MTSU and exercise equipment with digital displays powered by the motion of the operator at the Health, Wellness, and Recreation Center, McPhee said.

MTSU has been in a partnership with Hangzhou Normal for five years, McPhee said, and the collaboration has involved cooperative academic curriculum, and student and faculty exchange programs.

In addition, the cooperative partnership was one standard that qualified MTSU to host a Confucius Institute, McPhee said. MTSU is one of about 80 such locations in the country, said Thomas Tozer, director of the Office of News and Public Affairs.

"There is no doubt that there is importance in working with China," McPhee said, adding that China had surpassed Japan to become the second-



Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor
Andrew Johnson (Left), a freshman majoring in aerospace, President Sidney McPhee (Middle) and Lin Zhengfan (Right), a representative for MTSU's partner school, Hangzhou Normal University in China, discuss a model glider Monday, Nov. 8, 2010, Johnson was working on in the James E. Walker Library.

largest economy in the world behind the United States.

Zhengfan plans to meet with Gov. Phil Bredesen to tour the Tennessee State Museum and the Frist Center for the Visual Arts, and the delegation will conclude its

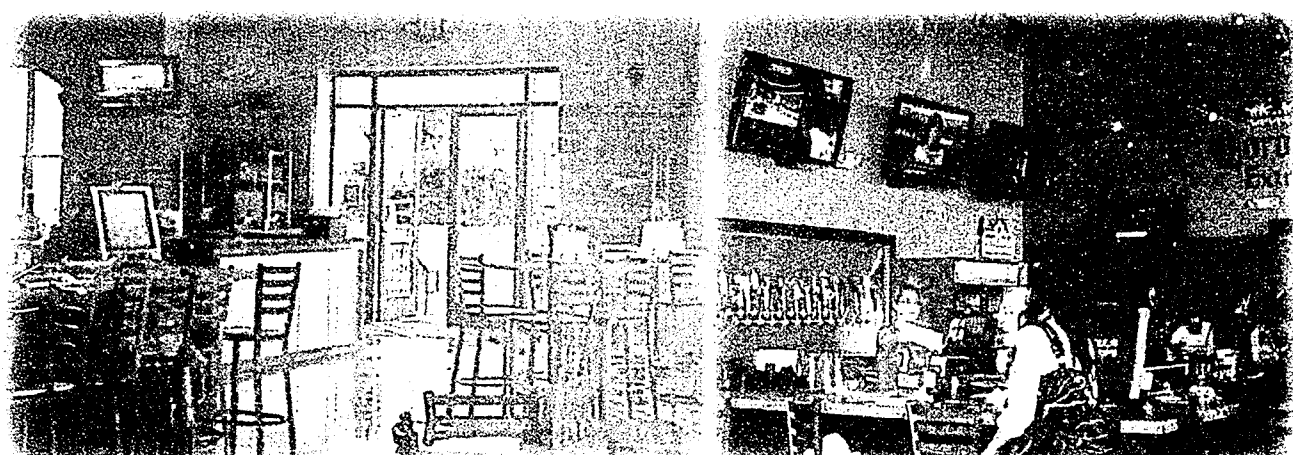
trip Saturday by attending the football game between MTSU and the University of North Texas.

Todd Barnes, staff writer, contributed to this report.

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Photo by Aimee Schmittendorf, opinions editor
The Murfreesboro Fire Department survey RockTenn property Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2010, after a boiler exploded, demolishing a two-story room shortly before 9 a.m.

Community rumbles due to RockTenn boiler blast

EXPLOSION FROM PAGE 1

Harris said he thought that the entire building was coming down.

"I was scared," Harris said.

The tank operates at about 400 degrees, Roper said, and it is used to produce paper for corrugated cardboard boxes at the RockTenn facility at 370 South Rutherford Blvd. The location was previously the site of Southern Container Corp., which was acquired by RockTenn in 2008.

As a result of the explosion, there was a large natural gas leak that filled the surrounding area that could be smelled down Rutherford Boulevard, Roper said. Immediately after the explosion, white smoke billowed out of the remains of the boiler room and could be seen from Church Street more than 1,000 feet away.

"I pulled up for a load and started to go in, and that's when it happened," said Steve Hargis, a truck driver for Brown Trucking Co.

Firefighters with the Murfreesboro Fire Department cut off the natural gas line and electricity to the building, said Roger Toombs, a chief with the Fire Department. Firefighters took natural gas readings in and around the building.



Photo by Aimee Schmittendorf, opinions editor
Jimmy Harris (Above), a mobile machine operator at RockTenn, gazes at the wreckage of the two-story boiler room that exploded on Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2010. Harris was the last employee to evacuate the building after the explosion and said he was happy all of the employees made it out unharmed.

The faulty tank was designed so that it could operate on natural gas or propane, so that if one fuel system failed the other could take over, Roper said.

No estimates on the cost of replacing the boiler had been reported, Roper said, nor was there a projection for how much the time lost as a result of the eruption cost

the company. However, plant officials said they plan to get assembly going again today, as the evacuated employees were sent home yesterday morning.

"We will pick back up tomorrow, with limited production," Roper said yesterday, adding that assembly will be down to about a third of the normal level.

CRIME BRIEFS

Theft
Nov. 5, 1:25 p.m.
Kirksey Old Main
A complainant reported that a computer had been stolen from a classroom.

Theft
Nov. 5, 1:46 p.m.
Keathley University Center
A complainant reported that a backpack had been stolen outside of the lockers at Phillips Bookstore.

Traffic
Nov. 5, 1:47 p.m.
Division Street
A complainant reported that his vehicle had been struck while parked in the Division Street parking lot.

Drunkenness
Nov. 7, 1:25 a.m.
The Quad
Brannen Foust, 21, was arrested for public intoxication.

Vandalism
Nov. 8, 11:06 a.m.
Greek Row
A complainant reported that a window at the Sigma Alpha Epsilon House had been broken at the fraternity house.

Vagrancy
Nov. 8, 12:08 p.m.
Murphy Center Tennis Court
A person who is not a student was issued a trespass warning and escorted

from campus.
Theft
Nov. 8, 3:06 p.m.
Business and Aerospace Building parking lot
A complainant reported that some parts of a motorcycle had been stolen.

Theft
Nov. 8, 10:11 p.m.
Intramural Field
A complainant reported that a wallet was stolen.

Kappa Delta to celebrate female empowerment this weekend

STAFF REPORT

Members of the Kappa Delta Sorority of MTSU are teaming up with fellow members from Vanderbilt University to co-host "International Girls Day," a holiday created by the Greek organization's national headquarters to celebrate female empowerment at a young age.

The event will be held Sunday at Vanderbilt and will include scavenger hunts, skits, line dancing, snacks and an award ceremony. The theme of the day will be "She Can Do Anything!" The goal is to give girls the confidence to achieve their dreams, according to a press release from the MTSU chapter of Kappa Delta.

"International Girls Day is an amazing event that helps to instill confidence in young girls," said Kristin Nugent, vice president of community service of Kappa Delta at

MTSU, in the press release.

The sorority is holding the event in partnership with the Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee for Brownie Girl Scouts in the second and third grades. Registration will begin at 1:30 p.m., and the closing ceremony will be at 4:45 p.m.

"Through encouraging these girls to follow their dreams, this Kappa Delta celebration will show attendees that if they can dream it, they can achieve it," Nugent said.

"International Girls Day" is not just being recognized in Tennessee. There are more than 250 celebrations taking place around the world. It was created by Kappa Delta Sorority on behalf of the Confidence Coalition, an alliance of organizations, companies and individuals committed to promoting confidence in girls and women, according to the press release.

Campus set to observe Veterans Day

STAFF REPORT

A Tennessean who served in World War II is scheduled to receive the 21st annual Joe Nunnley Award as part of the Veterans Day observances at MTSU on Saturday, according to a press release.

Charles A. Jones, who served in the U.S. Army 88th Infantry Division in Africa and Europe, is a resident of McMinnville and served for 23 years as the state adjutant-quartermaster for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Tennessee.

A catered lunch is planned to begin at noon in the Rose and Emmett Kennon Hall of Fame, followed by the awards ceremony at 1 p.m., before the football game between

MTSU and the University of North Texas.

Veteran and active-duty servicemen from every branch of the U.S. military have been invited to bring their families to the 29th Salute to Armed Services Day, an annual Veterans Day commemoration at MTSU.

A Veteran's Memorial Service is planned to begin outside of the Tom H. Jackson Building at 11:30 a.m.

Sixteen alumni officers have been invited as guests by President Sidney McPhee and his wife, Liz, for the day's events, according to the press release. Free tickets to the game will be provided for veterans, active-duty personnel and their families.

The MTSU Reserve Officer

Training Corps cadets plan to lead the veterans onto Horace Jones Field of the Johnny "Red" Floyd Stadium when the Band of Blue plays each branch's official song during the half-time salute, according to the press release.

The U.S. Marine Corps plans to collect new toy donations at the gate of the stadium for the annual Toys for Tots charity drive.

MT Athletics and the department of military science are collaborating on other activities, including a possible flyover by either the U.S. Army National Guard or the U.S. Air Force. Other sponsors of Armed Services Day include State Farm Insurance, Barrett Firearms, the Army National Guard and Dollar General.

LOCAL EVENTS

On Campus

Performing Arts:
Jazz Ensemble
Nov. 11, 7:30 p.m.
Wright Music Building
Hinton Hall
FREE

"Le nozze di Figaro"
MTSU Opera
Nov. 12, 7:30 p.m.
Wright Music Building
Hinton Hall
Tickets: \$10

Stones River Chamber Players
Nov. 15, 7:30 p.m.
Wright Music Building
Hinton Hall
FREE

Events:
SGA Student Appreciation Week Snack Attack
Nov. 11, 2 p.m.
KUC Knoll
FREE

"Student Appreciation Week"
SGA Cook-out
Nov. 12, 11 p.m.
KUC Knoll
FREE

Video Game Night
Nov. 19, 4 p.m.
Keathley University Center
FREE

Off Campus

Concerts:
Styx
Nov. 11, 7:30 p.m.
Ryman Auditorium
Tickets: \$39 - \$65

Jo Dee Messina with Nashville Symphony
Nov. 11, 7 p.m.
Allen Arena
Tickets: \$19-\$104

Liza Minnelli
Nov. 13, 8 p.m.
Tennessee Performing Arts Center
Tickets: \$75

AP Tour
Nov. 13, 6 p.m.

Rocketown
Tickets: \$16

Events Policy

Sidelines welcomes current campus and community events submitted by all readers. Please e-mail events to slcampus@mtsu.edu or slnews@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.

CRIME STOPPERS

A cash reward of up to \$300 is being offered for information that leads to the arrest of the person or persons who stole a black Liz Claiborne wallet from a picnic table at Walnut Grove by Peck Hall sometime between 5 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Oct. 5.

A cash reward of up to \$300 is being offered for information that leads to the arrest of the person or persons who stole a black Padagonia backpack in the cafeteria area of the

Keathley University Center sometime between 3 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. on Oct. 11.

A cash reward of up to \$1,000 is being offered for information that leads to the arrest of the person or persons who unlawfully entered a black Toyota parked in the Bell Street parking lot and stole a Vera Bradley wallet sometime between 6:20 a.m. and 12 p.m. on Oct. 12.

A cash reward of up to

\$300 is being offered for information that leads to the arrest of the person or persons who stole a black GAP backpack that was left next to the lockers at Phillips Bookstore in the Keathley University Center sometime between 12:15 p.m. and 12:20 p.m. on Oct. 12.

A cash reward of up to \$300 is being offered for information that leads to the arrest of the person or person who stole a black Old Navy backpack that

was left in front of the lockers at Phillips Bookstore in the Keathley University Center sometime between 1:10 p.m. and 1:20 p.m. on Oct. 13. Also stolen was a Toshiba laptop computer, which was inside of the backpack at the time of the theft.

Anyone with information about these incidents should contact the MTSU Office of Public Safety at 615-898-2424. All callers will remain anonymous.

SIDELINES

AND THE SEARCH FOR NEW CONTRIBUTING STAFF

AWESOMENESS

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

M.I.A. evolves with unique sound

New album focuses on political injustices, violence



Photo courtesy of Google Images

By ROZALIND RUTH
Arts and Entertainment Editor

M.I.A. is back. Soaring from the success of her last full-length album "Kala," and having her hit song "Paper Planes" sampled in the T.I. song "Swagga Like Us," the Sri Lankan-British rapper reloads with the sometimes heavy but always entertaining album, "Maya."

This album is also much more harsh on listeners' ears. At first encounter the album seems overproduced. There are lots of dissonant sounds layered on top of each other into beats that many other artists wouldn't dare tackle, like chainsaws and impact wrenches layered into a beat.

M.I.A. somehow manages to be overproduced and low-fi at the same time.

One connection that must be made when listening to this album may seem odd at first but is totally fitting. The musically catchy, but heart-wrenching lyrics of "Maya" and the occasional Rastafarian influence is incredibly similar to "the only band that matters," The Clash.

The heavy, flowing bass lines of "It Takes a Muscle" take the Jamaican influence not only in sound, but in message, something The Clash knew all about. The legendary band's influence can also be seen later on in the

album with the paranoid, buzzy, British-punklike "Born Free."

Sidenote: The short film music video for "Born Free" is astounding, but very graphic. If the violence of war is palatable for fans, it's a must see. Watch it at miauk.com.

Fans of the band Sleight Bells, which recently release an amazing album under M.I.A.'s record label N.E.E.T., will enjoy the sampling from the song, "Treats," featured on "Meds and Feds" Track 10 of "Maya."

Throughout her musical career, M.I.A. has done what many

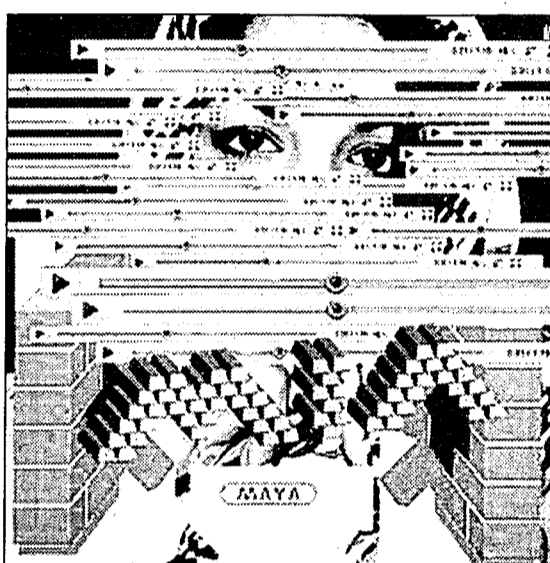


Photo courtesy of Google Images

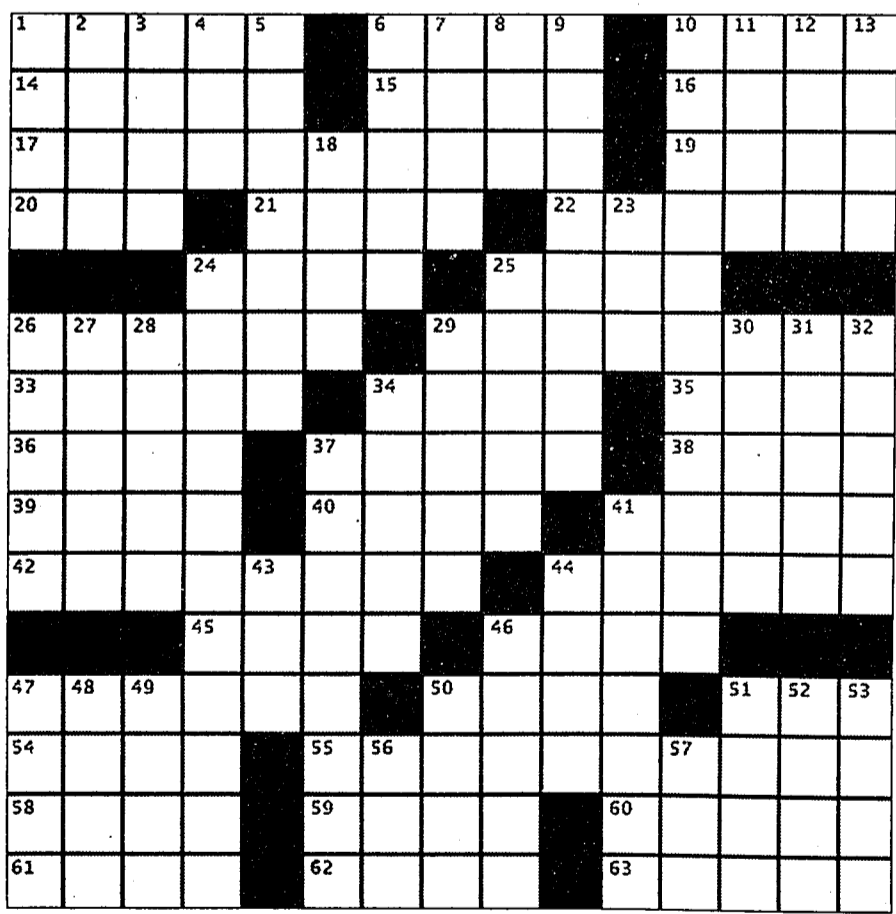
her sounds have become. Fans who fell in love with her debut album "Arular" but were less impressed with "Kala" will not welcome "Maya" with open ears. But, those who enjoy the change and new excitement of an artist will find that this album will fill a need in their sound collection.

When first popping this CD into the system, it can seem over produced. This is likely to be followed by pressing the skip button to see if it 'gets better.' Hold tight. There's more. When the songs are fully absorbed - listened to, not just heard - it is understood that they need to be like this.

The music isn't over produce, just complicated. There needs to be that noise to understand the urgency and grittiness of her subject. This chick knows what she's doing, and she's one of the only ones that does it right. She is a pioneer.

SIDEWORDS

The weekly *Sidelines* crossword puzzle



Crossword courtesy of bestcrosswords.com

ACROSS

- 1- Erupts; 6- A great deal; 10- Floating platform; 14- Christmas song; 15- Ashtabula's lake; 16- "Night" author Wiesel; 17- Responsible; 19- Verdi opera; 20- Not emp.; 21- Sisters; 22- Totter; 24- Mine entrance; 25- Distasteful; 26- Heed; 29- Launching of a rocket; 33- Glacial ridge; 34- Bottom of the barrel; 35- Bread spread; 36- Airline to Tel Aviv; 37- Scoundrel; 38- Don; 39- Baptism, e.g.; 40- Dutch cheese, wrapped in red wax; 41- Animal; 42- Sample; 44- Bestows; 45- Revenuers, for short; 46- Ale, e.g.; 47- Peace salutation; 50- "Chicken of the sea"; 51- Soft food for infants; 54- Exclamation to express sorrow; 55- Treatment of obesity; 58- Hindu princess; 59- Bibliography abbr.; 60- Artist Rousseau; 61- Ancient Athens's Temple of ___; 62- Engrossed; 63- Alleviates;

DOWN

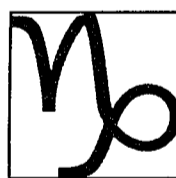
- 1- Sign of injury; 2- Sheet of stamps; 3- Formerly, formerly; 4- Exclamation of surprise; 5- Thin; 6- Inclined; 7- Globes; 8- "... the cows come home"; 9- Pericarp; 10- Ready-made clothing; 11- Put ___ on it; 12- Bona ___; 13- Drop of water expelled by the eye; 18- Undoing; 23- Approves; 24- Collapse of the lungs; 25- Lower portion of the small intestine; 26- Ogles; 27- Long Island town; 28- Glide along smoothly; 29- Started; 30- New York city; 31- Sumptuous meal; 32- Armed strongholds; 34- Water-repellent cloth; 37- Recall; 41- Respire; 43- ___ little teapot...; 44- Actress Rowlands; 46- Constructed; 47- Franklin D.'s mother; 48- Banned apple spray; 49- Alley; 50- Pitfall; 51- Fasteners; 52- Area of 4840 square yards; 53- Pitchfork-shaped letters; 56- Loss leader?; 57- Actor Stephen;



November 4 Solution

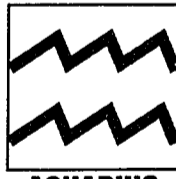
NEARLY HOROSCOPES

Foretold by Cosmic Roz
Sidelines Residential Psychic and
Arts and Entertainment Editor



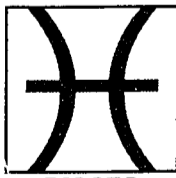
CAPRICORN
DEC. 22 - JAN. 19

The gifts of fate are being put together for you soon, but you're used to that by now. You will receive a combined birthday and Christmas gift... again. Sorry dude.



AQUARIUS
JAN. 20 - FEB. 18

Life is happening all around you, but don't let that get you in a hurry. Go slow on the streets around campus. There is a police officer in the house of traffics.



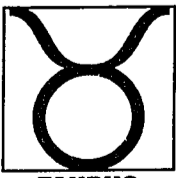
PISCES
FEB. 19 - MAR. 20

Classes are nearing an end. Too bad you forgot to go to your 8 a.m. lecture. Sorry, but the stars aren't interested in helping you learn geology.



ARIES
MAR. 21 - APR. 19

This month, luck and money are in the forecast, meaning that you're most likely going to rob a bank. However, next month forecasts that you will be caught.



TAURUS
APR. 20 - MAY 20

There's a large gas cloud around Uranus this month. Stay away from broccoli and green peppers.



GEMINI
MAY 21 - JUNE 20

"No Shave November" will treat you well. That beard you're working on is coming in nicely. This month is your destiny.



CANCER
JUNE 21 - JULY 22

Chances are you're going to forget something totally important because the moon is in your memory month. The stars want to remind you about the third Thursday of this month. It's called "Thanksgiving."



LEO
JULY 23 - AUG. 22

The sun is your guiding star. Unfortunately for you, we just wound back our clocks. Less sun equals less success in your life - celestial failure.



VIRGO
AUG. 23 - SEPT. 22

It's never going to be perfect. Get used to disappointment this month as Saturn enters into the country music house. Your dog may run away. Your car may break down. Life sucks.



LIBRA
SEPT. 23 - OCT. 23

The stars want you to mix it up this month. Do some thing special. You should change your Facebook picture. You'll get more "likes."



SCORPIO
OCT. 24 - NOV. 21

This month is marked by opposite celestial formations. You have a tough shell, so stay away from soft-shell crab.



SAGITTARIUS
NOV. 22 - DEC. 21

The planets are asking you to think long and hard before making any long-term decisions. Maybe that tattoo of a wolf holding a man by its ears is not the best idea.

DO YOU THINK MUSIC CAN UNITE CULTURES?



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FEATURES

NO 32% YES 68%

HAVE YOU EVER EXPERIENCED PROBLEMS WITH BULLYING?

BASED ON VOTES FROM MTSUSIDELINES.COM.

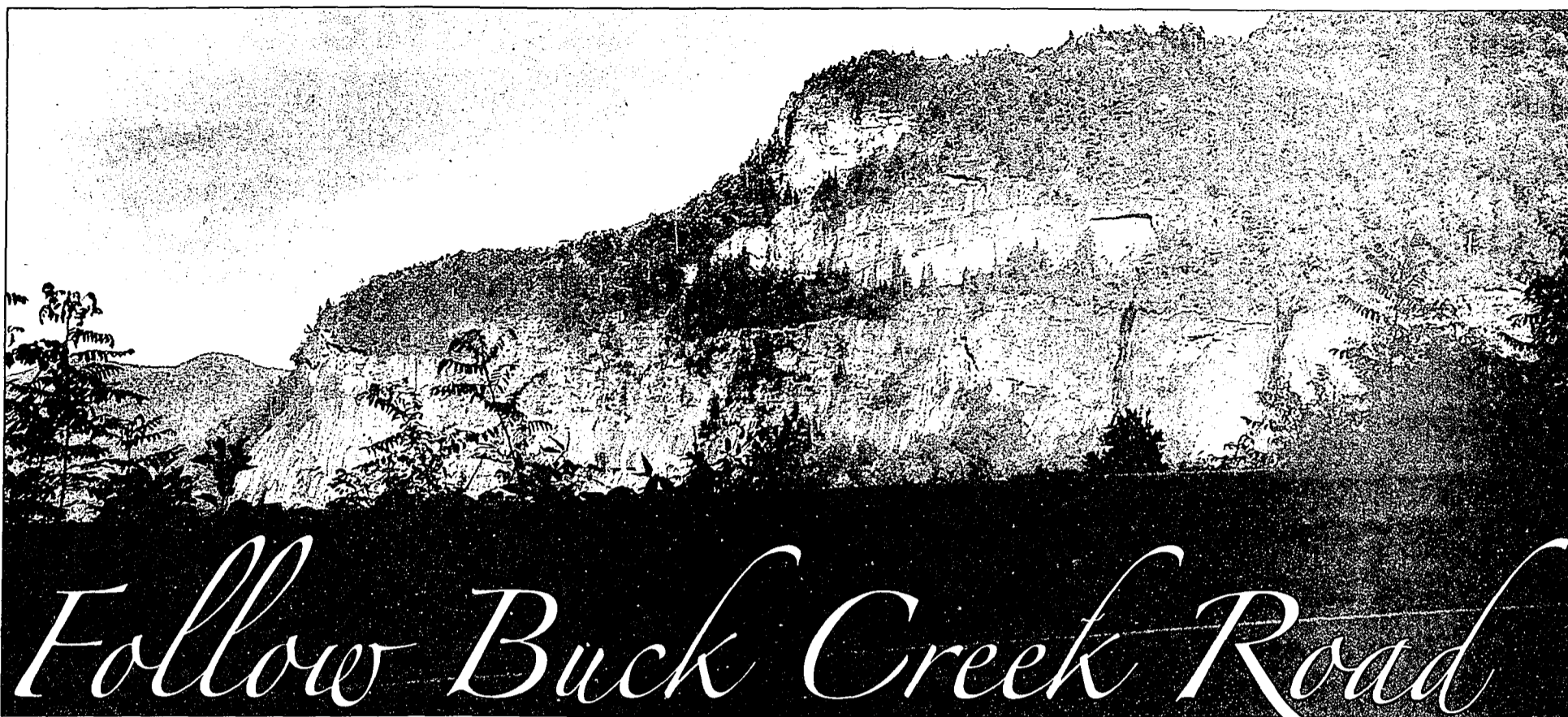


Photo courtesy of Jack Kempth
Jack and Connie Kempth (Not pictured) enjoy Nantahala National Forest scenery on July 2, 2008, while parked on the side of U.S. Highway 64 in Highlands, N.C.

Follow Buck Creek Road

Highlands is a priceless paradise worth every penny.

By MARIE KEMPH
Managing Editor

I still don't like taking the "scary way," known to the rest of America as U.S. Highway 64. When you're driving up the side of the Southern Appalachian Mountains to reach the highest town east of the Mississippi River, the idea of a parachute suddenly seems appropriate. Just like my grandmother, I prefer to reach Highlands, N.C., by way of Buck Creek Road.

This beautiful getaway is perched 4,118 feet above sea level atop the highest crest of western North Carolina. Samuel Kelsey and C.C. Hutchinson founded Highlands in 1875. Since then, this magnificent haven has evolved into a marvelous hideaway of summertime bliss for those brave enough to venture up the elevated path.

In 1973, my father's parents, Kempth and Grandma K., traveled from Auburn, Ala., to visit Mr. and Mrs. Hollis, the former a business partner of my grandfather. While they were enjoying a Saturday afternoon drive, my grandmother noticed an area of undeveloped land, and the owner just happened to be on the property, preparing to put it on the market.

"Mother wasn't one to make those kinds of decisions so quickly, but when she made her mind up that was that," my father, Jack Kempth, explains as he chuckles with delight. "They bought that land for \$5,000. Your grandmother wrote the check right there on the spot."

Apparently, she didn't mind the drive too much.

I don't remember my first trip to Highlands. At the time, I was only 3 months old. It was Christmas 1982, and construction was almost complete on the two-story, gray and white house my grandmother had designed. For my grandparents, North Carolina provided an escape from the sweltering Alabama summers.

Situated on Maplewood Lane just outside of downtown, its proximity to the arts, culture and magnificent waterfalls makes this home

an unapologetic treasure. Its chest filled to the brim with golden nuggets of laughter and Parisian lace kisses, gifted from the heart of a feisty, yet gracious Texan, my beloved Grandma K.

More than 35 years later, prospective homebuyers won't find a piece of prime real estate like that anymore - much less for that

amount of money. Nowadays, the average home costs more than \$650,000, and Forbes magazine recently listed it as the 499th most expensive zip code.

Clearly, the best-kept Southern secret is out. The year-round population of Highlands swells from 3,200 to more than 18,000 visitors every summer, and the number of places visitors can rent for a few nights has ballooned as well. Nevertheless, the Old Edwards Inn is still the best place for weary travelers to lay their head in style, while still receiving small town friendly service.

Those of you not interested in purchasing a mountain lodge, you still have the chance of making priceless memories to last



a lifetime.

For you grandparents reading this, take note.

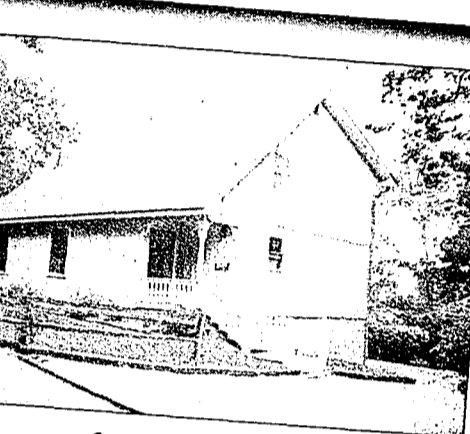
It's not the toys or clothes grandchildren remember, it's the time we spent eating strawberries sprinkled with powdered sugar, while we watched the fireworks display during the town's annual Fourth of July celebration.

Its moments captured by an old Kodak camera, featuring my brother and I curled up next to Kempth while we took a nap after an eventful day of exploring the Nantahala National Forest, which means "land of the noon day sun" in Cherokee. Often times, we'd come home with a knee scrape or two after chasing down slithery salamanders.

Not only is Highlands the salamander capitol of the world, it boasts the same title for lichen, a colorful algae that can be found peeking out of almost every crevice and rock, especially near the waterfalls.

In this land of granite and waterfalls, glittering jewels cascade down from tall boulders, splashing to thunderous applause. Each stone has been smoothed over by wet diamonds century after century, and you can even walk under Dry Falls to watch the never-ending show without being drenched.

Avid hikers who enjoy a strenuous climb should try Whiteside Mountain, a landmark that straddles the eastern continental divide between Highlands and Cashiers. There are various ways of reaching the top, depending on your comfort level. If you're not an experienced mountain climber or wayward traveler, it's still worth taking one of the alternate paths.



You'll know you've made it to the top when you see "Alt. 4,930 ft." carved into rock.

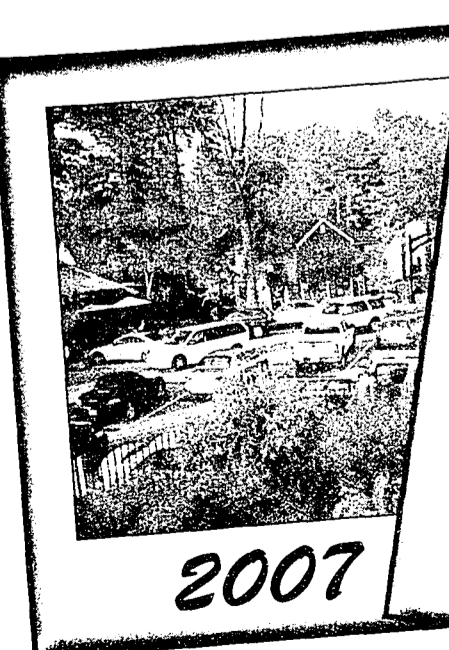
While you wander along the trails, be sure to keep an eye out for peregrine falcons, which will be flying above or nesting alongside granite sheets that poke out from the mountain sporadically.

In 1985, falcons were reintroduced to Whiteside through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Endangered Species Program, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Having an opportunity to see these amazing creatures is worth the effort.

If the outdoor adventures and summertime extravaganzas weren't enough to pique your interest, the numerous antique shops, art festivals and renowned restaurants, like Wolfgang's, are sure to tickle your fancy.

Highlands is more than just a mountain retreat. Transforming into a relaxing getaway or fun-filled vacation, this Southern pleasure is sure to delight even the most discriminating traveler.

As far as I'm concerned, Highlands is priceless. It's been almost two years since Kempth passed away and 15 since my grandmother saved a spot for him in Heaven. Even though the "scary way" isn't quite as frightening as it used to be, I still turn left onto Buck Creek Road for one reason: That's the path Grandma K. followed.



Photos courtesy of Jack Kempth
1982: (Left) The Kempths celebrate Christmas Day in the unfinished Highlands house. (Right) Connie smiles at 3-month-old Marie shortly after opening presents on Christmas Day. 1984: Grandma K. gazes lovingly toward Marie, sitting on Kempth's lap, in Auburn, Ala. 1986: Kempth poses with Marie and her brother, David, at the highest point east of the Mississippi River. 1993: Twenty years after purchasing the land, Kempth (Not pictured) snaps a photo of the house. 2007: Visitors walk down Main Street on a warm June day. 2008: Marie, the Kempths and Ryan Burton (Right) celebrate Connie's birthday on July 5 at Wolfgang's.

WOLFGANG'S

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of
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50¢ Miller Lite
NO COVER

WED., NOV. 17
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and DJ Coach,
ANIMAL HOUR 8 to 11
NO COVER

Letters Policy

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

OPINIONS

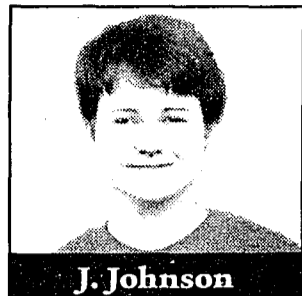
Sidelines is the editorially independent, nonprofit, student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. Sidelines publishes Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and online during June and July. The opinions expressed herein are those of individual writers and not necessarily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

ROVER needs community support

Murfreesboro needs to invest in public transportation. ROVER-CITY Bus Service is Murfreesboro's current public transportation system, and it operates from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for certain holidays.

ROVER has been in service for three years and has many regular riders, yet the city's transportation system has pretty much stayed the same despite the increasing population, and rider requests for more service.

The buses are not getting the necessary maintenance, there are not enough backup buses, and drivers are not provided with enough benefits. The main reason for this is that Murfreesboro depends too much on federal grant money to fund ROVER,



J. Johnson

Our Take

and city officials have not been willing to spend the necessary amount of money to compensate for where the grant money ends.

A recent survey asked ROVER riders how they felt about the service and what they would like to see added. The survey found that the majority of riders want extended weekday service and

weekend service, followed by bus shelters and service in the Cason Lane area. Many riders who took the survey were hopeful that the city would finally listen to their requests and expand service but were disappointed to learn that the ROVER schedule would stay the same.

One rider said, "What was the point of that survey if they're not going to listen to what we have to say?"

The survey got many riders' hopes up only to make them feel neglected and confused.

ROVER is important to the residents of Murfreesboro because it provides transportation to those who cannot afford vehicles or cannot operate a vehicle because of a disability. Public transportation is important in helping to

reduce poverty, unemployment, and homelessness because it provides reliable transportation to those who need to find and retain jobs.

Right now, the limited schedule of the buses makes it difficult for many to find jobs because most do not start and end within the 6 a.m. through 6 p.m. time frame. Most jobs also require employees to work on weekends and ROVER currently offers no service on weekends. The buses also provide transportation for seniors, in addition to the disabled, thus giving them the means to live and travel independently.

Public transportation should also be important to the students of MTSU because it is another option to driving a car to

school. Instead of spending an hour looking for a parking spot on campus, students could take ROVER to school and then use MTSU's Raider Express to get around campus.

An online petition has been started requesting the City of Murfreesboro expand ROVER services. I encourage everyone to sign it and contact the City Council to let its members know that Murfreesboro residents want and need public transportation to be expanded.

For more information, visit change.org.

J. Johnson is a sophomore majoring in graphic design in the College of Liberal Arts. She can be reached at jjohnson_00@hotmail.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

University name change long overdue

Before my first class, several students congregated in the hallway of Peck Hall, and the subject of the name change came up. As a resident of Murfreesboro, who has lived here for more than 21 years, I am supportive of the name change. The name change is long overdue.

One of the students in the group said his issue with the SGA proposal is that there are other things that should be of higher priority. He was especially concerned with parking.

I would really like every individual on this campus who has complained about parking this semester to visit the University of Tennessee, Vanderbilt University or Lipscomb University. Almost every college in the state, and even across the country, has parking issues. This is not a problem solely on this campus. Before the complaints start flying, do your homework.

Our school is currently in the process of building a parking garage to help curb the perceived parking

shortage on campus. Although the student body did not support this idea initially, it is a step in the right direction to help with the parking problem. One of the people complaining about parking was not aware the garage was being built.

I would also like to point out that there is a parking lot on Rutherford Boulevard that is never full. I lived at Campus Crossings North, rode the bus to class every day for a year, and never had an issue getting to class on time. The buses are much more dependable now than they used to be, and this is a viable option for parking. People who complain about having to get to school early to wait for a bus are getting to school early to find parking, so what is the difference?

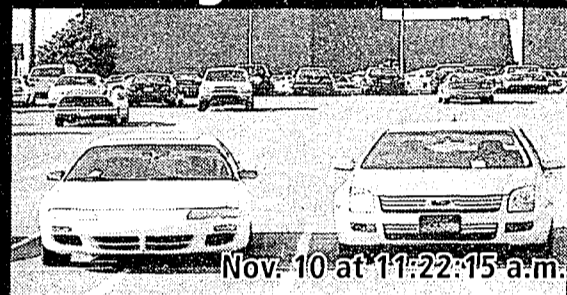
As for the name change itself, it is proven that schools that do not have the word "state" in the name receive more funding than schools that do. There are exceptions to this, like Louisiana State Univer-

sity and Ohio State University. However, both of these schools receive funding for athletic teams. It is also worth noting that most merchandise now simply says "MT," leaving off the "SU," thereby making current merchandise sellable after a name change is implemented.

Overall, I believe the name change should definitely be a priority. It is a change that is long overdue and one this school and community deserves. I highly suggest anyone who would like to learn more about the pros of the name change to check out the Facebook group "I Support the Name Change to University of Middle Tennessee." They have a note entitled: "MYTHBUSTERS -- JUST THE FACTS ABOUT CHANGING THE NAME" that will shed light on the issue.

Michele Royer is a senior majoring in psychology. She can be reached at mcr2t@mtsu.edu.

Parking is a Problem



Due to the construction of a new Education Building and Student Union Building the parking lot beside the University Honors College has been reallocated to faculty and staff parking only. Sidelines has noticed that regardless of the time of day, the lot is almost always empty. So, we have decided to continue to run a photo of the parking lot that is timestamped until the problem is addressed.

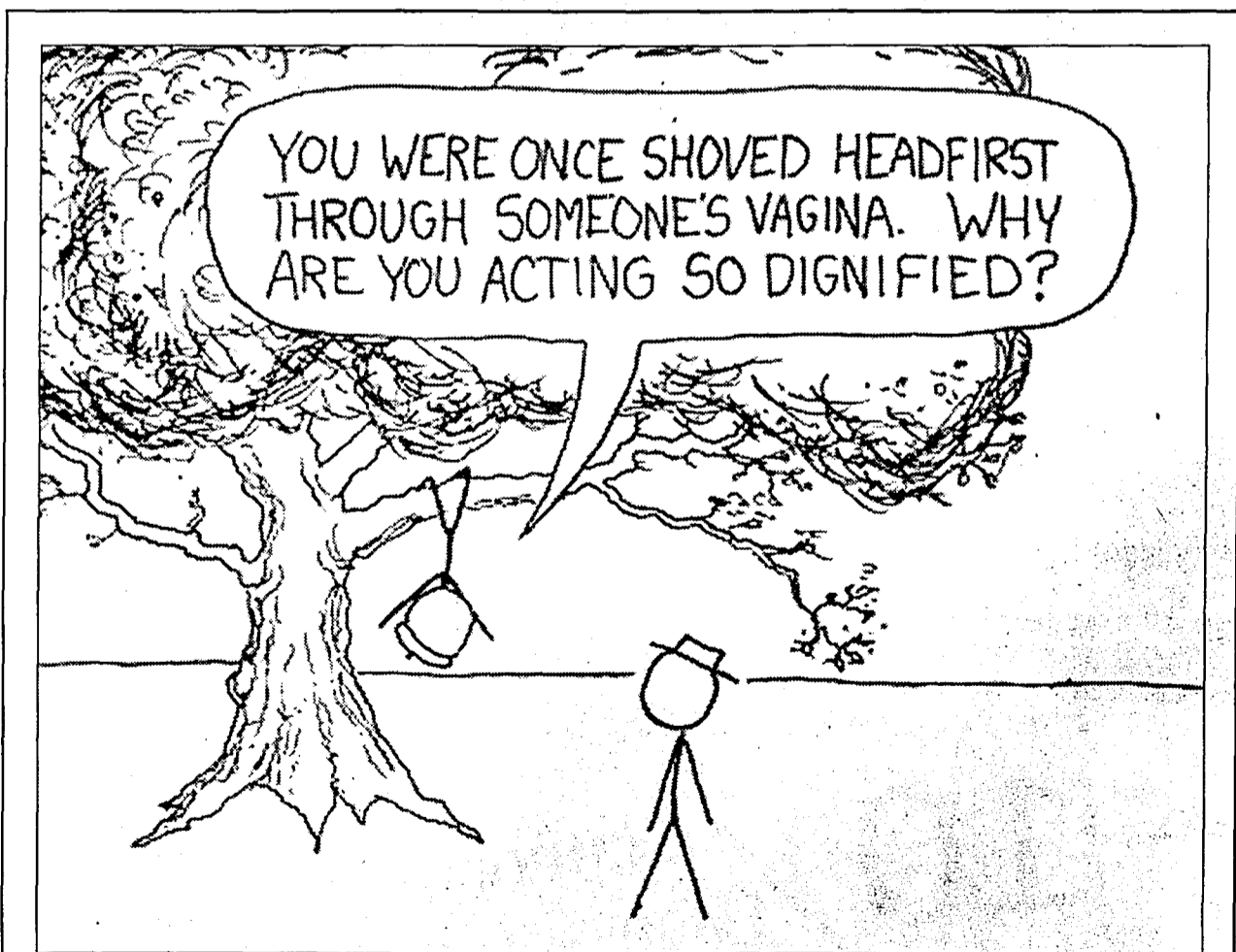
Professor responds to parking lot photo

In the interest of journalistic equality, publish a time-stamped photo of the almost always empty parking lot open to students on the east side of Rutherford Boulevard along with your weekly photo of the University Honors College faculty parking lot. Driving and parking are privileges, not rights, and

demand for parking spaces is not constant. Oversimplification of the issue by posting photos will not solve any "problem."

Tony Johnston is an associate professor in the department of food science and agribusiness. He can be reached at johnston@mtsu.edu.

COMICS



"xkcd" xkcd.com Randal Munroe

SIDEFACTS

FACT: Honeybees can be used to detect explosives.

Everyone has heard of dogs on a bomb squad. But unknown to most people, honeybees have an equally keen sense of smell. After all, bees are able to track the faint scent of pollen on the wind all the way to a flower.

These tiny sniffers are trained in bomb detection by being exposed to the odors of common explosive ingredients. Whenever they flick their proboscises (mouth parts) correctly, they are rewarded with sugar water.



Fact courtesy of omg-facts.com

For the real deal, the bees are strapped to small tubes inside a box. They are then placed inside the area in question, and a video camera equipped with pattern recognition software detects any proboscis motion.

CHECK OUT OUR FEATURED BLOG:

Queer Lives: The Politics in Between
by Brandon Thomas, blogger



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

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

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

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

www.mtsusidelines.com

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

Managing Editor
Marie Kempf*
smanage@mtsu.edu

Production Manager
Andy Harper
sldesign@mtsu.edu

News
Marie Kempf*
sinews@mtsu.edu

Asst. News
Christopher Merchant
slcampus@mtsu.edu

Asst. News
Becca Andrews
slcampus@mtsu.edu

Sports
Will Trusler
slsports@mtsu.edu

Features
Laura Aiken*
slfeature@mtsu.edu

A&E
Rozalind Ruth
slflash@mtsu.edu

Opinions
Aimee Schmittendorf*
slopinio@mtsu.edu

Photography
Jay Bailey
slphoto@mtsu.edu

Multimedia
Larry Sterling
slonline@mtsu.edu

Copy Editor
Courtney Polivka
scopy@mtsu.edu

Campus Advertising
Chelsea LeMay
sl4ads@mtsu.edu

Adviser
Leon Alligood
alligood@mtsu.edu

Business
Eveon Corl
ecorl@mtsu.edu

Media Convergence Director
Tiffany Gibson
sidelinesmanager@gmail.com

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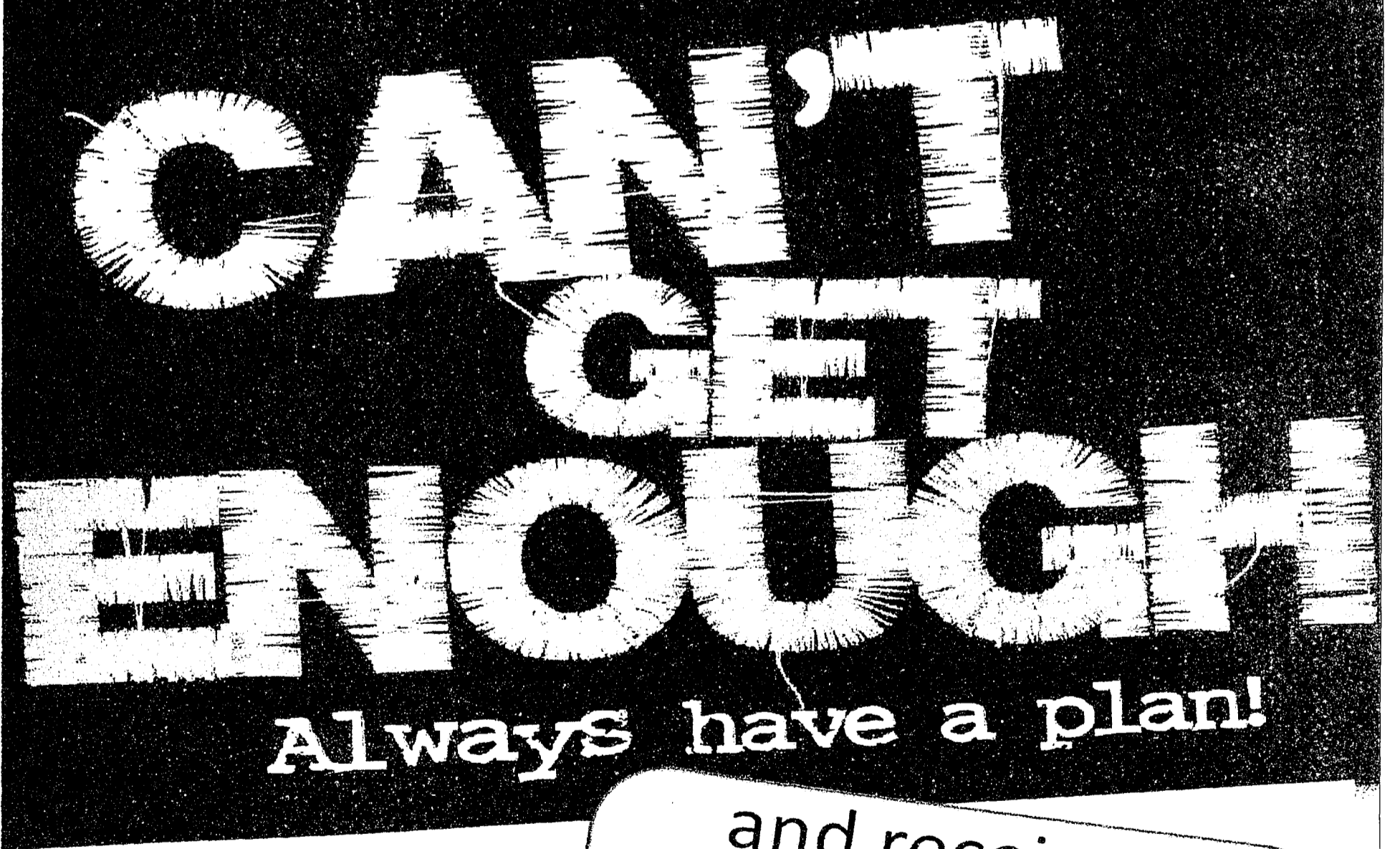


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