

# MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2010

VOL. 87 NO. 21

## Beverage brawl results in bloodshed

By BECCA ANDREWS  
Assistant News Editor

Telling people to throw away their beer could be fighting words in these parts.

MTSU students received an MTSU Alert early Sunday after a male suspect pulled a knife on bar security at Campus Pub over what witnesses say began when a female patron refused to dispose of her beverage.

About 3 a.m., Josh Still, a 28-year-old security guard at Campus Pub, asked an unidentified female to dispose of the remnants

of her beer. Still said the female repeatedly refused and attempted to hit him after he physically took the drink from her.

According to Tennessee state law, establishments serving alcohol by the drink must stop serving customers at 3 a.m.

Still said the physical altercation that followed stemmed from the incident involving the female.

"The last remaining patron was a female [who] consistently refused to throw her drink away," Still said. "I took the bottle out of her hand, [and] the female lunged forward and

stepped away after missing a punch."

Still said a man, whom he assumed to be the woman's boyfriend, hit him in the jaw. Shortly after the man was secured on the porch, Still said the man pulled a knife and stabbed Philip Gadie, 29, in the left hand.

Lauren Ashley Dowling, a witness, said after Josh was attacked, patrons intervened in an effort to stop the altercation and that Gadie was one of those patrons.

"I subdued the attacker and the remaining patrons held him on the ground," Still said. "After approxi-

mately 30 seconds, the attacker pulled a stabbing object and cut Philip, the bar regular."

Chris Buchanari, 26, said he witnessed Gadie's attacker fall down the stairs. He said an unidentified female and male helped the attacker, and the three of them fled down the alley and out of sight.

Andrew Sisson was identified by patrons as one of the men who fled with the attacker.

Ricky Thomas, 27, told police that he witnessed the two white males entering a white Chevrolet Blazer after following them down the al-

leyway behind Gentleman Jim's.

"I saw Philip's hand squirting blood, and I tended to him while the others took care of the fight, as best as they could," said Krystal Alexander, who is an employee at Campus Pub. "[He] lost a tremendous amount of blood."

Bartenders wrapped Gadie's hand in an effort to stop the bleeding, and shortly after authorities arrived, Gadie was rushed to the emergency room at Middle Tennessee Medical Center.

Authorities are still searching for the man accused of the stabbing.

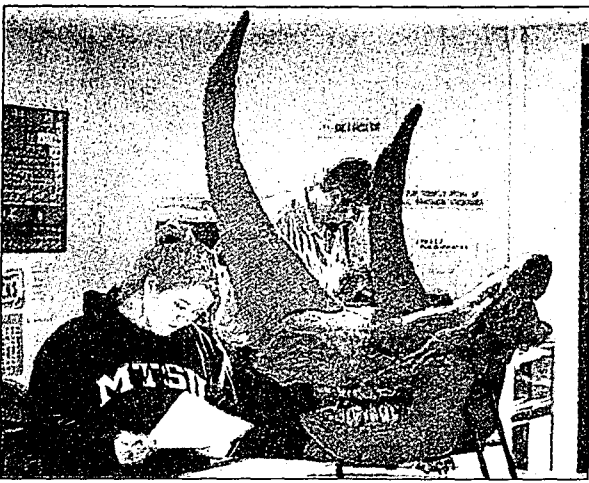


Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor

Brittany Morris stands next to a cast of a woolly rhinoceros skull on Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2010. MTSU's Mineral, Gem, and Fossil Museum recently acquired the replica.

## Prehistoric skull provides students modern insight

By CHRISTOPHER MERCHANT  
Assistant News Editor

A unique geological specimen has been placed on long-term loan to compliment the collection of the MTSU Mineral, Gem, and Fossil Museum in Ezel Hall, according to curators.

Alan Brown, a geosciences professor and one of the museum's curators, assisted a team in forming a mold and casting a scientifically accurate replica of a fossil of a prehistoric woolly rhinoceros. The process is so precise, Brown said, the replica is almost exactly like the original fossil, to the extent that scientific research of the ancient animal can be done using the replica.

"The process takes every fine detail of the original fossil," Brown said.

Taking castings of fossils is common, and many popular fossil exhibits around the world are actually replicas, Brown said.

FOSSIL, PAGE 3

## Fulbright Program's popularity surges

Campus publicity creates increase in student interest, awareness

By AMANDA HAGGARD  
Staff Writer

For the past 10 years, MTSU has shown an almost 100 percent increase in student applications for the Fulbright Scholarship, with 10 applicants in 2010, according to MTSU officials.

"We've doubled in applications from just last year to this year," said Laura Clippard, an adviser in the University Honors College, who serves as a liaison for students interested in applying for the Fulbright. "We had five applicants last year and 10 this year."

A portion of the increase can be attributed to an increased amount of publicity and student awareness of the program,

Clippard said.

The Fulbright Scholarship is an international educational exchange program that sends students, scholars, teachers and professionals abroad to "enable the government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries," according to the U.S. Fulbright website. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of State and was founded in 1946.

"They are the largest cultural exchange program in the world," Clippard said.

FULBRIGHT, PAGE 3

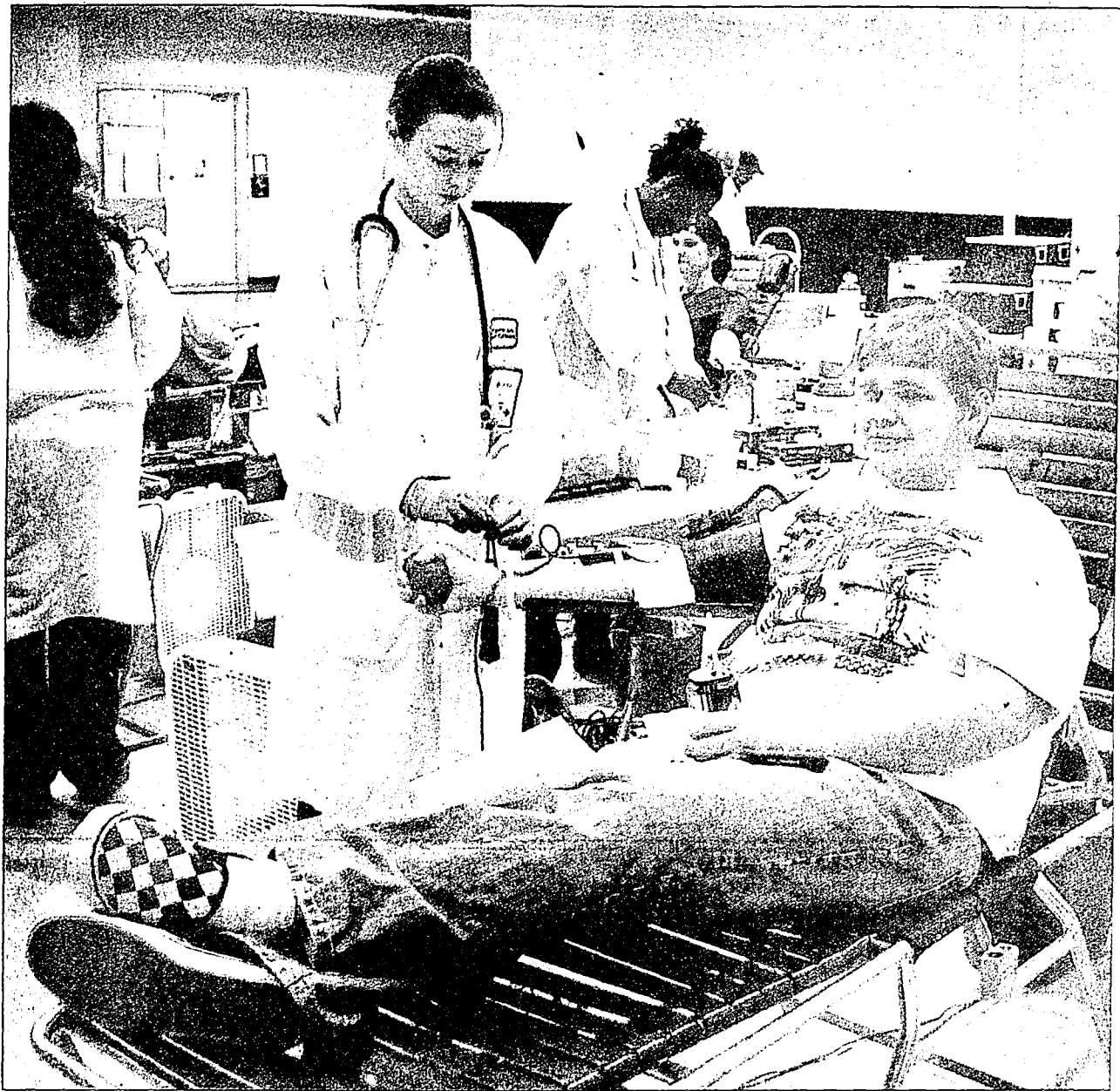


Photo by Marie Kempf, news editor

K.C. Rasmussen, an American Red Cross volunteer, monitors Adam Lessary while he donates blood on Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2010, in the gymnasium of the Health, Wellness, and Recreation Center on campus.

## Competition drives donors

### Blue Raiders 'bleed blue' for pregame challenge against WKU

By MARIE KEMPH  
News Editor

The MTSU community has contributed more than 250 productive units of blood since Monday as part of the "Bleed Blue to Beat WKU" competition drive against Western Kentucky University, according to an official with the American Red Cross.

Early estimates for the total number of all donors who gave blood ranged between 300 and 400 people, said Brittany Durham, a donor recruitment representative with the American Red Cross. She said productive units of blood are ready to be transported for use, while others are categorized as referral units, which are sent to labs for further evaluation, Durham said.

"The [MTSU] community has shown strong support for the Red Cross this week," Durham said, adding that the total number of people who have donated blood is likely to exceed early estimates because

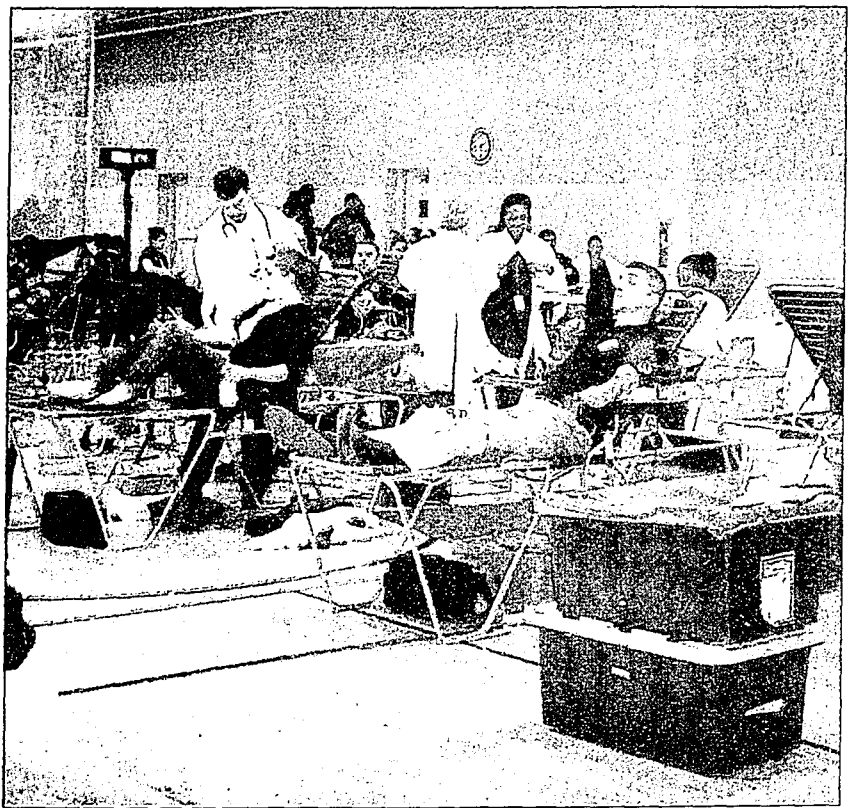


Photo by Marie Kempf, news editor

American Red Cross phlebotomists draw blood from students Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2010, during a campuswide donation drive that is being held in the Health, Wellness, and Recreation Center.

students do not need to make an appointment to participate, and the competition does not end until today at 7 p.m.

"Anyway I can save lives, I'm going to try and help," said Adam Lessary, a sophomore majoring in biology.

University officials and Chris

Massaro, the director of Athletics, challenged Western Kentucky to a blood donation drive to see whose fans would "lend a hand and hold out an arm," according to an MTSU press release.

DRIVE, PAGE 3

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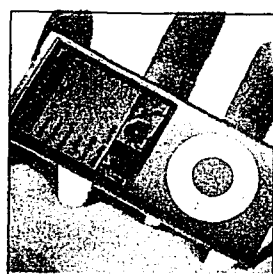
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## A&E

DreamWorks' new film "Megamind" enjoyable for both children and adults  
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IN TODAY'S ISSUE



MTSU students, faculty and staff share what's on their iPod. Check out the new playlist.

ONLINE @  
MTSUSIDELINES.COM

## THURSDAY FORECAST

MOSTLY CLOUDY  
30% CHANCE OF RAIN  
HIGH 58, LOW 38

# With winter weather comes threat of flu

## Taking precautions against illness important during finals week

By JANANI WEBB  
Contributing Writer

Final exams are rapidly approaching, which means more stress and less sleep.

Although students are consumed with many other responsibilities, the pressure to stay healthy during the most crucial time of the semester is still a priority for many.

With the recent cold front, MTSU students are preparing for cooler temperatures, and many say they are determined to stay healthy through the cold and flu season.

Lisa Thomason Schrader, the director of Student Health Services, said students are more likely to get sick this time of year, but the change in weather is not the only culprit.

"We do see an increase in students getting ill this time of year, but stress seems to have more of an influence on them possibly catching a cold or getting the flu," Schrader said.

While stress can induce flu-like symptoms, students are keeping positive attitudes.

Courtney Johnson, a sophomore majoring in biology, said school is his primary motivation in trying to stay healthy.

**"We do see an increase in students getting ill this time of year, but stress seems to have more of an influence on them possibly catching a cold or getting the flu."**

LISA THOMASON SCHRADER  
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

"I know this is the wrong time to miss class," Johnson said. "The least I can do is stay healthy, so I can get up and go."

According to the Center for Disease Control and Pre-

vention, the best way to get over a cold or the flu is to get plenty of rest.

Anastasia Chisam, a freshman majoring in chemistry, said she stays healthy as a routine part of her lifestyle. She is also a facility staff member at the Health, Wellness and Recreation Center.

"I wash my hands and I bundle up," Chisam said. "I eat plenty of vegetables at home, so that I can get my vitamins and proteins."

One of Chisam's roommates is currently ill, and she seems to think his lifestyle is to blame.

"He eats out a lot and doesn't get much sleep, so his immune system is weak," she said.

There has not been a vaccine created for the common cold because there are more than 200 viruses that can cause it, so it just has to run its course. In some cases, it's proving to last for more than three weeks.

Lynn Parsons, the director of the School of Nursing, said students to "get the flu shot and just use good common sense."

Keeton Anderson, a resident assistant in Wood Hall for the Office of Housing and Residential Life, said the students who live on her floor are all about staying healthy and washing their hands.

"I see a sense of urgency in them," said Anderson, a senior majoring in Spanish. "When-

ever soap is low in the bathroom they immediately leave a note for me to get them some more. It's pretty high on their lists to stay healthy."

Keeton said she remembers

getting sick her sophomore year, but her roommate never got sick.

"There were lots of Clorox wipes involved," Anderson said. "Whenever I touched the door-knob or a surface we shared, I would sanitize it. So, there are ways to avoid getting sick or infecting others if you just take care of yourself."

Many say students can stay healthy this time of year by checking out tips on the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website.

Students can also get the flu vaccination at Student Health Services, located in the Health, Wellness, and Recreation Center, for \$15, but if they're a little squeamish around needles, there is a nasal spray option that does the same thing.

If students are worried if the flu vaccination is effective, Schrader

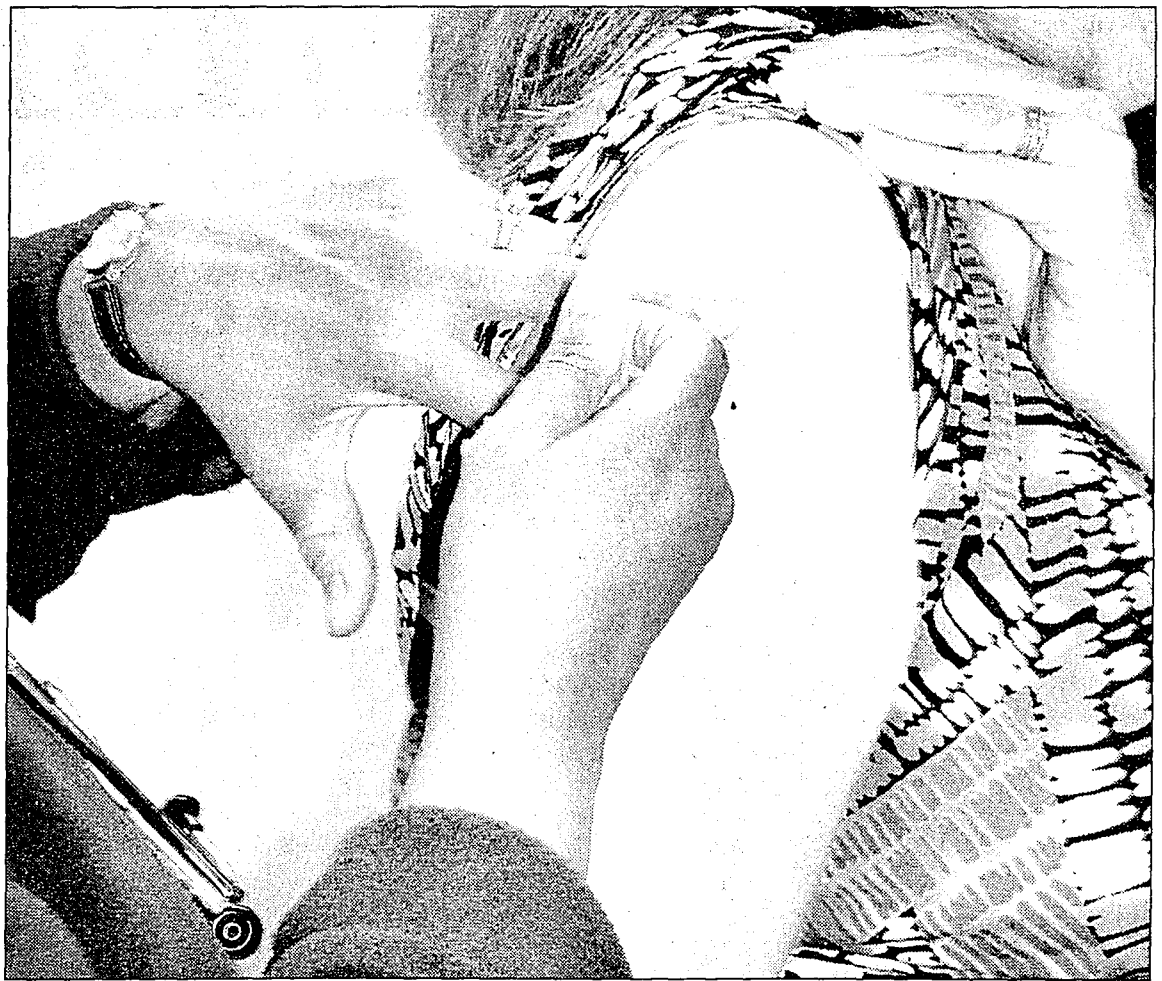


Photo by Marie Kempf, news editor  
Registered nurses Alba Coppola (Left) and Maureen Nokes (Right) demonstrate how flu shots are administered on Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2010, inside the clinic of Student Health Services that is located in the Health, Wellness, and Recreation Center on campus.

### Key Facts About Seasonal Flu Vaccine

#### TYPES OF FLU VACCINES:

1. The flu shot is an inactivated vaccine that is given with a needle, usually in the arm. Shots are approved for people older than 6 months, including people with chronic medical conditions.
2. The nasal spray flu vaccine is made with live, weakened flu viruses that do not cause the flu. Shots are approved for use in healthy people between the ages of 2 and 49, and for women that are not pregnant.

#### WHO SHOULD GET THE FLU SHOT VACCINATION:

- Pregnant women
- Children younger than 2 years old
- People 50 years of age and older
- People of any age with certain chronic medical conditions
- People who live in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities
- People who live with or care for those at high risk for flu complications, including health care workers

Information courtesy of the Center for Disease Control, www.cdc.gov

## LOCAL EVENTS

### On Campus

### Off Campus

#### Performing Arts:

**MTSU Percussion Ensemble**  
Nov. 17, 8 p.m.  
Wright Music Building  
Hinton Hall  
FREE

#### MTSU Wind Ensemble

Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m.  
Wright Music Building  
Hinton Hall  
FREE

#### "Night of Soul"

Nov. 18, 6 p.m.  
Keathley University Center  
Room 314  
FREE

#### "Flea in Her Ear"

Nov. 20, 7:30 a.m.  
Tucker Theatre  
Tickets: \$5

#### Yifei Zhong Student Violin Recital

Nov. 20, 8 p.m.  
Wright Music Building  
Hinton Hall  
FREE

#### Student Life:

**Great American Smokeout**  
Nov. 18, all day  
Keathley University Center  
FREE

#### "Strictly Dubstep Vol. 10: JUB STEP Edition"

Nov. 18, 8 p.m.  
James Union Building  
Tennessee Room  
Tickets: \$5

#### "Despicable Me"

Nov. 18, 10 p.m.

KUC Theater  
Tickets: \$2

#### Video Game Night

Nov. 19, 4 p.m.  
Keathley University Center  
2nd Floor Lounge  
FREE

#### Karaoke Contest

Nov. 21, 10 p.m.  
Cyber Cafe  
FREE

#### Lectures:

**Partnering with Communities to Promote Active Living: Accomplishments, Challenges and Lessons Learned**  
Nov. 18, 7 p.m.  
Business and Aerospace Building  
State Farm Lecture Hall  
FREE

#### Global Week Lectures

Nov. 18 & 19, all day  
Business and Aerospace Building  
FREE

#### Sporting Events:

**Volleyball vs. South Alabama**  
Nov. 18, 5 p.m.  
Alumni Memorial Gym  
FREE

#### Men's basketball vs. Evansville

Nov. 24, 7 p.m.  
Murphy Center  
FREE

#### Women's basketball vs. ETSU

Nov. 26, 7 p.m.  
Murphy Center  
FREE

#### Concerts:

**NeedToBreathe**  
Nov. 18, 7 p.m.  
Ryman Auditorium  
Tickets: \$25

**Corey Smith**  
Nov. 18, 9 p.m.  
The Cannery Ballroom  
Tickets: \$20

**Andy Smith, Majestic, Brian Lee and His Orchestra**  
Nov. 18, 8:30 p.m.  
Bonhoeffer's  
FREE

#### Warrant

Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m.  
Wildhorse Saloon  
Tickets: \$22.50-\$75

#### Light Pilot, Sephrá, Seeing Skies

Nov. 19, 8 p.m.  
The Walnut House  
Tickets: \$6

#### Brenden Benson with The Posies and Aqueeduct

Nov. 19, 8 p.m.  
Exit/In  
Tickets: \$17

#### Travisfest

Nov. 20, 3 p.m.  
Rocketown  
Tickets: \$8

#### Tristan Prettyman

Nov. 20, 8:30 p.m.  
3rd & Lindsley  
Tickets: \$10

#### Performing Arts:

##### Writers' Open Mic Night

Nov. 18, 7 p.m.  
Swan Performing Arts Center  
Tickets: \$10

#### "Julius Caesar"

Nov. 19, 7 p.m.  
Murfreesboro Little Theatre  
Tickets: \$10

#### Craig Ferguson

Nov. 20, 7 p.m.  
Tennessee Performing Arts Center  
James K. Polk Theater  
Tickets: \$25-\$45

#### Blue Man Group

Nov. 20, 8 p.m.  
Tennessee Performing Arts Center  
Andrew Jackson Hall  
Tickets: \$27-\$68

#### Sports:

**Titans vs. Redskins**  
Nov. 21, 1 p.m.  
LP Field  
Tickets: \$43-\$83

#### Predators vs. St. Louis Blues

Nov. 24, 7 p.m.  
Bridgestone Arena  
Tickets: \$28-\$68

#### Shopping:

**Hollyday Marketplace**  
Nov. 20, 9 a.m.  
Embassy Suites Hotel  
Tickets: \$7

#### Events Policy

Sidelines welcomes current campus and community events submitted by all readers. Please e-mail events to [slcampus@mtsus.edu](mailto:slcampus@mtsus.edu) or [slnews@mtsus.edu](mailto:slnews@mtsus.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.

# 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**

# Number of applicants doubles

## FULBRIGHT FROM PAGE 1

The Fulbright Scholarship and a study abroad are different in that a Fulbright grants one year of study or research in any country where there is a Fulbright Commission, while studying abroad gives students the chance to study their current curriculum in another country.

The flexibility of the program attracts students because of their ability to choose which type of program they want to work with, according to the program's website.

English teaching programs also exist for graduating seniors who wish to teach English in a foreign country.

Jason and Mandy Davis, both seniors majoring in international studies, are married students hoping they will both be awarded a Fulbright Scholarship. They both are seeking research grants through Fulbright, but they said they would be interested in teaching English abroad as well.

Jason Davis said he became interested in the program after seeing a flier in the University Honors College.

"There aren't many opportunities to study in another country," Jason Davis said. "My wife and I both speak Arabic, so we're hoping to get the opportunity to go to Palestine."

Mandy Davis said one great thing about the program is that if only one of them gets awarded the grant, the other spouse will be able to come along.

"Some countries give a stipend for the

expense of having a dependent with you," Clippard said. "You can bring your spouse and even a child in some cases."

Two of the five MTSU students that applied last year received the Fulbright Scholarship, Clippard said. For years, Ivy League students who attend schools like Harvard University and Yale University have consistently won Fulbright scholarships, but that more public universities like MTSU are being awarded, she said.

"They are looking to spread the awards out a little more," Clippard said.

According to the Fulbright Scholarship website, approximately 6,000 grants are awarded each year and 1,500 are granted to U.S. students.

Clippard said interested students should apply in May of their junior year. Students must apply while they are still attending school, but they are only accepted in the program when they graduate with a bachelor's degree.

"The process is nearly a year-and-a-half long," Clippard said.

U.S. citizenship, sufficient language ability in a potential host country and good health are the only other basic stipulations to apply for the Fulbright. Although, Clippard said each country does have its own set of rules for applicants.

Grant amounts for each of the 155 countries vary, but many often include enough for the cost of housing and food.

Students who receive the award are encouraged to congregating with locals in their respective countries to "foster cultural awareness and understanding of each other."

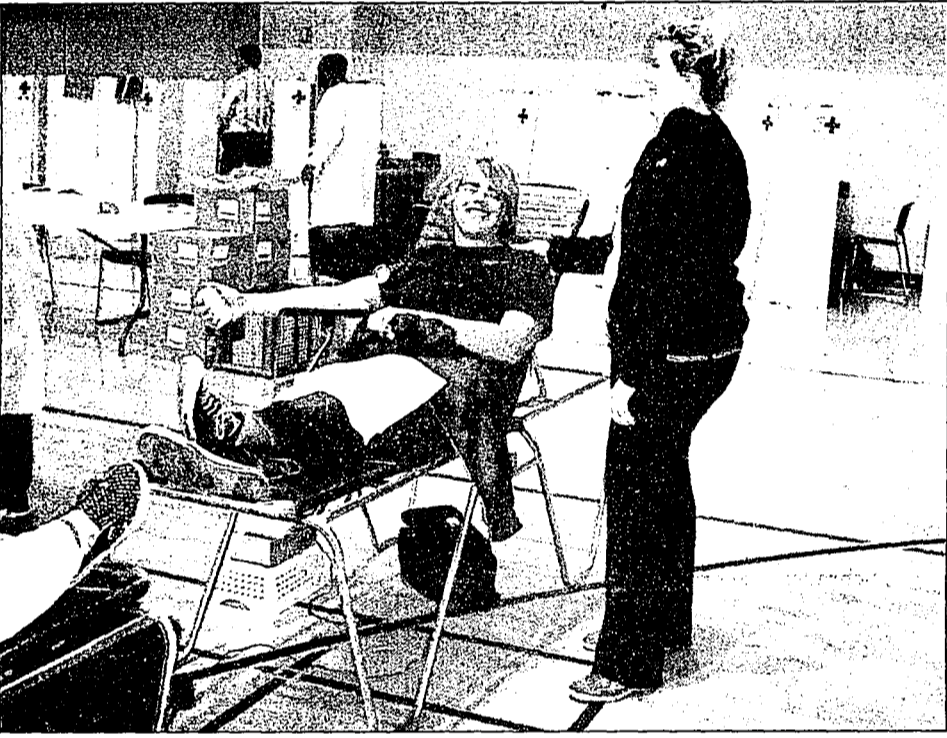


Photo by Marie Kempf, news editor  
Kristin Gooch (Right) comforts her boyfriend, Sean Bellamy (Left), while he donates blood Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2010, inside of the Health, Wellness, and Recreation Center, as part of the "Bleed Blue to Beat WKU" competition drive.

# Students show school spirit with Red Cross blood drive

## DRIVE FROM PAGE 1

"I've never given blood, but there are people who need it," said Jonathan Lloyd, a freshman majoring in business. "Plus, I want to win the competition."

Joel Delarosa, a freshman in the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences, said he also came to donate blood because he wants MTSU to win the pregame challenge against Western Kentucky.

"I do want to give blood because it's the right thing to do, but I really want to win against our rival - I can't stand Western Kentucky," Delarosa said.

Both universities have partnered with the Red Cross to hold blood drives this week prior to the football game Saturday, and officials said they plan to make this an annual event.

"This is an excellent opportunity to help the community and save lives at the same time," Massaro said in the press release. "It is even better when you can make it a competition against your biggest rival, and I hope Middle Tennessee and Western Kentucky can make this event an annual success. I encourage all Blue Raider fans to come help us with this noble cause."

All blood donations will be included in the final count to see which university wins the pregame matchup, but MTSU officials hope this event will also encourage students to give back to the community.

"I was really nervous [Tuesday] before I gave blood, but it wasn't as painful as I thought it would be," said Kristin Gooch, a junior majoring in exercise science. "It's a really gratifying feeling to know that my blood could save a life."



Photo by Marie Kempf, news editor  
(From Left) Joe Delarosa and Jonathan Lloyd sign up to give blood Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2010, in the Health, Wellness, and Recreation Center.

Yesterday, Gooch was attending the blood drive

again, but this time she was there to show moral support for her boyfriend, Sean Bellamy, a junior majoring in music.

"I'm nervous - not a needle fan," Bellamy said, as a Red Cross volunteer began preparing to draw his blood.

Afterward, Bellamy said he agreed with Gooch's sentiments about the importance of donating blood.

"I'm glad she got me to donate," Bellamy said. "It was worth it."

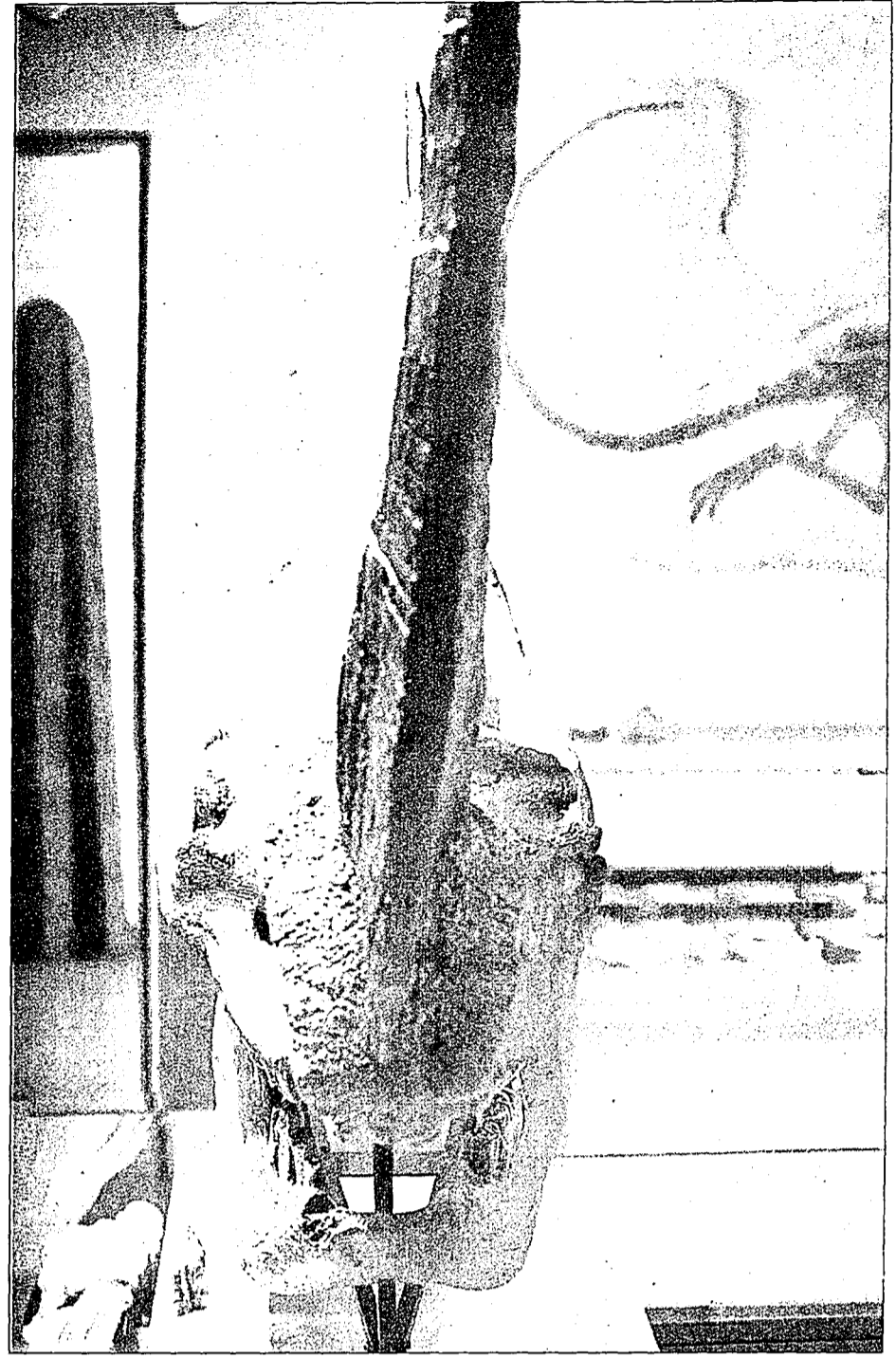


Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor  
A reproduction of an ancient woolly rhinoceros skull boasts a 4-foot-long horn on its snout Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2010, in the Mineral, Gem, and Fossil Museum inside of Ezel Hall.

# Exotic replica displayed for research and recreation

## FOSSIL FROM PAGE 1

The fossil, which was originally found in Russia and belongs to a museum there, was in surprisingly good shape, Brown said, as the entire structure is intact, and the impressive 4-foot-long frontal horn is complete.

"It's an extremely fortunate thing to have something like that on campus," said Jerry Jacene, an employee at Prehistoric Exhibits in Kingsport, Tenn., who led the team that cast the 3-foot-long replica.

The replica was purchased by the Mid-Tennessee Gem and Mineral Society and loaned to the museum, said Louis Elrod, the founder of the Gem and Mineral Society.

"We have no intention of taking it out [of the collection]," Elrod said. "It's good for anyone to see a relic from this far back in the past and imagine the animals that used to walk the region."

Much like a woolly mammoth or mastodon, woolly rhinos were covered in thick fur to endure freezing temperatures during the Ice Age, Brown said. In addition, the front of the rhino's largest horn has wear patterns that suggest it was used as a tool to scoop ice and show off of vegetation, Jacene said.

The rest of the fossil, which includes most of the 15-foot-long animal's skeleton, will be cast in stages until a complete replica is made,

Jacene said, and it will then go through a process called flesh restoration. Such a replica could cost more than \$50,000.

"It's very costly and time consuming," Jacene said.

Using the fossil and cave paintings as a guide, the crew at Prehistoric Exhibits will wrap synthetic skin around the cast and then paint the 6-foot-tall rhino replica.

While currently the Mineral, Gem, and Fossil Museum only has a replica of the skull, a complete skeleton cast might become part of the collection someday, Jacene said.

Complete castings of intact skulls like this one can cost more than \$1,000, Jacene said. A large portion of the exhibits at the museum are on long-term loan, like the woolly rhino skull, or are donated, Brown said.

The museum was started five years ago, Brown said, when Albert Ogden, a geosciences professor, donated most of his personal rock and fossil collection the exhibit. Another sizeable contribution was made by Ernest and Onsbay Hammons, a married couple who privately gathered fossils for many years.

"Between the Hammons' fossils and Albert's minerals, it was enough to start the museum," Brown said.

The museum is open Monday through Saturday for MTSU students who have classes that require they visit the exhibit, and by appointment for individuals or school groups.

Under New Ownership and Management

FRESH, NEW LOOK | FAMILY FRIENDLY

New Lunch Menu w/Daily Specials and Refined Dinner Menu

New Happy Hour & Weekly Drink Specials

Live Music 5 Nights Per Week (Tuesday-Saturday)

Karaoke Monday Nights, College Night (Thursday)

New 42" Flat Screen TV's

Private Mixers and Parties Now Accepted

**\$50.00 GIFT CARD GIVE AWAY**

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Be sure and check out our **EVENT CALENDAR**

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 \$1.50 Bunganut brew  
 \$3.00 well drinks | \$3.00 house wine

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 INFO@THEBUNGANUT.COM  
 WWW.THEBUNGANUT.COM

11 a.m. - 11 p.m.  
 Sunday - Tuesday

11 a.m. - 1 a.m.  
 Wednesday - Saturday

**RESERVATIONS WELCOME**

The Pig has been referred to by the town's locals, offers great service, food, music and cheer. The Pig is open to all ages with the exception of Wed., Thurs., Fri. and Sat. nights (after 9 p.m.) where one must be 21 years of age to enter.

# Textbook thefts plague campus

By REBECCA BROWN  
Staff Writer

The number of on-campus thefts continues to rise, but the target of such crimes has now expanded to include not just students but professors' offices, according to the MTSU Office of Public Safety.

Several professors reported missing textbooks from their offices in the Business and Aerospace Building on Nov. 2, and campus police believe the suspects were probably looking for a quick way to make a large sum of money.

"Books are as good as cash," said Sgt. Broede Stucky of the Office of Public Safety.

Stucky said this incident is just one of many involving stolen textbooks on campus, and campus po-

lice are investigation the matter but have not yet identified a suspect.

According to a 2005 report by the Government Accountability Office, college textbook prices have increased at twice the rate of infla-

**"There were no signs of forced entry. So, someone either had a key or could pick the locks."**

CHARLES BAUM  
CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

tion in the last two decades, and as a result, the increasing price of college textbooks makes reselling them more lucrative.

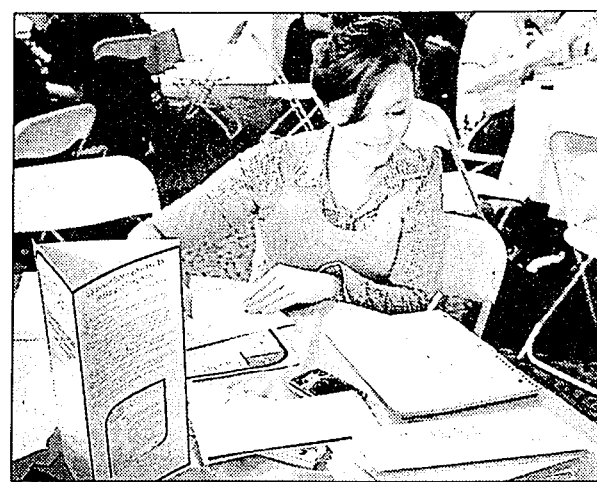
At least seven faculty offices in the department of economics and finance were apparently broken into during the night of Nov. 1 or

early hours of Nov. 2, including the offices of Chris Klein and Kenneth Stanford, both of whom are professors in the department.

"There were no signs of forced entry," said Charles Baum, the chair of the department of economics. "So, someone either had a key or could pick the locks."

Although several current editions of class textbooks were taken from each of the offices, none of the professors noticed that anything else had been taken, Klein said.

Klein said the incident did not hinder his ability to teach classes very much. He said he contacted the book publishers and gained immediate electronic access to one of the books, and he received replacement print editions about a week later.



File photo  
Courtney Watson (Above) writes letters to friends and family to raise donations during last year's "Up 'til Dawn: Great Lick-A-Thon" on Nov. 3, 2009.

## 'Up 'til Dawn' accepting applications for 2011

STAFF REPORT

"Up 'til Dawn," MTSU's largest philanthropic organization, will be accepting applications for its annual fundraiser to benefit St. Jude Children's Hospital until Dec. 1, according to an MTSU press release.

Every year, the organization holds a team-based letter-writing campaign called the "Great Lick-A-Thon." Individual students and organizations are expected to address a minimum of 35 letters to friends, family, co-workers and others requesting a donation to the hospital.

The letters are pre-written, according to the press release, so team members only have to sign the letter and address the envelope.

This year, the "Great Lick-A-Thon" is scheduled to be held on Jan. 25 and 26.

The size of teams has

increased from five members to a tiered system. All groups are expected to raise a minimum amount of donation money, depending on the team's size.

Groups of five to 10 members are expected to raise \$50, groups of 11 to 25 members are expected to raise \$75, groups of 26 to 49 members are expected to raise \$100, and groups of 50 members are expected to raise \$125.

Team members who met their quota of 35 letters will be admitted to the grand finale on Feb. 18. The event will include performances by bands, games, free food, team-spirit competitions, a visit from a hypnotist and more, according to the press release.

Registration packets can be picked up in Room 325S of the Keathley University Center.

# THROUGH THE SIDELINES LENS



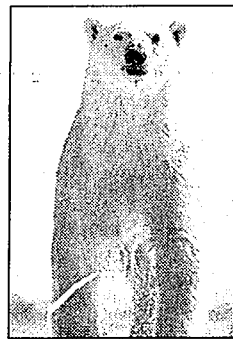
Photo by David Cooley, staff photographer  
Members of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity stand outside of the Keathley University Center on Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2010. The members of the Greek organization let students throw eggs at them to help raise money for the American Heart Association.

## SIDEFACTS

**FACT: A Polar bear's stomach can hold an estimated 15 to 20 percent of its body weight.**

Its stomach can assimilate 84 percent of the protein and 97 percent of the fat it eats. Also, polar bears only need 2 kilograms or 4.4 pounds of fat every day to survive.

Even though polar bears have been known to kill walruses and even young beluga whales, a ringed seal alone could sustain a polar bear for eight whole days. Polar bears don't always finish eating what they kill either. The carcasses end up getting left behind to be eaten by arctic foxes and gulls.



Fact courtesy of omg-facts.com

More polar bear facts can be found courtesy of Sea World at [www.seaworld.org](http://www.seaworld.org).

## CRIME BRIEFS

**Theft**  
Nov. 12, 7:47 a.m.  
Scarlett Commons Apartment 7  
Douglas B. May, 23, was arrested for stealing a parking boot, a theft under \$500, and for an outstanding warrant from Sumner County. He was also issued a trespass warning, which bars him from being on MTSU campus.

**Theft**  
Nov. 12, 5:03 p.m.  
James E. Walker Library  
A complainant reported that a wallet was stolen.

**Theft**  
Nov. 12, 7:09 p.m.  
Health, Wellness, and Recreation Center  
A complainant reported that an MTSU golf cart was stolen.

**Alcohol**  
Nov. 12, 11:39 p.m.  
Beasley Hall  
Taylor DePauw, 22, was arrested for public intoxication and criminal trespassing. Addison DePauw and Damien Launay, both 18, were issued state citations for underage consumption.

**Alarm**  
Nov. 13, 11:01 a.m.  
Womack Lane Apartment B  
A fire alarm reportedly went off after someone removed its cover.

**Motor Vehicle Theft**  
Nov. 13, 12:22 p.m.  
Bell Street Parking Lot  
A complainant reported that his white 1996 Honda Civic had been stolen.

**Vagrancy**  
Nov. 13, 3:35 p.m.

Greenland Drive Parking Lot  
A subject was issued a trespass warning.

**Traffic**  
Nov. 13, 11:51 p.m.  
Blue Raider Drive  
A juvenile was cited for financial to provide financial responsibility.

**Vandalism**  
Nov. 15, 8:31 a.m.  
Greek Row  
A complainant from housing maintenance reported that the glass of an exterior door at the Sigma Nu Fraternity house was vandalized.

**Vandalism**  
Nov. 15, 8:43 a.m.  
Greek Row  
A complainant reported that a spotlight at the Beta Theta Pi Fraternity house had been broken.

## CRIME STOPPERS

**Theft**  
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 500-gigabyte Western Digital portable hard drive, a silver 500-gigabyte Seagate Go Agent hard drive and 10 digital videotapes from Room 115 of the John Bragg Mass Communication Building sometime between 4 p.m. on Oct. 19 and 10:30 a.m. on Oct. 12.

**Theft**  
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 20-inch Westinghouse LCD flat-screen television from Room 161 of the John Bragg Mass Communication Building sometime between 3 p.m. on Oct. 8 and 8 a.m. on Oct. 11.

**Burglary**  
A cash reward of up to \$1,000 is being offered for information that leads to the arrest of the person or persons who burglarized Room 202 of Corlew Hall sometime between 9 p.m. on Oct. 24 and

2 a.m. on Oct. 25. A white iBook laptop computer with the serial number W80297L9F5W was reportedly stolen.

**Assault**  
A cash reward of up to \$1,000 is being offered for information that leads to the arrest of the person who has inappropriately touched female students on campus. The suspect is described as a white male who is in his 20s, approximately 6 feet tall, has dark brown or black hair, and has a slender of medium build.

**Burglary**  
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 and stole an 8-gigabyte iPod from a maroon 1987 Pontiac coupe parked in the Greenland Drive Parking Lot sometime between 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Oct. 25.

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

# SIDELINES

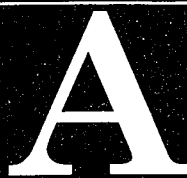
AND THE SEARCH FOR NEW CONTRIBUTING STAFF

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY presents a *SIDELINES* production  
"SIDELINES and the Search for New Contributing Staff"

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with ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT GRAPHIC DESIGN and ONLINE

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AWESOMENESS

MAY CONTAIN AWESOME PEOPLE AND AMAZING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

**Letters Policy**

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

## Hijacking the Internet

How to protect your wireless networks and keep people from taking your Facebook for a joyride.



**Kyle McCormick**  
Contributing Columnist

Open wireless networks are wonderful things, especially for a small company of recording industry majors killing time between classes. During the afternoon lull one day last week, three of us were getting our fix with laptops aglow in the dimly lit bistro area of the Mass Communication Building. When my friend Matt's eyes lit up I figured he was about to recite the latest quote-worthy tweet on his Twitter feed, but what came out of his mouth was much more intriguing:

"Sarah, I'm going to hack into your Facebook account."

Sarah, to my left, rolled her eyes and continued to digest whatever wall post she was in the middle of before being interrupted. I turned my attention to Matt as he installed a free browser plug-in that promised the ability to hijack the login credentials of other users on open wireless networks. Within a few seconds he was ready to go. The names of students using MTSU's wireless network in the building soon populated the screen of his MacBook, including an indication that our friend Sarah was, in fact, on Facebook.

Click. He was in Sarah's account.

To call this "computer hacking" is probably an overstatement. Matt is admittedly a pretty big tech nerd, but what he did was not at all complicated. After witnessing it myself, I'm

quite certain that anyone could be taught how to use this hijacking tool within minutes. What's worse, this tool can intercept login credentials from a few dozen popular sites in addition to Facebook, such as MySpace, Twitter and Amazon, to name a few. For the sake of not encouraging this practice, I will not share the name of this utility. I will say that it wasn't difficult to find, and it's not the only one out there.

Are you starting to re-evaluate what sites you visit while surfing the web in public places?

Cyber criminals have been using tools like this to spread malicious software, steal identities and credit card information, and generally mess up people's lives for years.

Unfortunately, many people have been misled to believe that antivirus and Internet security software are adequate measures to protect themselves from those with ill intentions. While antivirus software is still an effective way to protect the information stored

on your computer, it often isn't enough to cloak Internet activity, especially on public networks.

Matt was only able to access Sarah's Facebook account because she logged in first. The hijacking tool he used simply took advantage of Facebook's shoddy encryption measures to capture her account name and password and automatically logs Matt into her account. By default, Facebook uses HTTP protocol across its entire site. More secure services, like Gmail, use HTTPS protocol – the "S" is for "secure" – and effectively prevent most hijacking utilities from sniffing out user login credentials by encrypting data as it's sent.

Ironically, the hijacking tool that Matt used was designed specifically to educate users on the glaring security problems on many of the world's most frequented websites by demonstrating just how easy it is to invade someone's privacy on a public network. Hopefully such a measure will encourage sites like Facebook to make the jump to the HTTPS protocol across their network, but in the meantime there are a few things you can do to protect yourself from being hacked:

For those who use Mozilla Firefox as their browser of choice, there's a free plug-in called HTTPS Everywhere that forces HTTPS encryp-

tion on Facebook, Amazon, PayPal and more. Google "HTTPS Everywhere" for a download link and instructions. Unfortunately, this plug-in is only available for Firefox at the time of writing.

For others, the most obvious and effective way to prevent security breaches is to avoid using sites where you must enter login credentials on public wireless networks. As hard as it may be to refrain from being plugged into your social networks at all hours of the day, this is the only foolproof method of preventing others from watching your activity on public networks.

Ultimately, it's a personal decision, whether or not to be paranoid while surfing the web in public places. Your odds of being attacked by someone using a hijacking tool like the one Matthew used on Sarah are probably about as slim as your odds of getting in a car accident. But as for me, I'm buckling up. I've already installed the HTTPS Everywhere plug-in on my laptop, but I think I'll be spending less time checking my Facebook wall posts while on campus regardless. Better to be safe than sorry, and better to be paying attention in class than... well, doing whatever it is that you do on the Internet.

*Kyle McCormick is a senior majoring in recording industry. He can be reached at [warmchordsmedia@gmail.com](mailto:warmchordsmedia@gmail.com).*

## COMICS

"This Is Why We Can't Have Nice Things"

wittenberg.jacob@gmail.com Jacob Wittenberg

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Reader's words inaccurate, loan holds hurt students

I applaud Lisa Almy's effort to provide me with the education she feels I am lacking in the financial aid refund department in "Campus financial aid shouldn't be given until first day of classes," published Nov. 15 in Sidelines.

However, the only valid thing she had to say was that I was correct on a couple of the specifics. I hate to sound arrogant, but to quote Putnam County Spelling Bee's William Barfee, "I know!"

I realize that I was extremely vague in explaining "real world" loans, but I have been involved in the funding and building of over a dozen houses, and her statement about mortgages is just simply false. An accurate statement is, all loan agreements contain a system of checks and balances to ensure that the money, or at least a large portion of it, is used for its agreed upon purpose.

I plainly stated in my article the types of expenses student loan money is for, and her retort was "this money is for schooling, thus classes must begin to get the money." I made it clear that I was renewing my financial aid. I was only pre-approved because I showed that I was using the money for its intended purposes. I was enrolled full time and meeting academic requirements.

There is absolutely no reason for MTSU to assume that I won't continue to do so. Is there a chance that classes won't begin? If there's a possibility that MTSU will have the doors padlocked with an out-of-business sign hanging on them, then I made a grievous error in my university choice.

Then she proceeds to say that I was correct about the dates and departments only to provide a lame excuse for the holds that I already refuted. All of my tuition fees are calculated shortly after I register and adjusted accordingly when any changes are made. The only extra "amount of accounting" that needs to be done when MTSU gets my money from the government is subtracting one number from another. My last programming course was DOS 20 years ago, and I think I can get a computer to add and subtract.

From there, it just got worse. "It's not fun to wait for the money," and don't "rely on refunds for all your living [expenses]" makes it sound like I'm whining about extra caramel in my mocha latte. It's a place to live! It's important! And, of course my funds are not the university's responsibility; it couldn't do anything about my poverty if it wanted to! In the grand scheme of things, state universities are as broke as I am. That's

precisely why these policies exist. My entire point was that this is a loan to me, from a third party, that earns interest for MTSU without my consent. I would give my consent if it asked! I love MTSU! I just want to know that when I'm told for two months what day to expect a loan payment, that is the day I get the money, and not just the day it comes to town.

"Maybe having funding prior to moving would be a better option?"

This is a taunting cliché that is absolutely meaningless. And, it's not a question. My only reply is, if my funding had continued to go as I had planned in life, I wouldn't be back in college debating lending practices with someone who thinks that a trite statement like this adds anything at all to an intelligent discussion. I'm only getting a loan because I don't have the money. I moved to a cheaper place so that I could afford to go back to school.

Finally, if her only argument in defense of an asinine policy is to claim that it could be, and at one time was, even more asinine, it would make a great tweet. But if she wants to discuss the very real problem of student loan default rates, as she touched upon at the end, I look forward to hearing more from her.

*Lee Miller is a junior majoring in commercial songwriting. This letter was in response to Lisa Almy's letter about his article "Financial aid practices absurd," on Nov. 4. He can be reached at [jlmm2bi@mtmail.mtsu.edu](mailto:jlmm2bi@mtmail.mtsu.edu).*

### Parking is a Problem

Nov. 17 at 1:29:54 p.m.

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.

**Sidelines opinions page**  
[Sahyd-lahyns uh-pin-yuhns pey]

—noun

1. A section within the biweekly publication Sidelines, based in Murfreesboro, Tenn., that provides a voice for those who are in some way associated with Middle Tennessee State University and the outlying community. The editors of the section are known for urging those with opinions to e-mail them to [slopinio@mtsu.edu](mailto:slopinio@mtsu.edu) and include their names and phone numbers for verification.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

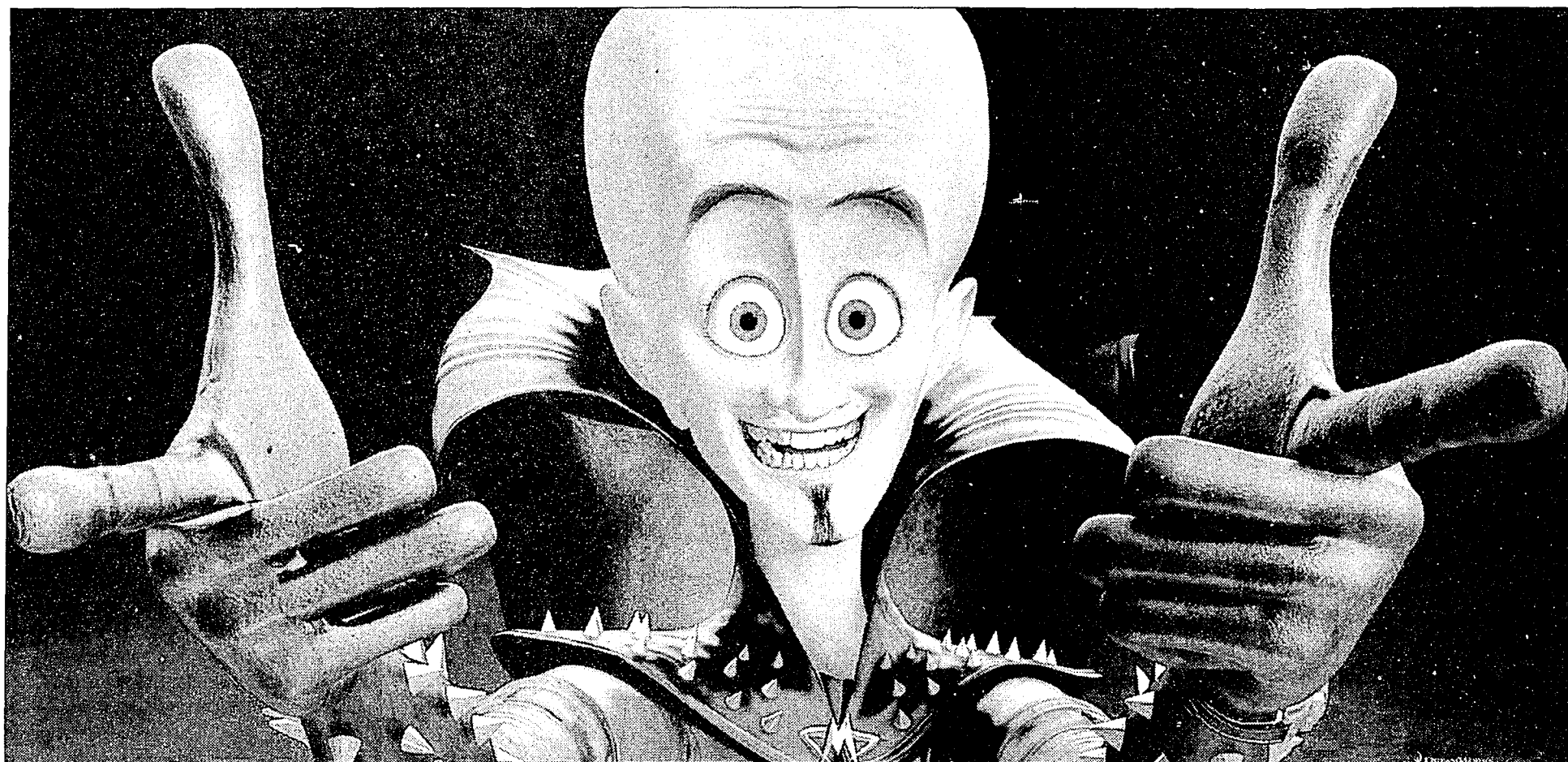


Photo courtesy of Dreamworks Animation  
Super villain Megamind (above), voiced by Will Ferrell, is the star of DreamWorks' newest film "Megamind," released in theaters Friday, Nov. 5, 2010.

## 'Megamind' great for all

By ROZALIND RUTH  
Arts and Entertainment Editor

DreamWorks Animation SKG did it again: "Megamind" is heart wrenching but will still make audiences laugh out loud.

However, that's not what is surprising about "Megamind." Its plot twists, great characters and funny gags, while appealing to the youngsters, definitely make it place for those adults who love a good movie.

It's amazing how the trend in kids' movies is to try and appeal to adults, and "Megamind" is no exception to this fashion. There's more to this story than a simple battle of good versus evil - it's much more intricate.

The filmmakers take very complex feelings, situations and relationships, make them into motifs, and then string those together into themes for the younger audience. In writing the movie in this way,

DreamWorks makes a film that is sure to be a fantastic experience for all.

Even the plot with a twist can end up being predictable. After watching the previews for this movie, one would expect the story to stay the same, but that it would be told from a different perspective - that doesn't happen. One would also think while watching this movie that it could be a simple solution of the bad guy seeing the error of his ways and just changing things - that didn't happen either.

Instead, this plot twists and turns into something that will keep even the most skeptical amused. The only thing predictable in "Megamind" is the promise of a happy ending, but how it gets there is a very enjoyable experience.

It's not just the story of "Megamind" that makes it so remarkable. The sight and sound of it make for a great encounter. The imagination of the inventions made

by the character Megamind, voiced by the hilarious Will Ferrell, and the beautiful way they are designed says something about the genius of the animators. Everything from the skin tone of the main character, to the way the hair of the leading lady, played by Tina Fey, falls to the slight poof of a secondary character make the visual experience exciting.

Speaking of appealing to an older audience, the soundtrack of classic rock, well... rocks. The bad-assery of AC/DC is universal. It'll make anyone want to drive fast, stomp to the beat, and just do all around bad things.

As with most kids' movies released in the past five years, "Megamind" is perfect for everyone. Let's not think of these as just for the youngsters anymore. It's just a good movie that every demographic can enjoy and take away more than just a couple of entertaining hours.

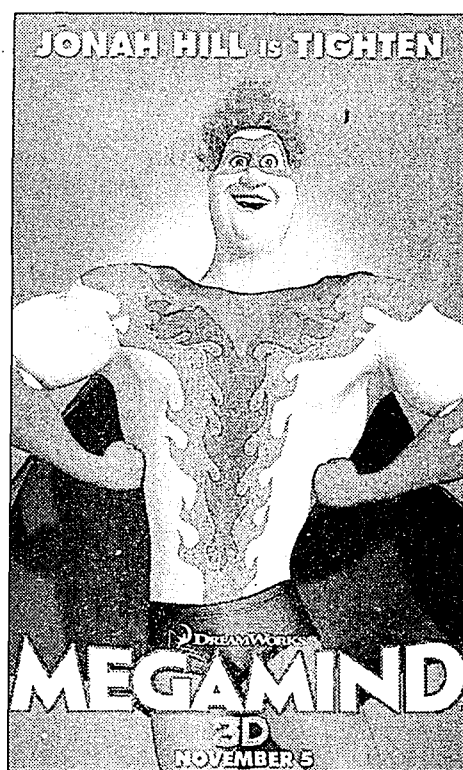


Photo courtesy of Dreamworks Animation  
Jonah Hill voices superhero hopeful Tighthen, who plays opposite Megamind in DreamWorks' newest animated film.

## Xbox Kinect engages audiences' tactile senses

By DIETRICH STOGNER  
Contributing Writer

Four years after Nintendo introduced the Wii to millions of homes, Microsoft has released its own motion control system. The Xbox 360 Kinect, released in the United States on Nov. 4, uses motion sensors, facial recognition and voice commands to create a unique approach to gaming.

The Kinect is described by Microsoft as a "natural user interface," designed to eliminate the need for a handheld controller. When installed, it sits either above or below your television, and uses 3-D depth sensors and a conventional camera to scan the room and the body of the player. Using this information, the Kinect can precisely track the position of players' entire body, including their arms and legs.

When playing "Kinect Adventures," a collection of games that is included with Kinect, the motion tracking is impressive. One of the games places players' digital avatar on a platform, which is hurtling down a track. On the way, obstacles pop into the path, forcing a player to jump, duck, bob and weave to avoid them. As the players jump in front of their television, their avatar matches each player's moves with little to no delay. Reaching out to grab tokens, swatting a ball hurtling toward a player's head, and stepping around the room to burst bubbles all work beautifully.

Facial recognition is a feature that hasn't been seen on a home video game console. When players step in front of Kinect while in a game, the camera scans their faces, and then matches it to a previous scan completed during setup. Within seconds, the Xbox 360 identifies each player, logs into that person's profile, and enters them into the game. Any achievements are logged under that respective profile, and saved games are individually identified. This replaces an old method that required navigating a number of menus.

Voice recognition rounds out the features that Kinect offers, and it's an impressive feature. While playing the children's game "Kinectimals," the player can speak trick commands to the baby tiger on screen, such as sit and play dead. The response is immediate and impressive. The digital ani-

mal responds to spoken commands quickly, with very few moments of confusion.

The voice recognition also works on the video playback function. By simply speaking the words, "Xbox, play," the video immediately starts. Other standard commands work as well, allowing a player to pause, stop, rewind, and fast forward with a spoken command. Other menus in the Xbox 360 interface respond to voice instructions, and Microsoft plans to use software updates to expand the usability of the vocal commands.

However, a few factors may give gamers pause before purchasing. At \$150 for just the Kinect, the price is considerably high and doesn't include the cost of an Xbox 360, which is currently \$199 to \$299, depending on the model. The Kinect also requires a large amount of space, both to scan properly and to avoid injury or damaged equipment during game play. The manual asks for a minimum of 6 feet distance from the television to be clear of furniture, which might be a problem for small apartments and homes, and it will definitely be an issue in dorm rooms.

The games available for the Kinect are sparse, at least for now. Sixteen launch titles have been announced, but the majority are collections of minigames or exercise games similar to "Wii Fit." The best-received game so far is "Dance Central," a game developed by Harmonix, who are best known for the popular "Rock Band" franchise. "Dance Central" has the player learn various dance moves, stringing them together to a collection of popular dance music. While "Dance Central" has gotten excellent reviews, it may not appeal to fans of more adult games, such as first-person shooters and sports games.

The Kinect is an impressive piece of technology that works exactly the way it has been advertised. With such a diverse set of tools, there is little doubt that game developers will find new and exciting approaches to playing video games that have never been done before. However, until a more diverse catalog of games is available, most Xbox 360 owners should probably wait. The price will eventually come down, the games will eventually hit the shelves, and the Kinect will eventually become a major part of console gaming.

## SIDEWORDS

The weekly *Sidelines* crossword puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15									16					
17									18					
19					20				21			22		
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57			58	59			60				61	62		
63							64							
65							66							

Crossword courtesy of bestcrosswords.com

### ACROSS

1- Vegetable; 10- Flax refuse; 15- Male sweetheart; 16- Bed down; 17- Reversed; 18- Aquarium fish; 19- \_\_\_ Cruces; 20- "Siddhartha" author; 22- Deserter; 23- Analogous; 25- Missing; 28- Gambling state; 31- Conveyance; 33- Volcano in Antarctica; 34- Sparkling; 35- Like a snail's shell; 37- Harlot; 41- Go by; 46- Mosaic pieces; 47- Continue; 48- Diners; 49- Banned apple spray; 50- Alias letters; 51- Bar, legally; 56- Hindu title; 57- Lobster state; 60- Marked with minute creases; 63- Everglades bird; 64- Floods; 65- Orchestra section; 66- Will;

### DOWN

1- Skyway; 2- Athletic shoe; 3- Inactive; 4- Roadie's burden; 5- Fish eggs; 6- Flatfoot's lack; 7- Movable barrier; 8- Salt Lake City hoopsters; 9- Lays down the lawn; 10- DDE's predecessor; 11- Bass, e.g.; 12- Strategic withdrawal; 13- Make insane; 14- Splash; 21- Prior; 24- Apprehend; 26- Horse restraint; 27- Join a poker game; 29- Cloth for cleaning horizontal surfaces; 30- Slender; 31- Chili con \_\_\_; 32- "...and seven years \_\_\_"; 36- 401(k) alternative; 37- Vegetable appliance; 38- Act of leaking; 39- "Silk Stockings" star; 40- Half a fly; 42- Botanist Gray; 43- Throb; 44- Improve in appearance; 45- Most strange; 52- Split; 53- Fork feature; 54- Burden; 55- Confined; 58- Actor Beatty; 59- Aliens, for short; 61- Harem room; 62- Flight;

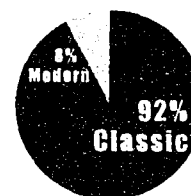
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P	I	L	L	O	R	A	T	E	V	A	S	E		
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# FEATURES



WHICH GENERATION OF VAMPIRE BITES THE BEST: CLASSIC OR MODERN?  
BASED ON VOTES FROM MTSUSIDELINES.COM.

## Unique singer charts interactive path

By TAYLOR HIXSON  
Staff Writer

Lights. Snowmen. Action. People familiar with Murfreesboro's house show scene may remember seeing the Terror Pigeon Dance Revolt! this summer before the band kicked off its West Coast tour. The living room was chaos as people danced away the 100 degree day, wearing costumes and singing along ironically to the song "Snowday!"

Neil Fridd, the founding and only permanent member of Terror Pigeon's revolving lineup, is back in Murfreesboro not for another high-energy, interactive show, but he is gearing up to record some new songs for the world to dance to.

Hailing from Rochester, N.Y., or the "land of a thousand broken dreams" as he calls it, Fridd is setting up shop in a friend's bedroom for a month to record his sophomore album, "I Still Want This for Us."

Tyler Walker, a senior majoring in recording industry management, and Hank Pruett are local musicians, while Joe Volmer, Russell White and Janelle Jones are in town from New York to record with Fridd.

"I like the things that they've recorded and released - I'm hoping for similar results," Fridd says, wearing an oversized sweater covered with flags of the world.

Recording in a house is much cheaper than a studio, Walker says. He's letting the band record in his bedroom.

"He also knows that we're intelligible about recording because of our degrees at MTSU," Walker says.

Fridd, 23, officially started Terror Pigeon during his junior year



Photo courtesy of Amber Duarte  
Neil Fridd of Terror Pigeon Dance Revolt!, a performance art party band, sports a green dinosaur costume July 23, 2010, while performing at a house show in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

at Purchase College in New York. Although he was a sculpture major, Fridd always wanted to play music. What started as Fridd playing organ in his parents' basement as a teenager, yelling about an ex-girlfriend, eventually turned into the insane, dance collective that it is today.

Terror Pigeon's first full-length album: "I LOVE YOU! I LOVE YOU! I LOVE YOU AND I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU! HAVE AN AWESOME DAY! HAVE THE BEST DAY OF YOUR LIFE!" was simple and self explanatory.

But the newest addition will be more complex, and Fridd says he's ready for the challenge of recording a new album.

"The first album I like a lot, and I'm proud of it, but most of the songs are like the same four

chords the entire song," Fridd says. "All the songs are much more complicated structurally, have more instruments playing, and I think overall makes for a more rewarding record."

Fridd is signed to David Byrne's Luaka Bop label. "I Still Want This for Us" is a succession to where the first album left off, Fridd says, describing his continuation as an autobiographical arc.

Terror Pigeon's songs are mostly about making out, friends, the movie "Angus," and "hauntings." The band plays optimistic, upbeat and fun dance music.

But, the sound alone is nothing unique, he admits.

"On the album, it's pretty good - I think live is where it takes on a sort of unusual manifestation

in the way that it's sort of like a community, almost like church," Fridd asserts.

He makes his live performances interactive by offering costumes to the audience, encouraging dancing, and giving everyone something to sing.

"It is much more of a giant costume, Halloween party with all your friends," he says. "It's about you and the people you love singing and dancing and not about me or The Edge from U2 or M.I.A."

It's just about party time, Fridd adds.

Jenna Puckett, a senior in the University College, met Fridd two summers ago when she was touring with the Murfreesboro band Blastoids.

"If you get a chance to see them it's the best show you'll

see all year," Puckett says about Terror Pigeon. "It's like the old Spree commercials: It's a kick in the mouth."

Terror Pigeon travels with an elaborate set that includes homemade lighting made out of giant snowmen, a string of teddy bears that read "I like you," and an enormous blanket attached with Christmas lights that is thrown over the audience to dance under.

"I spend a ton of time building all of the lights and things," Fridd reveals. "I just made this big 14 person costume that lights up."

The band's unique method of performing has been increasing in popularity in his home state of New York. He's had two reviews in The New York Times commending his originality. Fridd laughs as he mentions one review's placement in the home and garden section.

"I still don't really know why it was in the home and garden section," Fridd confesses.

He reasons that it was because of the elaborate set he built for this year's New Year's Eve event: history of the world.

Each band portrayed a different time period.

Hope Collins, a senior majoring in anthropology, was touring with Blastoids last winter when she saw Terror Pigeon play the New Year's Eve extravaganza.

"It was epic," Collins says.

Collins, who keeps in touch with Fridd, is excited for him to be recording in Murfreesboro.

"He's a really fun person to be around, not just in costume and playing, but also just to hang out with," she says. "He's really true to what he does."

## Students shine their creative, poetic light

By BECCA ANDREWS  
Assistant News Editor

Every week at the Swan Performing Arts Center writers can be found baring their souls to an intimate audience.

Two of the writers are regulars at the center - Taffeta O'Neal, a senior majoring in English, and Matthew Forman, a senior majoring in university studies.

Taffeta, also known as "Taffie," had her first book published at the age of 18. "Stoodie" is a futuristic young adult novel that depicts a very different sort of education system in which most children absorb knowledge through synthetic synapses at night.

However, when the synthetic synapses fail, the child has to go to traditional school and is given the derogatory name of "stoodie."

O'Neal read passages from her novel at the last "Open Mic Night" the center hosted, along with several poems and a short story that was published in Collage, MTSU's literary journal that is published biannually.

"I've been writing pretty much since I could write," O'Neal says of her passion.

Her involvement with the center doesn't stop at poetry readings. Her book is for sale in the Swan Performing Arts Center gift shop, and she plans to teach some creative writing workshops there in the spring for inner-city school children.

"I really like that writing is something that can be done anywhere at any time, with no string attached," O'Neal professes. "My goal in life is to really keep writing."

Matthew Forman plays a key role in the center. His friendship with the founder of the center, Barry Hardy, has led to his customer service position there.

Forman says when Hardy shared with him his vision for the center, he felt "God telling him" to work with Hardy to reach the impoverished community where the center is located.

According to the website for the center, the group "provides inspiration and encouragement to today's families through the performing arts, while sharing the love and compassion of Jesus Christ throughout our community."

While the center has the values of a Christian organization, Forman makes it

clear that anyone is welcome to come and share in art and community.

"Our beliefs are our own," Forman says profoundly.

He also says the organization hopes to take the arts to at-risk children throughout Rutherford County. Both Hardy and Forman have backgrounds in education at the high school levels.

Hardy taught high school drama at one point, and Forman stepped in and taught a high school finance class when the teacher went on maternity leave.

"If a school doesn't have the money for a field trip, we will bring the theater to them," Forman says resolutely.

As a writer, Forman refers to his art as his "therapy." After his wife of seven years died unexpectedly of a heart attack last year, he says the only way he knew how to cope with it was to write.

The product of his pain is a single work titled "Triptic in Memorium," which consists of three separate poems that were written over a 10-month period.

He says it's his "grieving process." He began writing in 1990, while serving in the U.S. Air Force during Desert Storm as a means of dealing with life in the Middle East.

His first book, a poetic memoir that reminisces of his time spent in the Persian Gulf, will be published this spring.

The Swan Performing Arts Center has also undergone substantial changes since its creation 16 years ago. It has gone from being on the 15th floor of the NHC building in downtown Murfreesboro to its temporary home in a local church on Park Avenue.

The organization is currently about to begin renovations on the old ribbon factory in the same area as the church for its permanent home. Through an anonymous donor, Forman and Hardy were able to secure the building, and construction begins next week.

Forman calls it "God's provision" and is optimistic about the fundraising efforts to complete the project.

"We still need about \$150,000," Forman said. "We've made it this far."

This creative corner in Murfreesboro stands as a temporary home for all those willing to express their inner literary voice, like a free-expression sanctuary built on rhymes, haikus and fiction.

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