

Photo courtesy of Lawrence Jackson, White House Media Affairs
President Barack Obama delivers his State of the Union address in the House Chamber at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 25, 2011.

First-generation college students face unique challenges

By AMANDA HAGGARD
Associate News Editor

First-generation students make up 40 percent of incoming college freshman, yet there are few clear studies on their unique struggles, said Tara Perrin, a graduate student majoring in sociology.

Perrin is writing her master's thesis on the result of a shifting family dynamic while a student attends college and how those relationships can affect a student's higher education, according to a MTSU press release.

Students said their parents either do not appreciate the demands of college or put extra pressure on them to be successful.

"I think what [first-generation students] see are hurdles that other students don't see because they don't exist for those other students, those who come from families that have a fairly high level of education," Steve Saunders, interim director of the McNair Program at MTSU, said in a press release.

The McNair Program is a federally funded program that aims to help low-income and first-generation students plan for doctoral programs.

"My parents always told me I would go to college," said Warren Tillman, a senior majoring in business. "It's very important to them that I go to college and do very well while I'm here."

Tillman said his parents constantly remind him of the privilege of getting a higher education.

"Sometimes I don't answer my phone when they call," Tillman said. "I know they mean well, but sometimes they stress me out more than school does."

"For some people, it's a really smooth transition, and, for others, it's a very, very difficult transition to go to school and to stay in school because your family can be quite antagonistic toward you," Perrin said.

Perrin decided to research how "students handle the challenges of their unique educational lives" because of a documentary she viewed about a family who treated their daughter poorly because of her choice to go to college.

Perrin, a first-generation student, said she had her parents' full support in her education.

Some students have not been so lucky. "My mother is very supportive," said Nikki Miller, a sophomore majoring in writing. "However, my father is not. He makes comments about how I quit my job and moved away from home."

Miller said she understands why her father feels the way he does, but that she doesn't feel supported the way some of her fellow students do.

"I'm from a really small town in Kentucky," Miller said. "I moved nearly five hours away from home to go to school here...and sometimes I feel very alone."

While staging her qualitative research, Perrin is using current academic data and pairing it with her

Students skeptical of Obama policies

By BECCA ANDREWS
News Editor

An overwhelming majority of students said they were apathetic about politics and President Barack Obama's State of the Union address, and they doubt he will follow up on his promises.

One in four of the 50 students who participated in an unscientific poll by *Sidelines* said they did not watch the State of the Union Address.

"I don't want to hear the bulls**," said Kemmian Beard, a senior majoring

in political science. "Ninety percent of it is smoke and mirrors."

In the address, Obama spoke on issues such as the health care bill, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, education and the economy. He also expressed hopes of "usher[ing] in a new era of cooperation."

Obama said that he believes the worst of the recession and said "the final critical step in winning the future is to make sure we aren't buried under a mountain of debt."

Luke Quarto, a senior majoring in English, said

he didn't watch Obama's address because he doesn't feel that there is anything he can do.

"I don't feel invested," Quarto said.

Doubt in Obama's plan of action was echoed all around campus. From Peck Hall to the Business and Aerospace building to Walker Library, no one said they believed in Obama's efforts.

Tori Cox, a junior majoring in pre-radiation therapy, described Obama's speech as "candy-coated."

"I agreed more with

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Photo courtesy of Pete Souza, White House Media Affairs
(Above) President Barack Obama delivers his State of the Union address in the House Chamber at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 25, 2011.

To win at college, be 'weird'

By TODD BARNES
Associate News Editor

Students received instructions during a seminar, "How to win at the game of college" yesterday on prepare for the "real world" through the experience of Ryan Otter, assistant professor of biology.

Students should use the "be weird" strategy to better prepare for their career, meaning that they should embrace being a nerd, use their gut feeling and take themselves seriously, Otter said.

"If you start talking about big goals and 'what I want to do long term' and 'what I want to do in classes,' you know what you're going to feel like on a college campus?" Otter asked. "You're going to feel really weird."

Each year in the United States, three million new freshman enroll in college but less than 50 percent will graduate within six years, and students should not expect four years to be the norm, Otter said.

"To feel comfortable with that," Otter said, "you've got to be comfortable being weird."

There are key differences in career and college terminology. A job is not a career, a teacher is not a professor and a school is not a college, and students need to realize the definitions behind these words, Otter said.

"It's confusing to your mind," Otter said, "if you start inter-changing those words."

Otter proceeded to give his advice on how students should go about finding

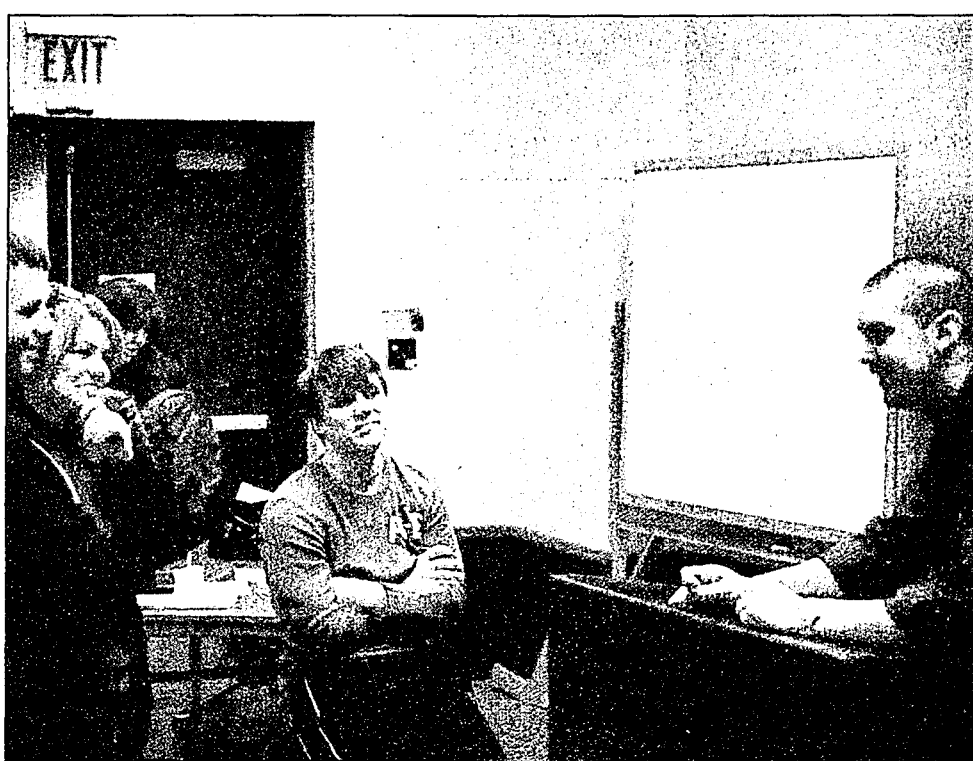


Photo by Todd Barnes, associate news editor
Students gather to ask questions after listening to Ryan Otter, assistant professor of biology, lecture on "How to Win at the Game of College" on Jan. 26, 2011, which was held in the State Farm Room of the Business and Aerospace Building.

their career and executing the motions to achieve their goals by reflecting on his personal experience as a student.

Students that need help with what they want to do as a career should go online to every college website and explore all majors as a checklist on their interests by the method of using their gut feeling, Otter said.

"Tap into your gut," Otter said. "Stop

thinking and rationalizing everything and just tap into yourself a little bit."

When students finish their checklist, they should explore the professors within that major and look at their credentials and interests on the college website, Otter said.

Otter added if those interests fit the

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EXCLUSIVELY ONLINE



Watch our video coverage of students competing to be the next MT IDOL.
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WEATHER



THURSDAY
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National gas prices continue to rise

By AMANDA HAGGARD
Associate News Editor

Gas prices in Tennessee have risen 12 percent since last year and a third of a percent in the last week alone, according to a GasBuddy press release.

The national average is up 17 percent. "I definitely spend more money on gas than I did this time last year," said Kayla Burnette, a Motlow State Community College sophomore majoring in physical sciences.

Burnette said last year she spent \$35 to fill her tank while now it takes almost \$50.

The Federal Trade Commission has tips on their website on how to save money at the gas pump. The driver should follow the manual recommended octane level for the vehicle that is in use. Most cars require regular octane gas. According to the website, using a higher octane gas is in no way beneficial and only costs more money.

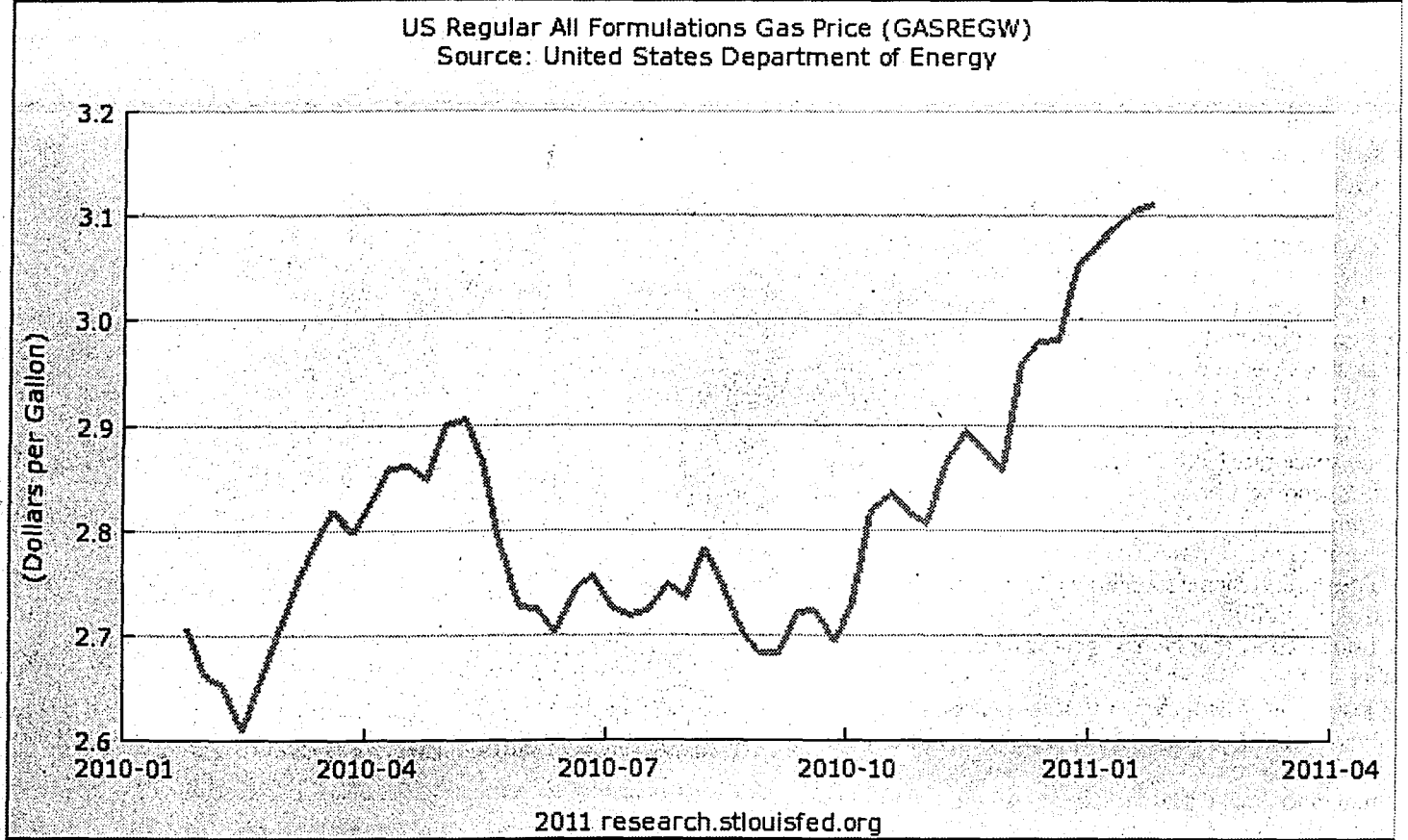
"Gas costs me a lot of money," said Nick Taylor, a freshman majoring in nursing. "I work 30 hours a week and eat at home to save money for gas."

Taylor also said he spends nearly \$15 more per fill-up than he did last January.

The site also warns against using "gas-saving gadgets." The Environmental Protection Agency has tested supposed devices that are meant to save drivers gas and has ruled them virtually ineffective. Some products were even found to cause damage to cars.

"My truck takes a lot of gas," Taylor said. "I put gas in a couple times a week, but I'm looking for a car with better gas mileage now because it's getting to where I can't afford it."

Fueleconomy.gov has "driving more efficiently" posted as a way to save gas. Aggressive driving wastes gas and can lower gas mileage by 33 percent at highway speeds and by 5 percent



Graph courtesy of the Federal Reserve of St. Louis, Mo.

Gas prices have steadily risen over the past year, and analysts predict the average cost of a barrel of oil will continue to increase.

around town. The website recommends removing excess weight, avoiding excessive idling, using cruise control and using overdrive gears.

"I don't really keep up with gas because my dad pays for it," said Katharine Greely, a senior majoring in mathematics. "He meets me once a week to fill my tank and I have to make it stretch until I can meet up with him again."

Greely said her roommate's parents made her roommate trade her Jeep in for a car with better gas mileage due to the inflated prices.

Keeping the engine properly tuned, tires inflated and using the recommended grade of motor oil are also ways to conserve gas, according to fueleconomy.gov.



Photo by Sarah Finchum, photography assistant
Kayla Burnette pumps gas Jan. 26, 2011, at the Wal-Mart gas station on Rutherford Boulevard.

iPhone software offers new safety application

STAFF REPORT

The New iPhone application NightAlly leads the way in personal safety devices with its new "shake technology," designed to make emergency calls user-friendly, according to a Marketwire press release.

"If you are out on the street or at a bus stop alone at night and encounter someone who is making you feel uneasy or threatened, the last thing you should do is [shift] your focus off the situation to try and punch the right keys on your phone," said Robert Smith, president of Ally Inc., in a press release.

The software works when a user "pre-arms" an iPhone and then shakes it when approached in the dark or is in danger. The phone will flash bright lights and make an extremely loud alarm noise.

In the past, security applications for personal digital assistants and cell phones have required the user to push buttons in order to activate the alarm.

Joy Parks, Smith's partner in creating NightAlly, said in a press release that she was told in college to buy pepper-spray and a whistle to use in case she was accosted.

"During my first year in the university, there were some attacks on campus," Parks said. "I knew that if I felt threatened, nerves would make my mouth too dry to blow the whistle and I wouldn't have the presence of mind to find the pepper spray."

Parks also said if NightAlly had existed when she was in college, she would have felt more at ease walking at night.

Ally, the company who produced NightAlly, said the application would soon have added sounds, flashes, flares and auto-dialing for pre-designated numbers like 9-1-1.

"We're looking to define the category of Personal Safety Assistant on the iPhone and smartphone platform," Smith said. "This is only the beginning."

CRIME BRIEFS

Alcohol

Jan. 22, 2:48 a.m.
MacFarland Health Services Lot
Chad Parker, 19, was arrested for underage consumption of alcohol. Kristen Dylewski, 19, Matthew Gordon, 19, and Samuel Tatum, 20, were each issued a State Citation for underage consumption of alcohol.

Fire Alarm

Jan. 22, 2:19 p.m.
James Union Building
The fire alarm was activated by burned food and the Murfreesboro Fire Department cleared the building.

Theft

Jan. 22, 7:24 p.m.
Judd Hall
Victim reported that his bike had been stolen. It had not been locked to the rack.

Fire Alarm

Jan. 22, 9:07 p.m.
Murphy Center
The men's visitor locker room's smoke detector was activated.

Weapon

Jan. 23, 2:02 a.m.
Sims Hall
Officers assisted Residential Life with a resident who had a knife that violated the campus weapon policy; Residential Life confiscated the weapon and will handle the disciplinary action.

Fire Alarm

Jan. 23, 4:01 a.m.
Sigma Alpha Epsilon House- Greek Row
An individual pulled a fire alarm inside the fraternity house and was subsequently removed from campus.

Vandalism

Jan. 23, 5:35 p.m.
Cummings Annex Lot
Victim reported that his car had been kicked in the Cummings parking lot.

Traffic

Jan. 23, 11:33 p.m.
Off Campus
Brandon Elder, 21, was issued a State Citation for an expired registration and financial responsibility.

Traffic

Jan. 23, 11:37 p.m.
Blue Raider Drive
Nilsen Johnson, 20, was issued a State Citation for failure to obey a traffic control device, registration violation, financial responsibility, and misuse of tag, he was also given a Criminal Trespass Warning.

Drug Abuse

Jan. 24, 1:41 a.m.
Felder Hall
Seth Smith, 19, was issued a State Citation for simple possession of marijuana.

Vandalism

Jan. 24, 6:03 p.m.
Corral Lot
Victim reported that her vehicle had been vandalized on Jan. 21.

Traffic

Jan. 23, 11:37 p.m.
Blue Raider Drive
Nilsen Johnson, 20, was issued a State Citation for failure to obey a traffic control device, registration violation, financial responsibility, and misuse of tag, he was also given a Criminal Trespass Warning.

LOCAL EVENTS

On Campus

SPORTS:

Men's Tennis vs. Morehead State
Jan. 29, 12 p.m.

Buck Bouldin Tennis Court
FREE

Men's Basketball vs. UL Monroe

Feb. 3, 7 p.m.

Murphy Center
FREE

Women's Basketball vs. ULM

Feb. 2, 7 p.m.

Murphy Center
FREE

CONCERTS:

Flute Festival

Jan. 29

Wright Music Building
FREE

Stones River Chamber Players

Jan. 31, 7:30 p.m.

Wright Music Building
FREE

"Solving Immigration: The Truth Is Out There"

Jan. 27, 7 p.m.

Business & Aerospace Building
Room S102
FREE

"The Mother: Goddess Figurine Problem of the European Paleolithic"
Jan. 31, 3 p.m.

University Honors College
Room 106
FREE

STUDENT LIFE:

MT Idol Tryouts

Jan. 27-28, 4-6 p.m.

KUC Theatre
FREE

Master Swim Club Bake Sale

Jan. 27, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

KUC 2nd Floor Lobby
FREE

Solving Illegal Immigration

Jan. 27, 7-9 p.m.

BAS State Farm Room
FREE

Video Game Night

Jan. 28, 4 p.m.

KUC 2nd Floor Lounge
FREE

Monthly Cultural Meal

Jan. 28, 7-9 p.m.

1105 E. Bell Street
FREE

CONCERTS:

Max Beizer

Jan. 27, 8 p.m.

12th & Porter
Tickets: \$5

Lauren Mazur

Jan. 27, 8 p.m.

Bonhoefers
Tickets: FREE

From Pieces

Jan. 28, 7 p.m.

The Muse
Tickets: \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door

Yonder Mountain String Band

Jan. 28, 7 p.m.

Mercy Lounge
Tickets: \$20

Liz Phair

Jan. 30, 8 p.m.

The Cannery Ballroom
Tickets: \$18

Edwin McCain

Jan. 30, 8 p.m.

3rd and Lindsley Bar & Grill
Tickets: \$20

Events:

Sundance Film Festival

Jan. 27, 7 p.m.

Belcourt Theater
Tickets: \$15

Performing Arts:

Joy Koy

Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m.

Zanny's Comedy Showplace
Tickets: \$20 - \$23

Blue Collar Comedy Tour

Jan. 28, 7 p.m.

Bridgestone Arena
Tickets: \$94 - \$135

Art Making in the Lobby: Southern Sweet Poetry

Jan. 27, 6 p.m.

Frist Center for the Visual Arts
FREE

Events Policy

Sidelines welcomes current campus and community events submitted by all readers. Please e-mail events to sicampus@mts.edu or snews@mts.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.

Intensity of youth vote begins to dwindle despite past enthusiasm

SPEECH FROM PAGE 1

the Republican rebuttal than I did the actual address," Cox said.

Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, focused on the idea of slashing government spending and said he was not hopeful in regards to the nation's fiscal health during the rebuttal.

"We face a crushing burden of debt," Ryan said in the Republican's post-address rebuttal. "Obama compared the U.S.'s economy and education systems to those of other countries and described this point in time as 'our generation's Sputnik' moment."

"Two years ago, I said that we needed to reach a level of research and development we haven't seen since the height of the space race," Obama said. "And, in a few weeks I will be sending a budget to Congress that helps us meet that goal."

Shaun Luber, a junior majoring in political science, said he thinks Obama is making promises that he cannot realistically fulfill.

"I don't know that he has the means to do [all of] it," Luber said.

Obama promised the American people during the address that 80 percent of the nation's electricity will come from clean energy sources. He said he plans to ask Congress to "make permanent our tuition tax credit—worth \$10,000 for four years of college." He said that this plan was "the right thing to do."

Obama peppered his speech with phrases like "we have to do better" and "we will move forward together."

Caleb McFadden said that although Obama seemed to be trying to reassure viewers, the speech came across as shallow.

"I just didn't see a lot of substance," McFadden said.

Jake Luna, a senior majoring in English said he approved of Obama's reference of the nation being an "American family."

"We need to be pushing back to family values," Luna said. "Here in America, we are driven by the desire to further our own success."

Prannay Ved, a senior majoring in marketing, said he agrees with Obama's political stance on major issues "wholeheartedly."

"I'm hopeful [for change], but unsure," Ved said.

Obama proposed that "we freeze the annual domestic spending for the next five years," and acknowledged that this move would "require painful cuts."

Ericka Jones, a junior majoring in business, said that Obama is a good speaker and all of his plans sound good, but it is all "just for show."

Paul Keiss, a senior majoring in music business, shares Jones' viewpoint.

"It's all empty talk, I don't trust politicians," Keiss said. "I thought there was a lot of good stuff [in the address], but I don't think he'll follow through."

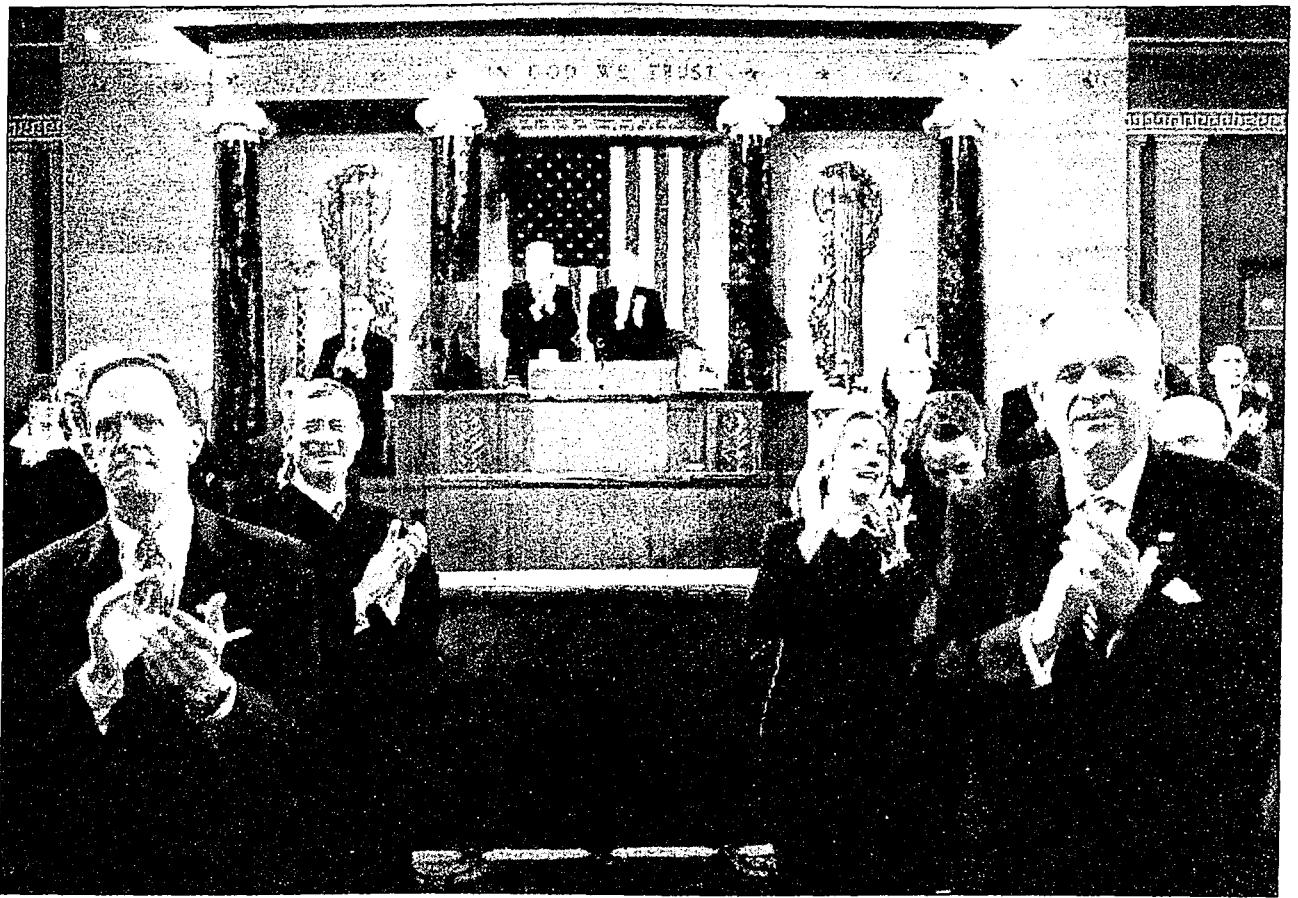


Photo courtesy of: Pete Souza, White House Media Affairs
From left: Sen. Patrick Toomey, R-Pa., Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, and Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood applaud as President Barack Obama enters the House Chamber to deliver his State of the Union address at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 25, 2011.



Photos courtesy of: Pete Souza, White House Media Affairs
(Above) A member of Congress wearing a ribbon in support of Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., reads along as President Barack Obama delivers the State of the Union address in the House Chamber at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 25, 2011.

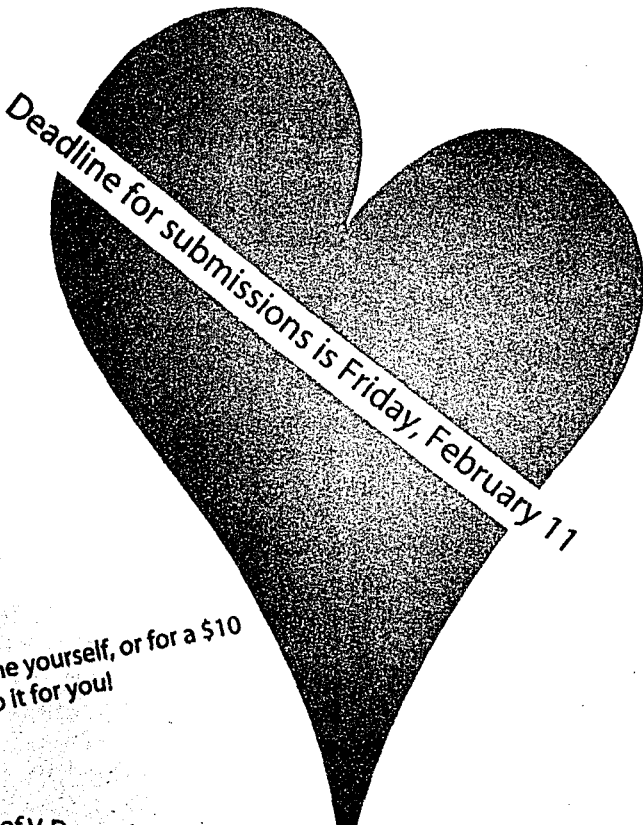


(Right) President Barack Obama stands with Members of Congress in House Speaker John Boehner's ceremonial office as Bill Livingood, House Sergeant at Arms (Left) and Terrance Gainer, Senate Sergeant at Arms (Right) prepare to escort them onto the floor of the House Chamber at the U.S. Capitol, on Jan. 25, 2011.

Jordan Mitchell contributed reporting.

Cupid's List

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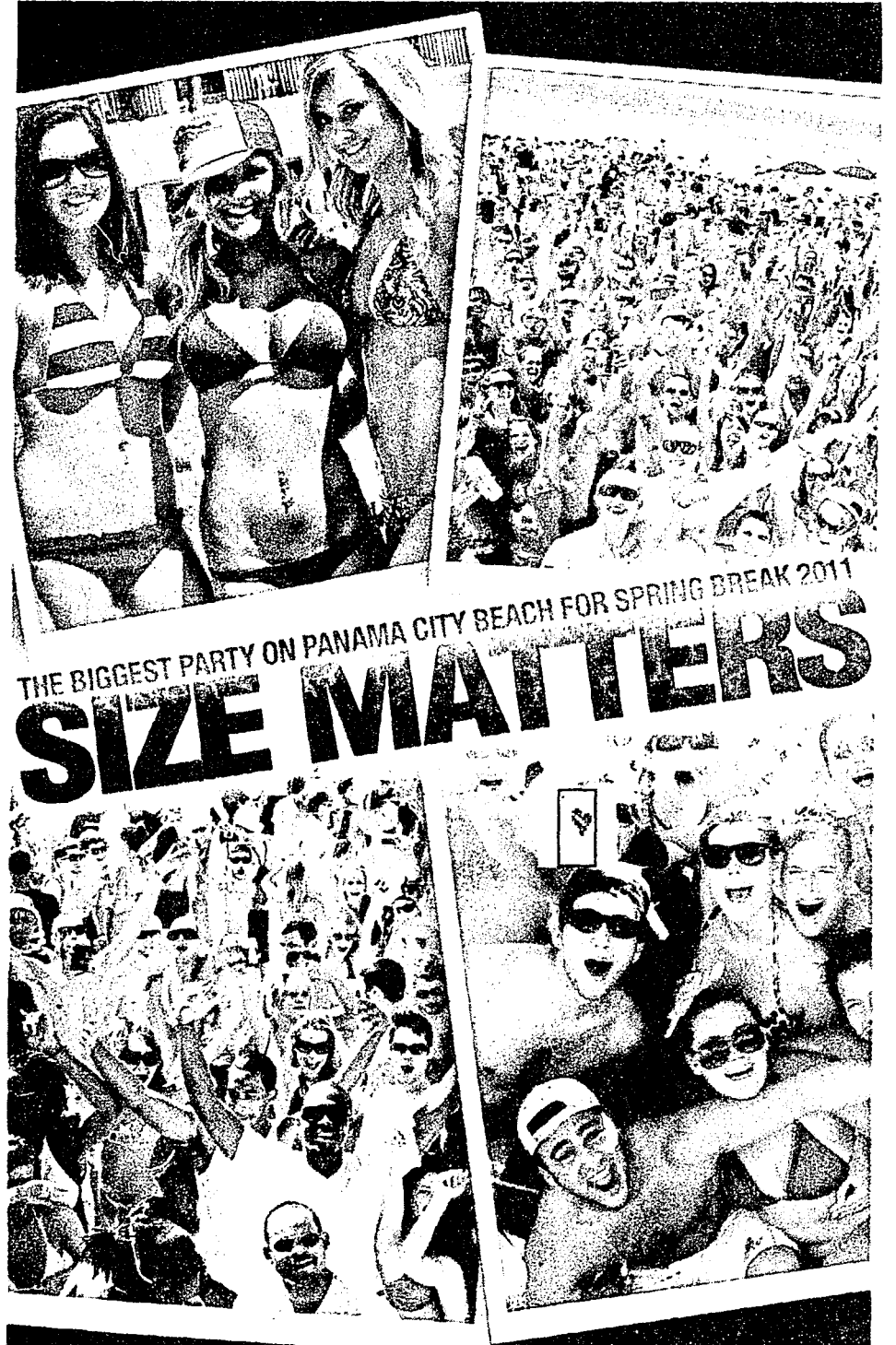
Send content to Becca Brown at mtsusidelinesads@gmail.com, or call 615-904-8357

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*Valentine-related content only

*We reserve the right to edit all submissions for grammar, length, and content

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3.26 in. X 2.63 in.
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Without family support additional hurdles remain

COLLEGE FROM PAGE 1

interviews with students. The studies and research she found while preparing her thesis were often quantitative, including information about grade-point averages, retention rates, and graduation rates, while rarely taking into account the student's experience or family situation, Perrin said. "Without really hearing qualitative stories about their struggles and how they deal with things and how these instances do come out, I feel like the [research literature is] really lacking in that regard," Perrin said.

In one of the few qualitative studies Perrin found, one student's parents condemned her for playing classical music in the home. The student said her parents resented what they thought was an attempt to try to make her family "better."

"A lot of parents who have not been to college can't relate to what their children are doing," Saunders said. "They have no point of reference."

Saunders is a first-generation college student himself. He said students who are the first to pursue college in

their families also face stressors that students from more educated families do not understand.

First-generation students said they often worried about trying to focus on classes while finding money for food, rent and utilities.

"I would never call home and tell my parents I needed money," Miller said. "I know that my dad would just gloat and make me feel terrible."

Universities could make research easier in the future by asking students to specify on their admissions application whether they are first-generation students, Perrin said.

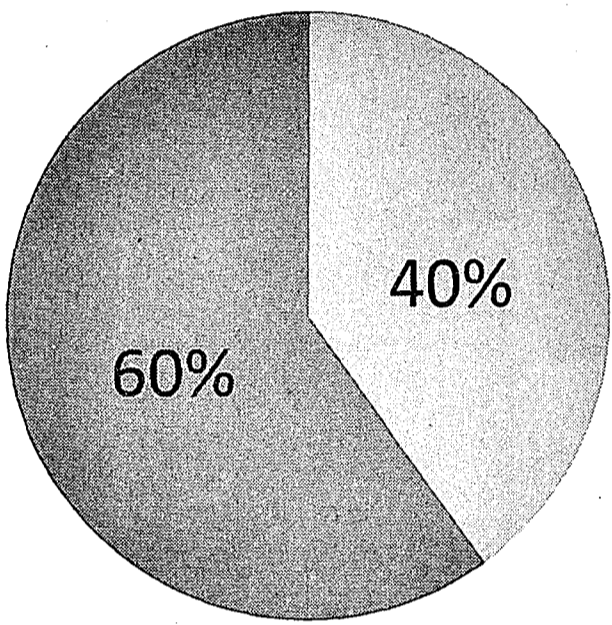
Perrin said she thinks the information gathered might even become a marketing tool that can be used to "promote the university to a potential clientele that is not necessarily targeted for solicitation," according to the press release.

"People don't come here with the goal of failing," Perrin said. "They want to be successful."

Sometimes first-generation students need a little more support in order to succeed in college and knowing who those students are is an excellent step toward achieving assistance, Perrin said.

"A lot of parents who have not been to college can't relate to what their children are doing. They have no point of reference."

STEVE SAUNDERS
INTERIM DIRECTOR OF THE MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM



■ First-generation college students

■ Traditional college students

Flute festival slated for Saturday

STAFF REPORT

The 11th annual Flute Festival aims to inspire all attendees musically and "flutistically," said Deanna Little, an associate professor of flute, in an MTSU press release.

The festival includes events, such as two flute classes taught by renowned flutist Bradley Garner, a high school flute competition with cash prizes, and a concert featuring Garner along with pianist John Steele Ritter.

"I am excited and honored to have Dr. Garner as this year's guest artist for the 2011 festival," Little said.

Garner teaches at The Juilliard School, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, Queens College and New York University. He has been described as one of the most exciting modern flutists. Garner will be a commendable addition to the festival due to his great influence in the world of music, Little said.

"He has been a truly positive influence in my life and career as a musician," Little said. "He is a dynamic performer and a highly motivating teacher."

Garner's students have held positions in prominent orchestras all over the world, including



Garner

the Berlin Philharmonic, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Korean Broadcasting Symphony and the Charlotte Symphony, along with various festivals throughout the United States and abroad.

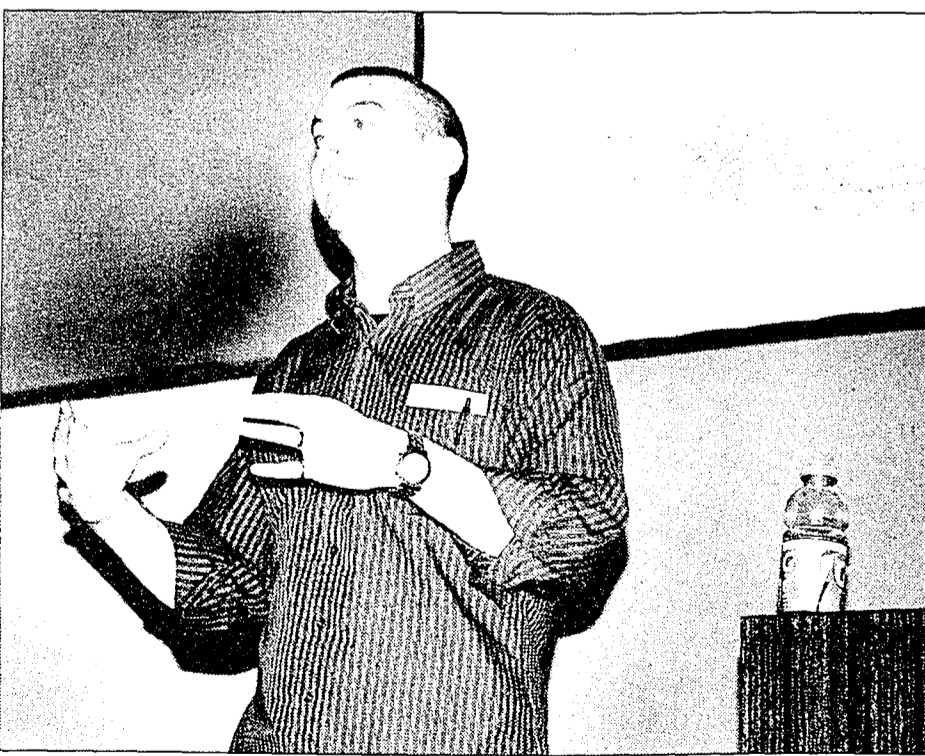
Ritter has recorded 11 classical albums and currently teaches at the College-Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Little said she is optimistic about this year's event.

"I have no doubt that this year's festival will be a true musically and 'flutistically' inspiring event," Little said.

The festival is not limited to flutists. It's open to the community. The day's events start at 9 a.m. and end with the final concert at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday in the Wright Music Building.

Weird works wonders for students adjusting to college life



Photos by Todd Barnes, associate news editor

(Above) Students listen to Ryan Otter, associate professor of biology, as he explains how they can adjust to college life and succeed Jan. 26, 2011, in the State Farm Room of the Business and Aerospace Building.

(Left) Otter speaks to more than 50 students about "How to Win at the Game of College," as part of a series of lectures he is hosting this semester, all of which will be held in the State Farm Room of the Business and Aerospace Building.

SEMINAR FROM PAGE 1

Students should then address professors professionally and ask the right questions, Otter said.

For instance, a person with an interest in the medical career should ask a medical professor what a doctor's daily routine consists of, the salary doctors make, and the perks as well as the downsides to being a doctor, Otter said.

After the student finally chooses what they are passionate about, they need to consider themselves "young professionals" and not a "student." A "student" aspires for a diploma, but "young professionals" strive to get better at what they love, Otter said.

"I advise students never to view themselves as students ever again - ever," Otter said.

William Harper, a senior majoring in environmental science, came to the seminar and said he was astonished to see Otter as the host, who had helped him previously with finding his career path.

"He took what he had given me in the past," Harper said, "and is giving it back to the community."

Harper said he once considered himself to be one of the uninformed students that Otter had spoke of in his seminar. He asked Otter how upset he was with him in the past, to which Otter replied "pretty bad," but commended Harper on his quest to find what he wanted.

"[William Harper] was seeking what [he] wanted," Otter said, "and I'm drawn to people like that."

In applying Otter's advice, Harper said he no longer doubts what he is doing right.

"Luckily, he helped steer me in the right direction," Harper said.

The seminar was only one of three seminars that Otter is holding this semester, and each seminar picks up where the other left off.

The next seminar titled, "Exploit the Expected and Unexpected Tools," will be held Feb. 23 in the State Farm Room of the Business and Aerospace Building.

SIDELINES

AND THE SEARCH FOR NEW CONTRIBUTING STAFF

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FEATURES

Giving back and flying high

By JAKE BELL
Contributing Writer

Middle Tennessee State College flight instructor Miller Lanier was suspicious when Donald McDonald taxied in after landing at the Murfreesboro Municipal Airport one day in the late '50s.

McDonald, who was learning to fly in the college's one-instructor, two-airplane aviation program, had just returned from a routine flight. Something was suspended from the single-engine Piper, which suggested that he might have landed somewhere he shouldn't have.

Given that grass grows on the ground and doesn't just float around the sky on its own accord, Lanier knew the hay hanging from the wheels of the airplane had likely become lodged there as a result of some type of unauthorized use of the aircraft. Since giving access to an airplane doesn't always instill good decision making in college-aged males, Lanier decided to investigate.

"Where'd you get that grass?" he asked. Knowing full well where the grass had come from, McDonald still replied with, "I must have just gone through some Johnson grass on the end of the [runway] down there when I was landing,"

airport landing, McDonald's excuse carried enough rationality to remove any possibility of punishment from the college.

Now, even 47 years after his graduation from Middle Tennessee State College, McDonald remains actively involved with MTSU, where he has established an endowed full-ride scholarship so that students can receive the same education and foundation for a career that he did.

McDonald was raised on the family farm near Blackman and studied agriculture in high school with the thought that he would one day become a farmer himself. The realization that farming simply wasn't for him, and the fact that he didn't have the money to start his own farm, quickly laid those plans to rest. Prompted by his parents, and intrigued by the fact that Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Ala., was hiring a lot of students, McDonald began studying pre-engineering at MTSC in 1957.

"After my first segment, I realized that I had picked a pretty tough subject," McDonald says. "I asked my counselor if he could advise me on some easier courses for electives."

McDonald's counselor recommended that he take some courses in the college's aviation program, which at the time was a division of the Industrial Arts Department. McDonald agreed and began taking classes at the Murfreesboro airport and later began taking flying lessons at the recommendation of Lanier, who headed the aviation program at the time.

"I went home and talked to my dad and said, 'I don't know what will become of this, but I think I would like to be a pilot,'" McDonald explains over a cup of coffee at the Murfreesboro airport where he was convinced to start flying lessons 53 years ago. "So he said, 'We'll go as long as the money lasts,' and I said, 'OK.'"

By his sophomore year, McDonald had earned his private pilot's license and had begun working on his commercial license when his dad came to him with the news that they no longer had the money to fund his flight training. Determined to keep taking to the skies, McDonald applied to the U.S. Navy's cadet program in Pensacola, Fla., and was accepted to flight school at the end of his sophomore year in 1959.

"I could just see myself with a hard hat under my arm and a pretty girl and a T-bird," McDonald says, his level voice hardly reflective of the excitement he must have

felt upon being accepted to flight school. "And that's not the way it is."

McDonald was walking across a hot ramp in a military flight suit one afternoon to go flying in an oil-smeared T-28 trainer when he decided naval aviation just wasn't for him. He took advantage of his contract, which allowed him to leave after two years, and returned to Middle Tennessee in 1961.

Without the money to pursue more flight training or to transfer to an engineering

"I could just see myself with a hard hat under my arm and a pretty girl and a T-birds and that's not the way it is."

DONALD MCDONALD

school, McDonald went back to MTSC and graduated with a degree in industrial arts technology, or what is now engineering technology, in 1963.

Toward the end of his senior year, McDonald spotted an ad on the bulletin board in the student union building for a temporary position in the Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation's engineering department. He applied for and received the job. Shortly after graduation, he began surveying power lines around Middle Tennessee.

Over the years, he accepted various positions within the company, bouncing around between offices in Murfreesboro, Lebanon and Franklin. He eventually worked his way up to director of operations, a position he held until he retired after 36 years with the company in 1999.

Even though McDonald stays active in the community, he is an avid hunter and spends much of his time hunting pretty much everything year-round – it's something he has been doing since he was old enough to hold a shotgun.

The living room in his house near Blackman, just across the road from where he grew up, is like a small nature museum, with evidence of his sport all around. A stuffed coyote with a pheasant in its mouth greets visitors near the front door, and everything from a stuffed turkey to a stuffed raccoon adorn the walls and floor, dispersed among paintings of outdoor scenes and pictures of the ultra lights and airplanes that McDonald was able to start flying again while working for the power company.

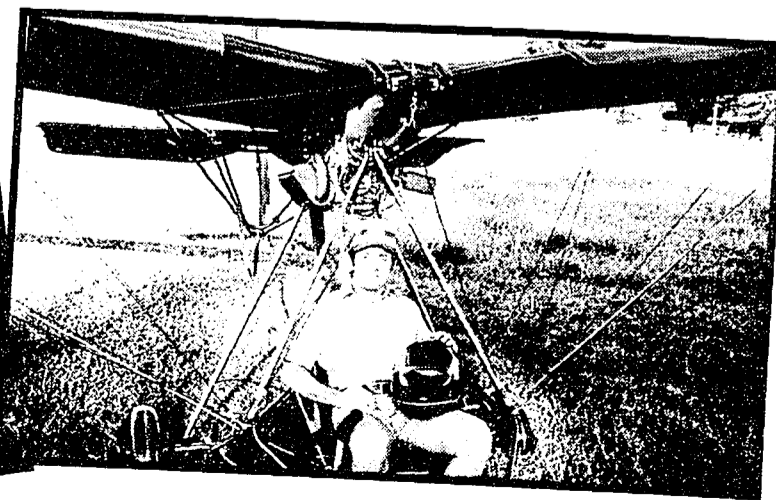
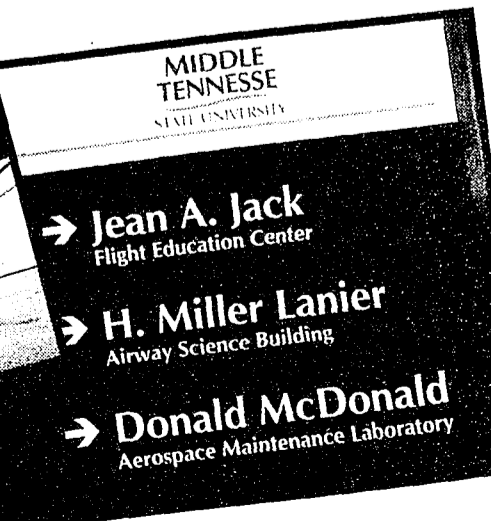
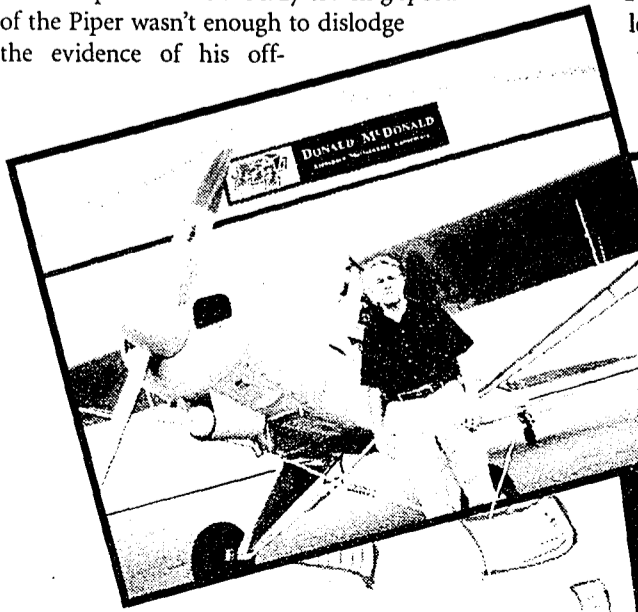
The sliding glass door near the back of the living room looks out across the McDonalds' farm, which features a well-groomed private grass landing strip lined with neat rows of white traffic cones. A metal hangar, which sits adjacent to the runway and behind the house at the end of a

MCDONALD, PAGE 6



Photo provided by Donald McDonald
McDonald at cadet school in Pensacola, Fla. in 1959.

Anxious to show off the college's airplane and his ability to fly it, McDonald had landed in a hay field on the family farm near the rural Blackman community in Rutherford County earlier that day. After showing the airplane to his dad, he took off and returned to the airport. While the lazy cruising speed of the Piper wasn't enough to dislodge the evidence of his off-



Photos by Donald McDonald, Emma Egil, Patrick Hajzler, MTSU Photographic Services and Stock Xehng
(Top Left) McDonald surveys the first ultralight that he built. (Top Right) McDonald looks upon a piston engine plane. McDonald stands with McPhee during a ceremony dedicating a hangar in his name on Sept. 17, 2008. McDonald receives a standing ovation as a building is named in his honor. (Bottom Left) McDonald poses in front of the building that bares his name. (Bottom Middle) A sign points the way toward the Donald McDonald Aerospace Maintenance Laboratory. (Bottom Right) McDonald sits in his personal ultralight.



Scholarship offers a light for aviation students

MCDONALD FROM PAGE 5

short gravel driveway, houses farm equipment, lots of aviation posters collected from air shows, and McDonald's two airplanes. One of them is a pretty yellow single-engine Piper, much like the one he landed on the family farm just across the road as a college student.

Although not for a lack of things to do, McDonald and his wife, Frances, began to think about their future after just a few years of retirement.

"My wife and I have no kids, and we were trying to figure out where we were going to leave our estate to," McDonald explains. "We wanted to leave it to somebody where we could somewhat control how the money is spent."

Thinking back to the importance of the education he received from MTSC, McDonald and his wife decided to fund a full-ride academic scholarship through the MTSU Foundation, which was established for the purpose of receiving and accepting private gifts intended for MTSU. The McDonalds met with the foundation and began working out the details of the

scholarship for engineering studies and aerospace students.

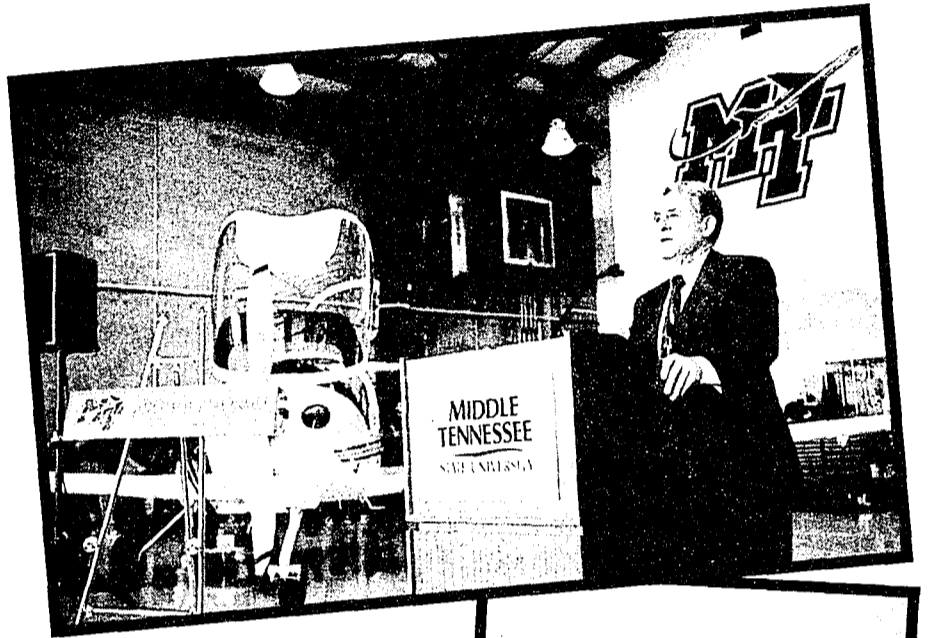
"Since I was a poor boy to start out, I wanted to make sure it went out to somebody who needed money," says McDonald, who wanted to help determine the requirements students needed to meet in order to receive funds.

He contacted the MTSU Foundation to see if his scholarship could fund the completion of the hangar at the Flight Operations Center at the Murfreesboro airport. As it turned out, it could, with just a minor rewriting of the original agreement.

McDonald worked closely with the Aerospace Department to help complete design and construction of the 11,125-square-foot hangar, which now features air-conditioned offices, a parts room and a nicely finished interior.

The department was so appreciative of McDonald's contributions that, in 2008, they named and dedicated the hangar in his honor. The Donald McDonald Aerospace Maintenance Laboratory now houses much of the flight school's maintenance operations and serves as a setting for several events throughout the year.

"Donald is a very generous alum," says Dr.



Wayne Dornan, chair of the Aerospace Department. "It was through his generous donations that that hangar became a reality."

While on a tour of MTSU, Tucker Gorman, a tall high school senior from Memphis, heard about the McDonald scholarship and applied. When he didn't hear anything, he assumed he hadn't received the scholarship.

Although he wanted to major in aerospace as a professional pilot, Gorman ended up not even registering with MTSU based on concerns that his family couldn't afford to send him. Needless to say, the call from MTSU telling Gorman that he had received the McDonald scholarship came as a surprise.

"My mom was freaking out," Gorman says with a laugh. "So we went up [to MTSU] that weekend and tried to get everything done in that weekend - I was pretty excited."

Gorman, who plans on earning at least his commercial pilot's license while a student at MTSU, has also joined the Air National Guard with hopes of flying for them after graduation. After that, his plans include flying for a passenger or cargo airline.

"It pretty much gave me a future,"

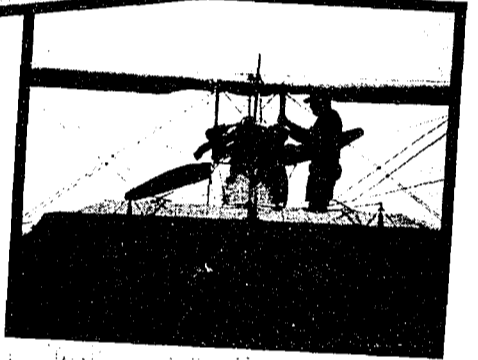
Gorman says. "[McDonald] obviously cares about the program and wants people to have the same kind of future he created for himself."

For McDonald, the decision to help students get the same opportunities he did was an easy one.

"If I can help [anyone] get on the right road in life, I'll do it," McDonald says with a humility that hardly reflects the importance of his and his wife's giving.

Dornan stresses the importance that McDonald's scholarship will have in students' lives.

"The influence that they are having through their scholarship on these people is going to last a lifetime," Dornan says. "Buildings come and go, but this is going to change the life of someone for the rest of his or her life."



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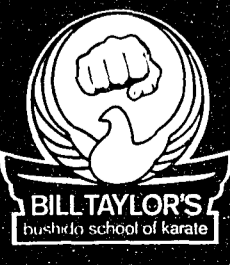


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Photos courtesy of: Donald McDonald, Sarah Finchum, Emma Egil, MTSU Photographic Services and Stock Xchng (Top Right) McDonald poses for a class picture in his youth. McDonald gives a speech at the ceremony for his commemoration on Sept. 17, 2008. (Bottom Right) McDonald's name plate is relieved by Sydney McPhee before an audience of peers on Sept. 17, 2008.

Letters Policy

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopinions@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, student-produced newspaper affiliated with Middle Tennessee State University and the College of Mass Communication. 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 the university.

A health care law to keep or repeal?

Republicans' concerns with bill don't mesh with reality.

While working as an intern in Washington, D.C., I answered hundreds of phone calls about the health care reform bill. I know firsthand that many people are very passionate about it, whether for or against.



Michael Finch

Columnist

I also know that a passionate opinion about the health care bill doesn't always go hand in hand with knowledge about it. In fact, it sometimes seemed that the most worked-up callers were the least informed.

Looking at the Republicans' attempts to repeal the bill, it seems to me that those people are the ones they're playing. It's no surprise that politicians occasionally do things simply to try and make a point, but this seems to be particularly useless.

I understand that health care reform has been a huge issue on both sides of the aisle for quite some time now, and many Republicans included repealing the bill in their campaign platforms.

Still, I can't help thinking about what a standstill our government would come to if every switch from Democrat to Republican control, or vice versa, meant an attempt at repealing the biggest bill the other party had just passed.

Pro-repeal senators, including U.S. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, have conceded that even though the repeal bill passed the House, a Senate version would be extremely unlikely to pass. Despite this, they're pushing for a vote.

I agree that the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

could be improved in several ways. However, Republican lawmakers don't seem to be talking about improvements or changes. They have simply latched onto "Obamacare" as something to rail against.

Listening to statements by House Republicans in favor of repeal, it becomes clear that "Obamacare" is wholly abstract to them - something to oppose.

For example, newly elected U.S. Rep. Andy Harris, while attending a freshman orientation session, expressed his concern that his congressional health care plan won't go into effect for 28 days.

Harris, who has consistently supported repealing the health care bill, asked if he could pay extra so that the government would give him health care during the 28-day gap.

It's hard, though, not to feel exasperated or even downright angry when reading these statements. There are Americans who have had to wait much longer than 28 days for even the hope of adequate health care.

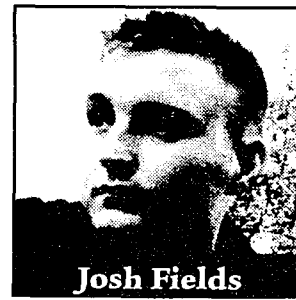
As I mentioned, I don't believe the health care bill is perfect. However, repealing it is not the answer, especially when no alternatives are being proposed.

Congressional Republicans should stop trying to score political points and start trying to cause legitimate, productive change.

Michael Finch is a junior majoring in political science and can be reached at mfinch13@gmail.com.

'Obamacare' is a bailout disguised as a moralistic endeavor.

It's imperative to understand the implications and impulse behind legislation before judging it. This is something I believe that both the public and the U.S. Congress have failed to do over the past 80 years.



Josh Fields

Columnist

As it relates to health care, it is sparingly covered as to why employers provide health insurance. Yet the very premise of employers providing health care is ridiculous.

It wasn't until the midst of the Great Depression that employers began offering coverage to their employees as compensation over pay.

The reason for this is, as is most always the case, a government failure. President Franklin Roosevelt's administration pushed spending to unprecedented levels without creating enough real aggregate demand in the economy to compensate the flow of cash it had created.

This inflation showed that wages weren't quite as sticky going up as they were going down. However, the 1942 Stabilization Act limited the rise in wages and goods because it had a political inclination to do so.

As a result, employers began extending wages by compensating pay above the ceiling with the perquisite of health insurance. The Internal Revenue Service soon began to mandate that employers report the cost of insurance as part of their employees' wages.

Unfortunately the prose of labor's demands for tax-free health insurance were met, as an administrative ruling in 1943 found that employer-based insurance should be tax-free.

Despite the third party payment system that manifested out of these conditions being the largest culprit of rising prices, it has been

a subject that is oft ignored. The reason being it's not politically palatable. Not only does it isolate many citizens' perceived benefits from both business and government, but it also threatens a corporate structure that has Congress deep in its pockets.

Starting in approximately 2040 Medicare and Medicaid, will begin running a deficit despite the recent health care bill. It has been duly noted by Washington that the continued rise in health care costs is a serious issue to its own stability.

Preceding this threat though, are the political implications of the price rises themselves. This is coupled with the state level control over price rises in insurance beginning to cut into the margins of many insurance companies putting them on the path of their payments outstripping their revenues which has various consequences for policy holders.

The recent health care bill's purpose, among others, was to increase the insurance pool, giving insurance companies more assets to work with and an ability to spread costs around.

Unfortunately, the law is essentially a bailout of insurers and an effort to save the structure that has failed us instead of giving us real alternatives and competition such as cash basis, health incentives, or health savings accounts. In fact, the bill limits the use of HSAs and incentivizes the use of a third party payer.

As I see it, repealing the bill offers more alternatives in the system than allowing the bill to come into full fruition.

Josh Fields is a senior majoring in economics and can be reached at josh@virtualblend.com

Off-campus bookstores offer much needed competition

For those of you still trying to figure out how you're going to afford your textbooks, you should consider free market solutions.

Our campus, like most, features an on-campus bookstore that serves everyone's needs - for a price, of course.

This is how local entrepreneurs have entered the scene. Around our campus you will find several bastions of counter economics. Among these shops are stores that buy and sell used textbooks, as well as stores that rent out textbooks for a price cheaper price than buying a used copy. Among these are Beat the Bookstore and

Textbook Brokers.

MTSU is rife with critics of the free market. These critics are blind to how the free market helps them tremendously at the beginning of every semester.

Most people know that the campus bookstore overcharges on both their new and used books. Therefore, shrewd students shop around at all of the off-campus bookstores to find the best deals.

Critics of the free market are quick to criticize the dreaded profit motive, but it works beautifully here. The founders of these businesses may have honorable intentions



Eric Sharp

Columnist

when helping students, or they may be solely in it for the money.

However, as the principle of spontaneous organization dictates, the intention is irrelevant.

The market forces competition among all of the stores to deliver lower prices for otherwise overpriced goods, which greatly benefits students.

For the most part, the employees at the campus bookstore seem to be aware that they can only charge so much before students will go elsewhere. In other words, there is a ceiling placed on their prices by competition with the other bookstores.

Imagine how much books would cost in the absence of any competition - there would be virtually no limit to how much they could charge.

Students are reaping the benefits of competition in textbooks, but there still exists other areas that are monopolized - like campus food services.

It is my hope that in the near future this can be remedied. Protectionist laws and contracts only hurt the students.

The lesson to take from this observance is, of course, that the free market benefits us all regardless of opinions about it.

Eric Sharp is a senior majoring in political science, and he can be reached at ericsharp.etf@gmail.com.

FACES IN THE CROWD

Question: How do you save money when buying textbooks for your classes?



Vicente

"I basically buddy up with a friend and try to use their textbooks. I also buy e-books and split that with a friend."

Veronica Vicente, junior pre-nursing major



Odineal

"I don't buy them at all because I can't afford them. I know that football games draw alumni back and they donate, but it still hurts knowing I can't get a book I need for a class, but I can get into the football game for free."

Davey Odineal, senior theater major



Moore

"I get scholarship money and other types of stipends from the state, and I use that income for books."

Trey Moore, freshman history major

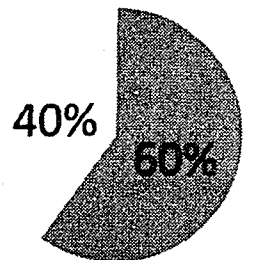


Todd

"I generally buy them at the bookstore, but I go to each bookstore individually to see which one has the best price and buy it from there. For buying books, I think Textbook Brokers is the best place."

Brenna Todd, sophomore theater major

RESULTS: DO YOU BELIEVE THE UNIVERSITY HANDLED THE DEATH OF REGGIE DOUCET PROPERLY?



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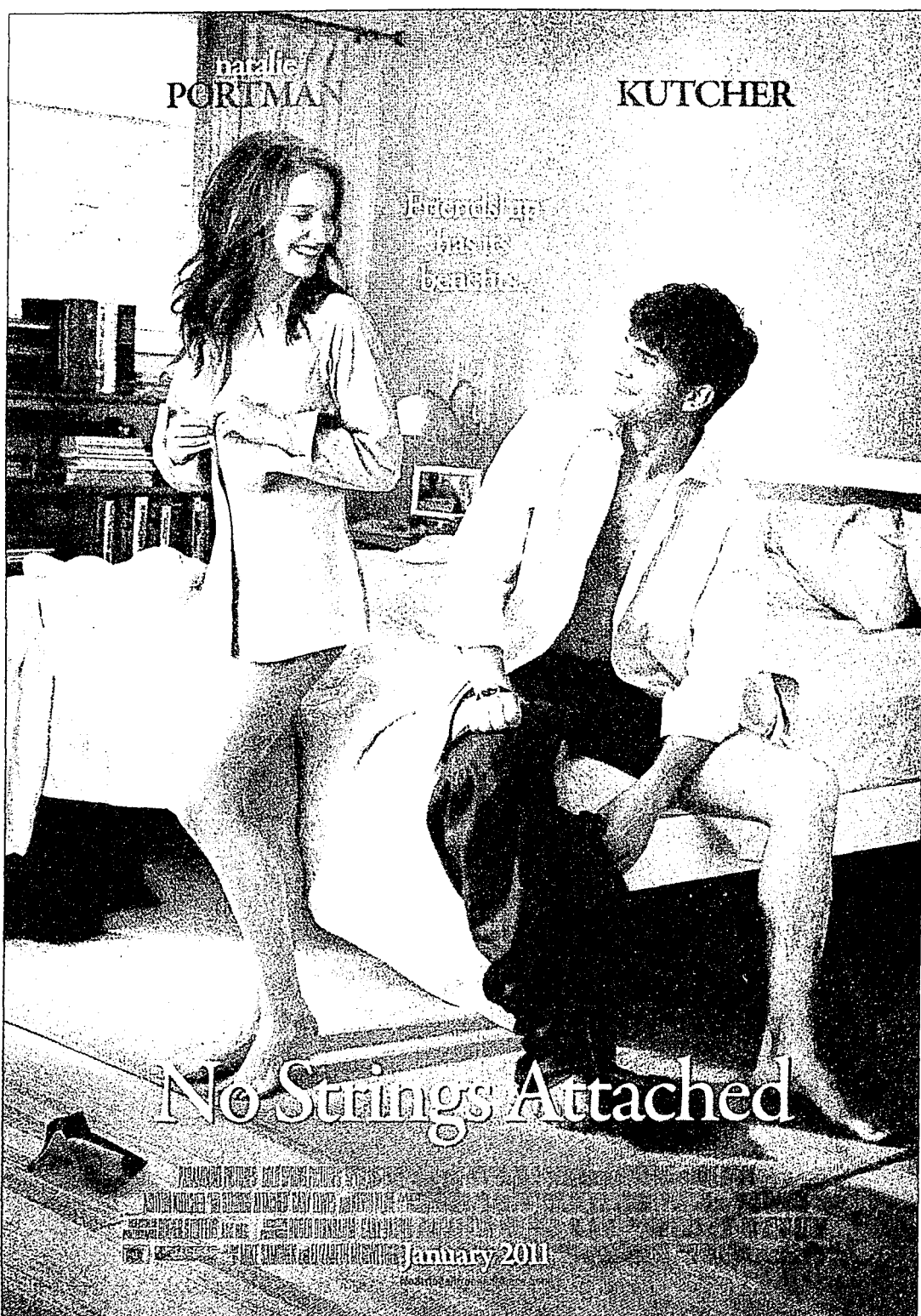
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Friends with benefits proves beneficial



By KRISTINA CUMMINGS
Contributing Writer

I was not at all excited to see this movie. If I were going to see a Natalie Portman film in theaters, I'd go see "The Black Swan." So, by the end of watching this romantic comedy, imagine my genuine surprise when I realized I want to buy "No Strings Attached" on DVD. A film of two people destined for love no matter how hard they try to deny it, this film reminds me of the classic romantic comedy "When Harry Met Sally." However, it showcases its own unique blend of romance and humor.

Natalie Portman and Ashton Kutcher both star in this film brought to us by the legendary comedic director, Ivan Reitman. For those who aren't familiar with his work, he directed "Ghostbusters," "Stripes" and "Kindergarten Cop." He masterfully weaves this felicitous story about two people who are destined for each other. Through his lens, Portman and Kutcher let go of their intimacy fears and fall in love. For a director who seems to have lost a little of his classic '80s charm, this film is sure to breathe new life into his romantic comedy career.

When I heard Kutcher was the lead in this movie, I was not sure if I would like it. However, I was pleasantly surprised to find Kutcher's performance quite endearing. He plays Adam Franklin, a man who is trying to get out of his once-famous father's shadow to make his own way in the entertainment business.

He is working as an assistant on a "High School Musical" style television series when he has a father-induced, self-esteem breakdown. Suffice it to say that by the end of his breakdown, Adam wakes up partially naked on his friend Emma's couch.

Natalie Portman, who plays Emma, proves that she can mold into any character she plays, enthralling moviegoers all the while. Emma, a tightly wound doctor who has absolutely no social skills, is awkward and seems uncaring at times. From the opening scene, we are shown Emma's inability to handle emotional situations. While the reasoning for this isn't clear, she does successfully play a neurotic woman who keeps people at a distance.

When Adam wakes up on Emma's couch, it is awkward. Emma and her three roommates surround him, while he sits partially naked on the couch. As Emma helps Adam find his clothes that he mistakenly discarded in her room, the two have a brief sexual encounter. This encounter sums up their relationship for the rest of the movie. They have quick, meaningless romantic entanglements with one another, referring to each other as "sex friends." All is well as they lay down ground rules of their "relationship" and continue as friends with benefits.

Naturally, everything goes well until Adam makes a mistake by showing Emma that he truly cares. Their pseudo-relationship quickly spirals downward, and it is a struggle in the end to find out if it was just chance that brought them together or some romantic destiny.

The film made me smile, laugh out loud, and seamlessly displayed a unique romantic sensibility. Sure, romantic comedies all have the same basic structure, but this film also showcases the pinnacle of entertainment. You may see the ending coming a mile away but that in no way distracts you from the journey the film takes to get you there.

Photo courtesy of Paramount Pictures
Natalie Portman and Ashton Kutcher explore the art of being "sex friends" in this romantic comedy, directed by Ivan Reitman, which opened Jan. 21 and is R-rated.

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