

## Two charged with rape admit having sex with alleged victim

### Former baseball players dismissed for accusations involving on-campus party

By BECCA ANDREWS  
News Editor

The two baseball players arrested last week for allegedly raping a female student in November admitted Tuesday that they did have sex with the 18-year-old victim during an on-campus party in November.

The Murfreesboro Police Department arrested Conlon Palo and Damian Seguen on suspicion of rape Thursday, following a two-month investigation into the incident. The two suspects were taken into custody and booked into the Rutherford County Detention Center, where they were released on a \$10,000 bond.

The court date has been set for Feb. 7. Athletic Director Chris Massaro announced Friday the two men had been dismissed from the MTSU baseball team. On Tuesday, Massaro

issued another statement saying that Palo and Seguen had been placed on suspension since November, the same month he was made aware of the on-going investigation.

"These are very serious charges and my role is not to determine guilt or innocence," Massaro said, in a statement Friday. "That is the role of our judicial system. I decide who represents Middle Tennessee as part of our athletic program and have dismissed both players from the team effective immediately."

Head Coach Steve Peterson, who has held his position for 24 years, said he agreed with Massaro.

"I fully support and concur with the decision to dismiss Conlon Palo and Damien Seguen from our team," Peterson said.

On Nov. 17, a female victim, who

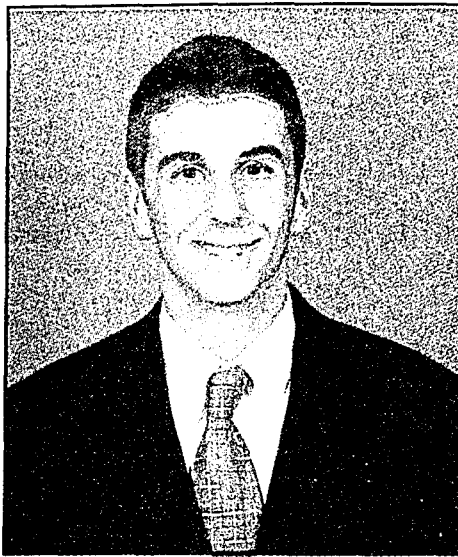


Photo by MT Athletics

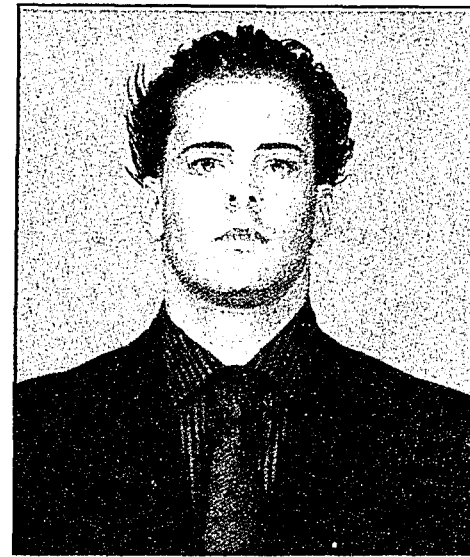


Photo by MT Athletics

withdrew from the university before the spring semester began, reported two male students whom she knew sexually assaulted her Nov. 15, while she was on campus.

The police report indicates that the

incident occurred at a party held at Scarlett Commons Apartments. There were at least six people in attendance documented in the MTSU campus

RAPE, PAGE 3

## University awarded grant for diabetes education

By APRIL BAILEY  
Staff Writer

The Center for Health and Human Services received a grant for nearly \$75,000 from the Tennessee Department of Health to fund diabetes education, according to a MTSU press release.

Cindy Rhea, the grants coordinator, said the program offers self-management education for Type 2 diabetics and those with diabetic symptoms in Rutherford County.

As of 2007, 9.4 percent of Rutherford County residents were diagnosed with diabetes and an estimated 2.8 percent of all Tennesseans are pre-diabetic, according to the press release.

Pre-diabetes is a condition in which blood glucose levels are elevated, but not high enough for a patient to be considered diabetic, according to the American Diabetes Association website.

The "Yes I Can! Diabetes Self-Management Program" will meet once a week for six weeks. The classes are two-and-a-half hours long.

The program will be based on the Stanford University model. According to the Stanford School of Medicine website, the program teaches techniques to deal with diabetic symptoms,

DIABETES, PAGE 3

## SGA meal plan draws ire

By MICHAEL HECKER  
Contributing Writer

Student Government Association senators are currently being offered discounted meal plans from Aramark Inc., which includes three cafeteria meals each week and \$330 worth of FlexBucks per semester.

Many students consider Aramark's policy on food prices to be out of line.

"The flavors of Aramark's food are good. The variety of Aramark food is good. The prices are absolutely horrendous," said Ray

Ingram, a senior majoring in graphic design.

Last year, the SGA opened negotiations regarding prices with MT Dining Services Staff and voiced students' concerns, as well as some of their own.

"I understand Aramark needs to make a profit, but when I can go to the gas station right across the street to buy an orange juice for a \$1, and it costs \$3 on campus for the exact same product, that's a 200 percent mark-up," said College of

SGA, PAGE 2



Photo by Bailey Ingram

Students gather outside of the Keathley University Center on Monday night to participate in a candlelight vigil that was held in recognition of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

## MLK Day memorialized with vigil

By AMANDA HAGGARD  
Associate News Editor

Attendees of the Martin Luther King Jr. program and candlelight vigil at the Keathley University Center said it was not only a time to remember King, but also a time for celebration.

More than 100 students gathered at the KUC Monday night for the event hosted by the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and the Intercultural and Diversity Affairs Center.

"It means a lot to me that we have respect for King and all he did for us," said Elizabeth Carion, a sophomore majoring in English.

Windrow said King meant more to people than some realize.

"Dr. King was more than a husband, more than Christian, pastor, father, son, and more than a writer and friend; he was more than an advocate for black rights," Windrow said. "[He was] one who cared about human rights."

Windrow said that celebrating King allows the nation to celebrate the best in all people and the value in every person, regardless of race.

He also said he believes people of every race miss the fact that celebrating King is not strictly a black holiday.

James M. McCarrol, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, gave the keynote address in which he charged the audience to take part in solving the battle for human rights. He raised the question, "Who will go for us?"

McCarrol is a community leader, a member of

Omicron Sigma Lambda Alumni Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha and a Free Mason. He has served on many boards and committees in Murfreesboro, said Alpha Phi Alpha member Deangelo Sheadrick, a senior majoring in business.

King pledged Alpha Phi Alpha at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Ga., and was initiated into the fraternity at Boston University, according to National Public Radio's website.

The Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity has been holding a candlelight vigil since at least the mid-80s, according to Vincent Windrow, the director of the Intercultural and Diversity Affairs Center.

Windrow added, "We're at a place where people can cling to King's beliefs and accept them, but people didn't used to be so quick to join the bandwagon."

Windrow said he believed McCarrol's address did an excellent job making conveying the unity that King would have wanted to instill instead of idolizing him.

"It wasn't so popular to be on his side in the 60s" Windrow said. "His program and his programmatic thrust were multifaceted and you had to believe in rights for the poor, be against the Vietnam War, economic empowerment and equality on a human scale, not just a racial scale."

During the program, local resident Freddie Quimbley led the room in singing "Lift Every

VIGIL, PAGE 3

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### IN TODAY'S ISSUE



Follow the journey of a designer and a choreographer as they prepare for one of the most celebrated ballets performed in Perpignan, France.

PAGE 4

### EXCLUSIVELY ONLINE



Director Michel Gondry offers a fresh new take on a comic book classic with the star power of Seth Rogen and Cameron Diaz.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

### WEATHER



41°/19°

# MTSU alumna receives philanthropy award

By STAFF REPORT

The Tennessee Board of Regents recognized MTSU alumna Pamela J. Wright last Wednesday with the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Philanthropy for her \$1.25 million contribution to MTSU in 2007.

Wright donated the funds as a commitment to establish an endowed chair in entrepreneurship and has already sent four or five annual payments to endow the chair, according to a MTSU press release.

An endowed chair will allow MTSU to draw the best teachers, researchers and publishers in entrepreneurship, said Sidney McPhee.

McPhee nominated Wright for the award based on her "desire to positively impact future generations of MTSU students."

TBR Chancellor John Morgan said the award acknowledges "those exceptional philanthropic leaders who truly make a difference at a TBR institution."

Wright served on MTSU Foundation Board, the President's Advisory Council and the Jennings A. Jones College of Business Advisory Board, according to the press release.

"The Wright Travel Endowed Chair in Entrepreneurship will allow MTSU to attract a renowned teacher, researcher and publisher in entrepreneurship, building upon an already strong academic program," McPhee said.

McPhee also said that while scholarships benefit individual students, professorships with a particular discipline could influence generations of students.

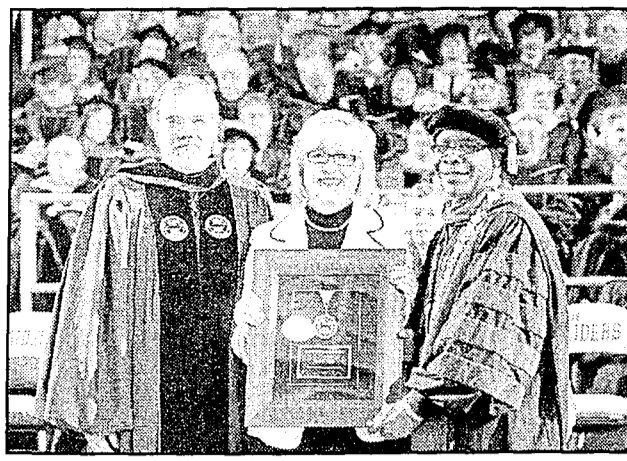


Photo by J. Intintoli  
Pamela J. Wright is presented the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Philanthropy by John Morgan (Left) and Sidney McPhee (Right).

Wright founded Wright Travel and is also the CEO and owner of the Nashville-based company that boasts \$128 million in annual sales, according to the MTSU press release.

Before she established Wright Travel in 1981, she worked as a social worker for the Tennessee Department of Corrections.

"Wright's personal journey has been shaped largely by her own entrepreneurial instincts," McPhee said.

Wright earned a psychology degree from MTSU in 1973 and is originally from Lebanon, Tenn.

Wright also currently serves on the board of directors for the Junior Achievement of Nashville, the Nashville Convention and Visitors Bureau and is a member of the Nashville Chamber of Commerce Partnership 2020 Leadership Council, according to the press release.

# Students question Aramark food policy

SGA  
FROM PAGE 1

Business Senator Wesley Hall in a Nov. 29 Sidelines article last year.

SGA's efforts resulted in monthly \$5 deals and a VIP program, giving students who pay more special deals.

Currently, Aramark gives deals exclusively to some SGA members. Brandon Batts, SGA president, currently receives a freshman meal plan for free. This includes unlimited access to dining halls and \$275 in FlexBucks.

Although he is required to attend all meetings, he is not allowed to vote on SGA bills, leaving the vote to the senators. They compose and vote on bills that could dictate the future of MTSU.

Danny Kelley, SGA adviser, said this is a normal occurrence.

"[Aramark] generally are in a position where they're going to offer perks to different entities on

campus as a part of their contract," Kelley said.

Christopher Burks, Senator-at-Large for the College of Business, has written a bill called the Elimination of Special Perks Act. It would do away with any extra incentives that could jeopardize the SGA's position on any subject.

The bill requires "officers and senators [to] conduct themselves in ethical commercial conduct."

It goes on to specify the repercussions of taking any commercial item priced from \$50 to \$200. The punishment for doing so is a two-week suspension from office and voting privileges.

"I think that if they do that they should give every student who is a member of a school organization discounted meals as long as it is an organization with a focus of improving MTSU," said Tori Richardson, a senior majoring in electronic media communication. "That can be everything from honor societies to MTTV board members."

## CRIME BRIEFS

**Traffic**  
Jan. 12, 12:15 a.m.  
Alumni Dr.  
Eddie Guthrie Jr. was issued a state citation for driving on a suspended license.

**Traffic**  
Jan. 12, 6:48 p.m.  
Off Campus  
Nicole Ward was issued a state citation for a registration violation.

**Traffic**  
Jan. 14, 4:37 p.m.  
Off Campus  
Evan Lettsome was issued a state citation for driving on an expired license.

**DUI**  
Jan. 15, 1:20 a.m.  
Greek Row  
Tyler Hicks was arrested for DUI, violation of implied consent, underage consumption of alcohol and possession of drug paraphernalia.

**Vandalism**  
Jan. 12, 10:48 a.m.  
Sigma Nu House- Greek Row  
Complainant reported the breaking of a window at Sigma Nu house.

**DUI**  
Jan. 13, 3:33 a.m.  
Off Campus  
Andrew Payne was arrested for DUI 1st offense and violation of the Implied Consent Law.

**Theft**  
Jan. 14, 6:37 p.m.  
Beasley Hall  
Complainant reported his wallet was missing from his dorm room.

**Traffic**  
Jan. 15, 3:13 a.m.  
Off Campus  
Kevin Arnold was issued a citation for driving on a suspended license.

**Theft**  
Jan. 12, 11:10 a.m.  
James E. Walker Library  
A victim reported that his wallet had been stolen.

**Vandalism**  
Jan. 14, 8:44 a.m.  
Smith Hall  
Complainant reported that both Smith and Judd had been vandalized with spray paint.

**Alcohol**  
Jan. 15, 12:09 a.m.  
Greek Row  
Taylor Spaman was issued a state citation for underage consumption of alcohol.

**Traffic**  
Jan. 15, 6:57 p.m.  
MTSU BLVD.  
An officer discovered a light pole damaged by a vehicle.

**Drug Abuse**  
Jan. 12, 1:51 p.m.  
Residential Life requested assistance with the possible presence of drugs in Felder; they will handle disciplinary action for the policy violation.

**Theft**  
Jan. 14, 4:33 p.m.  
Schardt Hall  
Theft from a dorm room in Schardt Hall

**DUI**  
Jan. 15, 1:11 a.m.  
Greek Row  
Robert Kendall was arrested for DUI and charged with resisting arrest.

**Drug Abuse**  
Jan. 15, 10:15  
Off Campus  
Kevin Hinson was issued a state citation for possession of marijuana.

## 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 iPhone 3GS in a black rubber case from a bench at the picnic tables outside the Family Student Housing Clubhouse. This crime was committed between 2:45 p.m. and 3 p.m. on Mon., Nov. 22.

**Hit and Run**  
A cash reward of up to \$300 is being offered for information that leads to the arrest of the person or persons who struck a silver 2000 GMC Sierra pickup truck on its front bumper and passenger side light assembly causing over \$400 worth of damage. The incident occurred between 10:55 a.m. and 12:28 p.m. on Tues., Nov. 23 in the Woodfins lot.

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

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## LOCAL EVENTS

### On Campus

**Student Life:**

**International Welcome Reception**  
Jan. 21, 5-7 p.m.  
JUB Hazelwood Room  
Tickets: FREE

**SGA Election Packets Available**  
Jan. 24, All Day  
KUC 208  
Tickets: FREE

**MT Idol Tryouts**  
Jan. 24-28, 4-6 p.m.  
KUC Theater  
Tickets: FREE

**Red Cross Blood Drive**  
Jan. 26, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.  
KUC 322  
Tickets: FREE

**Gender Circles**  
Jan. 26, 1-3 p.m.  
KUC 320  
Tickets: FREE

**"How to Win at the Game of College" With Dr. Otter**  
Jan. 26, 6 p.m.  
BAS S102  
Tickets: FREE

**Solving Immigration: The Truth is Out There**  
Jan. 27, 7 p.m.  
BAS S102  
Tickets: FREE

**Concerts:**

**Schubert's Winterreise**  
Jan. 23, 7 p.m.  
Wright Music Building  
Tickets: FREE

**MTSU Flute Festival**  
Jan. 29  
Wright Music Building  
Tickets: FREE

**Performing Arts:**

**Student Showcase Auditions**  
Jan. 23, 6 p.m.  
Fairview Dance Studios 140  
Tickets: FREE

**Sports:**

**Men's Basketball vs. Troy**  
Jan. 20, 7 p.m.  
Murphy Center  
Tickets: FREE

**Men's Tennis vs. UT Chattanooga**  
Jan. 22, 1 p.m.  
KUC 320  
Tickets: FREE

**Women's Basketball vs. Denver**  
Jan. 23, 12 p.m.  
Murphy Center  
Tickets: FREE

### Off Campus

**Concerts:**

**Cake**  
Jan. 20, All day  
Ryman Auditorium  
Tickets: \$29.50-\$39.50

**Ethan Bortnick**  
Jan. 20, 7 p.m.  
Belcourt Theater  
Tickets: \$20

**Sibelius' Violin Concerto**  
Jan. 20, 7 p.m. & Jan. 21-22, 8 p.m.  
Schermerhorn Symphony Center  
Tickets: \$39-\$109

**Kopecky Family Band**  
Jan. 20, 8 p.m.  
12th & Porter  
Tickets: \$5

**Opry at the Ryman feat. Ralph Stanley, Ricky Skaggs, The Del McCoury Band, The Oak Ridge Boys and more**  
Jan. 21-22, 7 p.m.  
Ryman Auditorium  
Tickets: \$42-\$54

**Keegan DeWitt**  
Jan. 21, 8 p.m.  
Mercy Lounge  
Tickets: FREE

**Cheer Up, Charlie Daniels**  
Jan. 21, 9 p.m.  
The End  
Tickets: \$5

**Porter Hall Tennessee**

Jan. 21, 9 p.m.  
The Boro Bar And Grill  
Tickets: FREE

**Kandyland 5: Return of the Core feat. DJ Tx300, Mindjack, Aaron Sheldon**  
Jan. 22, 6 p.m.  
Rockettown  
Tickets: \$10

**Art Exhibitions:**

**Abandoned Spaces**  
Jan. 20, 6-8 p.m.  
Moxie Art Supply  
Tickets: FREE

**"Renewal" Art Exhibition-Meredith Green**  
Jan. 21, 5-7 p.m.  
Center Gallery  
Tickets: FREE

**Events Policy**

Sidelines welcomes current campus and community events submitted by all readers. Please e-mail events to slcampus@mtsu.edu or slnews@mtsu.edu, and include the name, date, time and location of the event, as well as your name and a phone number for verification. We reserve the right to refuse events at our discretion as our space is limited.

Sidelines is the editorially independent, nonprofit student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. Sidelines publishes Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and online during June and July. The events listed are not necessarily associated with Sidelines

# Athletes face February court date for sexual assault charges

## RAPE FROM PAGE 1

police report, and both a male and a female witness were present at the time of the assault. The victim, who was a resident of Scarlett Commons Apartments at the time of the incident, told authorities two men who she believed to be members of the baseball team had sex with her while she was intoxicated and unable to give consent, according to the police report.

According to the MTSU alert issued in November, the victim was taken to Middle Tennessee Medical Center where she received a medical examination, but authorities noted that she did not receive any extensive physical injuries that could have resulted from a violent attack. MPD Detective Wayne Lawson, who is the lead investigator in the case, wrote in his report that Seguen initially lied to authorities regarding his role but later admitted to having oral sex with the victim.

"He gave statements confirming that, at the time he and Palo had sex with the victim, they knew her to be intoxicated and should not have had sex with her," Lawson said. Palo told authorities that the victim was "extremely intoxicated" and had to be helped into bed. University officials and law enforcement officials have all refused to comment further on the case, and any details involving their status as enrolled students remains unclear. Palo is a left-handed freshman that

graduated in the spring of 2010 from Houston High School, located in Germantown. Seguen is a right-hander from Broward Community College in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. He was set to compete for a spot in the starting weekend rotation this season. Palo is also facing charges of simple possession of drugs, possession of drug paraphernalia, and underage consumption from a separate incident that occurred Dec. 11 in the same apartment as the alleged assault.

# Small scale art shines in gallery's spotlight

Staff Report

The Department of Art's third biennial exhibition of "12 X 12": A National Juried Exhibition of Small Scale Works of Art will be showcased at the Todd Art Gallery until Feb. 10, according to a MTSU press release. Nationally, more than 180 artists submitted their 12-inches-or-less pieces of art for exhibition. Hamlet Dobbins chose 23 artists to be featured for the show. Dobbins is the curator of Clough-Hansen Gallery on the campus of Rhodes College in Memphis and a celebrated visual artist. All forms of media were accepted for

consideration under the condition that they fit the 12-inches-in-any-direction criteria. The pieces of art chosen by Dobbins include traditional art forms as well as experimental media, according to the press release. The subject matter selected varies with each artist from figurative to concept driven and non-objective, displaying a wide range of approach and media, according to the press release. Dobbins selected Sean O'Meallie's "Blanket" as winner of the President's Award for best in the exhibition. Tammie Rubin's "One" came in first place, "Small Tractor Device" by Kurt

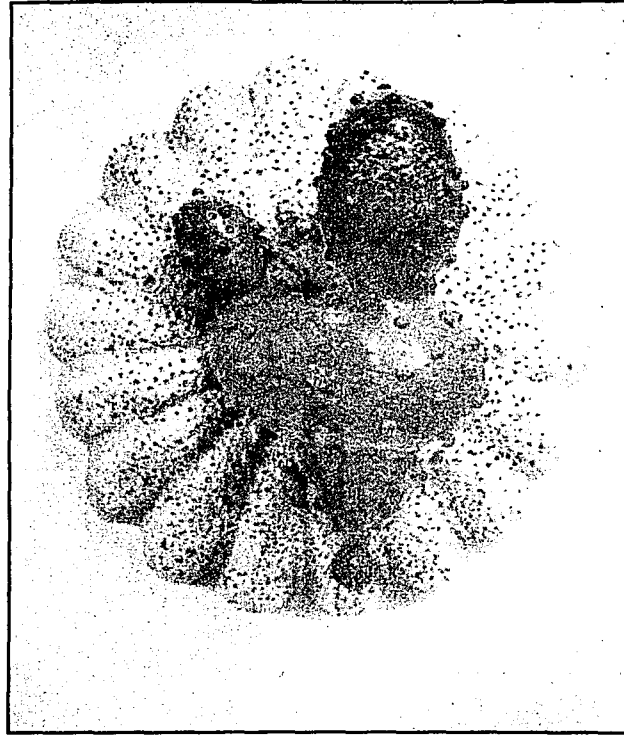


Photo courtesy of Todd Art Gallery. Small scale art, like the piece shown above by Tammie Rubin, is currently on display in the Todd Art Gallery.

Dyrhaug in second, Dan Tulk's "Untitled" in third. "Untitled" by Margi Weir received an honorable mention, according to the press release. Artists chosen for the show are Michelle Acuff, Anna Kell, Dan Tulk, Brent Dubas, Libby Garner, Anne Havel, Metra Mitchell, Fletcher Smith, Ed Angell, Kimia Ferdowski, Gwyneth Scally, Yareth Fernandez, Tammie Rubin, Laura Drapac, Tina Gebhart, Joshua

Huysen, Sean O'Meallie, Anna Kordsmeier, Monique Belitz, Margi Weir, Briena Harmening, Kurt Dyrhaug and Julie Puttgen. A reception to mark the exhibitions closing and to honor Dobbins and the contributing artists will be held in the Todd Art Gallery on Tuesday, Feb. 8, from 6 to 8 p.m. The show is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

# Workshop to provide support for diabetics

## DIABETES FROM PAGE 1

healthy eating habits, appropriate exercise, use of medication and how to work more effectively with health care providers. "Chronic disease self-management [is] not just about nutrition [and] exercise," Rhea said. Originally, the program was developed and evaluated in Spanish. However, the California HealthCare Foundation was so impressed with the success of the program that it provided a grant to expand the program for English speakers as well, according to the press release. "This program is community-based. It is designed to be led by fellow community members," said Rhea. "We want this program to be sustainable long after the grant funding is no longer available." The classes will be free and participants do not need a doctor's referral to attend, according to the press release. Rhea said the program is designed not to interfere with any current treatment plan or diet a diabetic may be engaged in. "It doesn't conflict with any other treatment," Rhea said. However, participants must be 18 years of age or older, and there will only be 20 available slots per class session. Rutherford County's classes will begin in February at five various locations throughout Murfreesboro and Smyrna. "We hope that people who attend the class really buy into the idea that if you're pre-diabetic, this could help you not progress into the disease," said Jill Thomas, grant manager.

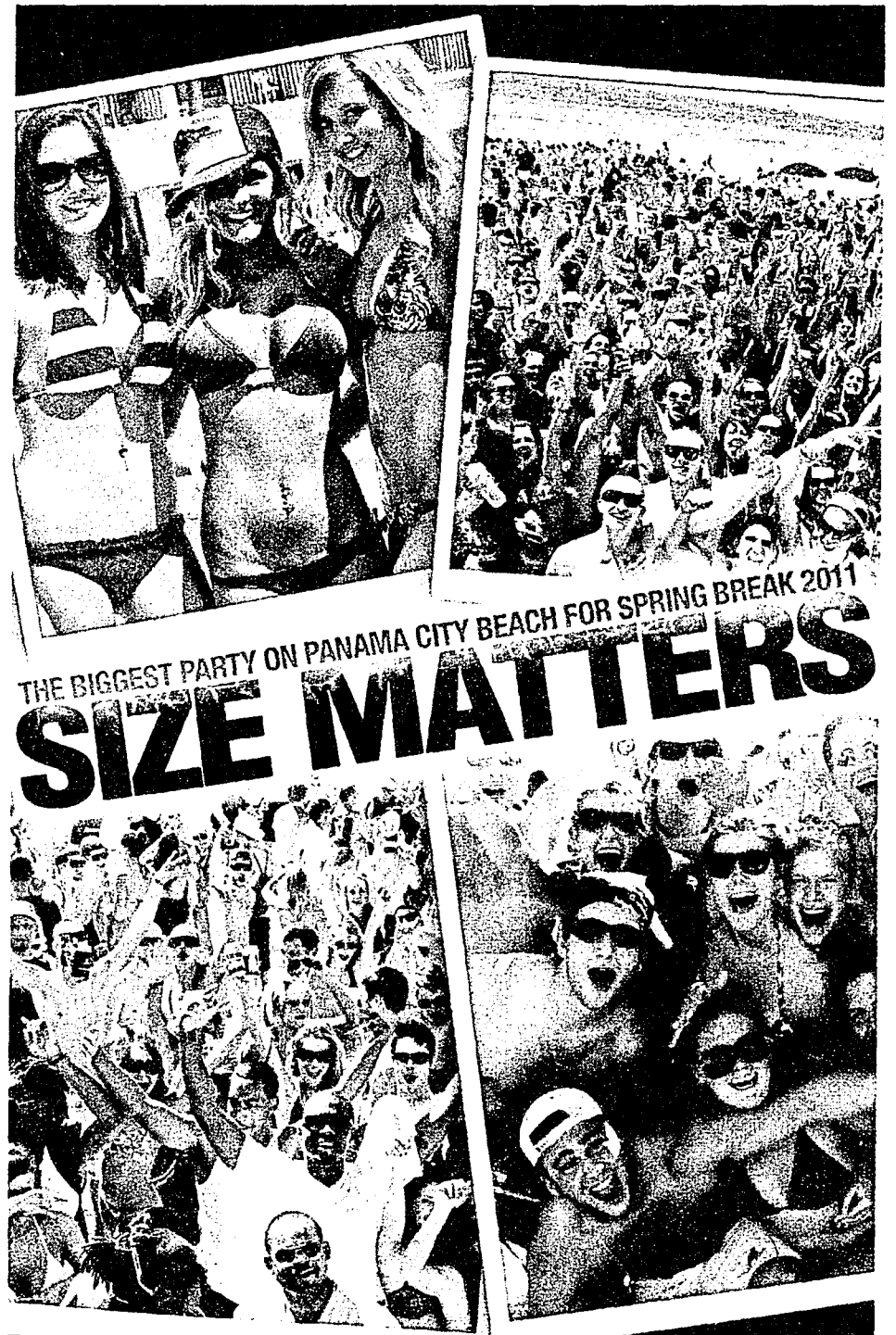
# Community celebrates King's legacy

## VIGIL FROM PAGE 1

Voice and Sing." "I enjoyed the whole program," Carion said. "But I really enjoyed the singing. It was so inspirational." Carion said she was also fond of the poem entitled "Mortal Comeback" that Ryan Carson, a sophomore in the college of liberal arts, read. "There was passion in what he read and how he read it," Carion said. "It gave me chills. He had guts to get up there and speak the way he did." After the program, attendees made a circle on the KUC Knoll for a moment of candlelit silence in remembrance of King and his dream of equality. The silence was broken by a group of people who led the crowd in singing "We Shall Overcome," before blowing out their candles and parting ways. Windrow said the national holiday reserved to remember King and his values is more than just a time to acknowledge the great leader. "More than anything, it's a wonderful opportunity to celebrate," Windrow said, "and I don't think we take enough time to celebrate."



Photo by Bailey Ingram. James M. McCarroll speaks to students Monday night.



## GUILIGANS

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<p><b>THURS.</b> January 20 <b>COLLEGE NIGHT</b> Ladies Free...All Night <b>FREE</b> Miller Lite till 1:00A.M.</p>	<p><b>FRIDAY</b> January 21 <b>Nappy Roots</b> with Wick It and <b>This Is Art</b></p>	<p><b>SAT.</b> January 22 <b>LN2L</b> DJ's all night</p>
<p><b>SUN.</b> January 23 <b>All Mashed Up</b> with DJ MicQuey Qoolaid</p>	<p><b>TUES.</b> January 25 <b>Open Blues</b> <b>Jam</b></p>	<p><b>WED.</b> January 26 <b>FREAK OUT</b> with DJ Coach and SCHTOMPA</p>

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# FEATURES

## Cut from the same cloth

By LAURA AIKEN  
Managing Editor

Walking on the cobblestone streets of Perpignan, France, to attend the 40th anniversary of the Martine and Matt Mattox dance program at the Palais des Congres, I'm imagining what the dancers will look like.

I take my seat as the lights blink, signaling the final curtain call, and then dimming to black. There's a wordless anticipation filling the auditorium. It becomes silent vacuum, quiet enough to hear ... a ... pin ... drop.

### Act 1

Boom. As the orchestra swells, everything becomes beautiful at the ballet. Lithely sprites in velvet leotards and white tights are exquisite as they extend into arabesques, emanating poise and precision.

From intricate sequences to simple, flowing movement, the dancers

every waking moment bent over a sewing machine or a large piece of fabric, etching outlines. Her fiery red hair belies her petit and humble demeanor as she quietly constructs the costumes that will give life to a performer's character.

She moves quickly around her workshop, where a constant hum of cutting and snipping resonates.

After studying ballet and the arts as a child, Aveillan founded the Patricia Aveillan Dance School in Geneva, Switzerland. In 1980, she moved to Perpignan and opened *Les Sylphides* Creations, a costume boutique and workshop in Caberstany, a suburb of Perpignan. It was then that she began to contact local dance schools, offering to design costumes.

"When I arrived here, no one was doing anything in terms of costumes, so I started this to keep me busy two or three times a week," she recalls. "It started very



Eastern Hemisphere.

Aveillan says costumes are symbolic and represent the underlying themes and messages in a production. For her creations she is inspired by an evocative theme.

"Inspiration is a flash in my head, and although I go to see movies and see theater, it's all about imagination," she softly trills. "When I create costumes for a dance company, I talk to the choreographer, and I listen to the music and I draw."

Although designing the perfect costume can be taxing, she loves the imaginative challenge and the liberty to create whatever she wants.

"It depends on character, and it depends on the costume," she explains. "As long as there's imagination and creation, we can imagine more."

### Act 3

Martine Mattox, a professional choreographer who owns a dance school in Perpignan, says Aveillan has designed her students' dance costumes since the costume designer arrived in the community.

Mattox believes it's absolutely necessary for a designer to have natural creative talent.

"When you are a designer making costumes, you have to understand and adapt to what the choreographer has in mind," she says. "I envision the dance, and she envisions the characters."

When Mattox creates a ballet with a special mood or a special character, she explains to Aveillan what she pictures for the dance and the characters and then relays the information to the ballerinas.

Mattox says she and Aveillan have an enormous amount of trust with each other regarding the costume designs.

"The costumes are so important, because the girls have to be free to dance," Mattox says, "to move, to bend and to express themselves."

Mattox smiles.

"I have known Patricia for 30 years," she says with a benevolent grin. "We make a good team."

### Finale

The curtain closes on the city's most anticipated show of the year. I walk back out onto the cobblestone streets, when I envision sprites twirling through the alleyways and then performing *jetés* from the stucco rooftops, as the sun sets on Perpignan.



beam under the amber stage lights. However, the show steers clear of a traditional ballet performance, with dancers exhibiting a free-form style that's more fluid than statuesque.

In one segment, the color of the dancers' costumes glows from a dimly lit stage.

The most poignant portion of the show is Martine Mattox herself. With her face painted gold and her garb reminiscent of a Hindu god, she plunges into a flawless routine that juxtaposes raw, jagged movements with traditional ballet technique.

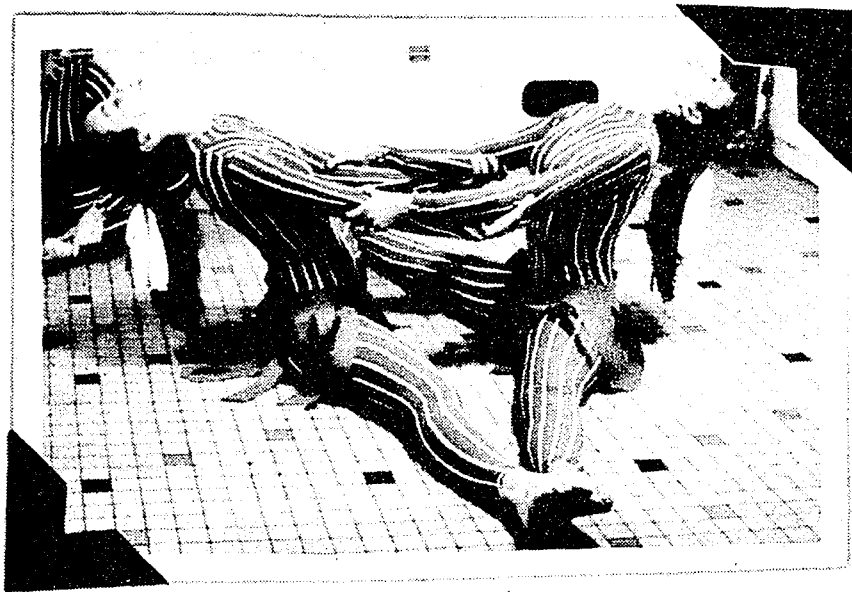
### Act 2

Behind every costume on the stage, there is a designer and her sewing machine. Patricia Aveillan, who recently worked alongside John Paul Gaultier, is Perpignan's "character" creator.

Aveillan, a local dressmaker and costume designer, spends nearly

fast, and now I am creating costumes for everyone."

Everyone includes Mylène Farmer, also known in Europe as the "French Madonna," and France's legendary *Gruss Circus*. Almost 30 years later, Aveillan has established herself as a household name in the Perpignan creative community - as well as the



Photos by Laura Aiken

(From top to bottom) Patricia Aveillan's costume prototype; Aveillan readies her design on a mannequin; Dancers stretch before their final performance.

# Going from gag to Greek

## Members of the recording industry fraternity are here to stay.

By KYLE MCCORMICK  
Staff Writer

Fraternities are no laughing matter, but the founders of Omega Delta Psi Fraternity might tell you otherwise.

In 2006, James Saxon III and Brent McDowell, both of whom graduated from the university's recording industry program, struck up a conversation inspired by the movie "Old School" about how funny it would be to belong to a fraternity and to haze pledges.

The inner workings of Greek organizations were as foreign to James and Brent as Pro Tools and publishing royalties are to the rest of the student body. It really was very "Greek" to them, but the joke about hazing led to curiosity regarding the prospect of actually starting a fraternity.

"We had no honorable intentions at first because it was all a laughing matter," James remembers. "But, after a while, a bit of confidence popped in us, and we wanted to know more about it."

James and Brent walked to a friend's apartment that night and hatched their idea to the only person who had a tie to the on-campus Greek community, Janna Barr. Janna was somewhat of a rarity, a recording industry student and a member of Kappa Delta Sorority.

To James and Brent's surprise, she got on board right away, and the three started plotting the beginnings of what would become Omega Delta Psi, the world's first and only recording industry fraternity.

But, no hazing ever occurred.



Photo by Sarah Cross

Members of the recording industry fraternity Omega Delta Psi pose in the Quad for their spring group photo.

Stephen West, who currently serves as the fraternity's president, rushed that fall as a freshman seeking extracurricular involvement and a way to get ahead in the recording industry program. What he has found has been one of the most significant

**"ODP is where I made my closest friends in college – the kind of friends that will drive you to the airport at 3 a.m. when you have a family emergency, or give you a place to stay when your apartment is flooded."**

**STEPHEN WEST**  
PRESIDENT OF OMEGA DELTA PSI FRATERNITY

As the founders began recruiting excited friends and classmates to be part of a new networking and support community, they quickly learned there was a real calling for an organization of this nature for recording industry majors from all of the three concentrations: audio production, music business and commercial songwriting.

James, who specialized in music business, appointed himself the fraternity's first president, while Brent, who was an audio production student, became vice president.

"Music business people didn't like production and technology people and vice versa," James recalls. "Nobody wanted to help anyone, so my goal was to squash all of that and start an organization [that] would help [us] realize that we all need each other."

Nine people attended Omega Delta Psi's first meeting, including then faculty adviser Nathan Adam, a former professor in the department of recording industry, and Barr, the fraternity's first female member. This is significant for two reasons: It reassured the founders that the recording industry faculty supported their efforts, and it marked Omega Delta Psi as a coed fraternity.

By fall 2007, the organization that had become known as ODP had grown to include more than 30 members.

experiences of college.

"ODP is where I made my closest friends in college – the kind of friends that will drive you to the airport at 3 a.m. when you have a family emergency, or give you a place to stay when your apartment is flooded," Stephen says. "ODP offered me so many invaluable skills, friendships and opportunities for growth in one place."

Stephen remembers the organization spending a great deal of time in its second year laying the foundation for its purpose and manner of internal operation. Trying to find a balance between casual and professional, social and business, the organization's forerunners had the freedom to build the fraternity as they envisioned it and the challenge of keeping it afloat in its most turbulent years.

Despite the challenges, ODP continued to define its purpose and expanded rapidly with every new semester. Membership became exclusive and highly competitive – and even grew to include students who were not recording industry majors.

Music business members began to book, promote and produce live concerts at local venues featuring national touring acts such as Gavin Castleton and Gold Motel. Production and technology members recorded local acts at high-end Nashville recording studios like Lake Fever and Sound Kitchen. ODP was allotted an office on campus



Graphic courtesy of Omega Delta Psi

The crest of the fraternity proudly displays what ODP is all about: rock'n'roll.

for members to record and mix audio projects with high-end post-production equipment.

What was in recent history only an idea has become the biggest student organization in the College of Mass Communication.

Omega Delta Psi now has more than 70 members in its fifth year running. Many recording industry professors can be seen proudly sporting the fraternity's letters every Tuesday, the organization's official letter day.

Some of the newest members say they knew about ODP before coming to MTSU and knew they had to be a part of it. Dozens of ODP alumni periodically drop in on weekly meetings and "family" events to meet new members and see what their fledgling fraternity has become.

"I never thought that people would get behind the idea like I did and keep it going," James reflects. "It shocks the hell out of me every time I go to a meeting."

James graduated from MTSU in the spring of 2008. He now works for Sony/

ATV Publishing in Nashville, but drops in on ODP often.

In hindsight, the organization's founders learned how to trust each other and gain experience when they ran with an idea that was bigger than themselves and quickly found the help they needed to start the fraternity.

"Any student that is serious about pursuing a career in the music industry, no matter what area, should be recommended [to ODP]," says Melissa Wald, who presently serves as faculty adviser. "It provides opportunities for service as well as a great opportunity for networking."

The self-starting ethos of ODP remains one of its defining features thanks to devoted members who understand that the success or failure of the fraternity is in the hands of every member.

ODP may have started as a joke, but there's nothing funny about the amazing growth and success of the young organization that has come a long way in five short years.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## B-girl battles bias barriers

By DIETRICH STOGNER  
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Teena Marie Custer is a bundle of nervous energy, which is not surprising. As one of the foremost b-girl dancers in the country, energy has been an integral part of her life since she was young.

"I remember hearing music and having to move, and I've always been like that," Custer says.

Custer is an experienced dancer who has appeared in feature films and television, and she became one of the first b-girls to

perform a solo show in London, England. Custer, who just finished teaching a course at MTSU about the history and techniques of hip-hop theater, began training when she was 12 years old. However, it wasn't in a dance studio.

"When I was growing up, there was music that was really popular at the time called 'new jack swing,' and there were dances that went along with it," Custer explains. "I was learning it from videos and my friends, and we would literally put out a bucket on the street and make up some routines."

Her informal training is fairly normal for breaking, a style of dance that emerged post-Civil Rights Movement in the late 1970s. Commonly, but incorrectly, referred to as "break dancing," it is extremely demanding physically and has grown more rigorous as it has evolved throughout the years.

Custer explained that b-boying consists of three fundamental elements. First, the dancer performs a sequence of steps in the standing position, known as "top rock." Next, the dancer drops to the floor, and performs "down rock," which is movement on the floor while supported primarily by the hands. Finally, the dancer finishes in a stylish pose known as a freeze. Newer dancers have ramped up the difficulty in recent years, adding extremely acrobatic moves known as power moves.

"People started out just spinning on their backs, and now they're skyrocketing in the air, flipping five times," Custer exclaims. "It's out of control with these death-defying feats of acrobatics."

Custer devotes most of her time to conditioning, thereby enabling her body to execute these intricate movements.

"Because this dance form is so physical, especially for women, it takes a lot of training," Custer says. "I try to train at least four or five days a week."

Although the dance has evolved, the basic movements are no different than the hip-hop routines performed by street dancers. Developing on the streets of the Bronx in New York City, breaking quickly became a way for young men and women to vent some of their frustrations.

The origins and culture of the dance style definitely have helped it evolve and gain popularity, essentially creating an underground culture that juxtaposes ballet, a controlled art form.

"The foundation of b-girling has stayed pretty much the same, and people are learning those foundations — just as they learn 'plies' in ballet as a foundational form to build off of," Custer says.

With a foundation so firmly rooted in the aggression of the streets, it's not surprising that this

underground dance movement refers to its competitions as "battles."

A traditional battle involves a circle, also called a cipher, where two dancers face off against each other. Taking place on the street and in hip-hop clubs, this informal approach to education and competition is far removed from more traditional styles of dance. Custer is hoping to bridge this gap between hip-hop and academia.

"Education is a really new thing," says Custer, who has a Master of Fine Arts from Ohio State University. "Most of the pioneers of hip-hop dancing don't really have advanced degrees — the fact that I have an [master's] in dance and one foot in the hip-hop scene is kind of strange."

Custer points out that many people in dance academia have limited exposure to hip-hop.

"I kind of provide a bridge for people in academia that would probably never go to a hip-hop club," she says. "I try to bring the culture to them, so they can understand and appreciate it."

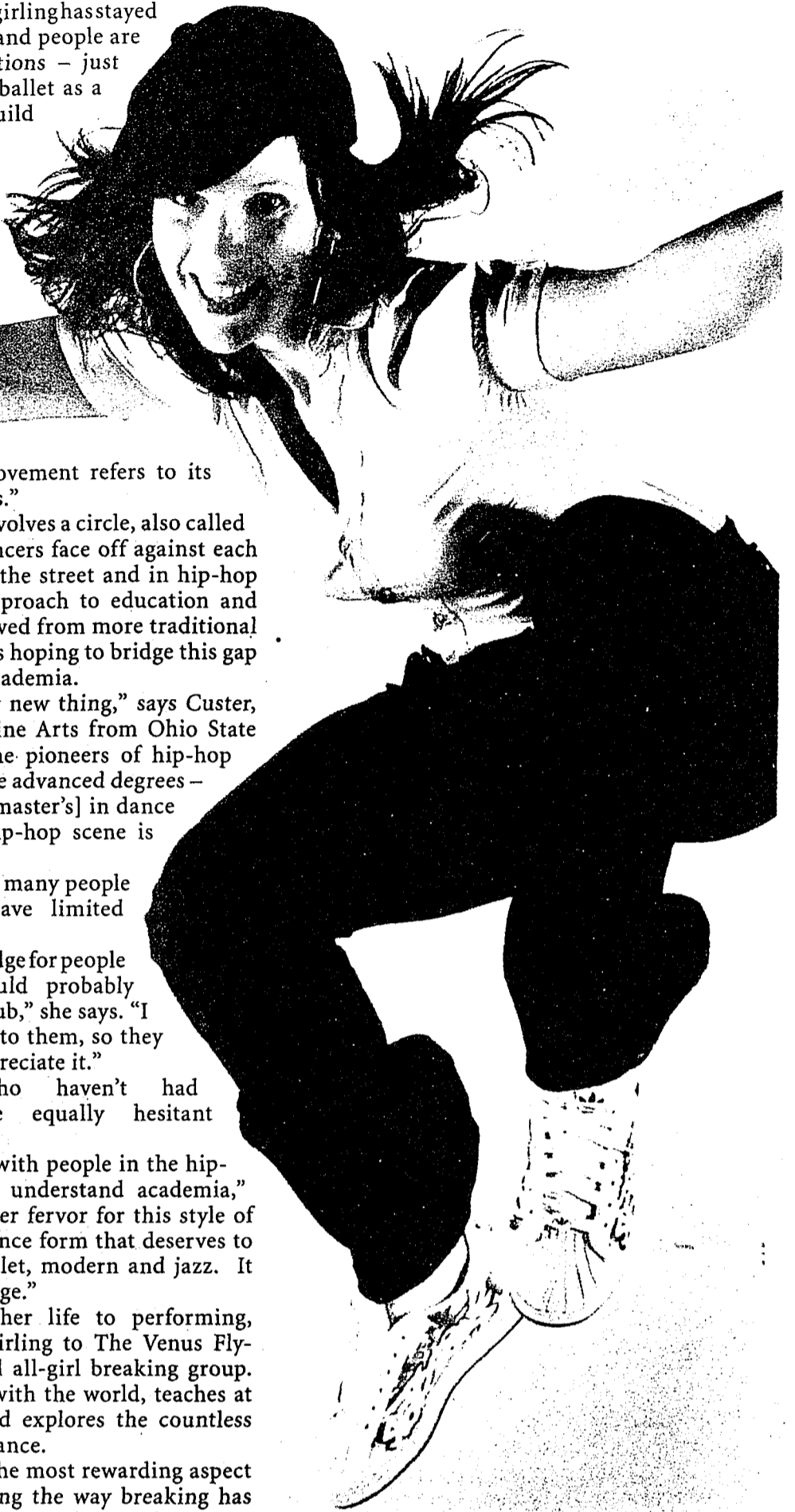
Many dancers who haven't had dance education are equally hesitant to explore academia.

"I also get frustrated with people in the hip-hop culture that don't understand academia," Custer says, revealing her fervor for this style of dance. "Hip-hop is a dance form that deserves to be studied, just like ballet, modern and jazz. It has a history and a lineage."

Custer has devoted her life to performing, as well as teaching b-girling to The Venus Fly-Traps, the first national all-girl breaking group. She shares her passion with the world, teaches at various universities, and explores the countless interpretations of this dance.

Indeed, she says that the most rewarding aspect of her job is experiencing the way breaking has developed in different parts of the world.

"Every city is different, every neighborhood is different," Custer says, grinning with enthusiasm. "I learn so much from seeing how the rest of the world gets 'down.'"



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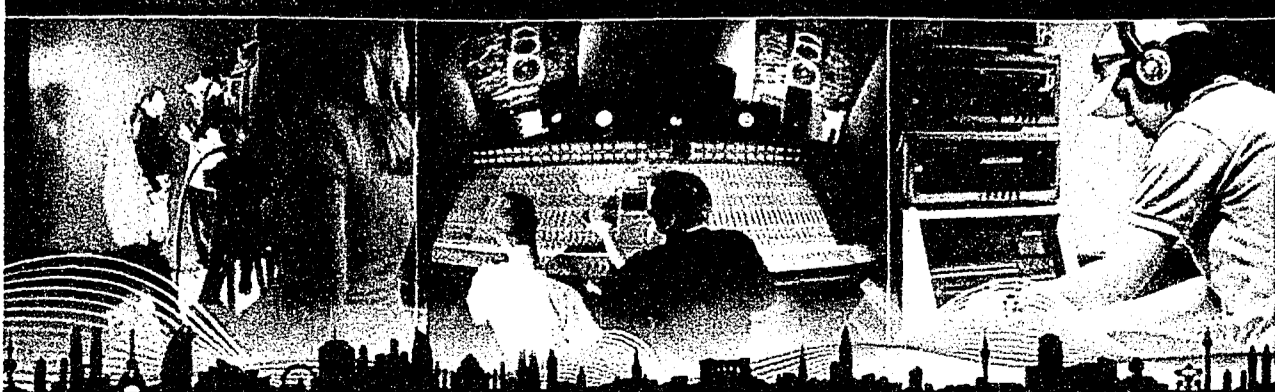
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6	2	7	3	9	5	8	1	4
8	1	5	7	4	6	2	3	9
4	3	9	8	1	2	6	7	5
3	7	1	5	8	4	9	6	2
5	6	4	2	7	9	3	8	1
9	8	2	6	3	1	4	5	7

Courtesy of syndicate.yoogi.com/sudoku

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# 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.

## Political dialogue remains similar decades later

A sitting senator labels a powerful black man as a "Marxist" and "socialist." Meanwhile, Arizona has drawn the scorn of the nation due to claims of racism.



**PATRICK WRIGHT**

**Columnist**

While the previous statements describe the current political climate, I'm talking about the 1980s and early-90s.

The black Marxist is none other than Martin Luther King Jr., an avowed Republican.

U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms called him a Marxist in 1983 during a debate over the creation of a federal holiday in his honor.

Arizona was the source of ridicule due to its holdout opposition to the creation of a federal holiday celebrating King's legacy. The state's Republican Gov. Evan Mecham refused to support the holiday and was even backed for a time by Republican John McCain, whom later ran for president in 2008.

As a result of its holdout, the 1983 Super Bowl decided to boycott Arizona, the original location of that year's NFL championship.

The game was instead played in Pasadena, Calif., at the Rose Bowl. Many people today have forgotten the contentious debate.

King's birthday has become something sacred. It has become an accepted holiday and is even celebrated worldwide.

It is easy to forget how the holiday almost never came to be. It was an uphill battle to get it passed, due to the initial opposition from President Ronald Reagan.

Yet, the federal holiday came to be after a bipartisan effort that resulted in 338 members of the U.S. House of Representatives voted to support the proposal.

Perhaps, today's contentious laws will be looked upon the same way in few decades. Today, it would be

unthinkable to oppose a holiday celebrating a Civil Rights icon.

Very few people remember the hardship the fledgling holiday endured, especially in southern states like Virginia and South Carolina.

People only remember the third Monday in January as a celebration of all the work for Civil Rights long fought by heroes like King.

In King's last speech, to sanitation workers in Memphis in 1968, he spoke of looking out over a mountaintop and seeing the Promised Land. What he envisioned was nation free of bigotry and hate.

While speaking to attendees King said, "We've got some difficult days ahead." While the days may seem darker, keep in mind that more Americans have more rights than ever before. Yet, there is still work to be done.

Every year, we should be inspired by Martin Luther King Jr. Day, knowing that there are still people living without basic civil rights, like the current illegal immigrant population

in the U.S. While the heated rhetoric and political players remain the same, things have changed; remember that every time Martin Luther King Jr. Day comes along.

Twenty-five years ago, people were worried about a national holiday. Fifty years ago, black people were afraid they wouldn't have basic civil rights, like the right to marry someone from another race and equal access to education.

The things that matter most almost always change for the better. Perhaps the old adage "time heals all wounds" still rings true today.

It may take time, but good will prevail. Reaching this eventual Promised Land is something that would make King proud.

*Patrick Wright is a senior majoring political science and geography. He can be reached at [phw2b@mtmail.mtsu.edu](mailto:phw2b@mtmail.mtsu.edu).*

### THAT MONKEY TUNE by Michael A. Kandalaft

[www.thatmonkeytune.com](http://www.thatmonkeytune.com)



## Facebook fuels astrological controversy

'New' astrology lies reveal social media truths among Americans.

If you have a Facebook profile—and you probably do—it's likely that you've heard about the recent controversy regarding "new" astrological signs.

An interview given by astronomer and professor Parke Kunkle to the Star Tribune in Minneapolis, Minn., on Jan. 10 has had everyone talking, believers and skeptics alike.

If the astrologers commenting on the story are correct, people will remain calm for about 10 more years, until the story is brought up again. They say it's a cycle that has been repeating itself for quite some time.

But, what made this time different? Why does a story like this spread like wildfire in 2011?

One theory, given by prominent astrologer Shelley Ackerman during an interview with Fox News, is that social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter took the story to new heights.

The same thing



**MICHAEL FINCH**

**Columnist**

happened during the mid-November trend on Facebook to change profile pictures to cartoon characters in order to raise awareness about child abuse. Subsequently, a rumor arose in early December that the trend had been started by a group of pedophiles hoping to gain access to children.

Anyone who thought about this rumor for more than a few seconds could realize how little sense it makes, but at the time many Facebook users immediately changed their pictures and posted frantic updates imploring their friends to do the same.

With cases like these spreading like wildfire via social networking,

it seems like people post, blog and tweet without doing any fact checking. Once the truth comes out, it's still ignored. Very few people even notice this among the erroneous posts flooding their feeds.

Misinterpretations about news stories are also spread through video-sharing sites like YouTube, in which users often title their videos in interesting or controversial ways in an attempt to get more people to watch. Views are valued over truth, and the misinformation spreads to an even broader audience.

In this particular case, the commotion is dying down, and many people are finally being exposed to the facts behind the issue. Western astrology, which is what most Americans are familiar with, is not affected by the shifts of the Earth's axis that Kunkle spoke of.

The types of astrology that are affected by



Photo courtesy of Leo Cinezi  
(Above) All of the astrological signs depicted in this ancient calendar may now belong to different months, according to some scientists.

the shifts have been around since the second century, so it is not breaking news.

In the grand scheme of things, this "new" astrological system is unlikely to stick around for long. People are having fun making jokes about the effect the "new" system will have on people with Zodiac tattoos, but it's actually a nonsensical.

What we should be worried about is the consequences these situations can reveal about

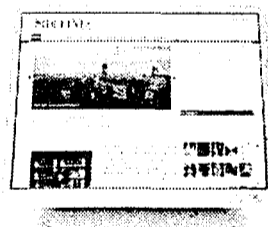
living in a constantly linked society.

Unless Internet users can develop a healthy sense of skepticism, this steady flow of information—with lies often being spread—may be doing more harm than good.

*Michael Finch is a senior majoring political science. He can be reached through [slopinio@mtsu.edu](mailto:slopinio@mtsu.edu).*

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