

Photo by DuWayne Sterling, staff photographer
Sarah-Taylor Argo, a junior majoring in interdisciplinary studies, is overwhelmed with emotion as she stands to be crowned as the new Miss MTSU on Feb. 4, 2011, in Tucker Theatre. She will go on to compete in the Miss Tennessee pageant in June.

Miss MTSU crowned

By BECCA ANDREWS
Associate News Editor

Eleven contestants competed Friday in the 35th Annual Miss Middle Tennessee State University and Miss Middle Tennessee Blue Raider Scholarship Pageant in Tucker Theatre.

Sarah-Taylor Argo, a junior majoring in interdisciplinary studies, won the Miss MTSU title, and Callie Durham, a junior majoring in broadcast journalism, became the new Miss MTBR. Both girls were awarded scholarships for their efforts, funded by the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity.

"We're so proud of [Sarah-Taylor],"

said Anthony Richardson, Argo's stepfather. "She worked so hard for this. She really deserves it."

Argo was sponsored by her grandparents, and Durham was sponsored by the Alpha Delta Pi Sorority.

"I really want to thank my grandparents for their faith in me," Argo said. "They have always remained positive and instilled values in me. I am so glad they sponsored me."

Durham said her sorority nominated her to represent them in the pageant.

"I was crying before [the pageant] because my sisters were blowing up my phone with reassuring texts,"

Durham said. "It's all so surreal - I really didn't expect any of this."

The competition lasted for more than two hours and consisted of an onstage interview, a physical fitness competition, a talent competition and an evening wear competition. Before the pageant began, the contestants were required to give interviews with the five judges in order to test their speaking skills, said emcee Kelly Colbert, a former Miss MTSU.

The musical theme of the evening was a medley of songs from the popular Fox television show "Glee." The evening wear competition was set

PAGEANT, PAGE 3

More eligible for tax credit

By ALEX HARRIS
Contributing Writer

More than 160,000 Tennessee families are expected to qualify for the American Opportunity Credit this year, according to projections released by the U.S. Treasury Department.

Congress passed the new tax credit in December, and it expands upon the Hope Credit by providing an additional \$700 in annual deductions and allows families to claim up to four years of college expenses, rather than just the first two years.

"Anything that helps to offset the cost of college is good," said James Gugliemino, a junior majoring in international relations.

The credit is based upon 100 percent of the first \$2,000 spent on tuition, fees and other college-related expenses, and 25 percent of the second \$2,000 spent, for a total credit of \$2,500

per student per year, according to the Internal Revenue Service.

The tax credit is designed to ease the cost of tuition and other related expenses for families who pay for college out of their own pockets, not through government subsidies. The credit will continue to be in effect through 2012, and if all four years are claimed, the student or family can receive up to \$10,000 in deductions.

During his State of the Union address in January, President Barack Obama called for Congress to make the tax credit permanent.

"Maintaining our leadership in research and technology is crucial to America's success," Obama said. "But, if we want to win the future - if we want innovation to produce jobs in America and not overseas - then we also have to win

TAXES, PAGE 4



Photo courtesy of Middle Tennessee State University
Students listen to a Biology lecture on Jan. 27, 2011, in the State Farm Room of the Business and Aerospace Building.

Spring semester enrollment rises

Staff Report

Spring enrollment has increased by 4.26 percent, jumping the semester's enrollment rate to 24,660 students.

An additional 1,007 students are attending this semester compared to the spring 2010 enrollment figures, of which 23,653 students registered for classes, according to officials with the Division of Student Affairs, Enrollment and Academic Services.

"We are particularly pleased with our increase in the number of returning students," said Debra Sells, vice president for Student Affairs. "Our ultimate goals for our students are that they are engaged in learning, making progress toward their degrees, and that they reach graduation in a timely manner."

The data reveal that the figures include an 8.16 percent increase in

the number of returning seniors, a 4.28 percent increase in the total returning undergraduate population, and a 3.26 percent increase in total new undergraduates.

Sells said the university is judged on its ability to help students learn and successfully complete the requirements of the degree they are pursuing, as well as keeping students enrolled helps to achieve this goal.

Over the past decade, the university's enrollment rate has increased from 18,711 in 2002 to the more than 24,600 it presently holds.

"We are very pleased to see both our numbers of new students and our numbers of returning students increasing," Sells said. "We believe new students continue to be attracted to MTSU because of the high quality of the academic programs offered, coupled with the individual attention and support our students receive."

Black open to campus visit

By BECCA ANDREWS
Associate News Editor

During the grand opening ceremony of Rep. Diane Black's district office Saturday, the newly elected congresswoman expressed interest in visiting campus to meet with students.

"I would love to come to MTSU at some point [during my term] and hear what the students have to say," Black said.

Although Black has not met with students since being elected to the U.S. Congress in November, the former state senator said she has visited other college campuses to meet with younger voters.

Black said she spent time at several universities in Tennessee, and she recently visited Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville.

"I've also visited Volunteer State [Community College] several times," Black said.

Black highlighted the fact that she served as a professor at Volunteer State prior to being elected to public office in the 1990s and said she had been to MTSU recently to visit with professors.

When asked about the high unemployment rate among recent college graduates, Black alluded to the

BLACK, PAGE 4



Photo by Drew Gardonia, staff photographer
U.S. Rep. Diane Black, a Republican from Gallatin, speaks with Amrith Kahlon, a sophomore at Blackman High School Feb. 5, 2011, during the grand opening ceremony of her 6th Congressional District office in Murfreesboro.

INDEX

FEATURES
PAGE 6

OPINIONS
PAGE 7

SPORTS
PAGE 8

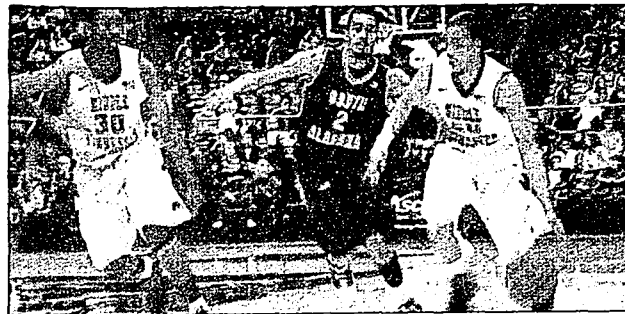
IN TODAY'S ISSUE



Find out why the members of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity stepped up for a good cause Saturday.

PAGE 6

EXCLUSIVELY ONLINE



View more photos and read our in-depth analysis of this weekend's basketball games.

SPORTS

WEATHER



MONDAY
40/25

TBR invites SGA members to compete for top spot

By TODD BARNES
News Editor

Members of the Student Government Association were invited Thursday to compete for a chance to be the next student representative to the Tennessee Board of Regents.

Appointed by Gov. Phil Bredesen in June to serve as the student board member for the 2010-2011 academic year, Casey McCullum, a senior majoring in speech and theatre, currently holds the position. With only four months left as the student board member, McCullum urged her fellow MTSU students to apply for the top spot.

"What I'd like to do today is to challenge you to take that next step," McCullum said. "And what might that be since [the SGA] already represents the students of MTSU? That next step would be to represent the students of Tennessee."

McCullum's yearlong term will end this summer, and this spring Gov. Bill Haslam will pick a new student board member to sit among the 18 TBR officials for the 2011-2012 academic year.

The deadline for applications is March 8.

The selection process is thorough, and candidates will also be interviewed by all of the Student Government Association presidents from across the state. Three applicants will be chosen to be reviewed by Haslam for his final decision.

"From there, three people are selected: one from the university, one from a community college and one from either," McCullum said. "Then those applications, resumes [and] letters of reference [will] go in front of the governor, and the governor will pick one person out of those three."

That student will be the sole representative of every college student in the state, McCullum said.

"You are the one student representing the entire state of Tennessee students," McCullum said, while speaking with officers and senators during the weekly SGA meeting.

The position comes with rewarding benefits, McCullum said.

"I've been able to meet the new Governor twice over the past two months," McCullum said. "I've had dinner next to Gov. [Phil] Bredesen before he left office. I've met a lot of [state] representatives and a lot of

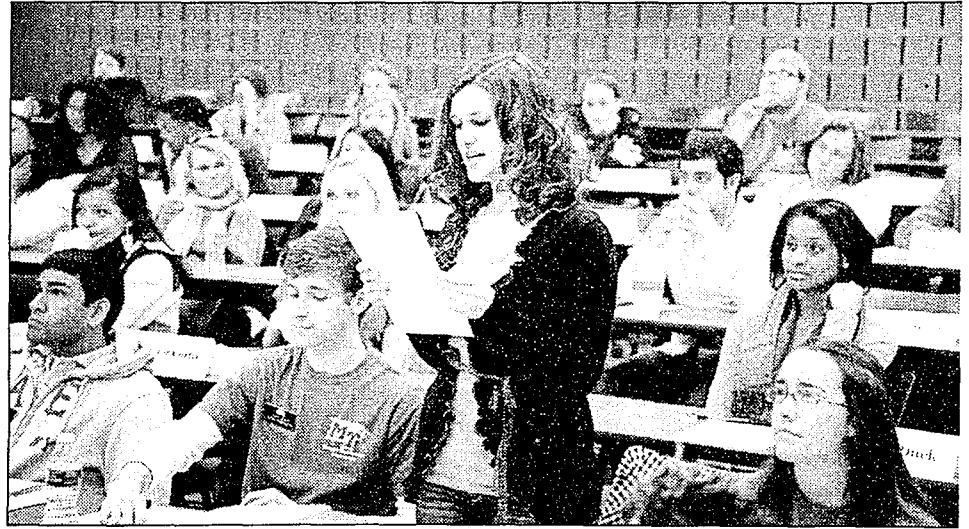


Photo by Drew Gardonia, staff photographer
Sen. Rachel Lee of the College of Liberal Arts discusses SGA legislation Feb. 3, 2011, during a weekly SGA meeting, held in Room 121 of the Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building.

senators – you're on the front lines."

However, the TBR position is demanding and leaves little room for a personal life, McCullum said, as she spoke about her experience working with the board.

"There's no boyfriend for the past year [or] sorority life," McCullum said. "It's everything you make it to be – honestly."

TBR is the nation's sixth largest system

of public higher education and represents more than 190,000 students. It governs six state universities, 13 community colleges and 26 technology centers.

"The TBR makes huge decisions that impact every single student's life in the state, and each of you have the potential to make those decisions and help in that process," McCullum said.

Economic analyst to visit campus

STAFF REPORT

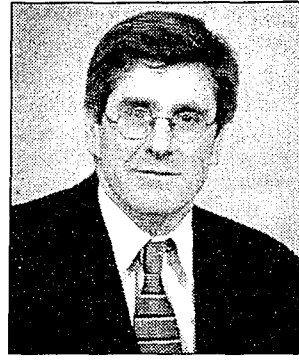
The university will host Stephen Moore, a senior economic writer for The Wall Street Journal, Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the Business and Aerospace building to discuss current events in Washington.

Moore will hold a question-and-answer session directly after his lecture to give students an opportunity to meet with him personally.

Moore is a member of The Wall Street Journal's editorial board and has written five books. His

most recent book is titled *Bullish on Bush: How the Ownership Society is Making America Richer*. He founded the Club for Growth, a political action committee that works to lower taxation and decrease government involvement.

Moore is the former president of the Free Enterprise Fund, a nonprofit organization that also seeks to advocate limited government and tax relief for all citizens, and he has worked at the Heritage Foundation and the Cato Institute, two Washington-based conservative think-tanks.



Moore

During the 1980s, he served as a research director for the Commission on Privatization under President Ronald Reagan and as a former consultant to the National Economic Commission.

The event is free and open to the public. The Jennings A. Jones College of Business, the Wright Travel Chair and the Young America's Foundation are all sponsors of the event.

Middle East, democracy topic of Thursday lecture

STAFF REPORT

An expert in Middle Eastern affairs will discuss the coexistence of Islam and democracy during a lecture Thursday at 3 p.m. in room 106 of the Paul W. Martin Honors Building.

Dilshod Achilov, a professor of political science at Eastern Tennessee State University, will primarily focus on how democracy can fuse with Islam peacefully.

The lecture is entitled, "Can Islam and Democracy Coexist?"

Murfreesboro's national attention on the debate surrounding the construction of a mosque on Middle Tennessee Boulevard last year creates a platform for discussion regarding how Islam fits with democracy, said John Vile, dean of the Honors College.

"Dr. Achilov's topic is particularly timely in light of recent controversies about expanding the local mosque in

Murfreesboro," Vile said.

Achilov received his bachelor's degree in international affairs from the University of Maine. His undergraduate training in international diplomacy was completed at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

He also holds a doctorate degree in political science from the University of Arizona.

Achilov received research funding from the International Research Exchange Board, Vile said.

The research board is an international non-profit committed to providing leadership programs to progress the worth of education, support independent media and cultivate the development of diplomatic relations between societies, according to the IREB website.

The lecture is sponsored by the Society for Universal Dialogue and the Honors College, and is free and open to the public.

CENTURY 21
CDs ♦ Tapes
Records Jewelry
New & Used CDs – Records
125 Lassetter Dr. | Monday-Saturday
Murfreesboro, TN | 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
615-890-9168

CRIME BRIEFS

Weapon

Feb. 3, 12:13 p.m.
James E. Walker Library
Lando McIntyre, 20, was arrested and charged with possession of a weapon on school property, theft under \$500 and evading arrest.

Hit & Run

Feb. 3, 12:51 p.m.
Observatory Lot
Victim reported that her vehicle had been struck while parked in the gravel lot near the softball field.

Warrant

Feb. 3, 1:40 p.m.
Keathley University Center
Public Safety officers assisted Rutherford County Sheriff Deputy arrest Shymara Shana Bass, 23, on an outstanding warrant for violation of probation.

FEBRUARY 7-13

FREE TAN WEEK

FREE FAST TAN! FOR NON CLUB MEMBERS AND DISCOUNTED UPPER LEVEL VISITS.

FREE TANNING! TO NEXT LEVEL FOR ALL CLUB MEMBERS AND DISCOUNTED UPGRADES.

CUTTING-EDGE EQUIPMENT • KNOWLEDGEABLE STAFF
INVITING ENVIRONMENT • MONEY-SAVING MEMBERSHIPS

Locations closest to Campus:

- 235 W. Northfield Blvd (Next to Hollywood Video)
- 2904 S. Church Street, (Next to Starbucks)
- 2706 Old Fort Parkway (Across the street from Kohls)

SUN TANCITY
Let yourself shine.®

Close to HOME. Close to CAMPUS.
Memberships valid at over 125 salons,
visit suntancity.com to find one near you.

Restrictions may apply, see salon for details.

LOCAL EVENTS

On Campus

Lectures:
Experimental Vehicles: Innovation and Creativity in Engineering
Feb. 7, 3 p.m.
University Honors College
Room 106
Tickets: FREE

Carl Sandburg and the Spanish Guitar
Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m.
Business and Aerospace Building
State Farm Room
Tickets: FREE

Visions in America: Music of Paul Osterfield
Feb. 7, 8 p.m.
Wright Music Building Hinton Hall
Tickets: FREE

"It Takes a Village to Raise a Child's Activity Level"
Feb. 10, 7 p.m.
LRC 221
Tickets: FREE

Franco-Peruvian Writer and Diplomat, Ventura Garcia Calderon
Feb. 14, 3 p.m.
University Honor's College

Off Campus

Room 106
Tickets: FREE

Sports:
Men's Basketball vs. FIU
Feb. 12, 4:30 p.m.
Murphy Center
FREE

Horse Cutting Show
Feb. 13, 8 a.m.
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
Tickets: FREE

Softball vs. Murray State
Feb. 13, 1 p.m.
Softball Field
FREE

Events:
Black History Month Step Off
Feb. 8, 7 p.m.
Tom Jackson Building
Tickets: FREE

QUESday: Omegas in the Military Display
Feb. 8, 11 a.m.
Keathley University Center
Tickets: FREE

We Can Make You Laugh Comedy Tour
Feb. 7, 7:00 p.m.
Keathley University Center
Tickets: FREE

Tickets: \$5 in advance, \$7 at door

Concerts:
8 Off 8th
Feb. 7, 9 p.m.
Mercy Lounge
Tickets: FREE

Weekly Open Mic
Feb. 8, sign-up at 7 p.m., open mic at 8 p.m.
Café Coco
FREE

High Frequency and Detox
Feb. 10, 7 p.m.
The Muse
Tickets: \$5 in advance, \$7 at door

Less than Jake with The Supervillains
Feb. 10, 9 p.m.
Exit In
Tickets: \$16.50 in advance, \$18.50 at door

Performing Arts:
Weekly Open Mic
Feb. 8, sign-up at 7 p.m., open mic at 8 p.m.
Café Coco
FREE

High Frequency and Detox
You can't take it with you:
Feb. 10, 7 p.m.
The Muse

Less than Jake with The Supervillains
Feb. 10, 9 p.m.
Exit In
Tickets: \$16.50 in advance, \$18.50 at door

Tapes 'n Tapes with Oberhofer
Feb. 12, 9 p.m.
Mercy Lounge
Tickets: \$10 in advance, \$12 at door

Film:
"The Virgin Suicides"
Feb. 11, 7 p.m.
Frist Center for the Visual Arts
Tickets: FREE

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

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

Argo to compete for Miss Tennessee title in June

PAGEANT FROM PAGE 1

to Lea Michele and Chris Colfer's rendition of "Defying Gravity," and selections were played at intermission while attendees were taking their seats.

"I really loved the 'Glee' theme," said Lindsey Stokes, a senior majoring in fashion merchandising.

Tara Zolfagharbik, a junior majoring in early childhood education, won the Miss Congeniality award, and Sheena Patel, a junior majoring in psychology, won the People's Choice award.

Emilee Ketron, a sophomore majoring in graphic design and printmaking, was the second runner-up, while Tara Zolfagharbik was the first runner-up.

Just before the crowning of the winners, the 2010 queens reflected on their experiences as Miss MTSU and Miss MTBR.

"The women you see up here are not just pretty faces," said Hollie Harris, the 2010 Miss MTBR.

Argo and Durham will begin training next week for the Miss Tennessee pageant in June, said Rob Patterson, coordinator of New Student and Family Programs and advisor for the pageant.

"The next few months will be filled with drilling interview questions and making decision on everything from hair and makeup to wardrobe," Patterson said.

The statewide event will be held in Jackson and Patterson said Argo and Durham should expect to be treated like royalty.

"[At the Miss Tennessee pageant], the contestants are put up in a nice hotel and have everything taken care of," Patterson said.

Several of the contestants said they were thankful for the experience of competing.

"I am so glad I decided to do this," said Savannah Hagewood, a sophomore majoring in merchandising and design. "The girls all got really close, and I'm thankful for the new friendships that I've made."

Kayla Hopper, a freshman majoring in elementary education, echoed Hagewood's sentiments.

"I had so much fun doing this," Hopper said. "I was so nervous the whole time, but I grew as a person, and I don't regret it



Photos by DuWayne Sterling, staff photographer
The newly crowned Miss MTSU Sarah-Taylor Argo walks the runway of the Tucker Theatre stage on Feb. 4, 2011.



Photo by DuWayne Sterling, staff photographer
(Top) Callie Durham, a junior majoring in broadcast journalism, kneels to be crowned Miss MTBR on Feb. 4, 2011, in Tucker Theatre. (Bottom) Miss MTSU Sarah-Taylor Argo and Miss MTBR Callie Durham stand for pictures moments after being crowned Feb. 4, 2011, in the Tucker Theatre.

one bit."

Argo and Durham will both be working to publicize their platforms over the next year.

Argo's platform is Educating Educators: Look, Listen, Love! She said she hopes to teach middle-school math after graduating and feels it is important for educators to be involved in their students' lives even outside of the classroom.

"I was diagnosed with depression last year," Argo said. "Teachers need to know what signs to look for in their students so they can help."

Argo said she plans to distribute pamphlets and attend faculty meetings to explain the program to educators.

Durham's platform is Autism Awareness and Research, a personal cause for Durham because two of her cousins have the disorder.

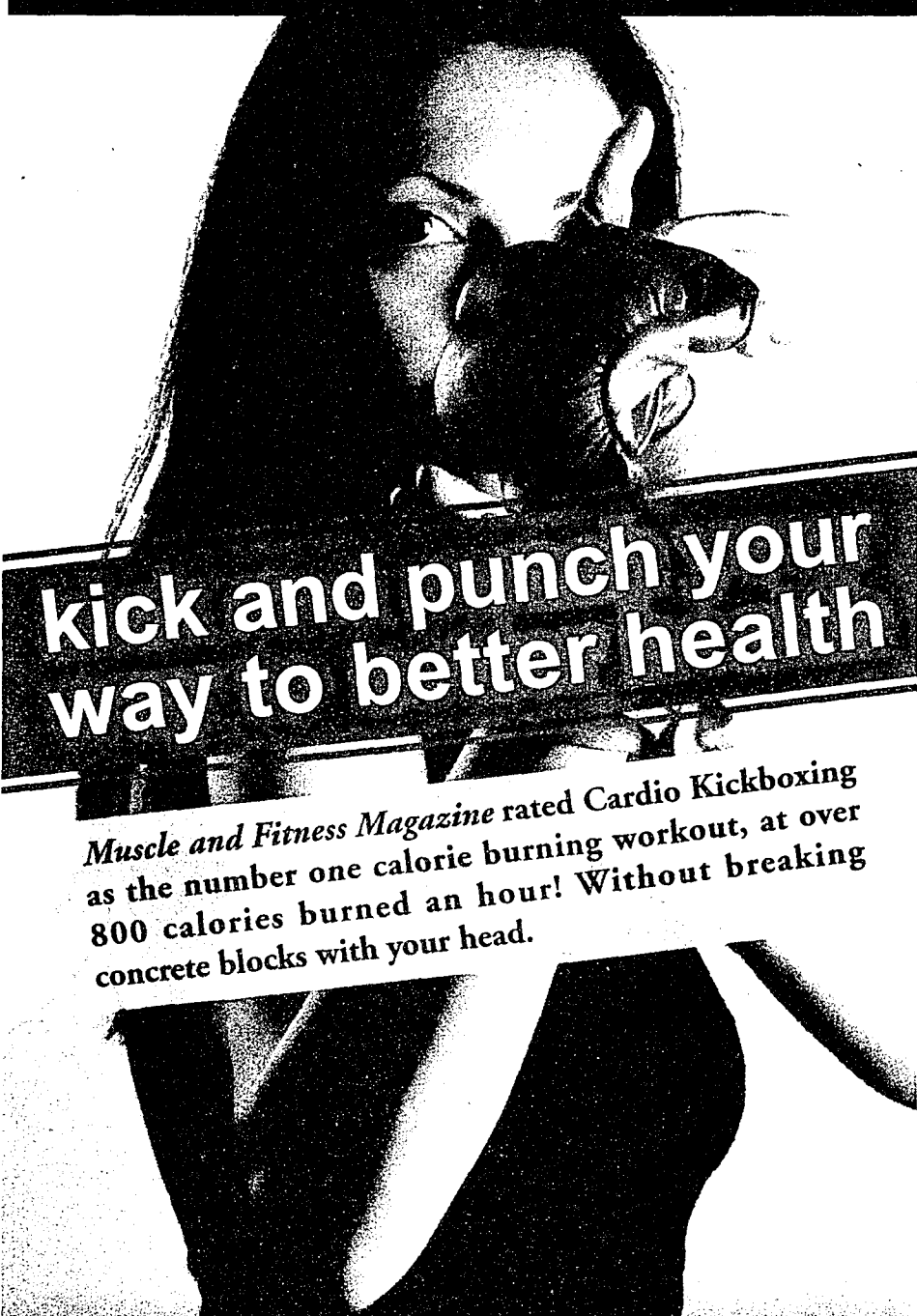
Carter Wanamaker, 11, and Brody Ward, 3, have a severe form of autism that makes communication next to impossible, Durham said.

"I want to be a spokesperson for children that can't speak for themselves," Durham said.

Argo and Durham both agreed that they are excited for the road ahead as MTSU representatives.

"Honestly, it's a little overwhelming, but I'm so excited to represent MTSU," Argo said. "I have such great ties here."

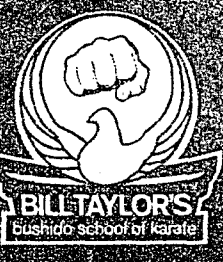
15% discount for all MTSU students
\$30/month MTSU students only! Unlimited attendance at both facilities. FREE bag gloves with enrollment. Class times 9am, 10am and 7pm. Must mention this ad for this offer



Muscle and Fitness Magazine rated Cardio Kickboxing as the number one calorie burning workout, at over 800 calories burned an hour! Without breaking concrete blocks with your head.

Get into the best shape of your life and learn life saving self-defense techniques all in one place!

Convenient Locations, Flexible Schedules, Rock Solid Reputation!



two locations to serve you

1820 NW Broad St. 893-6003

1911 Business Campus Dr. 890-6755

bskonline.com AND

freekaratemurfreesboro.com

murfreesboro's first and largest private martial arts school since 1972!

Monday February 14
don't forget Valentine's Day!

Shop With These Merchants For Dining & Gift Valentine Specials

Fox's Pizza Den

Best Tasting Pizza In The 'Boro!
615-494-4805

Extra Large 2-Topping Pizza, Breadsticks with Cheese and a 2-Liter Drink
\$16.99

New Spring Arrivals
jewelry • sunglasses
interchangeable Sierra's flip flops

10% Off Your Purchase with MTSU ID

Sorority • Fraternity • MTSU Monogramming
bags • bookmarks • nota pads • laptop bags • key chains

Personally Yours

2910-C South Church St. Murfreesboro inside the Kroger Shopping Center 615.848.1212

Viva Beads, Willow Tree, Miche Bags, Monogram Items & Handbags

Love is in the Air at
The Cedar Bucket Restaurant

2 Can Dine for \$20
Sat., February 12th & Mon., February 14th
4:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Valentine Menu

Live Mussels	corn chicken	Broccoli Casserole
Shrimp & Pasta	Salad	Green Beans
Roasted Potatoes	Roasted Potatoes	Salade
		Roasted Beefsteak

1626 Middle TN Blvd. Murfreesboro, TN 37130
(615) 896-3716

American Opportunity Credit expands college deductions guidelines

TAXES FROM PAGE 1

the race to educate our kids."

The credit is also up to 40 percent refundable, meaning low-income families and those who do not pay federal income taxes, but do pay for college, can receive up to \$1,000 in tax refunds.

Analysts predict that low-income families will receive more than \$4 billion as a result of the tax credit, according to FinAid.org, a website that specializes in providing financial information and tools to college students and their families.

According to an analysis by the Treasury Department, as many as 9.4 million families nationwide are expected to benefit just in this tax season alone, bringing the total to more

than \$18.2 billion worth of deductions — an average of \$1,900 per family.

The tax credit is available to any taxpayer paying the qualified tuition and related expenses, with a qualifying modified adjusted gross income of \$80,000 for those filing separately, or \$160,000 for joint returns. It also allows for credit phase-outs for families who earn between \$90,000 and \$180,000 annually.

"If the parent is able to claim the student as a dependent, it's best to have the parent claim the education credit," said Jane Turner, a senior tax advisor at H&R Block. "Ninety-nine percent of the time parents have a higher income and the credit belongs to them."

Turner, who has been doing taxes since 1982, said there are four ways to claim higher education, and that

it's best to calculate all of the ways to figure out what will benefit the taxpayer the most.

If the tax credit is claimed in a tax cycle then tuition and fees cannot be claimed as a deduction during that same year. While

"It's a good incentive to get people to go to school."

CHRISTINA KENNEY
SOPHOMORE POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR

the tax credit will usually provide the best results, occasionally a deduction will be more effective, so both should be calculated in order to find the best option, Turner said.

However, the credit is expected to add more than \$13 billion to the deficit over the next 10 years, according to the Tax Policy Center, a nonprofit organization formed as

a joint venture between the Urban Institute and Brookings Institution to provide analysis and information on tax policies for the public.

The Tax Policy Center gives the tax credit an overall grade of "C,"

reasoning that because most students qualify, higher education governing boards, like the Tennessee Board of Regents, could react by raising tuition, thus reducing the value of the credit to the student.

However, not everyone believes that a tax credit is the best way to go about making college more affordable.

Martin Kennedy, an

economics professor in the College of Business, said most economists do not believe that credits or deductions are the most effective.

"It would be better to have a simple, broad, low tax with minimized credits and deductions," Kennedy said.

While the credit does appear to carry many positive aspects, some believe it is better to wait until it has been available for a few years before making a judgment about its effectiveness.

"It is likely one of those things that are best judged once we have more time and more distance to see the scope and texture of its ramifications," said Kevin Duong, a political science professor in the College of Liberal Arts.

But, if the tax credit goes to students already planning on attending

college, it will most likely cause some of the money to be spent, resulting in a slight economic boost, according to the Tax Policy Center. Additionally, this credit might help to offset the problems in the student loan market, while making it easier for the unemployed to enhance their skills.

"It's a good incentive to get people to go to school," said Christina Kenney, a sophomore majoring in political science.

Azad Tayar, a freshman majoring in business finance, agreed that the credit is likely to spur college enrollment rates.

"I think it's great because it's like they're giving students a reward for going to school," Tayar said. "It's better for America."

Marie Kempf, editor-in-chief, contributed to this report.

Representative meets with voters

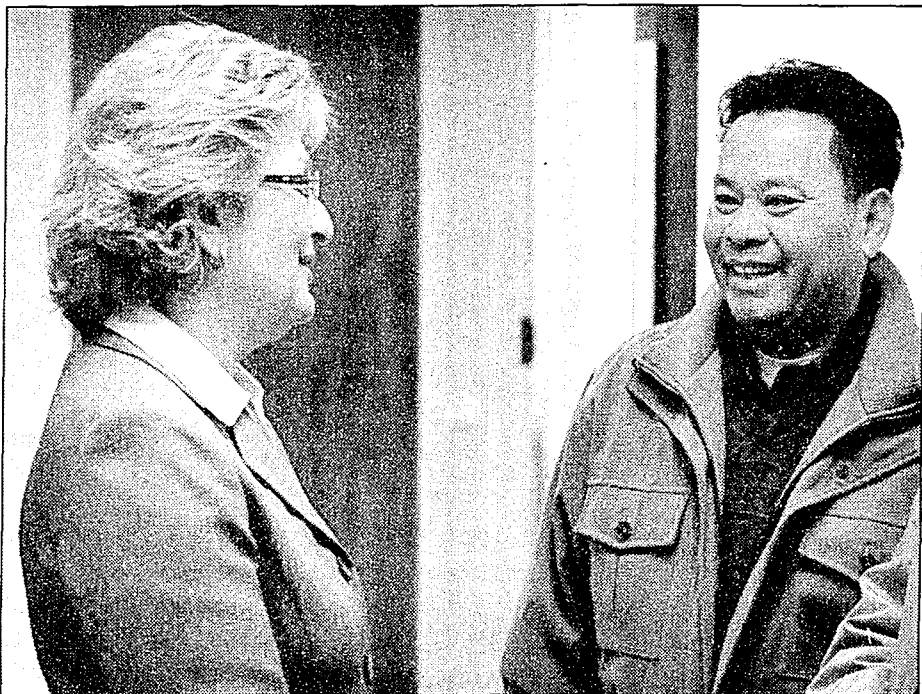


Photo by Bailey Ingram, staff photographer
U.S. Rep. Diane Black speaks with Kenneth Wiggins, a Murfreesboro resident, on Feb. 5, 2011, during the newly elected congresswoman's district office grand opening.

BLACK FROM PAGE 1

fact that they are facing much of the same problems as those who have been in the workforce longer.

She said she believes recent graduates are having trouble finding jobs after college because small-business owners are faced with an uncertain market, keeping them from expanding their businesses and creating jobs.

"They all want the government to just get out of the way," Black said.

More than 150 people wandered in and out of the Murfreesboro office, most of whom expressed concern about the economy and health care related matters. However, the subject of higher education was not one of the issues emphasized by constituents during the two-hour meet and greet.

"I wanted to let her know I'm a volunteer with the Alzheimer's Association," said Sandy Bragg, a Murfreesboro resident. "Alzheimer's is becoming a national health crisis in our country."

Amrith Kahlon, a sophomore at Blackman High School, and one of the few representatives of his age group at

the event, said he came to meet Black because he wants to serve the country as well.

Ever since the second grade, Kahlon said he has wanted to join the military, and he hopes to one day attend West Point.

Chief of Staff Annie Palisi, who works as the senior aide for Black's congressional office, said meeting people like Kahlon and Bragg gives the Gallatin native a chance to stay connected with the people she represents in Congress.

"Having direct contact with the people she is representing is very important [to Black], and that's what this work week is all about," Palisi said. "She has met with local small-business owners and also a group of realtors to discuss the economy and the job market."

Palisi said that Black has been traveling around the 6th Congressional District all week in order to gain a better understanding of what her constituents expect of her time in office.

"We've received some great feedback," Palisi said. "This has been a great opportunity for give and take."

HOUSING REAPPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR FALL 2011 / SPRING 2012

The Housing and Residential Life Office is now accepting housing reapplication forms from returning students for the Fall 2011/Spring 2012 academic year. Students are encouraged to reapply for housing as early as possible, particularly if they are requesting to move to a different location on campus next year, as new assignments are made by application due date.

Students requesting to remain in the same location on campus next year will be given first priority to do so as long as their reapplication and \$300 prepaid rent deposit are received by the deadline. The reapplication deadline with priority for the 2011/2012 academic year is **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2011 AT 4:00 P.M.**

Students may reapply by completing a reapplication form and paying the \$300.00 prepaid rent in the Housing and Residential Life Office in the Keathley University Center, room 300, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Students also have the option of reapplying for housing with priority online at www.mtsu.edu. The \$300 prepaid rent is paid by using a credit card, MasterCard or Visa, or by completing an online check. There is an additional \$18 nonrefundable service fee charged by the third party for processing the payment online.

To obtain a **HOUSING REAPPLICATION FORM**, please come by the Housing and Residential Life Office during office hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, in the Keathley University Center, room 300.

****Summer '11 Housing Applications are also available in the Housing Office. Reserve your summer space now by completing the housing application and submitting it with the \$175.00 prepaid rent deposit. It is not too early!!**

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY

For additional information or questions, please contact
Housing and Residential Life during office hours at 898-2971.

STUDENT AMBASSADORS 2011-2012

We are now accepting applications for our newest group of
Student Ambassadors, the official hosts of the University.

The Student Ambassador program, sponsored by the MTSU Alumni Association, is an elite group of students that serve as representatives and hosts for MTSU. The Student Ambassador program is looking for enthusiastic, motivated students who want to use their talents and experience to serve their university.

Applications are available at the MTSU Alumni House, the KUC information desk and at www.mtalumni.com

To apply to be a Student Ambassador, students must:

- Have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5
- Have completed at least one semester at MTSU
- Be able to serve from May 1, 2011 to April 30, 2012
- Attend one informational meeting at the Alumni House



Textbook Brokers expands services

By BAILEY DAVIS
Contributing Writer

Textbook Brokers is now housing First Class Cell Repairs, a locally owned business that aims to fix cell phones on a college budget.

The business model is aimed at attracting customers who would rather save money than buy a new product, especially given the economic climate. The additional location was opened only a few months ago in November, but owner Robert Batchellor and manager Luke Barber said the shop has already gained a loyal customer base.

Barber said First Class Cell Repair prides itself on its ability to fix even the most extensively cracked screens, a majority of which are iPhones.

"Seventy-five percent of what we see are cracked screens, and 75 percent of the cracked screens are iPhones," Barber said.

First Class Cell Repair offers a 90 day parts and labor warranty for every repair done. Its abilities range from cracked screens to broken track balls on BlackBerries and even simple repairs. However, if a phone is past the point of no return, Barber said he is frank with customers about what avenue is best for them to take.

"If you bring a phone to me that is going to cost \$90 to fix and its worth \$20, I'm going to

tell you to just get on eBay and buy a new phone," Barber said, "because there's no point in me charging you for something like that. That's just dishonest."

First Class Cell Repair benefits from its business ties with AT&T, which provides the shop with cell phone parts in bulk, making in-store repairs much more cost effective for both customers and the store, Barber said.

Barber said customers who have uninsured phones could benefit from the business. He described one incident when an iPhone that had a crushed screen was fixed for \$150.

Batchellor said he made the decision to open the cell phone repair shop because he tested the additional in-store service at other locations and found there was an opening in the market. He said knowing that he had the ability to reach out to the more than 23,000 MTSU students who could utilize the repair company also influenced his decision.

"There are a lot of people that fix phones," Barber said. "Some of them work out of their garage, some of them will meet you and work out of their trunk of their car. We're just trying to be dependable, reputable and affordable. There are not a lot of cell phone repair stores that do that. We're just trying to do people right."



Photo by Duwayne Sterling, staff photographer
A customer turns in his cell phone for repair Feb. 4, 2011, to Luke Barber at First Class Cell Repairs, in Murtreesboro.



Photo by Baily Ingram, staff photographer
Astronomer Santos Lopez presents his case against the 2012 apocalypse theory Feb. 4, 2011, in the State Farm Room of the Business and Aerospace Building.

Astronomer 'debunks' apocalypse theory

By ROBBIE HUFF
Contributing Writer

The idea that the world is going to end in 2012 is only a myth and should not be taken seriously, said astronomer Santos Lopez during an on-campus lecture Friday.

The lecture, titled "Debunking Apocalypse 2012," was held as part of the departments of physics and astronomy "Friday Star Parties." More than 40 people attended the lecture, which focused on the legend of the Mayan calendar. The calendar ends next year, and a growing number of people have come to believe it does so because that is when the world will cease to exist.

"The Mayans never prophesied the end of the world," Lopez said. "The Mayan calendar is just a calendar."

The Mayans creation of the long count calendar, a calendar on a 5,125 yearlong cycle, will begin again or to some, end on Dec. 21, 2012. Many theories surround the meaning of the calendar, but Lopez tried to prove that the calendar was not meant to end but to begin again.

"There is only one thing to worry about after Dec. 21, 2012," Lopez said. "You will only have 3 more shopping days until Christmas."

Lopez, who is originally from Venezuela, has spent years studying Mayan culture and history.

His lecture covered the Mayan classic period of 250 A.D. – 900 A.D. He spoke primarily about the Mayans advanced understanding of mathematics and astronomy.

"Astronomy and religion were one in the same to the Mayans," Lopez said.

The Mayans were close to the tropics, which gave them "very clear black skies" that helped them in viewing the stars, Lopez said.

Lopez also addressed the popular theories that the Mayans were taught mathematics and how to build their intricate pyramids by an extraterrestrial civilization.

"It is easy to accept that the Roman coliseum was built by Romans," Lopez said.

To believe that the Mayans were not capable of constructing advanced architecture without the help of extraterrestrials is a "form of cultural racism," Lopez said.

"The fact is that they did it," Lopez said. "They were very, very advanced."

The popularity of the Mayan apocalypse prophecy is because of one reason, Lopez said.

"There is money to be made off 2012 and lots of it," Lopez said. "Humans love to find patterns in things that have no pattern whatsoever. A lot of people will do really stupid things if they believe the world is going to end."

Lopez said he believes that some people who read or watch 2012 "doom-and-gloom messages," such as the 2009 film 2012, will out of ignorance misinterpret the Mayans.

Michael Welch, a student at Columbia State Community College, said the 2012 theory reminds him of the Y2K panic, which was the fear that the world would end because computer calendars were not programmed for the new 2000 millennium.

"It's just like the Y2K panic – nothing is going to happen," Welch said.

Lopez concluded the lecture by saying that the Mayans do not hold the answers to the world's end.

This article was condensed for print. The full version is available online.

Be more than just a student, a leader, or a scholar...

"Be more...Be Greek!"

Being Greek entails being all these and then some. Did you know that the all Greek GPA is higher than the non-Greek average? Were you aware that most of your campus leaders and those who are most involved on campus are Greek? Did you know that Greeks contribute more community service hours and raise more money to support philanthropic causes than any other student organizations?

While Greeks make up only a small portion of the total student population, we are the majority of those involved on campus. We major in every field, and are normal college students who have to study and work too. We put ourselves out there, we meet new people, and we have a lot of fun doing it. We support our university. Being Greek enriches our college experience, presents us with opportunities to serve and to lead, and we make friendships that last a lifetime.

Learn more about what it means to be Greek at MTSU and sign up for recruitment week by visiting our website at www.mtsu.edu/greeks/.

Interfraternity Council Recruitment Week will be held

February 14 through February 20

Join our Facebook Group!
MTSU Spring 2011 Fraternity Recruitment

For Questions contact the office of Greek Affairs at 615-898-5812

or email The IFC officers:

President Craig Hutto cah4p@mtmail.mtsu.edu
Vice-President Cody D Smith cds4w@mtmail.mtsu.edu
Vice President of Recruitment William T. Fox wtf2c@mtmail.mtsu.edu

FEATURES

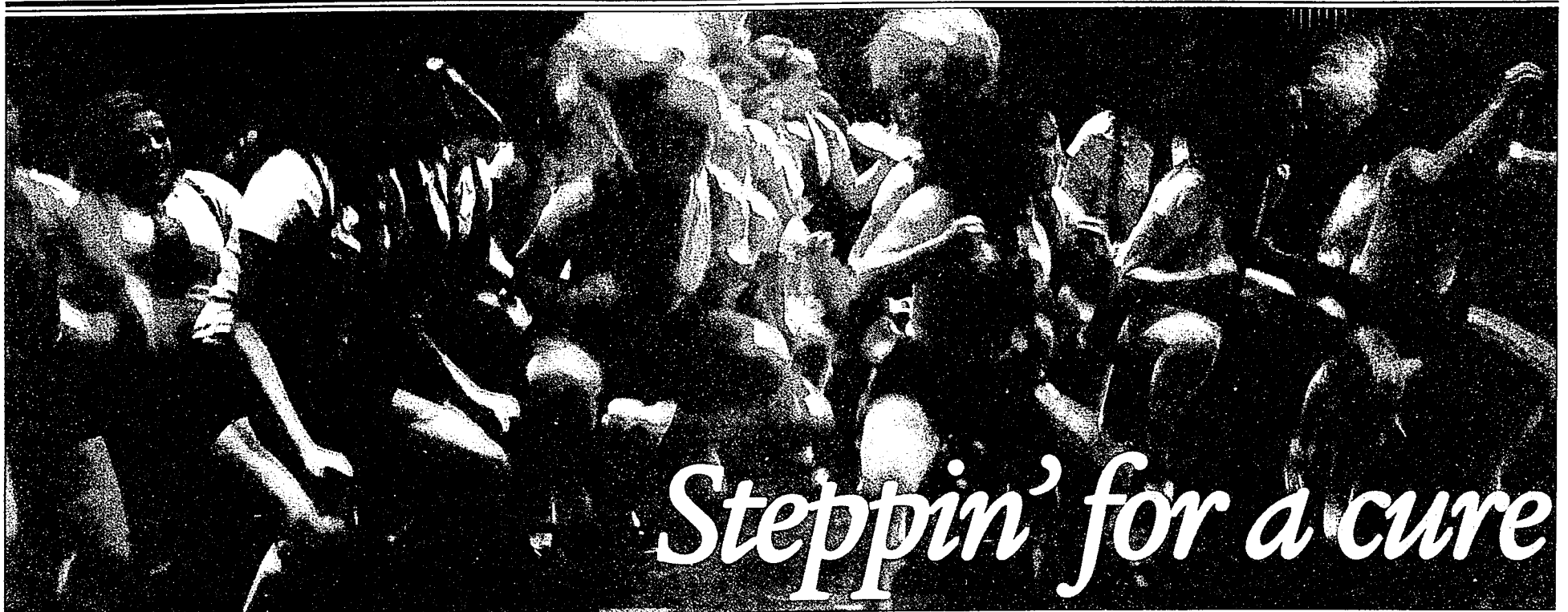


Photo by Bailey Ingram, staff photographer

Members of Alpha Omicron Pi Women's Fraternity step jump in unison while performing Feb. 5, 2011, in Tucker Theatre during the annual "Step for a Cure" charity event. The fundraiser is one of the annual events sponsored by the members of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.

By LIZA SATURDAY
Contributing Writer

The lights dimmed and the sounds of foghorns and excited chatter echoed among the crowd in the Tucker Theatre on Saturday night.

Soon, the unifying sounds of stomps, claps and yells rang throughout the auditorium, only further excited the anxious audience.

But the excitement wasn't projected solely toward the show that was taking place - it was also for the great cause behind it.

Six sororities not only stepped for a cure but amped up the attitude in the Annual Step Show hosted by Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.

"Step for a Cure" is a step show that began in 2000 and was created by alumni of Phi Beta Sigma to raise money for the children of St. Jude Children's Hospital.

"This is an event we look forward to every year," said Heather Beasley, a senior majoring in chemistry and the choreography chair for Alpha Delta Pi Sorority. "The effort, participation and involvement from everyone is outstanding. Most importantly, it is a great way to raise money for St. Jude."

Tickets went for \$15, but the theater was packed, with only a few seats in the balcony left for stragglers.

"Our goal is to raise \$1,500," said Fred Copeland, a senior majoring in sports management and president of Phi Beta Sigma, when asked how much he hoped to raise during Saturday night's benefit.

Copeland organized last year's event as well, raising \$1,500, and was determined to match that amount. This was not a challenge as the event quickly sold out and ended up raising around twice as much as the previous year.

The brothers of Phi Beta Sigma helped out sororities Alpha Delta Pi, Alpha Chi Omega, Alpha Omicron Pi, Kappa Delta, Zeta Tau Alpha, and Alpha Tau Omega with their steps.

"It was great getting a chance to work with all the sororities and fraternities," Copeland said. "We put in a lot of countless hours of hard work."

The Performing Arts Dance Company of MTSU started the night off full of energy and unsurpassed talent. Dancing to a medley of Janet Jackson, Beyoncé and Usher, the crowd was able to sing along and get excited for the soon-to-

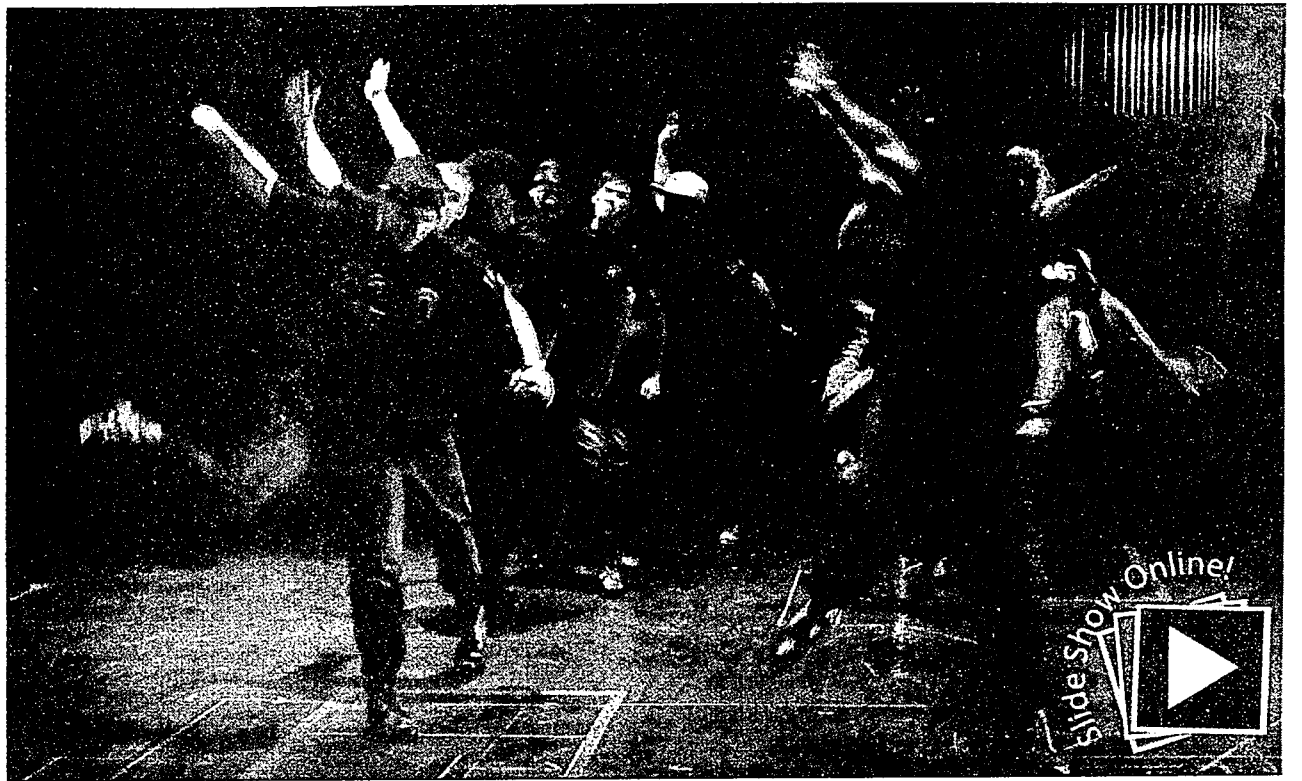


Photo by Bailey Ingram, staff photographer

The men of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity perform Feb. 5, 2011, in Tucker Theatre during the organization's annual "Step for a Cure," which raises money for St. Jude Children's Hospital.

come step performances.

Alpha Delta Pi took the stage first, still looking their finest despite their homeless attire, all the while holding cardboard signs that read "Will Step for a Cure."

They started the show off with attitude, poking fun at their apparent rivals, Alpha Omicron Pi, letting them know they were here to get "their" house back.

Whipping their hair back and forth, they reminded the audience that the

competition had begun.

The superheroes of Alpha Chi Omega flew in and reminded the crowd that they were the true step heroes. They stood out in the competition with their glow stick steps, their coordinated glow sticks moving together perfectly in the dark auditorium.

The girls of Alpha Omicron Pi taught the crowd how to step in their schoolgirl outfits. These attitude-packed schoolgirls

stepped perfectly, incorporating sticks in their routine, reminding the crowd which sorority has had the best grades for the past six semesters.

Alpha Tau Omega stepped to Waka Flocka and provided entertainment, telling the audience, "You know you like that!" and sending them into laughter. It was apparent they had worked hard practicing their steps but still knew how to have fun with their routine.

"It was definitely a lot of hard work because we are learning how to do something none of us had ever done," said Patrick Morrison, a junior international relations major and president of ATO. "It was fun and a great opportunity for the brothers to hang out and get to know each other better, and it was great to show support for Phi Beta Sigma."

Kappa Delta stepped in from outer space, glowing green under the black lights. With only nine girls, they had to step loudly to establish their presence. Kappa Delta was voted the "Fan Favorite." This category was determined by the amount of donated money each sorority or fraternity's designated buckets collected during the event.

The new girls in school, Zeta Tau Alpha, made a statement with their rebellious attitudes. One thing they definitely didn't need to learn on their first day was how to step. With a teacher, jealous students, and hall monitors, they taught the lessons that are worth learning such as appearance and attitude.

Gionni Carr, a Phi Beta Sigma alumnus from Memphis, choreographed Zeta's routine.

"We used him last year and will probably next year, too," said Eve Wright, a senior majoring

in behavioral and health science and member of Zeta Tau Alpha. Last year was her first year stepping and she hopes to return next year to participate as well.

Wright said "sister time and getting to know each other" were her favorite parts of preparing for the show, both of which she got plenty of during the group's countless hours of rehearsal.

It was a close call toward the end, but Chi Omega won over the crowd and judges, taking the coveted first place in the competition. The sparkling robots not only shined in their silver sequined shirts, but also dazzled judges with their all around positive attitudes. They stepped with class, which may have been the tipping point for the seven judges at the event.

"Only a quarter of the girls have stepped before so we're pretty pumped right now," said Rachel Martin, a senior in the College of Mass Communication and member of Chi Omega, after the show.

Phi Beta Sigma had taught the group two or three steps, but the girls proved themselves by self-teaching the rest. The sorority wanted to amp up the competition this year, choosing the clever robot theme and perfecting their steps.

"This to us was being able to come out and be different," Martin said backstage after the show.

Alpha Omicron Pi stepped in second with Alpha Delta Pi placing third right behind them. It was yet another successful fundraiser held by Phi Beta Sigma.

"It was a full house and a great event," Copeland said. "But, it was great to see the groups stepping for a cause. Seeing everybody coming together to compete and raise money for this cause was worth it."



Nashville

T: 615-244-5848

E: saenashi@saer.edu

W: nashville.saer.edu

Music Career Now

START YOUR CAREER IN THE AUDIO INDUSTRY

STUDY IN THE HEART OF MUSIC ROW

MAKE YOUR PASSION YOUR CAREER

**OPEN HOUSE
Feb 26
Classes start April 4th**

7 Music Circle North, Nashville, TN 37203



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.

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Freedom of the press not subject to renegotiation

The growing conflict in Egypt highlights the risks that journalists take to bring the news to the masses. Over the past week, the offices of Al Jazeera in Egypt have been ransacked to prevent news from going to press, American journalists from Fox News, CBS News and other news outlets have been attacked or detained by the police merely for reporting the news.

It stands to reason the light that journalists cast on the totalitarian aspects of many governments shows just how important journalism is to the democratic process. A free press, something we often take for granted, is very much a part of the system of checks and balances that hold those in power accountable for their actions, promises and abuses.

Sadly, the atrocities committed by the Egyptian government are nothing new. In 2010, 57 journalists died trying to carry out their tasks of reporting the news, which was actually a decline from 2009 when 68 journalists died.

Still, while many journalists in Egypt found themselves in prison, their journalistic mindset never faded. Many have come to report the outright thuggery that has occurred against their counterparts or government dissenters. The chilling screams that echoed through the halls of the prisons painted an eerie picture of the realities of torture and censorship.

The bruises, scars and faceless victims stood as a reminder of the tendency of man, not to fight or maintain freedom, but to echo the long history of the state of man, one of tyranny, servitude and misery.

If we wish to maintain a society with the hopes of peace and prosperity, we should begin to treat the state or those in power not as something above us, but as something we can rise above. To paraphrase the economist Milton Friedman, a nation is not a set of institutions to grant favors or gifts, nor is it a master to be served and worshipped, but a set of individuals who compose it.

The reason many governments claim the

right to detain or murder individuals in media or otherwise is something that many nations share, that the truth is a threat to national security or that the risk imposed is a threat to the state itself.

The U.S. isn't immune to such attempts at censorship. Though our system is far more fair than the course of action of the Egyptian government has taken to keep the truth suppressed, our system isn't perfect.

As we may recall, the many controversies that have led to the detainment and solitary confinement of those involved without conviction or trial. We can see some stark similarities. That being said, perhaps we should question where we draw the lines of accountability. Though the hands of power in various capitols often tout otherwise, perhaps the biggest threat to our national security is the lack of accountability and the censoring of the press.

As the next generation of journalists comes to fruition, the plane in which they

operate will be a landscape that we are just now beginning to see. The Internet and other technologies have unleashed a new brand of journalism. Though it isn't safe to say that the truth becomes more apparent in this system, it is safe to say that the truth is more likely to surface.

It is no wonder that the Egyptian government shut down the Internet and other telecommunications to prevent the flow of the truth or of opinion. In the growing community and interconnectedness of online media, the censorship can be against a faceless person or organization, but the damage done can run as deep as the human spirit.

Even as some news outlets are failing to cope with this new system and the competition it imposes, we still need strong voices and those willing to sacrifice themselves in the name of the truth. In the marketplace of ideas, the truth can be hard to swallow, but in the case of many revolutions, the truth can literally set you free.

Do perks dilute student representation?

An SGA senator makes a call for action.

My views on government, as a member of the Student Government Association, are simple. Government should be transparent, accessible and accountable to its constituents.

A good government, therefore, is one that is close to the electorate—the people. Likewise, these are my views on the SGA with the electorate being, of course, the student body.

In reality, the SGA is not a real government. Real governments are much bigger and have the power to pass real laws and kill a lot of people very efficiently.

In fact, I dare anyone to find a more effective or efficient mass murdering machine in all of recorded history, comparable to government.

Regardless of the SGA's nongovernmental status, there are a nameless few that act very much like typical politicians. To them, transparent and accessible government is a waste of precious time.

Last semester, I introduced a bill titled the Student Right to Know Act, SGA Bill 12-10-F, which required the SGA to publish its budget on the SGA website.

To 14 senators, this was a ludicrous concept.

While it is true that the SGA budget is public information, in order to get such information one would have to contact someone and wait for a response.



Christopher Burks

Columnist

Now, after passage of the Student Right to Know Act, the budget can be seen on the website.

So now you have the ability to see how the SGA spends your money, clearly an antediluvian concept.

Frankly, there are some people that simply hate the SGA no matter what it does. The SGA could push a magic button that ends world hunger, and these select few individuals would still hate it. I am not one of those people.

Regardless of this fact, the SGA does have a slight image problem. I believe much of this is a result of the SGA acting too much like what a government actually is, as opposed to how a government should act.

Christopher Burks is a senior majoring in economics and can be reached at csb4a@mtmail.mtsu.edu.

A student looks for answers from the SGA.



Matthew Blanchard

Columnist

The Student Government Association was designed to give students an outlet to petition the university for changes and to advocate for the normal, everyday student.

In the Jan. 20 issue of *Sidelines*, an article ran discussing how the SGA is offered reduced meal plans courtesy of Aramark and that the SGA president receives a free freshman meal plan.

Most students that I talk to on campus are fed up with the outrageous prices that Aramark charges. These students do not have the same perks that are offered to the SGA.

So, how can we expect this group that was designed to be our voice to speak for us? Especially if the members are stuffing their mouths with the overpriced Aramark food, and the rest of the student body has to deal with the high cost of lunch.

The SGA has an ethical predicament before it.

If this continues, it will truly be a violation of trust between them and the students that elected them.

In Washington, D.C., if a member of the U.S. Congress were to accept a perk like this, it could land that representative in federal prison.

Should we not hold our elected officials to the same standards? Aramark is not the only perk that clouds the ability of the SGA to be an effective advocate for students.

The SGA president receives free tuition and a white parking pass. In the last few years, we students have seen our tuition go up and the parking get progressively worse.

These two issues put our SGA president into some murky waters. How can the SGA properly advocate for the students it serves if it's detached from the very issues that plague the student body?

The simple answer is: It can't. All students at this university should write to their elected senator and demand that they vote for legislation that will completely eliminate all perks, including white parking passes and free tuition for the SGA president.

The elimination of perks will create a student government that will be in a better place to advocate for the students that elected it.

Matthew Blanchard is a senior majoring in political science and can be reached at mmb4b@mtmail.mtsu.edu.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Oops, Louis Haas made a huge error in his Feb. 3 letter to the editor. His contention that the Great Depression and the New Deal had nothing to do with employer-based health care is clearly flawed because he fails to consider the New Deal's legislative impact on the Commerce Clause and its applicability via the Necessary and Proper Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

In 1935, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Schechter Poultry Corp. v. United States* that the National Industrial Recovery Act was unconstitutional, because the activity that was being regulated by Congress was purely intrastate in nature and did not have a direct effect on the interstate market. The decision in *Schechter*, in addition to several Court decisions that rendered President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal legislation useless, prompted Roosevelt to introduce the Court Packing Bill, which would have added

six new justices to the Supreme Court. Interestingly enough, shortly after FDR's fireside chat justifying this bill, Justice Owen Roberts made an ideological switch and began voting to uphold these New Deal policies. This is commonly referred to as "the switch in time that saves nine." Directly following this, the court released its opinion in *N.L.R.B. v. Laughlin Steel Corp.*, where the court allowed for indirect effects on commerce to be used by Congress to regulate the interstate market.

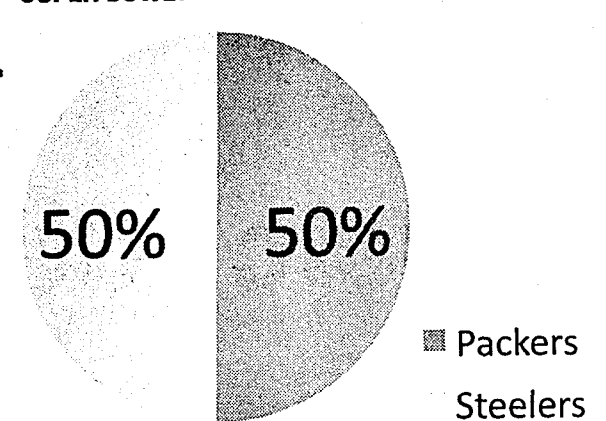
This is directly relevant because this ideological shift was influenced by FDR and the New Deal. This shift in legal thought led to the decisions in *U.S. v. Darby*, which said the 10th Amendment is a truism, and *Wickard v. Filburn*, which allowed Congress to consider the aggregate effect of individual economic activity to regulate commerce. This legal shift gave Congress the power to pass employer-based health care policies

and gives the Affordable Health Care Act legal standing. To say that the New Deal had nothing to do with these kinds of policies is an improper parsing of words. It is like saying that the War in Iraq ended when President George W. Bush flew in on a fighter jet and proclaimed the end of the war. To pretend that an era that introduced policies that had such a huge impact on the powers of the executive and the Necessary and Proper Clause had nothing to do with these health care policies is misguided at best.

Furthermore, calling the argument a "Glenn Beck teach-in" is nothing more than an ad hominem argument and is the equivalent to saying that social programs shouldn't be implemented because Germany had social programs under Adolf Hitler.

Eric Bisby is a senior majoring in pre-law and can be reached at emb3w@mtmail.mtsu.edu.

BASED ON VOTES FROM MTSUSIDELINES.COM.
RESULTS: WHO DO YOU THINK WILL WIN THE SUPER BOWL?



TELL US ONLINE AT MTSUSIDELINES.COM

DO YOU FEEL THAT POLITICIANS IGNORE THE YOUNGER DEMOGRAPHIC?

online

FOLLOW US:

MTSUSidelines

@MTSUSidelines

On-Campus Advertising

Advertising Manager
Becca Brown
sladmgr@mtsu.edu

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

Off-Campus Advertising

Shelbyville Times-Gazette
Hugh Jones
Sissy Smith

adsforsidelines@gmail.com

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
SIDELINES

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

Editor-in-Chief
Marie Kempf
sleditor@mtsu.edu

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

www.mtsusidelines.com

Managing Editor
Laura Aiken*
simanager@mtsu.edu

News Editor
Todd Barnes
snews@mtsu.edu

Associate News Editor
Amanda Haggard
slcampus@mtsu.edu

Associate News Editor
Becca Andrews
slassociate@mtsu.edu

Features Editor
Emma Egli
sifeatur@mtsu.edu

Arts & Entertainment Editor
Emma Egli
siflash@mtsu.edu

Opinions Editor*
Brandon Thomas
slopinio@mtsu.edu

Sports Editor
Will Trusler
slsports@mtsu.edu

Production Manager
Josh Fields*
siproduction@mtsu.edu

Photography Editor
Bailey Ingram
siphoto@mtsu.edu

Multimedia Manager
Richard Lowe*
sionline@mtsu.edu

Assistant Editor
Michael Finch
slstate@mtsu.edu

*denotes member of editorial board

SPORTS

MT freshmen set standards

By WILL TRUSLER
Sports Editor

Saturday's doubleheader against the Jaguars of South Alabama saw records fall in both the men and women's games. Both marks came via the hands of two talented youngsters that give MT hoops' fans optimism looking ahead to the immediate and distant future alike.

Kerry Hammonds, a name MT fans may be familiar with, set a new freshman single-game high with 28 points against South Alabama in the first game after hitting five 3-pointers and nine of 10 shots overall.

Hammonds' father is an MT basketball legend whose name is found all over the Blue Raider career record books. "Big Kerry" currently ranks second in career rebounds, third in career points and third in minutes played in a Blue Raider uniform.

Big Kerry, however, never managed to score as many points as his son did this weekend. Something Hammonds said would be brought up in dinner-table discussion.

"Oh yeah," Hammonds said, "I'm going to hold that over his head."

The Murfreesboro native had been struggling with finding his shot as of late, and while his performance Saturday may have surprised many, it came as no shock to his coach and teammates.

"You just knew every now and then what he was capable of," head coach Kermit Davis said. "He deserves it."

Senior point guard James Washington echoed Davis' sentiments.

"I knew he'd come around," he said. "He's a great shooter. I told him to shoot with confidence, and that's what he did tonight."

Hammonds is one of six newcomers for the men this year, and his development as an extra perimeter weapon will give Davis another dimension to his team.

Ebony Rowe followed Hammonds' lead

with an impressive encore performance of her own. Rowe led all scorers with 24 points, but it was her rebounding that gave her the first of what looks to be many records to come.

With eight rebounds against the Jaguars, Rowe surpassed the freshman record for rebounds in a season. She has now amassed 243 rebounds this year.

"It is a real honor just because I know that rebounding is something that I take pride in," Rowe said. "It is all about hard work."

The women have a minimum of six games remaining, and if Rowe's season averages stay up, she could go down as the most decorated freshman in MT history.

With the rebounding record in hand, Rowe is also on pace to break the records for field goals made, free throws attempted and points.

Assuming MT makes it to the Sun Belt Conference championship game, which they have for the last eight years, Rowe would be in position to take the record of minutes played as well.

Furthermore, her field goal percentage of 60 percent is among the top five in MT history and a deep run in the postseason could see her approach the top of the season records in points and defensive, offensive and total rebounds regardless of class. Head coach Rick Insell knew Rowe was going to be a special player in the league from the moment he saw her.

"I saw how she dominated the players in [Kentucky], I said right then that she would be a factor in this conference," Insell said.

Rowe has led the charge of an underclassmen-laden squad whose season record shows no signs of layover from losing four starters last season, including All-American Alysha Clark.

With the most important months of basketball yet to be played, these freshmen will have to continue to provide stellar play if MT hopes to translate their recent success to postseason championships.

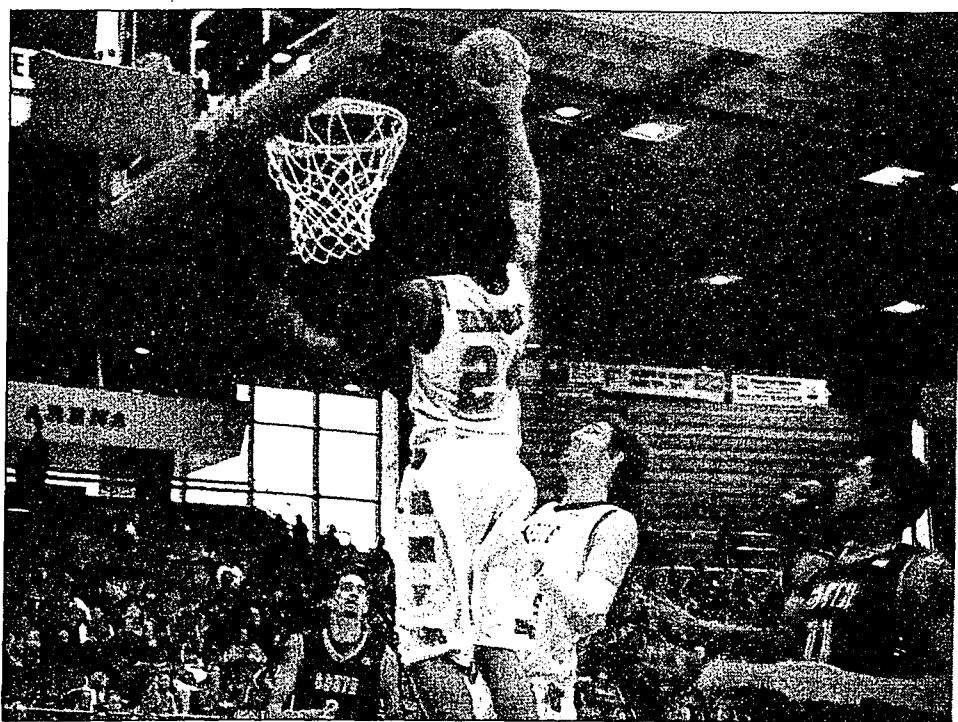
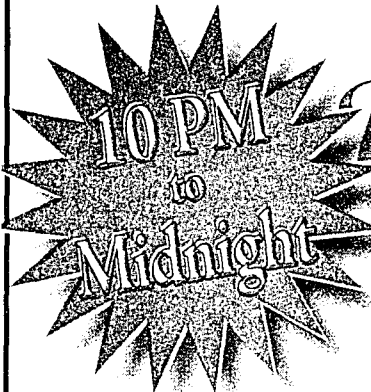


Photo by Drew Gardonia, staff photographer
(Top) Freshman guard Kerry Hammonds (24) caps off his historic night with an emphatic dunk Feb. 5, 2011, in the Murphy Center. (Bottom) First year forward Ebony Rowe (21) battles for position in the paint in the second game of the doubleheader Feb. 5, 2011, against the Jaguars in the Murphy Center. Rowe finished the night with 24 points and eight rebounds.

THE BOULEVARD

BAR & GRILLE



Every Thursday Night

FREE

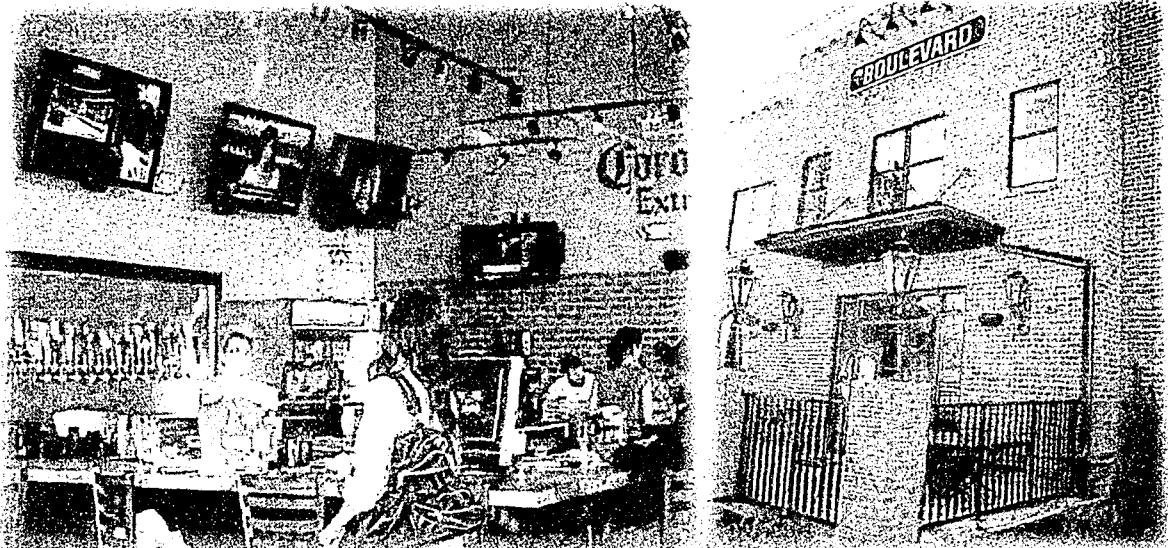
DOMESTIC BOTTLED BEER

\$8 Cover

Live Music • 21+ Starting at 10 PM



7 Nights A Week
After 10 PM
Slice of Pizza
& a Beer
\$3.00



2154 Middle TN Blvd • Murfreesboro, Tennessee • www.the-boulevard-bar.com
615-874-8002