

Rape trial court date pushed back

By BECCA ANDREWS
Associate News Editor

The trial date for the two former baseball players facing rape charges was delayed until March 10 by a Rutherford County judge Monday.

Both defendants were absent from the General Sessions Court when Judge David Loughry pushed the date back, which happens to fall on the Thursday of spring break.

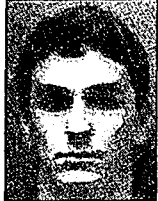
Conlon Palo, 18, and Damian Seguen, 21, are accused of raping a female student during an on-campus party held at Scarlett Commons Apartments in November.

Both men admitted to having sex with the victim while she was intoxicated and unable to give consent, according to the Murfreesboro Police Department.

Detective Wayne Lawson, 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.



Palo



Seguen

"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.

Athletic Director Chris Massaro dismissed both Palo and Seguen from the baseball team following their arrests.

The female victim withdrew from the university before the spring semester began, and as of Wednesday, Seguen is still enrolled - however, Palo is not.

Brock East, the attorney representing Seguen, said the trial had been moved to March to give the defense more time to prepare and so that all of the parties involved

in the case could be present in court.

East declined to comment further on the case.

Palo's attorney, Jack Mitchell, was unavailable for comment.

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.

University officials and law enforcement officials have all refused to comment further on the case.

Construction continues on campus roads

By CECILIA SINKALA
Contributing Writer

Parking and Transportation Services has initiated phase three, which begins construction along MTSU Boulevard this week, making travel difficult among students and faculty.

Parking will be slightly affected by closing lots adjacent to and along the street as part of the final phase of the parking and transportation plan, but this phase is primarily focused on improving transit rather than parking, said Ron Malone, the assistant vice president of events

and transportation. "It's much more of a transportation access project than it is a parking lot project," Malone said.

Malone does not expect an increase in students receiving parking tickets as long as students are willing to adapt to the construction.

"I think what has to happen and this is the key - the mindset will have to change a little bit," Malone said.

By mindset, Malone means that students have to realize that finding a parking space next to a class or dorm is

ROADS, PAGE 3



Photo by Todd Barnes, news editor
An unidentified woman shows her support for Egyptian protestors Feb. 8 during a peaceful rally held at Centennial Park in Nashville.

Students rally for Egypt

By AMANDA HAGGARD
Association News Editor

More than 100 people rallied Tuesday for the removal of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak at Nashville's Centennial Park to send a message of community support.

"We're all people," said Layla Hantouli, a Murfreesboro resident. "All people hurt and all people feel pain."

Hantouli, who helped organize the event, said the people in Egypt were demonstrating for a cause.

"They're standing up for themselves, and we need to help them," she said.

The rally, co-sponsored by the Nashville Peace and Justice Center and other organizations, came together through grassroots efforts to spread word of the event, Hantouli said.

Egyptian citizens stormed the streets of Cairo on Jan. 25, demanding Mubarak step down from office. Tahrir Square in Cairo has been full of citizen protestors and pro-democracy demonstrators pleading for their leader to step down every day since.

"Women and men are standing side by side in the fight for freedom," Hantouli said. "Different religions are coming together to make this happen."

More than 150 people have died at the hands of the Egyptian police and what government officials are referring to as pro-Mubarak "thugs." Many citizens have been wounded since the beginning of the uprising.

"They want change," said Karim Al-Saied, a sophomore majoring in global studies. "I feel like by



Photo by Todd Barnes, news editor
Alam Kahn, a graduate student at Tennessee State University, stands on the side of West End Avenue on Feb. 8 to thank pro-democracy supporters during a rally held at Centennial Park in Nashville.

"They're standing up for themselves, and we need to help them."

LAYLA HANTOULI
MURFREESBORO RESIDENT

being here at the rally supporting [Egypt], we're in their corner."

Al-Saied said he felt Egyptians' human rights should be valued on all levels and that rights like free speech are

RALLY, PAGE 3

Athletics nets \$1 million gift

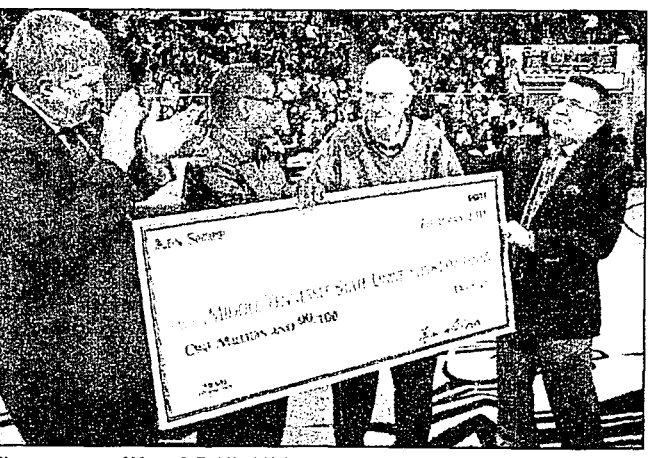


Photo courtesy of News & Public Affairs
Alumnus Ken Schipp hands a \$1 million donation check to (From left) Athletics Director Chris Massaro, President Sidney McPhee and (Right) coach Rick Insell on Feb. 5 during halftime of the women's basketball game.

STAFF REPORT

Ken "Coach" Schipp, a 1947 MTSU graduate, gave \$1 million to the MTSU foundation during a formal announcement at halftime of Saturday's basketball game against South Alabama.

Some of the donation will further the scholarship set up by Schipp in 2009 to benefit students who commit to enrolling in classes at MTSU. The remaining amount is to be set aside to renovate the Lady Raiders' coaches'

office space in the Murphy Center.

Renovations will begin after basketball season and the new space should be ready next fall, said Joe Bales, MTSU vice president for development and university relations.

Bales said dividing walls will come down in an entire section of the ground floor in the Murphy Center, and the area will be transformed into an office suite "that will put our program on

DONATION, PAGE 2

INDEX

FEATURES
PAGES 4-5

OPINIONS
PAGE 6

A&E
PAGES 7-8

IN TODAY'S ISSUE



Find out why one local clothing store is shutting its doors after 22 years in business.

PAGE 4

EXCLUSIVELY ONLINE



View photos from this week's basketball games against Western Kentucky University.

SPORTS

WEATHER



THURSDAY
34/17

Successful coach, alumnus donates to Lady Raiders program

DONATION FROM PAGE 1

par with any coaching program in the country.”

Shipp said he had been considering making a donation of this size for a long time.

“I mainly wanted to help those who need the money to have the opportunity to go to MTSU,” Shipp said.

President Sidney McPhee said that Shipp’s success in athletics and his generosity should serve as an example for students and said he was grateful for Shipp’s contribution.

“[Shipp’s] generosity will make it possible for us to provide the finest athletic facilities for our coaches and also offer the opportunity of a college education to students here at home in Rutherford County,” McPhee said. “When we can challenge our young people to pursue learning at an even higher level, our state and nation are the beneficiaries.”

Athletics Director Chris Massaro said Shipp always puts the needs of others before his own.

“This gift will make a tremendous difference for our women’s basketball program,” Massaro said. “This will be an invaluable legacy for generations

to come.”

Bales said Shipp wanted to make sure money was not an issue for students who wanted to attend MTSU and wanted to contribute financially to the Lady Raiders basketball team in particular.

“Coach is also very fond of our Lady Raiders program and very excited about what has happened with the program over the last several years,” Bales said. “He just wanted to help them have an office space that is reflective of the quality program they have.”

Shipp, who recently celebrated turning 83, hails from Old Hickory and earned his degree in physical education from MTSU in 1947. He received his master’s degree from Vanderbilt University’s Peabody College.

He has coached football at several colleges, including Florida State University and the University of Miami.

Shipp was the interim coach for the New York Jets during the 1975 season and coached both Archie Manning and Joe Namath with the New Orleans Saints.

Coach is an extremely generous person in a very quiet way,” Bales said. “He’s never asked for the limelight, which makes him the kind of person you like to recognize ... [and] we’re delighted and grateful that he has chosen to give this gift.”

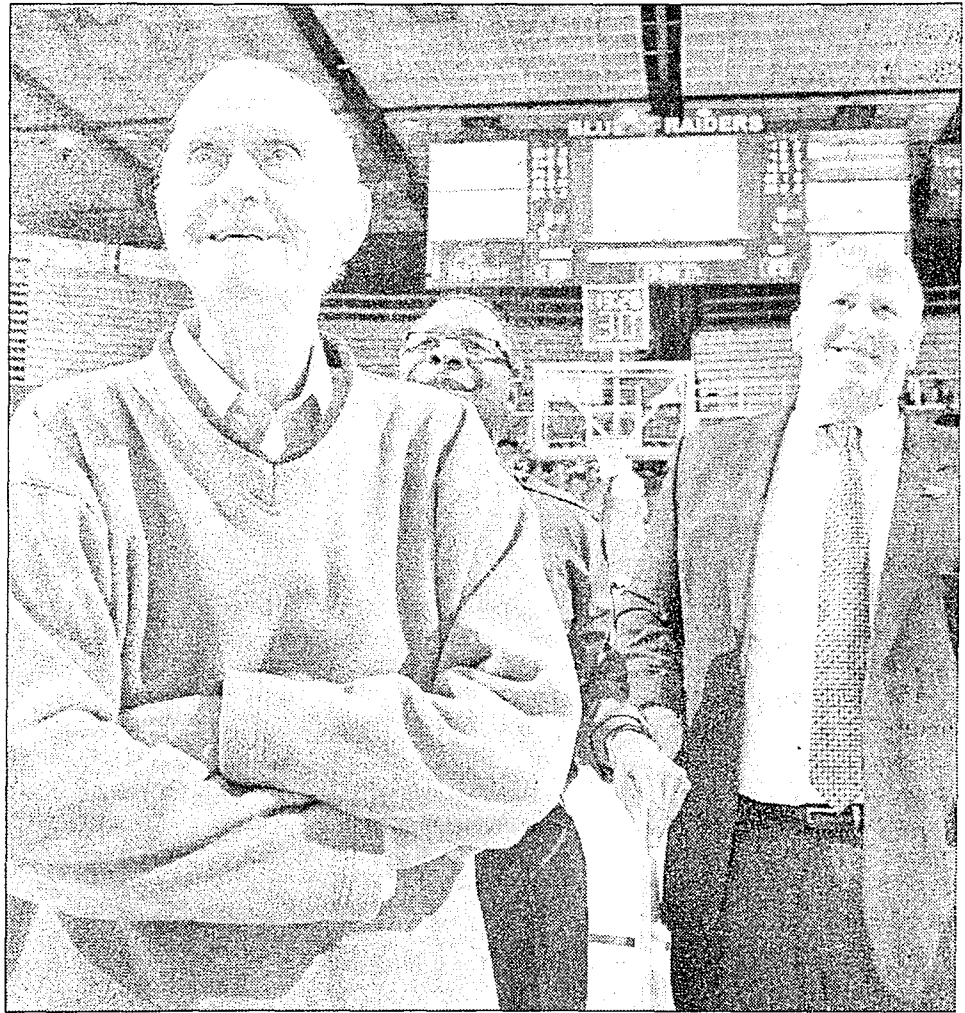
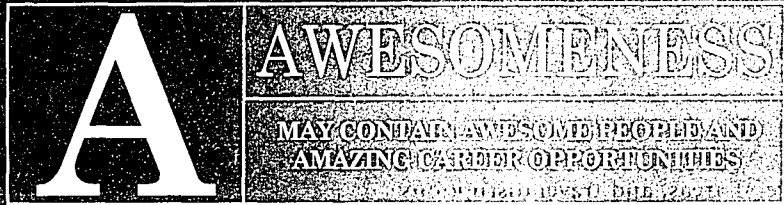


Photo courtesy of News & Public Affairs
(From left) MTSU Alumnus Ken Schipp, President Sidney McPhee and Athletics Director Chris Massaro take in the moment of the check presentation Feb. 5 during halftime in the Murphy Center.

SIDELINES

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LOCAL EVENTS

On Campus

Lectures:
“It Takes a Village to Raise a Child’s Activity Level”
Feb. 10, 7 p.m.
LRC 221
Tickets: FREE

Battle of the Sexes: Love Forum (Relationship and Marriage Q&A)
Feb. 10, 6 p.m.
Keathley University Center
Room 314
Tickets: FREE

“It Takes a Village to Raise a Child’s Physical Activity Level”
Feb. 10, 7 p.m.
Learning Resource Center
Room 221
Tickets: FREE

Franco-Peruvian Writer and Diplomat, Ventura Garcia Calderon
Feb. 14, 3 p.m.
University Honor’s College
Room 106
Tickets: FREE

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

Women’s Basketball vs. FIU
Feb. 12, 7 p.m.
Murphy Center
FREE

Cross Country Valentine Invitational
Feb. 12, 11 a.m.
Track and Soccer Stadium
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

Concerts: Faculty Quartet
Feb. 12, 8 p.m.
Wright Music Building
Tickets: FREE

Jazz Ensemble I
Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m.
Wright Music Building
Tickets: FREE

Entertainment: Anime Club’s All Day Anime Day
Feb. 12, 11 a.m., video games starting at 2 p.m.
Business and Aerospace Building
S324 for anime, BAS-S262 for video games
Tickets: FREE

Off Campus

Concerts: 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

Nashville Chapter Jack and Jill Valentine Bash
Feb. 11, 7 p.m.
Rockettown
Tickets: \$5 in advance, \$7 at door

The Incredible Heat Machine and The Great Barrier Reefs
Feb. 11, 9 p.m.
Gilligan’s
Tickets: \$5

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

Punch Brothers featuring Chris Thile
Feb. 15, 9 p.m.
Mercy Lounge
Tickets: \$20

Performing Arts: High Frequency and Detox “You Can’t Take it With You”
Feb. 10, 7 p.m.
The Muse
Tickets: \$5 in advance, \$7 at door

Art: “Wide Angle: Photography and Its Influence on Contemporary Art”
Through Feb. 27
Vanderbilt University Fine Arts Gallery
Tickets: FREE

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

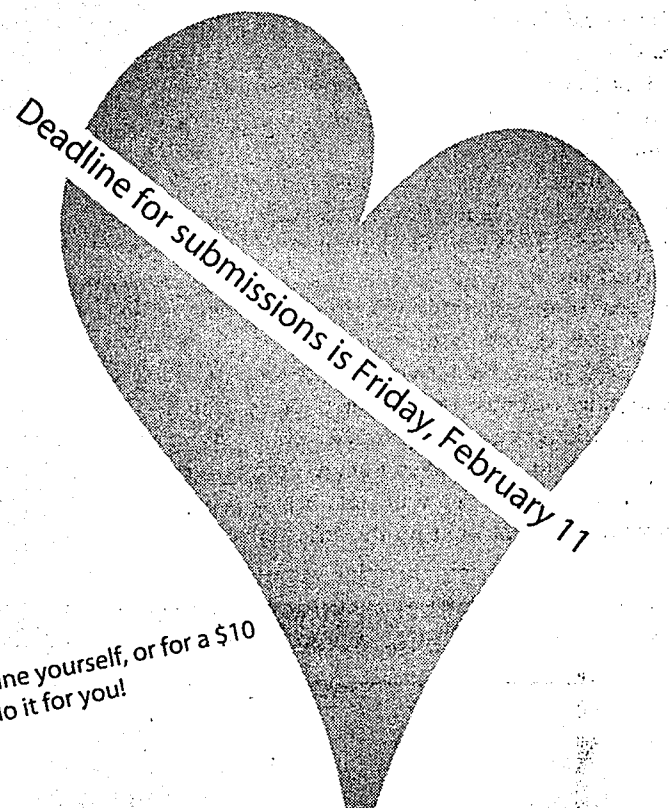
Events Policy

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

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

Cupid's List

This Valentine’s Day, give that special someone a public display of affection with *Sidelines*’s “Cupid’s List” Valentines. Keep it strictly platonic, or find a missed connection. Great for students, faculty, and student organizations.



Design your Valentine yourself, or for a \$10 creative fee, we’ll do it for you!

Add a splash of V-Day red for just \$5!

Send pre-designed Valentines in JPEG, Tiff, or PDF format with a minimum 200 resolution.

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*Valentine-related content only

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

Size 1: \$10
1/32 pg.
1.55 in. X 2.63 in.

Size 2: \$20
1/16 pg.
3.26 in. X 2.63 in.

Size 3: \$40
1/8 pg.
4.98 in. X 5.25 in.

Size 4: \$80
1/4 pg.
4.98 in. X 10.5 in.

Protestors call for Mubarak to resign as president

RALLY FROM PAGE 1

basic freedoms that should never be lost to a government.

The majority of Egyptians do not want a solely religious government, Hantouli said.

Egyptians want a democratic government where all citizens have a voice regardless of choice of religion, according to a Nashville Peace and Justice Center press release.

President Barack Obama released a statement Feb. 4 regarding the Egyptian protests.

"The passion and the dignity that has been demonstrated by the people of Egypt has been an inspiration to people around the world," Obama said, "including here in the United States, and to all those who believe in the inevitability of human freedom."

The election process must include a "broad spectrum of Egyptian voices and opposition parties," Obama said, and he insisted that an election could only work if they were



Photo by Todd Barnes, news editor
Middle Tennesseans hold up signs showing their support for Egyptian protestors Feb. 8 during a rally held at Centennial Park in Nashville.

free, fair and responsive to the aspirations of the Egyptian people.

Obama said the U.S. must extend the hand of partnership and friendship to Egypt in its time of struggle.

"We stand ready to provide any assistance that is necessary to help the Egyptian people as they manage the aftermath of these protests," Obama said.

Hantouli said the U.S. would be on the "wrong side" of history not to do something to help Egypt.

Jane Steinfels-Hussain, acting chairman of the

Nashville Peace and Justice Center, said it is important for the United States to remain involved with Egypt because of past involvement with the country.

"[The U.S.] has exported weapons to Egypt," Steinfels-Hussain said. "That destroys lives."

Hantouli said the U.S. sends \$1.3 billion to Egypt each year, most of which she said is used for weapons.

"These are our direct tax dollars," Hantouli said. "They're going to an oppressive dictator."

Some people said they were concerned that Americans only cared about

the monetary aspect of the conflict in Egypt.

"I've heard on the news that people are worried about how this is going to affect the stock market," said Elizabeth Sharp, an organizer of a group called Feminism Is Not Dead and a Murfreesboro resident. "These people are under attack and we're worried about money."

FIND, a Murfreesboro group that seeks to draw attention to suffering women throughout the world, came to the rally in support of women in Egypt.

Many at the rally said the U.S. government only gets involved if it feels there is wealth to be gained.

"Our government says, 'Let's go in and save the Iraqi people from this horrible dictator,'" Hantouli said. "But, when people [in Egypt] are screaming for our help, we're doing nothing but talking."

Steinfels-Hussain said that events that create unity like the rally help draw together different cultures for a better understanding of each cultures struggle.

"There were already two

demonstrations this week held by the Egyptian people that we had no idea about," Steinfels-Hussain said. "When we were able to join together with them and also

sisters" in Egypt, because he has many close Egyptian friends that deserve his support. "[Egypt] really needs international support,"

SIDEFACT

FACT: Egypt is the second largest recipient of U.S. foreign aid behind Israel.

The U.S. has a large assistance program in Egypt and provides funding for a variety of programs. Through its Human and Economic Sector Development cash transfer program, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is supporting benchmarks that aim to stimulate the small and microenterprise sectors, improve budget transparency to increase macroeconomic stability, and improve the trade regime and business climate. To support the Middle East peace process through regional economic integration, the United States permits products to be imported from Egypt without tariffs if they have been produced by factories registered in Qualified Industrial Zones and 10.5 percent of the inputs of these products originate from Israel.

An important pillar of the bilateral relationship remains U.S. security and economic assistance to Egypt, which expanded significantly in the wake of the Egyptian-Israeli Peace Treaty in 1979. U.S. military aid to Egypt totals over \$1.3 billion annually. In addition, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has provided over \$28 billion in economic and development assistance to Egypt since 1975.

Fact courtesy of the U.S. State Department.

get other groups involved, we were able to get all of these people to come out."

Like most who attended, Al-Saied said he was there for his "brothers and

said Samantha Alvarado, an organizer of FIND and a Murfreesboro resident. "You've got to start somewhere to make a global impact."

New projects, upgrades underway

ROADS FROM PAGE 1

wishful thinking.

"Right now everyone feels as if they should be able to park next to their building or right next to their dorm," Malone said. "The reality of the situation is that [MTSU] has 26,000 students, and we have 2,000 to 3,000 employees, faculty and administration. That's not really a realistic way of thinking - I think."

The contractor will set up fencing along both sides of the boulevard between the roundabout and the Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building.

The northwalkway accessibility will allow pedestrian access from the parking lots to the campus buildings located within the fenced area.

One lane of traffic will run along the construction route that will be maintained as long as possible, but vehicular travel between the two areas will be halted throughout the project until completion.

The project may inconvenience students and faculty, but it should result in an easier commute for students, Malone said.

The project shall make many additions on campus including another entrance at Greenland Drive, a new entrance at Miles Court and a second roundabout on Blue Raider Drive that will be connected to the new Greenland Drive entrance, Malone said.

"We're actually going to put in another roundabout [on Blue Raider Drive]," Malone said. "That way we don't end up with a bottleneck."

The goal of the project is to keep shuttle buses arriving at their destinations on time, Malone said, adding that driving lanes are so close together that buses are getting trapped in traffic making students late to class.

"The goal is to have a seven minutes wait time," Malone said. "The wait time begins from when a student waits for the bus until

they arrive at their destination."

Students who impede traffic and put themselves in danger by failing to use crosswalks is another issue, Malone said citing that the additional sidewalks and bike lanes will prove to be a solution.

The overall objective for this project is to answer student complaints regarding MTSU traffic being out of control, Malone said adding that this project has been a long time coming.

"I've been working on this project for 10 years now," Malone said.

The project is scheduled to last throughout most of the year but students and faculty will be able to travel freely by August, Malone said.

"Well the entire project will last until November, but the part that will actually affect the accessibility of students, faculty and staff to get where they need to go will last until the second week of August," Malone said.

This project will lead to other transportation projects at MTSU, Malone said.

"Once MTSU Boulevard is completed we'll probably have an exit at Lytle St.," Malone said.

As MTSU grows in enrollment, parking lots on the interior of campus are subject to be built upon, Malone said.

"One of the things that we know is that every parking lot on campus is a potential building site," Malone said.

Rock City Construction is heading the project and plans to update the university with future road closures throughout the final stages.

Commuters are recommended to park in the Rutherford Boulevard parking lot, the large parking lot on Blue Raider Boulevard across from Scarlet Commons Apartments and the Agriculture Vocational lot, and ride the shuttle bus into campus.

Faculty and staff will find parking for white decals available in the lot south of the University Honors College Building.

State Department issues travel advisory for Egypt

STAFF REPORT

Due to political and social unrest in Egypt, travel abroad students are being urged to leave the country as soon as safely possible.

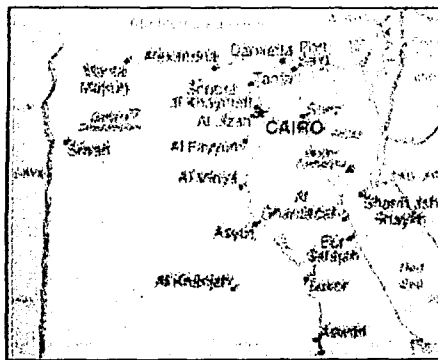
On Jan. 25, protests to bring down Egypt's leader, Hosni Mubarak, began forming in Cairo's Tahrir Square.

Violent demonstrations are erupting in several areas, and travel disruptions are common for students trying to flee the area, according to a U.S. Department of State press release.

The current travel warning only indicates that U.S. citizens should "avoid" Egypt, but it is not calling for a strict, nontravel ban.

Students planning a study abroad trip for spring break should consider a safer location, according to the press release.

Cairo's airport is open and functioning, but it is only offering limited commercial airlines flights. However, many flights are going out of Alexandria, Luxor and Aswan.



Graphic Courtesy of the U.S. State Department

According to the press release, the Egyptian government has issued curfew times for all citizens from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m., and Americans students should stay indoors unless they need necessities, and they should especially be wary of going out during specified curfew times.

According to the press release, peaceful protests can quickly turn into angry mobs, and for an American student, it can turn into an out-of-control situation where he or she could be pinned as a target "for harassment - or worse."

Shop With These Merchants For Dining Valentine Specials

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Sat., February 12th & Mon., February 14th
4:00 PM til 8:00 PM

Valentine Menu

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Baked Potato	Salads
Red Roasted Potatoes	Assorted Desserts

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THURSDAY
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Ladies Free...
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We're giving away another pair of LADY GAGA tickets, so don't forget to register at the door!

FRIDAY February 11
INCREDIBLE HEAT MACHINE Main Floor
DJ SAM-ME, DOUBLE A,
DJ SKARFACE (Upstairs)
Lectro Lounge

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 12
LOVESTEP ALL DUBSTEP ALL NIGHT

SUNDAY
February 13
Keg Party/ DJ Mashups

TUESDAY
February 15
Open Blues Jam

WEDNESDAY
February 16
FREAK OUT
with
Coach & Wick It

FEATURES

Thrifty finds entering new phase

The journey for one store has now come to an end.

By EMMA EGLI
Features Editor

Judy Goldie knows a thing or two about small businesses. And she should, considering she's owned and operated one more than 22 years.

The easygoing Kentucky native has a way of making you feel instantly welcome when you walk into her store, going out of her way to greet you—even if her arms are full of merchandise.

What began spontaneously as a small consignment shop in 1988 has flourished into something of a community commodity. That is exactly why patrons of Phase II, a second-hand clothing store located in a bustling shopping center on Northwest Broad Street, are heartbroken to see it go.

"Life just gives you a shift sometimes," Goldie says humbly, "and sometimes, you just have to accept that it's been an awesome run."

The store just recently announced to its patrons and the public that after one more week of accepting consignment clothes, Phase II will remain open until every item has sold.

With the huge blowout sales on already low-priced items and the devoted customers of the community who frequent the store, the projected closure date is expected to be as early as March.

"It's bittersweet to see it go," says Lindsay Garlit, the store manager. "But it's been wonderful feeling needed by the customers and the public."

This isn't an average thrift store – it's a consignment shop full of hidden treasures. Items are carefully chosen before they hit the selling racks, often brand new and name brand.

"You have to dig," says Tammy Peyton, a Murfreesboro resident and longtime shopper at Phase II. "I bring my daughter sometimes, but she never finds as much awesome stuff as I do."

It's not uncommon to see Ann Taylor Loft items with their original price tags on them marked down to less than \$10.

"There's just so many great finds here," says Rachel Bohing, a Murfreesboro resident. "It's way better than going to any department store."

Stocked with women's clothing, men's suits and children's formal wear, Phase II has everything. And employees add almost 3,000 new items to the sales floor every week. If you're looking for that pair of perfect jeans, look no further.

"They're name brand, have already been washed and pre-shrunk," says Lee Ann Gibson, who worked at the store many years prior when it was still small. Even after 10 years, Gibson still returns to shop for bargains like the ones she once helped customers find.

"We have met so many great people from all walks of life," Gibson says. "It's been such a great influence on



Photos by Bailey Ingram, photo editor

A local shopper takes advantage Feb. 6 of one of the close-out sales that was held at Phase II in Murfreesboro before it closed.

the community."

More than half the employees at Phase II have worked there for more than eight years. Garlit, who first walked into the store on a whim in 2001, never dreamed it would become a second home to her.

"I got a job here and the next thing you know I'm suddenly in charge of this massive store," Garlit says. "But it's not just a job—We're like a family here."

Phase II might be selling secondhand clothing, but its customer service is first class.

"That's the thing about small businesses," Garlit says with a grin. "We actually care about our customers."

The feelings are mutual as customer after customer files into the store and pleads with Judy to stay open.

"The hardest part has been hearing people's reactions," Goldie says sadly. "They tell us how much we've helped them out through the years during tough economic times when money was scarce."

Garlit adds to Goldie's sentiment, saying how the store was something of a savior for families impacted by last year's flood.

"It was so hard for them to afford anything," Garlit says. "But knowing you could come here and find a name brand outfit for \$3 – you just can't beat that."

Although Phase II will be closing its doors in a matter

of weeks, that does not mean all good things must come to an end. Goldie also has her hands full with retail stores Trendy Pieces and Bella's Boutique, which are located on the square in historic

"Life just gives you a shift sometimes, and sometimes, you just have to accept that it's been an awesome run."

LINDSAY GARLIT

PHASE II MANAGER

downtown Murfreesboro.

"I knew people would ask me, 'are you closing because of the economy?'" Goldie says. "But that's not the case at all. It's just come to the point in our lives where we need to make a shift."

Goldie says she knows the decision to close shop was a little sudden for customers, but she's looking forward to focusing her energy on the two newer stores, hoping they will follow in the successful footsteps of Phase II.

"I'm a live-by-the-heart kind of person," Goldie says. "For some people, they might not consider that a good business move, but that's the way I operate. And look how well it's worked out after 22 years."

All in a day's play

Project Help is a merry-go-round where learning comes full circle.

By JOE ZIKE
Contributing Writer

"Are we going to have a good day today?" Jennifer asks.

"Yeah!," Gus responds.

It's the beginning of the day at Project Help, an on-campus education program that helps children 6 months to 3 years of age who have a diagnosed disability or a "developmental delay."

Jennifer Plaskett, a teacher, has been working here for about four years. Gus, a "peer model" – a child that develops at a normal rate – is 2 years old.

"What's that?" Gus asks, pointing to a picture in a book.

"An excavator," Jennifer says.

"Ex-ca-vay-tor," Gus says, drawing out each syllable.

Around a table that's not quite knee-high for an average adult are blue plastic chairs. Hung on one wall are black and white photos of the children with their names, birthdays and the days they have class.

On another wall are pictures of many of the same children. Underneath the individual photos are a variety of phrases: release objects into container, make choice between two items using vocalization, explore foods with different textures, bear weight on legs and arms, imitate motor movements or babble with inflection.

They describe goals or areas of concentration.

This is the blue room, where class is held for 2 to 2-1/2 year olds.

"The human brain achieves about

85 percent of its adult size by 2-1/2 and about 90 percent by age 3," says Susan Waldrop, director of Project Help. "Early intervention has always seemed like our best bet for helping prevent problems."

Project Help started almost 30 years ago in a basement at MTSU with Ann Campbell, a fellow teacher, a few cardboard boxes full of toys and a desire to help. The program helps children with disabilities by working with them in the cognitive, language, communication, social, emotional, adaptive, fine motor and gross motor learning areas. It was the first program of its kind in Rutherford County.

"Clean up. Clean up," Jennifer announces in sing-song fashion.

Time to get ready for class.

Maddie is the only developing learner to show up today, presumably due to the snow. It's time for shape placement.

Maddie's crying. Jennifer holds her and talks to her until the sobs stop. Seated around the table, children begin putting wooden squares, triangles and circles into corresponding holes.

"If you've seen a child with autism, you've seen A child with autism," says Bobbie Young, a teacher in the blue room. The saying is derived from the fact that a diagnosis of autism includes a

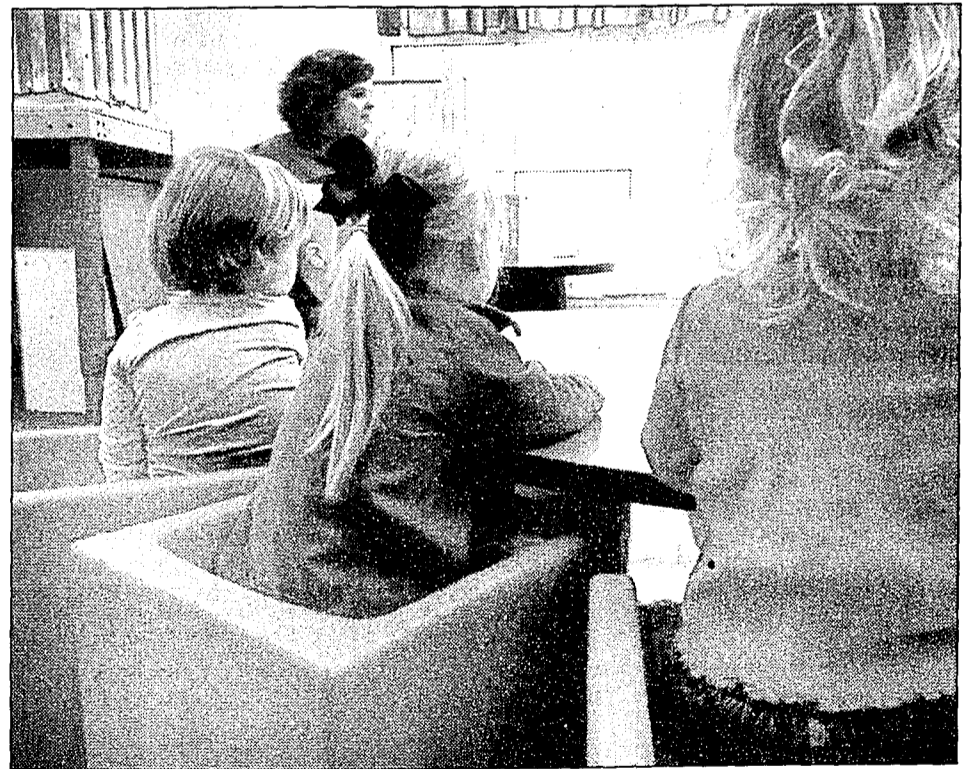


Photo by Emma Egli, features editor

Abby Price teaches children the value of learning early at Project Help on Feb. 7. The educational center is located on campus and offers early childhood education to preschoolers who have learning disabilities.

variety of symptoms.

Autism is a disorder that affects the normal development of social and

**"They're awesome...
Our day gets better when they walk in."**

ABBY PRICE
PROJECT HELP TEACHER

communication skills. Its exact causes are not known. It appears in the first three years of a child's life and is part of what is known as the autism spectrum disorders.

"About 25 percent of our kids are on the autistic spectrum," Susan says.

This includes Maddie.

Jennifer says the names of the shapes as she shows Maddie the blocks. As Maddie holds the blocks, Jennifer's grown adult

hand guides the tiny infant hand until it finds the matching hole. Finished with blocks, Jennifer helps her push her chair in.

Mark Patterson, a "big friend" volunteer, walks in. Volunteers from MTSU, big friends and academic scholars come from the education department, the nursing school and the work-study program. The two teachers in each room appreciate the help they get from the volunteers.

"They're awesome," says Abby Price, a teacher in the red room. "Our day gets better when they walk in."

For most volunteers, the first day at Project Help is often the most overwhelming.

Volunteers learn to teach but discover there are lessons still to be learned.

HELP FROM PAGE 5

I didn't know what to expect," says Richard Ivey, a childhood development major in his fourth year. "Kids are crazy, but I love them. None of them are alike, and it's a challenge, but I love to watch the kids progress."

Volunteers watch a short video that gives them a preview of what they will be experiencing before they start at Project Help. It promises that a volunteer will not have to change any diapers or clean up body fluids. It says the program's goal for student volunteers is to help them "learn about different

learning styles" and to help understand "positive discipline techniques."

"It was a lot better than

what I expected," says Alex Seaton, a junior majoring in business education. "It's nothing like what I thought it would be. I really enjoy it."

Most of the teachers at Project Help can't imagine working anywhere else.

"I used to tell myself, I don't want to work with special needs children," says Mary Bowens, a teacher who's all smiles in her fourth year here. "But, every moment is a learning experience."

"Dance time!" says Bobbie. She starts the music, a song plays and they follow more instructions: tiptoe, slide, jump, run.

Jennifer holds Maddie's hands and helps her as the

group follows the instructions in a circular routine. Maddie has an irrepressible smile. They touch their hands, hips, knees and feet as they're told. The instruction to "body rock" produces more spastic movement than a Zumba class.

Next on the agenda: walking backward.

Mark helps prevent "tripedents," while Bobbie leads the backward procession to the next obstacle.

"Gus can suck his thumb, play with his hair, and walk backward at the same time," Bobbie says.

"I used to tell myself, I don't want to work with special needs children. But, every moment is a learning experience."

MARY BOWENS
PROJECT HELP TEACHER

Mats are laid on the hallway floor, and, one by one, the children crawl across them. Carson does it like he's playing a part in a war movie.

"Good jobs" and goldfish are dispersed. Maddie and Jennifer finish crawling and find Gus sitting down, sucking his thumb, tousling his hair and crying. He'd bumped his head. His crying stops as he joins the other children sitting on the balance beam where they wait to take turns playing basketball.

But it's a different kind of basketball. One at a time, they have to lift two 3-pound balls and two 5-pound balls and

put them through a plastic basketball hoop. There are some two-handed monster jams that would make Dwight Howard proud and Derek Fisher step out of the way.

"There's always something," says Jana Johnson when asked about a memorable experience.

She's in her third year as a preoccupational therapy major, and she spends 75 hours per semester here. She

says it's a place where "the learning process always comes full circle."

"When I first met Sarah, she

couldn't walk," she says referring to a blonde girl seated at a table. "Now she's running around."

Once again, seated on the colored carpet, snack time is announced. One by one, the children wash their hands and take a seat at the table.

"Cheese puff or cracker?" Bobbie asks each individual child. She waits for a response before giving a child a snack. Maddie puts an entire cheese puff in her mouth. Jennifer pulls it out and encourages her to take bites.

With spoken and sign language, Jennifer helps Maddie ask for more. Orange-faced, the children must distinguish between red and



Photo by Emma Egli and Melissa Balkon
(Top) Children at Project Help get to expend some pent up energy Feb. 8 on the playground at the daycare. (Bottom) Teacher Abby Price helps a child make a special Valentine's Day art project Feb. 7 in the Red Room of the Project Help educational center.

blue before getting a drink of apple juice in the colored cup they chose.

It's a new day and Eliza, a 2-year-old with Angelman Syndrome, is not off to a good start.

Angelman Syndrome affects about one in 15,000 people who are born. It is a genetic disorder that can impair speech, movement, behavior and cause developmental delays.

Eliza has blonde hair with a loose curl held in place by a barrette. A very red nose stands out from her milky white complexion. When she smiles, she exposes widely spaced teeth.

Eliza's in the blue room

today as part of a class of eight, four of whom are peer models. She doesn't like to touch her feet to the ground. Her nose is constantly runny.

Jennifer helps Eliza onto the trampoline, and she just sits there. When Bobbie and Jennifer lift her up to her feet, her knees shoot straight up to her chest. They sit her down and stand her up again, this time holding her feet to the trampoline. She gets her exercise and a gummi-bear reward.

When it's time for basketball, they lower the rim a little for Eliza. But she still has to put the ball through the hoop. In spite

of a constantly wiped runny nose, hair falling in her face and a few bouts of crying, she gets caught smiling.

At the end of the day, the tears are wiped away, lessons are learned and the teachers and volunteers at Project Help are left with a feeling of accomplishment with what they are involved with.

"Each teacher works hard toward being a support, an active listener, a friend, a sounding board and sometimes a resource finder," Susan says. "But, mostly, they are a person who unconditionally cares about both child and parents."

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.**

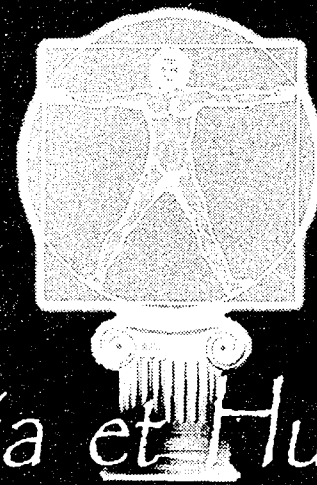
Students may reapply by completing a reapplication form and paying the \$300.00 prepaid rent in the Housing and Residential Life Office in the Keathley University Center, room 300, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Students also have the option of reapplying for housing with priority online 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.



Scientia et Humanitas

Scientia et Humanitas: A Journal of Student Research

is accepting submissions
of natural science, social science,
and humanities research articles.

Research is accepted from MTSU students
and graduate students either by themselves
or in conjunction with a faculty mentor.

**Deadline for spring issue:
Tuesday, February 15**

Submissions must be 15 to 30 double-spaced pages and may include revisions of papers presented for classes, for Scholar's Week, Social Science Symposium, Honors theses, etc.

Papers should include an abstract of 250 or fewer words stating the purpose, methods, results, and conclusion. Papers will typically include an introduction, a description of methods, a report of results, the author's conclusions and notes and references formatted consistent with standards within the discipline.

All papers will be student reviewed. Accepted papers will be published online in the style of a professional journal. Authors will retain copyright privileges and will receive five printed copies.

E-mail articles as attachments to Scientia@mtsu.edu.
Scientia et Humanitas accepts submissions year-round.

For more information contact Marsha Powers,
Scientia et Humanitas adviser, at 898-5759 or
e-mail Scientia@mtsu.edu.

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.

MIDDLE EAST IN FOCUS

Is the Middle East entering a new era?

Once I heard about the popular uprisings in Egypt, I became glued to the computer screen and the different cable channels covering the events on the ground. I feel particularly connected to the place because it is my motherland, and the land where my mother and my sister live. As an initial reaction to the uprising, the Egyptian government shut down the internet and cell phone services in a desperate move to block communication and disrupt the demonstrations. It did not work. The security forces then started to use their usual brutal tactics to scare and disperse the crowds. The crowds were not deterred.

As more and more demonstrators took to the streets, the mood quickly became emboldened. I could watch on CNN and Al Jazeera the throngs of protestors who took over the coastal main road of my hometown, Alexandria, cheering and chanting "Down with Mubarak." The videos and pictures coming from Egypt, however, were not all peaceful or celebratory. The security situation soon deteriorated as a result of police withdrawal, and many incidents of pillaging and looting started to spread across the country.

I could recognize some familiar buildings going up in flames as looters committed their acts of sabotage with impunity. I have fond memories of walking along the same neighborhoods where angry protesters and looters were now marching. The fact that I had no means of communication with family and friends was very unnerving. However, there was not much I could do from here other than wait, watch, and hope for the best.

After a couple of days of trying, I was finally able to make a phone call to the country and I came to know about the night of horror that my family had to go through. They spent a sleepless night dragging all the pieces of furniture they could and pushing them against the door to prevent any intrusion. Never before had they feared



Mohammed Albakry
Guest Columnist

for their lives, but they did that night. Thugs were on the loose, and every sound or movement from the street was a source of panic. Thankfully, it was only one night, and order started to come back when concerned citizens organized themselves to take charge of their own security and to protect their properties.

So far, Mubarak, who has been

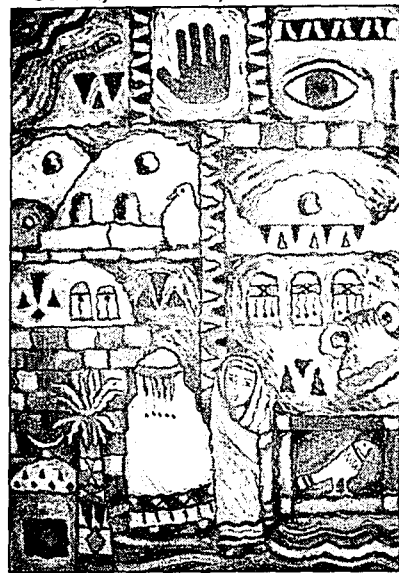


Photo courtesy of sxc.hu

in power for nearly 30 years, is not heeding the popular demand that he step down. But I do not think that he has much choice now, especially after his two speeches that failed to appease the masses calling for his ouster. The volatile situation is escalating by the minute and it seems almost certain that Mubarak will not be able to ride out this wave of rage.

These are giddy and uncertain times for Egypt and Egyptians. The

Egyptian people are now relishing the unprecedented opportunity to express their opinions against their corrupt government without fear of retribution. Protests on such a massive scale were almost unthinkable until a few days ago. But now the unthinkable has become a reality. Tunisia set an example and showed the way: People can stand up for their rights against their dictatorial regimes. The genie is now out of the bottle and no one could put him back. I am sure that is a cause of concern for most leaders in the region. Egypt is the heart of the Arab world and what happens in it is bound to have reverberations all over the Middle East.

This uprising, movement, revolution (or whatever name it might eventually take) could be a positive change in the long term, provided it does not lead to complete chaos or get hijacked by Islamic radicals. In the short term, however, the upcoming days and months are bound to be a period of painful transition. Many investors have already fled the country; some international companies have closed their plants; and tourism, a vital sector for Egypt, will no doubt be hard hit. This is a heavy price to pay for change.

I hope, however, that these negative developments will not have long-lasting effects. I remain hopeful that these tumultuous times will be short, that Egypt and the Middle East are entering a new era that affirms freedom of expression and strong civil institutions, not strongmen. And I am proud of how my adopted country has handled the situation so far, in spite of the necessary diplomatic vagueness. The U.S. with its significant political clout in the region and its pressuring for real reforms could be a powerful agent for positive change.

Mohammed Albakry is an associate professor of English and can be reached at albakry@mtsu.edu.

This article has been condensed for print and was previously published in The Tennessean.

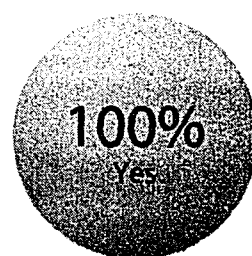


TELL US ONLINE AT
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WOULD YOU WATCH THE AL-JAZEERA NEWS NETWORK IF IT WERE AVAILABLE IN YOUR AREA?

BASED ON VOTES FROM
MTSUSIDELINES.COM.

RESULTS: DO YOU FEEL THAT POLITICIANS IGNORE THE YOUNGER DEMOGRAPHIC?



U.S. media lacks global perspective

I don't watch very much news, but when there's a huge story like Tunisian or Egyptian revolts, I'd like to get it from a trustworthy source.

I suppose this implies that our local media is not to be trusted, but I lean more toward a supposition that its perspective could not possibly be the best fitting for news from other regions.

When I want to hear about world news, I tend to read BBC Online or browse forums with a global audience.

There are all sorts of stories that I never hear about during casual discussion with peers who consume more American media than I do.

This worries me. I'd like to think that the mission of news outlets would be to inform us about important events and things that change the global stage.

Instead, all I hear about is pop culture. Several weeks ago, there was an enormous flood in Australia. Was anyone talking about it? Not that I know of.

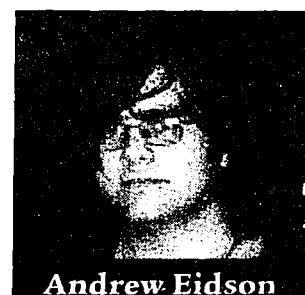
I enjoy friendly discourse on certain topics, and it's sad that nobody really seems to know much outside the realm of what American media provides us.

We seem to have lost that certain sense of "adventure" now that the information age has taken hold.

We no longer go out and search for information; instead we expect it to come to us. This brings me to my next point: Why don't we get Al-Jazeera in America?

There are so many things going on in the Middle East, and it would be nice for our population to be aware of what's going on in that part of the world.

I want to hear what's going



Andrew Eidson
Columnist

on in the Middle East – or the rest of the world – from the perspectives of the people in the Middle East.

There are already multitudes of news outlets, and Al-Jazeera even has online streaming in English.

This should suffice, but not everybody wants to get on the Internet for his or her news. Going to a

website for news is not nearly as adequate as having a news station with 24/7 coverage of events.

As it stands, I feel inhibited by the status quo of American media. It's not that American media can't give me the news I need. It can't give it to me in the way I want it.

Ultimately, it's up to the cable providers to choose which stations to broadcast.

We can write letters, and voice our opinions however we choose. But, attitudes take a long time to change. Whether we'd like to admit it or not, Americans tend not to have a positive perception of the Muslim world.

It's a striking generalization for sure, but it's one I can't help but assert given that our cable providers would rather opt out of broadcasting a particular news outlet.

Andrew Eidson is a junior majoring in public relations and can be reached at Andrew@blackflowermusic.com.



Photo courtesy of sxc.hu

America is ready for Al-Jazeera news network

Cable companies have hinted that they are worried they would lose customers and anger the public if they began carrying the Al-Jazeera English news channel, the world's first to be headquartered in the Middle East.

If this is true, then we have to take a good hard look at ourselves in the mirror.

Al-Jazeera is considered a mainstream and reliable news organization, which has won awards in multiple countries, is broadcast in every single major European market, and has collected a diverse array of European, Middle Eastern and Asian journalists.

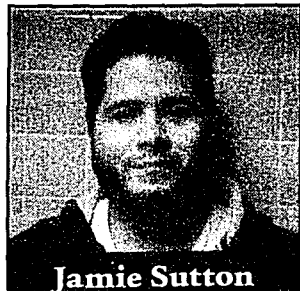
But, chances are you can't watch it on your television here in the United States.

In America, the channel is carried on only one or two cable carriers with an extremely limited local reach.

Industry giants such as Comcast, DirecTV and Dish Network all, at one time, planned to carry the news organization in their lineup, but all three reversed their decision and decided not to air the news channel during the President George W. Bush's administration.

Is our worldview so self-centered that we are upset and afraid when we hear views of current events that might differ from our own?

Are we so terrified of vague and half-formed ideas of people



Jamie Sutton
Columnist

from the Middle East or Muslims that we think we will somehow be contaminated if we watch their news programming and try to understand their side of the stories?

Our country is founded on principles of rationality, on the developed belief of enlightened philosophers and the founding fathers that all people, if given the opportunity, are capable of forming opinions and beliefs based on evidence, reason and common sense.

Unfortunately, it seems we either constantly fall short of that ideal, or recoil from it in fear, asking to be protected from "bad thoughts."

Millions of Americans have tuned into the Al-Jazeera website to watch its live coverage. Events going on in Egypt, Tunisia and Jordan show that now more than ever the region is a critical area to understand and know about.

We should ask our television providers to carry Al-Jazeera English and tell them they don't need to keep us in the dark, but can let us step into the light of an increased awareness of the world around us.

We're grown-ups, we can handle it.

Jamie Sutton is a senior majoring in philosophy and can be reached at jmsutton3@gmail.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

This e-mail is in response to the article "SGA homecoming director dismissed" reported by Sidelines in its Jan. 31 edition. The headline could easily lead readers to believe that Donald Abels was removed from his position based on dishonorable reasons, which is grossly inaccurate. If someone were to read the headline and not read the content in the article, it would have people

thinking negatively upon Abels. This is not what I want people to think of him especially since Donald has gone above and beyond in his role as homecoming director. He worked tirelessly throughout the summer and fall semesters to prepare for homecoming and in many people's opinion, including mine, did an absolutely fabulous job. I think Sidelines should be more cognizant of how

headlines can portray a neutral article in a negative light.

With homecoming 2011 coinciding with MTSU's Centennial Celebration, SGA voted to remove Abels from office so that a new homecoming director could be selected to begin planning activities as soon as possible. We also appreciate President Sidney McPhee announcing the

homecoming date earlier than normal, which will provide SGA sufficient time to plan successful activities for this milestone in our university's history.

SGA President Brandon Batts is majoring in behavioral and health sciences. He can be reached at sgapres@mtsu.edu.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Moviegoers receive a dilemma

By JACKIE RIPPEE
Contributing Writer

"The Dilemma" resembles a drunken driver behind the wheel of a muscle car that runs out of control. The film is undoubtedly a clumsy comedy of a car wreck.

The movie stars Vince Vaughn as Ronny, the wisecrack best friend and business partner of Nick, a shy car designer played by Kevin James.

Ronny is in a happy relationship with the lovely Beth (Jennifer Connelly), and James is in what appears to be a happy marriage of many years to Geneva (Winona Ryder).

After a long battle with commitment issues, Vaughn decides to plan a proposal for Connelly at the Botanical Gardens where Vaughn spots Ryder groping and kissing the young tattooed Zip played by Channing Tatum.

Vaughn cannot seem to find a way to tell James about his wife's affair due to the effect it would have on a make or break deal with their business which causes a long string of drawn out events.

In what should be comic blunders and faulty misadventures, Vaughn almost appears mad in some of his attempts to reveal the infidelity of Ryder.

At one point, he buys a camera to catch proof of Ryder and Tatum in the act of the affair, but this leads to a fight between Tatum and Vaughn.

Guitars are thrown, fish tanks are broken and doors are smashed into pieces as Vaughn tries to flee from the enraged Tatum. Vaughn eventually crafts a small flame thrower with a lighter and a can of hair spray to escape.

The scene ends with Vaughn in the middle of the street screaming, "I know where you live," and other threats that feel uncomfortable



Photo courtesy of Universal Studios
Vince Vaughn and Kevin James star in a romantic comedy directed by Ron Howard.

and bizarre instead of a silly comedic misfortune.

Vaughn also experiences tantrums of talking out loud to himself, frightening the people that pass him by, as a way to cope with the secret he carries about his best friend's wife.

Directed by Ron Howard, with an impressive resume for the movies "Apollo 13", "A Beautiful Mind", and "Angles and Demons," his stab at a comedy falls flat and struggles to squeeze in any laughs. The movie as a whole comes off as sloppy and misguided.

Even Queen Latifah's small cameos fall flat with her sexual references and puns—her "ladywood" leaving a feeling of unnecessary perversion. Finally, the secret of Ryder's

infidelity is revealed in an even more somber light at an intervention for Vaughn towards the end of the film—his family and friends thinking he has relapsed to previous gambling problems due to his behavior in trying to expose Ryder.

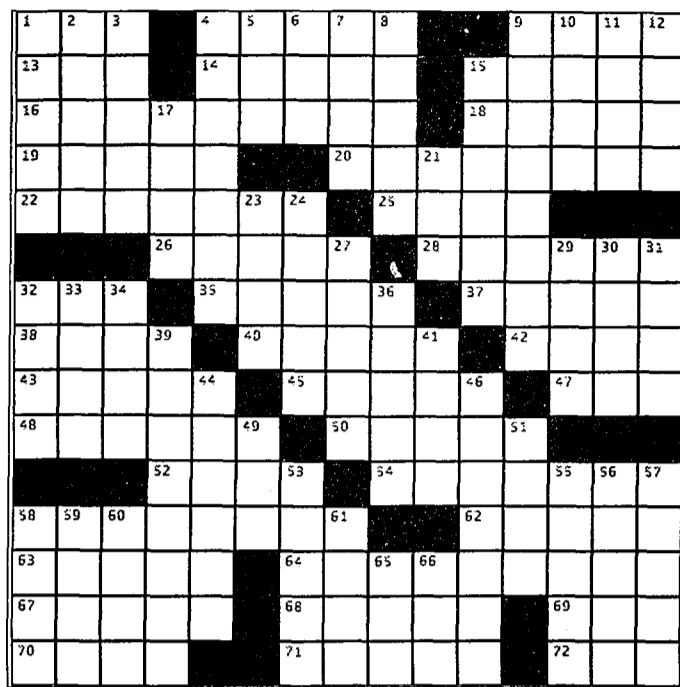
Ultimately, the movie is peppered with unpleasant views of relationships and riddled with poor attempts at comedy.

"The Dilemma" is uncomfortable, awkward and dark in the way it handles the topic of fidelity – with no hope for comedic relief.

"The Dilemma" is exactly what the title entails – a dilemma between a poorly written wanna-be comedy and a terrible misfire of a serious drama.

SIDEWORDS

The weekly Sidelines crossword puzzle



Crossword courtesy of bestcrosswords.com

ACROSS

1- Absorb, as a cost; 4- Choose; 9- Exposed; 13- Black bird; 14- Lesser; 15- Old Nick; 16- Hasty flight; 18- Satirical dialogue; 19- Singer John; 20- Antitopia; 22- Large spotted cat; 25- Before long; 26- Group character; 28- Potential mate; 32- Soviet secret police; 35- Conger catcher; 37- Loiter; 38- Bust maker; 40- Detective Pinkerton; 42- Legal claim; 43- More or less vertical; 45- More cunning; 47- Sugar suffix; 48- Decorative cornice; 50- Move stealthily; 52- Bric-a-____; 54- Rare metallic element; 58- Raging; 62- Rich cake; 63- Eat away; 64- Belittle; 67- Pending; 68- Bring out; 69- Hanoi holiday; 70- Bristle; 71- Saturn's largest moon; 72- Hesitant sounds;

DOWN

1- Art supporter; 2- Slender part of the leg; 3- Connect with; 4- Originate; 5- Cover; 6- Break off; 7- Chilled; 8- Low cards; 9- Fit for a magnate; 10- Looking down from; 11- Hindu princess; 12- "Orinoco Flow" singer; 15- Skip; 17- Narcotic; 21- Brillo rival; 23- Greek fertility goddess, flightless bird; 24- Kids toys; 27- Vends; 29- Small combo; 30- Mine finds; 31- Baseball's Sandberg; 32- Sack starter; 33- Open wide; 34- Songwriter Jacques; 36- Coming down; 39- Republic in SE Asia; 41- Depilatory brand; 44- Core; 46- Heavy napped woolen fabric; 49- Mai ____; 51- McDonald's founder Ray; 53- A trainee in a profession; 55- Angry; 56- Absolute; 57- Confronts; 58- ____ ex machina; 59- Sea eagle; 60- Feminist Lucretia; 61- Basic monetary unit of Ghana; 65- Place; 66- Nipper's co.;

SUDOKU

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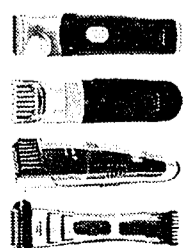
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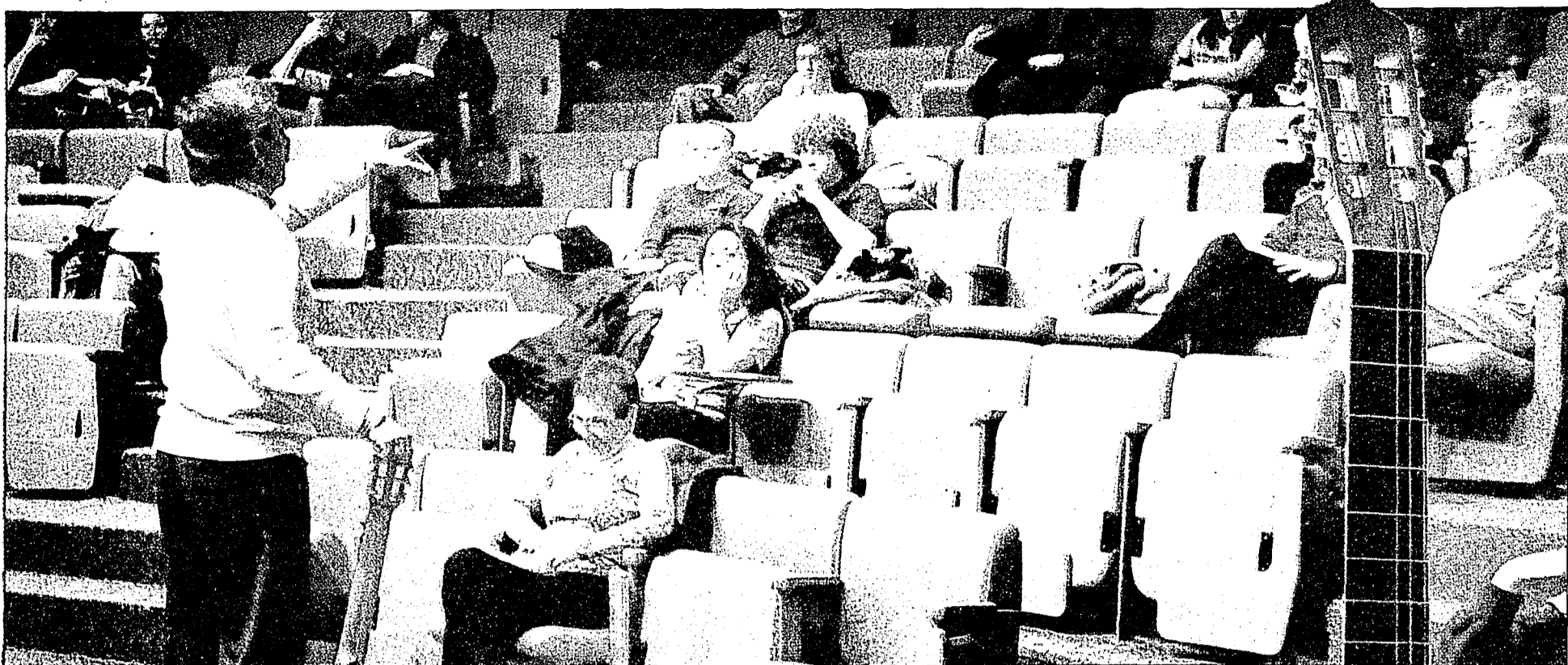


Photo by Mary Katherine Bogle, contributing photographer
Jhon Akers gives a lecture on the works of Carl Sandburg on Feb. 7 to an audience of students, teachers and others on the Spanish guitar in the State Farm Room.

Guest speaker brings poetry to life with Sandburg's music

By APRIL BAILEY
Staff Writer

Jhon Akers combined a love of literature and Spanish guitar in a lecture on the works of Carl Sandburg with musical interpretations of Sandburg's writings.

Akers said that the program, titled "Carl Sandburg and the Spanish Guitar," was about Sandburg's lifelong love of the guitar. At the beginning of the program, Akers, a Spanish professor at Wofford College in Spartanburg, S.C., asked everyone to stand as he performed "Estudio andante" by Fernando Sor, a Catalan guitarist.

Jokingly, Akers said that the reason for this was so that when he goes back to Wofford and his students ask him how it went, he could say, "After I played, they gave me a standing ovation."

Participants had different reasons for coming to the lecture. Kory

Wells, an adjunct professor in the department of English, said that she writes poetry about life in the South and can identify with Sandburg.

"I was interested in the poetry aspect, as well as the music," Wells said.

The performance of Sor's piece was followed by Akers' discussion of Sandburg's fascination with music and poetry.

Akers said Sandburg was especially fond of Andrés Segovia, Spanish classical guitarist. He added that when Sandburg was on his deathbed, he requested to hear Segovia's music before he passed away.

Akers interacted with the crowd throughout the lecture by joking and asking them questions during discussion.

"If you're trying to follow the program, good luck," Akers said, after realizing that he had skipped

over a couple things.

Sandburg's dissatisfaction with current children's literature resulted in his own collection, Akers said. Akers read "How Henry Hagglyhoagly Played the Guitar with His Mittens On," a short tale from Sandburg's "Rootabaga Stories."

Other musical pieces were performed by Akers in between discussing Sandburg's experiences and literary developments. After reading Sandburg's poem "Solo for Saturday Night Guitar," Akers ended the program by playing "El Noi de la Mare," a traditional Catalan folksong.

Jerry Brookshire, retired liberal arts and history professor, said that he and his wife found the lecture to be very entertaining.

"I thoroughly enjoyed it," Brookshire said. "[He] brought Sandburg to life."



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