

Aramark defends meal plan

By TODD BARNES
News Editor

Aramark defended its decision to provide President Brandon Batts with a free freshman meal plan, saying that the Student Government Association is the "voice of the campus."

"The SGA meal plan was a limited time offer only," said Brandon Lucas, a student who works as the marketing coordinator for Aramark. "We just put it out there to see how students would respond to it."

Lucas expressed frustration over what he

said were misconceptions regarding the company's decision to offer the plan, which was initially offered to Greek organizations as well.

He said Greek organizations did not receive the meal plan until after Batts had already begun participating in the

program. However, during last week's SGA meeting, Sara E. Wallace, marketing director for Aramark, said Batts is the only student on campus who receives a free meal plan, and it remains unclear as to when either of



Photo by Bailey Ingram, photo editor
Students enjoy a late night dinner Feb. 23 at the Cyber Cafe on campus.

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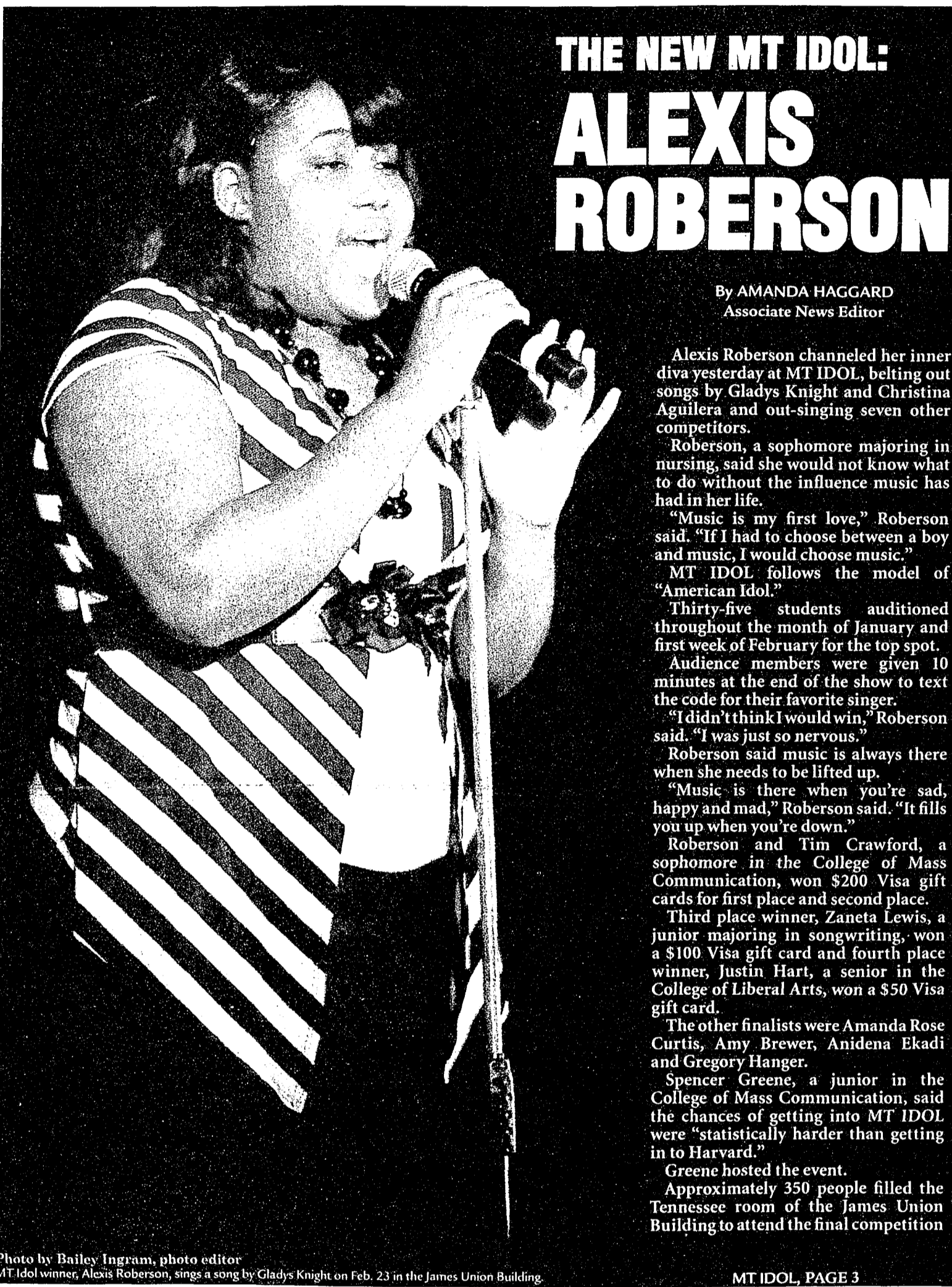


Photo by Bailey Ingram, photo editor
MT IDOL winner, Alexis Roberson, sings a song by Gladys Knight on Feb. 23 in the James Union Building.

THE NEW MT IDOL: ALEXIS ROBERSON

By AMANDA HAGGARD
Associate News Editor

Alexis Roberson channeled her inner diva yesterday at MT IDOL, belting out songs by Gladys Knight and Christina Aguilera and out-singing seven other competitors.

Roberson, a sophomore majoring in nursing, said she would not know what to do without the influence music has had in her life.

"Music is my first love," Roberson said. "If I had to choose between a boy and music, I would choose music."

MT IDOL follows the model of "American Idol."

Thirty-five students auditioned throughout the month of January and first week of February for the top spot.

Audience members were given 10 minutes at the end of the show to text the code for their favorite singer.

"I didn't think I would win," Roberson said. "I was just so nervous."

Roberson said music is always there when she needs to be lifted up.

"Music is there when you're sad, happy and mad," Roberson said. "It fills you up when you're down."

Roberson and Tim Crawford, a sophomore in the College of Mass Communication, won \$200 Visa gift cards for first place and second place.

Third place winner, Zaneta Lewis, a junior majoring in songwriting, won a \$100 Visa gift card and fourth place winner, Justin Hart, a senior in the College of Liberal Arts, won a \$50 Visa gift card.

The other finalists were Amanda Rose Curtis, Amy Brewer, Anidena Ekadi and Gregory Hanger.

Spencer Greene, a junior in the College of Mass Communication, said the chances of getting into MT IDOL were "statistically harder than getting in to Harvard."

Greene hosted the event. Approximately 350 people filled the Tennessee room of the James Union Building to attend the final competition

MT IDOL, PAGE 3

Few turnout for annual SGA debate

By ALEX HARRIS
Staff Writer

Fewer than 50 people attended the Student Government Association debate to determine the executive positions for a student body of more than 26,000.

Three of the four executive candidates are running uncontested for the positions of president, vice president of administration and public affairs, and election commissioner. Three people are vying for the vice president position.

"The fact that I'm running unopposed is kind of disheartening," said John Thomas, the election commissioner candidate.

Thomas said he wanted to get involved in executive office to make sure the student body is operating the way it should.

The main theme of the night seemed to be the lack of student involvement in the SGA.

"I want to make sure that students know we do hear what they're saying and listen to their opinions," said Jeremy Poynter, the presidential candidate.

Poynter has run for office before.

"Every time I ran - I lost," Poynter said. "As you can see, things have changed."

Erika Maclin, the vice president of administration and public affairs candidate, said she wants to get the word out to the students about legislation that is being brought to the SGA.

She said she intends to work with whatever organizations she needs to, to accomplish this.

"I really want people to know about the events and the work the SGA does here at MTSU," Maclin said.

The candidates running for the vice president position are Sen. Sarah Hoover of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, former Sen. Shaun Luber of the College of Liberal Arts, and At-Large Sen. Vanessa Patrick.

"There is a disconnection on this campus between the senate and the student body," Patrick said, adding that it is important to be in tune with the student concerns.

Luber, who is an intern working for state Rep. Rick Womick of the Tennessee General Assembly, said he has seen parliamentary procedure used in the state legislature and agrees with Patrick about the disconnection between students and the SGA.

"To repair that relationship is going to take a lot of work, seeing as we are the biggest school in Tennessee right now," Lubur said, adding that he plans to make that his primary focus.

SGA, PAGE 4

Provost says 'open-door' Thursdays successful

By BECCA ANDREWS
Associate News Editor

University Provost Brad Bartel said implementing "open-door" Thursdays has been a great way to "get to know campus."

Since August, Bartel has allotted time every Thursday for faculty, staff and students to visit his office, which is located in the Cope Administration Building, to discuss campus issues.

"Sometimes, it's been very crowded, to the point that I can't guarantee more than five minutes per person," Bartel said.

Faculty members have shown interest in discussing classroom

resources and money issues. Bartel said the faculty he has interacted with had "great ideas" about how to improve curriculum, committee structure and the work climate.

"This has served a number of purposes, and more and more people have become comfortable coming into the office to talk about on-campus issues," Bartel said.

However, Bartel said it has mainly been faculty and staff coming to him, rather than students. He said most students go straight to the vice president of Student Affairs with their concerns. While this is a part of

the vice president's job, Bartel said he was looking more for general feedback from both graduate and undergraduate students.

"I don't necessarily only want to hear about problems," Bartel said. "I want to hear about what students love about the university and ideas about what can be improved."

He said he thinks many students do not come in because the policy has not received much publicity but most do not take advantage of this opportunity because he believes administrators seem inaccessible.

"Students shouldn't be intimidated by administrators," Bartel said.

Faculty and staff receive e-mail from on a weekly basis specifying the time frame for that particular Thursday. His door is usually open from 9:30 to 11 a.m.

Bartel said he is still learning more about the university's culture - the zeitgeist of the community.

Bartel said he places a lot of importance on communication between administrators and students because it offers a perspective necessary for improvement within the university.

"I like [hearing everyone's ideas] a lot, and I think it's the right thing to do," Bartel said.

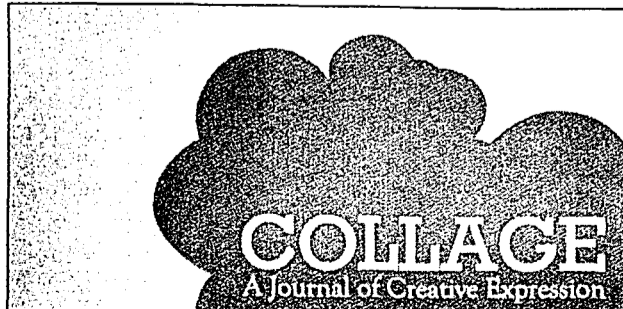
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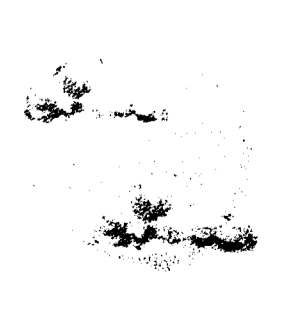
Learn how students are mastering the art of producing a printed publication.
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EXCLUSIVELY ONLINE



Check out the MT IDOL slideshow and videos of contestants competing to appear in the final show.
NEWS

WEATHER



THURSDAY
51/31

CRIME BRIEFS

Traffic
Feb. 20, 12:27 a.m.
Rutherford Boulevard parking lot
Philip Joshua C. Elliot, 21, issued a state citation for driving on a suspended license.

Alcohol
Feb. 20, 3:12 a.m.
Rutherford Boulevard
Brooks Haily Chambers, 25, was arrested for driving under the influence.

Theft
Feb. 21, 1:49 a.m.
Monohan Hall
A student reported that her laptop was stolen from the study room.

Alarm
Feb. 21, 8:02 a.m.
James Union Building
A fire alarm was activated by smoke from burnt food. No flames were present. The Murfreesboro Fire Department responded and cleared the building.

Assault
Feb. 21, 10:01 a.m.
Alumni Drive
An adult complainant reported that she had been struck by her mother while on campus, but said she did not want to press charges.

THROUGH THE SIDELINES LENS



Photo courtesy of the Office of News and Media Relations
(From left to right) Roy Moore, dean of the College of Mass Communication, Loren Mulraime, the chair of the department of recording industry, John Hill, a recording industry professor, President Sidney McPhee and University Provost Brad Bartel pose Feb. 21 with the 53rd annual Grammy Award plaque recognizing the faculty member's work in the music industry. Hill was one of four professors to win a Grammy Award.

LOCAL EVENTS ON CAMPUS

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Music in the Lobby: Jazz vocalist Sylvia Thompson Feb. 24, 6 p.m. Frist Center for the Visual Arts Tickets: FREE</p> | <p>Feb. 26, 9 p.m. Mercy Lounge Tickets: \$7 - \$12</p> | <p>Tickets: FREE</p> <p>MTSU Symphony Orchestra Feb. 27, 4 p.m. Wright Music Building</p> |
| <p>Bangtango and Lionheart Feb. 24, 7 p.m. The Muse Tickets: \$12 - \$15</p> | <p>DJ Hashbrown Feb. 27, 8 p.m. Belmont Mansion Tickets: FREE</p> | <p>EVENTS POLICY Sidelines welcomes current campus and community events submitted by all readers. Please e-mail events slnews@mtsu.edu. Include the name, date, time and location of the event, as well as your name and contact information. We reserve the right to refuse events at our discretion as our space is limited.</p> |
| <p>Heypenny: A Jillion Kicks CD Release Show</p> | <p>Belmont Camarata: The Romantic Impulse Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m. Belmont Mansion</p> | |

OFF CAMPUS

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Concerts: Murfreesboro/Nashville Rock Block Showcase Feb. 22, 9 a.m. Senate Faculty Room FREE</p> | <p>2nd Annual Country Music Is Love Concert benefiting City of Hope March 1, 6:30 p.m. Hard Rock Café Tickets: \$20</p> | <p>Lectures: International Lens Film Series: "Osama" March 2, 7 p.m. Sarratt Cinema Vanderbilt University Tickets: FREE</p> |
| <p>Rachel Pearl Feb. 27, 7 p.m. Sambuca Restaurant Tickets: FREE</p> | <p>I'm Still Beautiful: A concert/fashion show event to benefit young adult cancer survivors March 3, 7 p.m. Mercy Lounge Tickets: \$10</p> | <p>"Alfred Hitchcock's The 39 Steps: From Page to Screen to Stage" March 1, 6 p.m. Vanderbilt University Wilson Hall Auditorium, Room 103 Tickets: FREE RSVP required</p> |
| <p>Michael Alvarado with Ben Grant and Zach Brooke Feb. 28, 8 p.m. Exit In Tickets: \$8</p> | | |

NATIONAL AP NEWS

Republicans plots spending bill
WASHINGTON (AP) - A spokesman for Speaker John Boehner says that next week Republicans controlling the House will advance a temporary government funding bill to keep the government open for two weeks after a March 4 deadline. The measure will contain about \$4 billion in spending cuts that are still being readied.

Ft. Hood shooter may face death penalty
FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) - A second military official is considering whether an Army psychiatrist should be court-martialed and face the death penalty for the deadly Fort Hood shootings. A brigade commander is expected to make a recommendation soon in the case of Maj. Nidal Hasan, who is charged with 13 counts of premeditated murder and 32 counts of attempted premeditated murder in the 2009 rampage. After that, a commanding general will make the final decision.

LOCAL AP NEWS

Local Marine dies in Afghanistan
WASHINGTON (AP) - The U.S. Department of Defense has announced that Lance Cpl. Andrew P. Carpenter, a 27-year-old Marine from Columbia, Tenn., has died. Carpenter died Saturday, almost a week after he was shot while on patrol in the Helmand province of Afghanistan. The Marine married Crissie Ponder in 2010. She is pregnant and expecting to give birth within days.

Bill to exempt background checks advances
NASHVILLE (AP) - A measure that would exempt handgun permit holders from criminal background checks to buy weapons is one of two gun bills advancing in the state Senate. The proposal sponsored by Republican Sen. Steve Southerland of Morristown was moved to the Senate Finance Committee on Tuesday after passing the Senate Judiciary Committee 8-1. The companion bill is awaiting a vote in the same committee in the House.

Study: women underrepresented
NASHVILLE (AP) - A study has found that women remain underrepresented in corporate leadership posts at publicly traded companies in Tennessee. The report found that more than 91 percent of the 617 corporate directors were men at a time when women made up 48 percent of the Tennessee work force. Out of the 72 public corporations, 46 percent had no women directors at all. The study was based on 2009 Securities and Exchange Commission filings. It was sponsored by Nashville CABLE, a regional executive women's group, and done by the Lipscomb University College of Business.

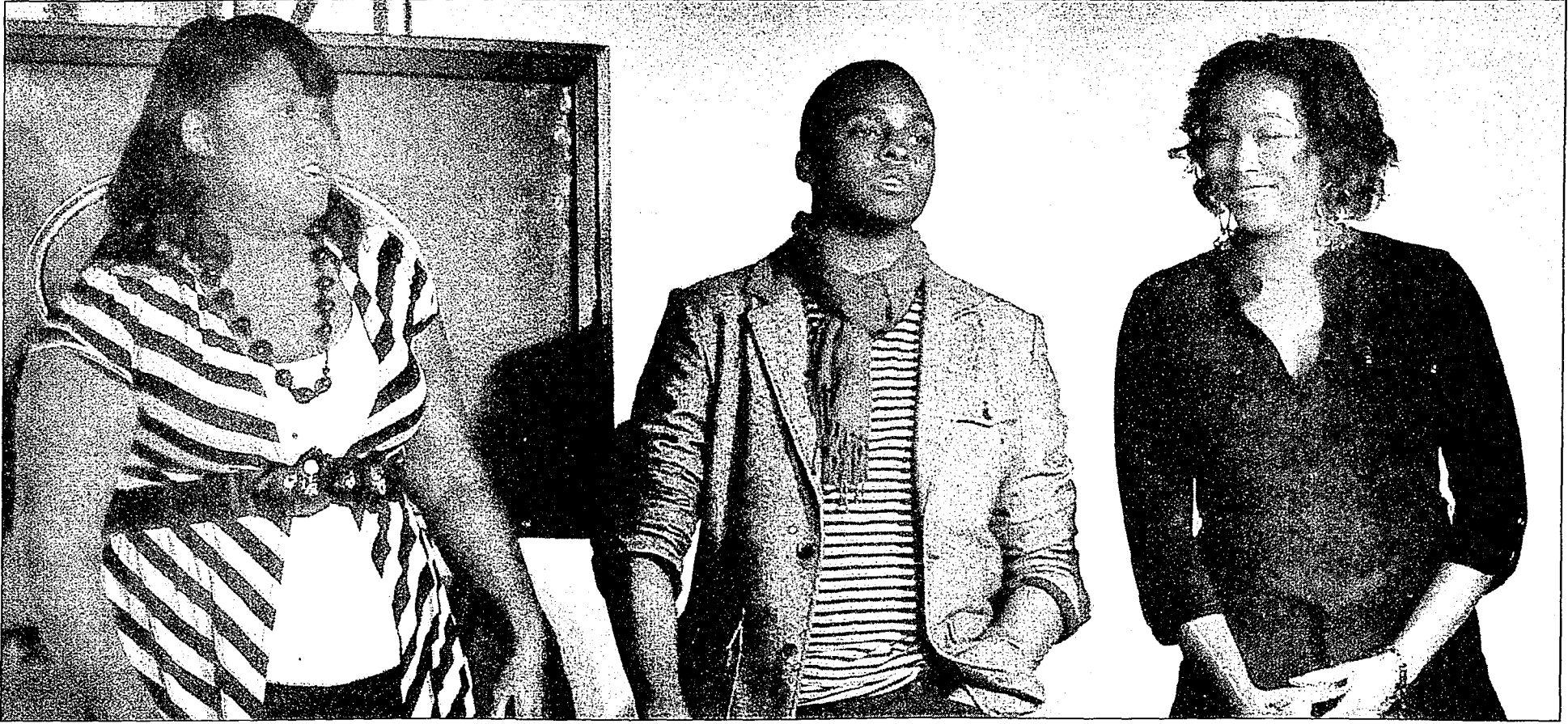
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Photos by Bailey Ingram, photo editor
 (Top, left to right) MT IDOL winner, Alexis Roberson, stands with Brent Edwards, a sophomore majoring in aerospace, and Alanna Woodard, a freshman majoring in health. (Bottom, left) Tim Crawford, a sophomore in the College of Mass Communication and (bottom, right) Alanna Woodard, a freshman in the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences, sing during the competition Feb. 23 in the James Union Building.

Vocal competition crowns newest champ

MT IDOL FROM PAGE 1

that Student Programming and Events plans annually.

"I'm so glad so many people came out," Greene said. "I hope everyone had fun."

Elizabeth Johnson, a senior majoring in English said she thought that it was important to spread the word of all the talent MTSU has to show.

"I think it's really cool that MTSU has an event like this," Johnson said. "It lets people know that we have talent on campus just like anywhere else."

She said she thought Roberson was "superb," but she enjoyed the personality in Crawford's performances.

"Tim Crawford was excellent," Johnson said. "He had this really sexy quality about his voice."

The judges for the event were Amy Korstange, associate director of housing, Ryan Crowder, a junior majoring in history, and Lexi Kennedy, the programming

director for WMTS 88.3, MTSU's radio station.

The judges described Roberson as "sultry" and "soulful," and Crowder said her performances were "executed beautifully."

Roberson said her family could not attend, but all of her friends and her boyfriend came to see her sing.

"I've been singing since I was three or four years old," Roberson said. "My mother was really into music when I was young."

Roberson said she had trouble during her first song because there were audio difficulties.

"I was so nervous when my music wasn't loud enough," Roberson said. "When the music started, it was fine though."

Jason Lowder, a junior majoring in elementary education, said the event was a great community gathering.

"Nothing brings people together like music," Lowder said. "I love events like this that bring people together for positive reasons."

After the shooting last week, an event like MT IDOL is a great time to reflect on the things about campus that make students proud,



Lowder said.
 The event was free and open to the public.



Professors talk about race, jobs

Workshop focuses on discrimination, communication practices for tenure

By LIZA SATURDAY
 Contributing Writer

Professors sought advice and shared their concerns as minorities in achieving tenure Tuesday during the Brown Bag Tenure Lecture.

The event was held as part of the university's monthlong celebration of Black History Month.

"If you are a minority, you are more visible," said Danielle Brown, a dissertation fellow in biology. "It's a double-edged sword."

Rich Milner, an associate professor at Vanderbilt University, said it is important to recognize and perhaps "call out" injustice and inequity.

Milner said to "take the person as they are as a whole" when asserting who a person is at heart.

Maya Stones, an assistant professor in the College of Liberal Arts, said she cannot put her trust in the university to provide the help needed for tenure.

Milner directed the lecture, which was attended by 12 professors, all of who represented various parts of the university's academic programs, such as history, music, science and business. President Sidney McPhee was also in attendance.

"I'm glad to see an actual outcome - that we're putting action to a plan," McPhee said. "I want [all professors] to stay here and be successful."

Professors also expressed concern about expectations to achieve tenure.

McPhee said that there

are different tiers and requirements for each college in the university, and he said that the guidelines are very "clear."

Milner discussed three expectations with professors: to publish, to teach, and to serve. He said in order to receive tenure it is necessary to be successful in all three areas. However, constant participation and pursuit of excellence is the

"If you are a minority, you are more visible. It's a double-edged sword."

DANIELLE BROWN
 DISSERTATION FELLOW
 IN BIOLOGY

ultimate goal, he said.

A professor is required to publish whether it is through co-authorship or another outlet. Another requirement is that the professor serves on a committee, at a local, state, national or international level.

Brown said instructors who are able to do all three have "good self management" and "know how to put the right people in place around them."

Milner said when trying to receive tenure there is an importance for professors to fit into the collegiate community. The professors expressed their "sense of isolation"

in their department.

"You try your best to be kind but want to maintain integrity," said Ronda Henderson, assistant professor in the College of Business.

During his lecture, Milner highlighted the idea that it's who you know, not what you know. Milner cited likability as a determining factor for professors seeking tenure.

Milner said professors ask themselves "Is this a person that I want to work with for the remainder of my career?"

By attending office functions and social events, professors can establish long-lasting relationships and foster a necessary sense of community, Milner said.

Louis Woods, assistant professor in the College of Liberal Arts, said he believes there is a lack of mentorship available for professors.

Milner responded with how his mentor had a great impact on his career and asked Janice Lewis, coordinator for Academic Affairs, to take note of the idea of considering a mentoring committee.

Milner said the key to success is keeping one's job and life enjoyable, and to not find identification in work.

McPhee agreed and said it was a "powerful point."

"It's easy to get wrapped up in title and position," McPhee said.

"As you're working toward the goal of tenure and promotion, don't neglect the quality of lifestyle," said Gloria Bonner, dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Science.



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Photo by Bailey Ingram, photo editor

The Black History 101 Mobile Museum visited the Keathley University Center on Feb. 23 to give students a chance to look at the contributions and struggles of black Americans.

Mobile museum highlights history

By CECILIA SINKALA
Contributing Writer

The Black History 101 Mobile Museum stopped by the Keathley University Center on Wednesday to present artifacts of black history spanning from slavery to hip-hop in honor of this month's celebrations.

"My mission is to raise the consciousness of the human family by sharing artifacts that celebrate the contributions, achievements and experiences of African Americans," said Khalid el-Hakim, who founded the museum.

The exhibit showcases memorabilia from a wide range of black history such as slavery, the Jim Crow era, music, sports, the Civil Rights Movement and the Black Power movement, as well as popular culture.

"What's most important about Black History Month is exposing people to the history of black excellence and greatness," el-Hakim said.

The exhibit included items like the 1968 Life Magazine cover that depicts Martin Luther King Jr.'s family in mourning at his funeral, following his assassination at a Memphis hotel.

There were photos on display of

milestones in black history, such as Rosa Parks getting her fingerprints taken after she was arrested for refusing to give up her seat, and a black man who had been lynched still hanging from a tree surrounded by white children.

The exhibit also featured dolls, games, and other such items targeted at children, pointing out that racism is not an adult-only concept.

There was a section devoted to the Ku Klux Klan, as well as a member's hood.

The exhibit featured books from the past that had both positive and negative effects on the black community such as Uncle Tom's Cabin and Ten Little N****r Boys.

A large section dedicated to Civil Rights leaders like Elijah Muhammad and Malcolm X included photos, magazine covers, and posters advertising their events, in addition to coverage of the movie about Malcolm X by Spike Lee and Denzel Washington.

The exhibit ended with a major focus on hip-hop of the 1980s and early-1990s. Acts such as Public Enemy, Tupac Shakur, Lauryn Hill, NWA and others were showcased.

Growing up in the 1980s during the hip-hop "golden era" was the inspiration behind the museum, along with acts such as Public

Enemy, KRS-One and The Last Poets directly impacted him, el-Hakim said.

"It was through my exposure to Public & KRS-One that my consciousness was raised in terms of black culture, black pride and black history," el-Hakim said. "It was a period of time in hip-hop where knowledge was promoted - nowadays you have a bunch of silliness promoting hip-hop, but at one time there was a balance."

Although he said he believes in mainstream artists, none of today's mainstream artists are doing what those previous acts did. But, there are underground artists that are doing great things, el-Hakim said.

"You have people like Immoral Technique, there's a brother named Jasiri X, out of Pittsburgh, Invincible out of Detroit - so there are people out there, but they're not mainstream," el-Hakim said.

Though el-Hakim said he "has his gripes" with some aspects of current black culture, his goal for this museum is to inspire and raise awareness of how vast and important black history and culture can be.

"I want people to walk away as inspired as I've been as a collector and student of this history," he said.



Photo by Bailey Ingram, photo editor

Students view artifacts featured in the mobile museum Feb. 23 outside of the Keathley University Center.

Three candidates run uncontested

SGA
FROM PAGE 1

Hoover said she has used parliamentary procedures in various organizations since high school, and she feels as strongly about fixing problems between students and the SGA.

"We are here to serve the students, and I think to get to the root of that we first have to have a senate that is united," Hoover said.

She said she also feels the media is the route to take with fixing this rift.

"Sometimes, it does seem like we're not in tune with

what the students want, and I don't think that's true," Hoover said. "I think it's a misconception. We have to address people's opinions because people's opinions are what matter."

Poynter said he has some ideas on how to get the students more involved in student government, such as posting on Pipeline MT a list of senate seats still open.

"I don't think that most students know they can go to the SGA office to fill out an appointment," Poynter said. "I think that they think that once elections are over, that it's over and

they can't get appointed."

Thomas also said he is dedicated to getting more students to vote. He said he would like to see more students vote.

Students will have between March 1 and March 3 to cast their vote.

However, Election Commissioner Darrin Johnson said that he is concerned uncontested candidates would not campaign as much.

"My concern is that because more people ran in the past, how will an uncontested race impact voter turnout?" Johnson said.

Students raise concerns about SGA

ARAMARK
FROM PAGE 1

the programs were implemented.

John Tate, service director of MT Dining Services, could not be reached for comment.

Students raised questions about the Aramark policy in January, arguing that SGA officers should not receive special perks for being a part of the organization. Much of the controversy centered on the fact that many students feel like on-campus food prices are too high, and by accepting complimentary meal plans, the SGA has compromised its objectivity about the issue.

In November 2009, during a meeting between the SGA and Aramark, several senators expressed concerns about the rising cost of food prices to Tate. However, the SGA has since not addressed the matter - giving rise to the current situation.

Lucas said Aramark food prices are based on how it divvies its commission.

"We have to give MTSU a cut, and we have to actually pay the brand itself," Lucas said, referring to how the company distributes its profits.

Aramark is conducting surveys regarding students' perceptions of the campus food supplier, and as soon as the results of the testing phase are reviewed, Aramark will decide the future of these meal plans, Lucas said.

"If it comes back and everything is right on [Aramark's] end with the business aspect of it, and it gets received well on campus, then we'll open it up to [all organizations] in the fall," Lucas said.

Perception is greater than reality, and Aramark is working hard to close the gap between university and community prices by offering value meals, Lucas said.

"That's why we try to do the \$5 specials at Chick-fil-A, Burger Studio, Quiznos and Starbucks," Lucas said.

He said most students are not aware of how much Aramark gives back to the MTSU community.

"We catered Stepping for a Cure and Up 'Til Dawn," he said.

Lucas said the company, which has contracts with more than 600 universities and colleges, works hard to address concerns about food prices.

"You can't make everyone happy, but we try to find the

happy medium that's good for business and for client relations," Lucas said.

Batts said he was unaware of the benefits that came with his position when he campaigned for office.

"I didn't know about tuition getting paid for," Batts said. "I didn't know about the white parking pass. I didn't know about Aramark providing me with the meal plan - like I said - it just kind of came with it."

Batts said his motive for running for president was because of his devotion to students.

"The reason why I ran for SGA president is to affect the community, and affect MTSU, as well as SGA," Batts said.

Batts said SGA members are not out of touch with the rest of the student population.

"I don't think it separates us because - it's just like in the way of life - once you start climbing up a [metaphorical] ladder, you start getting more things," Batts said, "and [free campus food] right here - I guess if you want to call it a 'perk' - it just comes with the position. I know what I do for MTSU and SGA, and if Aramark wants to provide me a perk for it - that's wonderful."

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Deadline

Monday, March 7, 2011

FEATURES

A Collage of Talent

MTSU magazine allows for students to showcase their works of art.

By LYNELL LEWIS
Contributing Writing

During the hot summer of 2004, budget cuts spelled "the end" for the student publication *Collage*. The magazine was forced to close its doors for the first time since they were opened in 1968.

But, Philip Mathis, the former dean of the University Honors College, rescued the creative arts magazine from its peril and welcomed the lost lamb into the fold of the Paul W. Martin, Sr. Honors Building.

Knowing he must choose an individual who not only possessed the necessary skills to guide the students in how to run a publication, but also someone with a positive and caring attitude to lead and mentor them, Mathis assigned Marsha Powers to serve as the adviser for *Collage*.

"I was a secretary at the time and he recognized that I had a background in newspaper and yearbook," Powers modestly recalls. "So, he had me reclassified to [the] position."

In spring 2005, as the ground began to thaw, the trees to bud and flowers to bloom, the students working for *Collage* were as busy as bees in a hive getting ready to release the first volume of the magazine, now called *Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression* from its new headquarters.

Only one issue missed printing during the transition.

Six years after its rebirth, the publication continues to do what it has done since its creation, which, according to Powers is "to provide an opportunity for students who are interested in publishing to get experience in publishing and also to provide a place for MTSU students to get their work published."

The creative process is intense.

Photographers constantly search for the right light to frame a shot. Artists look for inspiration and decide what colors would express their idea best. Writers continually exchange one word for another, hunting for the perfect way to say something.

Collage makes it possible for these creative students to share the work that means so much to them with a wider audience.

Taffy O'Neal, a senior majoring in English, explains students often feel bogged down by coursework and search for a creative outlet.

"Though they may take time to craft a story, poem, picture, play, or other work of art, they may not have a way to showcase it," O'Neal says. "It's important to share it – and to be recognized for it."

Taffy has had the privilege of being published in *Collage* every semester since she started attending the university, but she still feels the rush when she discovers her literature is going to be in the magazine.

"You wait and wait and wait for that e-mail of acceptance," says O'Neal. "When you get it, it's such a

great thrill."

Every semester, between 200 and 300 brave souls submit their lovingly crafted art, photography, poetry and prose to the magazine. Last semester, however, *Collage* received in excess of 300 stunning works of art – a record for the publication.

The bi-annual magazine accepts submissions year-round from current students as well as alumni. Students may submit up to three pieces of material in each major genre.

After the deadline for submissions comes to an end, the grueling selection process begins. The entries are anonymously judged by the student members of the *Collage* staff in categories such as creativity, originality, artistic merit, and use of language using a grading method.

Staff members must select works based on artistic merit rather than personal attraction to a specific piece of art.

Out of the multitude of entries received, only the top 30 percent are featured in *Collage*.

Jennifer Johnson, assistant editor of *Collage*, emphasizes that the selection process is difficult.

"During the initial grading process, the higher scores get more consideration," Johnson says. "But sometimes, we get to that consideration process and realize that we maybe changed our opinion or realize something that was there that we didn't notice before."

"I spent years overcoming illiteracy... from my childhood on up till I entered college, I had many obstacles to overcome with the art of putting stories into print."

JOE QUARLES
SENIOR, ENGLISH MAJOR

Editor-in-Chief Caitlin Orman shares how difficult it can be to choose one piece over another.

"Sometimes it's really hard because these people work really hard on their pieces, on their art or photography or literature," Orman says. "It's sad to turn someone down over someone else."

Knowing the personal stories behind each masterpiece would make it impossible to make a decision. Joe Quarles, a senior majoring in English, was told he was a natural oral storyteller; however, writing was very difficult for him.

"I spent years overcoming illiteracy," Quarles says. "From my childhood on up till I entered college, I had many obstacles to overcome with the art of putting stories into print."

After the deadline for submissions comes to a close, hundreds of artists, photographers, poets and writers begin the nervous nail biting and wait for the news of whether or not their piece will be included.

For students who are



Art courtesy of Betsy Ochoa

A woman is pictured laying on her bed, in the pointillism art form in a piece called "Bed Room #2" featured in the fall issue of 2010.

selected, it is an honor.

Quarles says he "was a bit flabbergasted and surprised" to find out his story was going to be featured in *Collage*.

Quarles also had the touching experience of being told that his writing affected someone.

During a conversation with a fellow student, she revealed to him that "she had read the tale a year and a half earlier and she was so moved that she wept." Joe shares, "I have not been the same since."

Out of the selections featured one piece for every genre receives the further mark of distinction of being chosen as the recipient of a Creative Expression Award.

These awards are given by the Faculty Advisory Board, which is constituted by faculty members from the departments of English, Photography and Art.

The Faculty Advisory Board lends their emotional support to *Collage* and the students involved, as well as their expertise in their related fields. The literature winners are granted the Martha Hixon Creative Expression Award names in honor of Dr. Martha Hixon. The Lon Nuell Creative Expression Award was established in memory of Dr. Lon Nuell and is presented for photography.

Collage has continued to climb the ladder of success ever since becoming part of The Honors College. The publication is now in the top 5 percent of college magazines; an accomplishment the students published in *Collage*, as well as those who publish their work can be proud to be a part of.

The magazine has won several Columbia Scholastic Press Association Awards, including four Gold Medalist certificates for consecutive years: 2006-2009, Silver Crown Awards in the years 2007 and 2009.

Additionally, *Collage* will be making the trek to the Big Apple in March for the 2011 awards to receive another of these prestigious awards for the Spring 2010 issue of the magazine.

Awards and recognition are not the main goals of *Collage*, however.

Its true purpose is to showcase the creative talent of MTSU students and share it with the rest of the campus population.

"It gives opportunities to voices and visions that would not be heard or seen if not for the chance at being in an actual journal," Quarles says.

Patrick Casey, a junior majoring in photography, was published in *Collage* during his freshman year at MTSU.

"I was ecstatic about the whole thing," Casey says. "I knew my photos were good, but good enough to get published?"

Being published in *Collage* put Casey on the path to majoring in photography

and he is now the photography editor at *Collage*.

Casey says being published in a journal of this type offers inspiration to continue creating.



Art courtesy of Mac Bydalek

"Sitting nude" depicts a woman gazing thoughtfully off canvas, and was featured in the Spring issue of 2010 in *Collage*.

"*Collage* offers students a chance to get their hard work and passions published," Casey says. "That is huge to aspiring artists and writers. Now, instead of you and your friends seeing the work, your work is getting exposed to people around the country."

A garden of creativity, energy and learning are nourished in a fresh atmosphere at *Collage*. Through a collaborative effort of the students who submit their beautiful work and the students who place the pieces in journal, a wonderful *Collage* of talent is allowed to bloom.

A Bruise Pristine

Sarah Finchum
Poetry

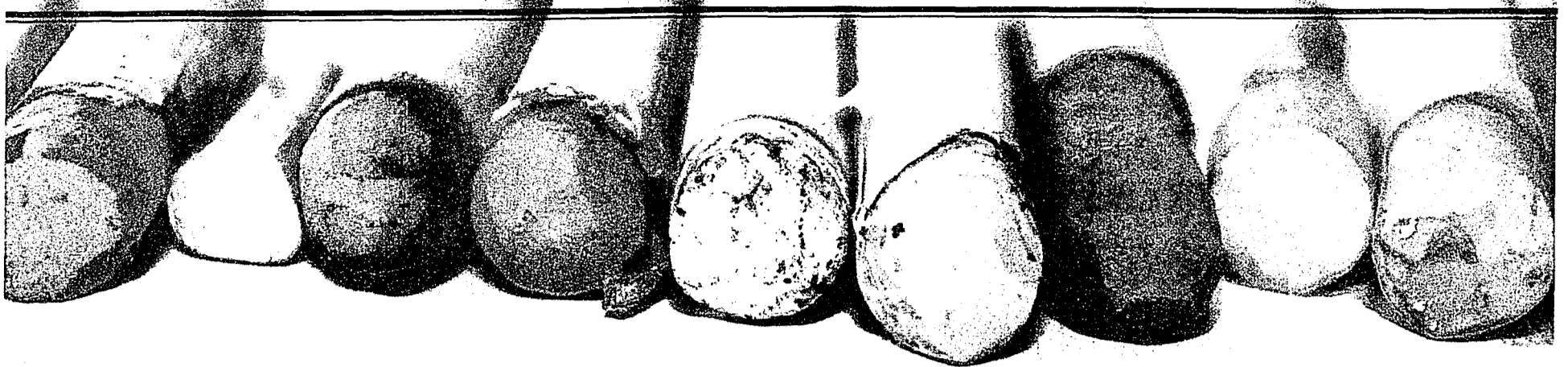
I want the world to see me
Deep and dark
Shallow then yellows
Compliments making a composition
Dark in the shadows
Bright in the light
Red lines leading nowhere
Rising up to reach new height
Far away and bold
Close up subt
A bruise pristine



Art courtesy of Jess Cavender

"Veneer," contrasts races in between the famous painting, "Girl with a Pearl Earring" and a color photograph, the piece was featured in the fall issue of 2010 in *Collage*.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Starting at Square 1

By AIMEÉ SCHMITTENDORF
Staff Writer

The reception Feb. 15 was well attended with parents, friends, professors and students admiring the efforts of the building blocks of MTSU's art curriculum.

Professionals in the field, which made students jumpy and eager to show off their work, moderated these students who maybe never expected their art to be shown in a gallery.

"We have a lot of talented students on campus," said Thomas Sturgill, an art professor. "I think the work is representative of our campus population — a mix of ages and ethnicity."

Brent Cherry, a junior 3-D animation major, was inspired about taking a recognizable object and replacing a part of it with something that fits in that space and mimics the size and shape. Other professors who didn't even have Cherry in class admired his beach ball globe.

Professors teaching foundations classes submitted the best work from their respective classes. Melissa Newman, an assistant professor of art, and Sturgill were responsible for making sure that the pool of work comprised a complete and well-designed exhibition. Most of the work was edited for space rather than talent.

"We didn't make any final editing decisions until we started to hang the show," Newman said. "We tried to choose work that would not only make the most interesting show, but also show the great range of talent and work that is produced in just four classes. For the actual show, we edited down to just under 200 works."

Foundations class instructors look for work that follows the simple rules set out in their assignments, but more importantly, shows a

number of other characteristics: creativity, care, investment of their interests and personality into the work, dedication to the product, self-editing, and taking projects beyond the limits set before them.

"I think it's easy to disregard foundations [courses] as simply the first step to an art education, but the talent in the show is evident," Newman said. "Many of the participants are not art studio or graphic design majors but are part of a number of majors across campus. It shows how interconnected our departments are, as well as how important these four classes are to all."

There are several departments on campus that require their students to take foundations courses, including photography, interior design, digital animation, fashion merchandising, as well as students who are pursuing an art minor.

These classes are meant to give students not only basic technical skills — drawing, composing an image, basic 3-D techniques — but also to start them thinking critically about their own work and the work of their peers.

"I think that it is encouraging for student to see their work in an exhibition setting," Newman said. "In this case, we are showing the work of many students who are not art majors and who may not otherwise get a chance to see something they make in a gallery."

From an instructor's perspective, John Donovan, the chair of the Todd Art Gallery, said that the foundations courses are heavily directed and are an honest snapshot of what each instructor feels is important for their students to grasp before moving forward.

Although the foundations committee

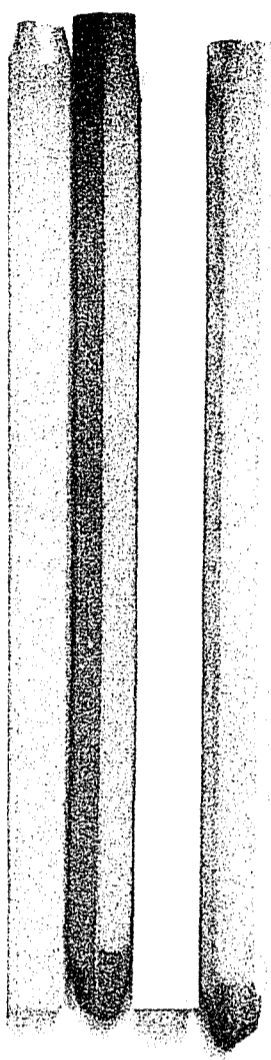


Photo by Aimee Schmittendorf, staff writer
Students browse the Todd Art Gallery on Feb. 15 and enjoy fellow student-created art.

designs the curriculum, each instructor and student has a unique solution for turning art exercises into a piece to admire.

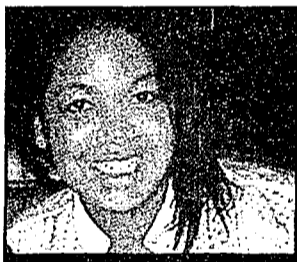
Every semester, there is at least one student-juried show put on by the Student Art Alliance. This is the first time, however, that the foundations classes have had a show in the Todd Art Gallery.

Stop by and see the show weekdays from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. to take in the inspiration.



Stars abuzz for Oscars

The 83rd Academy Awards are this Sunday, and Hollywood is abuzz with excitement. Leading the pack is "The King's Speech" with 12 nominations, followed closely by "True Grit" with 10 nods. I personally think that Colin Firth should start working on his acceptance speech now. I also think Natalie Portman should start writing her speech as well. The actress is nominated for Best Actress in "Black Swan."



Catherina Davidson
I'm Just Sayin'

the part of the ceremony that I turned the channel, sometimes never changing it back.

This year the Oscars will also have "Mominees," mothers of nominees and live-tweet during the show. With the amount of people on Twitter these days, I think this is a great addition. I'm also secretly hoping for some embarrassing stories about some of the hottest nominees.

Another notable change is to that plain white envelope. This year, the envelope will be made out of gold paper that is watermarked with tiny Oscars. The inside is made of a shiny red paper, which will also have tiny Oscars. A decision hasn't been made as to whether or not the new design will stay for years to come or be redesigned every year, but the new envelopes will definitely be a lot less boring.

Be sure to watch this Sunday to see whether or not the changes are for the better. And to also see if Banksy crashes the show after being banned for wanting to wear a disguise.

SIDEWORDS

The weekly *Sidelines* crossword puzzle

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Crossword courtesy of bestcrosswords.com

ACROSS

1- A long time; 5- ___ Grows in Brooklyn; 10- Sleeps briefly; 14- German sausage; 15- Burlap; 16- Brio; 17- Roseanne, once; 18- Delight; 19- New Rochelle college; 20- Apportions; 22- Use lavishly; 24- Fuji rival; 26- Breathe in; 27- Sister of Venus; 30- Bert's buddy; 32- Corpulent; 33- Corner; 34- Monetary unit of South Africa; 38- ___ de mer; 39- Name given to the fox; 42- Plaything; 43- "Orinoco Flow" singer; 45- Timetable, for short; 46- Oscar de la ___; 48- Swiss city on the Rhine; 50- Resembling a cyma; 51- Former French colony of North America; 54- Leash; 56- Foul-smelling, poisonous oil; 58- Pertaining to the love of sensation; 62- Egg; 63- Ancient region of Asia Minor; 65- Baylor's city; 66- Bog; 67- Begin; 68- Biblical garden; 69- King of comedy; 70- Name; 71- Describes a gently cooked steak;

DOWN

1- "Dancing Queen" group; 2- Mardi ___; 3- "...countrymen, lend me your ___"; 4- Hits; 5- Plan; 6- Oklahoma city; 7- Genetic material; 8- Tolkien tree creatures; 9- Cosmetic applied on the lids; 10- Nor's partner; 11- Hawaiian greeting; 12- Cartoon part; 13- Animal trap; 21- Dead duck; 23- Black bird; 25- Edible seed parts; 27- A bit; 28- Abba of Israel; 29- Bank (on); 31- Interpret; 33- Little one; 35- ___ extra cost; 36- Words of denial; 37- Group of two; 40- Editorial writer; 41- Wood nymph; 44- Belly; 47- Enable; 49- Help; 50- Bring into being; 51- Pueblo Indian village; 52- Trivial objection; 53- Legend maker; 55- Pierce; 57- Monetary unit of Lesotho; 59- Zilch; 60- Bakery worker; 61- Circle at bottom, point at top; 64- Writer Hentoff;

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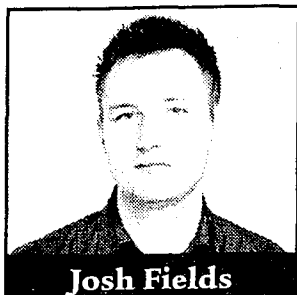
OPINIONS

Sidelines is the editorially independent, student-produced newspaper affiliated with Middle Tennessee State University and the College of Mass Communication. Sidelines publishes Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and online during June and July. The opinions expressed herein are those of individual writers and not necessarily Sidelines or the university.

Teacher protests: sick-out or cop-out?

Labor unions problem, not workers

Something is bubbling in Wisconsin, the bottle is ready to blow. The union sick-outs may seem like a political godsend of cork-popping proportions to progressives, but history suggests otherwise.



Josh Fields

Columnist

of Democrats has not shifted. So, the idea that this structure is a necessary institution in our political establishment, or in our economy, is quite weak. The fact of the matter is that unions are "big money." Politically they are viable to the union workers, not to all workers.

Moving forward, the monopolies that companies once held on the job market has dwindled. The only places that still resemble the times of the robber barons is around coal mines, where it is true that the coal mines still hold a virtual monopoly over labor in the surrounding area. Could unions be a viable option in these areas? It's possible, but elsewhere the competition has driven up wages well above the minimum wage making it hard to make a case for their existence.

Collectively the individual is at a loss, and many teachers lose the incentive of performing well, especially after tenure is achieved. In Los Angeles, fewer than 2 percent of teachers are denied tenure, yet there is a drop out rate of 35 percent. According to a report earlier this month in *LA Weekly*, in the past decade the L.A. school district spent more than \$3.5 million to fire just seven teachers for low performance.

If we continue to put job projection in front of learning, we will continue to be plagued with an education system and economic system that only dwindles with age.

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

Unions makes education stronger

There are many bad bills coming out of the Republican controlled state legislatures across the country. In Tennessee, there are many bills that attack immigrant rights. Republicans want to bring back the "English-only" proposal, but this time for the entire state.

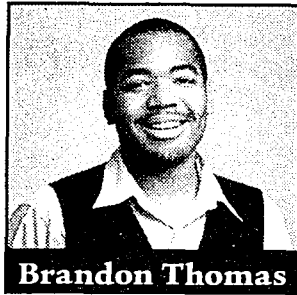
The Republican Party has also made a point this session to have an all-out assault on LGBT issues. State Sen. Stacy Campfield has declared war on the LGBT youth and teachers. Campfield has filed two bills, which would in essence prohibit teachers from being able to talk about any aspect of homosexuality. This piece of legislation has been known as the "Don't Say Gay" bill.

How is a teacher supposed to explain to students that some families have same-sex parents without the possibility of being fired, if this issue arises?

Campfield has also put forth legislation that would make students have to notify their parents of any clubs they wish to join. Many critics of this bill see it as a covert attack on gay/straight alliances in schools. This bill would also put teachers who are advisers of these organizations at risk of losing their jobs, if homophobic parents have their way.

Teachers are having a rough time in Tennessee right now. The Republican Party has made it their mission to bust the teachers' union in our state and across the country. The state of Wisconsin is also in turmoil over this issue.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker is determined to eliminate the right to collectively



Brandon Thomas

Opinions Editor

bargain. If Republicans are successful in this effort, then unions everywhere will be in trouble.

The unions involved understand the gravity of the state's budget shortfall and are willing to compromise by paying higher premiums on health care and other monetary issues.

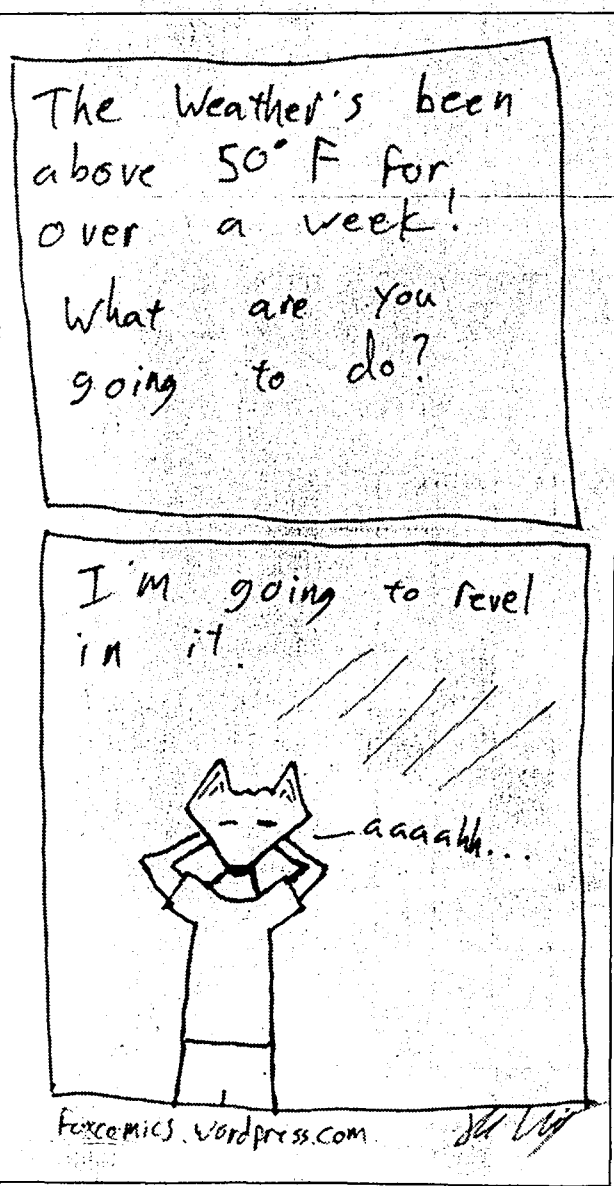
However, what they are not willing to compromise on, nor should they, is the right to collectively bargain in their state. To slow the Republicans down in the state Senate, Democrats are exploiting the quorum requirement that is necessary for any business to be carried on in the chamber.

This use of parliamentary procedure is similar to the Republican Party's filibuster extravaganza last year in the U.S. Senate or the Student Government Association's use of procedure when trying to handle an "unruly" student trying to express himself.

But unlike these two situations, the severity of the issue merits such action. Unions help everyone, even if you are not a part of one. Competition is a vital part of ensuring a living wage. Unions help create that competition. If the right to collectively bargain is taken away, who knows what wages will look like in years to come?

By supporting Wisconsin's teachers, Democrats are showing they're looking to the future.

Brandon Thomas is a junior majoring in political science. He can be reached at muckrakerthomas@gmail.com.

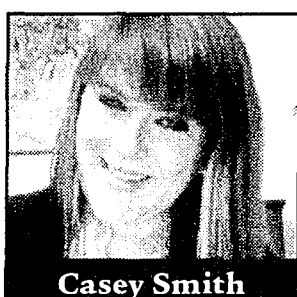


Social media is becoming essential

What would life be like without social networks and smart phones? These are staples of modern life that adults may think of when they think of what the younger generations are interested, and possibly, obsessed with. Truthfully, many of us check Facebook and tweet before we even step foot out of bed in the morning, and yes, it may even be true that we fall asleep with our cell phones in hand, but these facets of technology are more than just new vices for youth to crave.

Take the recent revolutions in Tunisia and Egypt. In Tunisia, a country the size of Michigan, Facebook was, for many citizens, a hub of information where they could find videos, time and places for protests and activities, and show support for those opposing the harsh government. The government realized what a valuable tool Facebook is for its people and its capability to organize against them, so the first place it turned to fight back was gathering information through Facebook.

Many in Egypt also credit Facebook for the recent uprising that was so affective. While the economy crumbled, four citizens set themselves ablaze in order to show the hopelessness of the situation against their oppressive government. Though many voiced dissent on Facebook, it was a 26-year-old woman named Asmaa Mahfouz who put her status as, "People, I am going to Tahrir Square," that really sparked the revolution. After a crowd formed around her while she yelled for her rights, she told authorities, "If you want to set me on fire, go ahead. I will not leave Tahrir Square."



Casey Smith

Guest Columnist

During the Rutherford County mosque controversy, many supporters of the mosque may have been too intimidated to speak out for their rights in City Hall or County Commission meetings. I watched some of these meetings on television, appalled by the amount of blatant racism still around in the 21st century. To speak on behalf of your religious freedom in a room full of people calling you a terrorist must be hard.

Thankfully, a Facebook Middle Tennesseans for Religious Freedom was created as a voice for those who may not have been able to organize on a large scale. It was beautiful to see people organizing rallies and protests instead of just complaining about the issues at hand.

Though these social networking sites are being blamed for further flushing our societies down the toilet, it would be ridiculous not to appreciate all the ways one can utilize Facebook. It is a calendar and a yearbook, e-mail and instant messaging service, and a forum for international opinions to be shared. Let's face it. There are many people out there that only hear about current events through these social networks. This could be very bad or very good, all depending on what we choose to do with this voice of power. Hopefully, our generation will use this tool to create progress within our communities and our world instead of using it to play Farmville.

Casey Smith is a senior majoring in journalism. She can be reached at crs4f@mtmail.mtsu.edu.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

This past year has seen escalation of use of the drug Mephedrone as noted in the recent Sidelines article "Not for Human Consumption." Mephedrone (4-Methyl Mercathinone) is a designer drug now freely available at local convenience stores and on the Internet. Sold under names such as Molly's Plant Food, Purple Monkey Plant Food, and Ivory White Bath Salts it unfortunately comes with the allure of being legally purchasable at this time, although federal and state legislation is on the way to change this.

We are already seeing the repercussions of its increased usage. Having a chemical structure

similar to both Ecstasy and Methamphetamines its ingestion or inhalation activates receptors in the brain that give a sense of euphoria and increased energy.

However, the negatives of this usage are being increasingly recognized and they are troubling. Prolonged stimulation of central nervous receptors causes depletion of neurotransmitter levels, especially profound with the longer acting bath salts, leading to the possibility of depression and suicide at the tail end of even one usage.

Hyperstimulation of CNS receptors also can lead to delusions and paranoia that may escalate

to violence and this has already caused multiple emergency psychiatric interventions. Another increasingly common problem that is being seen in our office and the local hospital is dehydration that causes breakdown of muscle tissue and can cause kidney damage and even death. Lastly, there is some early information coming out now that insidious permanent CNS damage can occur as is seen with methamphetamines.

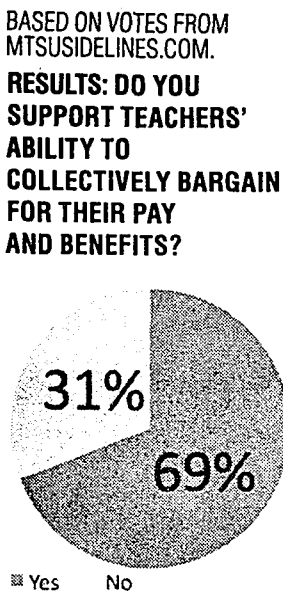
Please be aware of the danger of this increasingly popular substance.

Sincerely,
Eric Clark, M.D.



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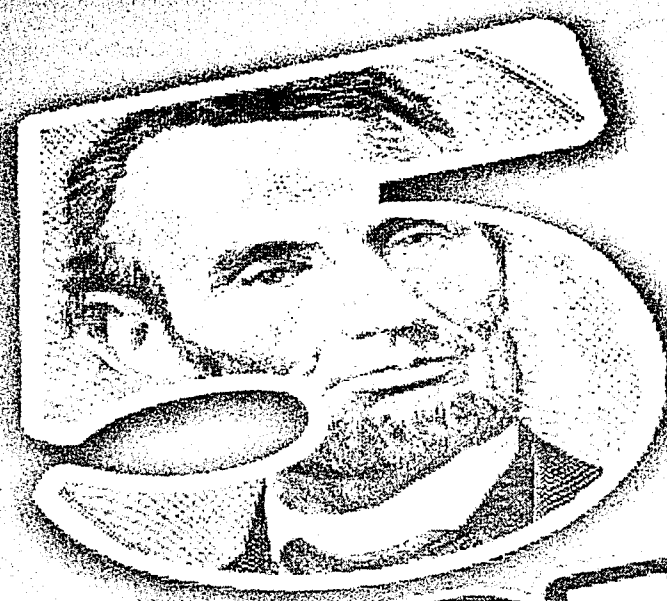
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