

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

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Gubernatorial race laps through MTSU

By DUSTIN EVANS
Managing Editor

Knoxville Mayor Bill Haslam visited MTSU during a stop on his gubernatorial campaign trail to attend Thursday night's basketball game with MTSU President Sidney McPhee.

"I think Middle plays a great role for us in what we want to do," Haslam said. "Because of the academic role it plays – it has the second highest entering ACT average of any school in the state – and where it sits geographically, Middle will play the key role in what we can do as a state."

Haslam said education will play a pivotal part in developing the future of Tennessee.

He said he hopes to shift the large student body population of schools in the state, of which MTSU is second, into an increased number of graduates.

"I think the key challenge in Tennessee is that we have to increase the percentage of our population that has college degrees," Haslam said. "Right now, we are at about 21 percent of our population in the state, nationwide that number is closer to 28, 29 or 30 percent."

Haslam said holding a college degree will truly matter in the competitive market that he sees in the future, and a lot more of these "jobs of the future" are going to depend on having a degree.

He said if Tennessee is going to be competitive for those jobs, an increase of the number of residents with college degrees is essential.

"I think the students at MTSU are truly doing what they need to do – making the commitment to prepare themselves for the jobs of the future," Haslam said. "That may seem like a trite stand, but the reality is that with the economy we are in, today is a much more discriminating economy."

Haslam said unemployment rates in the state are just less than 11 percent, but for college grad-

uates, it is 5 percent or less, while the unemployment rate for those without degrees is about 13 to 15 percent.

The mayor, who is rapidly gaining support throughout the state, has recently raised \$1 million, which is more than previous candidates raised at this same point in the election process.

Haslam's latest disclosure report has placed his campaign over \$5 million, a clear lead over any other Republican candidate – a dramatic lead over the Democratic and independent candidates.

"It is very gratifying," Haslam said. "These are obviously hard economic times, and we have had over 7,500 gifts to the campaign when you are doing what I am doing, you really can't do it by yourself."

After expenditures, recent financial disclosure reports show Haslam is left with \$4.2 million for his campaign.

His opponents, all of whom are competing in the Republican gubernatorial primary race, have been raising money for their campaigns as well. U.S. Congressman Zach Wamp has a campaign war chest of \$1.8 million. Shelby County District Attorney General Bill Gibbons has \$246,000 on hand, and Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey has \$2.3 million.

Of the Democratic primary candidates, Mike McWherter, son of former Gov. Ned McWherter, shows his campaign has \$619,000 on hand. State Sen. Jim Kyle has \$568,000, and former Tenn. House Majority Leader Kim McMillan reported \$106,000.

"The election this year is really about being able to help lead the state in very difficult economic times," Haslam said. "That means bringing jobs to the state and being able to balance the budget when the state is about \$1 billion in the hole – it is really critical that our next governor can have the skills to lead in times like that."

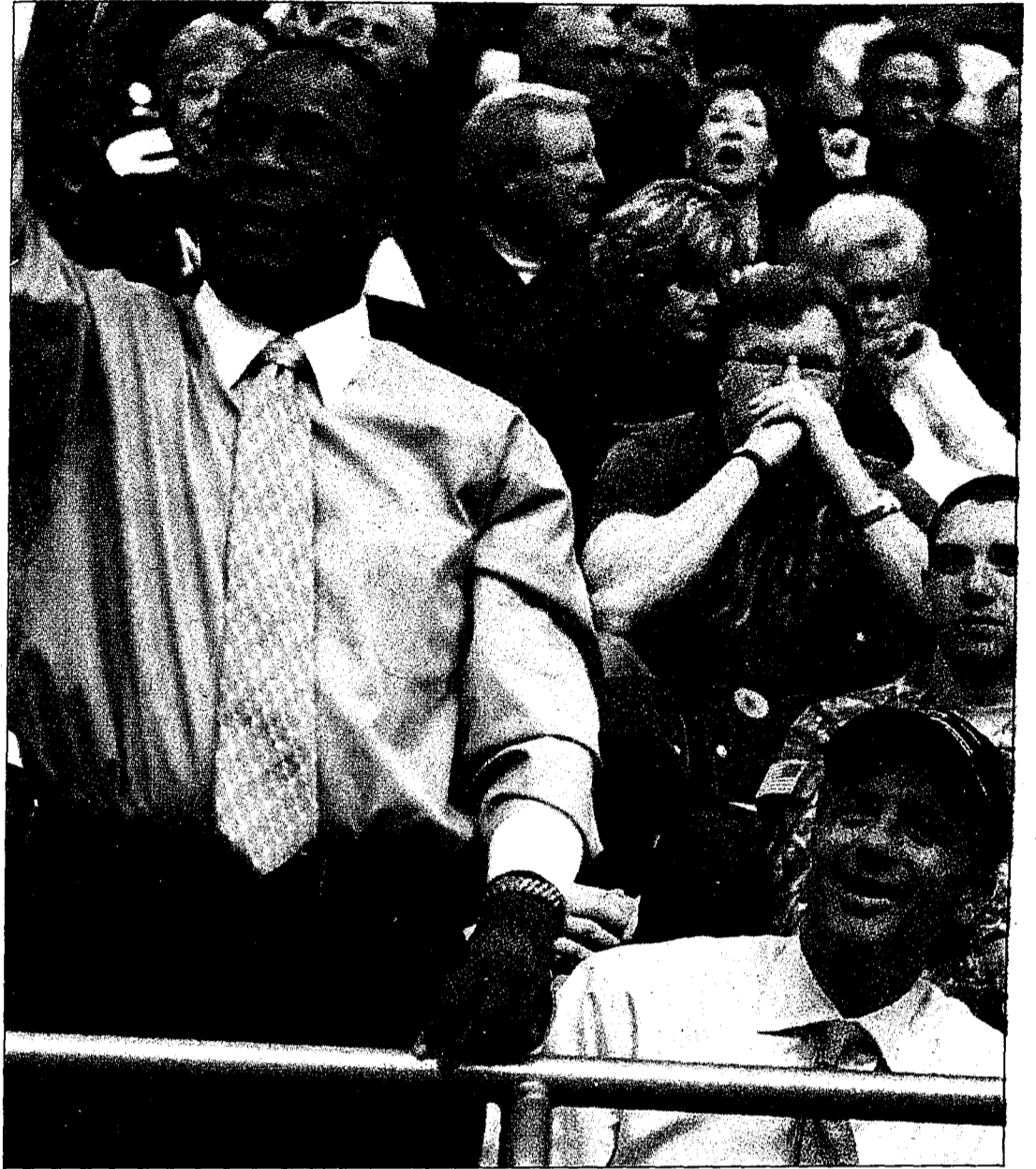


Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor
President Sidney McPhee and Knoxville Mayor Bill Haslam attend MT's mens basketball game last Thursday.

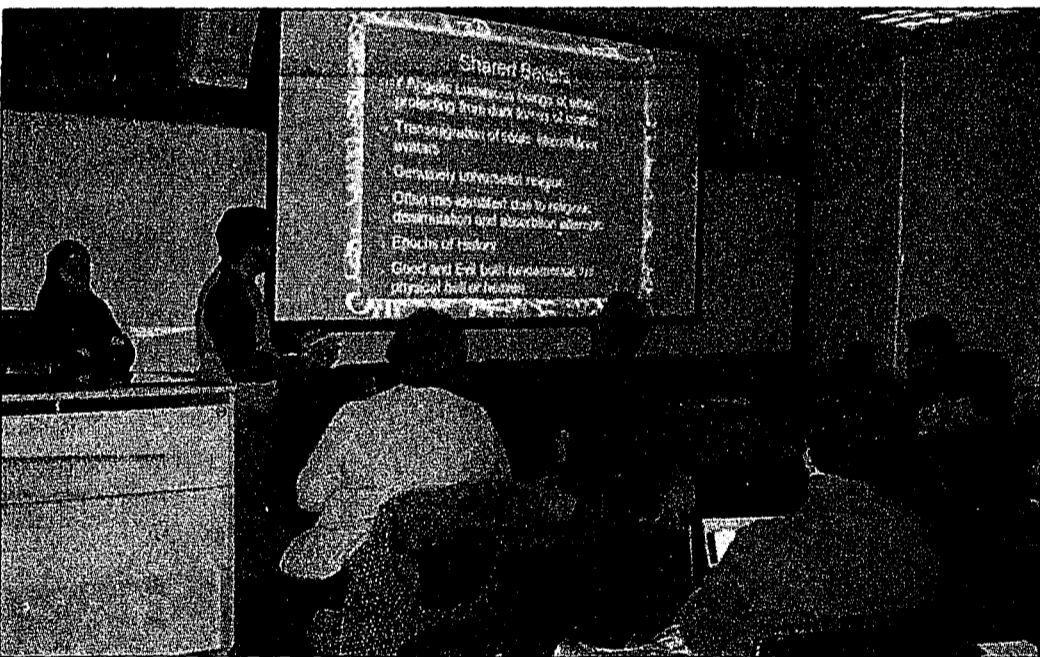


Photo by Krissy Mallory, contributing photographer
Students in a Middle Eastern Studies class could soon have more class options next fall.

Kurdish language class makes way

By KRISSEY MALLORY
Contributing Writer

With the growth of the Middle Eastern studies program and MTSU's proximity to a large Kurdish population, the department wants to begin offering Kurdish language courses in the Fall 2010 semester, becoming a niche market for the university.

Final decisions regarding the status of the courses are set for March.

"Everybody's excited about this," said Kovan Murat, senior political science major and co-founder of the Kurdish Student Association. "This is really history in the making."

The Nashville metropolitan area is home to the largest Kurdish population in the country.

The department has also been trying to bring an instructor from the University of Duhok in Iraq to teach the courses.

Kari Neely, professor of Middle Eastern studies, said an addition of the new professor to the department of Foreign Languages must be approved by the Faculty Diversity Grant application.

"The ability to sustain the language in the third generation in a Diaspora is really difficult," Neely said. "We are hoping we can revitalize the language and benefit the Kurdish community by helping sustain the language past the third generation."

Miwan Ibrahim, junior criminal justice major, co-founded the Kurdish Student Association with Murat in order to promote and preserve the cultural identity of the Kurdish people with students from all backgrounds on campus.

"We're really uniquely positioned so students could go out and learn the language first hand," Neely said.

In 2000, the census estimated that roughly 11,000 people of Kurdish descent lived in the Nashville metropolitan area.

To read more, visit us online.



www.mtsusidelines.com

Grates make mice a problem

By EMMA EGLI
Features Editor

A request of \$90,000 for the elimination of a prevalent rodent problem in the John Bragg Mass Communication building was approved for MTSU's 2010-2011 budget, among other small renovations.

"We thought it was something that needed to get resolved," said Roy Moore, dean of the College of Mass Communication. "The reason we requested to have this fixed is because, while it might not be a health hazard now, it has that potential and it needs to be remedied."

The request comes months after an estimated \$150,000 was spent on renovations to administrative offices and furniture to prepare the building for its Fall 2010 accreditation. While the building is now compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, other necessary renovations remain.

"There's a lot more work that needs to be done in the building," Moore said. "When you go through the accreditation process, it makes you look at things from the perspective of someone coming in from the outside."

Executive Secretary Lisa McCann said mice come in through the grates in the floor of the "main street" area of the building where live trees used to be. The trees were removed years ago, but the grate covers still allow rodent access.

"I've been here for five years," McCann said. "And for five years the building has been filled with mice."

McCann said that since the renovations to the offices, there have been fewer mice, but they are still present, and the sticky traps they were given when they initially reported the problem aren't helping.

"We had an event here on a Friday and Aramark didn't pick anything up until the following Monday," McCann said. "When we came back Monday, mice were running up and down the tables – you can imagine how that looks to students and visitors."

Watson Harris, director of Academic Technology Planning and Projects for the university and ADA coordinator, said some of the

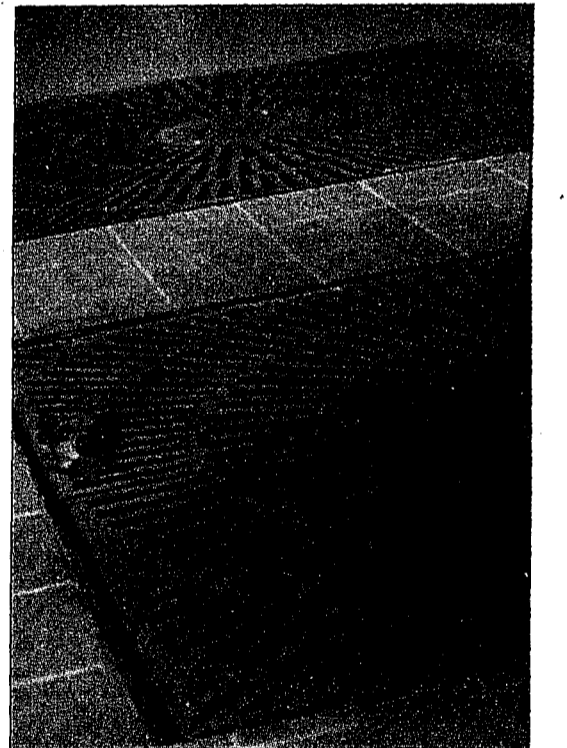


Photo by Rozalind Ruth, community news editor
Grates downstairs in the Mass Communication Building are home to mice that will soon be cleaned out and the grates cemented.

amount was sanctioned for the removal of the grates in the floor of the "main street" area on the main floor and covering the open spaces with tile. The remaining funds will go to other refurbishment projects.

"The \$90,000 has been approved to replace the carpet, in corridors and elevator that have edges that cause people to trip, with tile," Harris said. "Now that the project has been approved, a comprehensive estimate will be done with a timeline for completion."

Harris said they typically receive requests for renovation and cleaning anytime there is an accreditation visit.

"The college has received several amounts [of funding] over the past several years in preparation for the accreditation visit," Harris said. "My understanding is the funds for these specific requests will be coming from the 2010-2011 budget."

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Champions crowned as MMA invades MTSU's Murphy Center.

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ONLINE
Current MTSU student runs state-wide campaign.

mtsusidelines.com

MONDAY FORECAST
RAIN/SNOW SHOWERS
50% CHANCE OF PRECIPITATION
HIGH 45, LOW 37

“QUOTE OF THE DAY”

"The best way to cheer yourself up is to try to cheer somebody else up."
Mark Twain

Annual career fair set to return Tuesday

STAFF REPORT

Students looking for a summer job or internship can attend a job fair sponsored by The Career Development Center of MTSU, which will be located in the Murphy Center on Tuesday.

According to the career center's press release, this event is an excellent chance to find opportunities to gain experience in your industry or to find a fun, summer job.

Staff members from the career center recommend that current students bring their MTSU IDs with them, and alumni should be equipped with resumes for prospective employers at the event.

The event will only be open to juniors, seniors, graduate students and alumni. Admission is by ticket only. Tickets are free, and can be picked up in the career center, which is located in Room 328 of the Keathley University Center.

Students should be aware that a portion of the Greenland Drive parking lot will be sectioned off for employers attending the event, which starts at 11 a.m.

According to the career center, 55 employers are scheduled to attend the event as of Feb. 5, which was the deadline for employer registration.

A full list of employers attending the career fair can be found at career.web.mtsu.edu.

THROUGH THE SIDELINES LENS

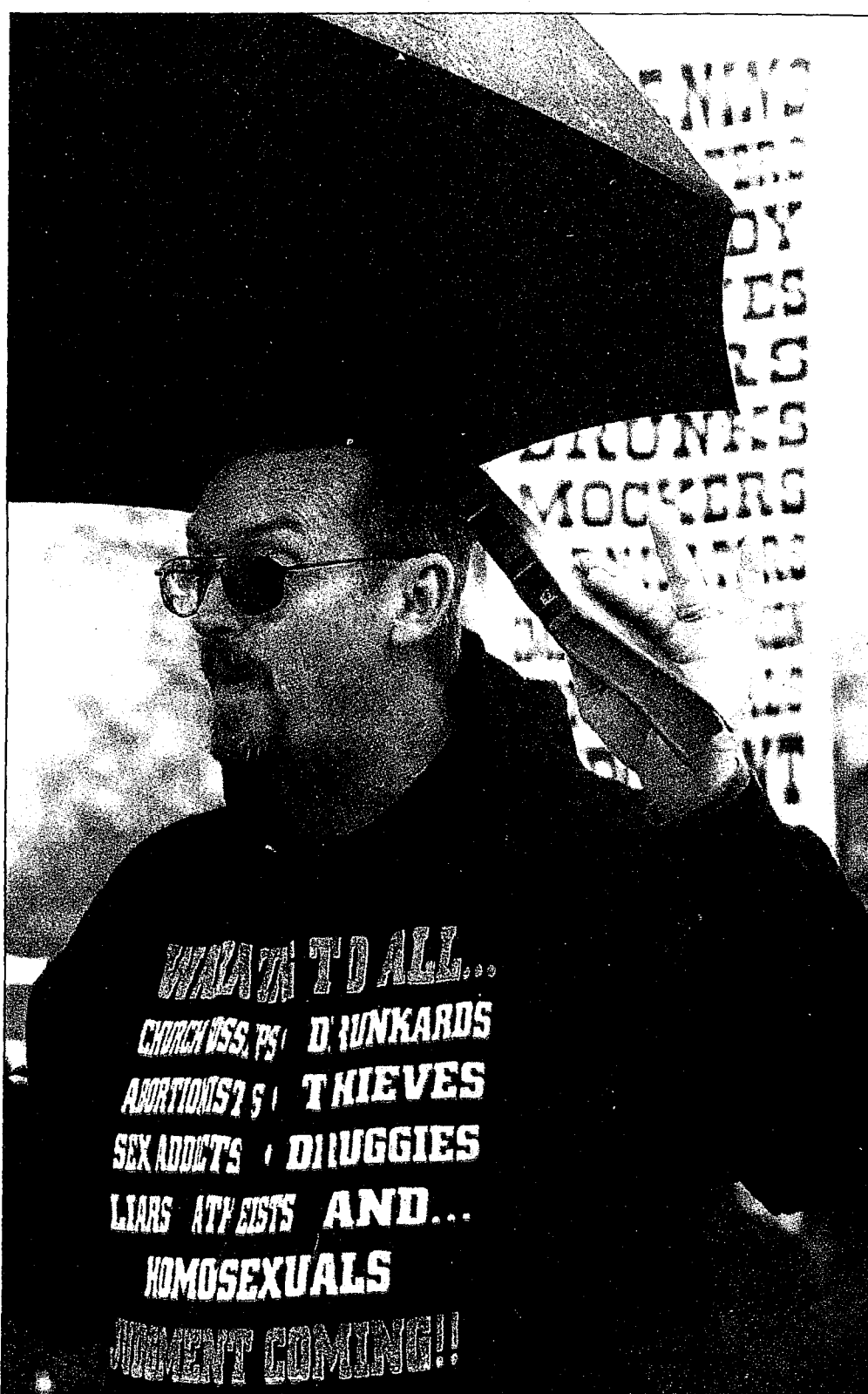


Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor

Members from PinPoint Ministries were back on campus last Thursday and response from passers-by was less than welcome as John McGlone and fellow ministers informed heckling students they were "going to hell." "Religion, in all of its variety, focuses on compassion, and this guy has none," said Rami Shapiro, adjunct professor of philosophy. "He's not really religious, and what he represents is a perversion of religious and spiritual instinct."

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FREE FRESH CUT FRY BURGER 	FREE HASHBROWN 	FREE BREADSTICK 	FREE CUP OF SOUP 	FREE 22OZ BEVERAGE
FREE CHICKEN SANDWICH BAS Buy-N-Fly	FREE 20OZ LEMONADE 	FREE CUP OF SOUP 	FREE TALL COFFEE 	FREE EGGROLL
FREE COOKIE 	FREE 8PC. NUGGET 	FREE REGULAR COFFEE 	FREE FRESH CUT FRY BURGER 	FREE 3PC. BUFFALO WING

BECOME A mtVIP member

MTSU opens stages to Kennedy Center Theatre Festival

By DUSTIN EVANS
Managing Editor

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts held its regional American College Theatre Festival last week to celebrate the work of college students in all areas of the theatrical arts.

The festival is held each year at a participating university. MTSU has not received the honor of hosting the festival in over a decade.

The region four festival, which is comprised of numerous colleges and universities throughout the southeast, was held Feb. 1 through 6. The festival brought professional guest artists for theatrical workshops and allowed the participating universities to showcase invited performances on the national stage.

"It is a celebration of the work of students training to be in the theater, whether they are actors, designers, dramaturges, critics, stage managers or directors," said Shelly Elman, chairwoman of region four for the KCACTE. "[The festival] offers students a wide variety of chances and opportunities to learn from professionals."

Elman said MTSU was a great choice for the festival because it fit their criteria and demands for facilities, and gives the region a more centralized location at which to convene.

Elman said each evening of the festival has featured original script productions that won awards at last year's festival. The students who won were able to see their works transformed into full-length productions – including three

plays written by students at MTSU.

"Our biggest accolades have been in playwriting," said Jeff Gibson, former chairman of region four and a professor in the department of speech and theater at MTSU.

David Bennett, senior theater major, won a short play award for his play "Shards of Glass," and Josh Ginsburg, senior theater major, was honored for his short play, "Portrait of a Mother and Son."

David Shelton's "Ladybug" was also featured as a full-length play during the festival.

All three productions were showcased during the regular MTSU theater season.

"It was really experimental – I never really sought out the storyline, and the content was never in my mind," Ginsburg said. "I just wanted to try and challenge myself."

Ginsburg also presented another short play, called "Summer of the Hummingbirds," for competition for this year's festival, and actors presented a concert reading of his play for a live audience.

Elman said the festival also showcased an original script from a professor at the University of Memphis, "The Horror of the Little Family Farce" by Stephen Hancock.

"The Learned Ladies" by Molière, which was produced by the University of Central Florida, and "Neveshaya," an original work by students at the American University of Sharjah in Dubai, were also showcased during the festival.

A former professor of a university in the re-

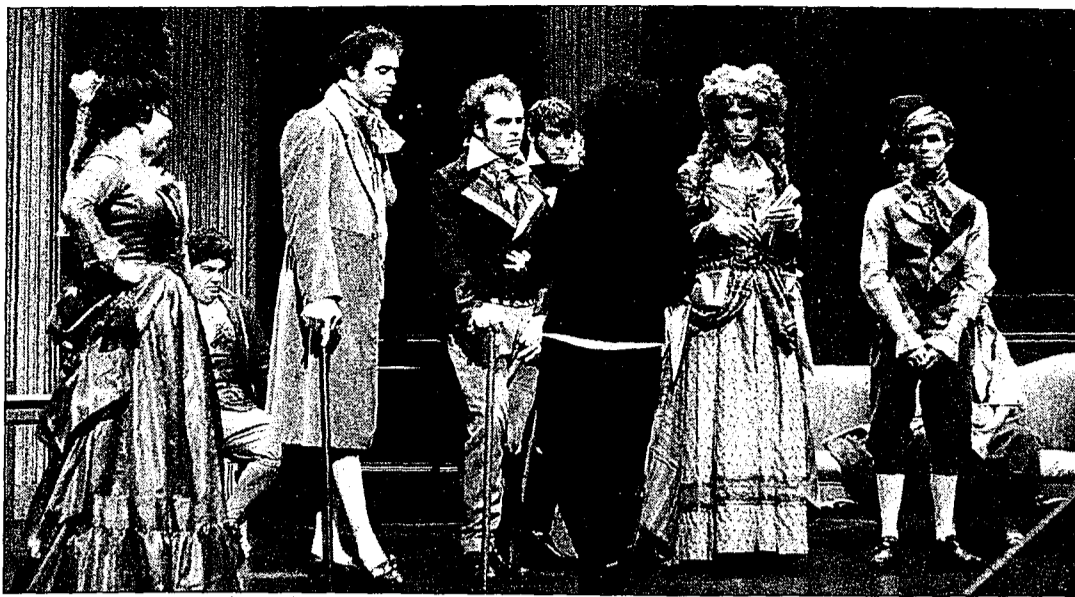


Photo by Heather Cusick, contributing photographer

The director and cast of the University of Central Florida rehearse "The Learned Ladies."

gion currently teaches the students in Dubai, and region four was able to host the international guests at MTSU.

Elman said the students from Dubai brought an intercultural experience that was very unique to this year's festival.

Samuel Smid, senior theater performance major at Jacksonville University in Florida, said in addition to the experience of the festival, he has enjoyed seeing the student productions.

"I think of the ones I've seen, 'Ladybug' was really outstanding," Smid said. "It was a really

incredible play; I was really impressed with it."

Smid said the students from Jacksonville came to audition for the Irene Ryan Scholarship, a national scholarship for acting given out through the festival; however, they were cut after the first round of auditions.

He said the workshops and seminars they attended made the festival worthwhile.

Elman said overall, she felt the festival was a success.

"Things have gone smoothly," Elman said. "That is a tribute to Jeff Gibson, specifically, and the MTSU faculty and students."

Luncheon honors inspirational leaders within black community

By TAYLOR HIXSON
Contributing Writer

More than 150 people kicked off Black History Month last Tuesday with the 14th Annual Unity Luncheon to honor those who have made significant contributions to the black community through economic empowerment.

The 2010 honorees were Mary McKnight Wade and Nora L. Clark Waters of Murfreesboro, and Bedford County Mayor Eugene Ray of Shelbyville.

"I think black history is part of all of our history," said Angel Nathan, assistant director of the Student Athlete Enhancement Center.

Darrell Freeman, keynote speaker of the event, said all of the honorees are examples of how hard work and the right attitude can lead to economic empowerment.

Wade was the first black female elected to the Murfreesboro School Board in 1998, and she is currently serving a second term as the chairwoman of the board.

Waters has been a member of the Rutherford County Foster Care Association for more than 20 years.

Ray has served as mayor for 10 years, and he most recently accomplished bringing an MTSU satellite campus to Bedford County.

"Black history is important for future generations of all colors, creeds and races to know because black America played a card in the past and present of this country," said Jocelyn Miller, a friend of Waters.

MTSU alumnus Warren Jackson said he started coming to the event when there was only about "half a table" of people present. He said he believes the organization has been successful in reaching out to minorities throughout the years.

"[Mayor Ray] has been a leader in our community with industrial development, tourism and other community events and activities," said Walt Wood, chief executive officer of the Shelbyville-Bedford Chamber of Commerce.

Mary Scales, the first black female professor to teach at MTSU, said she comes to the event every year, and that she is impressed with how involved the students have become with the luncheon.

"It is important to recognize the contributions made by black Americans," Scales said. "If you know about the history of your race it will give you pride and hope that you are special in America's history."

Pearlie Martin said she has lived through eight decades of black history and never thought she would see a black president.

"However, it should not be called black history, just American history," Martin said.

MTSU President Sidney McPhee and Mayor Tommy Bragg of Murfreesboro also spoke to attendees about the importance of economic empowerment within the local community.

"The Unity Luncheon is a classic example of the university being engaged, involved and recognizing those who make a difference in our society," McPhee said.

According to the Unity Luncheon Web site, in order to be nominated, honorees must be at least 60 years old, have resided in the Middle Tennessee area for 25 years or more and have made outstanding contributions to their community.

There are several guest speakers and events scheduled throughout the month to celebrate the history of black economic empowerment. A full list of events can be found at MTSU's Black History Month Web page: mtsu.edu/aahm.

HOUSING REAPPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR FALL 2010 / SPRING 2011

The Housing and Residential Life Office is now accepting housing reapplication forms from returning students for the Fall 2010/Spring 2011 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 date.

Students requesting to remain in their 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 2010/2011 academic year is **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2010 at 4:00 PM.**

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 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 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 '10 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
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For additional information or questions, please contact Housing and Residential Life during office hours at 898-2971.



Up 'Til Dawn
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

One Night.

One Cause.

Our Campus.

If you have any remaining letters to turn in, please do so as soon as possible to KUC S326.

We will have team totals to the team captains soon, so be looking for those! Thank you for all your hard work raising money this year!

FINALE is February 19th at the Campus Rec from 7pm to 1am!!!!

Contact Chloe Robinson or Edgard Izaguirre at uptldawn@mtsu.edu with any questions or concerns.

Radio host takes his 'turn' for charity

STAFF REPORT

Kidd Kraddick, a nationally syndicated radio host who is aired on 102.9 The Buzz, is set to host his second annual "My Turn Day" to bring charity and good deeds to each community in his audience.

Kraddick is calling on his listeners to announce how they plan to give back to their communities and neighborhoods. The grassroots volunteer movement was conceived when Kraddick saw President Barack Obama volunteering his time to paint the walls of a homeless teen shelter in Washington, D.C.

"I want to start a movement of people giving up their time to help others," Kraddick said in a recent press release. "To me, the message of My Turn Day is that volunteering is only the first half of what you can do - the second half is letting everyone in the world know you're doing it."

Kraddick is asking his listeners to update their status on Facebook and Twitter on Feb. 10, with their plans to give back. He is also encouraging them to send text messages and e-mails to their friends and family to "challenge others to stop talking and start doing."

Kraddick said his charitable campaign was so successful he

even noticed A-list celebrities like Demi Moore re-tweeting and supporting his cause.

"I was so proud to see my idea supported by my listeners and celebrities last year," Kraddick said. "I was stunned when I saw her tweet telling people to support My Turn Day - from what we see in the press, Demi and her husband Ashton Kutcher do so much for the community, so it was so cool of her to help me get the word out."

Additional information about My Turn Day, including how you can volunteer in your local community can be found at MyTurnDay.com.

Brakes \$19.⁹⁵ LABOR Each Front Wheel Only Plus Pads
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CURRENT EVENTS

RJD2 w/ Kenan Bell, Happy Chichester
 Feb. 8, 8 p.m.
 Location: Exit In
 Admission: \$12 in advance, \$15 day of show. 18+

Lecture: Earl Graves
 Feb. 8, 11 a.m.
 Location: James Union Building, Tennessee Ballroom
 Admission: free

Lecture: George Curry
 Feb. 10, 1 p.m.
 Location: Keathly University Center Theatre
 Admission: free

Like Candy Red, New Faces Night
 Feb. 9, 8 p.m.
 Location: The Basement
 Admission: free

Open Mic Night
 Feb. 10, 5 p.m.
 Location: Yeah!

Art & Material Culture in Civil War Tennessee Lecture
 Feb. 10, 7 p.m.
 Location: The Heritage Center of Murfreesboro
 Admission: free

Father of the Bride
 Feb. 12 through 14, 7:30 p.m.
 Location: Lamplighter's Theatre

Admission: Adults \$10, Seniors \$8 and children \$5

Art Exhibit: Ramblings and Dwellings
 Jan. 20 until Feb. 9
 Location: Todd Art Gallery
 Admission: free

Chinese New Year Festival
 Feb. 19, 5 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.
 Location: Discovery Center
 Admission: free

Intercollegiate Horse Show
 Feb. 26 through 28
 Location: Tennessee Miller Coliseum

Events Policy

Sidelines welcomes current campus and community events submitted by all readers. Please e-mail events to sicampus@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, non-profit student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. Sidelines publishes Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and Wednesday during June and July. The events listed are not necessarily associated with Sidelines or MTSU.

SCIC INSTITUTE AUDIO TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM
OPEN HOUSE FEB 27th - 2PM
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Nashville Campus: 7 Music Circle North, Nashville, TN 37203 Phone: 615.244.5848

CRIME BRIEFS

Feb. 1, 3:57 p.m. Traffic
 McFarland Health Services
 A car was damaged in the parking lot.

Feb. 3, 9:37 a.m. Theft
 MTSU Campus
 A complainant reported missing items from their vehicle.

Feb. 3, 1 p.m. Traffic
 MTSU Campus
 A complainant reported a car was damaged.

Feb. 3, 4:17 p.m. Theft
 Peck Hall
 A complainant reported a cell phone was taken from an office in the building.

Feb. 3, 4:17 p.m. Harassment
 Kirksey Old Main
 A complainant reported harassment by an ex-boyfriend.

Feb. 3, 4:33 p.m. Trespassing
 James E. Walker Library
 A person was issued a trespass warning.

Feb. 4, 10:56 a.m. Traffic
 Alumni Drive
 Ashlynn Tatum was arrested for driving on a suspended driver's license, leaving the scene of an accident and failure to provide proof of financial responsibility.

RODENTS FROM PAGE 1

Moore said the state of the carpet in the elevator and the corridors was horrible, and it was necessary that it be fixed to better accommodate students and faculty.

"Deans don't have a maintenance budget," Moore said. "They don't give us money to fix the buildings - that's all part of the university maintenance and renovation fund, so I had to request the funding."

Dave Armstrong, junior recording industry major and student worker for the department of electronic media communication, said he hasn't seen any mice but has heard about the problem.

"Apparently, it's a pretty big deal around here," Armstrong said.

The approved renovations are set to begin in July.

"We have told everyone if they have food, keep it sealed," McCann said. "Until it gets fixed, we are going to continue to have a rodent problem."

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT AMBASSADORS 2010-2011
We are now accepting applications for our newest group of Student Ambassadors, the official hosts of the University.
 The Student Ambassador program, sponsored by the MTSU Alumni Association, is an elite group of students that serve as representatives and hosts for MTSU. The Student Ambassador program is looking for enthusiastic, motivated students who want to use their talents and experience to serve their University.
Applications are available at the MTSU Alumni House, the KUC information desk and at www.mtalumni.com.
To apply to be a Student Ambassador, students must:
 • Have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5
 • Have completed at least one semester at MTSU
 • Be able to serve from May 1, 2010 to April 30, 2011
 • Attend one information meeting at the Alumni House

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 "Pues el salario del pecado es la muerte; pero el don gratuito de Dios, la vida eterna en Cristo Jesús Señor nuestro."
 Romans 6:23

Letters Policy

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopinio@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

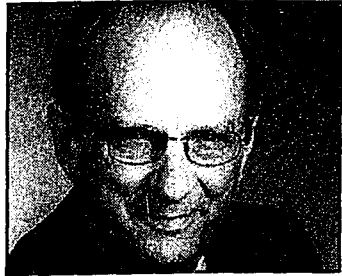
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All voices will be considered concerning garage

Student vote along with need for parking to equally impact March decision from TBR

The Tennessee Board of Regents considers institutions' requests for student fees once a year.

This year, those requests are on the board's March meeting agenda. The deadline for TBR institutions, including MTSU, to submit fee requests was Jan. 22. The board staff is now in the process of evaluating the fee requests. There are 73 of them from our six universities and 13 community colleges. The requests range from international education fees, to sustainable campus fees, to graduation fees to campus



From the TBR chancellor

Charles Manning

access fees.

The process of developing fee requests varies from one campus to another, but the final requests are for-

warded to the board under the imprimatur of the president. Board staff analyzes and reviews the requests, then makes recommendations to the board about whether each fee should be approved or not. All proposed fees are presented to the board, and the board carefully considers each fee before voting.

As a general matter, the board is reluctant to increase tuition and even more reluctant to increase or institute student fees. Compelling cases must be made to justify increasing the cost of getting a

college education.

In relatively few instances, presidents choose to hold a student referendum regarding a proposed fee; there is no requirement that they do so.

While the decision whether or not to hold a referendum is entirely up to the president, the decision to abide by its results are not. The board certainly does take into consideration the expressed wishes of students in deciding whether or not to approve a fee. The

board staff also takes those expressed wishes into consideration in deciding whether or not to recommend approval of a fee.

The fee on the March agenda of greatest interest to MTSU students is undoubtedly the \$8 per semester "campus access fee" to support construction of a campus parking garage.

We are currently in the middle of the process described above of analyzing fee requests and determining what recommendations to make to the board. We

are certainly aware of the parking difficulties on the MTSU campus and the need to address those.

We are also aware that last year's student referendum opposed instituting a student fee to construct a parking garage.

I can assure you that the board will weigh carefully all the considerations involved before reaching a decision.

Charles Manning is the chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regents. He can be reached at chancellor@tbr.edu.

PARKING GARAGE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The full versions of these letters are available at www.mtsusidelines.com.

Neighbors' voices disregarded along with students by MTSU

Debra Sells, vice president of Student Affairs, writes in a recent edition of *Sidelines* that MTSU carefully considered the input of the student body before moving forward with a student fee increase and the construction of a parking garage ("Leaving legacy worth fee increases," Feb. 1).

Clearly, the message that this administration would like us to believe is that our wishes continue to hold weight in its decision making, despite its decision to disregard them. As a student and as a lifelong resident of Rutherford County and neighbor of the university, I find this behavior from MTSU all too familiar, and I take a very different message from it.

And as I read Sells claim that the administration values the input of its constituents, I can't help but remember that as a neighbor to the university, I heard the same claim. Yet, when it mattered most, MTSU moved forward with its goals without regard to how it affected my community. Is it any wonder that they would do the same to their own student body?

Neil Lund, senior political science major

Labeling based on sexual orientation un-American

On Feb. 2, Admiral Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the Senate Armed Forces Committee that the "don't ask, don't tell" law should be repealed. He said: "Allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly would be the right thing to do."

The issue of allowing gay and lesbian Americans to serve openly in the United States armed forces is a simple issue when viewed from the proper perspective.

The keyword describing these men and women is not "gay" or "lesbian," but "American." It is another test of the notion of freedom and equality upon which our nation was founded.

As a nation, we have not always done the right thing when it comes to equal rights and discrimination, but we have the ability to change. We can do the right thing now. Our freedom that we hold dear is rendered cheap and hollow when we deny those freedoms to other law-abiding citizens.

Eric Samuels, junior liberal arts major

Preachers' return shows resilience for free speech

I am glad that the preachers from PinPoint Evangelism came back to campus. As I do not agree with any statements that they made, I am glad that freedom of speech has won.

While many people do not agree with their statements, they have a right to be there. The students of this university have the right to walk away and not listen.

If no one was there to listen, they would be preaching to the walls of the Keathley University Center and would not be able to spread their hate. Many people are for free speech until someone says something they don't believe in.

I wish that these preachers could come back to this campus and the students join together and not show up. We could walk around the other side of the KUC or walk past them and not stop. Let's not give them what they want.

Zach Barnes, senior psychology major



By Kyle Patterson
Staff cartoonist

"Seattle Spew"

megapencil5@yahoo.com

Preachers show MTSU needs forum on First Amendment

It's been a long time since the crumbling of the Berlin Wall and later the Communists' grip on Eastern Europe. My service to the U.S. military, and by extension the Constitution, lies before those events near the end of the Cold War.

In infantry training, we were told that the Russians were cold, unfeeling people who would rather blow up the world than have the people under their subjugation freed from torment, oppression and mass executions.

And we in the U.S. armed forces were what stood in the way of the elimination of our freedoms.

With that being said, I feel I can say the following: What happened on the Keathley University Center Knoll last fall and last week was completely against what I served for. In case you don't know, I'm referring to the preachers from PinPoint Evangelism.

Before I continue, please note that I am speaking for myself as a veteran and not for all veterans.

Conservative preachers armed with picket signs and peculiar notions about God's love were met with a reciprocating righteous anger. Their preaching had many thinking that what is important is decided by those who can hit the higher decibel level.

The right to express your ideas, no matter how bizarre and twisted, is the cornerstone of American freedom, influenced by the philosophers of ancient Athens.

So to have a group of students - many of whom I believe have appreciation for the philosophers of ancient Greece - seek to deprive that right of the preachers who sought to utilize their freedoms is very saddening to me. Those who have died for America's freedoms did so for all Americans.

On the other hand, we also have a right to expect that freedom of speech not be used to incite or to assault.

When the preachers said that women who dress provocatively

invite rape, it is lamentable, but it is their right to do so.

But when they single out a student and call her "whore" and say, "If you're raped it is your fault because of the way you are dressed," I am no longer a defender of freedom of speech. Instead, I am a defender of that student's right to walk across the campus that she paid to be on without being verbally assaulted.

My mind does not waver about whether or not that constitutes verbal assault because it does, but my opinion is not the only one that counts.

I believe that these issues need to be sorted out among us all. We need standards that dictate what constitutes acceptable free speech, what constitutes appropriate counter-speech and protest and where we draw the line in regards to these rights.

Gene Fitch, associate dean of Student Life, said during a Senate session after the protest that maybe we need a symposium on the First Amendment. I completely agree.

Freedom of speech, which is among the first of all our freedoms in America, needs great care in its use and limitations. If you don't agree, look at the police presence that was necessary during this recent visit by the preachers in response to the showing match that broke out during their last visit.

If you believe it is time to come together as a community and talk to each other with mutual respect about our notions on this freedom and what MTSU's vision of it should be, e-mail the SGA and the administration and request to move forward on creating the symposium and starting this important conversation. After all, it is your right.

Drew Dunlop is a senior communications studies major. He can be reached at msd2y@mtsu.edu.



By the way...

Drew Dunlop

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SPORTS

Champions crowned as MMA invades MT

By STEPHEN CURLEY
Sports Editor

Knockouts and submissions were in abundance as the Mixed Martial Arts of MTSU hosted Tennessee Ultimate Fighting Saturday to give local fighters and other amateurs a chance to show their skills.

Only one fight made it out of the second round, and it was arguably the most important one, as Murfreesboro native Monty Burks defeated Charles Costello via judge's decision. The win gave Burks the Tennessee State championship at 155-pounds as sanctioned by the International Sport Karate Association.

The show opened with another MT student, Billy Tackaberry, senior concrete industry management major, dominating Daniel Lee in a 145-pound bout.

"I've had great coaches and great teammates," Tackaberry said. "We've been bustin' it two times a day and working on my conditioning."

The fight opened with Tackaberry immediately taking down Lee and getting his back with relative ease. Moments later Tackaberry sank in a rear naked choke, and that was it Lee tapped out just 1:07 into the first round.

"I had to focus on staying strong because I'm a ground fighter," Tackaberry said. "So once it went there I was really comfortable."

It wasn't all good news for Murfreesboro natives on the card, however. In the main event of the evening Chattanooga's Jesse Grun defeated MT graduate Mike Hackney for the 185-pound title.

Grun overwhelmed Hackney from the start, dominating him on the ground with Hackney unable to escape once he was on his back. Bru-

tal ground-and-pound from Grun wasn't able to finish the job in the first round, but when Hackney found himself in the same position in the second round, the referee had no choice but to stop the bout at 1:41.

In the co-main event, a 125-pound championship fight, Justin Pennington, a Lebanon, Tenn., native knocked out David James. Both fighters came out timid at first, feeling each other out in the stand-up game before James connected with a sharp right hand knocking James down. Pennington's ground-and-pound was too much for James, and the referee stepped in at 1:53 in the first round. The win puts Pennington in great position to potentially turn pro later this year.

"It meant a lot to me to come out here," Pennington said. "This will be the first title belt that I've fought for and won."

The evening of action was also

“It is amazing to me to see the talent level in one of these small shows, and to see this fan support is amazing.”

KEN SHAMROCK
ULTIMATE FIGHTING CHAMPIONSHIP VETERAN AND MMA PIONEER

highlighted by an appearance from Ultimate Fighting Championship veteran and MMA pioneer Ken Shamrock. Shamrock met fans and signed autographs for most of the night, as well as hosted a training seminar earlier in the day at Guardian MMA gym in Murfreesboro.

"I think what stood out the most was the eagerness to learn from a lot of the guys that were training," Shamrock said.

A packed Murphy Center was on

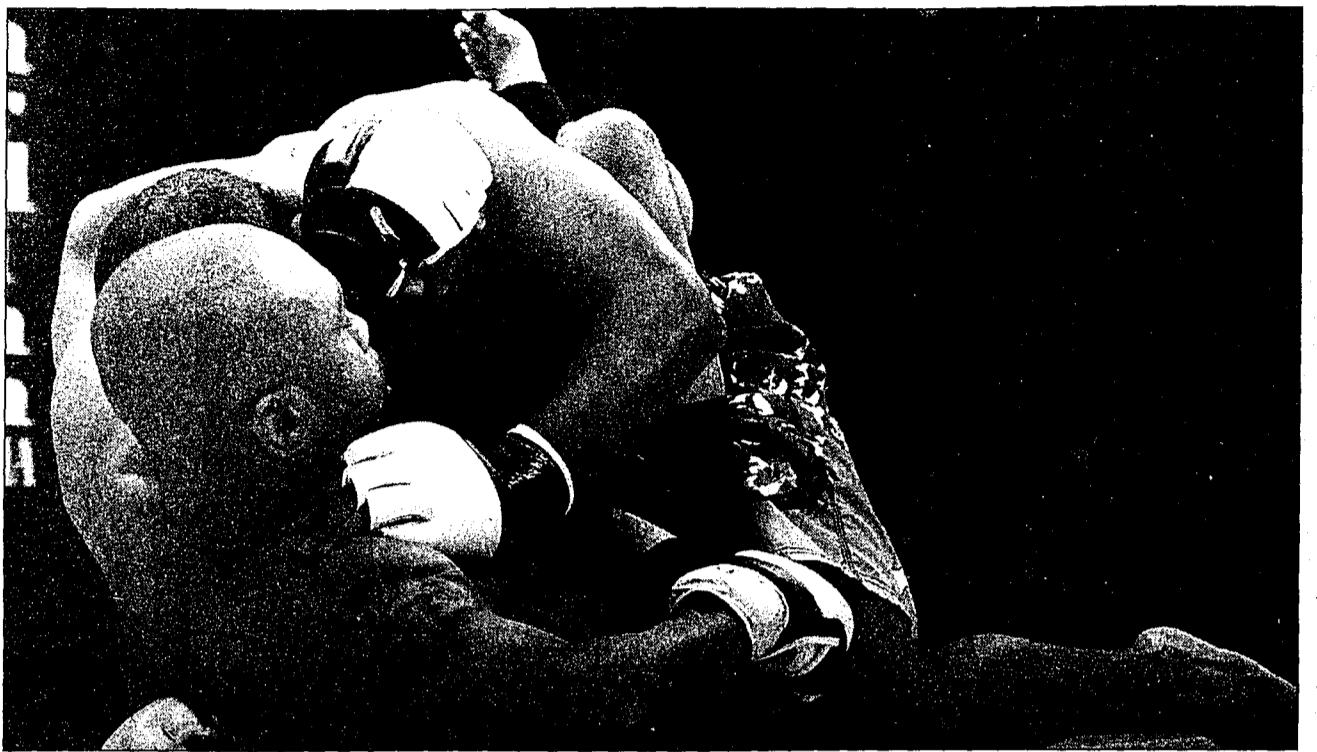


Photo by Chris Donahue, staff photographer

MMA fighters participate in Tennessee Ultimate Fighting on Saturday, hosted by the Mixed Martial Arts of MTSU.



Photo by Chris Donahue, staff photographer

MMA fighters demonstrate skills in a match at the Murphy Center Complex.

hand to watch the fights, marking the tremendous growth the sport has seen in recent years. Proceeds from the event went to Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, Disabled American Veterans and Mothers Against Domestic Violence.

"It's amazing to me to see the talent level in one of these small shows, and to see this fan support is amazing," Shamrock said. "It just goes to show you how strong the MMA fan base is."

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Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor

Freshman Forward J.T. Sulton dunks the ball as the Blue Raiders handle South Alabama on Saturday.

MT downs USA, 80-68

Washington leads Blue Raiders to victory

By WILL TRUSLER
Contributing Writer

In a battle of Eastern Division foes, the Blue Raiders basketball squad used two big runs against the Jaguars of South Alabama to pull out a victory on the road Saturday.

"After a tough loss to Troy, a quick turnaround with a 1 p.m. game and to get down 22-6 against a good South Alabama team, I thought the resiliency and toughness of our team really showed," said head coach Kermit Davis.

Junior point guard James Washington led all scorers with 18 points, but it was his defense and leadership that guided the team. Washington chipped in four assists and four rebounds in the win.

"James Washington's floor leadership was tremendous," Davis said. Joining him in double figures were Desmond Yates, Montarrio Haddock and James Gallman with 16, 13 and 11 respectively.

The Blue Raiders struggled to stop South Alabama early as the Jaguars picked apart the Raiders' league-leading defense for an onslaught of three-pointers and alley-oops. Middle Tennessee was down 22-6 before they turned up the defensive pressure and fought their way back to tie the game at 26.

Calvin O'Neil had three steals during the run, and Yates used the momentum to score all seven of his first half points.

"Boogie and Calvin really responded," Davis said.

A layup by J.T. Sulton gave the Blue Raid-

ers their first lead of the game at 30-29 with 1:43 left in the first half. Middle Tennessee would increase its lead to four before a three pointer by the Jags with three seconds remaining cut the margin to one to enter the locker room.

The story was much the same after the break as the Raiders found themselves down seven after 10 minutes of play.

Showing poise on the road, Middle Tennessee once again used stingy defense and clutch shooting en route to an 18-3 run that would seal the victory.

The team shot 50 percent from beyond the arc and 87 percent from the free-throw line for the game. On defense, Middle Tennessee forced 15 turnovers, which they converted to 23 points on the other end of the floor.

Junior forward Trevor Ottley played big off the bench for the Blue Raiders, pulling down a team high by contributing six rebounds, two blocks and a steal to pace the defense.

"I really think Trevor Ottley was really the player of the game defensively and made all of his free throws," Davis said.

Tim Williams led South Alabama with 16 points.

The win increases Middle Tennessee's conference record to 9-4.

The Blue Raiders return to Murphy Center next week playing host to Denver on Thursday, Feb. 11. The game is set to tip-off at 7 p.m. and students get in free with a valid MTSU ID.

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They can be as loud as they want

Without a vocalist, 'Boro band defines its sound, despite complaints

By CHRIS MAYO
Staff Writer

From a small room lined with blankets and crowded with keyboards, amplifiers and a drum set in the back of a Murfreesboro garage emanates music so powerful that, according to the police, it shakes the neighbor's windows.

The mood is relatively serious as Deep Machine gets back together to practice after a short break. Everyone claims to be rusty, although you wouldn't know it listening to them. The band plays through its first song, which clocks in at around 25 minutes, without a hitch.

Deep Machine is one of those rare, genre-transcending groups who you just don't know how to categorize. One minute they will be grooving on a techno-like dance beat, and then they will explode into an odd time-signatured, prog-rock riff. Their unique effect-laden sound has been drawing crowds in Murfreesboro for over a year, all without singing a note.

"I've gotten much more positive than negative feedback about not having a vocalist," says drummer Ben Crannell, a recent graduate from MTSU's recording industry department.

Brennan Walsh, a junior recording industry major, band leader and guitarist,

says being without a lead singer has proven to open many new doors of creativity. This has allowed the band to stay away from the chord progressions and the repetitious forms often required to back up a lead singer, which, he admits, can become a bit boring.

Walsh creates an ever-changing soundscape with his guitar, transitioning from heavily distorted solo to complicated progressions dripping with delay and reverb. Bassist Hutch Crowley, senior recording industry major, and Crannell offer up a driving rhythm section, accompanying Walsh with intricate counter melodies and punchy dance beats.

Keyboard player Brian Cline, junior recording industry major, tops off the wall with sweeping sounds, with the occasional piano solo when things get quieter.

According to Walsh and Cline, Deep Machine's songs are often created out of the smallest things. Walsh will sometimes bring in a rough progression, which the band will experiment with and expound upon. Other times, songs are birthed through pure improvisation, which the band likes to open up practice with.

As the band plays through

it's fifth song of the night, "The Trip," an upbeat joy ride that suddenly transforms into a chaotic nightmare, a light dances across the room. The short moment of confusion as the music breaks up is quickly followed by groans and expletives, as two of Murfreesboro's finest ask Walsh to step outside and proceed to issue the band a noise citation. It's not the first time the neighbors have called the police to break up a practice.

Walsh says Deep Machine began in the fall of 2008 after he moved into a house on the same block as Crowley and Crannell, who were in another band at the time.

"We just started jamming together, and after a while we decided to do this instrumental thing," Walsh says.

Cline, who recently moved to Murfreesboro from Oklahoma, joined the band in November of last year after the original keyboard player left the band due to time constraints. Walsh says they are all in at least one other band, but have been able to play shows regularly.

"We played three or four shows a month before the new year," Crannell says. "Sometimes more."

According to Crannell, the

band has been working with Red Gorilla Booking Agency in Nashville, and Murfreesboro-based Big Kid Productions to help book shows and boost the band's image.

"It started out with just organizing the Jaminstein Festival last year and has really evolved into managing bands and booking all kinds of shows," Crannell says.

Deep Machine is now gearing up for a short tour that will culminate with four nights at the Red Gorilla Music Festival in Houston, Texas, which takes place during the acclaimed South by Southwest music festival in March. The Red Gorilla shows consist of smaller, independent artists, but that doesn't stop them from drawing a crowd.

"Last year the best band at South by Southwest didn't actually play at South by Southwest," Crannell says. "By a lot of reviews, the best shows were at Red Gorilla; it's really good exposure because all the shows are free."

The band will also be playing shows in Chattanooga, Knoxville, Kansas City and other cities throughout the South and Midwest. The shows range from bar gigs to supporting national touring bands such as Future Rock. Deep Machine's next show will be a benefit in support of MTSU student Thomas Connor Moss's election campaign



Photo courtesy of Deep Machine

for City Council on Feb. 16.

As the night winds down and all the beer has disappeared, the band disperses with plans. They are excited about the Red Gorilla Festival, it's one of those places where bands catch big breaks, and they will be hon-

ing their skills for the next month to prepare. They have also decided to approach the neighbors with a peace offering, and if that doesn't work, they might have to spring the money for a practice space where they can be as loud as they want.

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Not necessarily a knock-knock joke

Professors describe why their doors and personalities go hand-in-hand

By MICHAEL STONE
Opinions Editor

Your mom might have said not to judge a book by its cover, but I'm sure she probably didn't mention anything about judging your college professors by their doors.

"It's a reflection of me," says history professor Louis Haas of his Peck Hall office door, which is a melting pot of literature, eye-catching pictures and satire.

Some of his favorite pieces are what he calls "anti-motivational posters." One of them reads: "SUCCESS Some people dream of success, while other people live on to crush those dreams."

Haas has a tradition at the beginning of every semester; he removes all the papers from his door and starts a fresh collection. The only item that survives this semi-annual purging is an advertisement for Marx Barbeque.

"I always tell people I'm a Marxist when it comes to barbecue because we have a couple places in my hometown that are run by a guy named Marx," Haas says. "It's the best barbecue in the world."

Haas is one of the many professors across the campus who bring their doors to life by decorating them with newspaper clippings, comics, stickers, posters and information for students.

The amount of things they attach to their doors varies from very little - math instructor David Dueber merely has his office hours posted, to a lot - it's hard to find the wood of recording industry professor Paul Fischer's door.

"I look for things that are relevant to what I teach," Fischer describes. "Things about music and the First Amendment or generational differences about popular music."

Fischer says he's certainly not bashful about the things he feels have earned the right to hang from his door.

"One of my favorites is the caricature of Dick Cheney holding a smoking shotgun standing behind a very large hole in the Constitution," Fischer says.

According to Tennessee's Little Hatch Act, professors aren't allowed to endorse political candidates since they are paid by government funds, but anything else, including Fischer's political satire, is fair

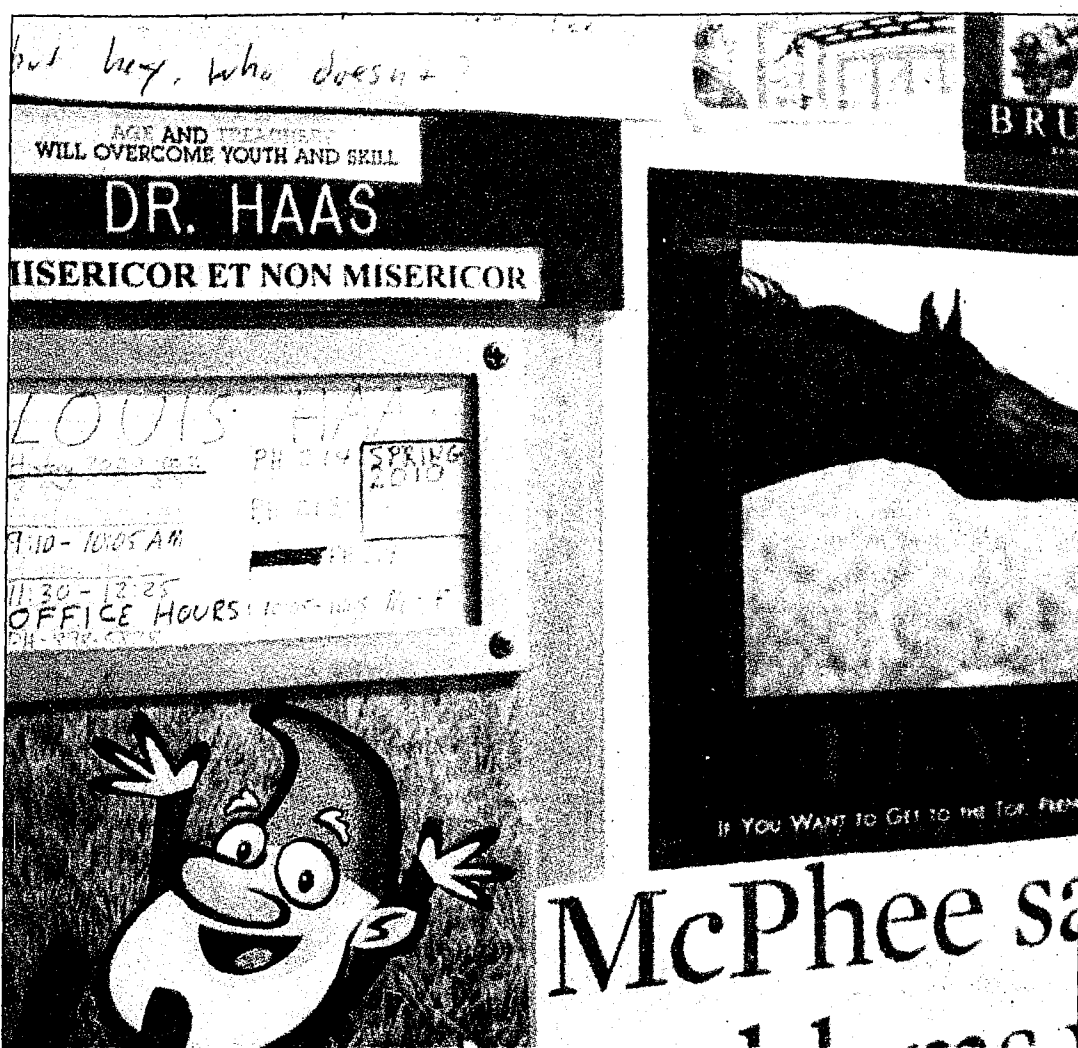


Photo by Chris Donahue, staff photographer
Louis Haas decorates his office door in Peck Hall every year to showcase his creative side.

game because MTSU has no regulations on doors.

"The presumption is that in this position, you're going to be professional [about what you post on your door]," says Loren Mulrairie, associate dean of the College of Mass Communication.

A rule was once put in place for professors in the Business and Aerospace Building, which was completed in 1998, that restricted them from attaching paper to their doors. The reason was not one of free speech, says computer information systems professor Gordon Freeman, but rather of keeping the once new building looking new.

"It was my understanding at the time that we weren't supposed to put things on the doors," Freeman recalls of when

he and his fellow business professors first moved into the building. "It was a new building, and they didn't want to tear up the doors."

Though he has nothing on his door, Freeman says literature has slowly been finding its way onto the doors of his colleagues.

"There was just kind of a rebellion over time," he says. "This is true in all of academia: you're not going to tell a college professor what they're going to do."

The signage can go a little overboard sometimes, according to liberal arts student Amanda Marlar. When you're approaching a faculty member's office just to get some quick information, she says, a cluttered door could present a problem.

"It's like, 'Yeah, that's probably some

scatter-brained professor behind that door,' so if you needed to find their office hours, good luck," she says.

Marlar appreciates the faculty members who have offices within the Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building who have all resisted the temptation to post mass amounts of literature on their doors.

"We don't want to mess up the doors because tape leaves the residue, and we don't pin-up anything," says Katherine Pendleton, nursing professor. "We just have a culture here where we're just trying to be respectful of our building and keep everything in good shape."

It was a different story for English professor Rebecca King when she moved into her office in Peck Hall. She says it took a long time to remove all the tape and tape residue from her door.

But, she says, she didn't mind because she believes that door posting can offer some legitimate commentary.

"One thing that I see that's amusing are comics or other things that comment on faculty status, budget cuts or the impact of hiring so many adjuncts that dilute education," she describes.

Door posting isn't all about serious commentary, though. Sometimes, it can be funny, as was the case when astronomy professor Chuck Higgins' nameplate was promptly changed to "Dr. Chuck Norris" by his students. The name change was accented by a list of Chuck Norris "fun facts."

"I remember one of [the facts] was me being the master of the universe or something," Higgins recalls.

Along with posting stuff on his own door, Haas likes to gander at his colleagues' doors from time to time. He recommends, though, that if you're going to look around as well, you have to be careful; there might be a very grumpy someone lurking in the office behind that door.

"The best was when I was [teaching] in Illinois," Haas remembers. "I was looking at this English professor's door, he opened it and he saw me standing there and flipped out. All I could say was, 'Don't put stuff on your door then if you don't want people to look at it.'"

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