

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2010

VOL. 87, NO. 8



Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor
MTSU's bio bus is parked daily in the Tennessee Livestock Center Parking Lot on campus and is only driven once a week to keep up maintenance and used for some special events.

Storage keeps bio bus still

By MATTHEW HAMMITT
Contributing Writer

Despite the fact that the MTSU Department of Engineering converted a Raider X-Press shuttle bus to run on biofuel, the shuttle has yet to see regular use in transporting students on campus.

The shuttle bus, which was converted in 2008, is designed to use biofuel that has been converted from cooking oil.

The Clean Energy Fund, a student-funded initiative to research renewable energies and energy conservation technologies on campus, provided financing for the bio bus project.

The project was presided over by the Center for Green Energy Management, a collaborative effort between engineering professors Charles Perry and Carol Boraiko, and chemistry professor Ngee Sing Chong.

Perry explained that the bio bus' grounded state is the result of the lack of an effective storage and processing facility for the used cooking oil that powers the bus. He said he received approval to develop such a facility, using the leftover funds his team originally received to convert the bus.

"The average biodiesel vehicle burns about 1,200 gallons of oil a year," Perry said. "The restaurants [around campus] produce roughly an equivalent amount of used cooking oil in that same time frame."

Perry said that without a place on campus to store the used cooking oil, campus food providers have had to rely on off campus sources to collect it. He said that MT Dining Services could not relinquish its contractual agreement to have the oil disposed of until a campus collection facility is proven reliable.

He said efforts to build the facility have been postponed while he focuses on preparing a presentation for the Tennessee State Legislature on his wheel hub motor patent, which is a hybrid plug-in kit that he said can nearly double city gas mileage when installed on a car.

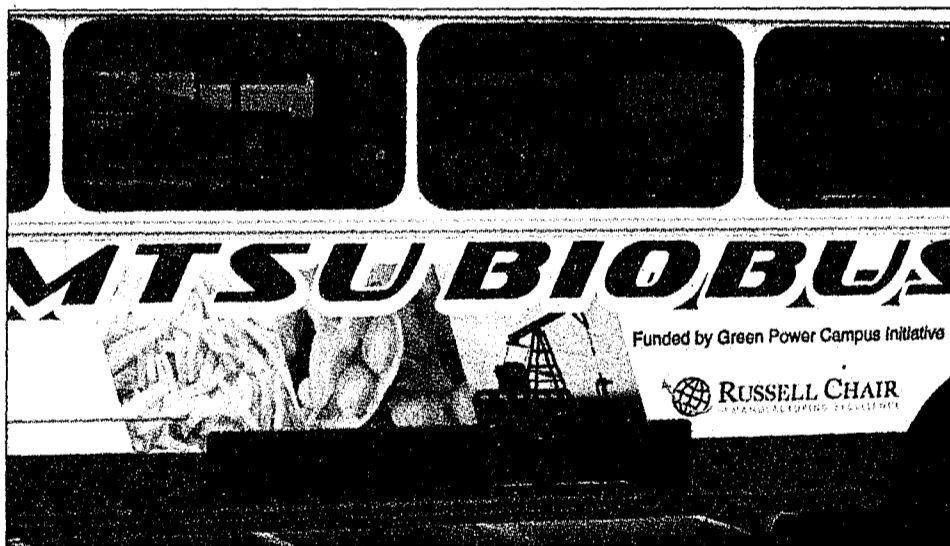


Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor
The bio bus uses used cooking oil, but because of storage the university is unable to supply the bus with the fuel it needs.

Perry said his presentation is set to take place on March 2, and that he hopes to return to the bio bus project later this year.

The bio bus project began in February 2007, when the Center for Green Energy Management received \$15,000 from the Clean Energy Fund to convert the shuttle. The development and conversion process took place over a period of about six months and cost \$9,283.

The project received additional funding of \$10,944 in March 2008 for emissions testing, after the conversion was completed.

Perry said the remaining funds are to be used for setting up the processing facility.

The Clean Energy Fund was established in the fall of 2005 through a campus-wide student referendum. Of those who voted, 89 percent supported an \$8 increase in student fees in order to fund the initiative.

The \$8 student fee is split, in which \$5 is used for purchasing renewable energy, and \$3 is allotted toward financing on-campus conservation projects.

A list of approved projects can be found on the Sustainable Campus Fund Web site, which is overseen by MTSU Center for Energy Efficiency.

"We hope the project raises people's awareness of MTSU's participation in clean energy," Perry said.

The bus was donated to the project by MTSU Parking & Transportation Services and has been driven in parades. It has also been used during special events, including an engineering department trip to Kentucky.

However, aside from being run weekly for maintenance purposes, it is not used on a regular basis for student transportation.

According to the Tennessee Department of Transportation, biofuel is fuel derived from vegetable oils, animal fats, and recyclable greases, as well as other sources, and contains virtually no sulfur content, which some scientists consider a pollutant.

Perry said that biofuel possesses better lubrication than diesel fuel, which can extend engine life by preventing buildup that contributes to the overall wear and tear.

Other positive attributes of the fuel have less functional values.

"You'll know the bio bus is coming," Perry said. "Because when it approaches it'll smell like French fries."

Not just vaginas

Students host V-Day performance of 'The Vagina Monologues'

By DUSTIN EVANS
Managing Editor

The third annual V-day performance of Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues" is set for Feb. 13 and 14.

Amanda Walker, senior theater major, who is performing in the event, said the readings are to raise money for City of Joy, a charitable organization for the women and girls of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Rutherford County Domestic Violence Center.

Performances are set for Feb. 13 in the Studio Theatre of the Boutwell Dramatic Arts building, and on Feb. 14 in Tucker Theatre. A \$5 minimum donation is required for all attendees; all proceeds go to the Rutherford County Domestic Violence Center and City of Joy.

"V-Day's 2010 theme is 'Building the City of Joy,'" said Ensler, playwright and founder of V-day. "The City of Joy is a literal place, a pastoral community in Bukavu, DRC, where women survivors of gender violence will be supported, healed and trained to be the next leaders of the DRC, but it is also a concept, a decision, a movement to end violence against women and girls."

THEATER, PAGE 3

Delta Sigma Theta hosts annual date auction

By JESSICA RAINER
Contributing Writer

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., is set to host a date auction tonight from 7 to 10 p.m., in an effort to increase awareness and raise funds for Delta Week, a series of fundraisers and community service events.

The event will be located in Room 100 of the Davis Science Building, and the auction is open to both men and women.

"The date auction is something fun to come out and do, especially since it is Valentine's Day," said Tiara Dave, senior mass communication major and member of Delta.

Dave said that all fraternities and sororities on campus have their own week and host different events. She said during Delta Week, the sorority would be inviting the public to join in the various festivities.

Dave said the sorority would be hosting community service events to help benefit International

Awareness, which, according to its national Web site, is a non-profit organization that creates awareness about major international issues to the general public in a simple, accessible and understandable form, according to its national headquarters Web site.

"We have five thrusts, and International Awareness is one of them," Danielle Nathaniel, senior public relations major said. "We feel that we should take care of other countries and not just ours because we are a nationwide sorority and we have sororities all over the country."

Jasmine Brock, sophomore education and behavioral science major and member of the sorority, said the participants pick a song of their choice, and will have written biographies as they walk across the stage. She said after the participants read their biographies, the bidding will start.

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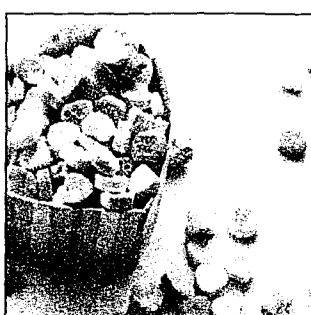
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Blue Raiders attempt to remain on top, play host to Denver tonight.

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Find out what you can get your significant other for Valentines Day.

PAGE 7

THURSDAY FORECAST

Partly Sunny
High 39/ Low 18

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Don't be fooled by the calendar. There are only as many days in the year as you make use of."
Charles Richards

DELTA
FROM PAGE 1

"I think the auction will be a great success, something entertaining and fun for the community," Nathaniel said. "You can buy your crush or buy a little date."

Brock said the bids start at \$5, and it will rise until the last bidder wins. The highest bidder will receive a date scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 21, which is set to include dinner and salsa dancing lessons on campus.

She said she approached many singles to participate in the event.

"When Jasmine asked me to be in the auction I was afraid because I'm a shy person," said Gerita Perry, freshman pre-nursing major. "However, when I



Photo Courtesy of Asha Allen
Members of Delta set up an information table earlier this semester to show their accomplishments.

found out that my other friends were doing it I felt more confident."

Perry said she feels that the fundraiser is a great way to meet new people.

"When I was first asked to be in the auction I said no because my confidence

level is low, and I thought I wouldn't get bid on," said Kenneth Worles, junior public relations major and member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. "However, I think that this is a great and cool way to raise money, and I'm happy to help."

THROUGH THE SIDELINES LENS

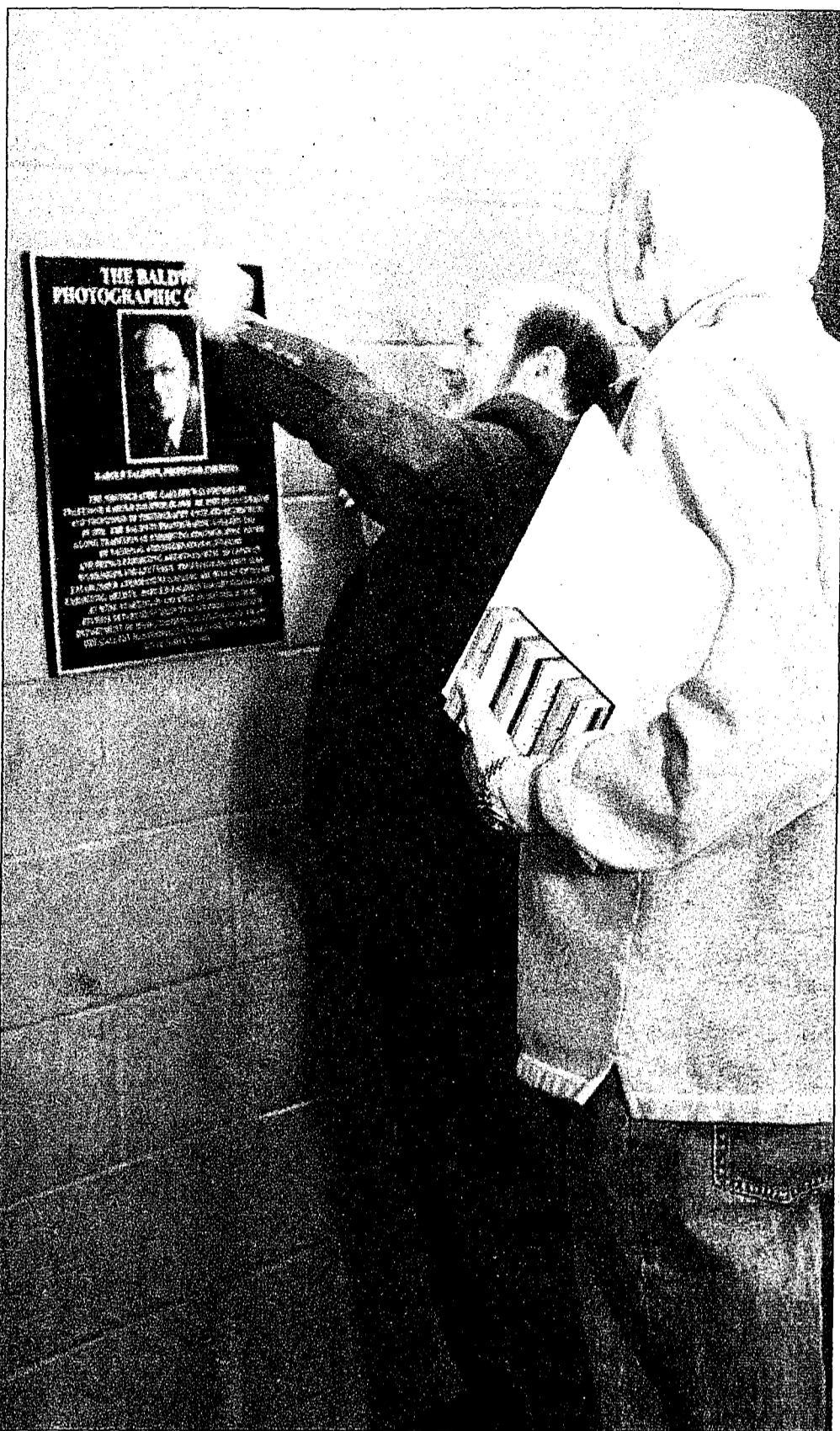
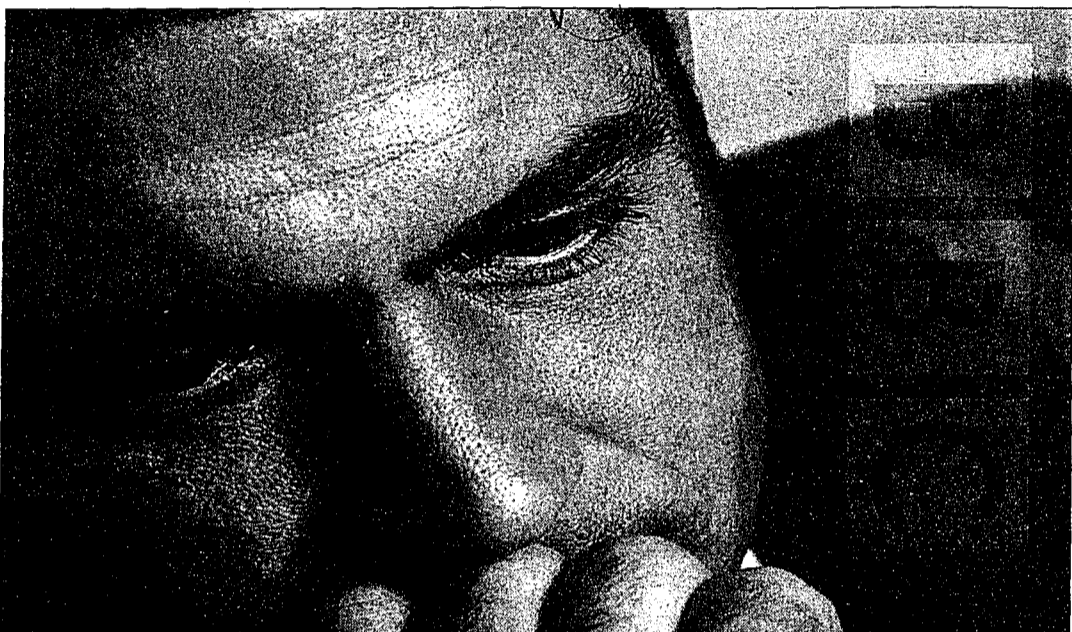


Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer
Tom Jimmison, photography professor, presents Harold Baldwin with a plaque commemorating the photography programs 50th anniversary on Monday in the Baldwin Photographic Gallery in the Learning Research Center.



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CHICKEN GARDEN SALAD & DRINK \$6.00	CHICKEN SALAD SANDWICH (CORSO) \$6.00	SPICE CHICKEN SUGET CONGO \$4.99
4.99 Cheese Pizza Bogel & Drink	3 Cinnamon Stick & Large Coffee	4 Cup of Soup & Bogel
4.99 Plus Plate Special	Add a cup of soup or dessert! \$1.00	
3 BREAKFASTS & DRINK \$3.00	2 BREAKFASTS & DRINK TO ANY MEAL \$2.00	STUFFING PIZZA & DRINK \$4.99
4.99 SALAD (TUNA, CHICKEN, BEEF) \$4.99	5.00 MALLARD DUCK (TUNA, CHICKEN, BEEF) \$5.00	5.00 DUCK (TUNA, CHICKEN, BEEF) \$5.00

Upcoming events!

- black history celebration**
Tues. Feb. 2 Lunch @ McCallie
- super bowl pregame**
Thurs. Feb. 4 Lunch @ JUB
- cheeseburger in paradise**
Tues. Feb. 9 Dinner @ JUB
- valentine's celebration**
Thurs. Feb. 11 PREMIUM Dinner @ McCallie
- fat tuesday**
Tues. Feb. 16 PREMIUM Dinner @ McCallie
- february birthday**
Wed. Feb. 17 Lunch and Dinner @ McCallie and JUB
- macho nacho**
Thurs. Feb. 18 Lunch @ JUB
- root beer floats**
Tues. Feb. 23 Dinner @ JUB
- jazz brunch**
Thurs. Feb. 25 Lunch @ McCallie

www.mtdining.com

Look for MT Dining's Sustainability logo to see the many steps we are taking to help MTSU go green!

Healthy dining is important! Keep an eye out for these Just4U icons at McCallie, Raider Zone and the KUC to help you identify healthy options!

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CURRENT EVENTS

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 slcampus@mtsu.edu or slnews@mtsu.edu, and include the name, date, time and location of the event, as well as your name and a phone number for verification. We reserve the right to refuse events at our discretion as our space is limited.

Sidelines is the editorially independent, 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.

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
Items were reported stolen from a 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.

THEATER FROM PAGE 1

Ensler said that "Building the City of Joy" is developing a process of change that is directed, conceived and fulfilled by the women on the ground – a grassroots movement where women are the source of change and inspiration.

"Building the City of Joy" means everyone working together providing resources, energy and support for grassroots women so they can fulfill their destinies," Ensler said.

Leah Fincher, senior theater major and director of the performance, said the DRC uses rape so frequently as a war tactic, it has seen more casualties than World War II. She said the project aims at promoting the security of these victims – through awareness.

"The Democratic Republic of Congo is the rape capital of the world," Fincher said. "We are trying to get a small community that will use it to empower and educate women."

Walker said the performance, which has very specific regulations from the playwright, would be performed in the traditional format – with each performer seated on stage until their monologues are to read. She said each performer would focus on a different aspect of life as a woman.



Photo Courtesy of vday.org
Two girls from the Democratic Republic of the Congo salute V-Day, a global movement to end violence against women and girls.

"It is not a bunch of people ranting on stage about feminism and talking about their specific vaginas," Walker said. "Some of them are about vaginas – some are about the birth of a child."

Walker said the readings are about how the characters came to be who they are. She said each story is a broad spectrum of life that can bring something different to everyone.

"One of the greatest benefits is learning how to research the women – it's definitely a humbling experience," Walker said. "I've been doing this for three years, and every year, I get something different out of it."

Fincher said this year's performance would include a new vagina monologue about transgenders. She said the performance also hopes to spread awareness of the need for protection

against the discrimination of gender identity – a sweeping movement through Tennessee legislation.

Fincher said the royalty rights for the production are waived for the participating groups throughout the world, making it easier for non-profit groups, like MTSU, to participate.

"It goes to help people that are without," Walker said. "That makes you want to work harder."

RYMAN AUDITORIUM

Thursday, February 25
TREY ANASTASIO AND CLASSIC TAB

Friday, March 12
rodrigo y gabriela

Wednesday, March 31
TEGAN AND SARA
with Steel Train and Holly Miranda

ticketmaster (800) 745-3000
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FACEBOOK.COM/THERYMANAUDITORIUM

Ryman Auditorium is a National Historic Landmark, open daily for tours.

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

ECSTASY USERS NEEDED FOR RESEARCH

Researchers at Vanderbilt are recruiting healthy Caucasian individuals, ages 18 to 25, who have used Ecstasy recreationally to complete a confidential brain imaging study.

Participants will be compensated up to \$375 for their time in completing a comprehensive study.

This study is sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

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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

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 opinions expressed herein are those of individual writers and not necessarily Sidelines or MTSU.

TBR should rethink priorities

Construction projects continue to overshadow academic integrity

Tennessee Board of Regents Chancellor Charles Manning sent MTSU a lovely letter in Monday's issue of Sidelines ("All voices at MTSU will be considered concerning garage," Feb. 8). Since it was kind of him to write a letter explaining how the TBR doesn't care, he deserves a letter in response.



The pen is mightier

Evan Barker

Dear Chancellor Manning, It's not about the parking garage, and we mean that sincerely; it's that you're just not listening to us. We understand that you need these pretty building projects, such as parking garages, to keep up appearances, but you can only put so much makeup on a face like ours.

usually, we're going to notice, and we don't have to like or agree with your plans. The garage is symptomatic of the bigger problem.

When you've pushed us to a place like where we are (major programs on the chopping block and such) you should realize that even-

The real subtext of your letter was the part left unsaid. Did you notice the uproar over our college restructuring? We want our academics, and we want them intact and fully funded. We don't care about building projects unless

they make us smarter.

Your letter does not contain any of the following words: academics, class, professors, programs, study or quality. It would be hard for you to argue that you have our academic best interests at heart with a missive like that.

Why don't you just be open with us? We are, after all, your babies, and we can handle some tough love since being underfed is a little like punishment.

Just tell us that the Tennessee Higher Education Commission doesn't want MTSU to be a "real" research university.

Just tell us that THEC and TBR only want the most diplomas per dollar spent, quality be damned.

Just come out and say you don't think it's a state university's job to give out fancy lib-

eral arts degrees.

When you're honest, the healing can begin, but frankly, there's plenty to do. The overall tone of MTSU's dealings with TBR and THEC has been that you want us to be the quick-and-easy junior college for the University of Tennessee-Knoxville or the University of Memphis.

You want us to be submissive and not to get too far out of our place. Don't do any "real" research, MTSU; just get back in the kitchen.

The problem with turning us into a sort of job-training-center-cum-feeder-school is that it ignores the mission of a university, which is to feed and instruct critical thinkers to be good citizens with independent minds, not to turn them into state-certified drones for corporate jobs that may or may not be there in

our volatile economy; ergo, the liberal arts foundation of the degree is important, and cutting the school to its most basic of technical degrees is apt to yield unthinking students who perform poorly in the economy, if feeding the economy is your mission. If you can read that sentence, thank an English professor.

Simply put, you can't fake prosperity, and the parking garage is emblematic of the problem: You're not interested in academic excellence; you're interested in having MTSU look pretty, but kind of cheap, and certainly easy.

Is that how you want your kids to grow up?

Evan Barker is a senior English major and former opinions editor of Sidelines. He can be reached at evanhbarker@gmail.com.

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Make your own V-Day definition

Valentine's Day, a day that lurks right around the corner of the holiday season and carries much of the same consumerism that has become engrained in Christmas, is upon us.

As is with Christmas, Valentine's is a day for some to rush out to chain stores and buy goodies that they believe their significant others will love. It is also a day to eat at expensive restaurants, attend pricey movies, plays and other such venues – and feel broke the next day.

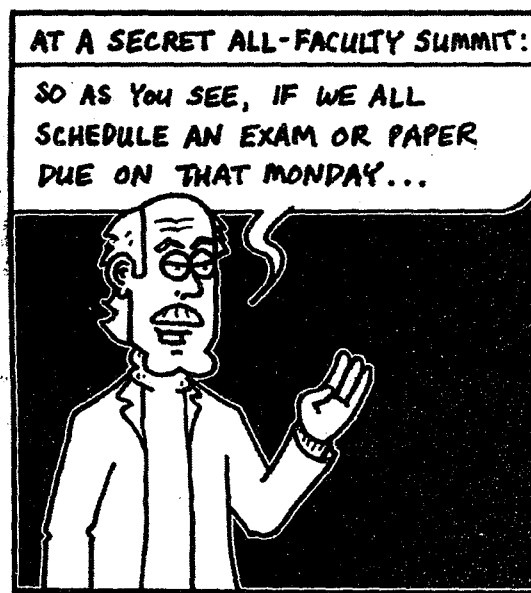
But as is true of all mass-marketed holidays in our freemarket system, you don't have to participate in the corporate meaning of Valentine's. Further, you don't even have to participate in the holiday at all; I'm sure St. Valentine would be totally cool with it.

If you do choose to recognize Feb. 14 as a day of love, though, treat it as just that. Even if you don't have an extra special someone, find a friend in the same boat and spend some quality time with him or her.

For those with a special someone, don't be embarrassed about being cheap if you're lacking in funds. You'll find that most people are more appreciative of hand-made goods instead of something that rolled off the assembly line. The same goes for home-cooked meals, that is if you can cook of course.

So come on MTSU, let's make V-Day about our own versions of love, not what our consumerist society has turned it into.

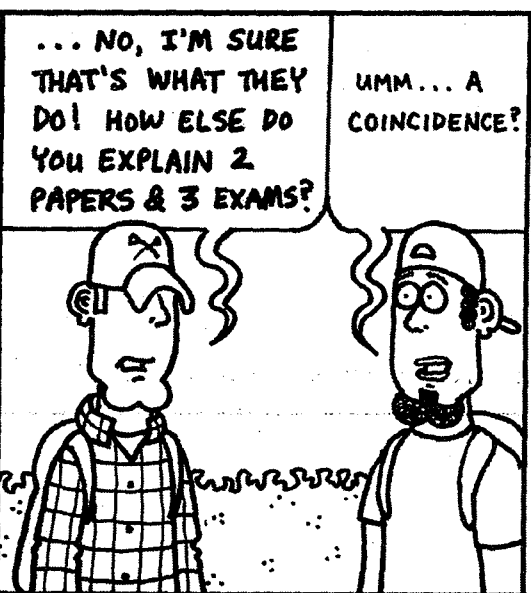
COMICS



Phil Flickinger



"Blundergrads"



www.blundergrads.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Full versions of these letters available at www.mtsusidelines.com

Preachers not worth energy

I am a new transfer student here at MTSU this spring and am disappointed to report that the response to the preachers on campus last week was the most enthused I have seen the student body since I've been here.

The fact is that these guys pose almost no real threat. While they may be irritating and grossly offensive, it's a waste of our time and energy to resist them.

Fellow students: your energy and resistance are incredible strengths. Channel them towards demanding change at a level that actually matters.

Rachel Davies, freshman biochemistry major

Disabilities not something that should result in jokes

While Disabled Student Services has been terrific in supporting and providing disability services to MTSU students, there are other areas on campus that need some work in acknowledging disabled students.

Minutes before the MMA event began in the Murphy Center this past weekend, a security officer and an event supervisor arrived at our table to tell us that we had to move to the upper ADA section. My two friends and I explained that the event staff had told us to sit here because there was nowhere else for the two of us in wheelchairs to go. The staffer eventually checked with his boss, and we were allowed to stay.

My other guest had a service dog. We heard smart-mouth comments from staffers, the reporters sitting behind us, the security officers and people in attendance.

In this situation, we were treated with disdain simply because we were in wheelchairs and had a service animal.

Dianna M. Melton, junior business education major

Step away from the screen

Because experiencing real life is much more fun

There is a history of seeking a world outside of reality in which people can lose themselves. Folklore, myths, storytelling and novels all reflect the desire to escape immediacy and get lost in a world that is different from this one.

The newest escape comes through the Internet in the form of video games. Still, gaming is the most widespread and frightening escape so far. Everyone knows a gamer, whether that person plays The Sims or Facebook's Sorority Life.

There are more than 11.5 million subscribers to World of Warcraft, one of the most famous MMORPGs (massively multiplayer online role-playing games). That is approximately the entire population of Greece.

Still, more games exist, including Guild Wars and YoVille. Such games have become so widespread that there are even satires of them, like South Park's light-hearted mockery and "The Guild," a



Pearl before swine

Pearl Howell

YouTube series about players addicted to MMORPGs.

However, sometimes the funniest jokes bring the scariest issues to light.

In severe cases, gamers lose themselves in the game to the point that they no longer participate in real life. They invest their emotions in the game, only ever really talking with other players – and even dating players – that they may or may not have met in person.

Not only is this dangerous, but also ridiculous. There is nothing wrong with finding

love via the Internet; it is becoming more and more common, and there is a booming online dating community to prove it. Regardless, meeting someone purely in the context of a fantasyland is a setup for relationship disaster.

Additionally, online games have more than their fair share of predators. The privacy policies of most games prevent anyone from knowing the true identity of the person they are "falling in love" with. That cute 18-year-old girl could actually be a 50-year-old man.

It is also of great concern that many players spend more time on the computer than they do participating in actual life.

What is the draw of these games? For many of the aforementioned games, there is no winning or losing. The character simply continues on, perpetually battling or buying, leveling up but never finishing.

Why is it that these simu-

lations of real life are almost more popular than real life itself? What is it about simulated games that engage the mind to such a degree?

Some players are perfectly interesting, cool and well-balanced people. Nonetheless, there must be a line drawn between the real and the virtual. While it is fine to play a game for an hour or two every day, think of the things you could otherwise be doing.

You could be doing that homework you've been putting off. You could be meeting new people at a real social gathering. You could be writing a novel. There are no limits to the possibilities.

When one thinks of all the advantages real life has over the virtual, why throw one away in pursuit of the other? It is wonderful to meet people online, but it is even better to meet them in real life.

Pearl Howell is a freshman theater major. She can be reached at rph2t@mtsu.edu.

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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.

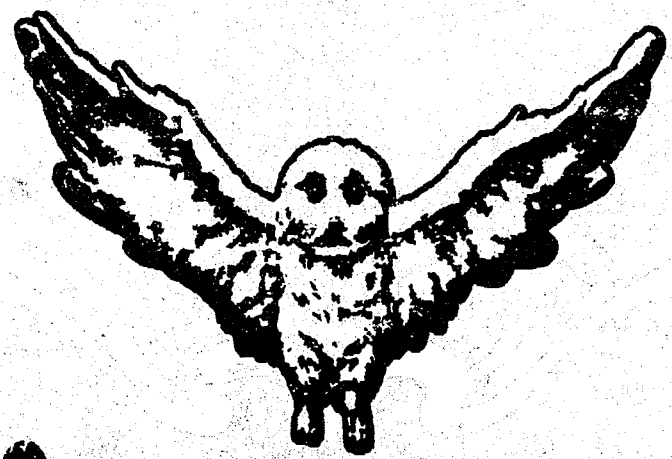
To obtain a **HOUSING REAPPLICATION FORM**, please come by the Housing and Residential Life office during office hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, in the Keathley University Center; room 300.

**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!!

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

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STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Student Government Elections are an opportunity for students to be a part of the most prestigious student organization on campus. It is the job of senators to be the voice of their fellow peers by writing and voting on legislation that reflects the concerns of the student body and to better the campus.

Elections will be held March 2-4 for SGA Executive Officers and Senators. Executive Officers include: President, Executive Vice President, Vice President of Administration and Public Affairs, and Election Commissioner. Senate positions include: all colleges, at large, and undeclared.

Important Dates:

Feb. 16 Candidate Eligibility Announced
Feb. 18 Mandatory Meeting for qualified candidates 6 P.M.
CKNB 121
Feb. 20 Campaigning Starts
Feb. 22 Executive Debate BAS State Farm room 6 P.M.
March 2-4 Elections

For more information contact Patrick Mertes, Election Commissioner at 898-2537, sgaelect@mtsu.edu or come by the SGA office KUC 208 or visit the SGA website www.mtsu.edu/sga



SGA Gender Identity Bill

Students will also have the chance to vote in a special referendum concerning the Gender Identity Bill.

Section 3: The referendum will read:

"I support amending the Student Government Association's Constitution to add gender identity and expression to the non-discrimination policy. (Recognition of Basic Human Rights. Article II Section 2)."

**VOTE March 2-4
Via Pipeline**

Happy Valentine's Day from the Student Government Association!

SPORTS

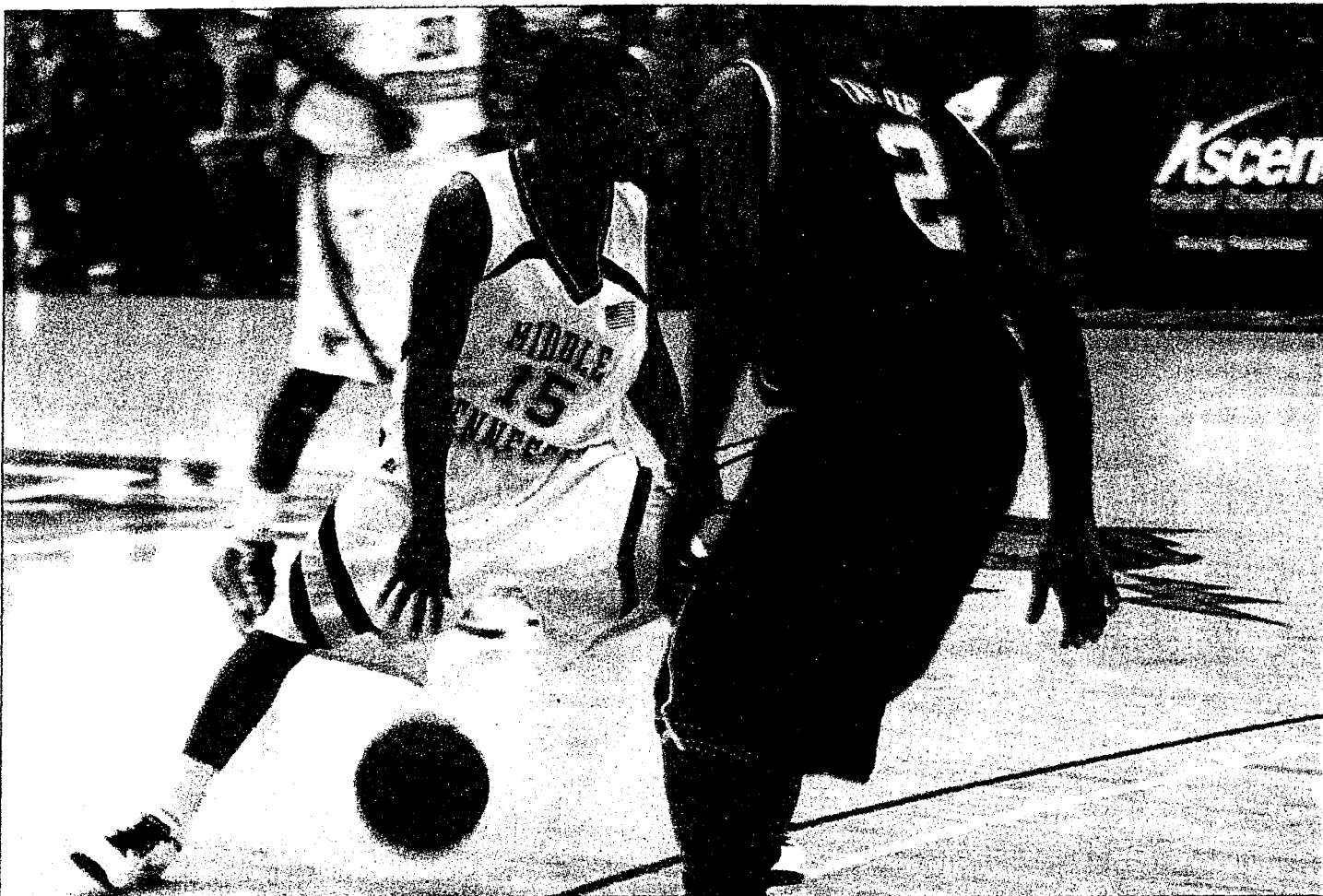


Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor
Blue Raider's junior guard James Washington dribbles down court against junior guard Vernon Taylor during MT's game against Troy University on Feb. 4 in the Murphy Center.

Blue Raiders begin final stretch

Men's basketball set to play Pioneers with 6 games left in season

By CASEY BROWN
Staff Writer

With two thirds of the conference schedule already in the books, Middle Tennessee is at the head of the Sun Belt pack.

The Blue Raiders still have plenty of work ahead of them, however, beginning with tonight's matchup against the Denver Pioneers at 7 p.m. in Murphy Center.

Denver enters the contest at 14-9, with a 7-5 mark in SBC play. This will be the only matchup between the two teams this season.

A critical 80-68 defeat of East Division rival South Alabama on Saturday improved MT's record to 14-11 overall, and 9-4 in conference. The Blue Raiders rebounded from a heartbreaking home loss to Troy a week ago, overcoming an early 22-6 deficit on the road.

Four players reached double figures

for MT on Saturday, including junior guard James Washington, who continued his recent spate of solid play, leading all scorers with 18 points.

The Pioneers helped propel MT to the top of the East Division on Saturday, defeating Florida Atlantic 73-63 and leaving the Blue Raiders in sole possession of first place. Denver was led by senior captain Nate Rohnert, who pumped in 25 points and eight rebounds to pace the Pioneers.

One interesting matchup could occur between a pair of productive freshmen. First-year guard Chase Hallam averages 8.5 points per game for DU, while Blue Raider freshman James Gallman has provided a spark off the bench, contributing 7.7 ppg in just over 21 minutes per contest.

Denver cruised to a 63-51 victory at Magness Arena in the teams' lone meeting last season, snapping a three-game

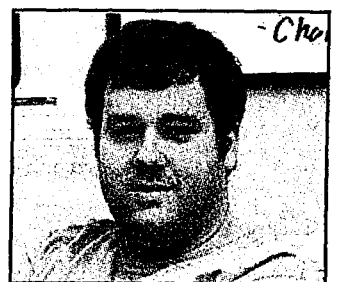
losing streak against MT. The Blue Raiders still own a 7-5 lead in the all-time series, though the Pioneers 3-4 record in Murfreesboro is their best against SBC teams on the road.

Among their conference brethren, MT leads the league in scoring defense (63.9), scoring margin (+3.9), free throw percentage (74.7) and defensive rebounding percentage (72.6). Denver is tops in the SBC in field goal percentage (49.9), assists (15.2), assist-to-turnover ratio (+1.3) and three-point field goals (7.9).

After tonight's game, the Blue Raiders will play host to Houston Baptist on Saturday, then head on the road for a rematch against Troy next Thursday. The regular season wraps up with a home game against South Alabama, and a road swing to Florida International and Florida Atlantic.

MLB's free agency stove fails to heat up

Despite the cold, rainy and snowy weather we've endured the past few weeks, I've got baseball on my mind. And with pitchers and catchers set to report to spring training next week, it's as good a time as any to reminisce about the offseason that was 2009-2010.



Useless Information

Stephen Curley

Most fans knew the free agent class was going to be pretty lackluster this year and doubted we were going to see many surprises. But that doesn't mean there weren't at least moments of...confusion.

The New York Mets dealt with their complete lack of a starting rotation after Johan Santana by signing...Jason Bay.

The Atlanta Braves decided it would be better to hinge its bullpen on two pitchers who will turn 40 soon in closer Billy Wagner and reliever Takashi Saito, apparently not learning anything from the previous John Smoltz and Tom Glavine situations.

The Florida Marlins actually spent money.

The Marlins signed ace pitcher Josh Johnson to a \$39 million contract

and second baseman Dan Uggla to a, by their standards, monstrous \$7.8 million deal for this season and apparently hope to extend him even further.

It wasn't all strange, though. The Philadelphia Phillies made arguably the biggest splash of the offseason, swapping one ace in Cliff Lee for another in Roy Halladay, in a three-team trade that sent Lee to the Seattle Mariners along with a frenzy of prospects heading in every direction.

To read more, visit us online.



www.mtsusidelines.com

Blue Raiders softball confident going into 2010

By STEPHEN CURLEY
Sports Editor

When the Blue Raider softball team takes to the field (weather permitting) Sunday, the disappointing 2009 campaign will be a distant memory and one the team hopes to build on for the future.

"We had a couple of major injuries two weeks out of the gate," head coach Sue Nevar said. "We spent the rest of the season trying to reiterate that it was going to be a tough season, but learn from it."

The team enters the 2010 season with a renewed sense of optimism, due in part to the return of senior center fielder Corrie Abel, who was on a roll early last season, hitting .310 before going down just 15 games in.

"[Abel] was one of the vocal leaders on the team, plus she was our hottest bat," Nevar said. "When we lost her, we lost a lot."

With Abel's return, however, comes the departure of third base-

To read more, visit us online.



man Martha Davis, who hit .296 with 30 RBIs in 2009. The gap left by Davis at third will be filled by freshman Kristi Marquez.

The Del Ray Beach, Fla., native comes to the Blue Raiders from Boca Raton High. She represented the Puerto Rican National Team at the Pan American Qualifier in Maracay, Venezuela.

"She's gonna get tested this year," Nevar said. "But I think Kristi can handle it."

Another key departure for the Blue Raiders was outfielder Shelby Garrett. The Mount Juliet native left to pursue more playing time elsewhere after filling in for Abel last season.

In addition to Abel's return, the Blue Raiders are welcoming back

pitcher Lindsay Vander Lugt for her senior year after dominating the previous two seasons, posting a 2.23 ERA both years and 84 complete games throughout her career at MT.

"Everybody associates MTSU and Lindsay Vander Lugt," Nevar said.

While Nevar said she acknowledges that Vander Lugt will be the pitcher she's counting on to carry the team, she feels confident in the depth behind Lugt in the rotation.

"She is a dominant, overbearing pitcher, but she's got some help this year," Nevar said.

That help will come in the form of freshman Janele Robinson and sophomore Katy Jutson.

Robinson comes to the Blue Raiders from Cumberland High School in Toledo, Ill., where she averaged 1.4 strikeouts per inning her senior year.

The power of Robinson's pitches along with Jutson's finesse has the Blue Raiders confident in trying a relatively unusual strategy for softball, closers.



File photo
Junior Outfielder Kelsi Dortch rounds the bases against North Texas.

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WHAT ARE YOUR VALENTINES DAY PLANS?

online TELL US ONLINE AT MTSUSIDELINES.COM

FEATURES



WHAT DID YOU DO FOR THE SUPERBOWL?
BASED ON VOTES FROM MTSUSIDELINES.COM.

Find the perfect V-Day gift

By EMMA EGLI
Features Editor

The day is quickly approaching; the day couples get giddy over, single people groan at the mention of and retailers everywhere anticipate. I'm talking about Valentine's Day people, and Hallmark's favorite day of the year is this Sunday.

A quick consensus has shown me that many students are either bitter or apathetic.

"I'll probably just go to Taco Bell if I'm feeling romantic," says Steven Qualls, a senior recording industry major.

Others refuse to participate in what they consider to be a corporate holiday.

"I'm not buying into that corporate scam," says Matthew Johnson, a freshman recording industry student.

So why is there all this abrasiveness towards a romantic holiday centered around love and compassion?

"It's like that Dane Cook joke," says Joel Herbert, a junior photography major. "When you don't have love, then everyone has it, and you just feel like everyone is having a fun time without you."

Ok, so obviously this holiday was not invented for single people. I mean, it was given the nickname single's awareness day for a reason.

"If you're not in a relationship and you're bitter about V-day, it's probably a good sign that you should put forth some sort of effort to find some affection," says Seth Graves, a sophomore global studies major.

Graves has a point. If you have a significant other, good for you. Revel in the fact that you get to dwell on your other half and whatnot. All you single people — you can sit at home this Valentine's Day being melancholy, eating tubs of ice cream and watching reruns of Scrubs, or you can be proactive and prove that this holiday doesn't have to be just for those annoying lovey-dovey couples.

What to do if you are single

All the single ladies (and dudes)! Why sit

in your room alone and depressed when you can be resentful and sarcastic with your other single friends? Or how about using this holiday to your advantage and asking someone out on a date if you can't stand the thought of being alone?

Throw an anti-V-day party

Gather that resentful bunch and celebrate the fact that you don't have to waste money on a boyfriend or girlfriend. Instead, use that money to provide yourselves with plenty of alcohol and let the good times roll. Watch the most obnoxious romantic comedies you can think of and every time something cheesy is said, take a drink.

Offer to be someone's Valentine

You've been checking out that girl in your psychology class all semester. You have both made eye contact and shyly looked away. Now is your chance to do something about this undeniable attraction — ask her out. This is the perfect day to make a move on someone because for some reason that can't be explained, everyone is looking for a Valentine. So why not be hers?

What to get your girlfriend

Gentlemen, let's face the facts. This holiday is a commercial free-for-all specifically centered on females. If your girlfriend says she doesn't care about V-day, she's lying.

"Valentine's Day is really just a traditionally granted opportunity for you to express your affection to someone in a special way," Graves says. "Even the manliest of men have a free pass to be romantic."

See? It's OK to show your sensitive side on this day and no one will judge you. And get this, you don't even have to go over the top to impress her. Trust me, just the fact that you are even acknowledging the holiday will get her all in a tizzy.

Write her a love letter

Leading online dating Web sites Date.com, Matchmaker.com and Amor.com polled members to see what their preferred V-day gifts were. A whopping 50 percent said a good ole' fashioned love letter is the most desired method

of expression. You don't have to get overly sentimental on her. Just a simple 'hey you're awesome, I'm pretty lucky to have you and don't we make an awesome couple?' will suffice.

Make her some grub

You could spend money on an expensive dinner at a restaurant that requires reservations a week in advance, or you could prove that you are a jack-of-all-trades and are fully capable of cooking. If you can't cook, even going to the grocery store and purchasing pre-made meals and presenting them in a fancy way shows you put forth some effort. And no, sticking a Big Mac on a plate does not count.

What to get your boyfriend

Ladies, if your boyfriend tells you he doesn't care about Valentine's Day, he's probably telling the truth. Unfortunately, this day is geared more towards the female. But admit it, you love rubbing it in your best friend's face the next day that your boy made you a romantic meal and doted on you. But hey, why not return the favor and do something special for him?

"Last year I received a ton of Japanese candy that [she] sponsored for me, and a romantic night in just watching some good movies," Graves reflects of the gifts his girlfriend got him.

Be creative

Why not make him something special? Get a picture of the two of you looking awesome together and frame it. Don't just stop at a picture — make an entire collage of all those movie ticket stubs, odds and ends or pictures you've been collecting. Sentimental and will

allow you both to reminisce on all those cute memories you two have made.

Make dessert

He made the dinner, why not bring something sweet to the table (heh). Make some killer brownies or cupcakes with 'I love you' in icing. It's cute and it's something you both will enjoy (especially if his dinner was a fiasco).

The History of Valentine's Day
Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men — his crop of potential soldiers. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.

History courtesy of The History Channel
history.com/content/valentine/history-of-valentine-s-day

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march	FREE CHICKEN SANDWICH BAS Buy-N-Fly	FREE 20OZ LEMONADE 	FREE CUP OF SOUP 	FREE TALL COFFEE 	FREE EGGROLL
april/may	FREE COOKIE 	FREE 8PC. NUGGET 	FREE REGULAR COFFEE 	FREE FRESH CUT FRY 	FREE 3PC. BUFFALO WING



'Edge of Darkness' predictable

Mel Gibson's new film leaves little to be desired, quintessentially another Gibson film

By MATTHEW HAMMITT
Contributing Writer

Director Martin Campbell's "Edge of Darkness" is the story of veteran Boston police detective Tom Craven (Mel Gibson) who sees his only child killed right before his eyes with a bullet he believes was intended for him.

This is a situation Gibson finds himself in with alarming frequency. Gibson has made a career winning over audiences by enacting revenge for things like the death of his wife ("Lethal Weapon"), son ("The Patriot"), wife and son ("Mad Max"), Scotland ("Braveheart"), and even himself... sort of ("Payback"). Based on Gibson's career trajectory, a lot about what is going to happen in "Edge of Darkness" can be inferred the instant his daughter is gunned down. Unfortunately, when I say "a lot," I am referring to the entire movie.

The film, an adaptation of a television serial of the same name that aired on the BBC in 1985, takes Craven on a blind scramble through a web of deception that reveals the target was his daughter instead of himself and that the motive behind her murder was that good ole' bastion of crowd-pleasing media fare, political corruption.

It seems the younger Craven became aware that the company she worked for was creating nuclear weapons for the government that could be detonated and traced to foreign terrorist cells. I can't tell how large a revelation this is supposed to be. I can't tell if the audience is supposed to be surprised by it. I can tell that no one in the theater seemed to feel that way.

Predictability is not a scarlet letter to be worn by simple and direct fare. But "Edge of Darkness" aspires to be something more. Screenwriter William Monahan ("The Departed") attempts to inject thematic weight into this routine revenge procedure. But it is the lightest weight you can imagine, and its conclusions seem wholly disingenuous.

The movie wears its ambitions on its sleeve. It desires to be a character piece about the ideological divide between people

who must reconcile their worldly position with their humanity and people who readily sacrifice their humanity to improve that secular position.

In the former camp, we have Craven, his daughter Emma (Bojana Novakovic "Drag Me To Hell"), and Darius Jedburgh (Ray Winstone "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull") a corporate clean up man with a guilty conscience who is hired to keep Craven's investigation into his daughter's death from harming the reputation of the lazy caricatures of corporate sleazeballs and political miscreants that constitute the 'bad guys.'

These are deep and conflicted characters. We know this because they brood, speak latin, and make over-extended anecdotal references to the works of F. Scott Fitzgerald. Monahan's screenplay is so desperately anxious to complicate these characters with useless philosophical accoutrement that it leaves the members of the audience feeling manipulated. This only distances them from characters they are pre-

disposed to root for.

Primary among these three-dimensional pieces of cardboard is Jedburgh, whose unclear allegiance complicates Craven's search for the truth. He is portrayed as being sympathetic to Craven's situation; this sympathy manifests itself in Jedburgh allowing Craven's investigation to continue long beyond the timeframe desired by his employers.

However, the outcomes of Jedburgh's decisions are less surprising than a coin flip. Any character development the film provides is merely a distraction and a fragile attempt to convince the audience that they do not know where this is going the second Mel Gibson appears onscreen.

This is not to say there are not enjoyable qualities to this film because there are. Director Campbell ("Casino Royale") has a way with visually-arresting action sequences that give even the most ludicrous punctuations of violence some pulse-quickening value.

Gibson gives a performance that, while not revelatory, makes us pine for the days before we knew the man who gave us Mar-

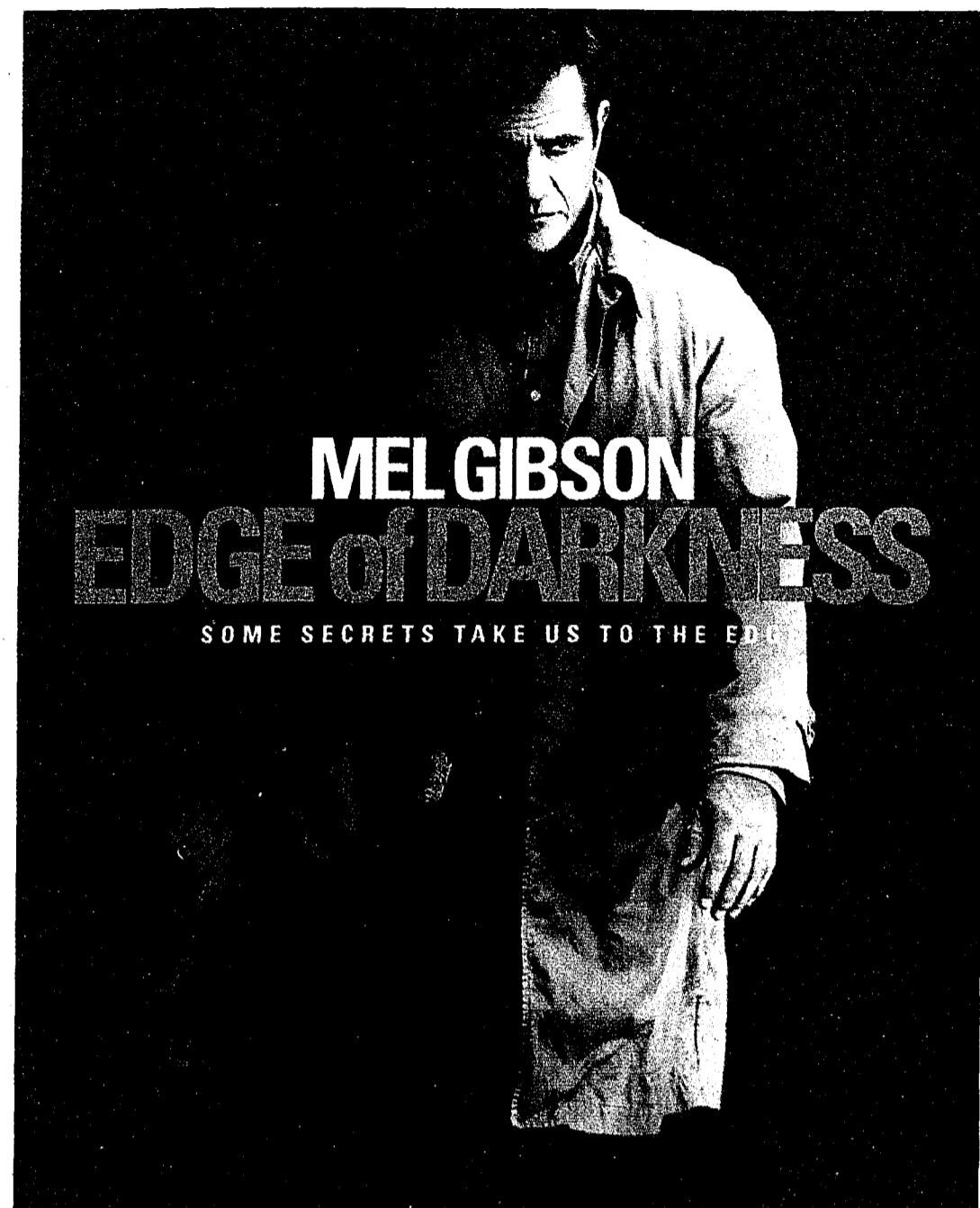


Photo courtesy of IGN Images

tin Riggs was a whiskey-soaked anti-Semite. It's a performance that reminds us how fun it can be to watch Gibson in a movie that wants us to have any.

What we get here instead is an action movie that is too serious to be likeable, and a socio-political thriller that is too stupid to be believable. It's a rare accomplishment of hollowness that is spread across two genres.

Halfway through "Edge of Darkness," Jedburgh visits his doctor during a fight with a terminal illness that he is losing. The doctor shines a light in the man's eyes while examining him.

"Do you see a soul?" Jedburgh asks.

After having gazed attentively into the eyes of Campbell's superficially tormented revenge film for two hours, I have to say that the answer is "No."

MOVIE REVIEW

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