

# MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

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## More staff take buyout option

### Budgetary issues push more MTSU faculty, staff to take buyout plans than expected

By MATTHEW HAMMITT  
Staff Writer

MTSU approved 122 voluntary buyout applications for the employee program to address the university's budgetary concerns and reduce the likelihood of involuntary job loss in the future.

The state mandated that the university must cut \$19.3 million from its budget by July 11, 2011. Initial estimates predicted that 69 buyout packages would be accepted and granted. Based on those estimates, the buyouts were projected to contribute \$4.7 million toward that goal.

John Cothorn, senior vice president of

MTSU, said the number of buyout applications nearly doubled. He said the 122 employees who accepted the buyout totaled seven more than the maximum number the university originally said would be accepted.

"The buy-out was a god-send for me," said David Eason, journalism professor who has taught at MTSU since 1991. "I have been ready to go for a couple of years."

Thirty-eighty faculty members, 27 administrative and professional staff and 57 hourly employees accepted the buyout.

Cothorn said as it stands, the elimination of all 122 positions could save the university upwards of \$8 million dollars, but that

number will likely be reduced once the affected departments reorganize and determine whether open positions will need to be refilled.

"Some positions may be downgraded and filled, also, other employees may be assigned additional duties to cover what the buyout positions had been performing [which may result in] some salary adjustment," Cothorn said. "So you may not have 100 percent savings for each buyout."

The voluntary buyout program has temporarily prevented the university from having to lay off employees, but job loss remains a possible consequence of not making the

required cuts to the school's budget over the next year.

"Facing the budget cuts in a state that has never made an abundance of funds for education, building and maintaining quality programs is going to be a struggle," Eason said. "It's a good time to be retiring."

Cothorn said MTSU arrived at this position as a result of decreased state funding, which totaled \$100.9 million for the 2007-08 school year and has been intermittently reduced. The university received \$75.8 million in state funds this year and anticipates \$69 million in funds.

BUYOUT, PAGE 2



Chris Donahue, staff photographer

Students help support Haitian victims last Thursday at a back sale sponsored by Raiders Against Animal Cruelty, among others.

## Bake sale for Haiti brings students together

By ROZALIND RUTH, MATTHEW HAMMITT  
Community News Editor, Staff Writer

A coalition of student-led organizations held a bake sale on campus last Thursday with profits and donations going toward relief efforts in Haiti.

Raiders Against Animal Cruelty spearheaded the effort in conjunction with Students for Environmental Action, Young Americans for Liberty, the Student Dietetic Society and the Alpha Omicron Pi Fraternity.

All proceeds from the bake sale will be donated to Haiti relief funds through organizations chosen at the discretion of the individual student groups.

RAAC member Kenny Torrella, senior recording industry major, arranged the sale by contacting organizations he was acquainted with on campus.

Galadriel Robinson, a member of Young Americans for Liberty, said the spirit of cooperation among the groups involved bolstered the philanthropic effort.

"It makes us all stronger when we get involved in an effort like this with other people," Robinson said.

For Torrella, raising money for Haiti relief was motivated by simple human courtesy.

"If a tragedy of that magnitude happened [here in the United States], we would be extremely grateful if other countries helped us out," Torrella said. "So I believe we should extend that assistance to those in need right now."

Torrella said the different organizations' proceeds would be going to different charities of choice, meaning that each student group baked, sold and collected money for the charity of its choice.

AOPi planned to donate proceeds from its section of the bake sale to a local church fund for Haiti.

"Right now they're in need, and anything small that we can do, any kind of money can help," said Heather Rawson, senior business major, vice president of the Student Government Association and member of

AOPi. "If you have the manpower to do it, why not?"

Rawson said she liked the fact that many different types of organizations were participating in the bake sale.

"There's no point in having four separate tables, and we enjoy the company," Rawson said. "I think it brings us together more when you work with other organizations on campus - it's a stronger effort and shows support."

The other student organizations involved in the donated to The American Red Cross and UNICEF.

Andrea Huffman, senior educational and behavioral science major and member of the Student Dietetic Association, said that SDA has worked with RAAC before on other events and thinks it's cool that student groups have banded together.

"It makes a bigger difference when you have other people and other organizations," Huffman said. "It makes it look like a bigger deal and makes more of an effort for everybody to donate."

## Morales takes plea bargain

STAFF REPORT

A plea bargain was accepted last Monday by Rutherford County general sessions court for Michaela Morales, a former MTSU student who assaulted minister John McGlone Oct. 27, 2009.

Morales plead guilty to simple assault, which is a class A misdemeanor.

Among the stipulations of Morales's plea bargain, she must not directly or indirectly contact the victim or the victim's family, she is required to complete 24 hours of community service to be completed in six months and pay McGlone restitution of \$80, which according to court documents "only reflects Mr. McGlone's out-of-pocket expenses."

The court gave Morales a year of probation, which will be "supervised probation until special conditions are met."

The altercation happened at approximately 2:45 p.m. Oct. 27 on the knoll in front

of the Keathley University Center when, according to an MTSU police arrest report, Morales was seen pushing McGlone.

McGlone and other members of PinPoint Ministries were attempting to witness to a group of visibly angry students while standing on the terraced section near the building.

"I responded to a disturbance call at the Keathley University Center knoll area along with several other officers," said Sgt. Misty White of MTSU police in her report. "We were advised that several subjects were preaching and putting their fingers in people's faces."

In an affidavit of complaint filed by Officer White, she said, "I then observed a female, later identified as Michaela Morales, push one of the speakers, John McGlone, causing him to fall down the stairway and strike a trashcan."

Neither Morales nor McGlone were available to comment.



Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor  
Sgt. Misty White leads Michaela Morales in for questioning on Oct. 27 after an altercation on the KUC Knoll.

Read updated information as it arrives. Online at [mtsusidelines.com](http://mtsusidelines.com)

### INDEX

Opinions page 4

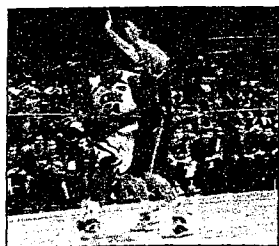
Sports page 5

Features pages 6, 7, 8



"Valentine's Day" star-drenched cast doesn't fill expectations.

PAGE 7



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### MONDAY FORECAST

SNOW SHOWERS  
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HIGH 28, LOW 21

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I detest 'love lyrics.' I think one of the causes of bad mental health in the United States is that people have been raised on 'love lyrics.'"  
Frank Zappa

# Meet and 'green' power plant on campus

## Students given opportunity to learn about sustainable power, facilities

By ROZALIND RUTH  
Community News Editor

Joe Whitefield, executive director of Facilities Services Department and director of the Center for Energy Efficiency, plans to hold a lecture for students interested in the actions taken by the MTSU Facilities Services Department in order to make campus more self-sustainable in its energy production.

The lecture is planned for 6 p.m. Thursday in the conference room on the second floor of The MTSU Cogeneration Plant, located on Champion Way.

Whitefield said he would like to have the opportunity to answer questions one-on-one, share information and collect feedback from a larger group of concerned students.

Whitefield is set to present basic information on the maintenance and projects on campus, which affect the sustainability of energy on campus. This may lead to a question and answer session or a tour of the cogeneration plant by Whitefield.

"It's a smaller scale thing for students that want to be committed and really do want to learn about this type of thing," said Charles White, senior anthropology major and member of Students for Environmental Action.

Whitefield said he decided to have the meet-

ing so more students who are interested in the sustainable utilities on campus would have the chance to understand the procedures and policies in place and being worked on.

"A lot of times students will critique the system before they understand it, so this is a way to help us understand it a little better," White said.

White said that until recently he did not know very much about many aspects of the sustainability projects on campus, but said he feels what he has learned has been very important.

"When students come with ideas or projects, I always appreciate a student that's done some homework and understands the situation instead of just saying 'hey we need all of this' and they haven't really figured out what we have or haven't already done," Whitefield said.

Justin Miller, senior environmental science major, is involved in a green power project on campus. He said he thought Whitefield's advice was very resourceful when he and other students were working on an anaerobic digester, which will convert fumes from cow manure into fuel.

"I'm looking forward to what Joe has to say and hearing what SEA members are doing - get some ideas of what we can do in the future," Miller said. "I think it'll be really productive."

Each semester students pay a sustainable campus fee, or



Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor  
Joe Whitefield, executive director of Facilities Services Department and director of the Center for Energy Efficient, gives a tour of MTSU's Central Utility Plant on campus earlier this semester.

"green fee" which, according to the Bursar's office Web site, was created by a "student referendum initiated by students to pay a fee to support MTSU's participation in the TVA Green Power Switch program and clean energy initiatives on campus."

According to the Center for Energy Efficiency, a branch of the FSD, the center promotes energy efficiency and environmental awareness through initiatives like data loggers, which

monitor energy performance in buildings around campus and the Facility Energy Decision System, software which makes it easier for energy data from meters to be calculated for baseline information.

"I'm more than willing to do it," Whitefield said. "It's not limited to SEA, if other groups or individuals say 'Hey, I'd just like to know about the heating or the cooling or metering or what goes on campus.'"

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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

### BUYOUT FROM PAGE 1

Cothorn said that because the university has been able to supplement state funds through additional federal money acquired via the American Recovery & Restoration Act and state money issued from Maintenance of Effort Funds, it has been able to match the state funding from 2007.

However, Cothorn said those funds would be depleted at the beginning of the 2011-12 fiscal year, making the need for the budget cut dead-

line of July 1, 2011, even more necessary.

According to the university Web site, registration increased 4 percent in the fall of 2009 over the previous year. The 38 faculty positions bought out result in a 4 percent decrease in full time faculty.

Doug Mesich, senior pharmacy major, said he has concerns that the reorganization process may compromise the interactivity afforded to both students and professors at MTSU.

"I cannot imagine that the growth in the student body coupled with the reduction

in faculty won't affect classroom size," Mesich said. "I certainly don't feel that [the larger classes I've taken] have been as effective as the smaller ones."

Cothorn said the voluntary buyout program is only one part of the Positioning the University for the Future Initiative. The program was implemented by President Sidney McPhee to research and provide solutions to guide the university through its forthcoming budgetary concerns and to strengthen the institution in the long term.

According to a flexible

timetable for the Positioning the University for the Future Initiative, the university will be seeking campus feedback regarding the process until March 1, at which point Diane Miller, interim executive vice president and provost, will develop a restructuring proposal to be submitted for review to McPhee on April 1.

The initiative invites members of the MTSU community to submit suggestions on this process. Those suggestions can be submitted to the steering committee by going to [mtsu.edu/strategic/suggestions.shtml](http://mtsu.edu/strategic/suggestions.shtml).

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# Offices unite for more services

## June Anderson Women's Center set to join forces with Off-Campus Student Services

By TAYLOR HIXSON  
Staff Writer

Workers and volunteers at June Anderson Women's Center are trying to keep a positive outlook as budget cuts force the center to combine with Off-Campus Student Services.

Terri Johnson, director of the JAWC, said the women's center and OCSS have been working with Positioning the University for the Future Initiative for more than a year and are conducting assessments of their student programs.

"You can't personalize budget cuts, but preparing ourselves has helped," Johnson said. "There was a lot of difficulty, but in the end, I think we came out stronger."

Johnson said nothing could be done about the consolidation or the budget cuts, but as long as the women's center continues to offer programs that help people and June Anderson's legacy is honored, the office will thrive.

The women's center, which is located on the second floor of the James Union Building, helps over 2,500 students and members of the community each year and offers a variety of programs ranging from a book club to legal services.

OCSS said it delivers services to students living away from campus, students who commute to school and "students who work full-time, are married, have children or other responsibilities beyond their college experience."

Johnson said no matter what the new office is called or where it is located, the services and quality of the programs are the most important.

"It is important for people to know that when they come into the office they are in a safe place," Johnson said.

Johnson said it has been a strategic process that brought out the best in what both offices have to offer, and the consolidation of the women's center and OCSS will bring in more opportunities for students and more services to help them.

Johnson said she thinks consolidating the two offices will make the services for nontraditional students more well-round-

ed, and the quality of the women's center and the core programs offered will not be affected.

Carol Ann Baily, director of OCSS, said when the two offices merge it will help create programs that are more collaborative and targeted at nontraditional students.

"We will go through a period of transition and a period of talking to students and doing surveys that will determine what the new office will do," Baily said.

The JAWC and OCSS help a large number of nontraditional students and provide a pleasant atmosphere for students to do homework, interact and relax. However, OCSS also helps a large number of nontraditional male students, Baily said.

"It will be a real creative exchange, but it is a good opportunity for men to volunteer with the women's center," Baily said.

Allison Lay, senior liberal arts major, said she hopes the consolidation will break the stigma of the center being strictly for women and help open the door for more men to get involved.

"Feminism is nothing to be scared of, we welcome men to join in," Lay said.

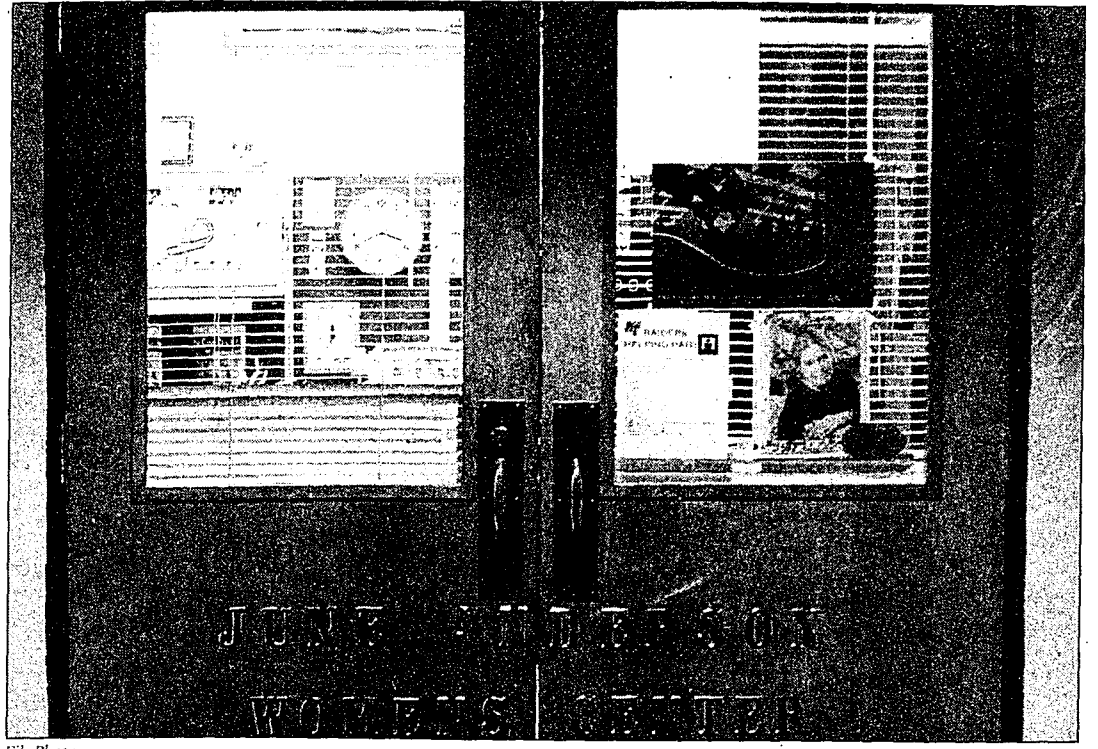
Lay said she thinks the consolidation will strengthen both offices because a function or program will constantly be happening on campus that is sponsored by the new office.

Kalandrian Davis, junior liberal arts student and worker at the JAWC, said she is aware of the consolidation, but doesn't think it will affect the mission of the women's center or the impact of the programs. She said the center is helpful whether you are a male or female.

"It's good to come to a place where people understand you," Davis said. "It's also a place where I can be open about women's issues."

Throughout all the changes and talks of consolidation, Johnson said she did her best to make sure budget officials were aware of the programs and services necessary and beneficial to MTSU students.

"When people see a women's center they know they can get support and help," Johnson said. "People can also come here to relax and bond with other people in the office."



File Photo

June Anderson Women's Center is set to combine with Off-Campus Student Services due to budgetary constraints the university proposed this option in an effort to prepare for cuts.

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## CURRENT EVENTS

**We Shall not be Moved: 50th Anniversary of Tenn. Civil Rights Sit-Ins**  
Feb. 4 to May 16  
Location: Tennessee State Museum

**"Heroes: Mortals and Myths in Ancient Greece"**  
Feb. 11, 7 p.m.  
Location: Frist Center for the Visual Arts

Admission: free with purchase of gallery admission

**The Last Straw**  
Feb. 12, 8 p.m.  
Location: 527 Main Street

Admission: \$3 with student ID, 18 & up

**Valentine Swag Party "Donations for Hearts for Haiti"**  
Feb. 12, 7 p.m.  
Location: Rockettown

Admission: \$5 for ladies, \$7 for guys

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

Admission: \$10 per person

**The Black Eyed Peas**  
Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m.  
Location: Sommet Center

Admission: \$12 in advance, \$15 at the

door

**Films at the Frist: "Helen of Troy"**  
Feb. 12, 7 p.m.  
Location: Frist Center for the Visual Arts

Admission: free with purchase of gallery admission

**Panty Raid! Valentine's Day Show**  
Feb. 13, 8 p.m.  
Location: Exit/In

Admission: \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door, 18 and up

**Nashville Opera Community Performance**  
Feb. 13, 2 p.m.  
Location: The Parthenon

Admission: \$5

**Guilty Pleasures**  
Feb. 13, 9:30 p.m.  
Location: Mercy Lounge

Admission: \$12

**Rick Springfield**  
Feb. 13 to 14, 7 p.m.  
Location: Wildhorse Saloon

Admission: \$25

**"Best of Country" Dinner & Show**  
Feb. 14, 5:30 p.m.  
Location: Nashville Nightlife Theater

Admission: \$39.95 per person

Admission: \$39.95 per person

**"Jazz on the Move - From Ella with Love" Sandra Dudley**  
Feb. 14, 3 p.m.  
Location: Frist Center for the Visual Arts

Admission: free with purchase of gallery admission

**"Through the Collector's Eye"**  
Feb. 16 to March 4  
Location: The Todd Art Gallery at MTSU

Admission: free

**"Living Her Life Out Loud" Christie Williams**  
Feb. 18, 3 to 4 p.m.  
Location: SunTrust Room of the BAS Building at MTSU

Admission: free

### Events Policy

Sidelines welcomes current campus and community events submitted by all readers. Please e-mail events to slnews@mtsu.edu or stcampus@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.

*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.

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For an application and details, drop by our office in Mass Comm, room 269.  
Deadline is Feb. 15, 2010.  
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## Letters Policy

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to [slopinio@mtsu.edu](mailto: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.

## Statistics don't always tell whole truth

Trusting scientific methodology sometimes a roll of the dice



It is undeniable that humanity tries to find objective proof for what it values to be true. Generally, people utilize methods and systems of thought that are believed to be relatively free of human biases and error in order to obtain such objective proof; statistics is one of these many methods.

As a second-year graduate student in experimental psychology who will (hopefully) obtain his master's degree by the end of the semester, I can say with certainty that I am fairly familiar with the basic computations and general purpose of statistics; I am also aware of its absolute importance in obtaining scientific facts from data.

It really does seem as if statistics alone is the very foundation of scientific validity. One might think that this



## An outlier's voice

Guy Anderson

would be empiricism instead, but one often forgets that our concrete senses and perceptions are highly fallible – in truth, only mathematics can provide us with evidence concerning the connections and correlations between the ideas and objects that the numbers represent.

However, statistics really isn't as objective or as perfect as we would like for it

to be: While the computations behind statistics are fairly sound, in the end, they do not determine the significance of the data. Instead, the observers do.

As anyone who has paid attention in undergraduate statistics could tell you, the significance of statistical results lies in what is called the "alpha level," which is pretty much always set by the individual.

Generally, the alpha level is set at .05, meaning that if a certain something happens less than or equal to five times out of a hundred, then it is deemed to be an insignificant happening and is pretty much ignored with whatever function or situation that the computations are involved with.

This may go to show that while statistics itself may very

well be independent from subjectivity, the very significance derived from statistics is highly subjective. While there is general consensus that .05 is the appropriate alpha level for most statistical computations, there are instances where .01 or less is chosen, or where a value larger than .05 is deemed to be more appropriate.

This is largely determined by the cost and benefits of the consequences; for instance, if one was to be doing medical research, an alpha level of .01 – or even .001 – would be more appropriate to reduce the chance of accidentally killing someone or being charged with malpractice.

If such significance was truly objective, wouldn't it rely on an immutable absolute instead of being dependent on various situations sim-

ply because the researchers in question deem it to be appropriate? With the ideal in mind, science should be impersonal and free from the biasness and error that human perception and judgment provide (or at least it should provide some way of countering such biasness).

Yet the alpha level seems to be fairly contrary to that. There is also the whole thing about how statistics can really only tell you if something is a significant indicator or predictor of something; that correlation does not equal causation; that statistical "proof" is really more abstract than concrete.

One really only needs to pick up and read "The Black Swan" by Nassim Nicholas Taleb in order to grasp the general truth that the most important

things that happen in the world are those that are either failed to be predicted due to the instance's probability being deemed insignificant, or were impossible to predict in the first place. And you probably already knew that, anyway.

In short, it is human nature to adhere to and glorify a method or system of thought as being infallible and ultimately reliable in the effort of finding the truth in this world. In reality, though, methods and systems truly aren't, simply because they always end up being the subject of human judgment in the end. Statistics is just one of many such things.

Guy Anderson is a graduate student in experimental psychology. He can be reached at [gaa2d@mtsu.edu](mailto:gaa2d@mtsu.edu).

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Rise in sexual abuse against military women appalling

I am writing to let you know about an issue that I think needs discussing. The amount of sexual abuse that is allowed to happen to women in the military is appalling and more attention needs to be made to this issue.

There is a Facebook group dedicated to raising awareness and *The New York Times* has also done an article. (These links are available at [www.mtsusidelines.com](http://www.mtsusidelines.com).)

Jay Johnson, sophomore liberal arts major

Sidelines opinions page  
[Sahyd-lahyns uh-pin-yuhns pey]

—noun

1. A section within the semiweekly publication *Sidelines*, based in Murfreesboro, Tenn., that provides a voice for those who are in some way associated with Middle Tennessee State University and the outlying community. The editors of the section are known for urging those with opinions to e-mail them to [slopinio@mtsu.edu](mailto:slopinio@mtsu.edu) and include their names and phone numbers for verification.



By Kyle Patterson  
Staff cartoonist

"Seattle Spew"

[megapencil5@yahoo.com](mailto:megapencil5@yahoo.com)

## Tragedy echoing like a bell in the dark

Shooting at University of Alabama at Huntsville bring questions about freedom and protection

I have always considered myself a champion of the Constitution, but after recent events, I am seriously debating how I feel about the security enclosed in the Second Amendment.

On Friday, a terrible tragedy befell the faculty and community at the University of Alabama-Huntsville. Amy Bishop, a professor of biology at the UAH, could face the death penalty for her actions in the alleged shooting her colleagues; all because she allegedly did not receive her tenure.

While the event is no doubt a rare occasion and a terrible tragedy, it concerns me that a simple action, which could happen in any university – especially with the current economic situation, could change the face of any academic situation.

Imagine, if you will, the intense state of shock these fac-



## Cheers!

Dustin Evans

ulty members are feeling now that there is blood splattered all around the place where they work – a place that is so close to their heart, it could be considered a second home.

This home-like feeling is probably the same feeling that pushed Bishop off the "normal" path of behavior in the first place.

Resonance of gunshots and screams are all that these people will hear as they try to sleep at night.

Yesterday, BBC News reported that Bishop shot her brother in the chest 24 years ago, when he was only 18-years-old. We clearly cannot go inside Bishop's head to find out what was happening back then, but we can examine the rationale in permitting her to carry firearms afterwards.

While it is easy to say that laws prevent people from bringing firearms on campuses and keep registration of weapons in check, the reality is that there could be numerous weapons out there in the hands of those mentally incapable of handling such a responsibility.

I would never suggest amending the Constitution. Such a thing would be the gravest mistake our country could make. Especially when tackling human rights issues.

But in a country where "all men are created equal," it is apparent that certain individuals, like homosexuals, are treated

unequally even though their civil rights are explicitly stated in writing on the most sacred document in this country.

Is it not safe to say that certain regulations could be created and enforced without infringing on the rights of Americans, especially since we blatantly deny rights to individuals as it is?

Imagine if every faculty member were bearing arms in the faculty meeting – every single one of them. Imagine what situations could have arisen.

Thankfully no others were harmed in the making of this terrible tragedy. However, stray bullets cause sudden deaths in numerous situations, even those who would never seem to turn violent.

What can we do as citizens to better prepare ourselves for a brighter and more secure future? How can we truly feel safe when it is not clear who has a fully loaded temper problem?

I am not sure how I feel about our important right to bear arms, but I know that none of us should be afraid to live on a campus with budget cuts.

Dustin Evans is a senior organizational and communication major. He can be reached at [smanage@mtsu.edu](mailto:smanage@mtsu.edu)

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# SPORTS

## Raiders win over Houston Baptist Washington sets school record for 3-pointers in a single game Saturday

By STEPHEN CURLEY  
Sports Editor

Junior guard James Washington set the school record for 3-pointers in a single game, nailing 10 of 17 from beyond the arch to give the Blue Raiders a commanding 109-79 win over Houston Baptist University Saturday.

The new record shatters the previous one held by Robert "Cat-Eye" Taylor, who made eight 3-pointers in a single game.

Washington also became the first Blue Raider to score more than 33 points in a game since 1994, contributing 34 points along with eight assists. The only shots Washington took that weren't 3-pointers were four made free throws.

**"I was really surprised. My eyes got even bigger every time, so I just stepped into my shots."**

JAMES WASHINGTON  
BLUE RAIDER JUNIOR GUARD

"It was a big game because we won, first of all," Washington said. "I think we have so much momentum coming in on the last stretch to win the championship."

The 109-point effort was the highest-scoring game under head coach Kermit Davis, and the first time a team of his has hit the century mark.

"That was one of the best performances from a guard shooting the ball I've ever had," Davis said.

Joining Washington in double digits were senior forward Desmond Yates, freshman forward JT Sulton and freshman guard James Gallman with 20, 12 and 12, respec-

tively. Yates also contributed five steals.

The Blue Raiders, despite falling behind quickly in the first half, controlled the tempo, especially in the paint, where the team did not allow the Pioneers to grab a single offensive rebound.

Washington started the game hitting three of his first seven attempts from 3-point range, contributing to the Blue Raiders already having a large lead at half-time, 55-39.

The second half would be the highlight of his night. Washington proceeded to go 7-10 in the next 20 minutes, seemingly wide open for every attempt with no real effort from HBU to stop him.

"I was really surprised," Washington said. "My eyes got even bigger every time, so I just stepped into my shots."

As a team, the Blue Raiders went 15-33 from beyond the arch, with Gallman adding three of his own.

"I owe a lot to my teammates," Washington said.

As part of its attempt to control the pace of the

game, MT forced a season high 30 turnovers. The team capitalized on those turnovers thoroughly, scoring 36 points off of them while not allowing the Pioneers to score off of any of the 10 turnovers they surrendered.

"It was a good non-conference win, and the next two weeks will be really critical for us," Davis said.

After a tough loss at home to the Trojans, MT will look to rebound and keep its position atop the Sun Belt Conference.

The Blue Raiders return to conference play Thursday when they travel to face off against Troy University in Troy, Ala.

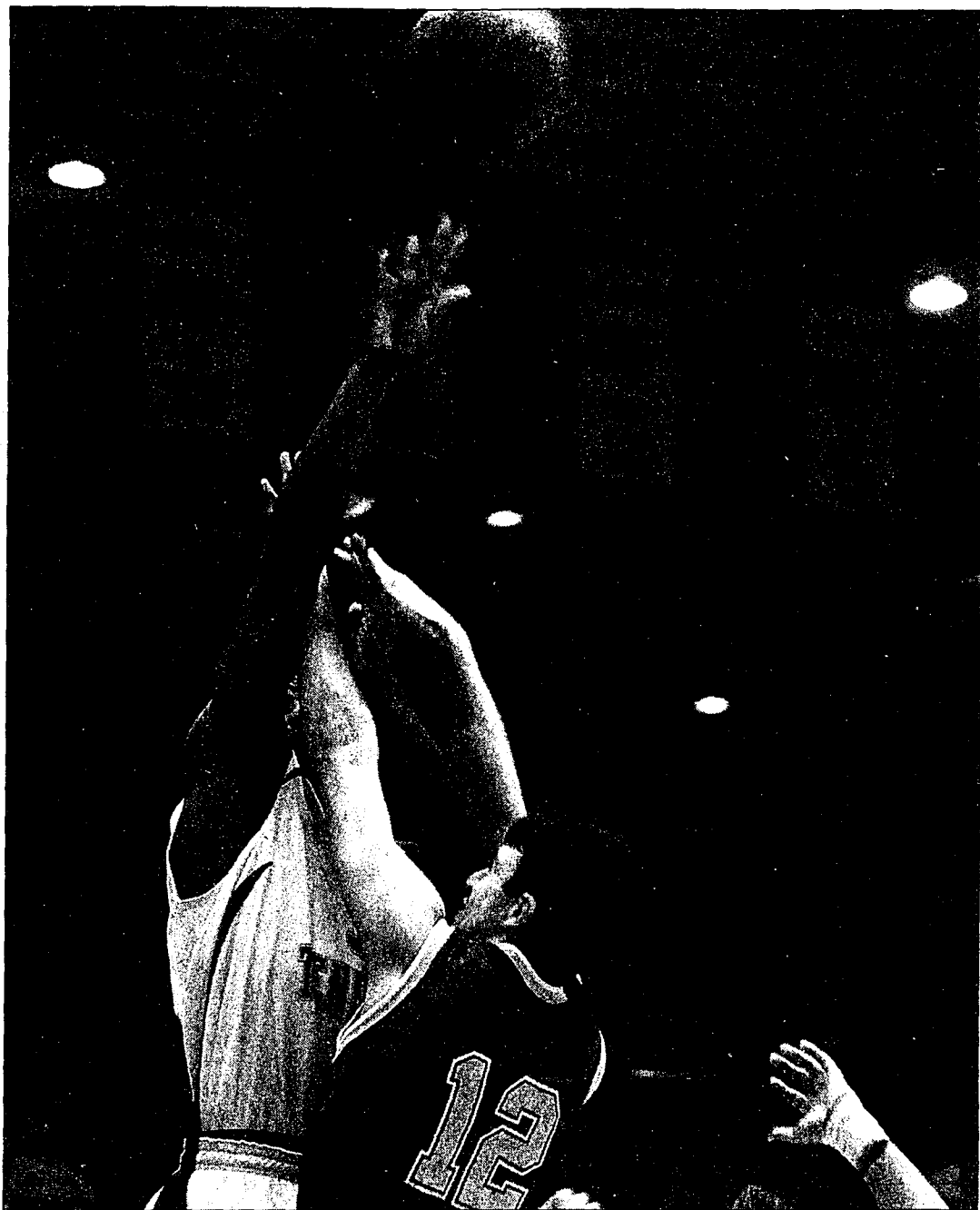


Photo by Brennan Sparta, staff photographer  
Senior forward Desmond Yates goes for a jump shot against Houston Baptist junior guard Michael Moss.

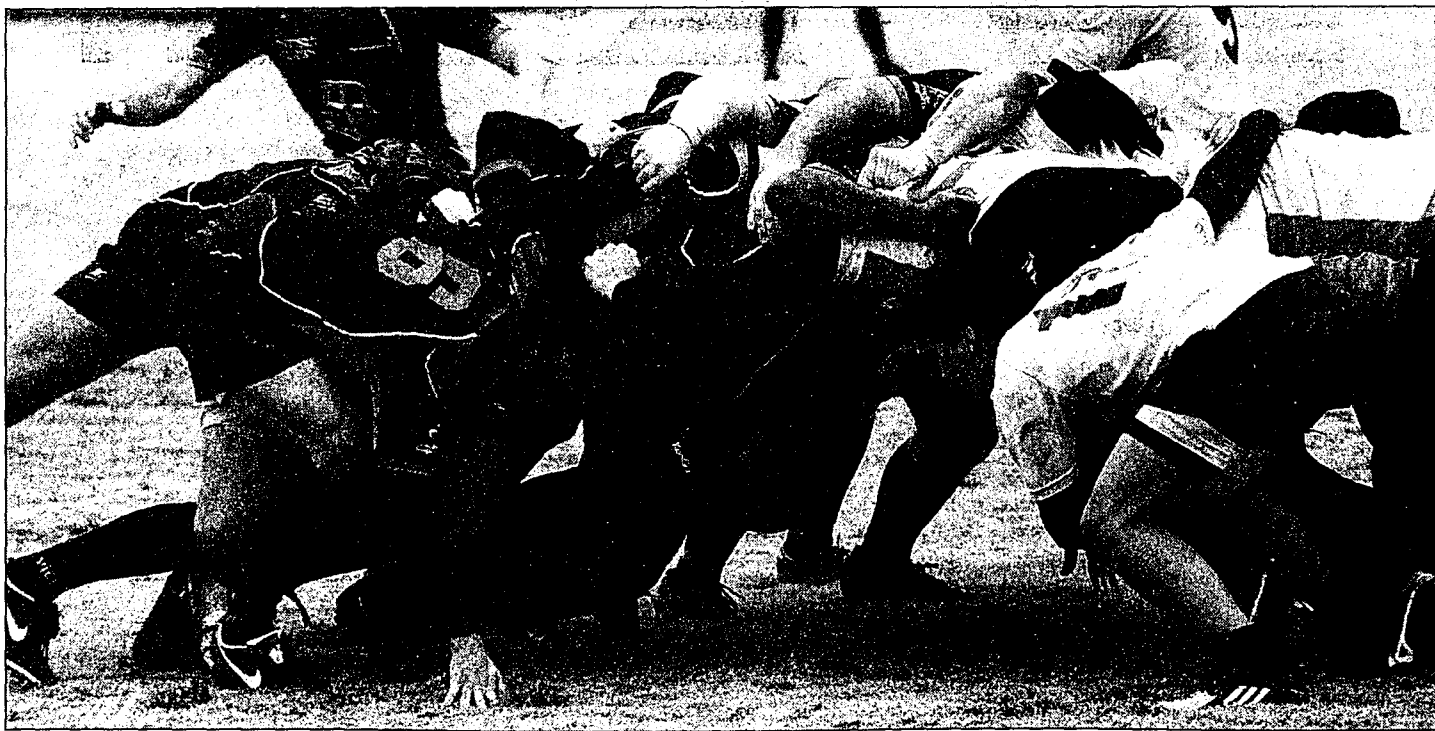


Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor  
The MT men's rugby team fights for the ball during a scrum against Georgia Tech on Saturday.

## Men's rugby team falls 16-7

By JACOB WELLS  
Contributing Writer

A kickoff temperature of 37 degrees did not keep a large crowd from watching the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets on Saturday pummel the Blue Raiders 16-7.

The Blue Raiders drew first blood when James Dulaney powered his way into the end zone for the first try of the match. Jared Owen tacked on the PAT, giving the Raiders a 7-0 lead.

The Yellow Jackets then scored on two penalty kicks, making the score 7-6. A near try by Jared Owen before the half expired would have given MT the lead, barring the point-after try. The play was called back, however, when the referee called Owen out of bounds.

"He made a run for the line, the guy just had a good angle on him, and right before he got it in there to get the ball down, the guy hit him and he stepped on the sideline, so he never got the ball down," said Jody Hensley, head coach for the Blue Raiders. "It was a good call — we just didn't get the ball down like we should have."

With only seconds remaining in the first half, Georgia Tech drove down the pitch and kept MT from gaining possession of the ball. The result was a loose ball being picked up in the end zone by Tech as time expired.



Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor  
MT player fights off Georgia Tech's defense at Saturday's game against the Yellow Jackets.

The PAT was good, leaving the score 13-7 in favor of the Yellow Jackets.

At halftime, Hensley told his team to bring more pressure.

"When we put good pressure on them, we made them make mistakes and that is when we scored," Hensley said. "After we scored, we kind of went to sleep, and then it was all them the rest of the half."

After a quick halftime huddle, the teams switched sides and resumed the battle. Georgia Tech controlled the line-outs and scrums, wearing down the Blue Raiders. Midway through the second half, Georgia Tech kicked for post, making the score 16-7.

That would be the final score, as the

Yellow Jackets played for ball control and time of possession for the remainder of the match.

Jared Owen received a penalty in the second half, resulting in a 10-minute stay in the sin bin. That forced MT to play with 14 men at a time in the half when they needed his athleticism the most. To that point, Owen had been the initiator of most of the Blue Raiders' offense.

Despite the loss, the Blue Raiders will look to improve their record next Saturday at home against Nashville. The game starts at 1 p.m. in the MTSU Sports Club Complex and admission is free.

## Raiders win by numbers

The numbers the Lady Raiders are putting up recently are sending a reminder of why they were ranked in the top 25 to start the season, and the overwhelming favorites to win the Sun Belt Conference.

The Lady Raiders last loss was on Jan. 9 at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock. It was an ugly game for the Big Blue because they didn't hit a 3-point basket for the first time ever under head coach Rick Insell, and Chastity Reed controlled the game completely with her passing to the tune of 10 assists.

Apparently that was the wake-up call the Lady Raiders needed.

Since that point, the Raiders are on a nine-game winning streak, and that's the least impressive number. Simply put, the stats put up in this winning streak are staggering.

Remember how the girls didn't hit a 3-pointer in Little Rock? They've hit at least nine in every game since, and are averaging 12.2 triples per game. For those of you who struggle with math, that's on average 36 points per game from the great beyond.

Which brings us to the next number, which is nearly three times that, 91. That would be the Lady Raiders scoring average over the nine wins.

Typically in conference play, games get closer because the opponents are familiar. However, because the Raiders played such a difficult non-conference schedule (including three top 10 teams, and the defending national runner-up), conference games have seemed easier for the team.



### Basketball Buzz

Craig Hoffman

In the words of freshman point guard Kortni Jones, "We're rolling right now."

On top of scoring massive amounts of points, the Raiders daunting full court press is working its magic.

Teams can't get the ball across half-court, and when they do, they can't score.

The Raiders are turning teams over 30.3 times per game. There isn't a way to quantify how absurdly large that number is, so for comparison, just know the Raiders are only turning it over 15.1 times per game.

Once again, for those of you who struggle with math, that is indeed less than half as many times.

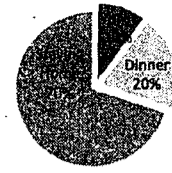
The key to the Raiders' success with their press is that a large percentage of those 30-plus turnovers are "live-ball" turnovers, meaning blocks or steals, so the Raiders can get out in transition as opposed to "dead-ball" turnovers (ball knocked out-of-bounds, charges, etc.) where the ball is taken out of bounds.

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## FEATURES

WHAT ARE YOUR  
VALENTINE'S  
DAY PLANS?BASED ON VOTES FROM  
MTSUSIDELINES.COM.

## Spring fashion tips on a budget

Taking risks and using what you already have can bring new life to old wardrobes

By ALISHA MIELE  
Contributing Writer

You don't have to be in fashion to be part of it. Whether we like it or not, we all take part in this huge industry.

I contemplated making fashion my major for fear that I would end up hating it, but I still took the risk. I grew up in New York — no, not the city, but a town just like Murfreesboro. I've worked in New York City at tradeshows and did a local product development internship, which was a great experience.

Currently, I am interning with a stylist in Nashville and had the opportunity to work on set for Carrie Underwood's most recent music video. When I'm not interning or working retail, I love to blog about new products and trends, which led me to start an online newsletter for MTSU called TXMD INSPIRATION. It was formed to familiarize the program with people already in the industry by posting interviews, as well as enabling students to share their work.

One thing I've learned while being a student is how to shop on a budget. It's hard to replace your entire wardrobe season after season. A few easy ways to work around this is to play off of key pieces you already own. Try a risky trend with something you're already comfortable wearing, or find a statement piece that will make your outfit completely new.

Accessories are the easiest and usually the cheapest way to achieve this. This spring, there are a few things to invest in, such as a good pair of sunglasses that you can wear with anything.

Black or brown sunglasses are



The spring collection from Polyvore.com (top left) has up-to-date fashion trends, new styles, and spring bring-back items. Style, while introducing new trends as well.

good bets that won't force you to buy a new pair each season. It's easy to avoid sunglasses trends because not all colors and shapes are flattering on everyone. If you still want to take a risk, try clear frames. This "nerd" style is getting more and more popular and is easy to pull off.

Aside from sunglasses, a spring dress is essential for almost every girl. If you already have one that

you like, try to change it up this year by purchasing statement wedges. High, thick wedges are huge this year. Pretty much anything goes as far as colors, but it's still always best to stick to pastel or mauve shades around the beginning of spring.

A light, beige blazer for night is an easy way to update your look as well. It shies away from the typical black and navies we wear during winter. If blazers aren't your thing,

a cute jean jacket can be thrown over dresses for an effortless look. You can play with different shades of jeans or just bleach an old jacket you already have.

Sheer fabrics are still strong for spring. If you aren't comfortable wearing a sheer top, you can always incorporate the trend with bathing suit covers or accessories. Clear, chunky stackable bracelets can be bought for an affordable

price and can make a plain outfit more playful.

Huge purses are slowly being played out. Try a more refined polished look like a small satchel or bucket bag. Forever21 at Stones River Mall has great affordable studded ones that are perfect.

Many headbands are available, including rope, chain, bows and studs. Sequin butterfly clips and pearl headbands are a fresh spring take on this trend. Francesca's Collections, located in The Avenue, has a huge variety of playful hairpieces.

Playing with your makeup is another inexpensive way to update your look for spring. A great pop of bold lipstick can change a boring outfit instantly. Instead of worshipping every magazine trend out there, try a fun color that fits your personality. A few of my favorites are YSL brand, but you can achieve the look by buying Revlon as well. If you want to play it safe with a good red, the Revlon "Fire and Ice" shade is amazing.

For spring, glitter nail polish is what it's all about—the sunlight will make them sparkle. It's easy to adopt the pale polishes that everyone will be wearing; why not stand out on your own? OPI has come out with some great ones based on Tim Burton's "Alice in Wonderland."

I hope these ideas will help in making an effortless transition from winter to spring. If you want to view the TXMD INSPIRATION newsletter, it is available on the human sciences homepage.

Alisha Miele is a junior educational and behavioral science major. She can be reached at amm7d@mtsu.edu

COVERING  
Crisis

## The second in a series of blogs by Tiffany Gibson

On the morning of Jan. 4, Las Vegas locals were enjoying a fresh start to a new year, but that new beginning turned bloody when a lone gunman walked into the Lloyd D. George Federal Courthouse and pulled a shotgun from beneath his jacket before opening fire.

The shooting was broadcast worldwide with many reporters, including myself, asking authorities why anyone would commit such a monstrous act. A month later, some people are still reeling from the shooting and hesitant to enter courthouses in the valley.

As an MTSU student living in Nevada and working for the Las Vegas Sun Web site, it was my job to cover this horrific event and try to find witness' statements.

The lone gunman's name was Johnny Lee Wicks, 66, and he had entered the courthouse with intentions to kill court personnel after losing a lawsuit regarding his Social Security benefits.

During the shootout, Wicks shot and killed security guard Stanley Cooper, 72, and wounded a Deputy U.S. Marshal in the lobby of the courthouse. Wicks ran outside and seven officers pursued him on foot.

Wicks died in the shootout after being shot in the head. His body lay outside the courthouse steps for hours while authorities continued to search the federal building.

Many of the residents nearby say the shootout was terrifying.

EZ Pawn and Jewelry employee John Moore said he was helping a customer at the service window that morning when he heard 15 gunshots fired from the federal courthouse. He said he saw people running from the building in a panic.

Resident Barbara Pratt says she was near the courthouse when she heard the first shots fired

around 8:10 a.m. Jan. 4.

"I was going to go to the bank and social security office this morning but something told me to take care of something else," she said. "It's a blessing because I could have been an innocent victim."

Metro Police say Wicks acted alone, but in the early hours of that Monday morning rumors circulated that there could be two or three more shooters hiding in the downtown area.

As I stood in front of the courthouse, I was on edge and constantly looking around for quick movements and sketchy people. I wasn't scared to do my job; I just didn't want to get shot in the process.

After the shooting occurred, more details about Wicks' personal life began to surface, including his criminal history. In 1974 Wicks was convicted in the murder of his brother, Leo Wicks, in Memphis, Tenn. He also picked up several drug charges in that city over the next 10 years.

When reports were released that Wicks tried to torch his apartment before the shooting, a videographer and I headed to his apartment to speak to some of his neighbors.

We walked up to Wicks apartment and looked through soot-covered windows to see inside. There were ashes on the carpet and a television sitting on the floor. Some of the wallpaper was stained yellow, and the whole apartment smelled like smoke.

Some neighbors say Wicks was a loner who never associated with anyone. Others say he was a nice man that often spent time in the community clubhouse.

Neighbor Sonny Roy said Wicks usually wore a long, black leather coat and kept to himself.

## Running for charity

Marathon gives dad a chance to give back

By ELIZABETH WARREN  
Staff Writer

The alarm clock goes 'beep, beep, beep...' at 5 a.m. in a Murfreesboro residence. A man's arm shoots from under the covers, silencing the repugnant cry. The man then sits up in bed. As he stretches his arms toward the ceiling, a giant yawn escapes his mouth.

He cleans the sleep away from his eyes. The man gets out of bed with a look of determination on his kind face and begins his day by running a few miles in awfully cold weather.

Though getting up early to run around in freezing temperatures is not the most appealing task, Donnie Allen embraces this task with a smile on his face.

Allen has been getting up that early to prepare himself for the Country Music Half Marathon, 13 miles, since last October. It was during that time he found out about Team A.S.K., Athlete's for Special Kids. They are a group of people who represent the Murfreesboro-based Christian, non-profit organization, Special Kids.

Allen's involvement with Special Kids and Team A.S.K. came about because of his 10-year-old son, Bailey. When he was just four-years-old, Bailey was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder, an autistic spectrum disorder that affects basic functions including communication, social and fine motor skills.

Allen said Bailey had been



Photo courtesy of Special Kids, Inc.  
Donnie Allen with his son, Bailey, who has Pervasive Developmental Disorder.

in and out of hospitals since he was diagnosed. This created a large medical history mostly made up of visits concerning the seizure diagnosis he got only a year after the PDD discovery.

PDD patients have a high risk of developing a seizure disorder. One way to help relieve the seizures is to have major surgery called a Temporal Lobe Resection to remove the tumor in his brain. Since his surgery in December 2008, Bailey has been surgery free.

When Bailey's disorder was found, his education through Tennessee was through early intervention govern-

ment programs and school services focused mainly on speech therapy.

With the majority of the school's concentration on Bailey's speech, his parents were recommended to Special Kids by their pediatrician from Murfreesboro Medical Clinic, Dr. Tammy Adams.

The organization is geared towards helping children with special needs reach for and follow through with any of their dreams. Special Kids is an organization that understands the needs of children with special abilities; they work hard with every

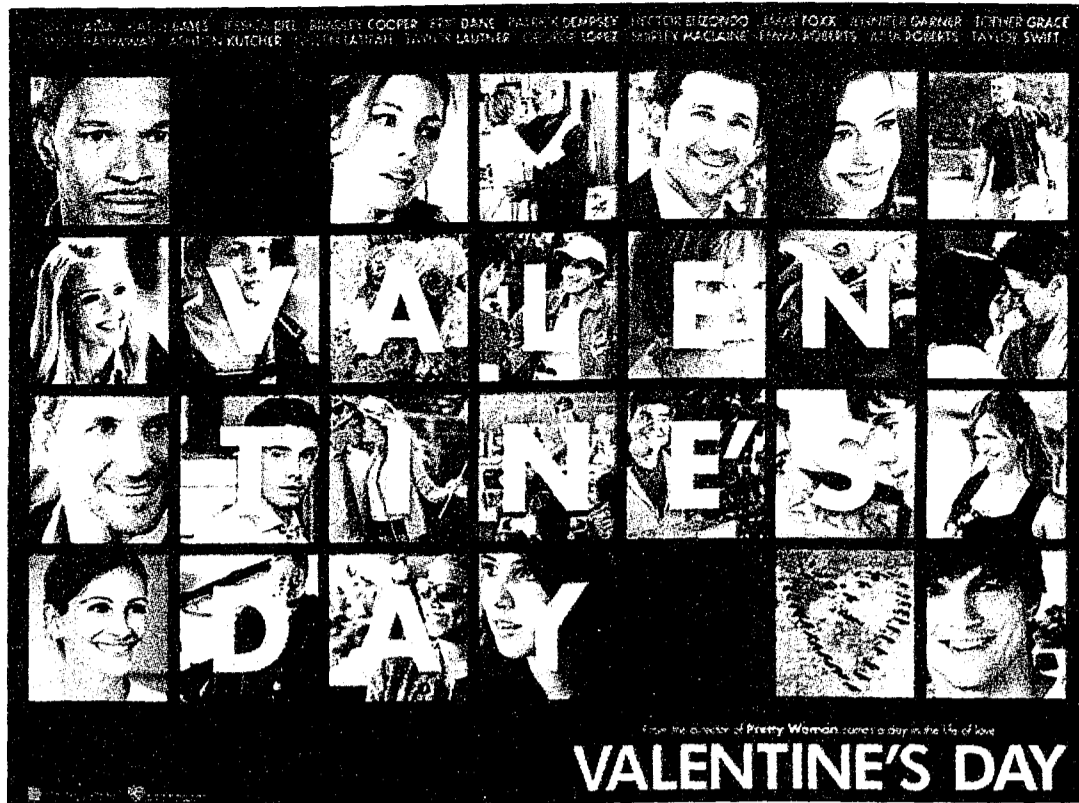


Photo courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures

# 'Over cast' failure

By KATY COIL  
Staff Writer

Director Garry Marshall's "Valentine's Day" is a sappy, mediocre romantic comedy that unsuccessfully attempts to sugarcoat the commercialism, lust and heartbreak all surrounding the holiday after which the film is named.

The film features a star-studded cast, but this all-star round up makes it hard for any of the characters to show any true talent. No one is on screen long enough to really attach to their characters, and it seems the filmmaker was counting on all of the star-power to blind people from seeing that there is no actual plot, rhyme or reason for this film.

Perhaps Ashton Kutcher and Jennifer Garner as two lovelorn friends make some attempt at acting, as does the incomparable Anne Hathaway. Emma Roberts is darling, channeling the comedic and sensitive talents of her Aunt Julia, but the majority of the actors in this film don't even bother to give it the old college try.

This film confirms that the worst actor in film is named Taylor, though whether that Taylor's surname is Lautner or Swift cannot be determined at this time. Both Swift and Lautner give terrible performances, made even worse by the fact that they are mind-

less teenagers who are playing mindless teenagers. The pair reminds you of that annoying couple in high school everyone hated. The entire plotline with these two "actors" should have been completely dropped since it obviously was only intended to draw in flighty fan girls.

The contrived interconnecting plotlines of this film try to have a depth and sense of feeling, but the ending of the movie just tries to stick a sugary candy heart on top of everything. At first, Katherine Fugate's screenplay tries to show the truth and often ugly downside of love. Characters have affairs, reject each other and even mention "love doesn't exist unless you acknowledge it in front of other people."

The script gives nods to how over-commercialized the holiday has become and how deceit, lies, shocking confessions, shallowness and heartbreak are all part of the nasty underbelly of love we don't want to acknowledge. It shows all the dirty little secrets about love: florists juggling the stressful emotional baggage of trying to prove your love with an expensive gift, a busy phone sex operator giving people what they want on Valentine's Day and the drunken, cynic revelry of an anti-Valentine's Day party taking place across the room from a traditional In-

dian arranged marriage.

Fugate ties it all up with a sappy happy romantic comedy ending that attempts to cover up all of the brutal truths about modern romance and heartbreak in the movie. The finale is simply overdone and tries to give audiences the impression that everything in love has to have a happy ending.

The script doesn't seem to know if it wants to chastise or promote overly sentimental perceptions of the holiday. It ends up predominantly predictable and shallow itself, not having the guts to tell people that, sometimes, love isn't all Hollywood tries to make it seem.

In fact, the only redeeming quality of this movie is the soundtrack. Pop-rock hits like "On the Street Where You Live" by Willie Nelson, "Cupid" by Amy Winehouse, "I'm Into Something Good" by The Bird and the Bee and "Te Quiero Dijiste" by Nat King Cole are all quirky, upbeat and shamefully have to attach their names to this disaster of a movie.

All in all, this movie is too in love with itself to see its many, many flaws, and the best present it could give the world is to leave theaters early.

Katy Coil is a senior journalism major. She can be reached at [krc3f@mts.u.edu](mailto:krc3f@mts.u.edu).

## CRISIS FROM PAGE 6

"He gave off that aura that he wanted to be alone," Roy said. "It doesn't shock me it was him downtown."

Wicks' son, Richard Earl Nelson, was arrested last Thursday in western Tennessee and taken into custody

after making numerous death threats and telling detectives he wanted to blow up a federal building in Memphis, Tenn.

This whole shooting incident has shown me that people are capable of anything, and threats need to be taken more seriously. It's scary to think that Nelson could have actually had a chance to blow up a federal building in Tennessee

if the U.S. Marshal's Service didn't react immediately.

I encourage students to always be cautious and alert, because you never know when something like this could happen again.

*Tiffany Gibson is a junior journalism major living in Nevada and working for the Las Vegas Sun.*

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## CHARITY FROM PAGE 6

Because of the staff at Special Kids and their dedication to helping Bailey, Allen jumped on the idea of running a marathon with Team A.S.K. When asked why, Allen doesn't give a cliché or premeditated answer — his reasoning is personal: he has taken on this challenge so that he can give back to a place and community that has done a great deal for his family.

Every person on the 25-40 person team has been asked to complete running preparation throughout each week before the marathon in Nashville during the month of April. The team as a whole also has Saturday sessions where they run together and build up their own distances. Allen can now run nine miles, a large jump from his previous running record of three miles.

"It'll certainly be a challenge," Allen says. "The time I give to do this and the funds we can raise for this is nothing compared to what's been given to my family and to the health of my son."

Runners are also encouraged to raise a certain amount of money for the marathon that will be donated to Special Kids. Allen said that he, with the help of family and com-

munity, has doubled the amount desired.

"It's simply a blessing how generous people have been in giving money for the marathon," Allen said.

Not only does the dad of the family get to participate in the marathon, but so do Bailey's siblings, Berkley and Brice. Children who want to help out have an assigned task of their own that gets them involved in what's going on with their family.

All those participating are to attempt running 25 miles prior to the marathon, and on the evening of the run, the children will complete their 26th mile, their last mile that will be completed in front of supporting friends and family.

Allen doesn't see the dedication and sacrifice required to partake in the marathon as a chore — to him, it's the least he can do for someone who has given his family so much help and support. Special Kids does the most it can do to aid Bailey, and many other children in constant development of basic skills.

"There's a bulletin board at Special Kids where the children put their achievements like drawings or when they learn how to write their names," Allen says. "Though Bailey can't do it now, one day he will be able to and it's because of Special Kids."



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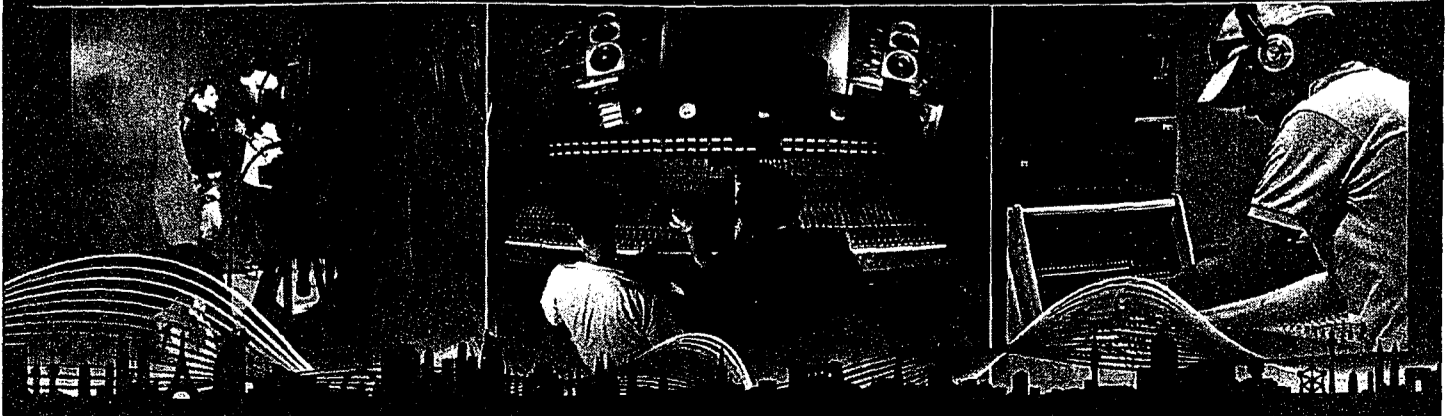
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# Hip Happenings



File photo

**Big Fresh Two Gigantic After Party featuring: This is Art Beat Repeat**

Feb. 15, 1:55 p.m.  
Free  
The Boro Bar and Grill

**Night of Mayhem featuring: Karius Vega Beat Repeat AMTRAK**

Feb. 19, 9 p.m.  
\$5  
Club 527

**Swag on Fat Tuesday featuring: DJs Wildcub & Rio**

Feb. 16, 8 p.m.  
\$5 for 21+, \$8 for 18+, ladies get in free until 10 p.m.  
Club 527

**Brandi Carlile**

Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m.  
\$25-\$40  
TPAC's James K. Polk Theater

**Schtompa Dex**

Feb. 16, 8 p.m.  
\$5 for 21+, \$8 for 18+, ladies get in free until 10 p.m.  
Club 527 Ultralounge

**Quietdrive Anathens Darling Parade Flight Case for Sushi**

Feb. 17, 7 p.m.  
\$5 advance, \$8 at the door  
2nd Ave. Live

**Howie Day Serena Ryder**

Feb. 21, 6 p.m.  
\$20  
3rd and Lindsley

**Thomas Connor Moss Campaign Benefit featuring: Deep Machine Magic Veteran Electric Teeth**

Feb. 19, 6 p.m.  
Free, donations accepted  
Oaklands Historic Mansion's Maney Hall

## Events Policy

Sidelines welcomes current campus and community events submitted by all readers. Please e-mail events to [sfeature@mtsu.edu](mailto:sfeature@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.

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All event times and locations are subject to change without notice.

# FACES

## How do you feel about Valentines Day?



Kuhn

"It sucks because I don't have a Valentine, and girls are too expensive."

Tyler Kuhn  
Freshman criminal justice major



Costello

"I think it should be changed to single awareness day because people that are single just get upset because all their friends that are in relationships just hang out with their boyfriends or girlfriends."

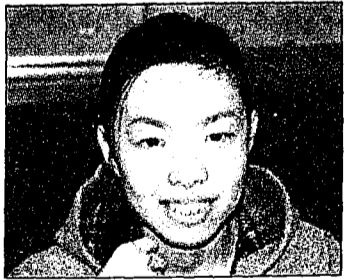
Gil Costello  
Freshman recording industry major



Vangilder

"I don't think it is a real holiday, I think it is made up, but I like the whole idea of being appreciative of the person you love - I celebrate it."

Garrett Vangilder  
Freshman history major



Lu

"When I was in China, we celebrated it a lot; every year. For me, my boyfriend is in China, so Valentine's Day for me is no more because I cannot celebrate it."

Patty Lu  
Junior English major



Bower

"Some people call it singles awareness day - I will call that a nicer name for it."

Madelyn Bower  
Freshman nursing major



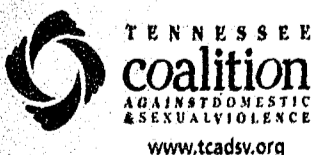
House

"The whole thing is that you're supposed to treat your loved one to a special day this day, which should be every day."

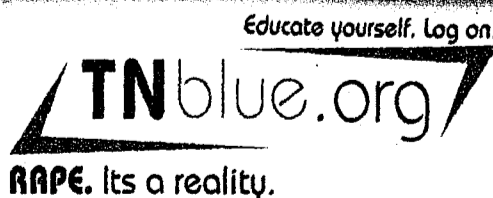
Jordan House  
Freshman agricultural science major

Rape is REAL.

IT'S TIME TO TALK ABOUT RAPE  
SO WE CAN PREVENT IT.



TENNESSEE  
coalition  
AGAINST DOMESTIC  
& SEXUAL VIOLENCE  
[www.tcadv.org](http://www.tcadv.org)



RAPE. Its a reality.



\*This project is funded under an agreement with the State of Tennessee.\*

For immediate help,  
call the Sexual Assault Crisis Line at 615-494-9262.