

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

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Tucker Theatre's facelift begins

University theatre undergoes \$1.4 million renovation

By MATTHEW HAMMITT
Assistant News Editor

Tucker Theatre will be closed for five months for renovations, in order to meet compliance standards set forth by the American Disabilities Act, fire code and safety standards.

The theater closed March 15, when renovation began on the interior. The project is estimated to cost \$1.4 million and is scheduled to be completed by Aug. 15 in time for the start of the 2010 fall semester.

MTSU Senior Vice President John Cothorn said the funding for the renovation was provided by the Tennessee state legislature through the general maintenance fund.

"We had an unexpected wind-fall left over from the state maintenance of effort funds," Cothorn said.

Justin Durham, facility manager of Tucker Theatre, said that while the layout of the theater will not be altered during the renovation, the entire interior of the building would be updated.

Durham said changes to the building include new floor tile installed to replace existing tile floors and the bathrooms will be reconfigured in order to be more accessible to handicapped patrons.

The theater seating will also be refurbished, rather than replaced, in order to reduce the amount of materials wasted in the renovation.

Cothorn said that the renovation was desperately needed.

"I was standing in the theater before it was renovated," Cothorn said. "I thought the stage was going to collapse under me."

Nashville-based Doster Construction Company is working on the renovation of the building. Work on the theater's exterior began on Feb. 1.

Performances of "Appalachian Roots," a children's play, and the MTSU Spring Dance Concert

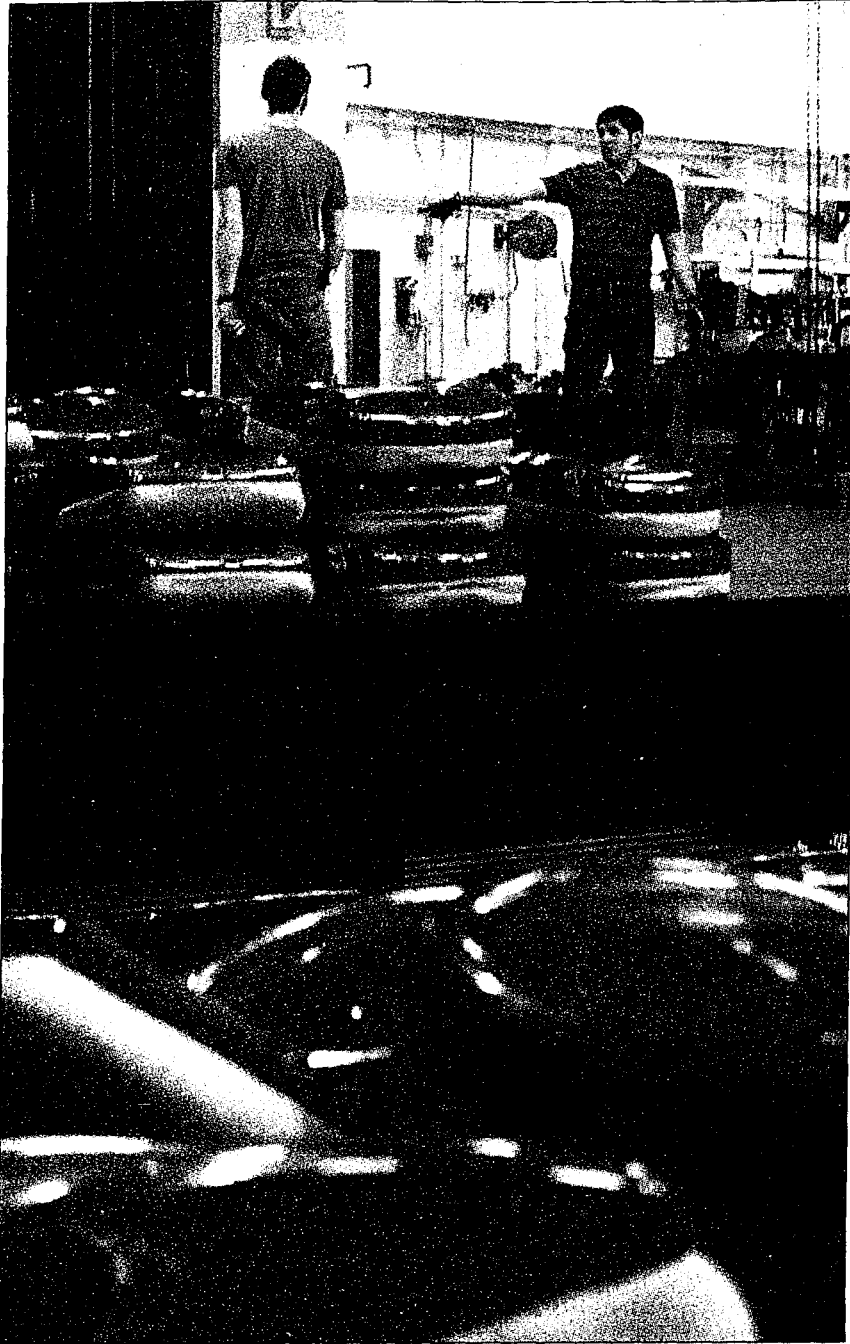


Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor
Justin Tipton (left), junior basic and applied sciences major, and Justin Durham, facility manager of the theater, direct thespians as they relocate props from Tucker Theatre.

on April 24 and 25 will be relocated to the James Union Building while the renovations are being completed.

Tucker Theatre Changes and Renovations

- New floor tiles will be installed to replace existing floor tiles.
- Bathrooms will be reconfigured in order to be more accessible to handicapped patrons.
- Theater seating will be refurbished, rather than replaced, in order to reduce the amount of materials wasted in the renovation.

Graphic by Chris Carter

Check out more photos of the Tucker Theatre renovations online at
MTSUSIDELINES.COM

Few students vote in SGA elections

Controversial gender identity bill passes without scandal

By MARIE KEMPH
Campus News Editor



Less than 10 percent of the 25,000 students enrolled at MTSU this semester cast their vote for the Student Government Association executive officer positions, and even fewer voiced their opinion on the gender identity bill that passed by a 1274-421 vote.

The 2010 spring elections were held March 2-4, and the winners were announced March 5, the Friday before spring break.

Brandon Batts, who currently serves as senator for the College of Liberal Arts, was elected to serve as the 2010-2011 SGA president by a margin of more than 1,200 votes.

His opponents were Brandon Thomas, Samantha Nichols and Jacob Wittenberg, all of who currently serve as senators for the College of Liberal Arts. Nichols received 328 votes, 231 students voted for Wittenberg and 149 cast their support for Thomas.

"One of the main issues is the visibility of the SGA," Batts said. "I wanted more people to vote because we're the ones working for students, and I can't understand why so many people don't participate."

Incumbent SGA Election Commissioner Patrick Mertes said students from the College of Liberal Arts are set to have the chance to vote again in a run-off election that is scheduled for March 30 through April 1.

Incumbent Sen. Scott Slater will face off against Curtis Strode Jr. for a

"I wanted more people to vote because we're the ones working for students, and I can't understand why so many people don't participate."

BRANDON BATTIS
SGA PRESIDENT-ELECT

second time as the candidates tied at 110 votes.

"The only students that will be able to vote in the run-off election will be from the College of Liberal Arts," Mertes said. "An e-mail will be sent to their student accounts with voting directions."

Mertes said the SGA uses a program by Votenet Solutions Inc., to track how students participated in the election process online, in addition to keeping track of the vote tallies.

The program records data when students click the link included in the SGA election e-mails sent to student accounts to see how many of those actually vote once going to the virtual ballot box.

To read more, visit us online.



www.mtsusidelines.com

Students lose home

Theater fraternity plans fundraiser for MTSU students whose home caught fire

By ROZALIND RUTH
Community News Editor

MTSU's chapter of Alpha Psi Omega, the national theater honors fraternity, is scheduled to hold a fundraiser for three students displaced from their home after a fire destroyed one and damaged the other apartment at a historical duplex.

None of the residents were harmed. However, both apartments sustained heavy smoke damage because of the shared attic space.

The fundraiser is scheduled for April 1 at 10 p.m. in the Irtik Theatre in the Boutwell Dramatic Arts Building.

Alexandra McNamara, junior theater major and resident of



Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor
Murfreesboro's oldest duplex caught fire last week, destroying the apartment that MTSU students rented.

the apartment with the most damage, said investigators told her the fire appears to have begun between two wall studs that had exposed wires which are thought to have been covered-up after an attempt to make two electrical outlets.

Assistant Fire Chief

of the Murfreesboro Fire Department Allen Swader could neither confirm or deny the specifics of the cause of the fire but said that the fire has definitively been ruled as accidental and probably started on the ground floor.

FIRE, PAGE 2

Sorority 'spikes' it to violence

By ANNE ALFORD
Contributing Writer

MTSU's chapter of Alpha Chi Omega is teaming up with its sister chapter from Vanderbilt University to host Volley Against Violence, a volleyball tournament to raise funds and awareness for domestic violence.

The tournament will be held March 20 at Vanderbilt University and all proceeds will go to supporting victims of domestic violence and abuse.

Brittney Scels, president of Alpha Chi Omega at MTSU and junior liberal arts major, said all funds raised would be distributed between both universities to go to local domestic violence



Brittney Scels
Alpha Chi Omega President

shelters and the YWCA in Murfreesboro.

Scels said the sorority is hosting the volleyball tournament because it is a fun and interactive way to serve the community and donate funds to its philanthropy.

All students, alumni and community members from both universities are invited. There is a \$25 entry fee to form a team.

"We hope to have nu-

merous teams from each university participating," Scels said.

"Hosting an event with another chapter of our national organization would be a great way to extend our understanding of the true meaning of our sisterhood as more than just a collegiate chapter," Scels said.

The sisters of the MTSU chapter have held numerous events supporting its domestic violence philanthropy including various drives, MTSU's Best Dance Crew, a Raiderstock benefit concert, and cookbook sales.

MTSU's Charlotte Smith and Vanderbilt's Alli Trant are in charge of fraternity relations for both chap-

ters and manage the sorority's philanthropy and community service.

Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women between the ages of 15 and 44 in the United States, and there are 1,500 shelters for battered women in the U.S.

"I think this is an amazing event that will appeal to all different groups of students," Scels said. "We hope this event will be extremely successful this year and one that students and community members look forward to every year."

Scels said this is the first year for the event, and if successful, will become a regular event for the universities.

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Tim Burton's "Alice in Wonderland" worth seeing.

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IN TODAY'S ISSUE



Gubernatorial candidate Gary Mann brings his campaign to MTSU students.

ONLINE @

MTSUSIDELINES.COM

THURSDAY FORECAST
PARTLY CLOUDY
10% CHANCE OF RAIN
HIGH 65, LOW 37

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I'm not saying I'm not talented. I know I'm talented. I just know there are more talented people out there with smaller TVs."

Chuck Klosterman

Klosterman returns to campus

Pop culture enthusiast brings new perspective to society, life

By MATTHEW HAMMITT
Assistant News Editor

Renowned author and pop culture essayist Chuck Klosterman will speak to an assembly of students and members of the public in Room 221 of the Ned McWhorter Learning Resources Center at 1 p.m. today.

Klosterman, who last visited MTSU in the Spring 2009, will divide time during the assembly between a lecture, followed by a question-and-answer session.

The journalist has spent the last three days addressing classes on campus and answering questions posed by students about his career and life.

"He was open-minded and his thoughts on modern television culture really made me think," said Allie Schmidt, sophomore mass communications major, about her classroom discussion with the author. "I just wish the class lasted longer, so we could hear more of his thoughts on the MTV's 'Jersey Shore.'"

Klosterman is a former writer and columnist for Spin magazine. His works have been published in Esquire, GQ, The New York Times and The Washington Post. He has written six books.

Klosterman emphasized the role confidence plays in his creative process.

"My first book kinda wrote itself, but I was always thinking to myself, 'maybe I can't even do this,'" Klosterman said. "This last book was hard, but because I had written a few books before, I knew I could do it."

His latest book, "Eating the Dinosaur,"

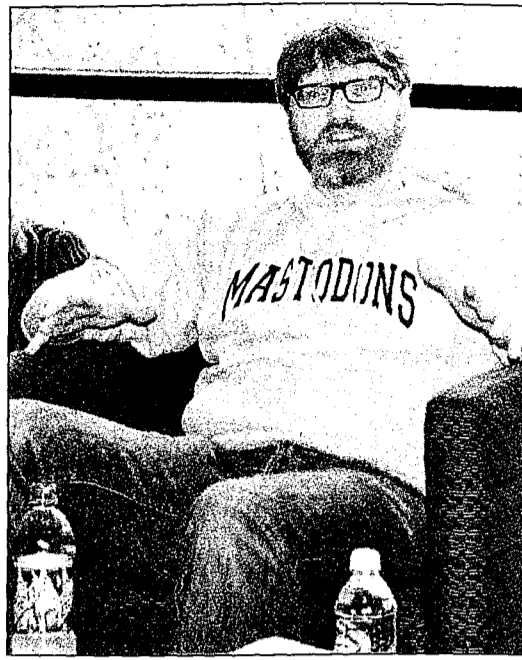


Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer
Chuck Klosterman speaks to students on Tuesday about pop culture and the meaning of success.



Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer
Chuck Klosterman, renowned author and pop culture essayist, spoke to Leon Allgood's journalism class to discuss his book with students and society on Tuesday.

is a collection of previously unpublished essays on various topics that address the inter-relationships between life and popular culture.

"It's hard to write a book," Klosterman said about his work. "But it's not hard like installing air conditioning. At least when you're working, you're in a place that is air-conditioned already."

Klosterman's first trip to MTSU's campus was a crowded event, with many students being forced to sit on the floor of the LRC lecture hall after traditional seating ran out.

FIRE FROM PAGE 1

Donations are being accepted with a minimum donation of \$1.

"This was the perfect apartment," McNamara said. "We had the perfect landlord and it all just burned down."

Michael Yeager, undeclared sophomore and McNamara's roommate, said he had been at the home in the morning before

the fire erupted. He said he had not noticed anything unusual while he was there.

McNamara said neither she nor Yeager were home when the fire started, but a local taxi driver first saw the smoke while waiting for a client nearby around 10 a.m. and called the fire department.

"Everything is black; everything," McNamara said. "Michael has a hole in the floor of his room, his windows are blown out, my crucifix was actually burned onto my dresser and I had to pry it off."

McNamara said the duplex was built in the 1940s by the contemporary bur-sar of MTSU, T. B. Woodmore. The building was the first duplex built in Murfreesboro.

The American Red Cross helped the victims with stipends for hotel rooms, food, clothing and other living necessities while the damage is being assessed and while the residents found new living accommodations.

All three residents of the home dis-

placed by the fire and have since made new living arrangements.

McNamara said her parent's homeowners insurance covered the cost of some of the items she had lost in the fire, but the sentimental things lost have been the hardest things to lose.

"My bear of all my life was completely tarnished," McNamara said. "And that's the thing that hurts the most - it's BoBo."

Yeager and McNamara's cat was killed in the fire.

March Deals

	\$4.99 Small Veggie, Chips, Drink	\$5.00 Small Ham & Swiss, Chips, Drink	\$5.00 CHOOSE 2 Sammie & Sammie, or Soup, or Bullet
	\$5.00 Cheeseburger, Fry, Drink	\$3.00 2 WINGS & Drink	\$6.00 Veggie Burger, Apples, Drink
	\$4.99 Fruit Cup or Yogurt & Bottled Water	\$4.00 Bagel, Schmeaer, & Coffee	\$6.00 BLT, Chips, & Drink
	\$1.00 ADD A CUP OF SOUP, EGG ROLL, OR AN ORDER OF DONUTS (3)		
	\$1.00 Add a Cup of Soup or Dessert	\$4.99 Blue Plate Special Chicken + 2 Sides	
	4.99 1 Topping Pizza (Pepperoni, Sausage, Cheese, Veggie) & Drink	6.00 6 Wings & Soda	2.00 Add Breadsticks & Drink to any Meal
	\$6.00 Garden Salad & Drink	\$4.99 Chick-Fil-A Sandwich Combo	\$5.00 8 Piece Combo

March Events

Australian Outback Dinner Tues. March 2 PREMIUM Dinner @ McCallie

MOCKTAILS

WELCOME BACK FONDUE Monday March 15 Lunch @ JUB

MARCH BIRTHDAY

Wed. March 17 Lunch & Dinner, McCallie & JUB

March Madness

Thur. March 18 Lunch @ JUB

MILKSHAKE MONDAY

Monday March 22 Lunch @ McCallie

Maximum Mexican

Thur. March 25 PREMIUM Dinner @ JUB

Movie Night

Monday March 29

CUPCAKE CREATION

Wed. March 31 Lunch @ McCallie

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!

FIND US ONLINE!

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Students protests budget cuts

By CHRISTOPHER MERCHANT
Staff Writer

The MTSU chapter of Solidarity held a protest against cuts in the state's higher education funding by raising money for the cause during the National Day of Action to Defend Public Education.

Members of MT Solidarity gathered outside of the Keathley University Center on March 4 to protest, during the same time The United Campus Workers hosted a bake sale to raise funds for higher education.

United Campus Workers is a union for faculty, staff, graduate employees and lecturers at public colleges and universities in Tennessee.

Members of the union, from schools including University of Tennessee at Knoxville, East Tennessee State University and the University of Memphis, said they intended to gather funds from the bake sale to deliver to Gov. Phil Bredesen, D-Tenn., on Lobby Day at the state Capitol on March 9, in order to demonstrate students' support of educational programs.

As of Tuesday, the union had not announced whether or not group members had successfully delivered the donated money to Bredesen.

Jacob Wittenberg, junior philosophy major and active member of MT Solidarity, ran unsuccessfully for president of the Student Government Association earlier this month and focused much of his campaign on budget issues regarding higher education. He is currently an SGA senator.

Wittenberg said the objective of the rally and bake sale was to demonstrate to state legislators that the students care about how tax dollars are spent and that their voice deserves to be heard.

"Students spend money here [at MTSU], they spend time here," Wittenberg said. "Our voice should be listened

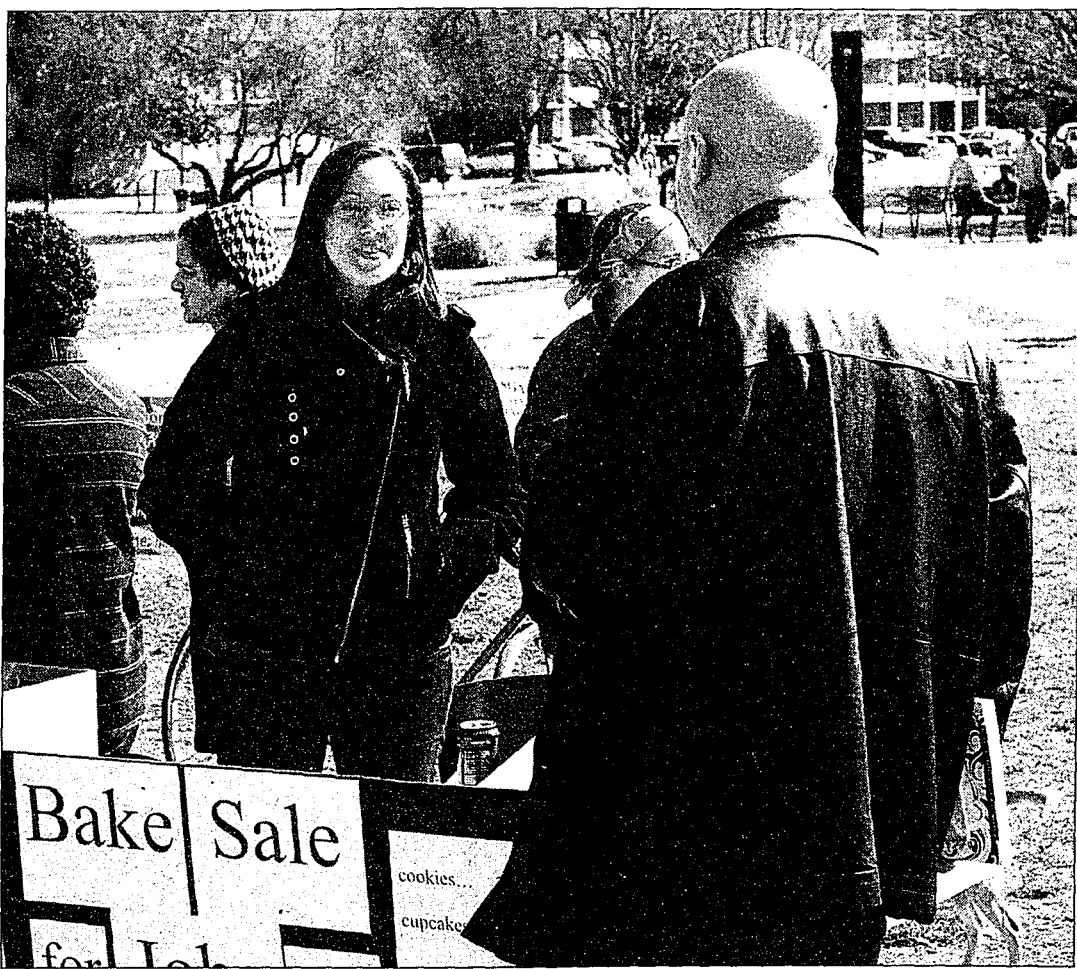


Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor
Students participated in a protest March 4 in an effort to raise funding and awareness about higher education funding. The event was held on the National Day of Action to Defend Public Education.

to, not just tokenized."

According to the group's Facebook event-page, the bake sales were organized to draw attention to the severity of the crisis facing higher education in Tennessee, rather than raising enough money to avoid budget cuts.

Wittenberg said he was concerned about how budget cuts would affect the local economy.

"There is nobody that budget cuts don't affect," Wittenberg said. "Even if you just live in a college town, cuts affect the revenue spent in the area."

In addition to the bake sale, the rally also consisted of a speech by a representative from Tennesseans for Fair Taxation, a lobbyist organization seeking to create what it believes is a more fair tax structure in Tennessee.

Bill Howell, TOFT Organizer and registered lobbyist,

said that he believed a two-tiered tax structure would alleviate expenses incurred by college-age students.

While Tennessee does not have an income tax, Howell said that the lower-to-middle-class pay nearly 12 percent of their income on taxes, whereas the upper class pays only about three percent.

Howell said, however, that taxes on food, gas, alcohol, cigarettes, property and other taxes in Tennessee represent a smaller percentage of wealthy people's income due to the fact that they make more money.

"According to a study by the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, Tennessee has the fourth most biased tax structure," Howell said.

He said he proposed a broad-based, two-tiered income tax structure that would "raise the portion [of taxes] at the higher end of the

scale" and provide generous exemptions to middle-and-lower-class taxpayers.

Howell said he is lobbying for all taxes on food to be removed, and that this revenue could be replaced with a taxation method called "combined reporting."

The law would require business owners to report the income of all of their subsidiaries on one form, Howell said, so that they cannot shelter taxable expenses and use a variety of schemes to generate deductible expenses.

Michael Principe, professor of philosophy and member of MT Solidarity, joined students to protest decreased funding of higher education.

"The governor and legislature need better priorities," Principe said. "The budget fully funds the prison system and severely cuts the budget for higher education - I think those are bad priorities."

Students find inspiration in photo pioneer

Karen Glaser spoke to students about photos hanging in Baldwin Photo Gallery

By E.J. HIRSCH
Contributing Writer

Photographer Karen Glaser encouraged MTSU students to find their personal perspectives in their art Monday night as part of Women's History Month.

Glaser spoke about her artwork, which is on display in the Baldwin Photographic Gallery in McWherter Learning Resource Center until April 15. The exhibit featured numerous photos taken underwater, showing a different perspective of the world.

"She shows me I can do anything and I don't have to conform," said Erica Springer, freshman photography major.

Mary Hoffschwelle, professor of history said, to aspiring students, Glaser is a role model, and these types of role models are extremely important for young adults in college.

"Female role models demonstrate that young women have a broad array of options and encourage them to believe that they can combine talent and effort to achieve the goals they choose," Hoffschwelle said.

"The kind of work I do is very humbling and it makes you realize you are just one of many creatures on this planet," Glaser said.

Parker Maness, sophomore photography major, said he appreciated how the photographs transported his imagination.

"I like the creativeness about the pictures," Maness said. "It is kind of another world."

Glaser spoke about elements she used to create art that changed her life.

"In 1983, I was given a little yellow Instamatic camera and it changed my life," Glaser said. "Scuba diving was the second thing that changed my life."

Glaser emphasized that she saw a new world through underwater photography and encouraged students to find their own perspective on life.

"I saw a whole new world of possibilities under water," Glaser said.

Hoffschwelle, who also teaches in the women's studies program, said that having such an accomplished female artist visit the school is important during Women's History Month.

"Women's History Month challenges us to think about how gender has shaped the human experience across time," Hoffschwelle said. "It is more than just a one-month blitz of factual knowledge about women of the past."

CRIME BRIEFS

March 5, 12:33 p.m.

Traffic
Baird Lane Parking Lot
A complainant reported a hit and run accident.

March 5, 12:48 p.m.

Theft
Sims Hall
A complainant reported a stolen bicycle.

March 5, 7:20 p.m.

Traffic
Greenland Drive Lot B
A complainant reported a hit and run that occurred on March 4.

March 7, 8:43 p.m.

Traffic
East Main Street
Lena Roach, 54, was issued a citation for failure to provide proof of insurance during a traffic stop for a moving violation.

March 9, 12:43 a.m.

Hazardous Waste
David Science Building
A complainant reported a tank knocked over in the hallway resulting in the area becoming filled with smoke.

March 12, 2:40 p.m.

Vandalism
Greenland Drive Parking Lot A
A complainant reported vandalism of a vehicle.

March 14, 12:24 a.m.

DUI
East Main Street
Kenneth V. Curtis, 29, was arrested and charged with driving under the influence and violation of the implied consent law.

Katy J. Patterson, 21, was arrested for driving under the influence by allowance.

March 14, 4:45 p.m.

Alarm

Cummings Hall
Fire alarm was activated in the dormitory.

March 14, 5:53 p.m.

Theft
Gore Hall
A complainant reported a theft.

March 14, 9:54 p.m.

Miscellaneous
Beasley Hall
A complainant reported students shooting each other with air soft pistols on the 2nd floor of Beasley Hall.

March 15, 12:52 p.m.

Traffic
Ezell Hall
A vehicle was reported leaving the scene of an accident that involved property damage.

CURRENT EVENTS

John Powers Exhibit
March 15 through 25
Location: Todd Art Gallery
Admission: free

The Wing Festival
March 18, lunch and dinner
Wing Contest at 5:30 p.m.
Location: McCallie

Anne of Green Gables
March 19 through 21
Location: Lamplighter's Theatre
Admission: adults \$10, seniors \$8, children \$5

The Blindside
March 22 through 26
7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Saturday through Thursday
7 p.m. Friday

Location: KUC Theatre
Admission: \$2

Stones River Futbol Club Spring Shootout 2010
March 26 through 28
Location: Smyrna Rotary Park

Sherlock Holmes
March 29 through April 2
7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Saturday through Thursday
7 p.m. Friday
Location: KUC Theatre
Admission: \$2

10 th Annual Student Film Festival
April 12 through 16
Location: Keathley University Center Theatre
Submissions due by April 2.

Silent Disco
April 20
Location: The Quad outside of James E. Walker Library

Roller Derby: Music City All Stars and Brawl Stars Vs. the Ohio Rollergirls
April 3, 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Location: Tennessee State Fair Grounds

Events Policy
Sidelines welcomes current campus and community events submitted by all readers. Please e-mail events to sicampus@mtsu.edu or sidelines@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.

MTSU Student Affairs announces the

2010 Dean Judy Smith Scholarship Award

The Dean Judy Smith Scholarship Award is given to a student who is an active participant in one or more of the following areas of Campus Life: social sorority or fraternity, cheerleading squad, Student Programming/Special Events, Student Government Association (executive, legislative, or judicial branch), or CUSTOMS (new student orientation).

This student must have completed at least 30 hours credit in residence at MTSU and have a cumulative minimum grade point average of 3.0 (Because of the terms of this award, graduating seniors are ineligible).

Applications in the Office of Dean of Student Life, KUC Room 128.

DEADLINE: March 26, 2010

If you have any questions about the application process or the scholarship award, please contact the Dean of Student Life Office at 898-2750.

bbc news

We live in a world of change and uncertainty. So it's reassuring to know you can always rely on BBC News to deliver unmatched depth of coverage, context and analysis on the issues behind the headlines. It is this commitment that makes BBC World Service essential to millions world-wide.

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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

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Proceeding disaster makes for guilty vacation

Trip to Haiti shortly before Jan. 12 earthquake emphasizes need to provide aid for hurting country

Let me start off by saying that I'm beyond appreciative for what I have been given in life. On Jan. 3, my family of four was able to experience something none of us had: a cruise.



Madi Flournoy
The visceral pen

It was absolutely wonderful, especially our stop in Haiti. However, if we had been there five days later, I'm sure it would have been a different experience. Earthquakes don't mix well with vacationing.

After the trip ended, we made our way back to the frigid weather of Tennessee, which only made the memory of the cruise all the sweeter. Soon after our return, we heard about the destruction in Haiti.

A stomach pain of guilt built up inside of me when I heard the news. I knew that I shouldn't have felt that way, but there I was, feeling spoiled for

vacationing in a spot of such beauty that was connected to ground that took hundreds of thousands of lives.

The political corruption and violence that has occurred over the years in Haiti – and recent rebellions in this century – were all connected to the ground that I laid my towel on to soak up some rays. I kept picturing myself on vacation, eating endless amounts of food

and sleeping in a lavish state-room with one of the poorest countries outside my window.

The people of Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital, are now living on streets and lacking medical aid, food, shelter and the now-deceased members of their families. I was there with my family enjoying a trip while having all of that. I know us being their contributed to their economy, yet that didn't seem as important.

I have to constantly remind myself that though I am sorrowful for my enjoyment in something that soon turned into others' tragedy, material goods are far from being the most important thing to the Haitian people.

They have love and compassion that doesn't get swallowed up in the chaos that often overcomes our lives. Their kind-

ness to my family was genuine and the air of the people working around me seemed calm and grateful.

Many Haitians had no warnings prior to the tremors that rumbled beneath their feet and altered their homes and hearts. All I had to do was get back on a boat that looked like it was about to pop due to its enormous size and sail away into the horizon listening to the "Macarena."

I had no control over what happened, yet it didn't seem fair.

After my return home, I found myself being a small advocate for Haiti's aid. I contributed to the telethon hosted by George Clooney and sent out mass text messages to my friends to do the same.

I updated my Facebook status. I told people in person to contribute. I wanted to help in some way, even if it turned out to be minimal.

If I hadn't visited this country, would I still feel as strongly as I do now to help? I hope that answer would be yes, and I believe it would be.

The world experiences great change every year and even every day, and I should try to be a part of changing it for the better. My actions can spark a difference; my material goods cannot.

Having material goods doesn't determine your capability to lend a helping hand. At first glance, it appears as if I have things that may be envied by many: a nice car, an assortment of stylish clothing and

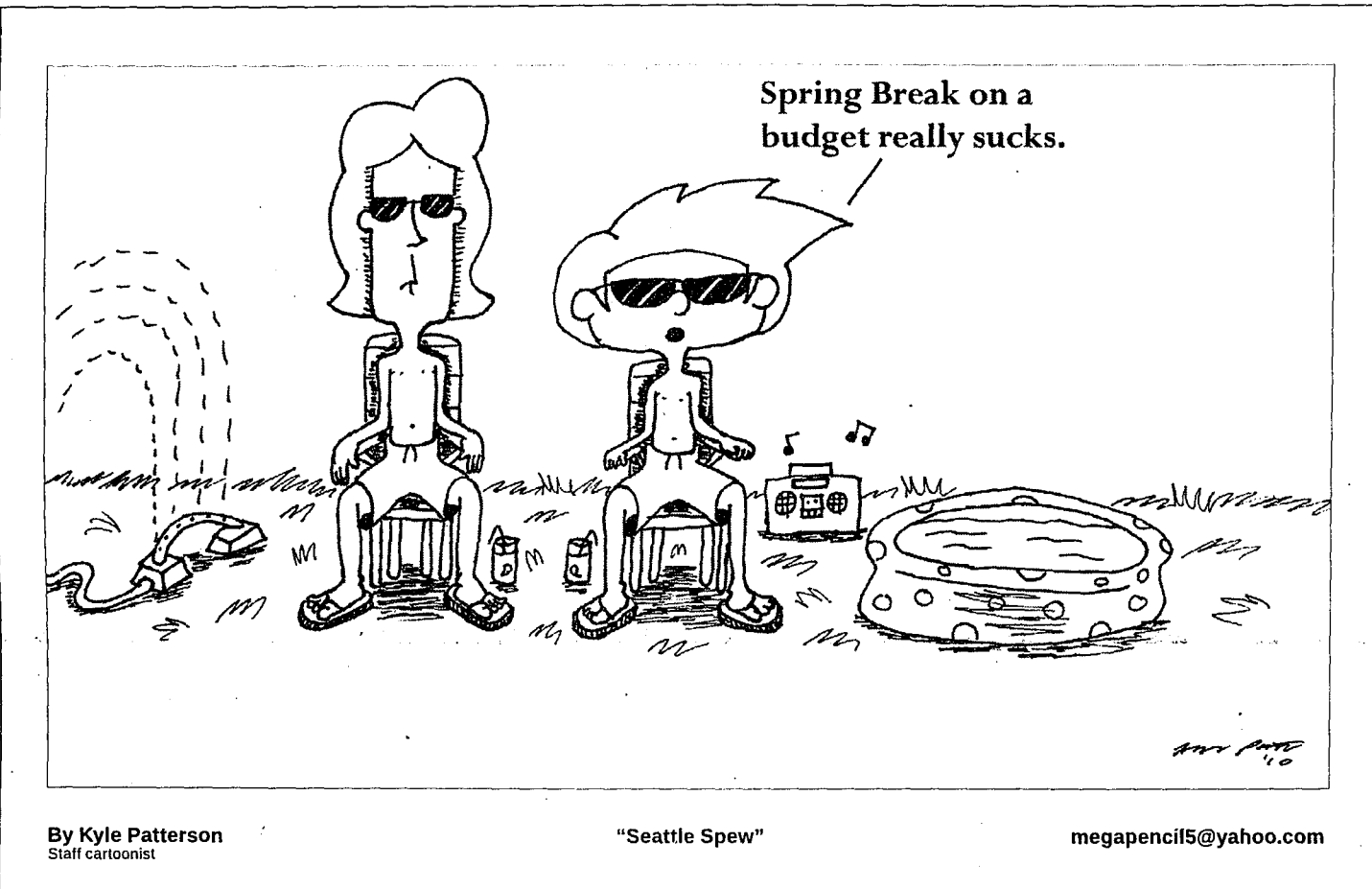
a trip to the Caribbean on a cruise. In reality, these are just things, unnecessary things.

As I watch the news, I see how the people of Haiti are pushing forward but still need a helping hand. They are relying not on useless trinkets, but on the hope that still remains despite this catastrophe.

I shouldn't feel guilty for having gone on a trip to a place that experienced tragedy shortly thereafter. I should feel pain, though, for their losses and joy in the fact that they still have great hope. Hopefully we never lose sight of what is truly important in our own times of trouble and always have it to give to others in theirs.

Madi Flournoy is a junior journalism major. She can be reached at mcflournoy@aol.com.

HAITI RELIEF



By Kyle Patterson
Staff cartoonist

"Seattle Spew"

megapencil5@yahoo.com

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Amid budgetary woes, some gratitude is still deserved

This week's visit from author and journalist Chuck Klosterman showed us something at Sidelines: Despite all the talk of budgetary crises and drops in state funding for higher education, MTSU is still bringing in quality speakers whose powerful speeches greatly impact the students who are able to hear them.

During his time at the university, Klosterman has spoken with many classes and groups within the College of Mass Communication, all of whom are yet to stop talking about his helpful hints on not only the post-graduation world, but also on life in general.

Klosterman, who is on his second trip to MTSU, is scheduled to conclude his visit today with a free lecture in Room 221 of the Learning Resource Center. All students are welcome to attend.

The author of six well-selling books is the latest influential speaker to grace MTSU with his presence.

Though she couldn't deliver her speech as planned due to laryngitis, author and feminist activist Gloria Steinem was able to host a question-and-answer session with students earlier this month that conveyed her take on women's, political and societal issues.

The Baldwin Photographic Gallery continues to attract famous photographers from around the world who talk about their art and give inspiring words to the generation of students who will replace them in the field.

The John Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence, which sponsored Klosterman's visit, continues to host panel discussions that tackle First Amendment issues in today's technologically driven world.

But it is not just lectures and speeches that we are grateful for amid the school's budget crunch. Let us not forget the non-living – and sometimes pricey – things that have helped attract tens of thousands of students to the university over the years.

We can assume that it would be hard for any one student, regardless of his or her level of involvement on campus, to name no less than 10 valuable resources and facilities that have improved the quality of education at MTSU.

Art students might first mention the Todd Art Gallery. For geology students, it might be the Mineral, Gem and Fossil Museum.

Computer and Internet access at virtually any time? MTSU's got it. A theater that provides space for student-produced plays? MTSU's got it. Meeting places that provide for all forums of discussion, even those that are controversial? MTSU's got it.

Let's face it folks, the university is going to visibly change by July 2011 because of the end of stimulus funding, and MTSU might have to cut down on lecture budgets and eliminate some facilities. But there is a way for you to help make some of them exempt from the budget-cut ax: attend/utilize. If you don't, you'll be wasting the money you paid to get them here.

And in this economy, who has money to waste?

Ditch the products, tanning bed; your natural color looks just fine

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, but tanning is a social construct.

In 1971, Mattel Inc. introduced its Malibu Barbie. She came with sunglasses and a towel and had a tan. Ironically in the same decade, tanning beds burst onto the cultural scene and became a cultural norm rather a cultural construct.

Sun in moderation is good for the skin. Sun gives life, light and warmth but it can also be a danger.

Tanning was first used as a remedy for tuberculosis and was associated with the working class. It wasn't until the 20th century that having a tan became popular – it became a sign of financial strength.

According to Health Central's Web site, the tanning industry's revenues have risen to \$5 billion in just under two decades.

Tanning seems backwards compared to other



Jessica Harris
Perceptions

cultures in the world. In India and some other parts of Asia, people are trying to become lighter. Having more melanin – the pigment that creates skin color – in your skin is associated with lower class statuses in these parts of the world. Skin bleaching products are on the rise and becoming very popular not just among women, but with men as well.

Emani Ltd. is a cosmetic company that sells skin care products. Their most popular product is "Fair

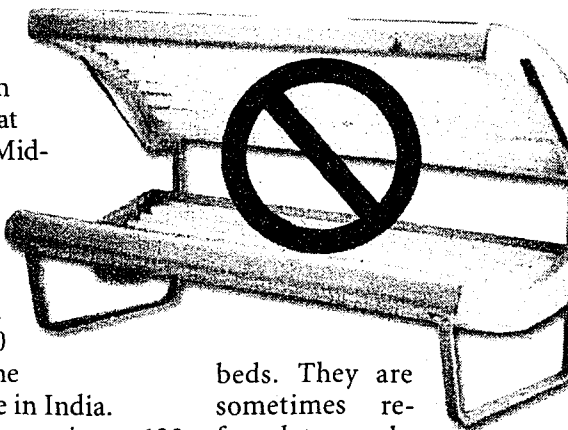
and Handsome," which is targeted at Asian and Middle Eastern men. According to a CNN article, Emani has about 70 percent of the market share in India.

"Sales have risen 100 percent in rural India and 20 percent in male grooming products alone," the article said.

Advertisements specifically target certain groups telling them that the product will make their lives better or improve social standings.

Why are people trying to change their skin color?

In America, tanning salons are on the rise, with one on every corner. It seems some people are not aware of the dangers that come with tanning



beds. They are sometimes referred to as the "cancer boxes."

Some media outlets dance lightly with the dangers. In an episode of "Seinfeld," Kramer accidentally falls asleep in a tanning bed before going to meet his girlfriend's family, who are black Americans.

In the popular movie "The Hangover," Doug is left on the roof for several hours after a wild night in Las Vegas, leaving him with a burnt collection.

SKIN, PAGE 5

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

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Doctors, doctors, and more doctors



Pearl Howell
Pearl before swine

The amount of medical attention women are seeking is far too much

OB/GYN's take care of pap smears, prenatal care and breast exams. Women also visit them to receive birth control, which is both expensive and difficult to obtain.

Then there are doctors for other reasons, like dermatologists, chiropractors, dentists and general practitioners.

Even more problematic is the desire for plastic surgery. Women go under the knife, to the needle, or beneath the laser for all sorts of cosmetic procedures.

Sometimes women visit doctors for their long-term or short-term health. But sometimes they go not for health reasons, but purely cosmetic purposes.

Women are frightened into visiting every type of doctor, persuaded by fear of cancer, of loss of beauty or of loss of

health, or to protect their lives for their loved ones.

In many ways, the reasons why women go to the doctor seem contrived. Certainly it is important to have breast exams and pap smears, but it is widely acknowledged that the most effective way to detect breast cancer is by self-examination.

It would seem that gender socialization – or the forcing of masculinity and femininity onto people by society – is also a part of health care in America. To be masculine is to be unafraid of disease, to be too strong to be sick. To be female is to be handled by a doctor often.

This is hurting more than just women.

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

In honor of Women's History Month and this year's debacle over health care, it would seem appropriate to acknowledge both topics by discussing issues in women's health.

It is difficult to point out just one issue. Between STDs, various cancers and uncountable diseases unique to women, we are in danger of a plethora of health problems.

The biggest one in women's health could arguably be the fear instilled in the female mind at every turn.

Women visit the doctor more often – and to more types of doctors – than most men could even dream of.

A MESSAGE

FROM THE OPINIONS EDITOR

Keep an eye on these politicians. They may act like they disagree with their partisan enemies and are fighting for the people who quasi-democratically voted them into power. But the behind-the-scenes reality is they're all friends, friends fighting for the interests of whoever or whatever has the moneybags.

— Michael Stone

SKIN FROM PAGE 4

However the dangers are real, and it is important to take precautions concerning tanning.

If you are going to tan or be out in the sun, be smart about it, even if you are blessed to have more melanin in your skin.

Note the difference between sunscreen and sunblock: "Sunscreens are chemical agents that help prevent [the] sun's ultra violet radiation from reaching the skin," according to the Skin Cancer Foundation. The University of California at San Francisco School of Medicine says sun block "protects your skin by absorbing and/or reflecting UVA and UVB radiation."

Hence, the sun's rays bounce off skin with sunscreen on it, and some sun blocks absorb them.

There is nothing wrong with being fair skinned. As the saying goes "everything ain't for everybody." However, if you're going to try it anyways, be safe.

Jessica Harris is a junior journalism major. She can be reached at jh3y@mtsu.edu

Sidelines wants YOU

to have your voice in this paper.

Writer and photographer applications are available in Room 269 of the Mass Communication Building. Letters to the editor may be sent to slopinio@mtsu.edu.

Comments from mtsusidelines.com

"In regards to SGA elections, I think more MTSU students would get involved with voting for president if the candidates campaigned more. As SGA president, you have a huge roll on campus, and you should be motivated to get out there and campaign your thoughts and promises on how YOU are going to make MTSU a better campus. Although SGA elections are very important, the possibility of more construction on our campus is a big issue. Ever since I have been in school at MTSU, some place on campus has been under construction. MTSU is growing rapidly, bigger than University of Tennessee at Knoxville now. More parking, improved dorms and more computer labs are needed very bad! It is a good thing we are growing; hopefully it will bring in more money to our school so we will have less budget cuts. Finally, the issue of littering on campus, which I never noticed was a problem. Yes, an area where construction is going on is not the cleanest. But we as students can help out! MTSU is paying to better our campus; why can't the students give back also? Many student organizations already have on campus; one to help keep our campus clean and litter free would be beneficial."

-Anonymous on "SGA candidates, make your stance," Feb. 29

We want your feedback!

Sidelines archives for the past nine years are available online at mtsuidelines.com. Check 'em out and comment!



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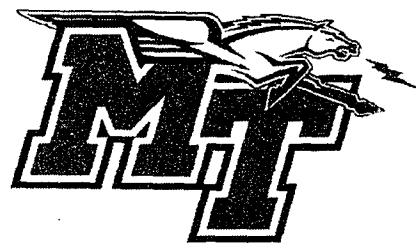
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SPORTS

Check **MTSUSIDELINES.COM** for tournament coverage of men's and women's basketball.

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Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor
Junior pitcher Eric Gilley pitches to the Ohio Bobcats' freshman RHP Seth Streich on Feb. 27 in Reese Smith Field at MTSU.

Blue Raiders outlast Bisons Disappointing start still produces win for MT

By STEVEN CURLEY
Sports Editor

It's not often you can give up eight runs in the ninth inning and still win.

The Blue Raiders baseball team survived a late-game scare to win an 18-15 slugfest with the Bisons of Lipscomb University on Tuesday.

"Going into the game, I could see that Lipscomb has had big innings," said Head Baseball Coach Steve Peterson. "There's no quit in them."

The top of the first inning opened with two quick strike-outs from Bisons pitcher Chris Nunn before walking junior center fielder Bryce Brentz. First baseman Blake McDade then singled up the middle, advancing Brentz to third. Drew Robertson ten singled through the right side to score the game's first run, giving MT a 1-0 lead. Justin Miller double scored Robertson and McDade, followed by a Justin Guidry single that scored Miller to go up 4-0.

The Bisons responded in the bottom of the inning, with center fielder Tyler Wilson drawing a walk and then stole second base. Left fielder M.L. Williams then singled up the middle to score Wilson, cutting the lead to 4-1. A sacrifice fly to left field from right fielder Lee

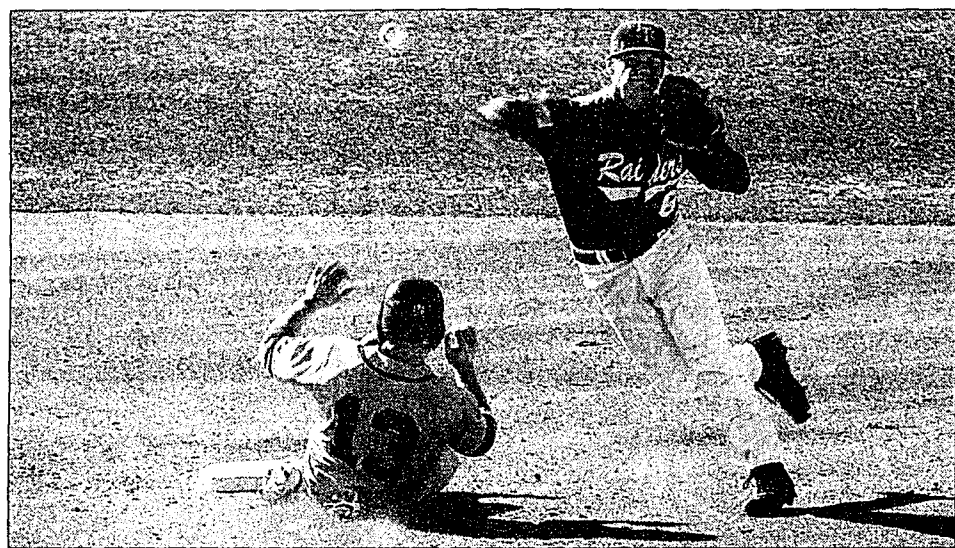


Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor
Freshman infielder Ryan Ford throws out Ohio Bobcats' senior catcher Chris McDonough during their game last month at MTSU.

runs in the eighth inning rounded out the scoring for the Blue Raiders.

The 27th out would prove to be the most difficult one to get. The Bisons mounted their comeback at the expense of junior pitcher Nick Montgomery, who surrendered five runs before being taken out, then was credited for two more when replacement Marshall Mears gave up a 3-run home run to Lipscomb second baseman T.J. Hoelzer.

"I kept saying in the dugout that all it takes is for us to falter a little bit," Peterson said. "It was just a matter of time before they put a big inning up."

McDade led the offense, going 4-for-5 with four RBIs. The Ooltewah, Tenn. native finished just a home run short of the cycle. Guidry also finished 4-for-5, contributing three RBIs.

"I thought Bryce Brentz and Blake McDade really had some quality at-bats," Peterson said. "That's what you gotta do in the middle of the order."

Junior pitcher Eric Gilley started on the mound for MT, but could only make it through three innings, giving up three runs, two earned, on five hits. It would take six more pitchers to make it through the game, with Tyler Hyde and Hunter Dawson being the only relievers to not give up any runs.

"I went into the game knowing that I was gonna use a lot of pitchers," Peterson said. "I don't think anybody pitched good, but I'm sure Lipscomb had a lot to do with that."

Reliever Kevin Whittaker was credited with the win, pitching one inning giving up two runs on two hits and a walk.

Lipscomb starter Chris Nunn had a brutal day on the mound, lasting just 2.1 innings giving up 12 earned runs on nine hits and walking five.

The Blue Raiders improved to 11-5 and look to continue their winning ways this weekend when the team travels to Jonesboro, Ark. for a three-game series with Arkansas State University.

"I'm very thankful for the win, and we've got our hands full this weekend," Peterson said.

Lady Raiders stay focused

As a fan, there is nothing better than hearing a member of the MTSU Lady Raiders talk to the media. They talk about their business mentality, and fans don't have to worry about them getting caught up in anything going on around the game. Simply they know their team is focused and isn't going to give the opponents any white board material.

This pattern was broken post-game for about 5 seconds last Saturday night by Anne-Marie Lanning when she gave us a look, however small a look it was, inside Rick Insell's closely guarded locker room.

Lanning was talking about the next day's finals rematch with University of Arkansas-Little Rock when she said "Well they wanted us" and then abruptly stopped.

She looked to her left to Alysha Clark who just hung her head and chuckled.

Now everyone knew what I had known since January 9th when MTSU failed to hit a 3 pointer for the first time under Insell and lost to the Lady Trojans by 20. MTSU wanted UALR again, and they wanted it badly.

I was on that road trip with the girls and what started as a light and fun bus ride was deflated and lifeless until we were nearly out of the state of Arkansas that night. Not only had UALR won, they had dominated.

Any competitor would want a chance for revenge but this was more than that.

First, to say any of the Lady Raiders are mere competitors is like saying a Gorilla is a slightly large monkey.

They are ultra competitive and this could be seen throughout the tournament. Alysha Clark refusing to be denied on the offensive end, Chelsia Lymon and Jackie Pickel's defensive intensity was unmatched, and there were multiple fist pumps (think Tiger Woods not MTV's "Jersey Shore") after she hit big shot after big shot.

Also, UALR made the mistake of poking the beast. After their semi-final win over New Orleans, Chastity Reed and Kim Sitzman weren't exactly coy nor tactful in stating that they wanted to prove that their first victory wasn't a fluke.

Twenty-four hours and the best basketball game I've ever seen in person later it was clear that UALR's first victory was no fluke. Unfortunately for them it was also clear that MTSU is a force to be reckoned with moving forward into the NCAA tournament.

Casual fans who watched the game surely were awed by Alysha Clark's 48 point performance and they had every right to be. She was simply amazing. No matter who they put on her she was able to figure out how to get to the hoop and get to the line.

Clark was 16-28 on field goals and 16-18 from the



Basketball Buzz

Craig Hoffman

line. This includes 2 wide open lay-ups she missed in overtime. Simply put, outside of those two lay-ups, she was brilliant.

However that's only half of her story. It felt like MTSU was dramatically out-rebounded in the game, however when all the dust settled, the rebound total stood at 37 all. Clark had 16. She also had a key block down the stretch and took several key charges.

However once again, just to focus on Clark is only half the story. While it was primarily Clark on offense, what Jackie Pickel did to Chastity Reed defensively was absolutely unreal.

Pickel held Reed to 14 points in 45 minutes on 7-23 shooting. And unlike the last game when she dominated MTSU with her passing, Reed only had 6 assists to go with her game high 6 turnovers.

After the game, Pickel admitted that she didn't know if she was going to be able to handle Reed but true to MTSU's team first attitude, she wasn't fighting the battle alone. Brandi Brown and Alysha Clark's help defense was nearly perfect and Reed was visibly frustrated.

She started forcing things and put up bad shot after bad shot, missed good shot after good shot, and committed turnover after turnover.

The journey now continues for the Lady Raiders as perhaps the most accomplished group of seniors in team history tries to add the one thing that's missing from their resume: An NCAA tournament win.

Last year, Selection Monday was disappointing for MTSU as they found out not only did they get an 8 seed, despite being 25th in the country (the same place they find themselves this year) but they had a first round date with Michigan State on their home floor as the higher seed.

This year a bump down in seeding sent a capacity crowd at the Lady Raider's viewing party at the Embassy Suites into a frenzy.

The Lady Raiders avoided Connecticut in the first round which looked nearly inevitable as they were in the last region to be unveiled, by falling to a 10 seed. They will play the 7th seeded Mississippi State Bulldogs in the first round in Pittsburgh.

The game is at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday CST and will be broadcast on ESPN.

"I kept saying in the dugout that all it takes is for us to falter a little bit."

STEVE PETERSON
BLUE RAIDER HEAD COACH

Wilson further cut into the Blue Raider lead before Gilley escaped the inning giving up just two runs.

The offense dominated the next two innings, putting up four more runs in the second inning and five runs in the third. A solo home run from Brentz in the third and fourth

Lugt shuts down Evansville

By WILL TRUSLER
Staff Writer

The MT softball team swept the Evansville Purple Aces behind the pitching of junior Lindsey Vander Lugt Tuesday to extend their winning streak to three games.

The Olympia, Wash. native pitched all 14 innings, including a no-hitter in the first outing to improve her record to 7-6 and bring to team to 8-10 for the season.

"Our goal was to get her in the win column as much as possible this year," said head coach Sue Nevar. "She had so many heart-breaking losses last season— It makes it a lot easier to win she has players hitting behind her."

With Vander Lugt lead-

ing the defense from the mound, sophomores Natalie Ysaïs and Jessi Couch each blasted homeruns to pace the Blue Raiders en route to their 5-0 victory.

Ysaïs hit a three-run homer to give the team an early lead bringing in junior Kelsey Dortch and senior Corrie Abel in the bottom of the first inning. With the hit, Dortch extended her hitting streak to five games.

Couch topped off the game in the fifth inning with a long-ball past centerfield to bring in Ysaïs. It was her second homerun of the season.

It took some clutch defensive plays in the sixth to keep the no-hitter intact, but shortstop Brittney Banania and first baseman Kaycee Popham con-

nected to bring the game to a close.

"This is my first no-hitter of my collegiate career," Vander Lugt said. "Coach mentioned in the fourth inning, she expected a no-hitter and we all looked at her thinking she might have jinxed it—but it worked out for the best."

Vander Lugt carried her momentum to the next game striking out the first batter she faced, but gave hits to the next two Evansville hitters. The Purple Aces scored their first run of the day off of a throwing error by MTSU.

The teams swapped runs the next two outings and ratcheted up the defense through the fifth inning until Ashia Terry hit her first homer as a Blue Raider driving in Caitlin

McLure to bring the score to 3-2. McLure had previously stolen her 14th bag of the season, bringing her to 59 for her career, good for second-most in Middle Tennessee history.

The senior outfielder later batted in two runners to seal the game at 5-2. McLure finished the game 3-4 at bat.

"They are making necessary corrections with their hitting," Nevar said. "The players hitting the shots are the ones making the changes. Soon all our players will be hitting the way these batters are hitting."

The squad will have the next week off before traveling to Jacksonville State to take on the Gamecocks in doubleheader action on Wednesday.

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MT is cuckoo for Klosterman

Award-winning writer visits MTSU, changes student perspective

By EMMA EGLI
Features Editor

For someone who has spent the span of his career in the presence of celebrities, drilling them with arbitrary questions and having those interviews printed in renowned publications like "Spin" or "Esquire," Chuck Klosterman is a pretty average dude.

In fact, the only thing that seems to be exceptionally atypical about him are his cool shoes; He dons a pair of bright blue classic Adidas. Other than that, he is really just a writer who knows what he likes with a humorous and relatable way of saying it.

"It's weird that we write about celebrity culture all the time," Klosterman says on one of America's favorite obsessions. "On the one hand, you do get bored with it, but in this weird almost perverted way, you also amplify its importance in your mind."

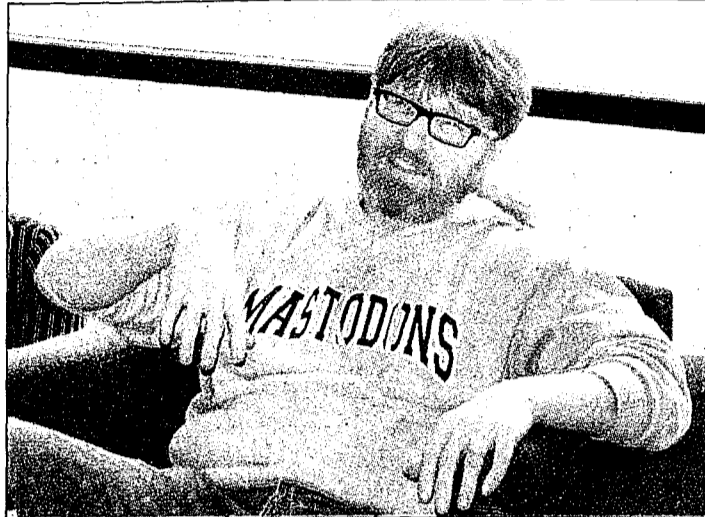
The author of "Sex, Drugs, and Cocoa Puffs," a collection of pop culture essays, divulged in his writing process as well as his curiosity in the self-proclaimed image that celebrities meticulously create.

"I really just write about things that I find interesting and feel that I have something to contribute to or comment on," Klosterman says.

In his most recent book, "Eating the Dinosaur," Klosterman touches on topics like what it means to be somebody else on purpose; more specifically, failed attempts like Garth Brooks' alter ego, Chris Gains.

"Anybody who is an entertainer, for the most part, becomes a public figure," Klosterman says. "Then some become a totally different figure, like David Bowie becoming Ziggy Stardust or Beyoncé becoming Sasha Fierce — maybe Garth Brooks' failure to become a quasi-alt-rock guy says more about him than his success."

But while being a know-it-all of everything, predominately popular culture, Klosterman stresses that his opinions aren't the end-all, be-all of the



"Sometimes I think people take my work too seriously. I think that my ideas are hopefully interesting, they're just not as important to me as people make them seem."

CHUCK KLOSTERMAN

media world.

"Sometimes I think people take my work too seriously," Klosterman says honestly. "I think that my ideas are hopefully interesting, they're just not as important to me as people make them seem."

It's hard to admit that after reading some of his criticisms in "Sex, Drugs and Cocoa Puffs," you can't help but feel just a little guilty about liking certain bands like Coldplay. Seriously, if Klosterman thinks they suck, shouldn't you?

"Ten years ago, nobody gave a shit about what I thought," Klosterman jokes. "I could have said The Beatles are the best band in the world and nobody would care — but if I

went on Twitter right now and said everybody should buy the Japandroid's record, people would."

In an almost endearing way, Klosterman admits that he sometimes gets nervous before an interview.

"I was nervous before I interviewed Thom Yorke," Klosterman discloses. "I had this idea in my mind that he was really going to want to talk about political abstractions."

To prepare himself, he read Naomi Klein's "No Logo," an influential book that analyzes the corporate and branded world, during plane ride to England. Members of Radiohead have mentioned Klein's book in multiple interviews.

"That stuff never came up of course," Klosterman chuckles. "But now I know an awful lot about billboard philosophy."

Klosterman adds that it's the people that were a big deal to him when he was young that make him anxious.

"My favorite band when I was a little guy was Mötley Crüe," Klosterman says. "One of the very first professional interviews I ever did was with Nikki Sixx, and I was so nervous — but after asking him just one question, I realized I'm just talking to a guy in a band."

While he has gathered a multitude of literary fame, Klosterman almost laughs at how unobtainable his goals might have seemed to him when he was younger.

"When I worked for my college newspaper, my dream was that if I worked extremely hard, got some good breaks, then maybe someday I could work for the Minneapolis Star Tribune, Klosterman says. "Of course I'm glad things happened the way they have, I just wonder what I would feel like now if none of them had."

Klosterman points out that just because he has had a few books published, it hasn't changed the person he is and that he feels lucky for achieving his success.

"Nothing about me is different, other than maybe knowing a little more about music," Klosterman says. "A part of me thinks the main element of life is chance, and nobody wants to admit that unless they are unlucky."

Into the rabbit hole

Second star to the right and straight on to Tim Burton's Wonderland

By LAURA AIKEN
Staff Writer

A London fog meanders through the streets, billows past Big Ben and settles in front of a Victorian-style townhome, similar to that of Wendy Darling. If you peer into a lit window, you'll see a golden-haired, moon-eyed girl wearing a very curious expression.

On a dreamy afternoon, Antoinette-like dresses move with the strum of the violins, and the primary pastimes among London's high society include: croquet, tea and proper etiquette. An extremely unhappy Alice arrives at her surprise engagement party defiant and disgruntled. Too many expectations demand her attention, and she decides to make a run for it at the precise moment her odd-looking betrothed pops the big question.

Over the high hedges and through the elaborate, green gardens, Alice sprints, leaving her disapproving family and the air of pretension behind her. In front of her, a white rabbit in a fancy petticoat scampers to a rabbit-hole and dives in. What would you do?

With nothing to lose, Alice tumbles in after him. And as the sopranos in the London chorus crescendos, Alice's venture through the phantasmagoric dream-cape known as Wonderland begins.

Directed by Tim Burton, "Alice in Wonderland" proves to be an exceptional interpretation of Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland," procuring the perfect balance of surreal, dream-like images and hints of Burton's dark and sardonic wit —



Photo courtesy of Disney Pictures

especially noticeable to "Sweeney Todd" fans.

Audience members gasped and the children's eyes were wide — as were mine. Not only was the film beautifully made, from the detailed graphics to the attractive cast members, but also audience members participated interactively, experiencing "Wonderland" in a captivating 3-D format. When Alice fell down that rabbit hole, I felt like I was flying down behind her, spiraling toward something magical.

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Photo courtesy of Circa Survive

Circa Survive performs for a full-house at Exit/In earlier this month. Fans await the bands next album titled "Blue Sky Noise," set to release on April 20.

Public awaits third album

Circa Survive prepares for next album titled "Blue Sky Noise," fans waits eagerly

By JESSICA PACE
Staff Writer

"Anthony [Green] is better at those kinds of questions," says Circa Survive bassist Nick Beard. Finished with sound check, he's just been prompted to explain the concepts behind the band's upcoming third album as he hangs out backstage at Exit/In.

Though Beard doesn't delve too deep into the arty aspects, he does divulge a few things about the making of "Blue Sky Noise" and how Circa Survive's expectations are changing.

Before an extended tour with Torche and Coheed and Cambria beginning in April, Circa Survive only just kicked off a short pre-tour on March 11 with Terrible Things, The Christmas Lights and fellow Philadelphia band Good Old War, whose members have collaborated with Circa vocalist Anthony Green.

As Beard talks about the

mini tour, Good Old War drummer Tim Arnold wanders in on cue and inspects a potential vomit stain on the couch.

"That might've been me from last time," he informs Beard, who laughs and expresses some concern about sounding rusty; it's been a year since Circa Survive's last tour.

No need to worry. Earlier in the evening as the band ran through sound check, the line outside stretched to the corner, with a group of particularly awestruck fans closest to the door peering inside and repeating how "awesome" Circa is.

Fans wait with the same anticipation for the April 20th release of "Blue Sky Noise."

While Beard revealed enough to send the message that the band members have raised the bar for themselves yet again with "Blue Sky Noise," he let little slip about the intricacies

of the album, finding them difficult to explain, starting with the title.

"There's a bunch of meanings to it," Beard says about the album name, but when further pressed, he laughs. "I don't think we're answering that question yet."

Artist Esao Andrews, who painted covers for previous Circa Survive albums "Juturna" and "On Letting Go," has produced yet another captivating image for "Blue Sky Noise." The band provided him with some lyrics and themes from the album to work with.

Among those themes Beard emphasizes the idea of "being lost."

"In my opinion, it's more rockin' than anything we've ever done — it has a lot of variety, it's bigger," he says.

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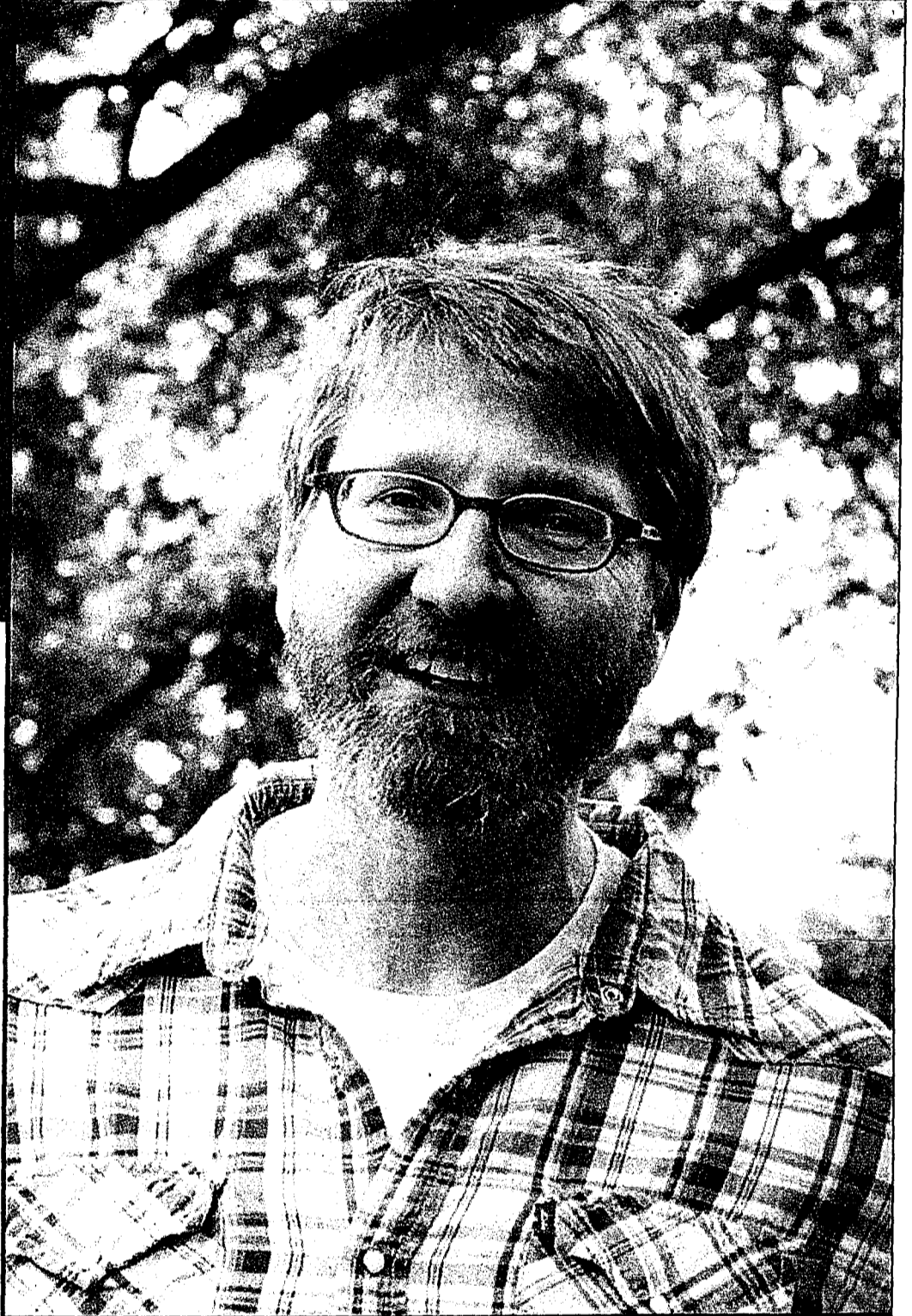
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