

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

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Decision time for McPhee

Provost Diane Miller submits final restructuring proposal, president set to make final decision on colleges

By MARIE KEMPH, DUSTIN EVANS
Campus News Editor, Managing Editor

The final college restructuring proposals were submitted to MTSU President Sidney McPhee on Monday, and if approved, the university would restructure the majority of its colleges.

Interim Executive Vice President and Provost Diane Miller released her final assessment and college restructuring proposal to McPhee, fol-

lowing a 10-month span of committee hearings and department meetings.

"This has been a learning experience for the campus, stimulating all of us to engage in discussions; we have questioned, answered, we have listened, and we have learned," Miller said in a memorandum attached to the proposal.

The college restructuring proposal was put forth in response to the 2009 "Positioning the University for the Future Initiative," a detailed report that outlined what McPhee's long-term goals would be for the university.

Beginning July 1, 2011, MTSU's budget will be reduced by at least \$19.3 million, and the possibility remains that an additional \$6 million would also be cut.

As a result, university administrators have spent nearly a year meeting with fac-

ulty and staff to discuss what changes should be made, and how these decisions would be implemented.

The proposed changes involve shifting numerous departments into other colleges and renaming or reordering all of the colleges except for the University Honors College and the Jennings A. Jones College of Business.

In addition, the proposal requests the elimination of certain programs and the reorganization of others by removing aspects and concentrations that receive lower enrollments.

The concentrations within the global studies major would end in May of 2013. The doctorate of arts in chemistry would phase out in December of 2012, and the art history concentration, which began in 2004, would end

in May of 2013. The undergraduate program in industrial technology would be completely phased out by December.

The graduate certificate program in geosciences was also selected for elimination in the proposal, however, officials in the department of geosciences said the program has already been terminated.

If the proposal is accepted, MTSU will create a new College of Arts and Sciences, which will now consist of the departments of biology, chemistry, computer science, geosciences, mathematical sciences, physics and astronomy. The new college will also house English, foreign languages and literatures, history, philosophy, political science and sociology and anthropology.

RESTRUCTURING, PAGE 3

Restructuring sets sights on liberal arts

Miller's proposal, if approved, could break apart the entire College of Liberal Arts

By ROZALIND RUTH
Community News Editor

If approved by MTSU President Sidney McPhee, the College of Liberal Arts will be disbanded into three separate colleges, as part of the college restructuring proposal submitted Monday by Diane Miller, interim executive vice president and provost.

The departments under the College of Liberal Arts will be distributed among the new colleges created during the proposed restructuring.

The new College of Art and Sciences would accommodate the departments of English, foreign language and literature, geosciences, history, sociology and anthropology, philosophy, and political science.

Social work and communication disorders would be housed under the new College of Applied, Behavioral and Health Sciences.

In the proposal submitted by the College of Mass Communication, the theatre and dance, art and music programs would be moved into separate departments within the new school of visual and performing arts under the new College of Communication, Fine Arts and Entertainment Industries.

Loren Mulraine, associate dean of the College of Mass Communication, said one of the main goals during the process of restructuring was to make sure that all current departments remained intact.

"One of the main things that [the president's office] has been telling us from the very beginning is that the main purpose of restructuring is not to save money, although there are still some money-issues going on," Mulraine said. "We want to make sure that they didn't cut anything that we thought was really essential- for us it's the people."

Jeff Gibson, director of theatre, said he also believes saving money is not the main purpose of the restructuring.

"We're facing budget cuts at the university, so they are looking for areas to cut, but that's not the driving force of this reorganization," Gibson said. "Hopefully some cost saving will come out of it, but I don't think it's going to be enough to justify doing this kind of restructuring on its own."

George Riordan, director of the school of music, said there were many concerns with the prospect of the new college, but he thinks much of that has been addressed through meetings and compromises made between the College of Mass Communication and College of Liberal Arts.

"In our particular case, I'm convinced that we are coming up with something that will help position the university for the future; a number of my colleges disagree, but we've got a consensus that, 'yeah, this is a good idea,'" Riordan said.

Riordan said he thinks the restructuring of what used to be two separate colleges should be viewed as the creation of a new college.

"It is a new college and it isn't simply some units joining a pre-existing structure. Now it will function that way to an extent," Riordan said. "But I think it's very important for all of us to think of this as something new that will help position the university for the future, which has been the president's vision all along."

Riordan said he thought one of the biggest issues is making sure that no section of a college will be downgraded in stature with the new restructuring, and he said having the school of music remain an individual school is important to the university.

"One of the reasons that theatre and dance are combined with music - other than the fact that there is a natural association - is that theatre and dance are not their own department," Riordan said. "My concern at this point is to make sure that theatre and dance have the administrative resources that they need."

ARTS, PAGE 3



Photo by David Cooley, contributing photographer

Yasser Arafat, junior political science major, spoke at the Middle East Lecture Series titled "Islam and the West" on Tuesday and was in the heat of controversy after he was asked to sign documents concerning Middle Eastern relations, such as slavery and the death penalty.

Controversy at Middle East lecture

Speaker asked to sign documents that deal with slavery, death penalty

By CHRISTOPHER MERCHANT
Assistant News Editor

Conversation became heated Tuesday night during the question-and-answer portion of a panel organized by the Muslim Student Association on the Middle East's relations with the West.

Eddie Adelman Jr. audience member and local resident was visibly upset when he called for speaker Yasser Arafat, junior political science major (not to be confused with the former chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization) to sign two written documents that called for the abolishment of certain practices in the Muslim world.

The documents deal specifically with the issues of slavery and the use of the death penalty for those who convert from Islam to another religion in Muslim lands.

Adelman said he saw an episode of "60 Minutes" covering human trafficking in Yemen.

Arafat, who has taught Arabic and Islamic studies in the Islamic Center of Nashville, Tenn., signed the statement concerning slavery in the Muslim world.

"I don't think there is any place in the Muslim world where slavery is practiced," said Abdullah Al-Ansari,

imam at the Islamic Center of Tennessee - Nashville, who participated in the panel.

Adelman also asked both Arafat and Al-Ansari, if they would sign a statement that denounced the imprisonment or execution of those who convert from Islam.

Arafat said Islam does not support the practice of slavery, though in the past, he said, there were cultures in the Middle East where slavery was common and the Quran has guidelines on how to treat slaves.

He said that Muslims who committed certain sins where required to free one slave for each transgression, and as a result, slavery was abolished in the Muslim world due to Islam.

Al-Ansari said that in Muslim countries there is no separation between church and state. Therefore, adopting a religion other than Islam is tantamount to treason.

"It is the duty of Islamic states to apply prescribed punishment," Al-Ansari said. "Apostasy means death - we do not question Allah's wisdom."

However, Al-Ansari said that executions in Muslim lands are the duty of the state and are not carried out by individual citizens. He added that Muslim countries would not seek to prosecute converts who left the country before they could be brought to trial.

Neither Al-Ansari nor Arafat signed the statement on capitol punishment for converts.



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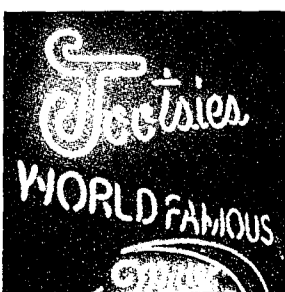
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"Clash of the Titans" is a colossal waste of money.
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IN TODAY'S ISSUE



Nashville bar
Tootsies gives
locals and
tourists down
home feel.

ONLINE @

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THURSDAY FORECAST

A.M. SHOWERS
60% CHANCE OF RAIN
HIGH 59, LOW 39

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I drink way too much coffee. But if it weren't for the coffee, I'd have no identifiable personality whatsoever."

David Letterman

Education Building on schedule

University additions to be completed by anniversary

By APRIL BAILEY
Contributing Writer

The construction of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences building and the new Student Union Building are operating on scheduled time, according to officials with facility services.

Jamie Brewer, project manager of Campus Planning, said the building should be finished as scheduled for fall 2011, and the new Student Union Building is scheduled to be completed no later than fall 2012.

There has not yet been a name dedicated to either of the buildings.

The end of construction is planned for the centennial anniversary of the university, which according to the MTSU Web site, was "founded in 1911 as one of three state normal schools for teacher training."

The College of Education faculty and staff said they are excited about the upcoming building and looking forward to its completion.

"It will be nice to have the education facilities, faculty and staff together in one building," said Linda Hall, executive secretary to the dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences.

According to the MTSU Campus Planning Web site, construction on the education building will cost approximately \$29.9 million and will include 1,000 new classroom seats, 87 faculty offices, gathering areas, labs, conference offices and a 100-seat auditorium.

In the Oct. 31, 2009, issue of *Sidelines*, President Sidney McPhee said the project would cost \$32.7 million, from funds appropriated before the economic downturn through cash appropriations and state bonds – not from student funds.

The Student Union Building, currently in design stages, is being funded with \$77.1 million and will have new

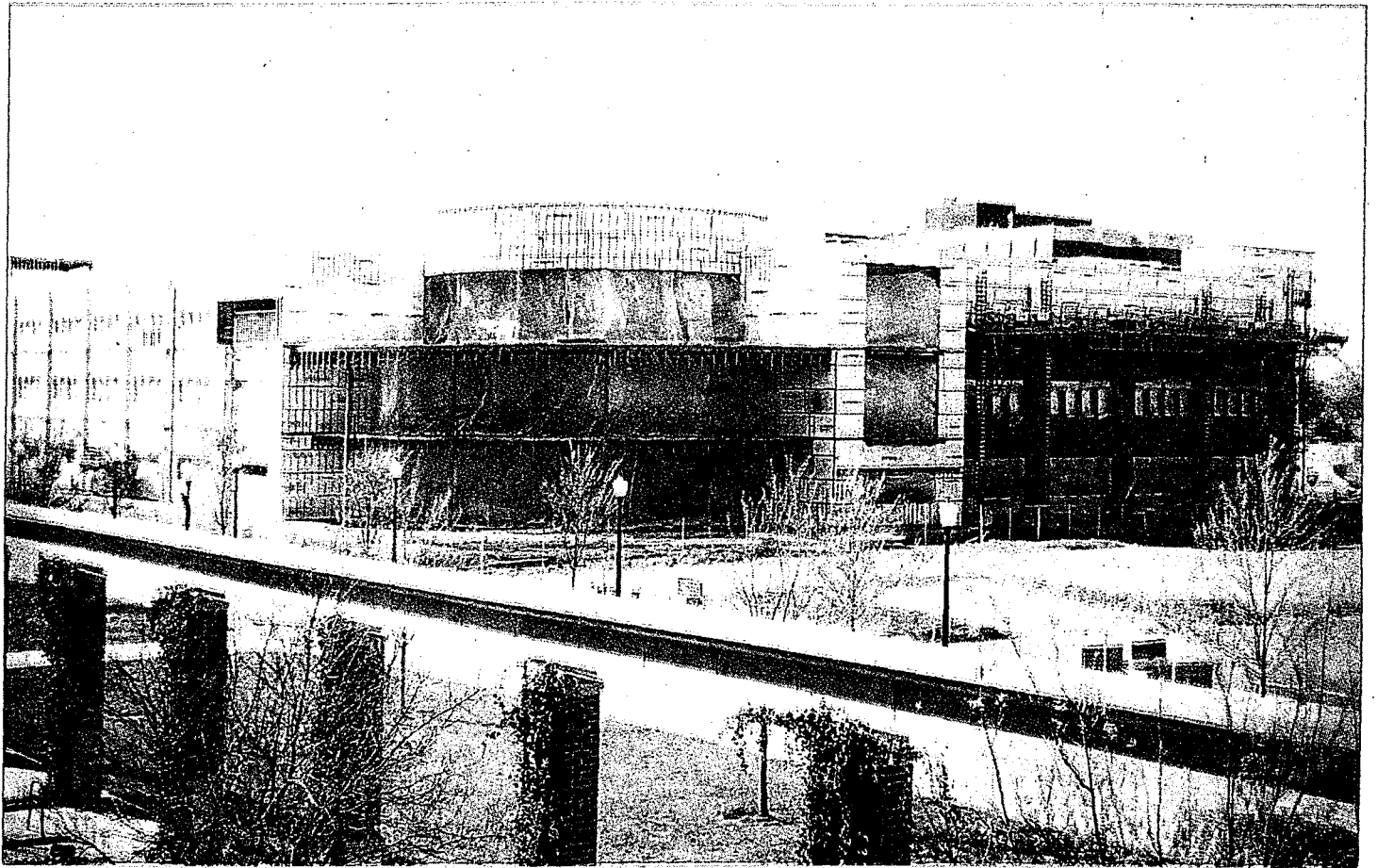


Photo by David Cooley, contributing writer

The new Education Building began construction in October 2009 and is expected to be completed in fall 2011. After the building's completion, less than a year later, the new Student Union Building is set to be completed and will be positioned directly beside the Education Building.

tion and Behavioral Sciences to reorganize, and the building will also help MTSU excel in teacher education," said Lana Seivers, dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Science.

Melyn Thompson, senior education and behavioral science major, said she wished the building was going to be completed sooner.

"It's exciting for newer education majors but us old-heads will be out of here by the time it's finished," Thompson said.

The construction of the new student union building is also under way, and construction workers are scheduled to begin laying steel next month.

See a photo gallery online @

MTSUSIDELINES.COM

facilities for student union functions, indoor and outdoor food courts, expanded student organization area and areas for student activities, retail, a ballroom, new Student Government Association offices, and a copy center.

"This is a unique opportunity for the College of Educa-

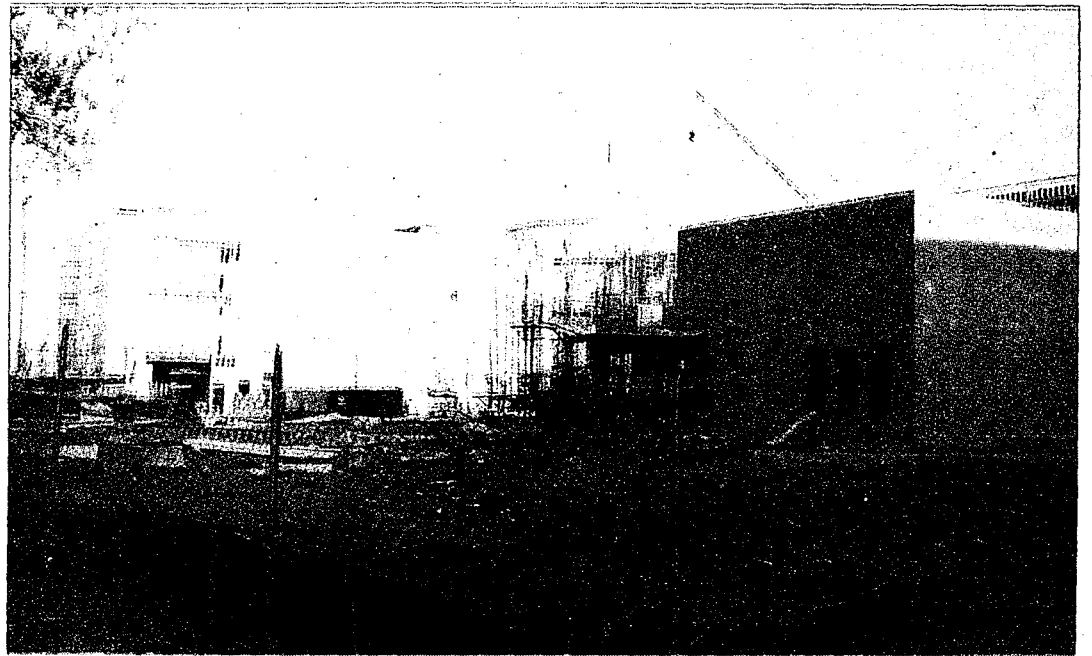


Photo by David Cooley, contributing photographer

The Education Building is continuing on schedule and the building is set to include new classroom seats, faculty offices, gathering areas, labs, conference offices and an auditorium.

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BURGER

EINSTEIN BREADS Cheese Pizza Bagel & Drink \$4.99

Fante Fe Wrap & Coffee \$5.00

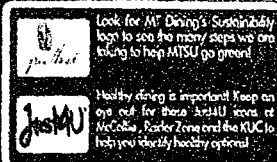
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Wed. April 28 Dinner @ JUB

exam jam
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RESTRUCTURING FROM PAGE 1

The proposal shows the College of Basic and Applied Sciences being renamed into the College of Applied, Behavioral and Health Sciences, which would pull programs from the existing College of Education and Behavioral Sciences.

The aforementioned college would hold the departments of aerospace, criminal justice and administration, engineering technology, human sciences, military science, psychology, social work, School of Nursing and the School of Agribusiness and Agriscience.

The communication disorders major, originally housed in the department of speech and theatre, would be added to the department of health and human performance, which would also be a part of the College of Applied, Behavioral and Health Sciences.

The remaining components of speech and

theatre would be moved into the College of Mass Communication, which would be renamed as the College of Communication, Fine Arts and Entertainment Industries.

This college would host the department of art, department of electronic media communication, department of recording industry and the School of Journalism. A new School of Music, Theatre and Dance as well as the communication department, which would include communication studies and organizational communication, would also be formed.

The College of Education would comprise the remaining department of elementary and special education, bringing the early childhood education program under its control.

**Read the full story
online @
MTSUSIDELINES.COM**

ARTS FROM PAGE 1

Mulrairie expressed the same sentiment as Riordan, noting the priority of keeping each department and school intact.

"We don't want somebody coming over here and becoming a part of somebody else's department," Mulrairie said. "We also wanted each department to maintain their economic integrity."

Mulrairie said the accreditation of each department within the new College of Communication, Fine Arts and Entertainment Industries would not be effected because each one is accredited individually.

Mulrairie said per capita the number of faculty and staff per school should remain about the same.

Gibson said he thinks the department's move into the new college would be very beneficial to the students in the entire college.

"I think the similarity of function will help, perhaps it will benefit us - also the synergies of being more closely aligned with programs that share commonalities in training," Gibson said.

Mulrairie said students do not need to worry about their academic status due to changes in the colleges. Students who currently have specified requirements for a certain discipline would not be expected to complete any new require-

ments because of new academic catalogues.

Mulrairie said certain disciplines of students are required, in current catalogues, to take a certain amount of credits for a different college. Those students would not be affected by the combination of the colleges.

"The way we define college minor is going to have to change," Mulrairie said. "Of course the catalogues are going to change, but it's not going to affect [students]."

Mulrairie said that some of the angst that was felt by the staff when restructuring was first proposed has subsided, and said that the majority of faculty and staff see the value of the combination.

"I think there are a fair amount of people who feel as though this is really just an exercise - it's going to change but not necessarily make things better or worse," Mulrairie said. "But there are also a fair amount of people who think it's going to make things better because there will be natural synergies between some areas that there should be already."

Miller's proposal for the restructuring of the colleges has been submitted to the office of the President, and is awaiting his approval.

McPhee has yet to announce when he plans to make his final decision on the restructuring of the colleges. If the restructuring is approved by McPhee, he will send a proposal to the Tennessee Board of Regents, however, if it passes through the TBR, there is still no set date for the restructuring to be enacted.



Photo courtesy of morguefile.com

Student loan financing and payment plans are undergoing major changes following President Barack Obama's passage of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act, which will give the Department of Education control of student loans.

Financial aid revised

US Department of Education takes control of student loans

STAFF REPORT

The U.S. Department of Education will now be in charge of all student loans as a result of a revision added to the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act, which was signed into law by President Barack Obama in March.

The White House Press Office posted a blog stating that all federal student loans will be directly delivered and collected by private companies contracted out on a performance basis.

The blog also reported that, "according to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, ending these wasteful subsidies will free up near-

ly \$68 billion for college affordability and deficit reduction over the next 11 years."

With this plan, graduates are able to cap their student loan payments at 10 percent of their income through an income based repayment plan.

In addition, the balance of student's loans would be forgiven after 20 years if the payments were made on time. Public service workers, such as the military, nurses and teachers, will have their debt forgiven after 10 years.

White House administrators said this would make it easier for graduates who choose to enter careers that tend to be lower paying.

In addition to new loan legislation, the HCER Act will also bring more investments in community colleges and minority-serving institutions, and double the dollar amount of Pell Grants given to students each year.

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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

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Application deadline: 4 p.m. Friday, April 16

Editor selection interviews will be held the week of April 26.

Sidelines is also accepting applications for the following staff positions in the Summer and Fall 2010 semester:

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Features editors
Photo editor
Opinions editor

Copy editors
Assistant editors
Staff writers
Staff photographers
Production Manager
Distributors

To apply, come by COMM 269 and fill out a staff application. These positions are open until filled.

PRACTICUM CREDIT IS AVAILABLE TO ALL APPLICANTS.

CRIME BRIEFS

April 1, 5:07 p.m.
Traffic
 Rutherford Parking Lot
 Ronald Dutton, 25, was issued a citation for no proof of insurance and registration violation.

April 1, 5:40 p.m.
Vandalism
 Jim Cummings Hall Lot
 A complainant reported damage to a vehicle.

April 2, 1:10 a.m.
DUI
 Rutherford Boulevard
 Brandy K. Beller, 24, was arrested for her first offense of driving under the influence and violation of the implied consent of the law.

April 2, 4:14 a.m.
Traffic
 Alma Mater Drive
 A complainant witnessed a hit and run and

requested an officer.
April 3, 12:30 a.m.
Assault
 Scarlett Commons, Building 8
 An assault was reported.

April 3, 2:30 a.m.
Traffic
 Clement Hall
 No description was given.

April 3, 4:25 a.m.
Theft
 Bell Street Lot
 A complainant reported a burglary and theft of a vehicle.

April 3, 5:48 p.m.
Burglary
 Bell Street Lot
 An officer reported that a vehicle appeared to be burglarized.

April 4, 1:33 a.m.
DUI
 Old Main Circle
 Parrisha L. Parrish was arrested for her first offense of driving under the influence and a citation for driving the wrong way on a one-way street.

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THROUGH THE SIDELINES LENS

Photo by Ray Ingram, staff photographer

The opening of the student show "Diverse Symbiosis" that began April 6 in the Todd Art Gallery on campus gave both MTSU and the Middle Tennessee community an opportunity to visualize and appreciate the talent that MTSU artists possess.

Start here

Live off campus?

The Census needs you to return your form.

There are special programs in place to count students on campus. But if you live off campus, you have to complete your own 2010 Census form that arrived in the mail. By participating, you're helping future students enjoy some of the same benefits and services that you have today. It's just 10 questions and takes about 10 minutes. So fill it out and mail it back.

WE CAN'T MOVE FORWARD UNTIL YOU MAIL IT BACK.

United States Census 2010
 IT'S IN OUR HANDS

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Letters Policy

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopinio@mtsu.edu and include your name and phone number for verification. Sidelines will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit grammar, length and content.

OPINIONS

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

Deconstructing the Che 'revolution'

A symbol of pop culture among America's youth shouldn't receive such high levels of idealization

As I was walking across campus, I saw a girl wearing a T-shirt with Che Guevara's image blazoned across the front. At first, I reacted with horror, utterly confused as to why anyone would wear a T-shirt celebrating the Communist revolutionary, who, for many, is considered a mass murderer.

However, after taking some time to reflect, I only had one question: Does she know the truth about Che Guevara? If so, then perhaps she wouldn't wear a T-shirt with his image on it anymore.

His image can be seen in stores such as Spencer's, used as a design by Victoria Secret, and there has even been a movie made about him, "The Motorcycle Diaries." Retail



Marie Kempf
Southern symposium

stores and Hollywood alike have made quite a lot of money off Guevara's image in spite of his history.

Although Guevara is more known for his commitment to the Cuban Revolution alongside Fidel Castro, the Argentine-born son of middle-class parents first attended medical school before drop-

ping out to travel throughout Latin America. Sadly, instead of saving lives, he spent much of it ending those of innocent victims, including women and children.

Guevara's victims include Carlos Machado, 15, Rigoberto Hernandez, a 17-year-old mentally disabled janitor who worked at Havana's local high school, Juana Diaz, who was six months pregnant when she was executed, and countless others.

All of those who died by execution were blindfolded, gagged and bound to a pole before being murdered by either Guevara or his handlers. Currently, the Free Society Project has dedicated a Web site - cubaarchive.org - devoted

to documenting the identities of all of Guevara's victims. As of late, the number of victims continues to grow.

The total of political prisoners remains high in Communist-controlled Cuba. Raul Rivero, a Cuban poet and journalist, is serving 20 years in a Labor Camp for speaking out against the Castro regime.

Fontova, a Cuban-born American citizen, wrote in another article, "The Che Guevara Force," in 2007 about the irony of Guevara's modern-day persona among American college students and politicians.

"He abolished habeas corpus," Fontova said, adding that Eusebio Penalver, a black political prisoner, spent more time

in a Cuban prison than Nelson Mandela, and that sadly, blacks are still prohibited from voting in Cuba.

Yet for some reason, "everyone from Charles Rangel to Jesse Jackson, from Christopher Dodd to Jimmy Carter and from Bono to Sting" still praise Fidel Castro's leadership today, Fontova said.

Paul Berman, a writer for Slate Magazine, said it best: "I wonder if people who stand up to cheer a hagiography of Che Guevara, as the Sundance [Festival's] audience did, will ever give a damn about the oppressed people of Cuba - will ever lift a finger on behalf of Cuban liberals and dissidents. It's easy in the world of film to make a movie about Che, but who

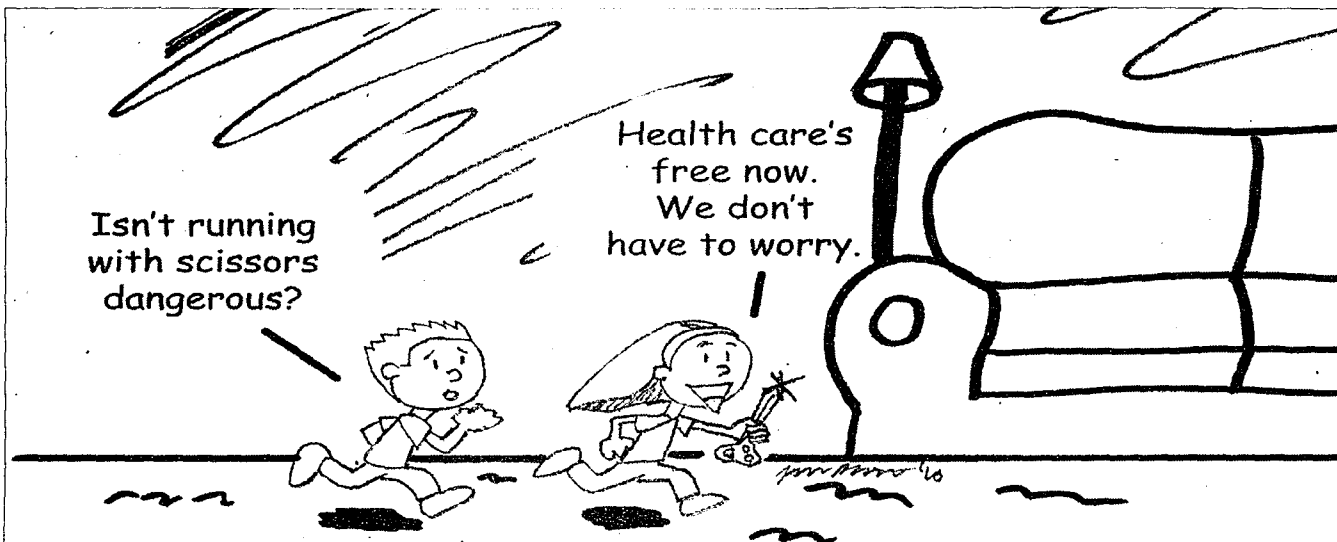
among that cheering audience is going to make a movie about Raul Rivero?"

Despite the fact that I could spend much more time detailing the crimes committed by Guevara, it is up to you to decide how you feel about this man and how he should be remembered.

Ask yourself this: If you knew that many Cuban-Americans consider Guevara to be the Latin American version of Adolph Hitler, would you wear a T-shirt celebrating what he represents?

Marie Kempf is a senior journalism major and campus news editor of Sidelines. She can be reached at slcampus@mtsu.edu.

Seattle Spew



By KYLE PATTERSON
Staff Cartoonist

megapencil5@yahoo.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Constitution not as flexible as some have made it seem

I am writing in response to Professor Louie Haas' letter ("Constitution does not override health care bill," Sidelines, April 5). Dr. Haas' argument is flawed on some very key points.

First, Dr. Haas' interpretation of the 10th Amendment would render it meaningless. The 10th Amendment plainly states that "the powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people."

If the amendment isn't designed to limit the powers of the federal government and reserve other powers to the states, then what was the point in the Founding Fathers proposing the thing?

Second, the "necessary and proper clause" found in Article 1, Section 8 only applies to enumerated powers vested to the federal government, and once again, by the Constitution.

Third, the "supremacy clause" in Article 4 only applies to federal laws that are made "in pursuance" of the Constitution.

Fourth, the "commerce clause" of Article 1, Section 8 allows the federal government to regulate trade among - i.e. between - the states, not within the states.

Over the years, the commerce clause has been stretched by judges to essentially allow the federal government to regulate anything that "affects" interstate commerce - something the Founding Fathers didn't want when they wrote the Constitution. This is indicated by the very intentional separation of federal and state powers in the Constitution.

Dr. Haas' view of the Constitution places more emphasis on stare decisis and the judicial "interpretation" of the document, as opposed to what it actually says. This view is very problematic and renders the Constitution essentially worthless.

The framers of the Constitution did not intend for the document to be a tabula rasa that judges and lawmakers may do with as they please.

Since Dr. Haas places such emphasis on "interpretation" of the Constitution, it is worthy to note that the Supreme Court has already ruled (Bailey v. Drexel Furniture Co.) that the federal government may not tax to penalize people.

Fifth, the "mandatory buy-in" created by Romneycare passes "constitutional muster" because it was enacted at the state level by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, not by the federal government, which lacks such authority.

-Christopher Burks, senior economics major

Talented student body should be more active in Scholar's Week

I took part in the annual Scholar's Week's poster and multimedia presentation event late last month at the Murphy Center. I hadn't heard much about the week until my dance history teacher suggested I enter a project. I would never have thought of the idea if she hadn't asked me, so I applied.

A few weeks went by after I entered and I received an e-mail stating that my piece had been accepted 10 days before the poster and multimedia presentation. I have to admit, I was excited to participate.

I prepared myself for everything I was to be going say about my project to anyone who wanted to listen. My project was a recreation of Igor Stravinsky and Vaslav Nijinsky's ballet The Rite of Spring, which premiered in Paris in 1913.

The original piece had the composition and choreography that propelled both music and dance into a new era, but its grotesque images led to a riot in the audience. In the 1980s, the Joffrey Ballet recreated the dance.

My recreation was a painting with photographs of identical move-



Madi Flournoy
The visceral pen

ments from the Joffrey Ballet's performance, retelling the story within the ballet from beginning to end. You could say it was an art piece about a historical ballet.

As I arrived to the showing that Friday, I grew anxious to hear and see people's reactions to my work. I set up my assigned area and decided to look around at what other students had prepared. The presenter across from me was about the pollution that emissions create and a large presentation next to me was on astronomy.

This is when I realized that Scholar's Week is dominated by the sciences, and I began to feel out of place.

I'm sure many of the other students were aiming at

the same goal. I merely decided to submit something that interested me.

The project was for a class, but what was to be done with the assignment was completely up to the student. That freedom of choice allowed me to pick from the numerous possibilities that were both interesting and educational.

I was hoping to see more of a variety from the different colleges at Scholar's Week; however, the sciences dominated.

Even so, I think there could have been a larger range.

When I walk through the Todd Art Building, I see some of the most spectacular sculptures - there you go: Those could be entries. The same thing goes for the category I was in: I have seen student-choreographed dance pieces that are beyond creative with their precise geometry of choreography and purpose, yet they were nowhere to be found at Scholar's Week.

I'm not saying that the event was only lacking art sculptures and dance pieces; I'm merely saying there are so many wonderful, creative ideas that should

be acknowledged.

MTSU is a melting pot of different majors and areas of interest that should be shown off because they're enjoyable and deserve to be recognized.

One week isn't enough time for what our school is capable of showing. However, at least that one week would be full of different areas of study if we did squeeze them all in.

I'm not sure I will participate in Scholar's Week next year, yet whether I do or not, I hope to see the work of students who are deserving of praise but often go unnoticed. So many of the projects at the event were spectacular, yet they were only a fraction of what the university could have shown.

Teachers should ask their students - like mine did - to enter into Scholar's Week when they see an original project. They may have no idea about the opportunity if they don't. Opportunities have to be heard from somewhere.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The Gods must be lazy

Poor acting, heightened spectacle makes for another lousy remake

By MATTHEW HAMMITT
Position

Director Louis Leterrier's "Clash of the Titans" is the product of Hollywood's misconception that the key to the audience's heart – accompanying financial issues – is to provide them with as much meaningless spectacle as possible. While the inherent theatricality of Greek mythology requires the movie's grandiose scale, I'm not sure the source material should be saddled with responsibility for its lack of soul.

The film's shortcomings seem to derive from a general lack of enthusiasm from the people involved in its creation. The direction is stilted and rigid. The action sequences must have been purchased second-hand at an excitement thrift store, and the performances from every person involved are ultimately as synthetic as the special effects.

Sam Worthington cannot act. "Clash of the Titans" emphatically proves this to be true. His previous roles have disguised this shortcoming through clever plot devices. In "Terminator Salvation" he was half-robot (apparently the creative half). In "Avatar" he spent the majority of the movie as a blue cartoon character.

As Perseus in "Clash" he might be half-god, but he's all-bad. During the film's emotional climax, Worthington watches stone-faced as his life-long protector bleeds to death. He cannot manage a single tear during this important event; it's all he can do to remain handsome.

Is there a less interesting choice to portray Zeus than Liam Neeson? As near as I can tell, Neeson didn't even need to show up for work on this movie. His performance could have been edited into the picture from any number of the Neeson-as-gruff-father-figure roles he has inhabited over the last 20 years.

Ralph Fiennes is predictably cast as Hades, though some intellectual property credit I suppose is due to Rob Zombie for providing the character's wardrobe. Fiennes' portrayal of the Greek god of The Underworld similar to that guy in a working environment who feels ethically justified in stealing office supplies because human resources shackled him with a terrible parking space – (though in Hades defense, the Underworld is about as bad a parking space as you can end up with.)

There is, however, the small issue of Hades' legitimate grievances to address. The movie's prologue clearly states that Zeus tricked Hades into being trapped in the underworld for eternity after using him to topple the tyranny of their parents. And yet, history laments Hades a villain for faithfully fulfilling the role he was forced into. I could sympathize with the condemned deity as a victim of circumstance if he wasn't such a whiny, murky-voiced, eczema-case.

"Clash of the Titans" is presented in 3D. 3D, in this case, is industry shorthand for "you just paid an extra 3Dollars to see this movie for no discernible reason." The only motive for

this movie being presented in 3D is to protect moviegoers against temporary blindness caused by the luminosity of the brass tea set Zeus mistook for a suit of armor by providing them with a pair of slightly tinted glasses.

Worse yet, the movie utilizes the polarized 3D technology rather than hazy red and blue anaglyphic 3D images, which prevents morally upstanding audience members from removing the glasses and using the movie as a surrogate drug experience – though I caution that a legitimate drug experience would be less expensive.

I'm not quite sure if revealing the conclusions of ancient Greek myths constitutes spoiling the narratives of movies, but if you wish the plot of "Clash of the Titans" to remain a mystery, read no further.

Mankind decides at the beginning of the movie that they are tired of ill-treatment suffered at the hands of the gods, so they declare war on their ethereal forebears. Hades convinces Zeus, the king of the gods, to let him deliver a threatening ultimatum to the humans in order to regain their obedience.

Hades' ultimatum is clear: sacrifice Andromeda, the princess of Argos, to satisfy the gods or suffer destruction at the hands, well, tentacles of the sea monster known as the Kraken. And yet, when the deadline arrives, the people of Argos willingly offer up the princess as an immediate sacrifice. But the Kraken destroys the city anyway, only moving to claim his sacrifice after laying half of Ar-

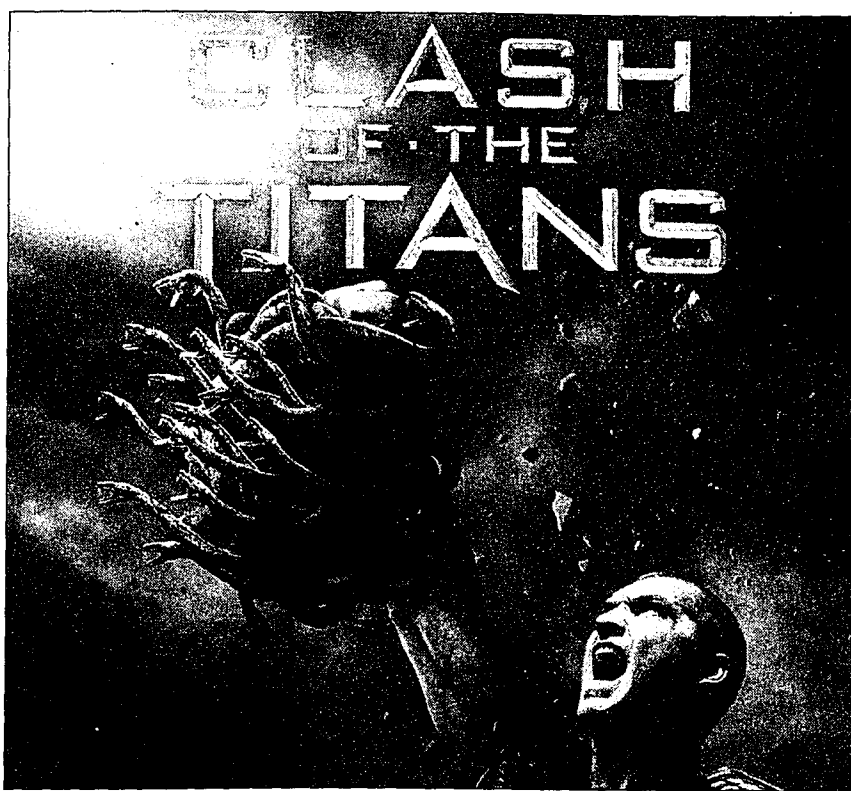


Photo courtesy of IGN images

gos to waste. This is probably the fault of the townsfolk for trusting in the situational awareness of gigantic, pissed-off calamari.

What ensues throughout the rest of the movie is less a film and more a series of unintentionally hilarious heavy-metal album covers. Characters come and go – their motivations and temperaments bizarrely inconsistent. There are attempts at humor that fail and attempts at sincerity that are hilarious. Every line of dialogue sounds like a professional wrestler is delivering it.

Ultimately, Perseus dispatches both the Kraken and Hades to save the day. When asked to take his place among the gods by his father, Perseus demurs, preferring to remain with mankind. This is a wise decision. Perhaps if Worthington lives among humans long enough, he may figure out how to act like one.

LIGHTNING RATING SYSTEM

1.5 Bolts

Ranking based on the review below. Contact Matthew Hammitt at mch2m@mts.edu for comments or further information.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
12				13			14		15			
16				17					18			
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	46				47			48		49		
		50						51				
52	53			54		55	56	57		58	59	60
61			62		63					64		
65					66					67		
68						69				70		

Across

- 1- Darn; 5- Back talk; 8- Water abroad; 12- Between ports; 13- Swellings; 15- Respiratory organ; 16- Drops from the sky; 17- New York city; 18- "Venerable" English monk; 19- Ancient language of Gaul; 22- Aurora's counterpart; 23- Cornerstone abbr.; 24- Frond plant; 26- Actress Mason; 29- Anew; 31- Darlin'; 32- Dubois' "talented" group; 34- Valleys; 36- Baltic feeder; 38- Ascends; 40- Actress Turner; 41- Humped ruminant; 43- Chairs; 45- Cpl., for one; 46- Small lobe; 48- Deceive; 50- Former French colony of north-western Africa; 51- Decoration at the top of a chair leg; 52- Land in la mer; 54- Imperturbable; 61- Goes down; 63- New Hampshire city; 64- Person, place or thing; 65- Bottom of the barrel; 66- Four-door; 67- Cross inscription; 68- Goes astray; 69- Convened; 70- Elderly, matured;

Down

- 1- Sportscaster Albert; 2- Biblical birthright seller; 3- Singer Sedaka; 4- Peril; 5- Lounge; 6- Brain wave; 7- Heating fuel; 8- Long-sleeved linen vestment; 9- State in NE Australia; 10- Go back, in a way; 11- A long time; 13- Arctic gale; 14- Smell; 20- Kind of prof.; 21- Dweeb; 25- Actual; 26- Related to form; 27- Wind speed measuring instrument; 28- Licorice-like flavoring; 29- In front; 30- Therefore; 31- Ad _____; 33- Half a fly; 35- _____ Paulo, Brazil; 37- First name in country; 39- Raise a grade?; 42- Corker; 44- Hit with an open hand; 47- Rings of a chain; 49- The Muse of astronomy; 52- Land in water; 53- Lecherous look; 55- Dues; 56- Moon of Jupiter; 57- Med school subj.; 58- Dull resonant sound; 59- Decoy; 60- Children's author Blyton; 62- Draft org.;

Answers for April 1, 2010

T	A	P	S	M	A	G	M	A	L	I	L	I
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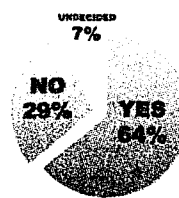
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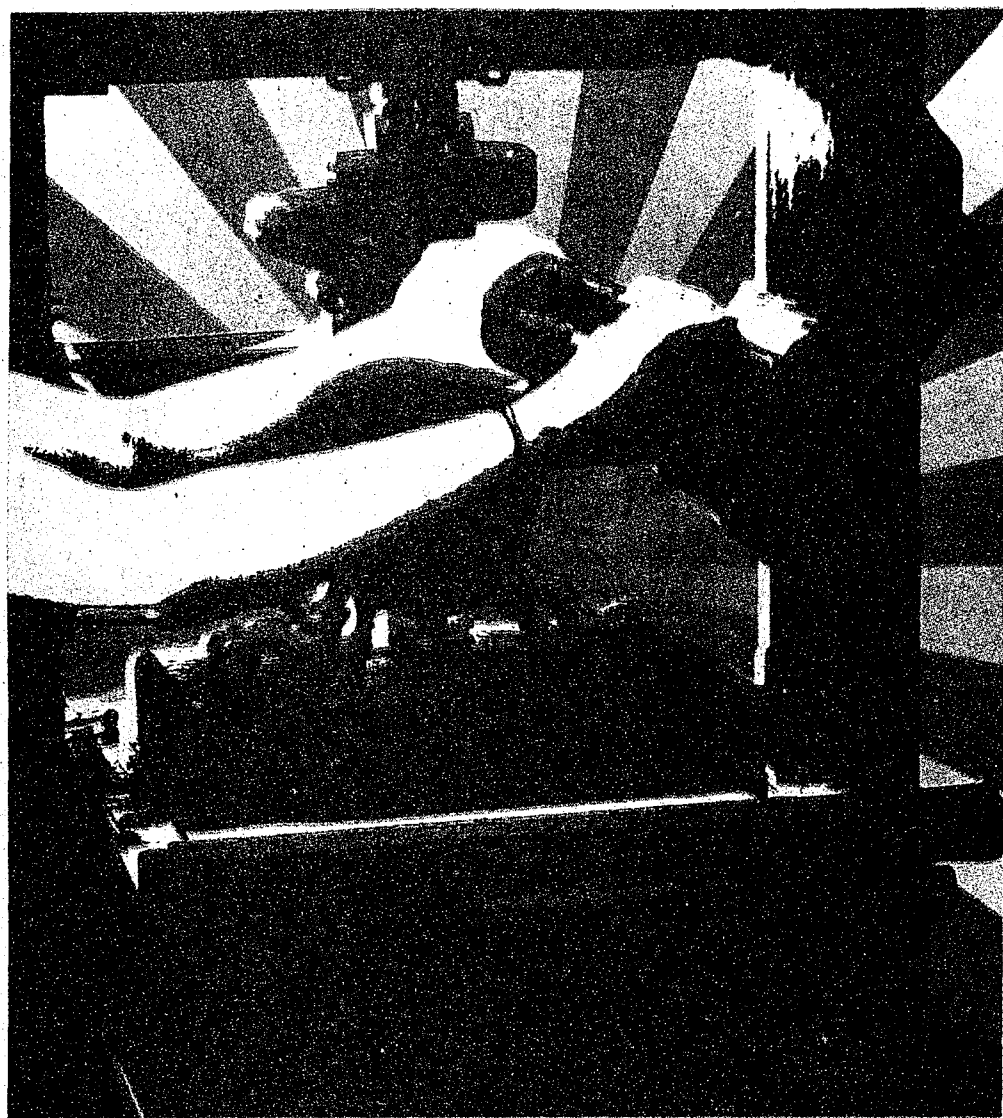


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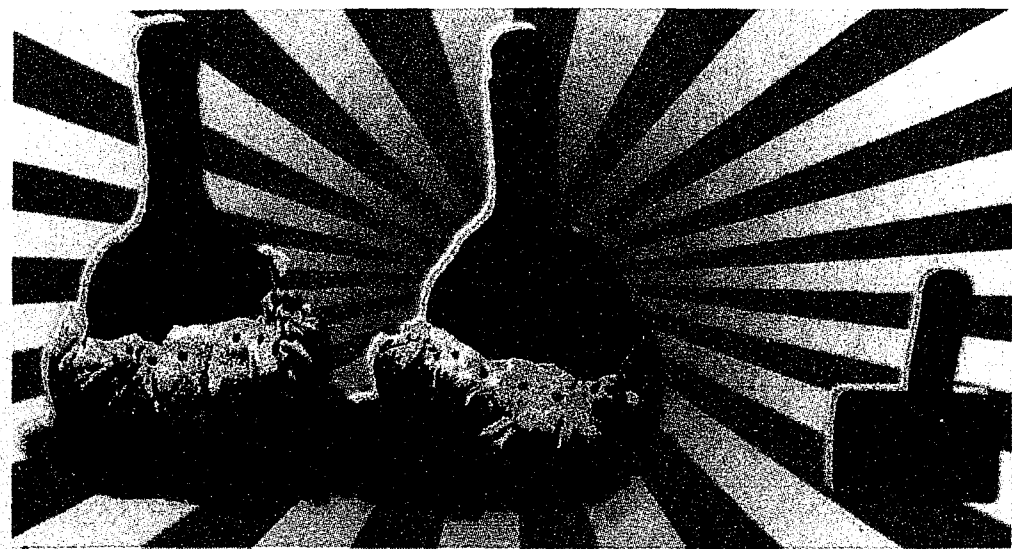
DELIGHTFUL &



Graphic design and layout by Chris Carter, production manager

Photo illustrations by Jay Bailey, photography editor

(above) A student uses a historic letterpress to create ink designs. (top right) Ink balls, one version of an archaic brayer, are used to apply ink to the print blocks prior to setting.



CURIOUS

By DUSTIN EVANS
Managing Editor

Anyone who has spent a considerable amount of time at the library has seen it. Nearly a ton of wood and steel, seemingly so archaic that it couldn't possibly do more than hold down the carpet. Yet, beyond everyone's tunnel vision, beautiful pieces of art actually come out of the antique printing press on the fourth floor.

On Monday, Brad Vetter, a designer and printer with the legendary Hatch Show Print, put down his work on music posters and memorabilia to visit Murfreesboro and share his talents with graphic design students on campus.

Hatch Show Print, a staple of the Nashville community since 1879, has created those unique posters and print work for artists like Hank Williams and Patsy Cline, as well as more recent works for Elvis Costello, Van Morrison and Ben Folds.

All of their posters have a certain unique edge formed by their original designers, who have built and manipulated a historical library of typeface that is a living, breathing creature of its own.

But at MTSU, Vetter had the unique experience of fabricating his craft with students using the Franklin-era press on campus.

"I created a modular typeface based on original typeface that was designed in the '20s and then reinterpreted in the '50s by the American Type Foundry," Vetter says. "Getting a chance to work on a press that is this old, [and] sort of the beginning stages of the work that I do at Hatch everyday is really exciting to me — a whole new side of the history of letterpress."

Vetter used a computer to design the individual type pieces and used a laser engraver to cut the designs out of Plexiglas. He attached the pieces of Plexiglas to blocks of three-quarter-inch plywood to form puzzles that the students manipulated into their unique characters.

The block tiles have the Plexiglas formations on each side, making the blocks reach

a type-height of .918 of an inch, what Vetter says is called "type-high," the industry standard. Vetter says the font was originally made at 24-points, but he enlarged the size to 15 picas, or two and a half inches, to create "typeface Legos."

"The reason that I did it this way is because I wanted something big that you could play with," Vetter says. "It becomes this good, tangible, fun way to play with type and look at typography and design."

The students arranged the blocks into their patterns and worked with Vetter to lock the blocks in place and coat them with ink. After the press is sealed, the students use the ancient wenchers, cranks and belts to roll the printing plate backwards and pull the pressing block down — embedding their creations in print.

Meghan O'Connor, professor of art, says the experience of working with the press is uncommon for art students. She says it is important to pull graphic design students away from the computer so that they can receive the hands-on, tangible experience of artistic creation.

"When you grow up, and as a little kid, you want to make stuff with your hands," O'Connor says. "There are all of these technological advances, but there is always that active creation — making something with your hands — that you want to go back to."

After they carefully peeled back their creations, the students were able to see how rewarding the challenging art of print design actually is. Each student left with a dripping wet character on the drying racks.

Graheme Morris, sophomore graphic design major, says he utilizes the printing lab in the Todd Art Building, but the feel of the press in the library brings a different style and form to his work.

"Being able to go and actually use the type and use the blocks, it makes the experience more," Morris says. "It takes the act of printing just five lines of type or just a quote, and takes it to a different realm — you can really make it your own."

ART -OF- PRINT

Americans don't stray from stereotype

Japanese exchange student discusses difficulties assimilating into society

By EMMA EGLI
Features Editor

Most of us would like to erase the concept of performing artist Ke\$ha from our brains, but international student Hiroki Sato has been lucky enough to have never experienced that horrific part of our pop culture.

"That's what American girls are like!" Sato, a senior English education major from Japan exclaims after watching the music video of "Tik Tok" for the first time.

After spending 10 months in a country completely foreign to him, Sato is still adjusting to what he considers a "really cool but really strange culture."

Hailing from Saitama, a city considered to be the suburbs of Tokyo, Sato decided he wanted to study abroad. He was content going anywhere, but it was his father who persuaded him to study in the United States.

"If you want to study abroad, go to the U.S.," Sato says his fa-

ther advised. "They have the best programs."

After doing extensive research and deciding that MTSU was one of the best places to study the field he was interested in — journalism — Sato says he is very content in the choice he made.

"I like it here much better," Sato says. "I had heard MTSU was really good for journalism."

Sato has since changed his minor to English education. He also says that coming to the U.S. has changed his outlook on life because American's attitudes on their lives are completely different than his.

"I feel like I'm hurrying through my future," Sato says. "I'm a senior, and I'm going to be going back to my country soon with no idea what I'm going to do."

Despite his ambiguous grasp of what lies ahead for him, Sato has enjoyed the time he has spent studying at MTSU grasping the cultural differ-

ences most students would fail to notice as significant.

"It's so easy to make friends here," Sato says. "Everyone is open-minded, and even though I'm a stranger, people will still say hi to me — it's not like that at all back home."

But while adjusting to the culture here has been easy in some aspects, it's been harder in others. Sato says that even though people are extremely friendly to him here, conversations never get past the formality stage.

"People ask me where I am from and get really excited and ask a lot of questions," Sato says. "But then they run out of things to say."

One of the funniest shockers for Sato is the fact that when college students have parties, they are usually put on in epic proportions.

"In my country, when we hang out we go to a restaurant and get drinks and chat," Sato says. "The first time I went to a house party, I was

shocked — we could not do that back home."

Sato says that while things are very different in the U.S., it's easy to see the influence American culture has in Japan.

"We have fast food places like Kentucky Fried Chicken," Sato says. "Girls also dye their hair blonde and dress like American girls do."

Sato will leave the U.S. and head back to Japan in four weeks — a fact that makes him sad upon reflecting.

"I want to see my friends back in Japan," Sato says. "But I really like it here and I want to stay."

When asked if his perspective on Americans have changed since living in the U.S. for almost a year, Sato had no reservations.

"Before, I had pictured all the girls being really tan and blonde and all the guys being really muscular," Sato says with an immense grin. "It hasn't changed."



Photo by Emma Egli, features editor

Hiroki Sato, Japanese exchange student at MTSU, says he really enjoys American culture but finds conversation difficult.






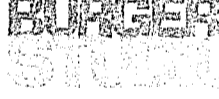











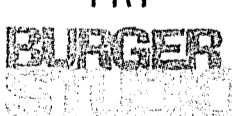

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