

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2010

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“QUOTE OF THE DAY”

“If all the economists were laid end to end, they’d never reach a conclusion.”

George Bernard Shaw

Campus crime increases statewide, declines at MTSU

By ANNE ALFORD
Contributing Writer

While the statewide crime rate increased on college campuses by 9.2 percent in 2009, the rate at MTSU decreased by 11.1 percent, according to a report released by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation last month.

The TBI released its 2009 “Crime on Campus” report March 31, which included detailed reports about colleges and universities from across the state. It revealed that the crime rate on Tennessee college campuses has risen for the first time since 2005.

In 2008, 6,900 offenses were reported statewide, and by the end of 2009 the number had risen to 7,538. According to the TBI report, universities from across the state said the 10.1 percent growth of student enrollment is one of the primary reasons for the spike in crime.

Patrol officer Derrick Wharton said the MTSU Office of Public Safety was able to succeed in decreasing crime on campus by having more officers on active duty, increasing visibility among students and having the ability to put more officers on the roads.

“We are out on foot, going into buildings and mingling with students to help improve our reputation and gain a relationship with the students,” Wharton said.

Victoria Moghaddami, sophomore mass communication major, said she has noticed campus police have been more proactive about getting involved with students.

“I have seen an increase in the number of patrols,” Moghaddami said. “I have also noticed more positive police interaction with students – the university officers’ presence and involvement help me feel [more] safe on campus.”

The TBI report divides reported crimes in two categories: Group A and Group B.

The Group A category comprises assault, burglary, larceny and theft, vandalism, and drug and narcotic violation offenses.

The Group B category consists of disorderly conduct, driving under the influence, liquor law violation and trespassing offenses.

Taken as a whole, the number of Group A offenses at MTSU declined from 653 in 2008, to 527 in 2009. However, there was an increase of 31 drug violation offenses in 2009.

According to the TBI report, larceny and theft offenses comprise more than 38 percent of the total number of offenses reported to police statewide. As in previous years, Tennessee college campuses recorded these type of crimes more than any other offense.

CRIME, PAGE 2

Sciences remain optimistic

Restructuring proposal to break up College of Basic and Applied Sciences; departments not worried

By DUSTIN EVANS
Managing Editor

If The Proposal for Restructuring Colleges to President Sidney A. McPhee is approved, it would mean a complete split within the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, but officials within the departments believe those changes should not have a serious impact on

daily operations.

The College of Basic and Applied Sciences would be separated into two new colleges: the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Applied, Behavioral and Health Sciences.

Diane Miller, interim executive vice president and provost, submitted the college-restructuring proposal to MTSU President Sidney McPhee on April 1.

Tom Cheatham, dean of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, said he feels everyone in the college had the opportunity to discuss concerns and issues during the process of deciding what restructuring changes should be made to

the college.

“I don’t think it will impact the strengths or growths within the departments,” Cheatham said. “They will continue to be strong departments – great at teaching students.”

Cheatham said if McPhee approves the restructuring proposal, it could unite organizations that should be grouped together.

“Geosciences has been in the College of Liberal Arts for a long time,” Cheatham said. “Having closer relationships with the geosciences will be a plus.”

The departments of biology, chemistry, physics and astronomy, computer science and mathematical sciences would join humanities courses, such

as English and philosophy, to form the College of Arts and Sciences.

“I don’t see anything just in the structure that would be negative,” said Ron Henderson, chairman of the department of physics and astronomy. “I know that there are larger universities than MTSU with the same makeup of arts and sciences.”

Henderson said with a larger college containing two diverse disciplines, a lot of the responsibilities of the dean would be administered by the associate deans. The proposal has two associate deans included in the restructuring plans.

SCIENCES, PAGE 4

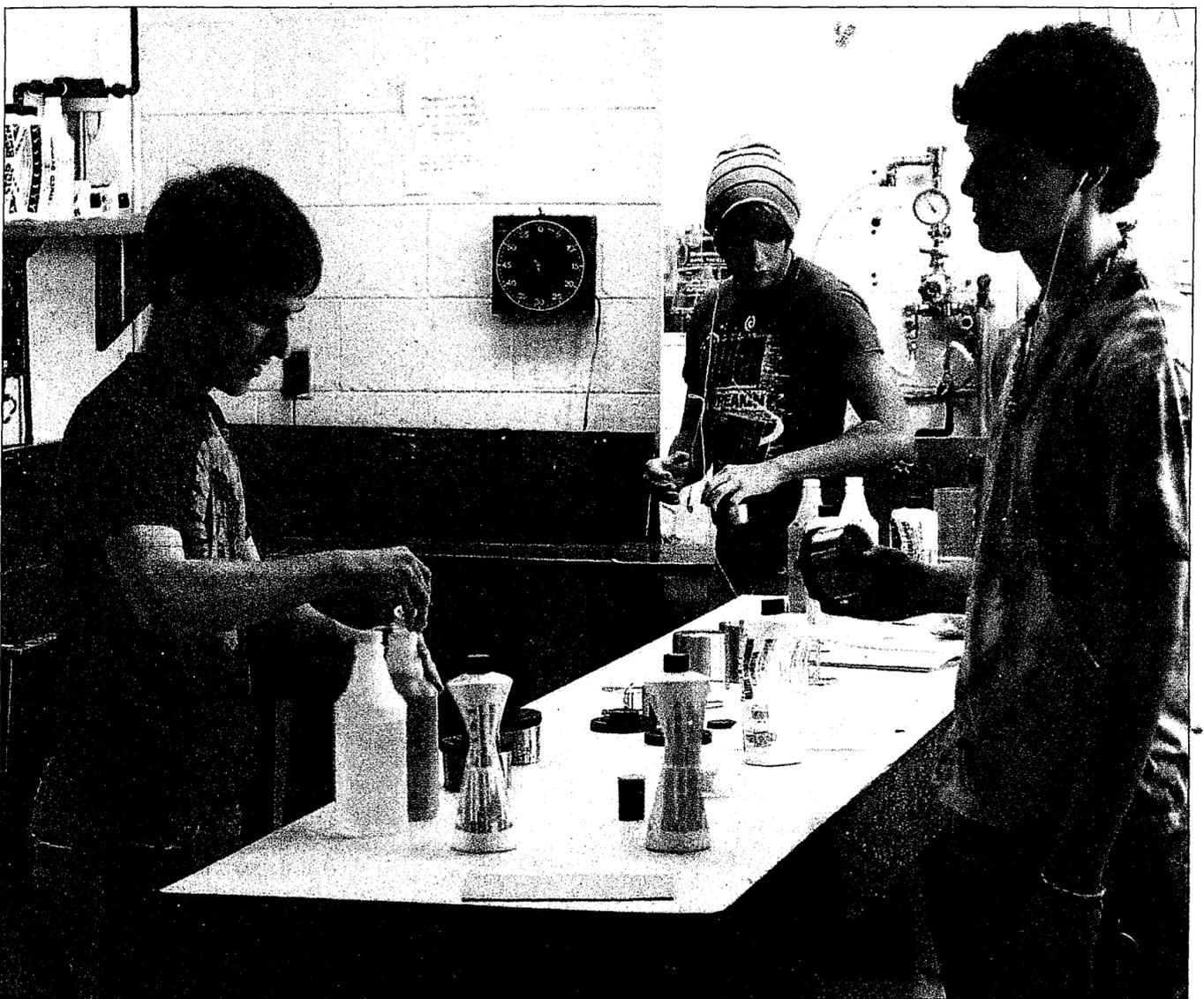


Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor

Dominic DeStefanis, junior graphic design major (left), Tyler Whitworth, freshman graphic design major (center) and Jeremy May, sophomore environmental science major, hand process traditional black and white film in the film processing room in the Photography Building on Wednesday.

Baldwin becomes ‘negative’ space

Decisions on photo gallery, classrooms finalized; University unclear on new location

By JOSH WARD
Staff Writer

The photography department may undergo changes throughout the next year with plans to replace the Harold Baldwin Photographic Gallery with new classrooms and convert parts of the Photography Building into graduate student offices.

The Baldwin Photo Gallery is being relocated to an undetermined location from the McWherter Learning Resources Center to allow for the construction of new classrooms for the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences’ department of human sciences, said Dennis Oneal, chair of electronic media communications.

The move is proposed on the heels of the photography department’s difficulties in recent semesters to continue to operate as usual in spite of repeated budget cuts and uncertain plans concerning construction and relocation.

“The gallery was almost temporarily shut down, but we fought that,” Oneal said. “We know how easily temporary things become permanent here at MTSU – we’ve staved off the budget crisis, but now it’s time to find a new home.”

Oneal said that locations under consideration to house the gallery include the James E. Walker Library and the Student Media Center that is planned for construction inside the John Bragg Mass

Communication Building.

“What we’re looking for is a place that is both accessible to all students and secure,” Oneal said. “I’d hate to see it go, especially on my watch – we’re going to have to dream something up.”

The conflict further complicating the matter is created between the scheduling of the new department of human sciences classrooms construction and where to house the gallery in the meantime.

Tom Jimison, photography professor curator of the Baldwin gallery, said there is currently no place on campus capable of hosting the gallery.

“We could move it into the new addition that is planned for the Mass

Communication Building,” Jimison said. “But at the current rate, I don’t think I’d see that get done in my lifetime.”

The Photography Building may soon experience problems as well due to the possibility that its only two classrooms could be converted into new offices for graduate teaching assistants enrolled in the College of Basic and Applied Sciences.

In January, *Sidelines* reported that the College of Basic and Applied Sciences would add three new doctoral programs to its list of degrees by the Fall 2010 Semester, which will require more office space for graduate students.

To read more, visit us online. www.mtsusidelines.com

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“How to train your dragon” leaves audiences wanting to trade in traditional pets for winged creatures page 7

IN TODAY’S ISSUE



Dr. Dog’s new CD captures live sounds, leaves audience wanting more

ONLINE @ MTSUSIDELINES.COM

THURSDAY FORECAST

MOSTLY CLOUDY
NO CHANCE OF RAIN
HIGH 85, LOW 56

Pajamas warm children's hearts

MTSU student continues charity drive to provide sick kids with new, clean PJs

By SARAH HAMACHER
Staff Writer

New pajamas are being collected by the nonprofit organization Jaz's Jammies for hospitalized children until April 29 for hospitalized children.

Jasmine Gray, senior journalism major and editor in chief of Collage: A Journal of Creative Expression, started Jaz's Jammies as the project for her Gold Award, the highest award a Girl Scout can achieve by creating and implementing a community project.

Gray said she knew how it felt to be in a hospital and wish to have a pair of warm pajamas.

Gray was born with a birth defect that has required several surgeries throughout her life. In 2006, she was a high school senior recovering from a recent surgery when she imagined and decided to implement the idea.

"There was no better thing I could think of than doing something for kids in hospitals," Gray said.

In the fall of 2006 while participating in a Lightening Leadership class with Jackie Victory, director of Office of Student Leadership and Student Organizations, Gray presented Jaz's Jammies to the class as part of an assignment.

Victory said she remembered being very interested in the charity.

"You should really do this on campus," Gray recalled Victory said. "That is a great

program that I think our students would really like doing."

The two have been bringing Jaz's Jammies to the MTSU campus ever since.

The Office of Student Leadership and Student Organizations has sponsored Jaz's Jammies and provided paper for fliers. This year the Honors College has joined in with the effort and donated funds for drive materials.

Gray said that the first year, the goal was set at 200 pairs of pajamas, and to her surprise, the drive collected 850.

"Once that happened, I couldn't stop there," Gray said, noting it was that summer she decided to turn the project into a nonprofit organization.

Since 2006, Jaz's Jammies has collected more than 3,000 pairs of children's pajamas.

Gray said people sometimes wonder how the pajamas are used, and who benefits from the donated clothing. She said she has heard stories from nurses who work at Vanderbilt Hospital where the majority of the pajamas have been donated.

"A nurse told me about a little boy who was getting ready to be picked up by his mother," Gray said. "He had nothing to wear home, so

she went and picked out a pair of 'Scooby Doo' PJs for him."

Regular hospital gowns are too rough for burn victims to wear comfortably, Gray said, and some of them have lost everything and do not have anything to wear home. She

said children who are victims of abuse are often given a new pair of pajamas to help comfort them.

"I just wanted to give children a different attitude," Gray said.

The monthlong donation push will culminate April 29 at Around the Way Dog, located on 1916 E. Main St. All customers who mention Jaz's Jammies will receive 20 percent off the total purchase price of their food that day.

Brightly wrapped donation bins can be found in the John E. Bragg Mass Communication Building, Keathley University Center, Business and Aerospace Building and the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building.

To find out more information about Jaz's Jammies or Room in the Inn charities, contact Jasmine Gray @ jazsjammies@yahoo.com.



Photo courtesy of Jaz's Jammies
Jasmine Gray, senior journalism major, founded Jaz's Jammies, an organization that attempts to provide hospitalized children with new pajamas.



Photo courtesy of Jaz's Jammies
Jaz's Jammies has collected 3,000 pairs of children's pajamas in an effort to make sick children more comfortable during their stay at the hospital.

SUMMER 2010

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- June Term S2 (5 weeks): June 7 - July 9
- July Term S3 (5 weeks): July 12 - August 13
- June/July Term S4 (10 weeks): June 7 - August 13
- RODP Term R (10 weeks): June 7 - August 13

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If you have any questions or just want to talk about summer possibilities, please feel free to contact us.

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MTSU, a Tennessee Board of Regents university, is an equal opportunity, nonracially identifiable, educational institution that does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities.

CRIME FROM PAGE 1

Although MTSU reported that thefts decreased in 2009, the number of thefts reported from campus buildings rose from 114 in 2008 to 147 in 2009.

Statewide reports of drug and narcotic violations increased by more than 16 percent, and the number of drug-related arrests at MTSU spiked 63 percent in 2009. There were 80 drug-related offenses and only 49 in 2008.

The amount of Group B offenses rose to 197 cases in 2009 from 161 in 2008. Last year, there were 19 more liquor law violations reported, and 25 more DUI arrests were recorded at MTSU.

The number of assaults on campus decreased from 52 reported offenses in 2008 to 49 in 2009, however, the number of reported rapes increased from one in 2008 to three in 2009.

While the reported number of theft from buildings and rape offenses rose during 2009, many students believe the overall decrease in crime is a positive step forward.

Wharton said more students have become

involved in trying to help keep crime low on campus, and the students' vigilance helped to decrease the campus crime rate during the past year.

As an officer, Wharton said, having good upper management, being able to have the best possible training and having the necessary equipment and tools to do their job have also helped campus police provide better service to students.

"Moreover the sense of pride and appreciation of the job our faculty and staff is doing for our ongoing safety, [the statistics] prove to speak volumes for our student body and the type of scholars that are attending our university," said Adam Riddick, junior business administration major.

Wharton said campus police are available 24 hours a day, every day of the year. There are three shifts divided into eight hours each, and they have an "early officer" that will come in 30 minutes early and patrol campus to help ease the transition between shifts.

"When you have a close knit department that works well and coincides with one another, I think you are more likely to have more positive productivity," Wharton said.



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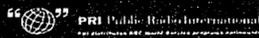




Photo by Jillian Dixon, staff photographer
Students attend Monday's "Negro vs. Nigga Forum" to discuss with a panel of MTSU professors whether the two words hold different meaning and how their use affects society.

Forum dispels stereotype

New student organization holds event to discuss racial issues

By KELSEY FRANKLIN
Staff Writer

MTSU students discussed derogatory language as well as the progress Americans have made since the Civil Rights Movement in a forum titled, "Negro vs. Nigga Forum."

Sankofa, a newly-founded student group that focuses on educating people about black culture through forums, lectures and music, hosted a forum Monday in the State Farm Room of the Business and Aerospace Building.

The forum, which hosted a panel of MTSU professors, discussed, among other things the differences between Negro and the N-word.

The panel used a mixture of visual aids, history and opin-

ion to help discuss the possible implications behind using certain words, as well as explaining to the attendees the history behind them.

Terrance Adams, president of Sankofa, started the night with a video clip from the documentary "The N-Word: Divided We Stand."

The video included several modern-day celebrities like Chris Rock and Ice Cube talking about when the N-word and "nigga" emerged onto the rap and hip-hop music scenes. The film said that music and popular culture was one way that the use of the word was able to seep into the black community and transform the sometimes negative connotation attached.

Adams informed the audience that the word Negro is derived from the Spanish and Portuguese languages and means black, whereas the N-word has a Latin origin with the word "Niger," which also means black.

Adams also gave the dictionary definition of both words and then posed the question - is there a difference between these two words?

Jacqueline E. Wade, professor of social work, argued that both words have a negative connotation, in the context of history.

Wade said that these words were derived to delineate a person's sense of being from another's.

Wade continued by saying the word Negro was given to a group of people to distinguish them from the rest, and the N-word arose to further disconnect a distinct group of people from the rest of society.

"There is a class construct within these words," Wade said. "They came from lower-class white people trying to corrupt the social construct in order to put themselves higher."

Wade said by initiating the N-word other races found a way to degrade black people. The transformation didn't end there, she said, "blacks started changing their identity on their own terms."

To read more, visit us online.



www.mtsusidelines.com

New student e-mails offer more space

MTSU personal accounts to be revamped, get more online features

By COLLEEN PULLIN
Contributing Writer

Beginning May 9, MTSU students will have revamped e-mail accounts, which will be operated using a new Microsoft program will provide additional memory and more features.

The new system will significantly increase student e-mail capacity, according to Information Technology Division Communications Specialist Alana Turner, and will increase to 25 gigabytes worth of storage space. The current system holds only 20 megabytes.

All students' e-mail addresses will change to end in "@mtmail.mtsu.edu," replacing the current "@mtsu.edu."

Brandon McNary, president of the Student Government Association, said the SGA and ITD have been working together to try and facilitate the new e-mail system. He said ITD has been taking care of the technological portion, while the SGA is in charge of informing students about the upcoming changes.

McNary said the larger files sent through e-mails and the sheer number of messages received by students made the current system difficult to maintain.

"Students have been complaining for several years about how they don't have enough space in their inboxes and how their inboxes are constantly getting over quota," McNary said. "We've been working on a way to increase the storage space, and this is how we went about doing it."

Turner said the existing usernames will remain the same, and faculty and staff will retain their current e-mail addresses.

McNary said because of privacy issues associated with the types of information exchanged through faculty and staff e-mail addresses, those must remain on the same server they are on now.

Turner said the new e-mail accounts will work similarly to Microsoft Outlook, and that

students would be able to access their personal calendars, contact lists and send instant messages to friends.

Web pages can also be made in the new system, with the help of a spaces tab, which will offer templates for students to use and design to suit their needs.

Office Live, which according to its Web site is a free online storage and document-sharing program, will be available to students through their university e-mail. She said, This offers students the ability to share large files and documents with classmates and teachers, which is something that the current system's lack of space often does not allow.

Turner said when Office 2010 is released, it will be added to the system. It is designed to offer more upgrades similar to those found on Gmail Web documents. With this, she said, users would have the ability to create Excel spreadsheets and PowerPoint presentations that can be shared and viewed by others.

The new system will not automatically replace the current one, Turner said. Students must activate their accounts and register new passwords on their own. She said help and tutorials would be available to assist students with the changes.

McNary said that any e-mails students wish to keep must be forwarded into their new account because the new one will be used next year in lieu of the current "@mtsu.edu" addresses. Forwarding will be available through the first two weeks of the Fall 2010 Semester.

Once all of the students are able to switch over to the new e-mail accounts, the first students to do so will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win an Xbox 360.

"We're going to have a period of time, and every student that switches over within that period of time, will be entered in what is basically a raffle," McNary said. "We'll randomly select students and give them away in the first couple of weeks of school."

This fall, all students who have registered and set up their new e-mail accounts will be automatically entered into a random drawing for the system. Two of the game stations will be awarded as prizes.

Rozalind Ruth, community news editor, contributed to this report.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

seeks an

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Candidates for the position must be currently enrolled students in good standing, have a 2.5 minimum GPA, and have two semesters of media experience.

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Steven Chappell, Sidelines Director, Box 8
or deliver applications to COMM 269

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:

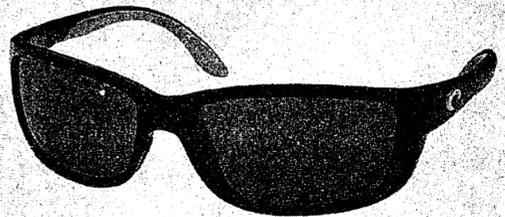
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| Managing Editor | Copy editors |
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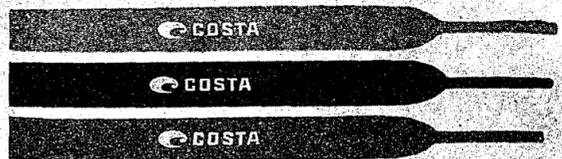
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SCIENCES
FROM PAGE 1

"As I understand it, the restructuring would still have an associate dean for science and one for the humanities," said Earl F. Pearson, chairman of the chemistry department.

Pearson said having two associate deans to influence and assist the dean in administering between the two disciplines could reduce the massive workload of the dean, who would essentially be the administration of two completely different entities.

Henderson, however, said he hopes that the associate deans' duties would not be split into two areas of disciplines because he feels that would essentially divide the college.

While the proposal lists two associate deans, it does not show any form of separate duties or plans for a division in responsibilities.

George Murphy, chairman of the department of biology, said the new dean and associate deans would need to be able to understand the complex and diverse needs of the arts and sciences.

"I think that is a key feature, as far as the ability of the dean to understand the needs of the sciences and liberal arts as well," Murphy said. "The needs of laboratory time and research needs are quite different than liberal arts — a former dean once said, 'the laboratory is the library of the sciences.'"

Regardless of who the dean is, Murphy said, one major need of the sciences would be the

completion of the new science building. Patterson said the restructuring proposal should have no effect on its completion.

"The science building is of the highest priorities of the [Tennessee Higher Education Commission], [Tennessee Board of Regents] and the school," Pearson said. "The internal structure should not have an affect on the science building or the priority of the restructure."

The building, which has not yet been approved with the MTSU administration or contractors, is intended to house the chemistry and biology departments, freeing up the Davis Science Building and Wiser Patten Science Hall for other departments like physics and astronomy.

Don Nelson, chairman of the department of mathematical sciences, said restructuring the college could bring certain departments closer together to improve certain relationships and interdisciplinary programs.

"I think there are potential discussions, for example, there is an overlap in the area of logic," Nelson said. "Political scientists would be interested in that and could work with statistics."

Read the full story
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MTSUSidelines.com

Newly adopted child returned to Russia

Local area resident investigated for child abuse allegation

STAFF REPORT

A 7-year-old Shelbyville boy was returned unaccompanied to Russia, his native country, by his American, adopted mother and grandmother, who are now wanted for questioning after allegations of abuse were made.

"An interview with both would be extremely helpful in our efforts to discover what events led to Torry Hansen's decision to attempt to nullify the adoption and why the Hansens sought to accomplish that goal in the matter they purportedly did," said an official of the Bedford County investigators in a statement to the Shelbyville Times-Gazette.

As reported by the Associated Press, Chuck Crawford, district attorney of the 17th Judicial District, is investigating allegations that the boy was a vic-

tim of abuse and abandonment while in Tennessee.

The AP reported that the boy, Artyom Savelyev, who was adopted last September, was abandoned by his alcoholic mother at an orphanage in a mining town in Russia.

A Kremlin office of children's affairs said Savelyev had a note in his pocket when he arrived at the Moscow airport that said he had severe psychological issues and was violent, according to the Shelbyville-Times Gazette.

"He drew a picture of our house burning down and he'll tell anybody that he's going to burn our house down with us in it," said Nancy Hansen, Savelyev's adoptive grandmother, in a phone interview with the AP.

According to a report by The Tennesseean, officials in Shelbyville have not been able to contact Torry Hansen, and her attorney said in a news conference that she refuses to talk unless a charge is filed.

Russian authorities are considering a suspension on all adoptions to families in the U.S.

CURRENT EVENTS

Grease
April 14 through 18,
Wednesday through Friday, 8 p.m.
Saturday, 6:30 p.m., served with dinner
Sunday, 3 p.m.
Location: Wesley Foundation Center
Admission: \$5 students, \$10 general admission,
\$20 dinner theater tickets

National Tartan Day Celebration
April 16, 5 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.
Location: Discovery Center at Murfree Spring
Admission: free

34th Annual Cannonsburgh Pioneer Day
April 17, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.
Location: Cannonsburgh Village
Admission: free

The New True Charlie Wu, with cast meet-and-greet
April 17, 7 p.m.
Location: John Bragg Mass Communication Building
Admission: \$10 general admission, \$4 with student ID

Movie: The Book of Eli
April 19 through 23, 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.
Location: Keathley University Theatre
Admission: \$2

Issues Film Series presents "American Drug War"
April 20, 6:30 p.m.
Location: Business and Aerospace Building, Room 270
Admission: free

Earth Day 2010
April 24, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.
Location: Murfreesboro Civic Plaza
Admission: free

Murfreesboro Symphony Concert: Mancini Madness
April 26, 7:30 p.m.
Location: First United Methodist Church
Admission: \$40 general admission, \$15

Events Policy
Sidelines welcomes current campus and community events submitted by all readers. Please e-mail events to snews@mtsu.edu or slcampus@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 online during June and July. The events listed are not necessarily associated with Sidelines or MTSU.

CRIME BRIEFS

April 9, 2:44 p.m. Theft
Corlew Hall
A complainant reported a stolen backpack.

April 9, 3:17 p.m. Vandalism
Greek Row
Vandalism was reported at the Sigma Chi house.

April 9, 10:28 p.m. Theft
Greek Row
A complainant reported a stolen parking pass from a vehicle.

April 10, 3:52 a.m. DUI
Greek Row

Grady G. McDonald, 19, was arrested at the Sigma Nu house for his first offence of driving under the influence.

April 10, 10:03 a.m. Vagrancy
Murphy Center
A male subject

April 10, 3:21 p.m. Theft
James E. Walker Library
A complainant reported MTSU banners stolen from the courtyard between the library and the Business and Aerospace Building.

April 10, 4:06 p.m. Traffic

Old Main Circle
Jessica Nicole Croft was issued a citation for driving and unregistered vehicle.

April 10, 7:34 p.m. Theft
Woodmore Cafeteria
A complainant reported theft of goods and services from the Cyber Café.

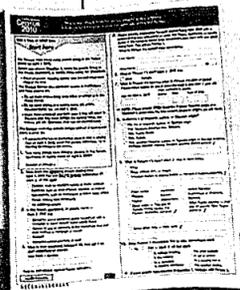
April 11, 3:34 a.m. Theft
East Main Street
No description was given.

April 11, 6:01 p.m. Harassment
James E. Walker Library
No description was given.

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.

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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.

Your vote will lead to better 'Boro

Goals for City Council need to be reprioritized

Fellow students and residents of Murfreesboro, I am writing to inform you of my candidacy for Murfreesboro City Council and my intentions for running. Some of you may already know that I am running and know the reasons why; however, I have been provided an opportunity to express my views in this column.

It has come to my attention that Murfreesboro's system of government is very exclusive. By that I mean those in City Hall govern in a way that benefits those with money, power and influence.

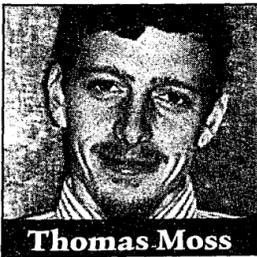
I am here to tell you that we have the ability to make

things happen for the better, but we simply don't put it to good use. As one of the larger demographics in this city, students are extraordinarily under represented and must have a say in what goes on.

Even if you only live here for a few years, it is imperative that you become involved in the issues that shape your daily lives.

Most of us are accustomed to voting in federal elections because we feel it is that form of government that affects us most. This type of thinking is concerning.

Local governments have more of an affect on our immediate life than you



Thomas Moss
City Council candidate

may think.

Murfreesboro City Council votes on issues like the city budget, which is currently \$203 million in debt, guns in our parks and bars, large-scale projects and how they will be paid for, when your garbage is picked up, where new roads go, how long stop lights should be, and all the way down to change orders for road construction.

While these may not seem

like big issues to you now, as you continue to live in this city, you will notice the influence of council decisions daily if you look close enough.

For example, the Murfreesboro City Council voted last year to spend \$3.5 million on swimming pool renovations at the Sports-Com facilities on Memorial Boulevard. To put that in perspective, it is how much Nashville Shores was recently purchased for. These types of spending decisions are unacceptable and unrealistic, and I intend to change that.

I also intend to bring up issues that are never discussed on the council: problems with our drinking water, pollution in our rivers, our ever-expanding landfill, our

lack of a comprehensive tornado warning system, our excessive growth, the need for more recycling, a balanced budget, harsh regulations on small businesses, and community involvement and input – the list could go on forever.

City Council elections

I need your support and must have your vote if we are to improve Murfreesboro. I intend to improve not only the quality of life and representation for students, but also the quality of life and representation for all who work and live in this city.

Do not think of my ideas as idealistic; let us make them realities because I know they are possible. I wish I could elaborate on each of these issues, however, space does not

allow. If you have any comments questions or concerns feel free to e-mail me or call me at 615-519-2223.

Early voting ends today at 7 p.m. and Election Day is April 20. If you are unsure of where to vote, simply go to rutherfordcountyttn.gov and click on the tab labeled: "Where do I vote?"

There you can find your polling location. With that, I urge you to vote and vote wisely. The actions we take today have the power to either build us up or destroy us.

Let us make the right decision today so someone else won't make it for us tomorrow.

Thomas Moss is a junior political science major. He can be reached at mossforcouncil@gmail.com.

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Dean's citations have pros, cons

If you're an MTSU student and you get caught committing a misdemeanor offense by a university police officer, there's a chance that you might receive what is called a "dean's citation" rather than be charged as a criminal.

Some of those offenses include driving under the influence, disorderly conduct, underage drinking and even drug possession.

If you receive a dean's citation, your offense will be addressed by Judicial Affairs rather than a local court, thus you will have avoided a bad mark on your criminal record outside of MTSU.

University police officers are able to use their discretion when deciding whether to issue a dean's citation or charge the suspect as a criminal. The officer also has the option to do both.

Since dean's citations are handled by the university, they don't result in the same inconveniences, such as probation, fines and marks on a more widespread record, that criminal charges do.

On one hand, the thought of receiving a dean's citation may seem appealing to students, especially those living on campus, as compared to receiving a criminal citation.

Also, the concept of MTSU being more lax with offenses dealing with alcohol and drugs might be considered attractive to some considering attending the school, as well as the many other universities that issue the citations nationwide.

The citations might be a good thing for Housing and Residential Life, as some students might look to on-campus living as somewhat of a safe haven for committing misdemeanors, thus leading to more ready-to-live-it-up students staying on campus and paying money to do so.

On the other hand, though, the fact that the citations are issued based on officer discretion is a bad thing because then questions of preference based on race, sex, age, etc. arise.

Also, since the citations aren't reported at the state level, if officers are issuing an abundant amount of them, the crime totals on campus released by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation might appear lower than they should. This would result in a false image of crime at MTSU, one that might mislead those who feel comforted by the totals as they stroll or drive around campus at night.

A QUICK WORD

From the opinions editor

When the sun is hanging just above the horizon so that it virtually blinds drivers, beware of traveling toward campus on Alumni Drive. This is the time of day when university police set up speed traps on the long, straightaway road.

If MTSU truly cared about speeding on the road instead of further breaking already broke students through tickets, it would install more than the one crosswalk/huge speed bump that already exists. That way, police would have more time to worry about more pressing crime instead of handing out tickets.

—Michael Stone, slopinio@mtsu.edu

Blundergrads



By PHIL FLICKINGER

www.blundergrads.com

Bigger crackdown needed to stop illegal immigration

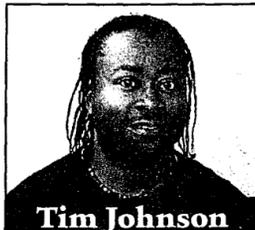
In these dangerous times, our leaders in Washington must make protecting our country and ensuring the safety and security of our citizens their first priority. In order to achieve this goal, they must take responsibility and resolve the serious problem of illegal entry into the U.S.

Weak-kneed, spineless American politicians and appeasement groups have pushed extreme liberalism to its edge. Political correctness has led to social and economic chaos.

Enforced tolerance and sensitivity training has divided our country in more ways than ever. Pro-immigration groups, such as Immigration Works USA, DREAM, IRR, RIA and others, have made a conscious choice to wear a blindfold and act as if they are hearing an impaired version of truth, facts and reality.

The truth is illegal immigrants have invaded our country and violated our laws, and they want to reward bad behavior?

Dangerous individuals cross our borders illegally every day. Our local, state and federal political leaders know this and move at the speed of a turtle in a 100-meter dash in the effort to control the situation.



Tim Johnson
The virtual truth

U.S. employers who hire illegal immigrants do not realize, or simply do not care about, the burden contributed to our local and national economy.

For example, illegal immigrants will work for lower wages; the effect of this is that it drives potential wage earning opportunities down for those who are natural born citizens and those equipped with green cards.

How do we stop this madness? Demagnification of America.

Simply put, employment and social benefits for undocumented individuals should be cut off, and thus they will be left with no alternative but to return to their home countries.

Second, we must follow our immigration laws to provide for controlled and orderly le-

gal immigration. Illegal immigrants must not be "rewarded" with "amnesty" or allowed to jump to the front of the legal immigration line.

It is purely unfair to those who have followed the process to enter the U.S. and are waiting their turn.

Third, all illegal immigrants must return to their home countries. This request has absolutely nothing to do with racism or bigotry, but everything to do with national security and accountability, which can be achieved through checking the backgrounds of individuals entering the U.S.

Yes, there are some individuals who have proven to be goal oriented and hard working, but this does not excuse them from their failure to attempt to enter the U.S. through proper legal channels first.

Many illegal immigrants, regardless of nationality, have the nerve to boycott places of employment by conducting protest rallies on our streets in which they demand equal rights. What rights?

Violating our laws, coupled with the support of immigrant rights groups, has diluted the illegal immigrants' minds from the real truth. What is the truth you ask? It should be

clear that illegal immigrants have no place whatsoever in demanding rights and protesting on American streets.

The solution to the problem does not lie on American soil. It lies within individual citizens who must come together and demand positive political, economic and social changes in their own country.

Perhaps the first step would be taking a stand and demand changes within the government.

People should demand a government for the people and by the people. They should demand fairness and change in the election process; demand free enterprises and capitalism so that small business persons and entrepreneurs have a fair and equal opportunity to prosper; demand more economic development and stability; and demand better safety and security.

Citizens should hold their political leaders accountable for their decisions and the issues that are most important to the future success of their country.

Tim Johnson is senior majoring in Spanish and political science. He can be reached at tj2b@mtsu.edu.

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These shoes were made for helpin'

By EMMA EGLI
 Features Editor

Standing at the salad bar in McCallie Dining Hall last spring, I looked down at the feet of the girl standing beside me; she wasn't wearing any shoes. Puzzled, I turned around and noticed the students standing behind me weren't wearing shoes either. I came to the conclusion that either these kids were insane, or there was some deeper meaning behind this occurrence.

Turns out the lack of appropriate foot attire was significant, although, I wouldn't necessarily drop the notion of crazy considering those cafeteria floors are far from sterile. That day, thousands of people around the world went barefoot to support TOMS Shoes' 'One Day Without Shoes' event.

TOMS asks that on this day, everyone go barefoot for a day or even part of a day, to experience what children who live in poverty-ridden countries and can't afford shoes must go through.

"It really raises awareness," says Rachel Thurman, senior nutrition and food science major, who participated in 'One Day Without Shoes' last spring. "If someone sees you walking around barefoot and asks why, you get to tell them."

It might seem ridiculous to walk around shoeless, but imagine suffering cuts and scrapes after walking on rough terrain, enduring the cold and heat, or worse -infection. This is what children in places like Argentina and Ethiopia must endure, and TOMS is helping to shed some light on this harsh reality.

After walking around that day and witnessing countless students trekking across

campus without shoes, I was curious. How could a shoe company convince thousands to not only buy their shoe, but to subsequently take them off?

Upon further researching, it's clear that owner and creator of TOMS, Blake Mycoskie, had nothing but good intentions in mind when he founded the company that donates one pair of shoes to a child for every pair that is purchased - a simple concept that has impacted children in need everywhere.

"I have had many incredible experiences since starting TOMS," Mycoskie expresses in his blog. "None have been more moving or humbling than the 12 days that I recently spent in Ethiopia; It's hard to believe, but thousands of children are dying every year in Ethiopia because they do not have proper footwear."

The TOMS Web site divulges that in Ethiopia alone, approximately one million people are suffering from Podoconiosis, a debilitating disease caused by walking barefoot in volcanic soil. The company has since donated more than 300,000 pairs of shoes since launching its 'Shoe Drops' in 2006.

The simple canvas shoe has made an appearance on Oprah, The Today Show and more recently, an AT&T commercial. Because of their rapid

Straub says that TOMS has helped their store a great deal by creating an entire niche market for merchandise that supports philanthropic endeavors.

"If we couldn't get people to fall in love with the style, then they definitely latch on to the idea behind it," Straub says. "We have people coming in looking for products specifically in that market where they actually give back to the community globally or locally."

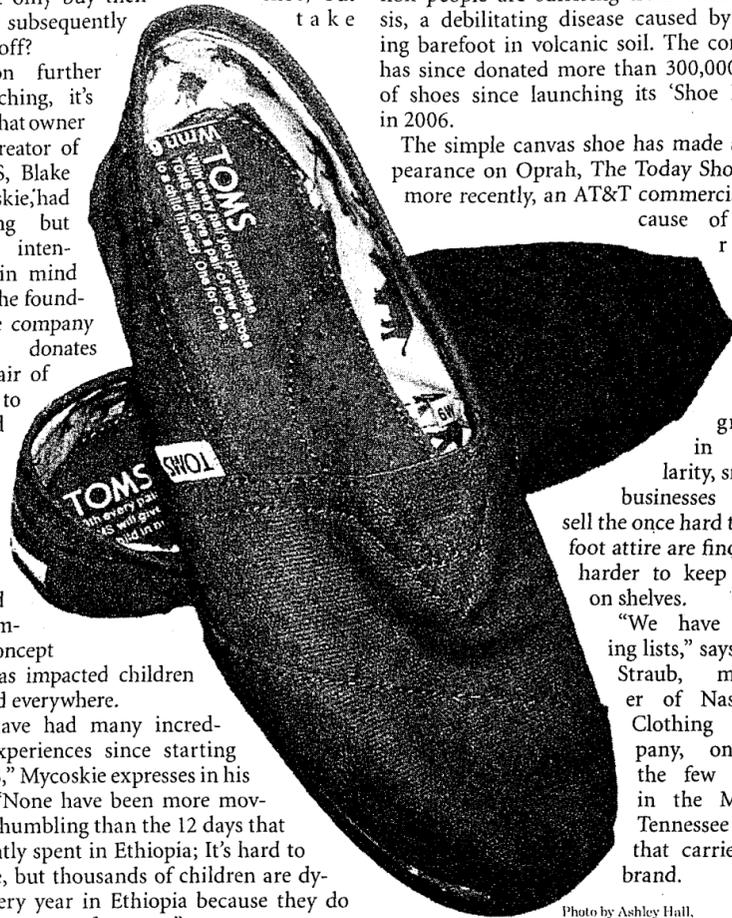
And it's not just companies that are getting involved with helping the TOMS cause. College campuses across the U.S. are hosting events and starting clubs in an effort to get students to support the worthy cause and rapidly growing trend.

"Last year someone donated \$5,000 to buy TOMS and give them out on campus," says Mallory Ferraro, senior textile merchandising and design major and president of the TOMS club at MTSU. "We want people to get more involved other than just going barefoot for a day."

Students will get a chance to go barefoot and learn more about TOMS today during the 'One Day Without Shoes' event taking place on the Keathley University Center Knoll. One Big Owl and Beat Repeat will be performing and TOMS goodies will be passed out to students participating.

"I think it's great that there's something we can do," Thurman says. "I can't necessarily go on a shoe drop myself, but I can help out a child by buying a pair of shoes."

So it may just be a trend, but it's a trend that's helping thousands of children. Let's see you boast that kind of accomplishment, Ugg Boots.



growth in popularity, smaller businesses that sell the once hard to find foot attire are finding it harder to keep them on shelves. "We have waiting lists," says Matt Straub, manager of Nashville Clothing Company, one of the few stores in the Middle Tennessee area that carries the brand.

Photo by Ashley Hall, contributing photographer

Hip Happenings



Photo courtesy of bandwallowpapers.net

Bon Jovi
 April 21 at 7:30 p.m.
 Bridestone Arena
 Nashville, TN

Dave Barnes
 April 16 at 9:00 p.m.
 Exit In
 Nashville, TN

Owl City
 April 19 at 6:30 p.m.
 Nashville War Memorial
 Nashville, TN

A Midsummer Nights Dream
 April 23 at 8:00 p.m.
 Tennessee Performing Arts Center - Andrew Jackson Hall
 Nashville, TN

Aretha Franklin
 April 25 at 7:30 p.m.
 Ryman Auditorium
 Nashville, TN

Sidelines welcomes current campus and community events submitted by all readers. Please e-mail events to sifeatur@mts.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.

All event dates and times are subject to change.



A series of blogs by Tiffany Gibson

Her name is Carmela Camero, and she's facing life in prison if convicted of murdering her newborn son.

Camero is a 19-year-old woman in Henderson, Nev., who is accused of smothering her baby a few hours after giving birth. She pleaded not guilty in December 2009 and is awaiting a trial this summer.

During my time as a court reporter for the Las Vegas Sun, I've seen numerous cases of death due to alleged child abuse. Most of the children were younger than toddlers and are said to have died of multiple injuries stemming from abuse and neglect.

In eight months, I've covered seven fatal child abuse court cases. That may not sound like a staggering number, but it has almost been one case a month since I began my internship.

Child safety advocates have attempted to lower abuse statistics by raising awareness in April during National Child Abuse Prevention month. It's supposed to be 30 days of prevention, treatment and education. However, Nevada started out the month on a sour note.

The most recent fatal child abuse case occurred in Henderson, Nev., April 2 and involved a 16-month-old girl. Police said medical personnel discovered the child's skull had been shattered above her right ear, causing hemorrhaging in her brain.

Her mother's boyfriend, 24-year-old Cody Geddings, was allegedly babysitting the girl before the incident. Police said Geddings explanations for the girl's injuries were inconsistent. He is charged with murder by child abuse with substantial bodily harm.

It is estimated that almost five children die each day as a result of child abuse, according to Childhelp, a national non-profit organization. Childhelp also found that 68 percent of children are abused by family members.

One of the alleged child abuse cases I covered involved a father who told police he often bit, pinched and punched his 3-month-old son. He said he also threw bottles at his son's head when the boy refused to eat, according to an arrest report.

The boy was taken to a hospital in critical condition after an incident on Feb. 23 but survived.

The father of the boy, 21-year-old Andrew Mendoza, was arrested and charged with one count of child abuse with substantial bodily harm, eight counts of child abuse, and one count each of child neglect and child endangerment.

Most of the cases of child abuse and neglect I've encountered involve a parent's significant other, but this case was jarring because the alleged abuser was the boy's father.

Child abuse is a serious issue, and I've never seen so many cases of it before I moved to Nevada. But I'm beginning to see that Tennessee has its fair share of cases.

The Tennessee Department of Children's Services responds to more than 37,000 reports of child abuse and neglect a year. The department estimates that more than 100 children are reported abused or neglected every day in Tennessee.

Some anti-abuse slogans stress that child abuse is 100 percent preventable. The message I'm trying to spread is that child abuse is a heinous act. Children are defenseless against the world and should be protected by the people who love them the most.

All of the cases mentioned are ongoing investigations. The defendants are being accused of child abuse-related crimes by the Clark County District Attorney's Office, not the media.

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

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