

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2010

VOL. 87, NO. 16



Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor
Murfreesboro Fire Department firefighters extinguish the last of the flames at the Music City Medical Supply store Saturday after a fire broke out around 11 a.m.

“QUOTE OF THE DAY”

“Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush.”

Doug Larson, cartoonist

Chalking receives stiffer penalties

By MARIE KEMPH
Campus News Editor

MTSU police will arrest any person caught using chalk to advertise on sidewalks and buildings on university property, according to an e-mail sent to student organization leaders on Thursday by officials from Student Affairs.

If arrested on suspicion of vandalizing university premises, a student could face criminal charges from the city of Murfreesboro.

“My understanding – as the policy is written – it indicates the police will make arrests,” said Debra Sells, vice president of Student Affairs and vice provost for Enrollment and Academic Services.

Danny Kelley, associate dean of Student Involvement and Leadership Development, said the e-mail was sent to reinforce the existing university policy in response to the ongoing problem with chalking.

“It’s more to create visibility,” Kelley said. “People think this is not an issue or it is not breaking the law – technically it is when people are not getting permission to do so.”

Sells said that she discussed the issues concerning illicit advertising on campus during a meeting with John Cothorn, senior vice president of MTSU, and was informed about the impending crackdown on those who violate policies included in the 2009-2010 Rights and Responsibilities Student Handbook.

FIRE, PAGE 4

CHALK, PAGE 5

Downtown business destroyed in Saturday morning blaze

By ROZALIND RUTH, MATTHEW HAMMITT
Community News Editor, Assistant News Editor

A fire destroyed the Music City Medical Supply store Saturday morning, resulting in minor property damage to neighboring businesses, according to the Murfreesboro Fire Department.

Assistant Fire Chief and Fire Marshall Ken Honeycutt said no one has been confirmed injured in the blaze, and the cause of the fire is yet to be determined.

“There have been no reported injuries,” Honeycutt said. “The owner [of Music City Medical Supply] is getting in contact with his employ-

ees, but said that normally they would not have been there.”

Honeycutt said the buildings on both sides of the supply store, 3 Brothers Deli & Brew House and Concert Production & Musical Supply, are expected to have smoke and water damage.

However, he said, thick masonry walls designed to prevent a fire from spreading and damaging all connected buildings separate the buildings on the square.

Honeycutt said the fire department received a call at approximately 11 a.m. reporting thick smoke coming from a line of stores on East Main

Street. The Murfreesboro Fire Department dispatched four engine companies, consisting of an estimated 30 firefighters, to respond to the fire.

The roof of the medical supply store caved in, and flames could still be seen from the store as of 12:45 p.m.

Honeycutt said the fire department would work with investigators and property assessors to evaluate how much damage was done to the building to determine whether or not the walls pose a threat to people walking by.

Abortion opponents illustrate argument

By JOSH WARD
Contributing Writer

Large billboards featuring graphic images of aborted fetuses were on display outside of the Keathley University Center on Wednesday and Thursday as part of an exhibit by the anti-abortion organization Justice for All.

The group, invited by the MTSU student organization Pro-Life Collegians, set up a three-paneled arrangement on the KUC Knoll of several graphic pictures featuring aborted 8 to 21-week-old fetuses and information about many abortion-related topics.

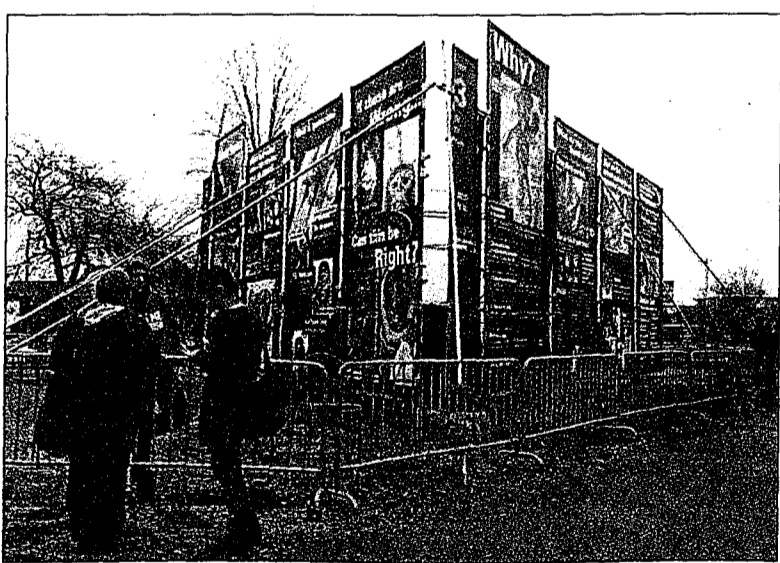


Photo by Ray Ingram, contributing photographer
Members of Justice for All, an anti-abortion organization, displayed signage last week in an effort to inform students about abortion.

“The first time I saw it, I wouldn’t go near it – but all they’re doing is highlighting the reality of it,” said Daniel Estabrooks, graduate student in biology and Justice for All volunteer.

Estabrooks said he recognized why people could be alarmed by the images that were prominently displayed on campus.

“Students get upset with just the shock value of it,” said Estabrooks, who works as a graduate teaching assistant. “It is kind of disturbing to be walking across campus and suddenly see a gigantic picture of a ripped-apart baby, which is understandable.”

ABORTION, PAGE 4

Students unaware of proposed restructuring of colleges

By MATTHEW HAMMITT
Assistant News Editor

In an unscientific poll conducted by *Sidelines* staff on Saturday, the majority of students interviewed were unaware that the university is undergoing a restructuring.

“I’ve never heard anything about it. I’d like to know if my major is going to be affected.”

ALEX SMITH
FRESHMAN ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY MAJOR

ing of seven of the eight colleges that comprise MTSU.

Interviews took place outside of the James E. Walker Library, Keathley University Center, McCallie Dining Hall and several resident halls.

“I’ve never heard anything about

it,” said Alex Smith, freshman environmental technology major. “I’d like to know if my major is going to be affected.”

Students voiced anxiety related to their lack of information about the restructuring committee’s motives.

“I’m concerned that the decisions being made are done in the interest of appearing as if something is being done, rather than the decisions being made to serve the best interest of the programs,” said Chris Watkins, senior French and global studies major.

Kristin Kemp, senior political science major, said transparency is a necessary first step in informing students about the restructuring process.

RESTRUCTURING, PAGE 5

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Bobby McKee’s proves to give Murfreesboro authentic Irish experience. Page 8

IN TODAY’S ISSUE



Check out the photo gallery of Saturday’s fire downtown

ONLINE @
MTSUSIDELINES.COM

MONDAY FORECAST



SHOWERS
60% CHANCE OF RAIN
HIGH 46, LOW 43

Women take on scholars

MTSU's women's studies program scheduled to sponsor events during four-day celebration

By SARAH HAMACHER
Staff Writer

The women's studies program is sponsoring a student-led discussion panel that will focus on how to transition from student to scholar Wednesday, as part of a four-day celebration of events for MTSU's Scholars Week.

The women's studies program is participating in Scholars Week by sponsoring several events under the theme "Celebrating Women as Scholars" starting today.

"Women's studies program events during Scholars Week will give students, a really good insight into the scholarship that is generated by faculty and students in the program," said Tina Johnson, director of the women's studies program and professor of English.

The student-led panel, titled "Women's studies building Knowledge for Change," will be held at 1:15 p.m. in Room 348 of

Andrew L. Todd Hall.

It will be led by Amnesty International President Brenda Navarro, junior philosophy and global studies major; Tiffany Hughes, senior English major; Mary Lane Poe, senior liberal arts major; and Lisa L. Walker, junior liberal arts major.

Pat Bradley, associate professor of English, said it was important for students to meet and speak with active scholars to understand how they go about pursuing their research.

Felicia Miyakawa, associate professor of music, will be leading a group of women's studies faculty in a panel titled "Women as Scholars" Tuesday at 4 p.m. in the James Union Building, Room 100.

Gloria Hamilton, psychology professor, is listed as one the women studies faculty on the panel. However, she will not be participating. Bradley will be replacing her due to scheduling conflicts.

Jane Marcellus, associate professor of journal-

ism, is also a member of the panel.

"I think that sometimes students and others don't realize that a university professor's job is a three-legged stool made up of teaching, research and service," Marcellus said. "Because the business of gather and interpreting data and writing academic articles isn't done in the public eye, it's easy to forget how much work it is and how it enriches the other two legs of the stool."

Johnson will be chairing a roundtable discussion today titled "Integrating Women into the Curriculum," co-sponsored by the MTSU's President's Commission on the Status of Women at 3:30 p.m. in the James Union Building, Room 100.

"Participants will gain insight into submitting a strong proposal for the summer grants available for faculty who are integrating women into the curriculum," Johnson said. "They will also

learn about developing courses for the women's studies program."

"Daring Girls, Sensitive Boys and Everything in Between: Teaching Gender Construction in Children's Literature," will be Thursday at 3 p.m. in Room 100 of the James Union Building presented by Jennifer Marchant, associate professor of English.

"Knowledge doesn't grow on trees, to use a cliché," Marcellus said. "Somebody has to do the research and write the books."

For more information on events sponsored by the Women's Studies Program, contact Tina Johnson at (615) 898-5910 or e-mail her at womenstu@mtsu.edu.

All of MTSU's colleges will be participating in Scholars Week. For more information on this week's events, e-mail Andrienne Friedli, technical chair of the Scholars Week Committee and professor of chemistry.

Habitat for Humanity to dedicate house

Construction complete on home built with help of MTSU student volunteers

STAFF REPORT

MTSU students displayed their humanitarian side by volunteering to help build a Habitat for Humanity of Rutherford County home for a single-mother and her son.

Several student organizations participated in the construction process, including the Habitat for Humanity MTSU Chapter, the Student Government Association, Alpha Omicron Pi, Chi Omega Women's

fraternities, the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, as well as others.

Central Middle School and Jason's Deli also contributed throughout the construction process. The building dates took place three times a week, each day containing two available shifts.

A formal dedication ceremony to be held at the home, located on Kerr Street, is scheduled for Thursday. The ceremony is planned to include a "house blessing" and dinner with the family.

For more information, contact Jackie Victory, director of Leadership and Service, at (615) 898-5812 or e-mail her at jvictory@mtsu.edu.

Space program gives advice to hopeful educators

STAFF REPORT

NASA wants to help students from MTSU who are preparing to teach on an elementary or middle school level by providing specialized information for classrooms.

NASA invited the future teachers to attend the free NASA Pre-Service Teacher Workshop. The event is scheduled to take place Saturday in the Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building, Room

109, from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m., news and public affairs secretary Paula Morton wrote in a press release.

The workshop will inform its attendants on ways to develop lesson plans to include curriculum that meet the national standard. It will also provide ideas for how to integrate those resources into the classroom, such as hands-on and inquiry-based methods for teaching math and sciences.

Students encouraged to imagine better future

STAFF REPORT

The 2010 Imagine Cup is accepting applications for its annual event that allows teams of college students worldwide to participate in a series of technology-based competitions.

The Imagine Cup is a collaborative effort between Microsoft and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

The theme of this year's competition is "Imagine a world where technology helps solve the toughest problems."

The finals are scheduled for July 3-8 in Warsaw, Poland.

The 2010 Imagine Cup consists of several individual competitions.

The Envisioning 2020 Award invites students to express their vision of how technology will impact the future. Applications must be submitted by May 5.

The Interoperability Award is a competition among student-developed software applications that combine Microsoft technologies with other technologies. Applications must be submitted

by May 5.

The Windows Phone 7 "Rockstar" Award asks participants to create a software application for the Windows Phone 7, using Silverlight or XNA software. Applications must be submitted by May 26.

Further information, including a complete list of rules and regulations, exclusive benefits and offers for participants and competition enrollment applications, can be found at the official 2010 Imagine Cup Web Site at imaginecup.com.

March Deals



\$4.99

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\$5.00

\$5.00

\$5.00

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\$4.99

\$4.00

\$6.00

\$1.00

\$4.99

6.00

2.00

\$0.00

\$4.99

\$5.00

March Events

Australian Outback Dinner Tues. March 2 PREMIUM Dinner @ McCallie

Mocktails

WELCOME BACK FONDU Lunch @ JUB

MARCH BIRTHDAY Wed. March 17 Lunch @ McCallie & Dinner @ JUB

March Madness Thur. March 18 Lunch @ JUB

MILKSHAKE MONDAY Monday March 22 Lunch @ McCallie

Maximum Mexican Thur. March 25 PREMIUM Dinner @ JUB

Movie Night Monday March 29 Dinner @ JUB

CLIPCAKE CREATION Wed. March 31 Lunch @ McCallie

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

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

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THE GRILL
FOOD COURT

MONTHLY PROMO

Mouths burn from 'wings of fire' contest

By CHRISTOPHER MERCHANT
Staff Writer

Twenty-five contestants gathered inside of the McCallie Dining Hall on Thursday to take on the hottest pepper in the world in MTSU's third annual Wings of Fire competition, sponsored by MT Dining Services.

Dwane Schmelhaus, who worked as head chef for the recipe project, said students were tasked with eating eight hot-wings covered in Shut-Up Juice, a blend of the world's spiciest ingredients that competition organizers make on campus.

Schmelhaus, who prefers to be called "Batman," said the sauce was primarily composed of habañero and ghost chili peppers.

As a reward for accomplishing the feat, winner Nick Johnson received a \$250 American Express gift card. Despite the incentive, though, the sophomore nursing major admitted the challenge was difficult for him.

"It was the hottest thing I have ever tasted," Johnson said. "I was praying right before it started."

In addition to being covered in Shut-Up Juice, the oil that the wings were cooked in was flavored with four pounds of habañero and ghost chili powder for 21 days.

Ghost chilies, which are native to India, have been listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the hottest pepper in the world because they contain over 1 million Scoville units, a measurement scientists use to determine a pepper's "heat."

In comparison, according to Tabasco's Web site, its Original Tabasco Sauce only contains 2,500-5,000 Scoville units, making a ghost chili 200 to 400 times more potent. Habañero chilies have a Scoville rating of 200,000-300,000.

Habañeros, which are named after the Cuban city of Havana, have been traded all over the world for hundreds of years. The pep-



Photo by Jill Dixon, staff photographer
Nick Johnson, sophomore nursing major, celebrates after eating eight Shut-Up Juice wings winning the competition.

pers are generally used sparingly, as a small amount adds a lot of flavor.

"Three years ago, my boss told me to make the hottest thing I could make," Schmelhaus said. "We have been trying ever since."

Ian McKinney, freshmen aerospace major, said Schmelhaus may have succeeded.

"I had two bites, and I was done," McKinney said.

When asked why Johnson was motivated to participate in such a difficult competition, he had a surprising response.

"I had to do it," Johnson said, his face red and eyes bloodshot. "I went outside a couple of days ago and I had a flat tire. I am going to use the prize money to buy a new set of tires."

At the conclusion of the contest, orange and grape Creamsicles were offered to all of the participants.

"You are going to need them," Schmelhaus said.



Photo by Jill Dixon, staff photographer
Jacob Shaffer, freshman mass communication major, pauses while attempting to finish a plate of wings bathed in Shut-Up Juice. The sauce was made on campus and is a blend of the world's spiciest ingredients including habañeros and ghost chili peppers.



Photo by Jill Dixon, staff photographer
A total of 25 students compete at McCallie Dining Hall Thursday for the annual Wings of Fire competition. The event attempts to house the hottest wings around to use for the competition.

COLLEGE Night

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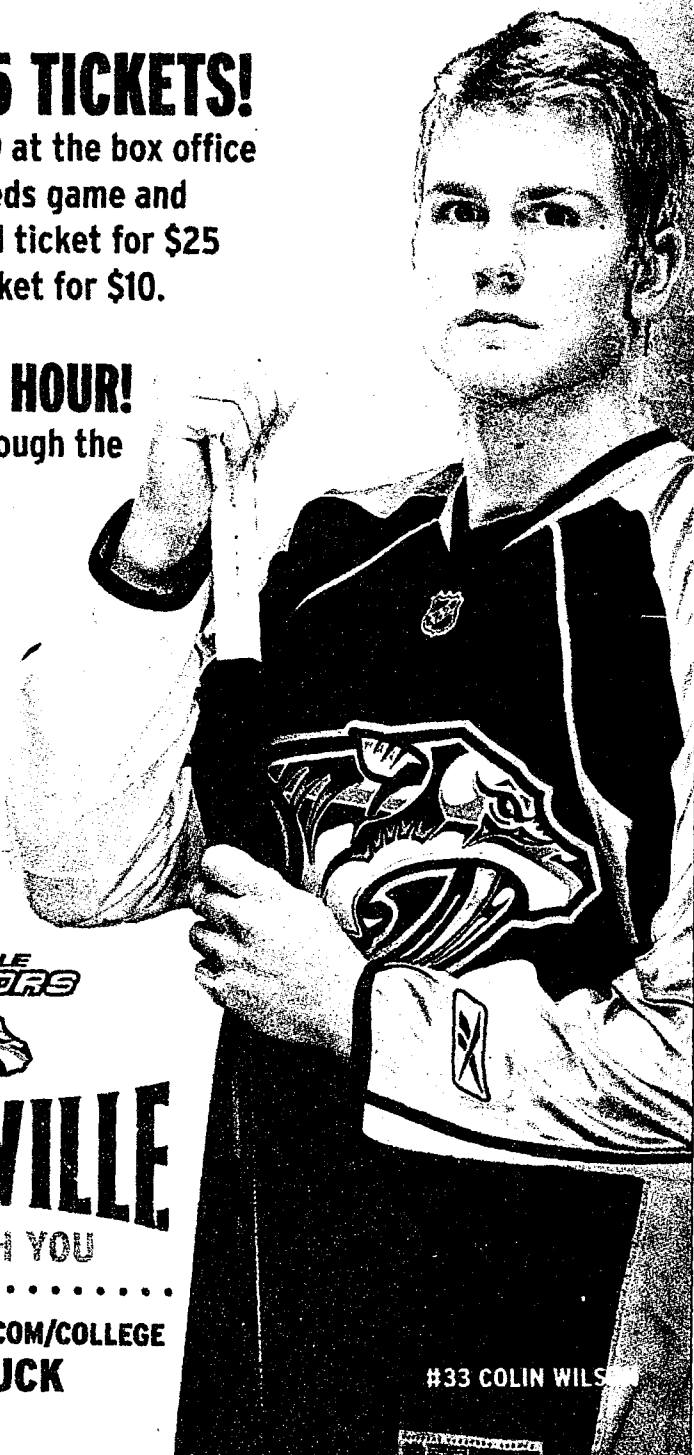
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FIRE
FROM PAGE 1

"We don't want the walls to collapse on any pedestrians," Honeycutt said. "We won't be blocking off any access to the square, but will be roping off the immediate area so nobody will get hurt."

Murfreesboro police maintained crowd control as firefighters battled the blaze.

Police said perimeters were extended to the square, as well as the blocks of West Main Street between Church and Vine streets, because of additional dangers to the public due to the possibility of oxygen tanks exploding.

Dane Iovino, a bartender at 3 Brothers, said the restaurant's employees spotted the fire. He said they immediately dialed 911 and alerted the occupants of the Music City Medical Supply.

"It looked like they had it under control for a while, and then all of the sudden it just went up in flames," Iovino said.

Susan Grear, owner of The Write Impression, a stationery store located on Maple Street, said she also thought the fire was less severe when it first ignited.

"The fire looked like it was going to be OK for a while," Grear said. "Then I saw major flames shooting up, which at one point the flames were so big, I thought Concert Productions would be consumed."

Jeff Coss, a Murfreesboro resident and bystander, said he saw the roof collapse on the medical supply store.

"When the roof collapsed — that was pretty intense, because everything was caving in and there was a good reaction from the crowd," Coss said. "There wasn't that much to see it was more of the sound of it."

Rob Fortney, owner of 3 Brothers, said that the second floor of Music City Medical Supply collapsed, potentially damaging the roof of his establishment. He expressed concern for the livelihood of the employees and for the affected businesses.

Recreation center adds 'green' ellipticals

By TAYLOR HIXSON
Staff Writer

Five new elliptical workout machines that convert the energy made by exercisers into re-usable energy were added to the Health, Wellness and Recreation Center as part of MTSU's efforts to become more environmentally friendly.

Campus recreation officials held a presentation Wednesday revealing the new elliptical machines and said the university paid \$36,650 to add the new equipment to the gym.

Technology was provided by ReRev, a company that retrofits cardiovascular exercise equipment to reroute the energy that is emitted as a heat byproduct when in operation. That energy is delivered to a central processing unit, which then converts the human power to electricity, according to the company's Web site.

"The fitter you are and the better you eat, the more environmentally sound you are," said Jenny Crouch, coordinator of the Student Recreation Center. "A lot of people don't realize that eating healthy food and exercise also have a less negative affect on the environment."

MTSU purchased the new equipment through the Clean Energy fee, which covered \$30,000 of the total cost. The energy fee is funded through an \$8 stipend paid for by students to support environmentally friendly investments on campus. The remaining \$6,650



Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor
Students glide on the Rec Center's new energy-generating elliptical machines yesterday.

balance was paid for by the recreation center.

Brad McCrary, sophomore biology major, said he uses the recreation center at least once a day to exercise and would definitely change his usual workout routine to try one of the new elliptical machines.

"There are other things that could have been more efficient that the money could have been used on, but I think it will make back the money even if it will be a long time," McCrary said.

Josh Stone, associate director of recreation programs, said the new equipment is

part of the recreation center's long-term goal to use more sustainable energy. The center is focused on helping students lead a healthy lifestyle that will in turn have a positive environmental impact.

"The new machines are like getting a two-for-one—it is promoting conservation and students are getting physical fitness," Stone said.

Crouch said officials with the recreation center have been interested in finding ways to save energy, and after seeing the ReRev elliptical machines at work during a conference, buying some for MTSU seemed natural.

He said the recreation center currently uses approximately 2.5 million kilowatt-hours each year.

Crouch said since Feb. 19, the new elliptical machines have generated 2 kilowatt-hours of sustainable energy. He said while 2 kilowatt-hours in three weeks might seem like a miniscule amount, the more students who know about the new elliptical equipment, the more they may be motivated to use them and generate more power.

According to the ReRev Web site, 1 kilowatt-hours of energy is enough to power a laptop for 24 hours or a vacuum cleaner for 45 minutes.

Aaron Clements, senior psychology major, said he would be more inclined to use the new elliptical machines since he knows it is going to turn his workout into electricity.

"It is a pretty efficient idea," Clements said.

Crouch said officials with the center have also been looking into buying a new treadmill called the EcoMill, which uses zero electrical consumption.

Junior mass communication major Michael Hecker works out in the recreation center and said he would also like to see more innovations like the elliptical machines used in the gym.

"There's nothing better than making students understand sustainability," Hecker said.

SGA Run-Off Election
March 30 - Apr. 1

College of Liberal Arts

The SGA Run-Off Election is only for the College of Liberal Arts. This election will break the tie between the two candidates that received the save number of votes in the last election. Liberal

Arts students will receive an email via pipeline that will direct them how to vote.



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ABORTION
FROM PAGE 1

John Fleshman, sophomore English major, said he believes that the group uses fear-tactics.

"I think they're trying to scare people into believing something," Fleshman said.

Daniel Frazier, junior recording industry major, said he understood why students might find it unnerving.

"It's uncomfortable, but I'm glad it's here," Frazier said. "Generally, as Americans we don't like to subject ourselves to uncomfortable things or uncomfortable truths. This is a part of reality — it's good for us to be shown."

Maureen McKinley, an intern with Justice for All, said abortion is an important issue that should be debated on a college campus. She said the exhibit encourages students to discuss abortion in an open manner.

"Our exhibit is actually three-sided," McKinley said. "Our main goal is to start a dialogue on campus about abortion because we think it's an important issue that's not talked about enough."

McKinley said the controversial issue affects students, most importantly women.

"A university is a place where people come to be educated and exchange new ideas," McKinley said.

Some students commented on the placement of the exhibit as being in poor taste.

"I don't want to see this on my way to class," said Keenan Mack, sophomore audio production major. "They did this in a wrong and inappropriate way — they could have chosen another spot." A peti-



Photo by Ray Ingram, contributing photographer
Students watch from the Keathley University Center as anti-abortion protesters talk to students.

tion table was set up near the exhibit that allowed students to voice their opinion about the display and whether or not they believed the group should be allowed to hold an event on campus in the future.

It is not clear, however, what organization or group sponsored the petition sign-up sheet.

In a letter submitted to *Sidelines* last week, Gene Fitch, associate vice president and dean of Student Affairs and dean of Student Life, alluded to the fact that the anti-abortion organization was protected by the First Amendment just like any other group hosting an event on campus.

Read the full story including a photo gallery from the event online at **MTSUSIDELINES.COM**

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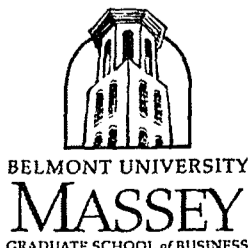


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The Adam's Chair of Excellence in Health Care Services/Center for Health and Human Services invites MTSU faculty, staff and students to participate in the 2010 World Health Day activities:

- Join Dr. Scott Corlew, chief medical officer of Interplast, for a lecture on global health issues, 12:40 to 1:30 in the State Farm Lecture Hall (BAS S102). Sponsored by the Distinguished Lecture Series and Division of Student Affairs. Lecture attendance passes will be issued to students.
- Student exhibits on World Health Topics will be on display in the KUC Lobby from 11:00 to 1:00.*

*Student exhibits on world health topics wanted!
Contact Cindy Rhea at 8342 or crhea@mtsu.edu to sign up or for more information.



World Health Day
April 7, 2010

RESTRUCTURING FROM PAGE 1

"I think that because we are paying to be here, we should have that knowledge," said James Morrisette, freshman business administration major, concerning the possible changes of restructuring.

Many acknowledged that they were not aware of where such information

would be available, but said they had not made significant efforts to stay informed about the university's restructuring process.

"The thing I like about MTSU is that it's a school for the students," said Carolyn Hogan, junior English major. "But, I'm afraid in the interest of money, it will become less focused on the students."

Maggie Flanagan, sophomore

social work major, said she was concerned about restructuring in her department's career and field placement efforts.

Students majoring in social work are a part of the College of Liberal Arts - one of the colleges that may be significantly impacted.

If the report by the Oversight Steering Committee, which was in charge of submitting restructuring recommendations during the initial

phase of MTSU President Sidney McPhee's "Positioning the University for the Future Initiative," is adopted as part of the final plans, the College of Liberal Arts would possibly undergo major changes.

"A lot of the relationships with the organizations we work with, for field placements, are established through certain professors," Flanagan said. "I'm worried that those positions would not be available if those

professors leave."

In an article from the Nov. 16, 2009, issue of The Record, McPhee wrote that the deadline for the final restructuring recommendations were due by April 1 2010.

Restructuring proposals from each college affected by the president's initiative were submitted to Diane Miller, executive vice president and provost of MTSU, March 1 but few details have been released.

CHALK FROM PAGE 1

"Students need to understand that on the front-end, so they are not caught off guard unexpectedly," said Sells, in regards to the more rigorous stance taken against chalking.

Amanda Samsel, coordinator of Judicial Affairs and Mediation Services, said the on-campus policy in the student handbook has existed for quite some time.

"It's always been in the handbook," Samsel said. "It takes a lot to change this, it can't just happen overnight."

Samsel said any changes made would have to be approved by the Tennessee Board of Regents before going into effect.

She said students arrested by either the Murfreesboro Police Department or the MTSU Office of Public Safety could receive additional disciplinary sanctions issued by Judicial Affairs.

Kelley said the use of chalk to advertize student-led events and even drink specials being offered by off-campus businesses has dramatically increased, de-

veloping into a daily problem that is costing MTSU a lot of money.

"One of the things students should keep in mind is that [the university] is state property," Kelley said.

Samsel said, however, Judicial Affairs does not have the authority to enforce policies that prohibit using chalk to advertise on campus property over any person or business not a part of the MTSU community.

"If it's a student, and we receive a police report, then we will absolutely take the appropriate action," Samsel said.

Sells said one of the factors that influenced administrators to begin enforcing anti-chalking policies on campus more rigorously was in large part due to the increasing number of advertisements of local businesses on school grounds.

"My understanding was that this move intended toward not simply issuing a dean's citation but to actually arrest folks," Sells said. "The issue is that dean citations only have impact on students and would be worthless against businesses violating university policies."



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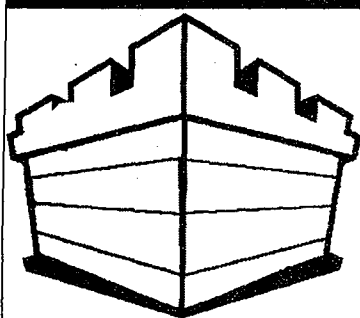
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Letters Policy

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

OPINIONS

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

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Spending caps needed on SGA campaigns

Homecoming candidates have limit; similar regulation should be applied to student government

Over the years, laws in the U.S. have generally become progressively tighter regarding campaigning spending for federal, state and local political candidates. Unfortunately at MTSU, the story is quite different for those running for positions within the Student Government Association, which has no limitations regarding campaign spending for senatorial or executive candidates.

Oddly enough, those running for homecoming king and queen have a \$500 cap, which includes not only personal spending, but also donated funds. Regulations on homecoming elections

are tighter yet, requiring all receipts for purchased "election paraphernalia" to be turned in "within 49 hours of distribution," according to the SGA's Electoral Act.

For whatever reason, it would appear that SGA campaign spending is less regulated – since it isn't at all – than positions of sheer aestheticism. A shame this is, for if the SGA is to mock a true legislative body, it must self-impose the regulations that come with this resemblance.

The main need for establishing campaign spending caps in the SGA is obvious: Money is power, and power

does not always mean that the politicians who have it will work in the best interests of their constituents.

This year, the professionally produced signage made it obvious who spent the most money campaigning. This candidate did in fact win the election, though this would have likely been the outcome regardless of spending in accordance with the lopsided vote totals.

The words on the president-elect's signs said no more than who to vote for, and how and when to do so – a reoccurring theme among today's political campaigns. Missing from

these signs – as well as the president-elect's campaign as a whole – were stances and plans of action. These two items haven't been held by any SGA presidents in MTSU's recent history, thus showing that SGA elections have turned into nothing more than a popularity contest instead of elections of substance.

In light of continuing budgetary issues at MTSU, the student body needs an SGA president who is not afraid of providing dissidence from the authoritarian figures that mold, slash and contrive the tuition money and taxpayer dollars that keep the university op-

erational. These candidates existed in this year's field of presidential possibilities, but they received far too few votes and had very few signs around campus.

The SGA shouldn't have to worry about setting campaign spending caps, though, if it did one thing: extend the amount of time candidates have to campaign. Currently, they only have 10 days to do so, including weekends.

If this timeframe was expanded, those who lack in funds could compensate through rallies, fundraisers and the like.

Those wishing to run for an SGA position must turn

their application in no later than 21 days before the first scheduled date of the election. It seems logical to verify their eligibility virtually immediately, and upon doing so, allow them to begin their campaign.

That way, if the 10 days before the election are stressful due to a job, schoolwork, etc., a candidate would at least have had time prior to get his or her message out.

And hopefully that message would be one that speaks in terms of what is best for the students, not who can shake the most hands and spend the most money.

A little too much controversy, not enough debate

Recent visitors to campus only care about shouting matches

This past week, a non-profit organization visited our campus, to highlight the issue of abortion, with violent and graphic imagery on the Keathley University Center Knoll. This comes on the heels of last month's visit from Pinpoint Ministries.

While it is great that people are passionate enough about their issues to come to a college campus, the need for these conservative displays on the knoll is completely unclear.

Honestly, how many people with a mature mindset haven't formulated an opinion concerning abortion or living a "moral" life? And furthermore, how many people actually get swayed in their opinions of such topics?

My mother always said that it is not polite to bring up politics, religion or other polar topics in mixed company. The reason behind her point is this: Adults have a clear picture of how they feel about certain issues and it is hard to change.

If a person was to change his or her entire political feeling on an issue, it would be a personal process. And really, the majority of people simply do not carry an open mind about politics, religion or issues like abortion.

So why bother visiting our students to bring up these controversial issues?

It seems that these visitors are here simply to bring controversy to campus. You don't need a radical preacher to know that his or her followers do not like homosexuals or women who sleep around; you just know already.

And no radical preacher is going to change anyone's mind about who he or she is and what he or she does, especially concerning ethics or feelings of morality.

If a woman doesn't believe that abortions are right, she wouldn't get abortions. If a woman desires to have an abortion and thinks it is her best plan, then she would get one.

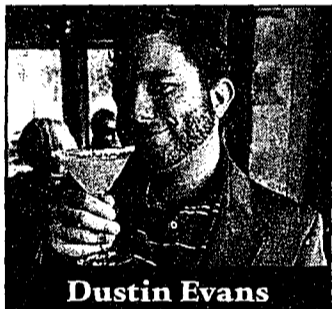
So why show up with photos of them? The decision is already planned in their head.

Gene Fitch, associate vice president for Student Affairs and dean of Student Life, said he approves these visitors so that the students can be immersed in a "marketplace of ideas." Couldn't we then have visitors that would spark the debate of issues that don't have such a personal weight instead?

It would be great to have someone talking about an unknown need in the world that should be solved, like the rape victims in the Congo, the crisis in Darfur or the holocaust in Sri Lanka. Such conversations could get students to be active in the world and society, thus creating Fitch's marketplace.

Instead, we are left with a lot of angry people who are not going to change how they feel screaming about issues they have already assessed in their heads.

Dustin Evans in a senior organizational communication major and managing editor of Sidelines. He can be reached at smanage@mtsu.edu.



Dustin Evans
Cheers!



Helga the witch was developing a drinking problem.

By Jeremy Ball
Staff Cartoonist

"The finer things"

rok_shard@yahoo.com

A quick word

From the Opinions editor

A joke, not meant to offend, or be discouraging: A man went to college to major in art. "I'm doing it for the love, not the money," he said at the outset.

Upon earning his degree in art, he was unable to find art-related employment. He said: "I did it for the love, not the money."

He continued to paint, draw, sculpt, etc. after college when he was not unpacking boxes of groceries and placing them on Kroger's shelves.

One day, about five years after graduation, he said to a fellow grocery stocker: "I majored in art for the love, not the money. If I could go back, though, I would have majored in accounting. It would be just as monotonous as working at a grocery store and would still take up about 40 hours of my week. At least I would be a well-fed accountant who does art on the side rather than a starving artist who ironically touches way more food than your average person."

—Michael Stone, opinions editor

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Fight for rights of every kind of animal

Thank you for featuring Pearl Howell's insights on the recent incident at SeaWorld ("Animals should roam in natural environment," Sidelines, Mar. 3).

The incident sparked a national debate about how we treat animals in America. But the reality of it is that Tilikum is one victim of animal abuse out of more than 10 billion.

According to the USDA, almost 10 billion animals were raised for food in 2008 in America, and that number doesn't even include seafood.

On modern factory farms, egg-laying hens are kept in extremely small battery cages. Pigs are kept in gestation crates so small they can't even turn around. Milking cows are repeatedly and artificially impregnated and hooked up to milking machines.

With such intense production, many animals die before even reaching the slaughterhouse.

The average person wouldn't do this to a whale or a dog, so why do we pay people three times a day – every time we eat – to do this to other animals? If we want to have a real discussion about how we treat animals in our society, we ought to talk about the way our food is raised. To learn more, visit TryVeg.com.

—Kenny Torrella, senior mass communication major

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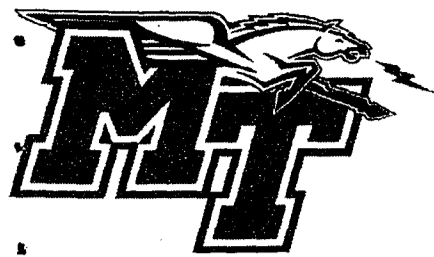
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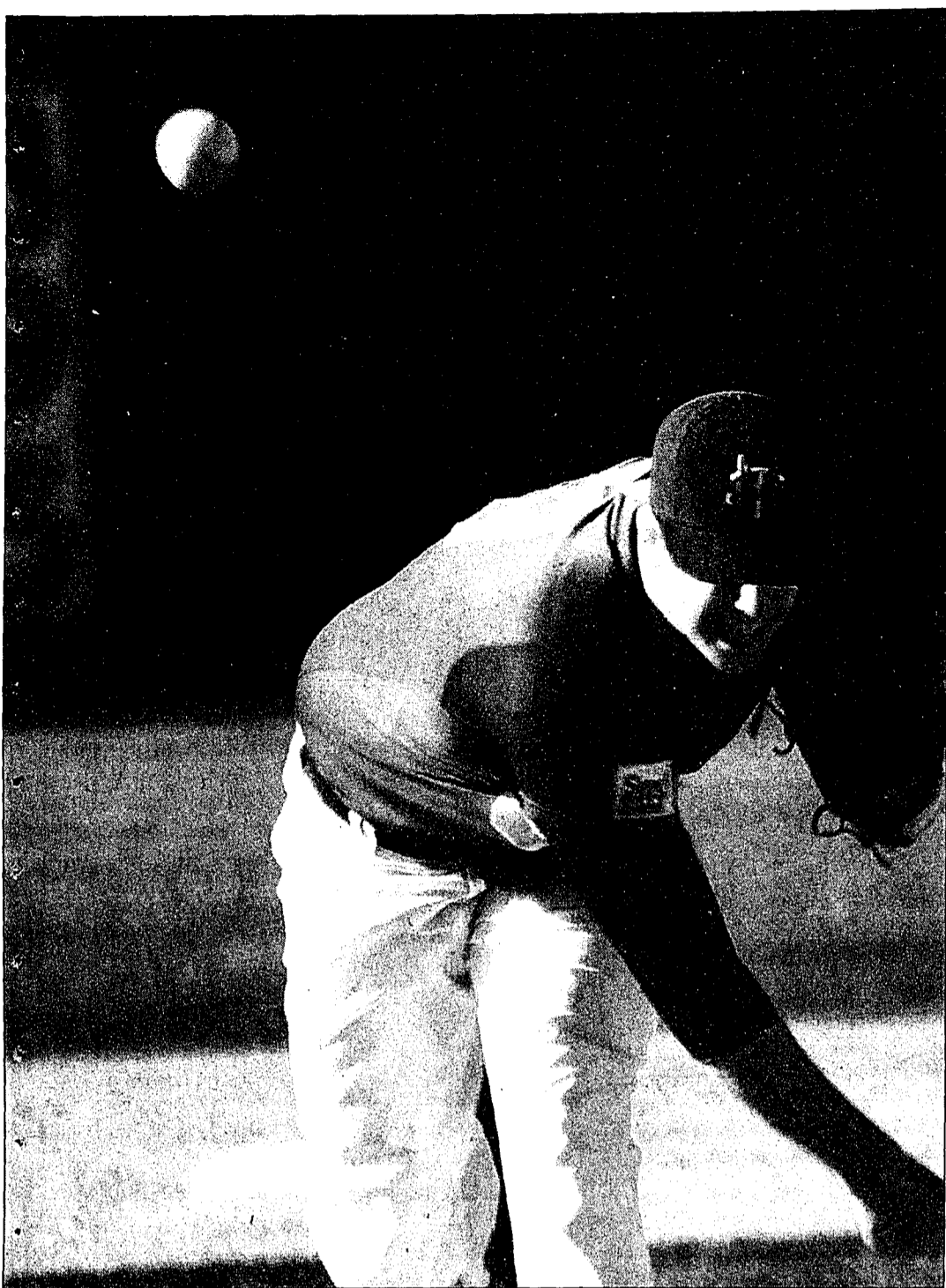


Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor

Freshman pitcher Daniel Palo pitches against Ohio State at Reese Smith Jr. Field on Feb. 27, 2010. The Blue Raiders won the matchup 5-4.

Blue Raiders take yet another series

Edwards, Miller stifle Indians to win two of three

By STEPHEN CURLEY
Sports Editor

Pitching was key as the Blue Raiders baseball team swept a doubleheader Saturday to take another series win over Arkansas State University.

The series was highlighted by a complete game shutout from pitcher Chad Edwards, who held the Indians to just seven hits, walking just one batter.

The Blue Raiders (13-6, 4-2) entered the series after experiencing anything but pitching excellence in their previous game, an 18-13 shootout with Lipscomb University.

Junior third baseman Tyler Burnett gave the Blue Raiders a lead they would never relinquish in the top of the second with a single up the middle, scoring Justin Miller from second base.

Edwards took over from there, with the only other run of the game coming in the top of the seventh on an RBI single from freshman shortstop Ryan Ford.

"Edwards pitched a heck of a ball game," said Head Coach Steve Peterson in a radio interview with 88.3. "Arkansas State is a good club, and Chad really hit his spots and dominated the strike zone."

Despite a solid line, Indians starter Jacob Lee was stuck with the loss. He went seven innings, giving up just the two runs on six hits while walking one.

Game one Friday, the game that didn't end in MT's favor, was a 4-3 pitcher's, duel

between the Blue Raiders' senior Kenneth Robers and ASU's An Ferguson. Both starters went 8+ innings, with Roberts lasting 8.1 innings before giving way to reliever Kevin Whittaker.

Both starters gave up three runs, sending the game into extra innings tied at 3-3. Whittaker was credited with the loss on the final play, when Indians third baseman Jordan Castaldo singled in the winning run.

The bats seemed to wake up in game two, an 8-5 victory for the Blue Raiders on the strength of three RBIs from junior second baseman Justin Miller, who went 3-for-5.

Both teams reached into their bullpens more so than the other games, with MT starter Hunter Adkins lasting just 2.1 innings, giving up four runs on five hits after walking four batters. From there, sophomore Justin Guidry worked 3.1 innings, giving up one run on three hits.

Junior reliever Nick Montgomery appeared nothing like the pitcher who gave up seven runs in an inning against Lipscomb, coming in and shutting down the Indians for 3.1 scoreless innings to get the win.

Senior first baseman Blake McDade continued his hot start to the season, going 5-for-12 in the series.

Junior center fielder Bryce Brentz struggled at the plate, going just 2-for-12. His average for the year now stands at .350.

The Blue Raiders return home Wednesday, when the team hosts Belmont University at 6 p.m.

MT track opens outdoor competition

Cox sets school record in strong team performance at Rhodes Open Meet

MTSU Dispatch

Senior Brittany Cox set a new school record in the hammerthrow with a 54.54m throw Saturday, enough to give her second place at the Rhodes Open Meet Saturday in Memphis.

The Antioch native beat her previous mark of 53.61m, set a year ago at the 2009 Georgia Tech Invitational.

As a team, the Blue Raider men and women won six total events. Junior Cherice Robinson won gold in the 100-meter hurdles and high jump.

Senior Zamzam Sangau finished first in the 800-meters with a time of 2:12.82.

Senior Ashley Comstock

won the 5,000 meters, recording a time of 17:38.74. Fellow Blue Raiders sophomore Jackie Serem, junior Marla Bailey and freshman Stephanie Smith finished third, fourth and fifth, respectively.

The long jump was dominated by the Blue Raiders, as sophomore Kiara Kenry finished first in the long jump competition with a mark of 5.82m. Junior teammates Nyeisha Wright and Kortney Thurman finished second and third, respectively.

"The women ran some good races, and I was proud of Brittany getting her lifetime best and school re-

cord in the hammer," said Head Coach Dean Hayes. "Ashley Comstock also really ran well setting a [personal record] in her first meet back."

Sophomore Roscoe Payne won the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 14.59, while teammate senior Deray Sloss finished third.

"Overall, I was very happy with the meet," Hayes said. "The weather was very nice and allowed for some good performances early in the season."

The Blue Raiders return to action Friday when the team travels to Atlanta for the Georgia Tech Invitational.



File Photo

Sophomore Matthew Langley returns a serve against South Alabama at the Sun Belt Shootout on April 4th, 2009.

Ranked teams too much for MT men's tennis

Blue Raiders struggle in 2010 Blue Gray Classic

MTSU Dispatch

The Blue Raider men's tennis team had a rough weekend as they fell to three ranked teams in No. 38 Notre Dame, No. 71 Boise State University and No. 44 Penn State University in Montgomery, Ala.

Perhaps the best performance of the weekend was against the Fighting Irish, where the Blue Raiders were able to stay in close singles matches, as well as a dominant performance by senior Victor Melo, and came close to winning the doubles point.

In addition to Melo's day, who dominated ND's No. 2 Steven Havens, MT's No. 1 doubles team in juniors John Peers and Kyle Wishing defeated ND's Havens and Casey Watt, the No. 61-ranked doubles pair in the country.

"I have to give a lot of credit to John and Kyle," said head coach David McNamara. "They beat a ranked team and that is huge for Kyle."

The Blue Raiders narrowly lost the second doubles match, 8-6, before Richard Cowden and Shaun Waters fell 8-3 to seal the point for the Fighting Irish.

Boise State sealed the win early Saturday, not allowing three singles matches to finish before taking a 4-0 victory on the strength of No. 41 James Meredith defeating Peers in straight sets.

"The doubles point was disappointing, and we missed a few opportunities to win," McNamara said.

MT finally broke through in doubles competition against Penn State late Saturday, but struggled in singles play to fall 4-1 to the Nittany Lions.

Wishing and Peers dominated in an 8-2 win over PSU's Eddie Bouchier and Jason Lee while Melo and Waters fought to an 8-6 win over PSU's Ryan Gormley and Warren Hardie.

Unfortunately for the Blue Raiders, that would be the only bright spot of the match, as the Nittany Lions swept them in singles competition, with two matches unfinished.

The 4-14 Blue Raiders have tested themselves against tough competition all year as they prepare for the Sun Belt Conference Shootout.

"Ultimately we are still a work in progress," McNamara said. "There are nine matches until the conference tournament, and I still believe we have a shot at causing a few headaches in the tournament."

MT returns to action Sunday when it hosts East Tennessee State University at the Buck Boldin Tennis Center.

UPCOMING SPORTING EVENTS

Baseball vs. Belmont University

March 24, 6 p.m.
Reese Smith Jr. Field

Softball vs. University of Mississippi

March 25, 6 p.m.
Blue Raider Softball Field

Baseball vs. Alabama State University

March 27, 4 p.m.
Reese Smith Jr. Field

Men's Rugby South Finals

March 27 - 28
MTSU Sport Club Complex

Women's Soccer vs.

Lipscomb University, Jacksonville State University

March 27, 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.
Dean A. Hayes Track and Soccer Stadium

Tennis vs. East Tennessee State University

March 28, 12 p.m.
Buck Boldin Tennis Center

Baseball vs. Alabama State University

March 28, 1 p.m.
Reese Smith Jr. Field

Baseball at Austin Peay State University

March 30, 6 p.m.
Raymond C. Hand Park

Baseball vs. Lipscomb University

March 31, 6 p.m.
Reese Smith Jr. Field

Women's Soccer vs. Vanderbilt University

April 1, 7 p.m.
Dean A. Hayes Track and Soccer Stadium

Events Policy

Sidelines welcomes current campus and community events submitted by all readers. Please e-mail events to slsports@mtsu.edu, and include the name, date, time and location of the event, as well as your name and a phone number for verification. We reserve the right to refuse events at our discretion as our space is limited.

Sidelines is the editorially independent, non-profit student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. Sidelines publishes Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and Wednesday during June and July. The events listed are not necessarily associated with Sidelines or MTSU.

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FEATURES

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Birds 'spring' back to campus

Lovers of feathered friends flock together at Exotic Bird Expo

By KATY COIL
Staff Writer

The Stark Agribusiness and Agriscience Center was filled to the brim with squawks and squeaks as birds of every color in the rainbow twittered around in their cages and perches Saturday morning.

The biannual Exotic Bird Expo gave buyers and breeders a chance to show their birds to the public and see everything from white whistling cockatiels and colorful parakeets, to personable parrots and fluttery fidgety finches.

The expo was put on by the members of the Heart of Tennessee Aviculture Society, a group which organizes a biannual bird expo on campus in both March and September. They organize the bird expo as a way of getting breeders, buyers and suppliers together, to give them an opportunity to meet new friends, many of the feathered variety.

Larry Crawford, treasurer for the group, was there with his wife selling some of the birds they breed – cockatiels, parakeets and parakeets. Crawford says he got into the bird-breeding business purely by accident.

"My wife wanted to raise some parakeets," he says. "She said 'will you help me if I raise the parakeets?'"

Crawford said he agreed, and the next thing he knew they had about 40 of them.

Crawford and his wife have been raising birds for nearly 20 years now. Of all the varieties of bird, he believes that parakeets are popular because of the ease of taking care of them and because they are great pets for children.

"People are buying parakeets for their kids," he says. "They're easy to take care of – all you have to do is change the tank with their water and their paper and feed

them every day."

Another member of the organization, Susan Pach, was at the expo selling cockatiels, Lovebirds, conures and canaries. Pach has been raising birds and participating in the expo for about seven years. Her favorite species are the cockatiels.

"I've had them for pets for a long time," Pach says. "I bought one back before my children left home as a pet and just kinda got attached to them – I enjoy the company and listening to them."

Pach believes that the cockateils are among the most popular birds she sells because they make good pets.

On the other side of the room, Lisa Murphy was selling much smaller birds, breeds of tiny finches as well as finch feeders that work for both pets and wild animals. It was only Murphy's second time at the expo, but she has been raising birds since 2000.

"A girlfriend gave me a parakeet for my birthday," Murphy says. "Then I saw a Gouldian [finch] on a cover of 'Bird Cock' magazine and I thought 'I just have to have it.'"

Ten years later, Murphy now owns between 100-150 birds and specializes in finches. The personality of the finches is

what attracts Murphy to them.

"They're just feisty," she says. "They have a lot personality."

Many of the birds on her table are more expensive than the cockateils or parakeets because of their rarity and the difficulty of breeding them.

"[Buyers are] mostly anywhere from 30 to 65-year-olds," Murphy says. "They're not a bird for kids because you do not handle them."

Francine Glynn has been raising birds for 10 years and has been coming to the fair for about nine. She raises cockateils, which she describes as a more family friendly bird.

"They're a great starter bird," Glynn says. "Very easy to maintain, very friendly and very sweet."

In order to raise the birds tame, Glynn says they must be taken away at around 10-days-old and be handfed and handled a lot. According to Glynn, the birds around the room in cages are intended for breeding and can be more violent whereas the ones out on perches are more intended as pets. Glynn says that, as a breeder, it is hard for her not to get attached to

the birds she raises.

"I try very hard not to name them because if I name them, I'll keep them, and I can't afford to keep anything," she says. "If it has a unique personality and you give it a name, you have a hard time letting them go."

Of course, there is an upside to keeping the birds as pets.

"They will absolutely love you unconditionally," Glynn says. "It's just their sweetness."

Not everyone at the expo is there to sell; many buyers, both commercial and those looking just for pets, were also in attendance at the expo.

Amanda Kiviniemi is a bird enthusiast who not only owns birds but came to the expo with some commercial interest in mind. Kiviniemi's works along with her parents at Animal City on Northwest Broad Street, a local pet store. She came to scope out what birds the expo had to offer for both the business and her.

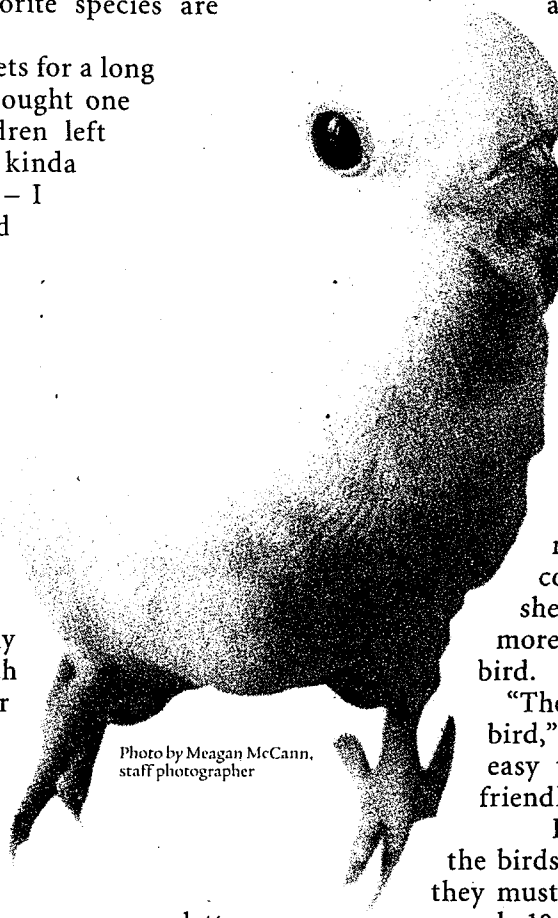
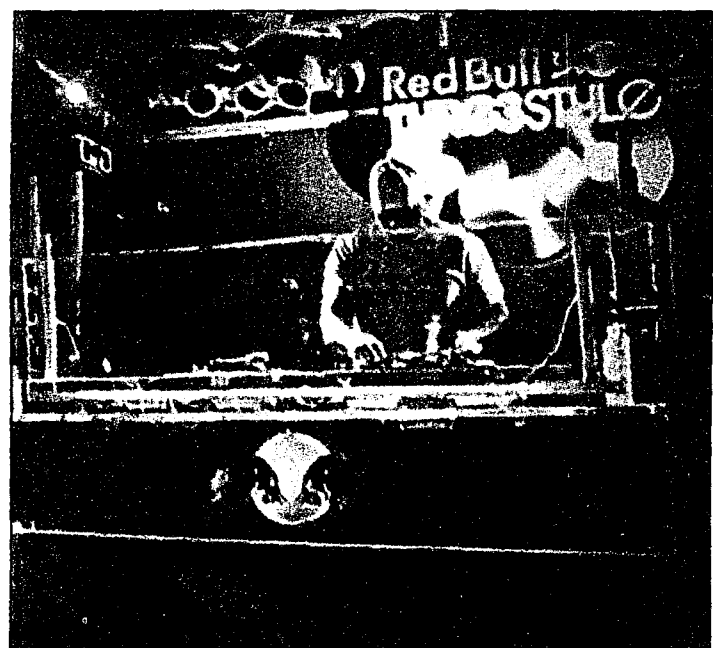
"[Birds] are what I've been doing my whole life," she says.

Kiviniemi owns two birds herself, though there are many more birds for sale at Animal City. With all the birds available, she says it is hard to choose a favorite.

"There's really too many to choose from," she says. "I would probably have to say my favorite are the Macaws Clue Crown Conures because of their best pet quality."

Birds at the expo are anywhere from \$6 to \$1,500 depending on their size and species. Kiviniemi says she enjoys the variety of birds on display at the expo.

"The variety is good," she says. "There aren't too many species, but there seems to be something for everyone."

Photo by Meagan McCann,
staff photographerPhoto by Kevin Matas, contributing photographer
DJ Rob Swift puts on a show for the audience at the Red Bull Thre3Style competition in Nashville on March 16.MTSU student
competes in DJ
competitionBy JO-JO JACKSON
Contributing Writer

What do you get when you mix eight DJs, Red Bull, b-boys and a panel of judges together? You get the Red Bull Thre3Style DJ competition.

Eight of Tennessee's most requested DJs were hand-picked to compete in the competition at the Cannery Ballroom in Nashville, including MTSU student Bradford Lott, also known as DJ "Braddy Daddy."

Each DJ had 15 minutes to captivate the judges and the crowd and mix three genres of music together. The DJs were judged on five categories: song selection, creativity, skill, swagger and audience reaction. The top two competing DJs would advance to the regional finals in Miami, Fla.

Headlining the event and sitting on the judges panel was

DJ Rob Swift, a member of the 1991 DJ crew the X-ecutioners. Swift has been spinning since he was 12 years old.

"My brother taught me all of the essential knowledge around DJing," Swift says.

According to Swift, being a DJ is part technique and part intuition.

"Technique helps you stand out," Swift says. "[A part of] musical intuition, is being able to know when you've lost a crowd."

As an influence to aspiring or established DJs, such as Braddy Daddy, Swift was complimented yet level-headed about it.

"It's humbling and it let's me know I was always on the right track," Swift says. "I did something right for people to think they can learn from watching me."

THRE3STYLE, PAGE 9

Bobby McKee's
kicks off with
a bang on St.
Patrick's DayBy JULIE BOEHM
Contributing Writer

"Pub, Grub and Club" is the motto for Murfreesboro's one and only Irish Pub, Bobby McKee's, which appropriately opened its doors to the partygoing public on St. Patrick's Day.

Owner Luke McKee plans to keep the celebration alive for every age range by incorporating family day crawfish boils, acoustic and 3-piece bands, a full bar with 60 beers on tap and a possible trip for two to Ireland if you complete three rounds of Beer Club.

But don't let the crawfish boils and beer fool you – this pub serves up some serious Irish fare.

"Our chef is phenomenal," says Luke, commenting on the everyday Irish dishes that the pub offers like bangers and mash, and Luke's favorite,

Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer
Bobby McKee's Irish Pub, located at the Shops at Stones River, was packed for the grand opening celebration on St. Patrick's Day.

shepherd's pie.

Luke credits chef Thomas Stucko and the entire staff for building the pub up from square one.

Bobby McKee's can seat up to 250 people, with capacity for over 300.

But just because this pub is 6,000 square feet doesn't mean it doesn't maintain the intimate and cozy feel that is synonymous with Irish pubs.

BOBBY MCKEE, PAGE 9

Bands battle in 'Sham'rocking showcase

Local bands showcase their skills
in St. Patrick's Day competitionBy JESSICA PACE
Staff Writer

What was most prominent about the March 17 Last Band [Sham]rocking showcase was the fact that the participating groups were not the types one would expect to see in a Battle of the Bands.

The Saint Patrick's Day Battle of the Bands, held at the James Union Building, was refreshingly short on mediocrity.

In the lineup were these local bands: Once is Last, One Big Owl, Static Revival, Struck by a Vehicle and Vinyl Thief.

The experience was brand new for some, like Struck by a Vehicle, whose members had never played a show before. But it can be said that each of the bands, regardless of genre or originality, possessed the ability to put on a solid performance.

Photo by Gina DePrimo, staff photographer
Local band, One Big Owl, rocks one of their songs in the showdown in the James Union Building on March 17.

SHAMROCKING, PAGE 9

THRE3STYLE FROM PAGE 8

Doors opened at 8 p.m., and early partygoers could enjoy \$4 Red Bull drink specials, meet and mingle, get glow stick wristbands. They could also have their picture taken at a pretend-to-be-a-DJ photostage, which included working turntables with records spinning on them, headphones and a wall of speaker cabinets.

Around 9:30 p.m., the room was almost packed. The announcer opened the show, introduced the judges and explained to the crowd the rules of the competition. Shortly after, the first DJ, Robot Ears, took the stage, and the crowd was ready to be entertained.

Robot Ears began his set with a playful remix of the Rolling Stone's "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction," but the crowd didn't seem into it. When he got to his hip-hop mixes, the crowd started moving a little. Robot Ears looked somewhat stiff on stage, but we can give him kudos for being the first competitor.

Second up was Dorian. His first song mix was a good choice - James Brown's "Get Up (I Feel Like Being a) Sex Machine" - and the crowd was pleased. However, what started off as a promising set ended up as a disaster. Dorian's attempt at mixing Joan Jett's "I Love Rock n' Roll" sent his set and his confidence into a tailspin. He ended his set and left the stage with 21 seconds left on the clock.

The third DJ was MTSU's Bradford Lott, or "Braddy Daddy" in the DJ world. Lott says he got into record spinning in the mid 1990's through his childhood friend's older brother.

"My best friend's big brother used to throw house parties, and he started bringing

in all these DJs from around the country," Lott says. "I was fascinated with it."

Braddy Daddy's first song was an interesting choice that sounded like an old sailor jig with a hip-hop beat mixed in it. Braddy Daddy switched it up with a well-received mix of Busta Rhymes.

Lott says he had never competed in a DJ battle, but he knew that it would happen one day.

"[I wanted to] see what I'd be up against, and feel the pressure from a different point of view," Lott says.

According to Lott, being a DJ at a club is fundamentally different from being a DJ at an exhibition. Lott felt that as an exhibitionist, it's not what the crowd wants to hear, "It's what you bring."

The crowd was enjoying Braddy Daddy's set and his scratching, style on top of the mixes. People were dancing and having fun - even the b-boys were getting warmed up with crowds of spectators watching them dance.

Lott's DJ name, "Braddy Daddy," started out as a childhood nickname.

"It just kind of stuck with me over the years," Lott says.

Braddy Daddy DJs on the weekends at local Murfreesboro clubs like 527 and Emporium.

The remaining DJs were Wick-it, Fan Fiction, Mike Allison, Cliff D and DJ Crumbz. Crowds danced and some circled around b-boys who were taking turns to show off their styles to spectators, and break dance throughout the night.

The competition came to a close and the winners were announced. Wick-it and DJ Crumbz took the audience and the judges, with Braddy Daddy coming in fourth place. All of the competitors received M-Audio DJ equipment.

SHAMROCKING FROM PAGE 8

First onstage was One Big Owl, composed of six charming indie darlings who have been compared to Ray LaMontagne and Fleet Foxes. With a nine-show tour through Texas over Spring Break under their belts and an album due out April 1, the group has become a local favorite.

Attendee Clint Boyd, who named One Big Owl as one of his favorite local bands, especially appreciates the inflective nature of the band's sound.

"It builds and drops - It swells up and calms down," Boyd says about One Big Owl's music.

Gentle harmonies and acoustics are punched up with brass and danceable percussion, creating a sound like

that of Nick Drake if he'd had a full band.

A fairly new trio known as Struck by a Vehicle took the stage next for its first ever show to play some slightly funk-infused rock. Most songs were from the band's EP which is in the works, although they managed to incorporate some audience interaction with a cover of the "Ghostbusters" theme song.

Vinyl Thief followed; while the name sounds like a criminal most feared by hipsters, the music sounds hollow, cold and mystical - the result of heavy synth-driven melodies reminiscent of Paper Route or Coldplay. The band says that a new EP can be expected next month.

Though Once is Last leaned more toward the generic within the pop-rock genre, the group appeared to have a rather large group of female

fans in the audience, most of whom took seats in the front row and compared the band to One Republic.

Alt-country rockers Static Revival were last but certainly not least as the winner of Last Band [Sham]rocking, which meant a gift certificate to Guitar Center plus recording time at Walnut House Studios. At the end of the evening, attendees placed their tickets in leprechaun hats labeled with each band's name, resulting in Static Revival's win.

Formed in October 2009 and securing a drummer in December of the same year, Static Revival is a group of novices, vocalist Tyler Grooms admits, however, that hasn't stopped them from hitting the ground running.

"My sister's our manager," Grooms laughs. "She's like a dynamo, getting us booked into all these places, and we

don't even have an EP yet."

The members plan to start recording soon with the studio time the band has been awarded.

"We've never recorded," Grooms says. "We're brand new and we don't have cash, so this is going to be huge - It's going to give us something we can use to go to festivals and book concerts out of town."

For now, Static Revival is set to perform at a showcase with the Boroughs at the Blue Rooster on March 31, as well as an on-campus set April 24.

The first and last acts of the evening appeared to be the most comfortable within their genre, and it showed. One Big Owl and Static Revival both displayed incredible talent, though all five bands demonstrated well-developed, or at least developing, musicianship. As far as battle of the bands go, there's been worse.

BOBBY MCKEE FROM PAGE 8

Leather couches and a stone fireplace welcome all who need a relaxing retreat. The stage room offers a larger setting for mingling and Irish jigs. If these two rooms don't meet your fancy, you can head over to the bar, lined with imported recycled Irish wood, and settle into a beer and conversation with friends.

The bar area isn't the only part of this pub where you will find memorabilia of Ireland. The rooms are stocked with interesting details like stained glass windows that sport Irish family crests, a large mural of an Irish street by Dusty Janokin and flags that grandly hang from the ceiling and represent the 24 Irish counties.

Jason Ogg, senior electronic media communication major, says he personally likes the low-key atmosphere and guarantees he'll be here a lot to help out the business.

"When I come back I'm helping the city of Murfreesboro open up new restaurants and grow," Ogg says.

Luke, after driving the distance to Nashville last year to celebrate his Irish heritage on St. Patrick's Day, decided that he

needed to help Murfreesboro grow and incorporate an Irish pub, and many people agree.

"This is something that this town could use," says Heidi Collins, a resident of Murfreesboro. "It's new and unique."

And unique is right. The pub's namesake, Luke's father, gives this pub a genuine and jovial personality.

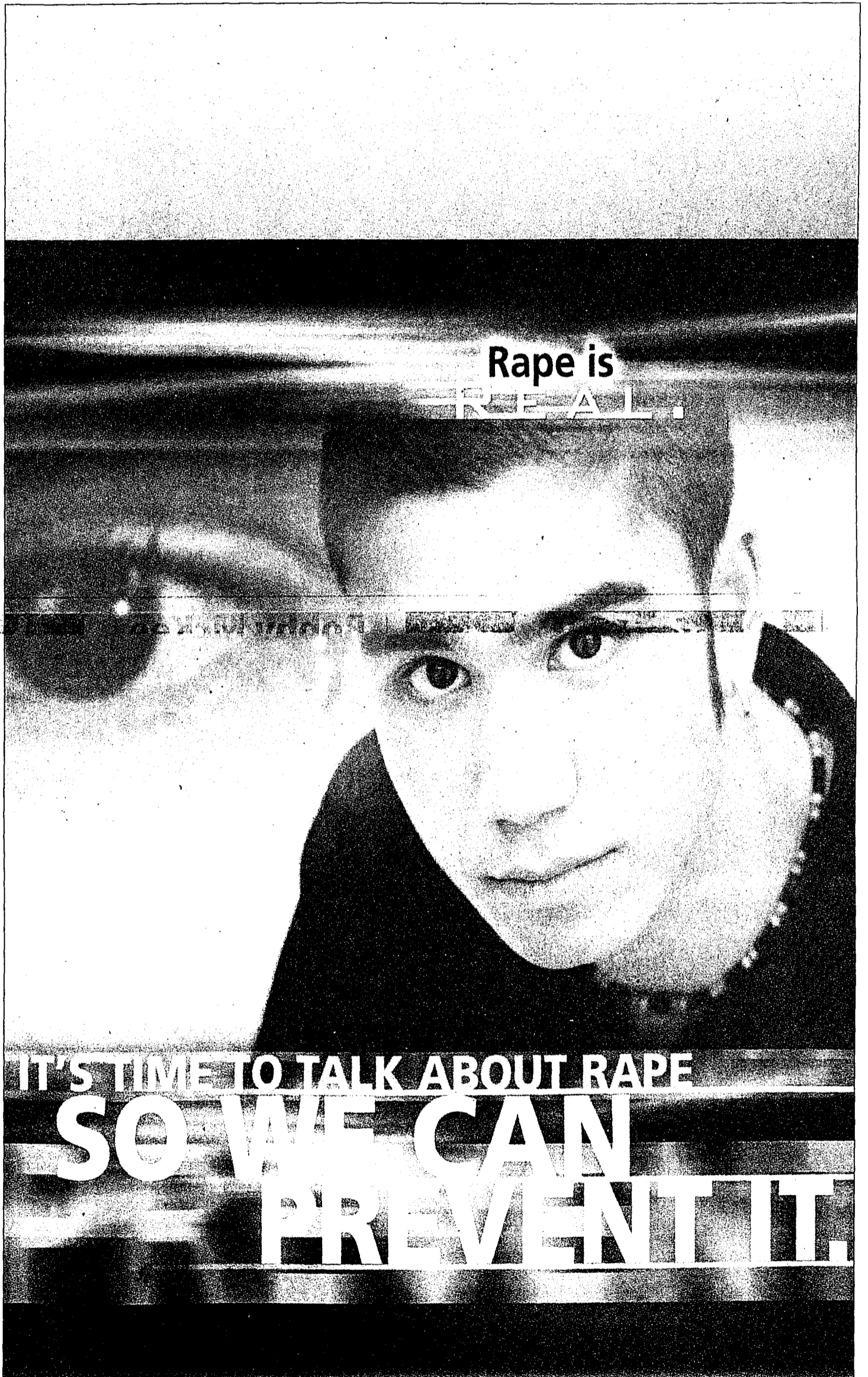
You'll find Bobby McKee painted into a Caddyshack mural along side Bill Murray and Chevy Chase. He is also shown in numerous old photographs placed in the nooks and crannies of the pub, including a picture of him grasping an enormous fish.

"Everyone always says 'wow, that's a good picture,'" retells Luke with a proud chuckle. "And my dad says 'my wife actually caught the fish, she just let me hold it up for the picture.'"

Bobby McKee captures the personality of its unique namesake and serves as a heartwarming tribute.

"It's always been a dream to have an Irish pub and honor my dad," Luke says. "And Murfreesboro is a great city for it."

Luke believes that if the Irish can teach us anything it's to "eat, drink, be merry, and keep your family close."




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Sidelines Housing Guide

March 22, 2010

Pg. 3 - Rutherford County struggles with housing bust

Pg. 6 - Tips on living with others

Pg. 7 - Things to think about before moving in

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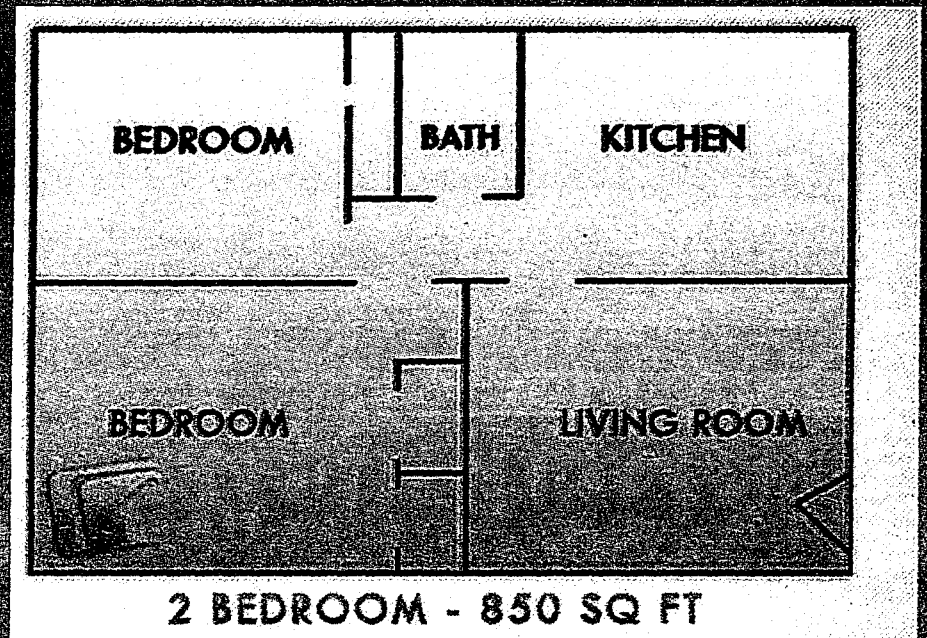
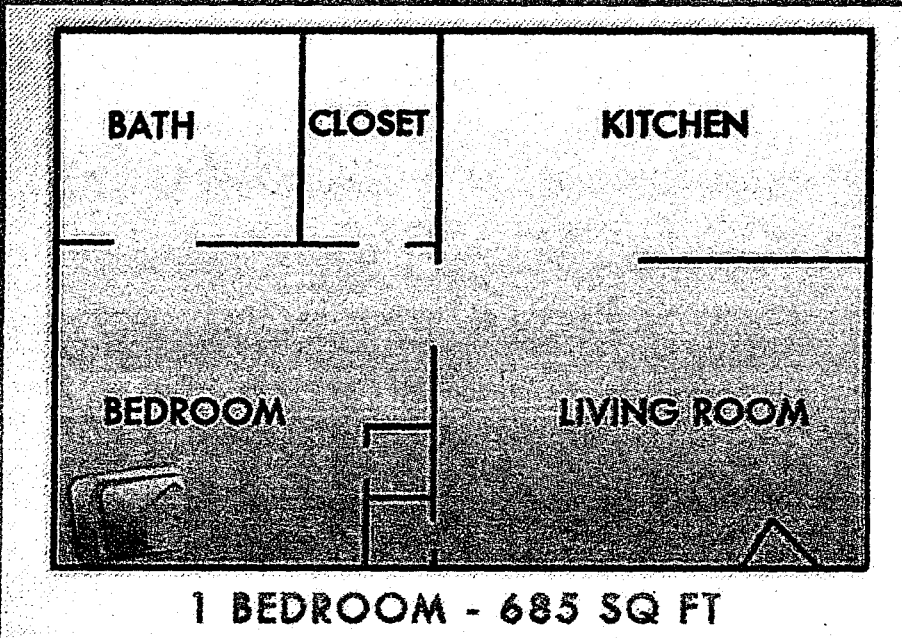
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After the bubble popped

Rutherford County continues to struggle through housing bust

By REID AKINS
Contributing Writer

Home foreclosures and past-due payments on mortgages continue to be a major problem throughout Tennessee, and Rutherford County is one of the hardest-hit areas in the state.

"There are real problems in Rutherford County," said John Callow, director of community development for Murfreesboro. "The programs to help people are few and far between."

Callow said one of the worst hit areas is the west side of Murfreesboro, which encompasses the area along Interstate 24.

He said home construction

in that area was up significantly in the past decade, with many people building homes and relying on liquidity within the housing market. With the economic downturn, it became harder for homeowners to pay their monthly mortgages and now their homes are being foreclosed on.

Callow said that the problem has become more widespread in recent months, and foreclosures are now affecting the homeowners who thought they were living within their means.

"Now it's people who thought they had normal mortgages," Callow said. "It's people who thought they had good jobs."

He added that many family

homes in Murfreesboro are being foreclosed on because one or both of the wage-earners in the household have lost their jobs.

"I'm getting a message from Fannie Mae about one or more homes being foreclosed on every day in Rutherford County," Callow said.

Regina Harvey, program director for Dominion Financial Management, a housing and financial counseling service, said she knows of Murfreesboro homes that have been foreclosed on in all income brackets and neighborhoods because of lost wages and sudden unemployment.

"A lot of people have never been in this position before," Harvey said. "They've never had

to rely on unemployment."

She said the problem used to mainly affect first-time homeowners whose mortgage payments were too high for their income, but now it is much more widespread.

Harvey recommends that homeowners seeking to avoid foreclosure should have a crisis budget for emergencies, and they should limit their debt as much as possible. She said she several clients are currently unemployed, but have still been able to keep up with their mortgage payments because of their savings while they look for another job.

Joe Hafner, a certified distressed property expert and

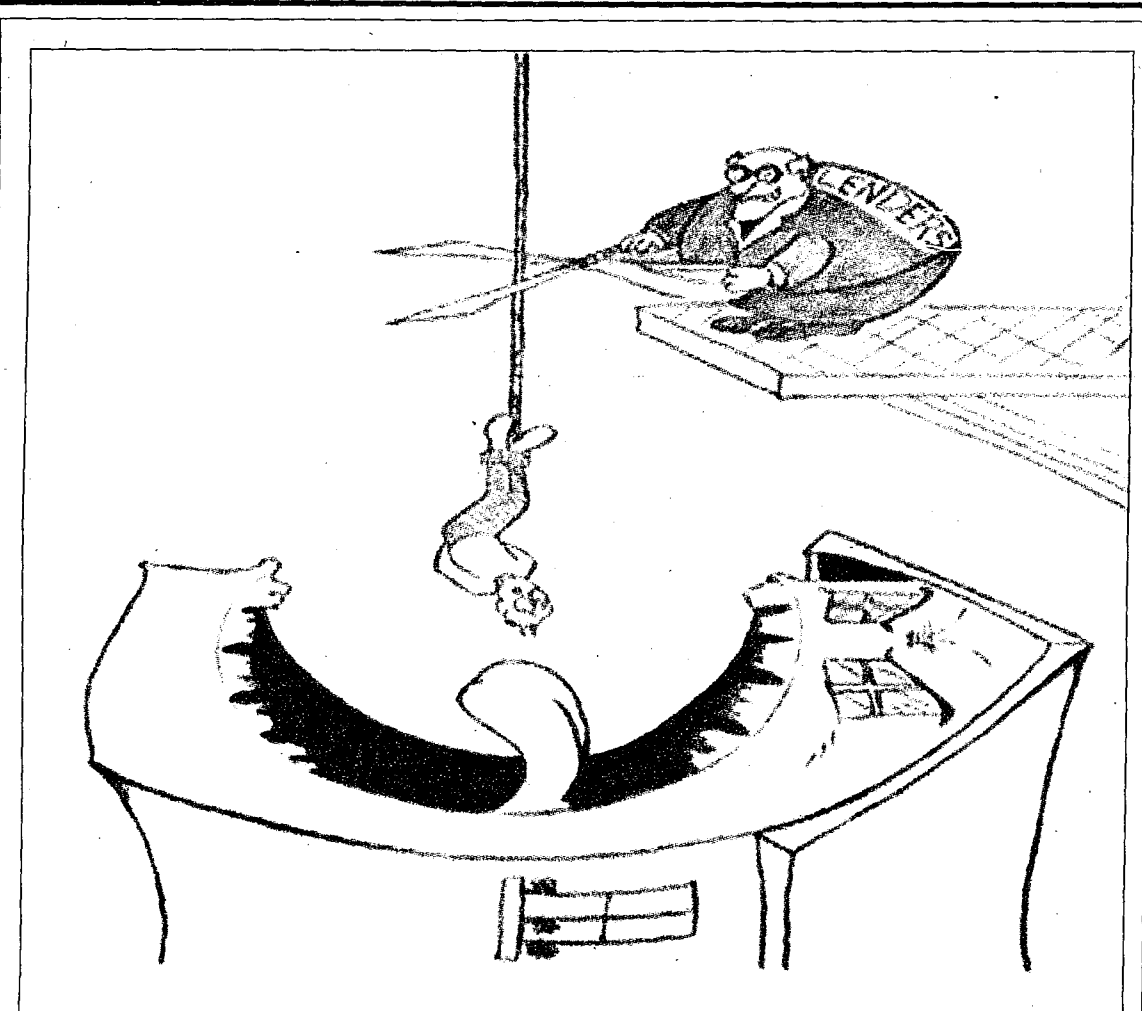
the managing broker for John Jones Real Estate, said that on a national level some lenders are seeing foreclosure rates as high as 30 or 40 percent compared to 1 or 2 percent just a few years ago.

Hafner said many of the recent foreclosures are because people bought homes they simply could not afford, and now their adjustable rates have increased.

"Right now, it is more difficult than it has been in years," Hafner said.

To avoid possible foreclosure, he recommends that potential first-time homeowners should only look into houses they can afford instead of homes they qualify for.

COMICS



"The finer things"

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Tip on living with others: Be respectful

Unclean roommates make life difficult; easy ways to manage different personalities



Michael Stone

Letter from the Opinions Editor

Setting rules, creating a rotation for cleaning and simply talking are the best ways to keep you and your roommates' relationships from escalating past the "little-things" level.

Some of the biggest problems roommates – random or not – seem to have with one another involve dirty communal areas, which for dorm rooms, of course, is almost the whole room. It doesn't matter if you don't mind a mess; always assume others do.

Some of you are probably saying: "We're all adults. We know how to keep things clean." To you, I give praise, but trust me, you're a minority among college students.

Well, honestly, that's pretty much it. Talk things out, keep things clean and simply be pleasant.

If you do these things, your "home life" will be pleasant, your school and professional work will benefit, and you'll hopefully make some lifelong friends who you can joke about the good old college days for years to come.

Michael Stone is a senior journalism major and opinions editor of Sidelines. He can be reached at slopinio@mtsu.edu.

In August of 2005, I moved into Corlew Hall. Three different living spaces and a few different roommates later, here I am, knee-deep in my last semester of college, on the verge of – hopefully – graduating from MTSU.

My experiences from Campus Crossings North, the MTSU dormitories and the plethora of first-hand accounts I've heard about from other student's advice on how to create a pleasant environment for a home with multiple people.

With the school year quickly coming to a close, here are some suggestions about roommates I have to offer those of you who, unlike me, need to start looking at leasing options in the 'Boro.

First and foremost, choose roommates you're going to get along with.

For those of you who will be assigned roommates, whether in a dorm or a college-oriented apartment complex, do everything humanly possible to make yourself compatible. Remember: the little things lead to drama, drama leads to tension, and tension leads to an unhappy home.

It's all about the writing

There is more to leasing a new apartment than just paying monthly rent

By DUSTIN EVANS
Managing Editor

an animal – things could change.

In regards to leases, don't move into a place that doesn't have all of these specific details in writing. Even if you are just renting a room in a house from a friend, the tenant-landlord relationship is a delicate one. Everything needs to be written down and signed.

When maintenance or repairs are needed, it is usually the responsibility of the landlord to take care of them. You should make sure that a 24-hour maintenance request method is in place before you move in to the apartment. Some duplexes and houses for rent out there are less likely to have these policies set up, so definitely check on that before you end up standing in a foot of water at 3 a.m.

Lastly, do everything that you can to protect your security deposit. That money is yours and not some additional fee that you paid to move in. Possession charges, destruction of property and more severe problems could get you evicted, but even small carpet stains could keep you from getting your money back.

Take these steps into consideration and discuss them with your roommates. The last thing that you need in life is a pesky legal struggle within your home.

After getting all of the literal and figurative baggage out of the moving van and into your new apartment, the last thing that you would want to do is worry about the upcoming experience.

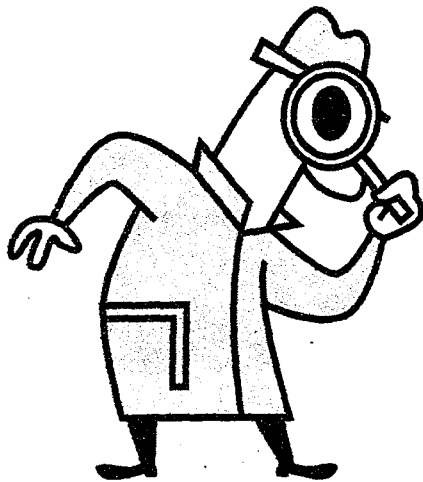
Unfortunately, there are a great many incidents that could jeopardize your livelihood and well-being when renting from your landlord – unless you are protected.

One of the first things that should be on your list is to procure renter's insurance.

If your apartment building were to catch on fire, it is almost certain that your belongings would not be replaced by your landlord's housing insurance policy.

Renter's insurance policies are rather inexpensive, usually roughly \$10 - \$20 a month, and typically cover your belongings in the event of a fire, tornado or some other untimely event.

It is also exceedingly important to go over your lease in detail, and perhaps with a lawyer. You need to know exactly what the policy is regarding pets when you plan to bring a new dog into the picture. While it may not seem important to read through this policy when you sign the agreement – especially if you don't have



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