

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

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University College restructured

Multiple departments reorganize by joining ranks under one roof

By CHRISTOPHER MERCHANT
Assistant News Editor

Faculty and staff, who would comprise the new University College if MTSU President Sidney McPhee approves the Proposal for Restructuring Colleges, said they only see benefits in forming the new college.

The proposal submitted to McPhee by Interim Executive Vice President and Provost Diane

Miller included a recommendation to rename the College of Continuing Education and Distance Learning to the University College.

The college would maintain control of its four divisions: Academic Outreach and Distance Learning, Summer School, Contracts and Public Service, and Professional Development.

In addition, the college would maintain control of the Military Center and the Adult Degree Completion Program.

The college would also take on the Department of Academic Enrichment, Transfer Student Services, and Experiential Learning, as well as the Academic Support Center, which houses Academic Advising, the Raider Learning Communities, and the Summer Reading Program.

According to Marva Lucas, director of Academic Enrichment, putting these departments "under one umbrella" would make each of them function better.

"With the components proposed, I think there is potential to make what we are doing even more effective," Lucas said.

Lucas said the function of Academic Enrichment, which involves offering COMPASS placement tests and university seminar 1010 classes, would remain unchanged. However, she said being housed with the other departments under one dean would help them to "do their job more effectively."

RESTRUCTURING, PAGE 3

"QUOTE OF THE DAY"

"I am opposed to millionaires, but it would be dangerous to offer me the position."

Mark Twain

Lifelong Blue Raider passes away

Education professor Bob Womack, 86, dies

STAFF REPORT

MTSU professor Bob Womack, 86, died on Saturday of congestive heart failure. "Dr. Bob," as he was lovingly called, taught educational courses for 53 years at MTSU.

After serving in the U.S. Navy during WWII, the Flat Creek native moved to Murfreesboro where he started his lifelong career as a Blue Raider.

Bob Womack is preceded in death by his parents, David and Georgia Womack, his wife, Elizabeth Womack, brothers, Price, Paul and Ben Womack, sisters, Helen Womack and Sara Womack.

He is survived by his sons, former state Sen. Andy (Cherry) Womack and Ricky Womack; daughters, Lara (Steve) Daniel and Lynn Womack; grandsons David (Cheryl) Womack, Jackson Short and Samuel Short; granddaughters Dana Womack, Marguerite (Rob) Sims, Sara Womack and Meaghan Daniel; and great-grandchildren Molly Womack, Mason Womack, Riley Sims and Emery Sims.

Bob Womack, who began attending MTSU as a student in 1941, was hired to teach at the university in 1957. Most of Bob Womack's siblings, all of his children, and one grandchild have attended MTSU; including Lara Daniel, an MTSU business law professor.

"The main thing, he was a great father to me," said Andy Womack, in an interview with The Tennessean. "What I will miss is his counsel and example as a father."

He was a member of the prestigious Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration Hall of Fame, and was the only professor from a university or college to be inducted into the Tennessee Teacher Hall of Fame.

In honor of the Womack legacy at MTSU, the Curriculum Collection in the James E. Walker Library is dedicated to Bob Womack and his wife, Elizabeth. The department of educational leadership has also been renamed as the Womack family educational leadership department.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the MTSU Foundation for the Womack Family Endowment.



Womack



Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor

The second annual Alpha Delta Pi Sorority's "Pi-Athlon," an event that helped raise money for the Ronald McDonald House, took place Saturday on campus.

Athletes race for charity

Alpha Delta Pi Sorority sponsors benefit triathlon

By SARAH HAMACHER
Staff Writer

More than 100 men and women athletes of all ages participated in the second annual Alpha Delta Pi Sorority's "Pi-Athlon" on Sunday, to raise money for the Ronald McDonald House.

The "Alpha Delta Pi Pi-Athlon: a Unique Triathlon Challenge" comprised a 300-meter swim, a 10-mile bike ride and a 5K run.

ADPi member Shelby Smith, sophomore communication major, was in charge of the organizing the event.

"We wanted to start a triathlon because Murfreesboro didn't have one," Smith said.

The course is small by International Triathlon Union standards, which is why ADPi chose to move the event to the spring as a warm-up event for the triathlon season, Smith said.

The morning was punctuated with calls of

"well done" and "good job" and clapping by ADPi volunteers as they directed the participants around the course. Sorority members also participated in the event.

Tiago Barreira, president of the MTSU Triathlon Club, won with a record time, finishing the race in 50 minutes, 54 seconds.

"It was a great," said Barreira, health and human performances graduate student, while catching his breath. "The weather was good and the course was good."

The team titled "Three's Company," made up of Bryan Johnson, junior exercise science major; Tyler Montgomery, junior electronic media communication major; and MTSU alumnus Charles McCall, who won the team competition.

Barreira said the event was well organized and everything was marked, which was an issue at the sorority's first triathlon held in August.

MTSU alumnus Patrick Allen, member of the

MTSU Triathlon Club, said he was impressed with the improvements, especially the food, and was happy to see a bigger turn out.

"The route was confusing," Allen said. "There were two transition areas and the course only went by a water station once, there was also an issue of the police not marking the first bike turn correctly."

Fleet Feet Sports and Smoothie King were among some of the businesses that donated to the event.

"The community has been great with donating," Smith said.

Ryan Wilson, a member of the MTSU Triathlon Club, competed for the first time in the "Pi-Athlon."

"It was a lot of fun," Wilson said.

According to the national Alpha Delta Pi website, since 1979 it has donated more than \$2 million to the Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Potential provost says partnership key to success

By MARIE KEMPH
Campus News Editor

One of the four candidates applying to be the university's new provost emphasized the importance of the MTSU community staying focused on teamwork during an open forum Tuesday.

Mark A. Pagano, dean of Continuing Education and Conferences at Purdue University, spent part of his daylong visit to campus speaking with faculty and staff mem-

bers about the direction of MTSU and how the Proposal for Restructuring Colleges would affect the university.

Fewer than 20 faculty and staff members attended the open forum, and three students came as well.

"If [MTSU] is going to reorganize, it is important to know what specific goals and ideas to follow," Pagano said, adding that without including all of the stakeholders in the college restructuring process,

following through with changes could be difficult.

The Chicago native spearheaded a similar strategic reorganization at Purdue, which was completed during the university's 2008 fall semester.

According to a letter submitted to the University Proposal Search Committee, Pagano wrote that he first began the reorganizing effort by initiating a strategic planning process that was managed through a system of metrics and

other data designed to stimulate positive change.

"Each effort started with a distinct 'listening phase,' where I learned the issues, desires and cultures of the faculty, staff and other constituents, and [I] gained valuable insights into their capabilities, strengths and limitations," said Pagano, in a letter to the committee.

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Lifelong MTSU professor dies, leaving students, faculty and staff heartbroken.

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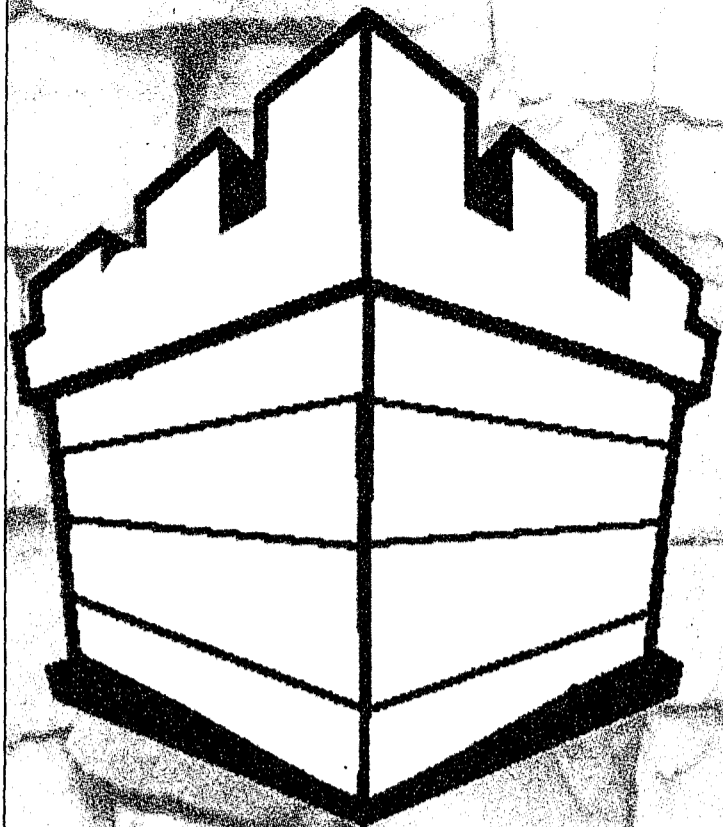


Votes for student candidate come up short in city council elections.

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THURSDAY FORECAST

P.M. SHOWERS
40% CHANCE OF RAIN
HIGH 72, LOW 53



PALATIAL CONCERTS

THURSDAY - APRIL 22ND

3:30 - 7:00

ON THE REC CENTER LAWN

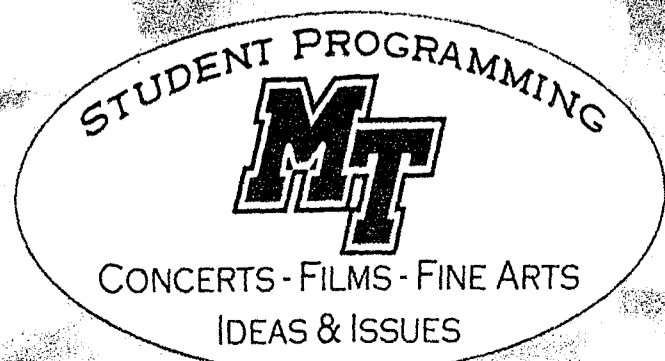


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Red Bull gives future pilots wings

Air race showing, flight simulator comes to local airport, provides hands-on experiences

By HANNAH HOPKINS
Staff Writer

Red Bull is hosting a free screening of one of its international air races today, offering flight simulators so MTSU students can have first-hand experience flying in the Red Bull Air Race World Championship.

The event will be held at the Murfreesboro Municipal Airport at 8 p.m.

Nick Braden, senior aerospace major, said this year the Red Bull Air Race comprises eight stops around the world in which pilots individually fly against the clock and have to complete tight turns through inflatable air gates, pulling up to 12 G-forces, which is the acceleration relative to free-fall.

The Air Race was established in 2003 by Red Bull – the same company made famous for its energy drink product line.

Braden, who helped organize the event, said all competitors would be racing on flight simulators while the races project onto an inflatable screen for spectators to

watch. Following the competition, attendees will get the chance to watch a screening of one of the 2010 races held in either Abu Dhabi, capitol of the United Arab Emirates, or Perth, Australia.

The race normally stops at coastal cities, so not everyone can make it to the real thing. The idea is to bring a part of the air race to Murfreesboro and MTSU, Braden said. He said he hopes this event will give students the feel of what attending an actual race is like.

Braden said this event appeals to more than just aerospace majors, even though they are usually the only ones who attend events such as these.

Chad Gherke, Murfreesboro Municipal Airport manager, said this event is a great opportunity, and he hoped that MTSU aerospace students would take advantage of it. He said he enjoyed the fact that MTSU students are getting involved in campus-related events.

"To have an internationally recognized company like Red Bull come to MTSU and come together with the aerospace program to sponsor this event is exciting, and [it] will be great for publicity," said Paul Calton,

graduate student and flight dispatcher.

Braden said the top five winners from the fall 2009 MTSU Air Race Competition will be competing against new competitors who will be chosen at the event. Those winners are Colin Chessor, Jonathan Heeren, Kevin Jones, Phil Kuitems and Kevin Smith.

MTSU alumnus Kevin Jones, who graduated from the aerospace program in 2009, said this is a great way for the aerospace department to get recogni-

ships. He said competing in the flight simulator is not like actually flying a plane. However, he said future pilots should practice with the simulator.

"When you're in the cockpit, it gets your adrenaline going," Jones said. "You have to have split-second responses and know where you are at all times."

Jones said the best part about the Red Bull Air Race World Championship coming to MTSU is that through the publicity of the sport and the machines, people are able to see how the industry has progressed.

"It is incredible to see how far [the industry] has come from the Wright brothers to today's modern aircraft," Jones said. "To be able to see all the ways people can fly, there are a lot of career opportunities out there, and it is very competitive."

Kevin Horst, junior aerospace major, serves as president of Alpha Eta Rho International Aviation Fraternity. He said this event means a lot to the aviation industry because the pilots who race in the Red Bull Air Race World Championship fly with incredible precision and are considered to be the best pilots in the world.

"We hope to be doing what they are doing in the future and to be at the top of the profession," Horst said.

"It is incredible to see how far [the industry] has come from the Wright brothers to today's modern aircraft."

KEVIN JONES
MTSU ALUMNUS

tion. He said it is important for people to understand that there is a lot more to the aerospace program than just commercial flying.

Jones said he is excited about coming back to compete in the event because they will be flying the try-out course that the pilots use for the Red Bull Air Race World Champion-

CRIME BRIEFS

April 16, 12:15 p.m.

Fraud

MTSU Police Department

A complainant said he lost his wallet and his credit card was being fraudulently used.

April 16, 2:27 p.m.

Assault

Recreation Center

A complainant took out an assault report.

April 16, 7:11 p.m.

Theft

Gore Hall

A complainant reported a theft from a dorm room.

April 18, 1:49 a.m.

Warrant

East Main St

Donald Mark Free, 51, was arrested on a warrant for violating his probation.

April 19, 3:44 a.m.

Traffic

Greek Row

Robert J. Berg, 19, was arrested for his first charge of driving under the influence and implied consent after his vehicle collided into the Alpha Tau Omega house, and a criminal trespass warning.

Brent Michael Pewitt, 18, was issued a state citation for underage consumption of alcohol and was issued a criminal trespass warning.

RESTRUCTURING FROM PAGE 1

These are students with needs we are already addressing," Lucas said, "but this will give us the opportunity to work together."

Lucas said that the departments proposed to be put into the University College often work with the same students, such as incoming freshmen, first generation students, transfer students and nontraditional students.

"[A dean] will be able to bring cohesiveness," Lucas said. "We would have better coordinated efforts, and that's better for the students."

Mike Boyle, dean of the College of Continuing Education and Distance Learning, said that this transition might involve students working with the various departments of the University College through one person: their adviser.

"You could have one contact you can go to and talk with about all of your questions," Boyle said, emphasizing that this idea was

not part of the restructuring proposal, but was rather the result of group retreats where "all the directors universally agreed" on providing students with an easy channel into MTSU.

Boyle said the functions of all the departments would stay the same, but that the way students interact with the departments would be more accessible.

"I think from the very beginning Miller wanted to make everything more student-friendly," Boyle said.

Boyle said housing the departments in the University College was not that big of a stretch philosophically.

"All the pieces have been put into place by some very fine folk [and] we are just moving them around a bit," Boyle said, adding that he did not think MTSU is broken. "We are not looking for a fit – just refinement."

Boyle said while all of the departments would be in one college, it is unlikely that all would be housed in one building in the near future, and that its mission was to bring separate units to-

gether as a team.

Crickett Pimentel, director of Student Support Services, said the proposal for the University College is a positive step.

"I think change is a good thing, if it's not change for change's sake," Pimentel said. "I support change if there is good reasoning behind it, and I think there is for this."

Pimentel said the new college would not change university seminar classes, but that the plan is to make a more structured transition for new students.

"You don't have to physically be together to work together," Lucas said.

Though all three department and college leaders said they agreed that students only stood to gain from the forming of a new college, there has been no official word on how employees will be affected.

"Maybe they will have to eliminate some positions, but other colleges and universities around the country have a structure more like the one we are proposing," Pimentel said.

CURRENT EVENTS

College of Basic and Applied Sciences Awards Day

April 22, 2:30 p.m.

Location: John Union Building

MTSU Theatre and Dance: Spring Dance Concert

April 22 through 23, 8 p.m. Saturday; 1, 4 and 8 p.m. Sunday

Location: John Union Building, Tennessee Ballroom

Admission: \$10 general admission, \$5 faculty, staff and students k-12, free for MTSU students

Office of Admissions:

Spring Preview Day

April 24

Last day of classes

April 28

Study Day

April 29

No classes; university offices open.

Positive Behavior Support Initiative and Inclusion Conference

April 29, 7 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Location: John Union Building

Speaker: Dr. Harry K. Wong

Department of Engineering Technology

Open House and Awards Ceremony

April 29, 3 until 5 p.m.

Location: Tom H. Jackson Building, Cantrell Hall

Events Policy

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

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- RODP Term R (10 weeks): June 7 - August 13

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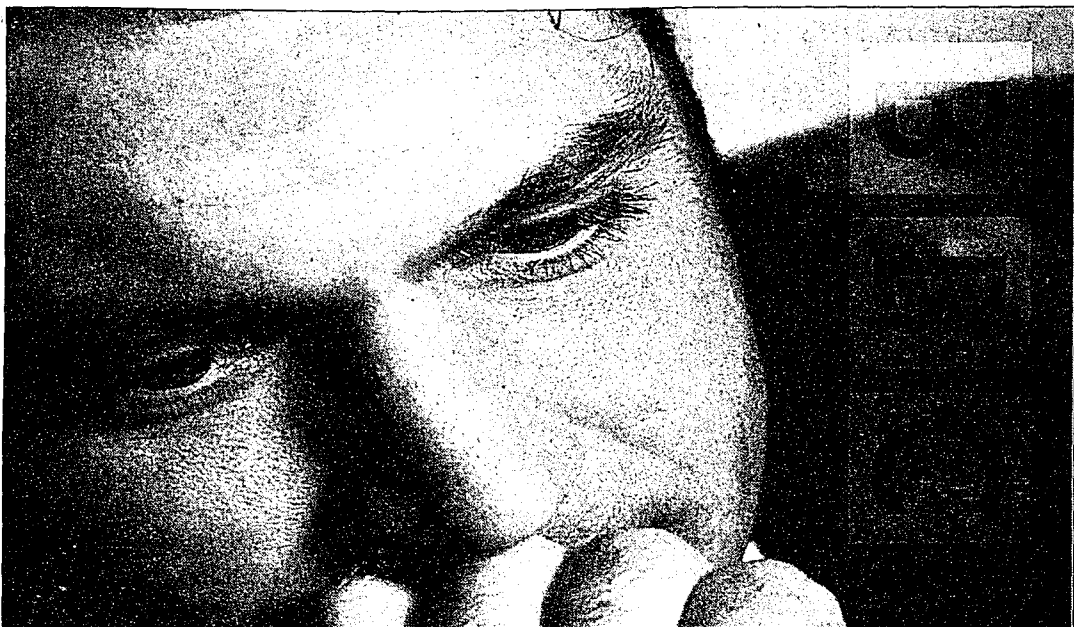
If you have any questions or just want to talk about summer possibilities, please feel free to contact us.

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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.

Remembering 'Dr. Bob' Womack

Colleagues in educational leadership department will miss 'valuable ambassador'

The MTSU community lost a valuable ambassador with the recent death of Dr. Bob Womack. The faculty of the department that now bears his family's name owes much to his dedication and commitment to the university that he loved.

Dr. Bob, as he was affectionately called by students and staff, attended MTSU as an undergraduate where he lived in Jones Hall, which in those years was a dormitory. Since the early 1980s, Dr. Bob's office was in Jones Hall.

He joined the MTSU faculty in 1957 and completed 53 years of service to the department now named the Womack family educational leadership department. He was a valued mentor to faculty in the department throughout those years.

He was also a master teacher, very skilled in the "Socratic Method" of teaching, which uses a series of carefully constructed questions to lead students to new insights and learning.

He was well known for challenging students to think at a deeper level about their beliefs and assumptions. This some-

times led to rather heated debates in his classes.

What students, staff and faculty all came to know was that Dr. Bob was a truly caring person that genuinely enjoyed his interactions with "people of all types." He had a keen mind and wit and possessed a great sense of humor.

Dr. Womack had a strong impact on a multitude of students in his 53-year teaching career at MTSU. He was admired and loved by many in the Middle Tennessee region and has come to be known as an

MTSU legend.

We in the Womack family educational leadership department will greatly miss his counsel, his wisdom and his friendship. We are all richer for having had the opportunity to work with him.

Jim Huffman, chair of the Womack family educational leadership department, worked with Bob Womack at MTSU from 1974 until Womack's death on Saturday. Huffman can be reached at jhuffman@mtsu.edu.



Jim Huffman
Educational leadership chair

Chance meeting with professor one that won't soon be forgotten

One of my class assignments from last semester was to do an audio story, like you would hear on a radio station such as NPR. I chose a light-hearted topic entitled, "The myths of MTSU."

I was walking around Jones Hall looking for a professor who had taught in Kirksey Old Main so I could ask him or her about the myth of the building's fourth floor being haunted. A quick left turn off the elevator on the third floor led me to Bob Womack's office.

After knocking on the opened door and introducing myself and my assignment, I asked, "Do you believe the top floor of the KOM is haunted or do you think it has something to do with wind blowing against the windows?" His response: "If I heard wind coming through the window, I would think as though it's wind coming through the window—not spirits of any kind."

I continued talking with him and came to find out that he had taught at MTSU since 1957, making him the professor who had taught at the university the longest. At age 86, he was also the oldest.

We chatted for almost an hour about his undergraduate career at MTSU, which began

in 1941; him hearing about Pearl Harbor being bombed while listening to a radio on the first floor of Jones Hall; him coming back to the university with hoards of other veterans after fighting in WWII; the first time he saw

a car and a TV; and how he has seen MTSU grow from a student population of a couple hundred to more than 25,000.

Not only was his story enthralling, but he also kept my interest by being simply a nice person. If there's one interview I will remember in my career, it will undoubtedly be the one with him.

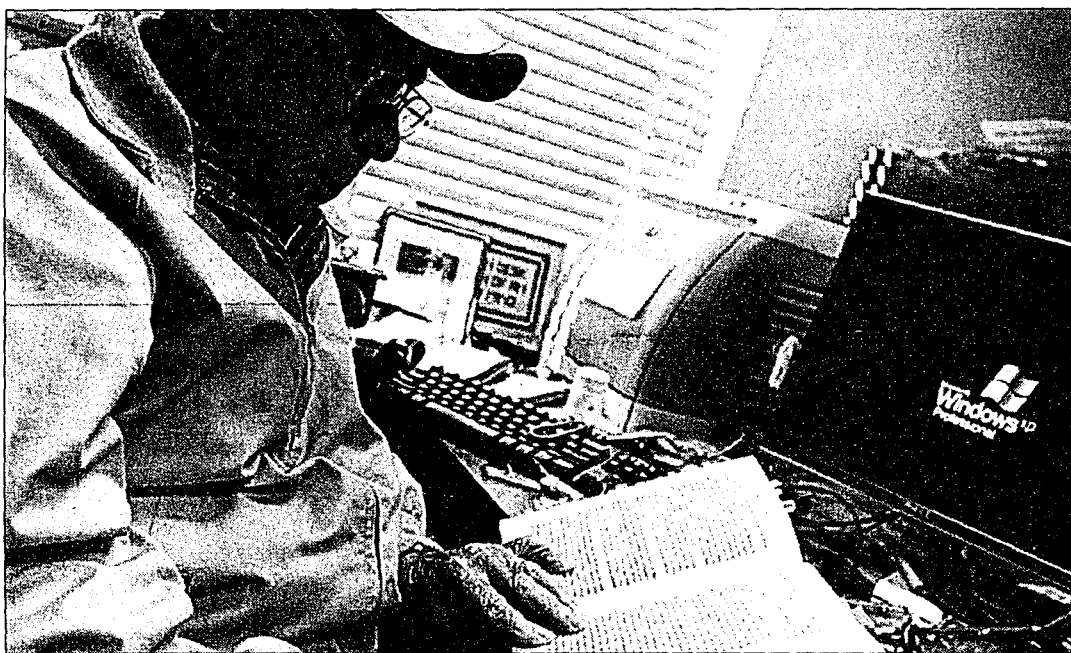
Womack, who was scheduled to retire at the end of this year, will be missed, and it's sad that he wasn't able to enjoy retirement after so many years of hard work. But at the same time, it almost seems fitting that his retirement from the place he has called home for the better part of a century and his passing coincided.

I bet if you could have asked him, he wouldn't have wanted it any other way.

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

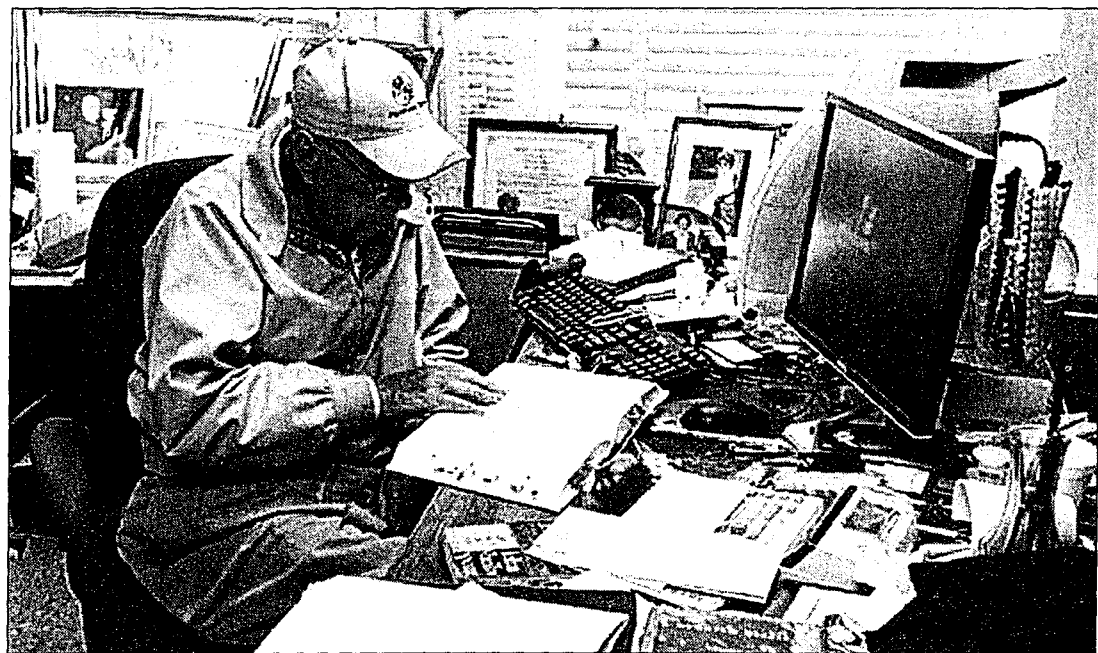


Michael Stone
From the opinion editor



Photos by Michael Stone, opinions editor

These photos of Bob Womack, who was scheduled to retire at the end of the semester, were taken during an interview, six months before his death on Saturday. At age 86, he was the oldest professor at MTSU. "I always enjoyed every class I ever had," the educational leadership professor told Sidelines in November. "I just hope the students enjoyed it as much as I did."



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Less meddling needed of United States

I'm writing in response to Tim Johnson's article ("Terrorism out of mind, but not sight," Sidelines, April 19). Mr. Johnson's views of foreign policy are flat wrong and worthy of the Mad Hatter.

Once again someone foolishly believes that Jihadists hate America because we are so free and wonderful. The fact is that many people around the world hate us because we've abandoned the advice of the Founding Fathers: We have gotten ourselves involved in foreign entanglement after entanglement.

Can someone explain to me why we have 737 military bases around the world in more than 140 different countries?

Further, Johnson's pseudo-conservatism makes real conservatives want to vomit. I certainly agree that America should have a strong national defense, but the problem is, we don't have a defense—we have an offense.

Perhaps it's time for America to do the conservative thing and take the advice of our founders: stay out of foreign entanglements. It's time we mind our own damn business and put America first.

Thomas Jefferson once said: "Peace, commerce and honest friendship with all nations, entangling alliances with none."

—Christopher Burks, senior economics major

A QUICK WORD

From the opinions editor

While Thomas Moss did not win one of three open seats on Murfreesboro's City Council, his efforts are nonetheless deserving of a thumbs up.

The type of grassroots movement the MTSU student represented is something that our country does not see much of anymore. This type of activism seldom escalates passed the collegiate level, hence

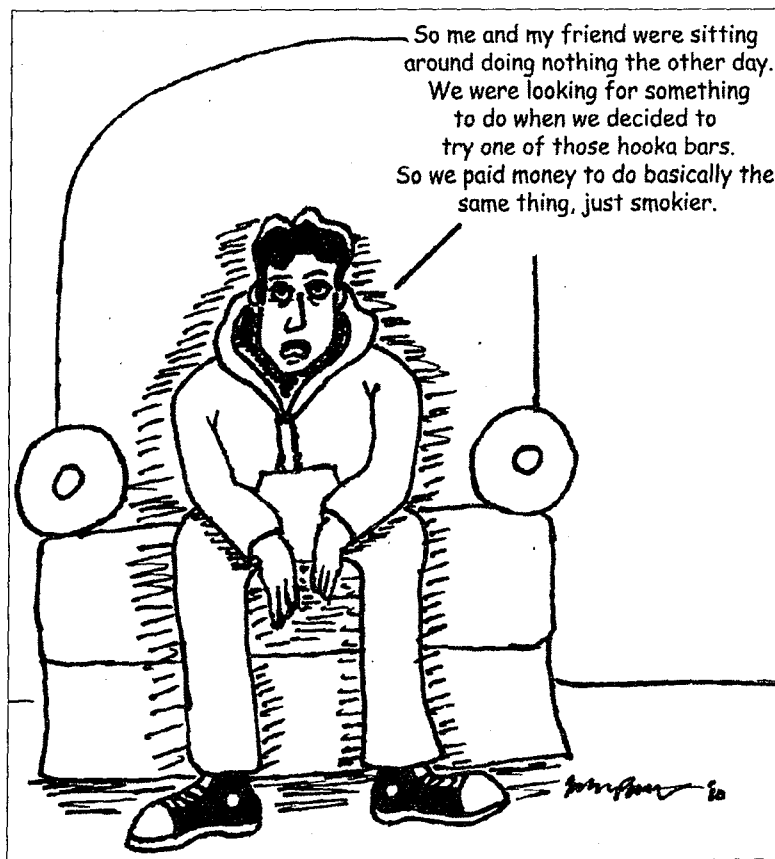
why such a movement is associated with youth.

Of course, there is no guarantee that he would have done what many would consider a "good job." But I believe it is beneficial to bring a youthful, innovative perspective to any governing body.

Maybe with a little more political expertise under his belt, we can look for him in future elections.

—Michael Stone, slopinio@mtsu.edu

Seattle Spew



By KYLE PATTERSON
Staff Cartoonist

megapencil5@yahoo.com

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

A Saturday of chardonnay

Arrington Vineyards scenery, wine leave guests breathless

By AIMEE SCHMITTENDORF
Contributing Columnist

Following the signs to Arrington Vineyards was a short journey from Murfreesboro and a long way away from just any normal Saturday evening. The landscape itself is intoxicating. Cars lined the entrance to the chalet and the sounds of DNT, a Latin jazz trio, filled the air along with sounds of children playing and groups laughing and picnicking all along the hillside.

It's free of charge; no reservations are required or offered. It's first-come, first-served. Wine tastings are free and last long into the night until the wine stops being poured at 9 p.m. There isn't a restaurant there, but picnics are strongly encouraged. It does, however, sell chocolates, cheeses, sausages and crackers. There are picnic tables, a wrap-around, covered patio and swings on the property, but a blanket is a gorgeous place to lay and cuddle while the sun sets on the 75 acres of vines and farmland.

Arrington's blonde chardonnay picks up colors like a prism. It sells for \$19 and has the glassy, golden, straw hue of a Tennessee field in the wine glass. At first smell, the nose of the Arrington Vineyards Chardonnay smells like pencil eraser and lemon.

When smelling a glass of wine, hold the glass steady making sure not to drown. There's nothing romantic or effective about breathing in the actual fluid. Leave the glass on the table and push the base of the wine glass and swirl it.

The glass is ergonomically designed so that the wine should not jump out of the vessel and onto your trousers. For the strongest result, put your free hand over

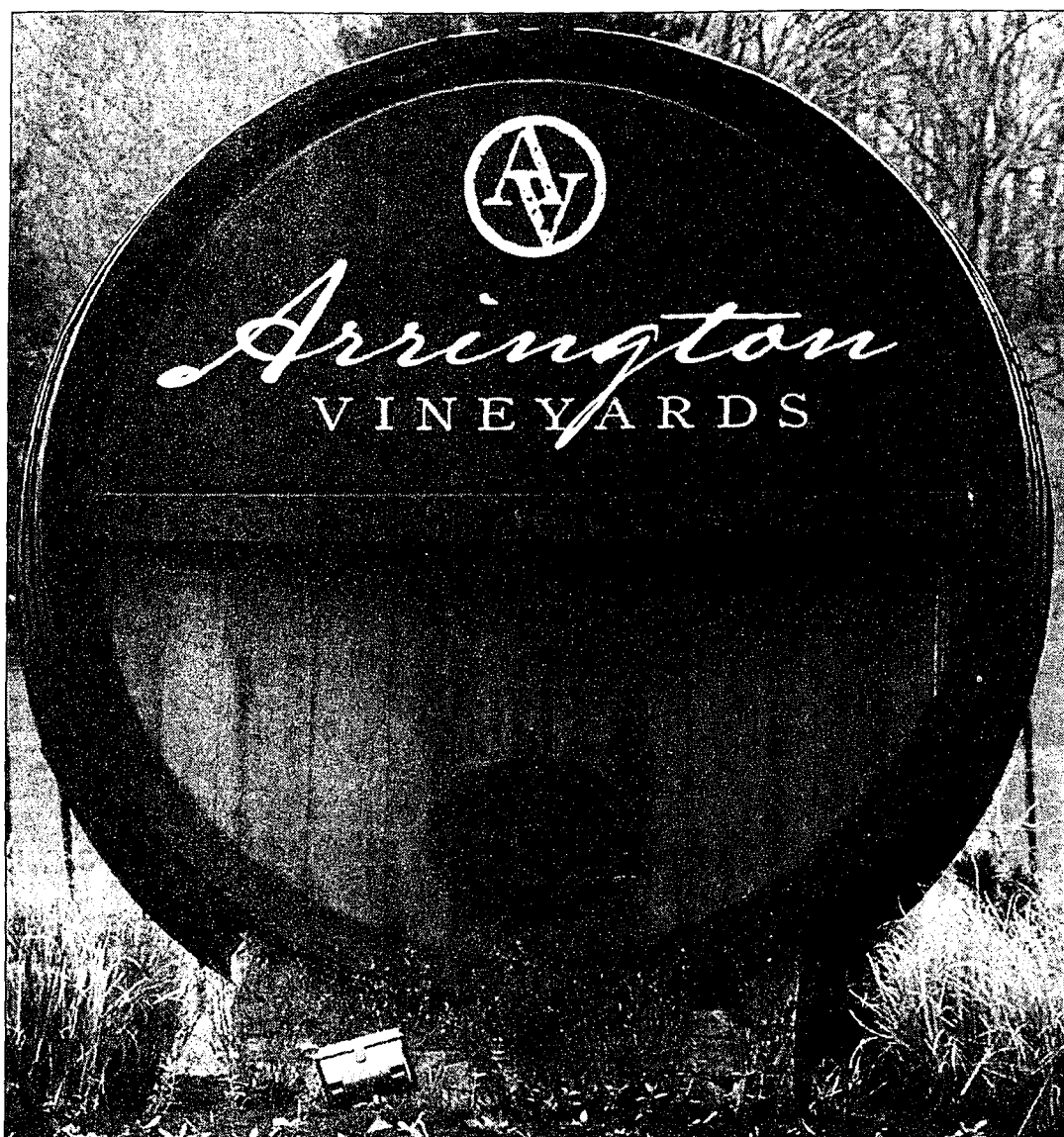


Photo courtesy of Arrington Vineyards

the mouth of the glass while you swirl and then tilt your head to smell the aroma of the wine.

Put your whole nose into the glass and

take a full breath. There is no real right or wrong smell or taste, but there are common ones. It varies from person to person due to experiences and palettes.

That's another thing to consider; your senses will remind you of a certain memory or encounter. There are times you'll enjoy a glass, and you'll associate it with a time and a place. It's like smelling the perfume of a past lover. Wine will take you somewhere if you have the desire to get aboard.

If you've seen the Ocean Spray commercial where the man, knee-deep in suspenders, talks about "polyphenols" and how good they are for you in cranberry juice, it's the same concept. Polyphenols from the oak that this chardonnay is fermented in and in the grape and vines themselves provide flavors of vanilla and butter.

Arrington's chardonnay coats your mouth and hits the four corners of bitter, sweet, salty and sour like a pinball machine of flavor. It leaves a lasting impression. The gentleman who coordinated the tasting told us that the malolactic fermentation is intentionally suppressed to create a well-balanced chardonnay. Otherwise the butteriness would be much more prominent.

This is a food-friendly chardonnay and would pair pristinely with dishes such as salmon, tuna, chicken, creamy Alfredo pastas and pork. This white wine is bold enough to even stand up to a red meat. No fear of pairing red wine with fish or white wine with red meats. Drink what you enjoy. No one is going to think less of you - especially if you're buying.

Aimee Schmittendorf is a senior at MTSU and a wine steward qualified by the Court of Master Sommeliers. If you have any wine-related questions or would like recommendations, you can reach her at itsnotjustthewine@yahoo.com. She also conducts private wine tastings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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66				67						68		
69				70						71		

Across

1- Blind as _____; 5- Ships' officers; 10- Breather; 14- Drill a hole; 15- Bottomless gulf; 16- Exclamation to express sorrow; 17- Borodin's prince; 18- Desert bloomers; 19- New Rochelle college; 20- Honeybunch; 22- Owner of an upscale inn; 24- Aluminum- bronze coin of Iceland; 25- Son of one's brother or sister; 26- Switch ending; 28- Cow catcher; 32- Insult; 35- Deli order; 37- Institution of mentally ill; 38- "You've got mail" co.; 39- Ancient region of Asia Minor; 41- Actress Thurman; 42- Ice cream topped with syrup; 45- Thrice, in prescriptions; 46- Latin love; 47- Stigma; 48- Gather, harvest; 50- Bristly; 54- Fights; 58- Work too hard; 61- Pushcart; 62-Dynamic beginning; 63- Connect with; 65- Doing nothing; 66- Pierce with a knife; 67- _____ Irish Rose; 68- French novelist; 69- Carry; 70- Queues; 71- Formerly, formerly;

Down

1- Put up with; 2-One over par; 3- Bellowing; 4- Small dog; 5- Clublike weapon; 6- Attorney's org.; 7- Greek goddess of fortune; 8- Bar, legally; 9- Metal-shaper; 10- Railroad; 11- "The Time Machine" race; 12- All there; 13- Boris Godunov, for one; 21- Like some vbs.; 23- Electric fish; 25- _____ contendere; 27- Off-Broadway theater award; 29- Run-down quarter; 30- Japanese wrestling; 31- Actor Epp's; 32- Back talk; 33- Boor; 34- Forearm bone; 36- Big bang cause; 37- River in central Switzerland; 40- Able was _____; 43- Undress; 44- Again; 46- Value; 49- Botanist Gray; 51- Bottom Line; 52- Small antelope; 53- Loose coil of yarn; 55- Passion; 56- Tumbles; 57- Perspire; 58- Kiln for drying hops; 59- Rejection power; 60-Part of Q.E.D.; 61- Big Cheese; 64-Driving aid;

Answers for April 15, 2010

T	E	S	T	S	O	V	A	A	I	L	T		
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H	E	S	S	E	E	R	E	C	R	E	S	T	



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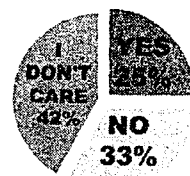
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MTSUSIDELINES.COM.

Photos by Michael Stone, opinions editor

(Top left) Marvin Taylor prepares to have his mask removed at Iota Phi Theta's probate on Sunday. Removing the mask symbolizes a new member becoming a new person. (Bottom left) Delano Prince and Greg Stewart do a series of dance moves called "stepping" after having their masks removed. (Right) The three stand at attention while the crowd of several hundred cheers them on.

'Stepping' into a new organization

National Pan-Hellenic Council fraternity introduces new members at probate

By MICHAEL STONE
Opinions Editor

As the three masked men stand in the doorway of the large, dark room, they repeatedly yell, "Ain't no bitch in my blood - ain't no bitch in my blood."

Lined up from front to back, their arms are locked together; when they walk, they travel as one line.

As their feet cross the door's threshold, flashes of light fly from cameras throughout the room, and the sounds emitted by the audience of several hundred change from light conversation to screaming and cheering.

Once they reach the center of the room, the masked men break apart and stand at attention, quietly absorbing the energy of the predominately black-American assemblage in front of them.

Aside from the seated audience,

the three are also being watched by a group of about 20 standing men, all dressed in brown and gold attire; the words "Iota Phi Theta" appear at least once on their bodies: stitched on their jackets, printed on their hats and tattooed on their skin. Like the three they're watching, each of the 20 once stood in front of a cheering crowd, masked, feeding on the energy in the air.

The gathering is called a "probate," the capstone event to a months-long initiation process into traditionally black fraternities. The umbrella organization over these fraternities is the National Pan-Hellenic Council.

At this probate, the energy in the atmosphere quickly multiplies as the three begin a theatrical performance of sorts.

They start a series of dance sequences that is frequently referred to as "stepping,"

a popular activity of NPHC organizations nationwide.

Before the probate began, Ryan Tyler, one of the founding members of MTSU's chapter of Iota Phi Theta, told me that each NPHC organization "has its own basic step style." Some of the dance moves his organization uses are recycled, he said, while others are created for specific probates.

"We regurgitate some of the steps through each probate show that we've done," Tyler described. "But we do have some original stuff each time."

The stepping performed by the masked men is something that has obviously taken weeks of practice.

"It's a big relief, like we can finally get back to regular stuff instead of planning because it took a lot of planning," one of the masked men said after the probate. "These past couple weeks have been dedicated to this probate."

And it's not just dance moves that the audience is watching; the three simultaneously recite seemingly inaudible words and phrases in between dances.

Some of what they're saying sounds like Greek letters, some sounds like the organization's motto and slogans, values and principles. One phrase I do clearly understand: "I love Iota Phi Theta."

The three return to being quiet and once again stand at attention. The crowd grows excited with anticipation - it's time to remove the masks.

"[Removing] the mask is supposed to symbolize you coming into a new person," Tyler said.

First comes Delano Prince, a sophomore music business major, then Marvin Taylor, a junior social work major, and finally Greg Stewart, a junior music business major.

Unmasked, the three are joined

by the other members of the fraternity for a synchronized step dance as the probate draws closer to the end.

Once formality is seemingly over, several of MTSU's other NPHC organizations approach the front of the room and join in the stepping, resulting in around 100 dancers each moving their bodies in a unique fashion. Blended in the fray, the newly inducted members are no longer the spectacle, but merely part of it.

Prince, as many of the other dancers are, is clearly saturated by his own excursion. He describes the probate as "intense."

"Your adrenaline is rushing and you just want to show the world what you are," Prince says.

STEP, PAGE 7

House plants help the environment

Earth Day is not the only day students can create a stronger, cleaner world

By KATY COIL
Staff Writer

On Earth Day, many try to do their part to keep the earth green, but not everyone has the time, money or space to plant a tree, garden or lavish landscaping.

However, students who have limited time between classes and even more limited space in dorms or apartments can still grow a variety of beautiful plants. In fact, everything from simple ferns to beautiful flower bouquets to mini-vegetable and herb gardens can be grown in the space of a small windowsill.

In addition to beautifying living space, plants offer a wide variety of benefits, according to Nate Phillips, an assistant professor of horticulture with MTSU's Agriscience and Agriscience Department.

"Having plants in your dorm is aesthetically pleasing and can add

a little life and vitality to the dorm room," Phillips says. "However, I think that the biggest health benefit to growing plants is psychological - Filling empty space with life and committing to care for it can be very satisfying."

Of course, there are some things to consider before deciding to introduce a plant to your living space.

"You need to consider your growing environment," Phillips says. "Knowing about your available lighting and space will help you select an appropriate plant."

Time is another important factor to consider before choosing which plant it right for you and your area.

"Some plants require very little care, while others will need a lot of attention," Phillips says. "Many plants in a garden center or store are a fraction of the size that they will become once they mature - Plan ahead for how large the plant

may get."

Other things to consider include allergies. A mini-rosebush may look lovely in your living space, but it will cause trouble if a roommate or frequent guest is allergic.

There are also several things to look for when actually purchasing the plant. Adopting a plant that looks sickly out of the goodness of your heart is not also costly, but sickly plants can be harder to take care of.

"Spots on the leaves can be a sign that something is wrong," Phillips says. "Inspect the plant for insects."

Make sure to look close and avoid purchasing any plant that has an insect infestation.

Still, not all insects can be spotted just by looking at the leaves of the plant.

"Many plant pests are small and hard to see with the naked eye," Phillips says. "Using a hand

is recommended."

When buying a plant, also read the instructions that detail how much time, sunlight, water, and care each plant needs.

While all plants share the need for water, light and nutrients, your particular care plan should be relevant to the specific plant you are growing," Phillips says. Before purchasing a plant, make sure you understand its requirements: how much water it needs, the amount and composition of nutrients it thrives on and what type of lighting situation it is suited for."

Depending on what you want to grow, there are several types of plants available that do well with limited watering, sunlight, and can handle the ins-and-outs of having a college student gardener.

Ferns and Basic Houseplants

Philips says. "Using a hand

air fern, emerald star and mother-in-law tongue require little watering and can quickly green-up your living space. Phillips recommends other green plants as well.

Phillips says philodendrons, one of the most common houseplants that are usually green and leafy, are "always an easy to grow but attractive foliage plants. They will tolerate low light conditions that are often found indoors, and will survive the occasional neglect."

Phillips also suggests spider plants as another great choice for indoor hanging baskets.

"They are easy to care for and provide a cascade of daughter plants which can be easily re-potted and grown as new plants," Phillips says.

PLANTS, PAGE 7

Hip Happenings



Photo courtesy of The Incredible Heat Machine
The Incredible Heat Machine is playing at MTSU's Recreation Center today.

Palatial Concert Featuring:
Moon Taxi,
The Incredible Heat Machine
Afro America
Thursday, April 22, 3:30 p.m. until 7 p.m.
Recreation Center
Front Lawn
Free

Garreth Spinn
Dave Armstrong
Jeff Miller
Thursday, April 22, 8 p.m.
Bonhoeffer's
Free

Rites of Spring: Battle of the Bands
Thursday, April 22, 7 p.m.
Vanderbilt University
Alumni Lawn
\$10 general admission

Between the Trees
Farewell Fighter
Quinton Parker
The Slow Down
Tuesday, April 27, 7 p.m.
Club 527

WMTS Spring Benefit Concert Featuring:
Geist
Boroughs
Awake! Awake!
Don Coyote
Thursday, April 29, 7 p.m.
Club 527
18+ \$7, 21+ \$5

Live at Walnut House Studio Featuring:
Boroughs
Dirty D plus 3
Friday, April 30, 8:30 p.m.
Walnut House Studios
\$4

STEP FROM PAGE 6

Taylor pulls his long hair back as he expresses a great deal of post-probate excitement and exhaustion. He says he enjoyed himself, but he's glad his pledging process has come to an end. "Tonight was so much fun," he describes. "As far as being done goes, it's a relief. It's like something off my shoulders."

Stewart, who has been stepping since he was 5 years old, says he is excited about bringing "what I know about stepping into this organization." Now that his initiation process is over, he adds, he'll be able to do so. "It's like a build up," Stewart describes. "We go through a lot to get to this one moment, and then it's like that one moment explodes."

Tyler says he's excited to have three new members join his organization. Those three, he adds, will lead to a stronger fraternity and will help future inductees practice for their own probates. "Tota Phi Theta has been doing [probates] since they were created," he describes. "I think we're just carrying on a predominantly African-American fraternity tradition."

Plants in the Dorm

Fanatics
Monday through Friday Happy Hour 4:30-7 p.m.
\$2 domestic drafts
\$3.75 house wines
Two for one well drinks

Blue Rooster
Thursday Ladies' Night, no cover charge for ladies, 50 cent drafts
Thursday through Saturday two for one domestic drafts & wines till 9 p.m.
Sun-\$3.50 margaritas

Events Policy

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

PLANTS FROM PAGE 6

Flowers and Colorful Leaves

Not everyone wants a simple green plant. Some have a preference for brightly colored flowers and leaves that can accent the colors of a room or make a bland room pop.

"There are two different ways for indoor plants to add color to your dorm," Phillips says. "They can produce colorful flowers, or display colorful foliage."

Several easy maintenance flowering plants include geraniums, peace lily, Waldor orchids and gerbera daisies. Phillips recommends flowering plants such as Begonias, cyclamen, Christmas cactus, African violets, kalanchoes and poinsettia.

Instead of a flowering plant, some varieties of ferns and houseplants also come in a wide variety of colors, without the downsides of flowers.

"Flowers sometimes have the added benefit of fragrance, but have a downside of dropping petals which can appear messy if not cleaned up regularly," Phillips says. "Growing plants with colorful foliage is a lower maintenance option."

Brightly and colorful plants include the polka-dot plant or the chicken gizzard plant. Phillips recommends plants such as caladiums, wandering Jews, coleus, dracaenas, crotons or the prayer plant.

Low Maintenance

Just because you don't have enough time to take care of a plant or are absent-minded enough to go weeks without watering it doesn't mean there isn't a plant out there that will meet your needs. Several low maintenance plants require the bare minimum of water and can survive as long as they are in heavily

Liquid Smoke
Saturday & Monday \$2 Yuengling
Wednesday Pint Night \$2.75 pint drafts

Mark & Pat's Handlebar
Tuesday two for one drafts
Thursday \$1.50 longnecks
Friday Karaoke

Gentlemen Jims
Happy Hour 2-8 p.m. everyday
\$1.75 domestic bottle
\$7.50 bucket for 5
\$3 pitchers for draft
Tuesday & Thursday \$3 pitchers

Dugger's
Happy Hour 11 a.m.-8 p.m.
\$2.50 wells, wines, margaritas
\$1.99 domestic pints on draft

Coconut Bay Café
Happy Hour 'til 10 p.m.
Two for one draft, wine, well, margaritas
Saturday \$5 pitchers
Sunday \$2 longnecks

527
Wednesday through Sunday penny beer till 12 a.m.
50-cent mixed drinks till 10 p.m.

sunlit areas.

Plants such as cacti, the cast iron plant, devil's ivy, snake plant and bamboo can be virtually indestructible. These plants can sometimes go an entire month without water in harsh environments, but still manage to grow. Sunlight is the major factor when taking care for these plants.

"A lot of cacti or succulent plants will do well in a south facing window sill where they will require minimal care," Phillips says.

Healing Plants

Botanists, horticulturists and others agree that plants are nature's air purifiers. Plants can eliminate harmful toxins in the air as well as replenish oxygen, leaving those in a room with a plant feeling healthier and more refreshed. Some plants have other healing powers.

Growing aloe vera is probably the most famous plant with health benefits. It can heal minor burns and cuts and has been thought to help diabetics. The sword fern or Boston fern has been known to smooth dry skin and work as an in-home humidifier.

Garden-in-a-Box

For those who want to have a small supply of organic grown vegetables or herbs, there are plenty of great plants that can be grown for food in a small area.


Vegetables such as cherry tomatoes, baby carrots, lettuce, and peas can be grown in small window boxes, though lighting is imperative for these plants.

"Most vegetable garden plants require more intense sunlight than is found indoors," Phillips says. "You might be able to grow some tomatoes or peppers if you have a large south facing window, but typically you will end up with stretchy plants and low yields." Herbs, however, are

much easier to grow and just about any type of herb can be grown in the right window.

"Some good edible plants would be herbs such as thyme, dill, basil and others," Phillips says. "You could also try growing some salad greens, although it would be a good idea to provide supplemental lighting, such as fluorescent bulbs."

So whatever plant you ultimately choose, there are plenty of ways to go green and garden this Earth Day.



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