

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2010

VOL. 87, NO. 24

Two tickets, one crime

Dean's citations spare students from criminal records

By CHRISTOPHER MERCHANT
Assistant News Editor

While the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation reported a decrease in MTSU's 2009 crime rate, the issuance of dean's citations, which include campus crimes that are not reported to the state, has increased in 2010.

Only three confirmed dean's citations were issued to MTSU students from August 2008 through December 2009. Since January of this year, nine dean's citations have been recorded and verified.

MTSU Police Chief Buddy Peaster said campus police officers could issue dean's citations for a number of offenses, whether the incident involves a state law or is in conflict with MTSU's Rules and Regulations.

Peaster said dean's citations are not used to determine MTSU's campus crime rate. Instead, state citations are the only data used in compiling the TBI's annual "Crime on Campus" statewide report.

"They do not affect our crime rate in any way, shape, or form," Peaster said. "We refer them to Judicial Affairs instead of the court system, depending on the offense."

These offenses, Peaster said, vary from disorderly conduct and behavioral issues in class to underage possession of alcohol, public drunkenness, driving under the influence and even drug possession.

The MTSU Department of Public Safety does not keep records of how many dean's citations are issued to students, Peaster said.

In addition, Laura Sosh-Lightsy, assistant dean of Judicial Affairs and Mediation Services, said officials within the department also do not keep records to track the number of students who have been issued dean's citations.

However, Sosh-Lightsy said Judicial Affairs does have records of individual offenders.

"We know if we are dealing with a student for the first time or if they are a repeat offender," Sosh-Lightsy said.

CITATIONS, PAGE 4

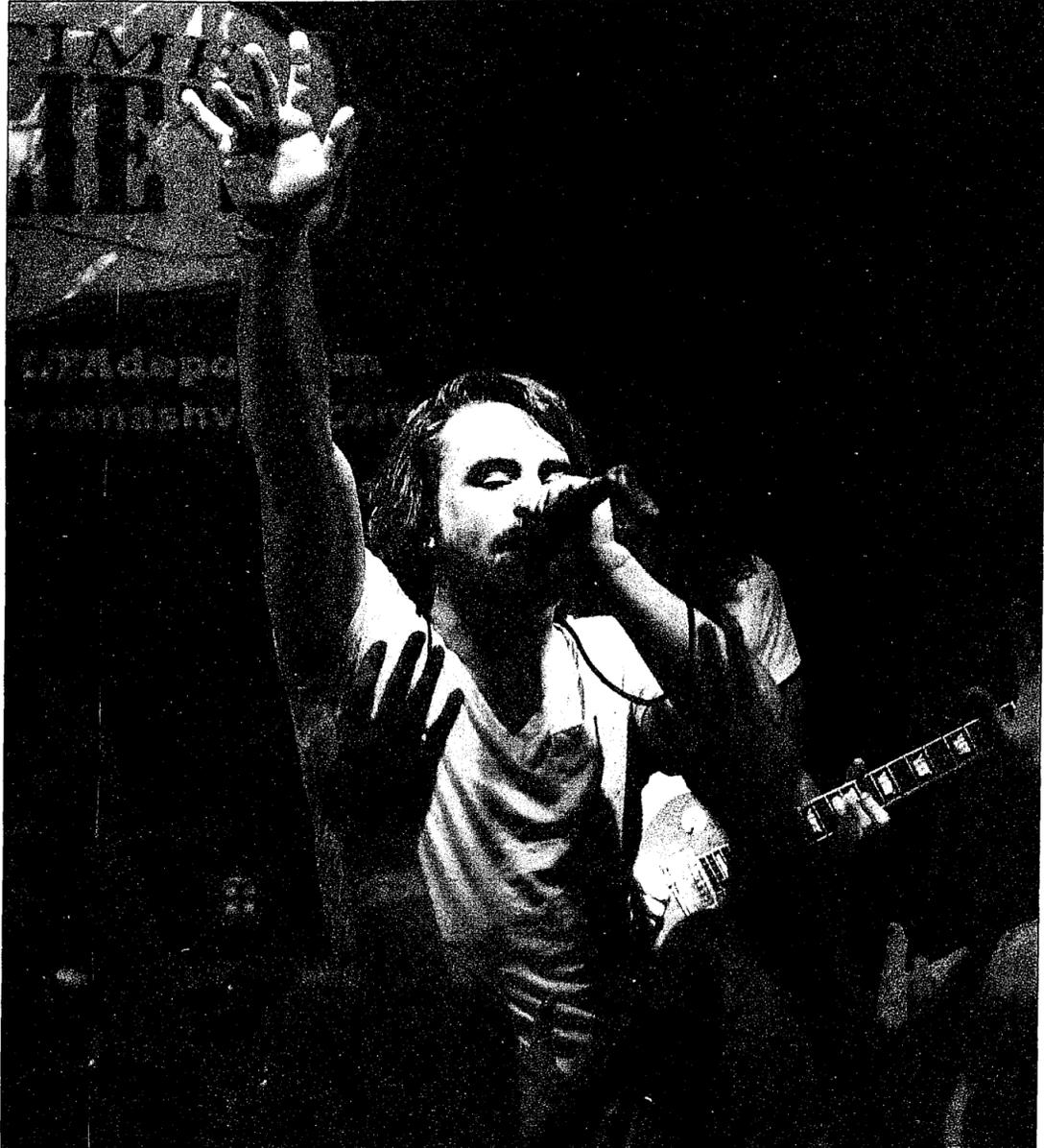


Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor
Dustin McCombs, lead singer of Anathens, performs at Boropalooza, a charity event raising funds for Watertown High School's music program, at Lanes, Trains and Automobiles bowling alley in Murfreesboro on Friday.

Students 'march' on

Greeks host charity event, raise funds for high school band

By TYLER MARTIN
Contributing Writer

The MTSU community came together to raise money for Watertown High School's music program at Boropalooza, a charity event cosponsored by Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia and Alpha Chi Omega, on Friday.

The event raised money through ticket sales of \$7 in advance and \$10 at the door as well as raffle tickets. Many participated in the charity raffle to win prizes rang-

ing from gift certificates from local businesses to a football signed by Rick Stockstill, MTSU football coach.

Good Time Charlie's at Lanes, Trains and Automobiles bowling alley in Murfreesboro was crowded with attendees who said they were excited to watch multiple bands play music for a good cause.

"We provided the place free of charge to help out the local community, showcase the business and bring people in," said Jimmy Patrick, part owner of Lanes, Trains and Automobiles. "This is a family-owned business from the community, and we like to do whatever we can

BOROPALOOZA, PAGE 2



Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor
Chris Salt, member of Phi Mu Alpha, makes the final announcements and thanks participants at Boropalooza on Friday.

Distance learning gets 'Second Life'

ITD buys virtual island for online university

By SARAH HAMACHER, COLLEEN PULLIN
Staff Writer, Contributing Writer

The Information Technology Division recently purchased a Second Island to build a virtual MTSU campus for Web-based courses, and according to officials within the administration, the new program is designed to

improve distance learning.

"We just bought an island," said Carol Ann Baily, director of Adult Student Services, who is a member of the Second Life virtual island committee.

The Second Island is part of Second Life, a website that offers virtual reality for numerous interactive activities, and one of those includes simulated classrooms. According to its website, it offers a free 3D virtual world where users can socialize, connect and create using free voice and text chat.

The purchase receipt submitted by ITD to Procurement Services, which

is a department within MTSU's Division of Business and Finance, bought the island from Second Life for \$700. The receipt also included a \$1,770 annual maintenance fee.

Tanner Eads, junior media design major, said students may be able to appear differently on Second Life and was not pleased with the idea that the university was spending money on the program.

"That is the most ignorant purchase I have heard MTSU make," Eads said.

ISLAND, PAGE 2

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"There are no perfect men in this world, only perfect intentions."
Pen Densham, "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves"

Teachers to stand on their own

Restructuring could create new College of Education

By ROZALIND RUTH
Community News Editor

The College of Education and Behavioral Sciences could split if the Proposal of the Restructuring of the Colleges is approved, resulting in the creation of a College of Education, sending behavioral sciences to join with the College of Applied, Behavioral and Health Sciences.

In the proposal submitted to the president by Interim Executive Vice President and Provost Diane Miller, the College of Educational and Behavioral Sciences would become the College of Education, resulting in the departments of health and human performance, psychology, human sciences and criminal justice, to now be merged with other sciences.

However, two programs currently under the human sciences department, early childhood education, and professional and school counseling, would remain in the College of Education.

MTSU was founded in 1911 as one of three state schools for teacher training. The establishment of a College of Education, in addition to the new building currently under construction, would be complete by the university's 100th anniversary.

Lana Seivers, dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, said she believes the changes to the college are clear-cut because the Tennessee Board of Regents approved a college that would solely represent education students prior to her arrival in January.

"I think the key take-away for students is that things will remain the same as far as being able to get the courses they need, prepare to be a teacher, to get licensures," Seivers said. "Everything will remain the same except we will be focusing on strengthening our teacher preparation program."

RESTRUCTURING, PAGE 2

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New hospital visitation laws make progress for gay rights.
page 6

IN TODAY'S ISSUE



See more photos of the MT women's rugby team's prom dress showdown.

ONLINE @
MTSUSIDELINES.COM

MONDAY FORECAST

PARTLY CLOUDY
10% CHANCE OF RAIN
HIGH 70, LOW 46

BOROPALOOZA
FROM PAGE 1

Chris Salt, senior marketing major, is a member of Phi Mu Alpha and participated in the charity event. He said his fraternity wanted to help the Waternow High School marching band because of the difficulties its program has faced in the past few years due to budget cuts.

Wilson County High School students because of the musical connection between the two groups.

"They have had three different band directors in the past four years," Salt said. "Their color guard instructor has to hand-sew the color guard uniforms as well as the flags."

Salt said the fraternity plans to hold the event in the future and hopes that it will become a Greek staple.

"It was a very good turnout. It is for a good cause. Music makes students feel good about themselves."

FELICIA CONNER
FRESHMAN BUSINESS MAJOR

"Phi Mu Alpha is your typical social fraternity that gives back to their community through musical activities like singing to the elderly and teaching kids about music," Salt said. Salt said his experience in his high

school band was very important to him and was inspired to raise money for the students.

"I had such a great experience with it that I want these kids to have the wonderful opportunity that I had," Salt said. "I want them to have a chance to learn life lessons and gain great friends through music."

"It was a very good turnout," said Felicia Conner, freshman business administration major, who is a mem-

ber of Alpha Chi Omega. "It is for a good cause. Music makes students feel good about themselves."

Attendees spent their evening bowling, playing pool, dancing and enjoying the live entertainment provided by the bands Matt Ryals, Geist, The Slow Down, and Anathens.

Salt said because both organizations sold tickets to the event separately, the exact total of funds raised would not be known for a couple of weeks.

SUMMER 2010

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

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

ISLAND
FROM PAGE 1

Baily said she believed it would give students a sense of participation in the online community because students could create an avatar, a 3D rendering of a person, in their own image and have it sit in a virtual classroom.

Baily said this would allow students and professors to have "face-to-face" interaction.

Barbra Draude, assistant vice president of ITD, placed the request and is in charge of the committee that will decide how to implement this new technology.

"I had faculty who were interested in [seeing] what a virtual environment could provide," Draude said.

Draude said pilot testing will begin this fall, but she could not reveal what professors would be using the program because the list is still incomplete. After the testing, the plan is to make the service available to all students and professors who wish to participate.

Draude said students would not have to pay for the service. However, if students wanted to get on to other islands or receive special avatar features, fees may be involved.

Some students have already experimented with Second Life.

Bri Patterson, junior theater major, said she encountered some issues with Second Life, and after dabbling with the program for two weeks, she decided to quit using it. She said the program caused her computer to lag and download slowly.

"I would get distracted and not go to class," Patterson said. "I wouldn't want to use it because it takes up large amounts of memory to install."

You had to have top of the line equipment in order to make the program work."

Baily said Older Wiser Learners, for example, could meet and socialize in a real time setting like a lounge. OWLs is an organization for nontraditional students who do not live on campus.

"My favorite place is the outdoor setting with the mushrooms to sit on," Baily said, adding that she also likes the beach, where her avatar floats on an inner tube while seagulls and exotic birds caw in the background.

Baily said she believed the biggest challenge the Second Life project has is informing students and professors of its existence and the benefits it could provide for online teaching.

Jacqueline Gilbert, management professor, said she is already using Second Life in her principles of management class. The assignment is to obtain an avatar, navigate through the virtual world and then write a paper about the experience.



Photo courtesy of Robin Ashford, librarian at George Fox University ITD recently purchased a virtual island from Second Life, a Web-based software, in an effort to improve distance learning.

"I have incorporated this new assignment because some companies have not only established a Second Life presence, but they now conduct interviews and training within the metaverse [a fictional virtual world that stands as a metaphor for reality]," Gilbert said.

Gilbert said IBM is developing a 3D Internet that she thinks could revolutionize the way business is conducted, and skills for Web collaboration, interactivity and social networking.

"I want my students to have relevant Web 2.0 skills that future employers will be requesting," Gilbert said.

Gilbert said she modeled the assignment after one that Melinda Korzaan, professor of computer information systems, has used to teach a graduate computer information systems class.

East Tennessee State University has already acquired an island and it is currently in use.

Barbra Knight, coordinator for Technology Development at ETSU, is in charge of their virtual island.

Knight said that while she thinks the program has made a positive difference in her university, she thinks that the technology can be too confusing for some of the users.

"I am a huge advocate of Second Life," Knight said. "We are having a few issues getting people to buy into it because the professors have a learning curve."

Knight said the program should be used for educational purposes mostly, but she believes there has not been enough interest and not enough people have used it yet.

RESTRUCTURING
FROM PAGE 1

Seivers said it is important to keep in mind that students seeking to teach secondary school, usually major in the discipline they hope to teach. She gave the example of a student who wishes to be an art teacher would major in art, and therefore belong to the current College of Liberal Arts.

"This allows us to focus on the kinds of things that students need to know in order to be successful student teachers and teachers," Seivers said. "We're going to be able to focus very clearly and build on our strengths there, so I think it's a good thing for us."

Jim Huffman, chair of the educational leadership department, said the proposed restructuring would help education students concentrate more clearly on their subjects of study.

"It gives us the opportunity for the college to focus our efforts more clearly on preparing people for positions in school in teaching and administrative positions," Huffman said.

Huffman said the proposed college restructuring comes at an opportune time for education students, because of the physical moves the school is planning to make.

"I just think it makes sense at a time when we're going to have a new College of Education building that we do the restructuring in line with the new building," Huffman said. "I think it's an appropriate time for that."

Seivers said that while the new state-of-the-art building would mainly be the home of education students, the entire university, not just her particular college would benefit from the new building.

Not only are the educational professional satisfied with the proposed move, but the behavioral sciences previously grouped with them also expressed optimism about their new college as well.

Dennis Papini, chair of the psychology department, said although psychology has historically been grouped with education, overtime the field has developed into more of a science-based discipline therefore, moving to the College of Applied, Behavioral and Health Sciences seems like a natural move.

"I think there is some concern about the loss of identity in a new college," Papini said, "but I also think that our department is strong enough that we can deal with those kinds of issues."

However, he said, under the new college the psychology department could potentially form strong partnerships with other science-related fields, such as nursing and social work.

ERIGOR

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Citywide elections set for Tuesday

STAFF REPORT

Constituents will head to the polls tomorrow to cast their votes in the Murfreesboro's City Council, school board and mayoral seat elections.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. at 14 different locations. Registered voters should look at their voter cards to determine where they should cast their votes.

Three City Council seats are up for bid, in addition to the city mayoral seat.

Tim Davis, who currently teaches U.S. government at Cedar Hall School in Christiana, is challenging Murfreesboro Mayor Tommy Bragg, who has held the seat since 2002.

Incumbent candidates Doug Young, David Edwards and Shane McFarland are up for reelection to the city council.

David Boyce, a manager at BuzziUnicem; Madelyn Scales Harris, an account underwriter at the State Farm Insurance Company; Thomas Connor Moss, an MTSU student; Mark Nobles, founder of The Nobles Law Group, PPLC; and Brian Vaughan, general manager of Chick-fil-A, are all running as challengers to replace the incumbent candidates, according to The Daily News Journal.

Bill Shacklett, owner of Shacklett Photography, is still named as one of the candidates on the City Council election ballot, but he has pulled out of the race.

According to The DNJ, Shacklett is encouraging constituents to not vote for him, because he has decided to run for the 34th District's House seat of the Tennessee General Assembly.

However, Shacklett cannot withdraw from



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer
City council candidates lobbied for votes Friday at the Tea Party rally on the town square.

the local race and may have already received votes in the early election.

Along with City Council and mayor, constituents will also have the opportunity to vote for School Board members.

Running in this election as incumbents are Ray Butrum and Mary McNight. In addition, Kevin N. Fisher, a correctional officer, Patrick McCarthy, director of MTSU's Center for Organizational and Human Resource Effectiveness, Eric Newell, a team manager at the State Farm Insurance Company, and Dennis L. Rainier, who retired as director of Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Department last December.

Results will be announced after 7 p.m. on the day of elections.



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer
Thomas Moss, MTSU student and city council candidate, speaks to Murfreesboro citizens on the town square on Friday.



Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor
Margaret May, TOMS Shoes campus representative for MTSU, talks to a student Thursday outside the Keathley University Center.

Students go barefoot for good cause

By E.J. HIRSH
Staff Writer

Students walked barefoot across campus Thursday in support of a national event sponsored by TOMS Shoes to spread awareness about those who go without shoes on a daily basis in underdeveloped countries.

The national event of A Day Without Shoes was celebrated April 8, but MTSU students were unable to participate the same day because of bad weather.

TOMS Shoes at MTSU, the student organization for the company, invited the local bands One Big Owl and Beat Repeat to play at the event.

"I went barefoot last week," said Alysis Wooten, undeclared sophomore. "I went

barefoot to challenge myself, because I wanted to put myself in someone else's non-existent shoes."

According to the TOMS Web site, the company uses a "one-for-one" program, which donates one pair of shoes to a child in need for every pair purchased.

Student members of MTSU's TOMS Shoes club set up a table passed out TOMS Shoes coupons to students as they passed by outside of the Keathley University Center so that students could learn about the day-long event.

"Children in Third World countries need shoes," said Margaret May, senior textile merchandising and design major, who serves as a TOMS campus representative.

Jenn Stearns, junior mass communication major, expressed concern for the diseases caused by a lack of shoes in underdeveloped countries.

To read more, visit us online.



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Women's center calls for donations

Charity drive collects cell phones, batteries and accessories to help sexual assault victims

STAFF REPORT

Old wireless phones, batteries, and accessories can now be put to use by donating them to MTSU Health Promotion and June Anderson Women's Center in observance of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

The phones and accessories gathered by Health Promotion will be delivered to the HopeLine Program, a branch of Verizon Wireless, which provides phones to victims of sexual abuse and domestic violence nationwide.

All brands and types of cell phones will be accepted, regardless of the phones' wireless service provider, and can be utilized the Verizon network.

A donation box will be on the Keathley University Center Knoll Mon-

day, April 16 and Tuesday, April 10 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in conjunction with the Clothesline Project, in which t-shirts created and painted by survivors of sexual assaults will be displayed.

Donations can also be made at the Health Promotions office, room 1106 in the Health, Wellness, and Recreation Center, from Monday, April 19 to Friday, April 23, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

SAAM, which is organized by the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, is held for the entire month of April nationwide. However, April 20 has been designated by the NSVRC as the campaign's Day of Action.

Other events, including a speech by Deloris E. Jordan, the sister of NBA star Michael Jordan and author of "In My Family's Shadow", to speak on the KUC Knoll at 6 p.m.

According to the Women's Center's website, an open microphone and candlelight vigil entitled "Take Back the Night/Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" is also scheduled to take place on the day of action.



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Provost candidate says no easy fix for future

By JOSHUA M. WARD
Staff Writer

The second of four provost candidates said there's no "magic bullet" for restructuring when asked by a senate member if he could "pull the trigger" during the faculty senate's open forum on his visit to campus Thursday.

"If you're looking for a magic bullet somewhere, I can't give you that," said Rodney B. Piercey, former provost and vice president for academic affairs at Eastern Kentucky University. "But if you're looking for somebody who can help you pull together, and help you build bridges - I can do that."

The comments came in re-

sponse to Peter H. Cunningham, associate dean of the College of Graduate Studies, asking Piercey whether or not he could "pull the trigger" in terms of getting things accomplished on campus.

Piercey outlined his plan to handle the challenges faced during restructuring and his optimism for the future of MTSU but said any perceived notion that he could single-handedly convince faculty and staff to fully support the process was misplaced.

"Making decisions that are in my domain of responsibility is something I don't mind doing," Piercey said.

As provost, Piercey said, he would not assume full control or responsibility of deci-

sions that he felt were better suited as a product of discussion and a convergence of ideas.

"The thing about living in a great academic community is that every day you go to work you're with 300 people smarter than you along some dimension," Piercey said. "So why should I make a decision on any issue in a vacuum when I can call 20 world experts in 30 minutes to get some input on it."

Piercey asked the attendees what the MTSU community would be looking for in a new provost and what qualities a good provost would possess.

To read more, visit us online.
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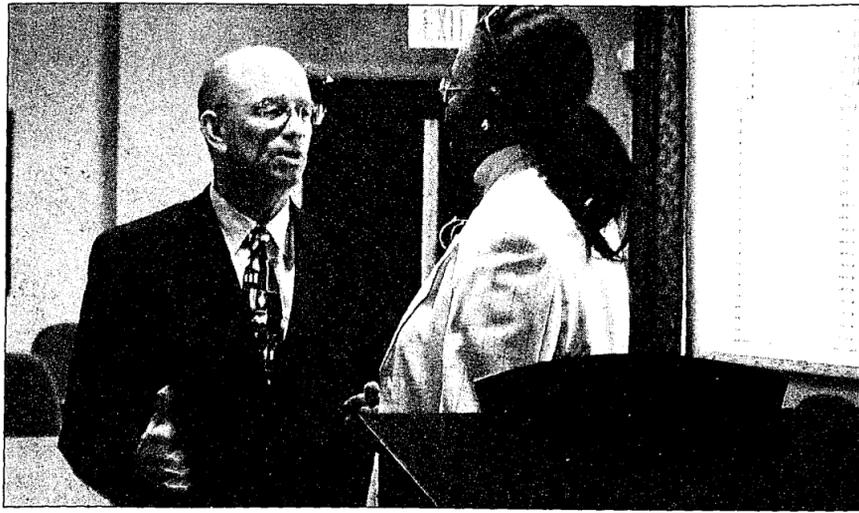


Photo by Rozalind Ruth, community news editor

Rodney Piercey, provost candidate, visited campus Thursday and spoke with faculty and students in the Faculty Senate Chambers in the James Union Building.

LIGHTS... CAMERA...

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Where? Chemistry Building
Who? Dr. Debbie Byrd, Professor and Assistant Dean
Melissa Smith, Coordinator for Student Services

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<http://pharmacy.uthsc.edu>

The University of Tennessee is an EEO/AA/Title VII/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA in the provision of its education and employment programs and services.

CITATIONS FROM PAGE 1

Students who receive dean's citations are not criminally liable, Peaster said, and those offenses do not appear on any criminal records, but students may receive both a dean's citation and a state citation for the same offense.

He said often times students who are issued dean's citations receive them because a campus police officer does not have enough evidence to charge a student criminally, or the offense is simply a violation of the university's "policies, rules and code of conduct."

Peaster used the example of a student suspected of possessing marijuana.

"Officers who find just marijuana residue or signals of marijuana use might give [students] a citation to appear before Judicial Affairs, because they don't see enough to charge them criminally," Peaster said.

Peaster said because of the nature of certain offenses that warrant dean's citations, those do not reflect any significant criminal activity on campus.

According to the MTSU Department of Public Safety's crime logs, 82 state citations have been issued.

Five of the dean's citations were issued for possession of drugs or paraphernalia, three were issued for underage drinking, and one was issued for a traffic violation.

Of this year's state citations, 21 were traffic tickets, 13 were issued for underage drinking, 11 were issued for possession of drugs or paraphernalia, 14 were issued for driving under the influence and nine students were arrested for outstanding warrants.

However, Peaster said, sometimes a campus police officer may decide to issue both a dean's citation and a criminal citation because even if a student has been charged with a criminal offense, "the university needs to consider if [the student] still has the privilege of attending classes."

Peaster said officers are responsible for using their own discretion when determining whether to issue dean's citations or to make criminal charges.

"That's not something we have set in a policy that we have told officers to use," Peaster said.

Peaster said that dean citations are often the most effective way of influencing student's behavior.

"In my experience working for three different campus police stations, a ticket does not always have as much of an effect as a dean's citation," Peaster said.

Peaster said that dean's citations were developed in the early 1970s in response to riots on various campuses and the tragedy at Kent State University, where members of the Army National Guard killed four students during an anti-war protest.

"It's very common, and it has been going on for about 40 years or so in most parts of the country," Peaster said.

Peaster said that the formation of administrative committees, such as MTSU's Judicial Affairs, resulted in students being treated more fairly.

"Instead of all the authority lying in the hands of a dean of student affairs, students now get some due process," Peaster said.

Marie Kempf, campus news editor, and Joshua M. Ward, staff writer, contributed to this report.

CRIME BRIEFS

April 12, 10:16 a.m.

Theft
Keathley University Center
A complainant reported a book bag stolen outside of Phillips Bookstore.

April 12, 6:18 p.m.

Traffic
MTSU Boulevard
Brandon Haghany-Masoumpour, 21, was issued a state citation for not having proof of vehicle insurance.

April 13, 2:29 p.m.

Vandalism
MTSU Police Department
A complainant reported that a vehicle was vandalized in the McFarland parking lot between April 11 and April 13.

April 13, 5:23 p.m.

Traffic
Blue Raider Drive
No description was given.

April 13, 10:34 p.m.

Theft
Business Aerospace Building
No description was given.

April 13, 11:10 p.m.

Theft
Greek Row
No description was given.

April 14, 3:15 p.m.

Arrest
Bell Street parking lot
Deviyon Smith, 18, was arrested for possession of a weapon on school property, resisting stop, frisk, halt, search and arrest.

April 14, 5:51 p.m.

Trespass
James E. Walker Library parking lot
A complainant reported that subjects were placing fliers on vehicles in the parking lots between the James E.

Walker Library and Nicks Hall.

April 15, 10:26 a.m.

Theft
John Bragg Mass Communication Building
No description was given.

April 15, 12:10 p.m.

Arrest
Business Aerospace Building
Andrew Scott Gardonia, 28, was arrested for outstanding warrants.

April 16, 3:14 a.m.

Traffic
East Main St.
Innocent C. Amara, 24, was issued a state citation for driving a motorcycle without the proper license.

CURRENT EVENTS

Alternative Transportation Day w/ Proccycling Bike sales and repairs & Rover of Murfreesboro

April 19, 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.
Location: Keathley University Center Knoll
Admission: free
Bike sale and tune-up

Bicycle Tour of Stones River National Battlefield

Now through Oct. 30, 8:45 a.m.
Location: Stones River National Battlefield and Cemetery
Admission: free

Campus Beautification Day Clean Up

April 20, 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.
Location: Keathley University Center Knoll

Conscientious Consumption Day with Green Vendors

April 21, 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.
Location: Keathley University Knoll

Movie: Coal Country

April 21, 7 p.m.
Location: Keathley University Center Knoll

Green Technology Day

April 22, 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.
Location: Keathley University Center Knoll

Movie: Who Killed the Electric Car?

April 22, 7 p.m.
Location: Keathley University Center Knoll
Admission: free

Wetlands Clean Up

April 25, 12 p.m.
Location: Discovery Center

Gubernatorial Forum

April 29, 7 p.m.
Location: Murphy Center
Admission: free

Events Policy

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

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



SPORTS

Check **MTSUSIDELINES.COM** for more information on upcoming games and other sporting events at MTSU.

online

www.mtsusidelines.com

Beautiful disaster on a rugby pitch

Prom dress tradition comes to university

By JACOB WELLS
Staff Writer

It was pretty, yet tragic Saturday as MTSU's women's rugby team lost in the first prom dress game 62-7 to Nashville Women's Rugby Team.

Despite the dresses, there was plenty of speed on the field, and it all belonged to Nashville.

"They were really fast," said MT head coach Kelly Crawford, who coached her last game for the Blue Raiders on Saturday after two-and-a-half-years at the helm. "They overloaded us on the outside several times, and their girls are really fast, so that was pretty much the end of that."

Nashville scored in the early minutes of the first half and never looked back, scoring six tries before MT's Chelsi Hudson scored the lone try for her team just before the end of the first half.

"We just didn't play defense today," Hudson said. "This was just a for-fun game; we had people playing in positions they had never played just to play it — an experimental-type thing."

Crawford also cited poor defense as a reason for the lopsided defeat.

"We had a lot missed tackles, too,"

Crawford said. "That's another big problem — if you miss that many tackles they're bound to score."

MT was without its main scoring threat as Jeanna Davis did not play. Davis had four tries in the win over Alabama earlier this season.

"[Davis is] fast and she's fun," Crawford said. "Her speed definitely brings something to the team, but her attitude does too — she's always missed."

The Prom Dress Game did not count against MT's overall, regular season record. It finished the season with a 3-2 record.

"I think we had a good time this season," Crawford said. "We had a tough start and good middle and tough end."

The new coach will inherit an experienced team as MT returns 16 players from this year's squad.

It's my last season with them, too," Crawford said. "It's kind of bitter-sweet for me as well that the season ended this way, but it's over and done with now."

The team loses Hudson, who is also the team captain, and team president C.J. Kiekens to graduation. Davis, the team's leading scorer, will return in August when MT rugby resumes play.



Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor

MT women's rugby team competes against Nashville women's rugby team on Saturday, April 17. MT lost the prom dress matchup 7-62 but the crew brought a new tradition to MT women's rugby.

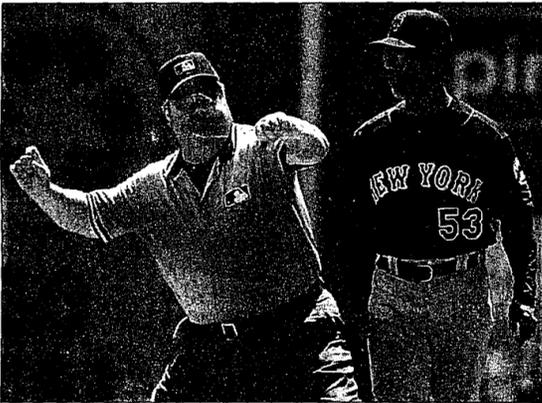


Photo courtesy of sportshog.projo.com

Pace of baseball games has simple solution

Recently, MLB umpire Joe West made a comment about how the New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox were "pathetic and embarrassing" regarding the length of games between the teams.

Both teams are known for their meticulous approach, taking pitches and working counts all in an effort to drive the pitch count up and reach deep into each team's bullpen.

West's comments were completely out of line for someone in his position, but not entirely wrong. And while I could easily tell you just to stop complaining and grow an attention span if you think games are too long, there's a much simpler way MLB can remedy this situation: call strikes.

According to the MLB rule book, the strike zone as it exists today is "area over home plate the upper limit of which is a horizontal line at the midpoint between the top of the shoulders and the top of the uniform pants, and the lower level is a line at the hollow beneath the knee cap."

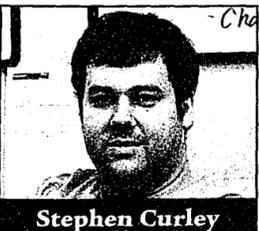
It sounds about right on paper, but when watching games today it seems to always be much smaller and tighter than that. So the Yankees and Red Sox are only implementing their style of play because officials allow them to do so.

The explanations behind the shrinking of the strike zone vary. Some have said it started shrinking when umpires began to wear smaller, lighter pads under their shirts rather than the giant outside chest protectors that forced them to stand more upright.

Some have cited MLB's desire to see a more offensive game, forcing pitchers to throw where batters have a better chance to hit.

Either way, the evolution of the strike zone has made games slower and longer, with the average game lasting around two hours and 45 minutes. Yankees and Red Sox games tend to last well over three hours, prompting the comments that started this debate.

If MLB is really committed to shortening games, it's time to have a conference with umpires. But if the teams being cited as an example of this negative trend are also your two biggest draws, is there really a problem?



Stephen Curley
Useless Information

The evolution of the NFL Draft

By ORRIN MCCULLOUGH
Contributing Writer

The very first Professional Football Players' Draft was held Feb. 8, 1936, at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Philadelphia, Penn. Nine teams participated: The Philadelphia Eagles, Boston Redskins, Pittsburgh Pirates, Brooklyn Dodgers, Chicago Cardinals, Chicago Bears, Green Bay Packers, Detroit Lions and New York Giants.

The draft consisted of nine rounds with each team receiving one choice per round. A rule was established that weaker teams would have first choice on incoming players. The weakest team heading into the 1936 season was the Philadelphia Eagles, who used their top choice on a Heisman-winning halfback from Chicago University named Jay Berwanger. He declined the offer, due to the low pay offered to players at the time.

Berwanger's denial of that contract shows how far the draft has come in those 74 years. Players today are signing laughable contracts.

Last year's top selection, Matt Stafford, signed a \$41.7 million deal to become the quarterback of the then 0-16 Detroit Lions.

The enormous growth in NFL rookie contracts is not all that has changed.

The draft has fluctuated from a nine-round system, to a 12-round system, and at one point included more than 20 rounds.

It wasn't until 1994 that the NFL came up with the seven-round system that comprises the modern day draft.

There are now 32 teams involved, more than three times the amount of teams in the league in 1936. The draft is no longer held at the Ritz-Carlton in Philly, but at Radio City Music Hall in New York City.

The draft also draws much more media coverage than it once did. The general public interest in the NFL Draft has grown so much in recent years that it is probably viewed by more people than most NFL regular season games.

The NFL, as well as ESPN, will attempt to increase the amount of viewers this year by changing the entire format of the draft.

This year's draft will begin with the first round on Thursday night rather than Saturday afternoon. The second and third rounds will be held on Friday, while the fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh rounds will close the event on Saturday.

What's great about the draft is that it attracts fans of each and every team and gives hope to all NFL fans for a possible run at the NFL title.

It's a classic risk/reward scenario. Many experts, such as ESPN's Mel Kiper and Todd McShay, attempt to predict the type of careers young prospects will have in their NFL careers.

No matter how talented the prospect is, there is no sure thing in the NFL. For each first round pick that goes on to fame, fortune, and success, there is another who becomes an overpaid, underachieving player. It's reality television at its finest.

The St. Louis Rams hold the first pick in this year's draft, and there's been much speculation as to whom they will use the choice on. The front-runner is Oklahoma quarterback Sam Bradford, while other candidates include Nebraska defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh, Oklahoma defensive tackle Gerald McCoy, and Notre Dame quarterback Jimmy Clausen.

The hometown Titans will choose 16th this year and are expected to go in the direction of defensive end, outside linebacker, or cornerback.

2010 First Round Mock Draft

1. St. Louis Rams- Sam Bradford, QB, Oklahoma
2. Detroit Lions- Ndamukong Suh, DT, Nebraska
3. Tampa Bay Buccaneers- Gerald McCoy, DT, Oklahoma
4. Washington Redskins- Russell Okung, OT, Oklahoma St.
5. Kansas City Chiefs- Trent Williams, OT, Oklahoma
6. Seattle Seahawks- Bryan Bulaga, OT, Iowa
7. Cleveland Browns- Eric Berry, S, Tennessee
8. Oakland Raiders- Anthony Davis, OT, Rutgers
9. Buffalo Bills- Jimmy Clausen, QB, Notre Dame
10. Jacksonville Jaguars- Rolando McClain, ILB, Alabama
11. Denver Broncos- Dez Bryant, WR, Oklahoma St.
12. Miami Dolphins- Dan Williams, DT, Tennessee
13. S.F. 49ers- Joe Haden, CB, Florida
14. Seattle Seahawks- G.J. Spiller, RB, Clemson
15. N.Y. Giants- Brian Price, DT, UCLA
16. Tennessee Titans- Jason Pierre-Paul, DE, South Fla.
17. S.F. 49ers- Derrick Morgan, DE, Ga. Tech
18. Pittsburgh Steelers- Mike Iupati, G, Idaho
19. Atlanta Falcons- Brandon Graham, DE, Michigan
20. Houston Texans- Earl Thomas, S, Texas
21. Cincinnati Bengals- Everson Griffen, DE, USC
22. N.E. Patriots- Sergio Kindle, OLB, Texas
23. Green Bay Packers- Charles Brown, T, USC
24. Philadelphia Eagles- Sean Weatherspoon, OLB, Missouri
25. Baltimore Ravens- Jared Odrick, DT, Penn St.
26. Arizona Cardinals- Jerry Hughes, DE/OLB, TCU
27. Dallas Cowboys- Nate Allen, S, South Fla.
28. San Diego Chargers- Ryan Matthews, RB, Fresno St.
29. N.Y. Jets- Taylor Mays, S, USC
30. Minnesota Vikings- Kyle Wilson, CB, Boise St.
31. Indianapolis Colts- Maurkice Pouncey, C/G, Florida
32. New Orleans Saints- Navorro Bowman, OLB, Penn St.

Letters Policy

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

OPINIONS

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

DREAM myths need to be corrected

Negative views of the act created by misinformation

The DREAM Act (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act) legislation that was voted down by the Student Government Association earlier this month was a very modest piece of legislation. It would have essentially endorsed the workings of a larger measure in the U.S. Congress that would provide a pathway to higher education and citizenship to students, who in no fault of their own, were brought in to the United States and raised here all their life.

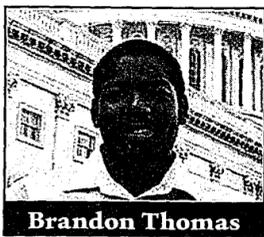
These students must meet several requirements, such as proof of having arrived in the U.S. before age 16, proof of residence in the U.S. for at least five consec-

utive years since their date of arrival, compliance with the Selective Service Act, be between the ages of 12 and 35 at the time of the bill's enactment, and must have graduated from an American high school or obtained a GED.

Some see these requirements as minor speed bumps to the bigger "problem."

Sadly this problem has to do with a lot of misinformation that poisons the debate with anti-immigrant rhetoric, does nothing for the student government, and only paints it in a negative light.

As discouraging as it is to hear this misinformation, many peo-



Brandon Thomas
From an SGA senator

ple fall victim to these basic myths.

Myth 1: Undocumented immigrants are criminals – this is not true. In fact, unlawful presence in the United States is a civil violation of federal law, not a criminal act. Therefore it is unjust to say that we are awarding criminals a pathway to higher education.

Myth 2: Immigrants don't pay taxes. This again is not true; in fact, Tennessee is funded by sales and property taxes.

Despite the legal obsta-

cles, an estimated 60 percent of undocumented immigrants also pay federal income tax – with a PIN given to them by the federal government – without access to the many federal programs they fund.

Immigrants pay an estimated \$7 billion in Social Security and \$1.5 billion in Medicare taxes each year, without any access to it due to their legal status.

Myth 3: SGA's endorsement of the DREAM Act will encourage more people to cross the border. This has to be the most salacious myth of them all. It's disheartening to see so many people stereotype immigrants as all crossing this great militarized border to "take our jobs," and lord help us if they want an education too.

First of all, a majority of undocumented immigrants don't cross the border. They

actually come here legally with visas and simply fail to renew them.

This resolution is not just about giving undocumented immigrants in-state tuition. Even if this was given to most, there would still be a problem with obtaining student loans because of their legal status.

If these students were actually allowed in-state tuition along with the ability to obtain loans, we could see an increase in revenue for MTSU because many more students would be able to attend college. However, I guess, it's still nice to know that regardless of these facts immigrants are welcome to come to MTSU.

So before the next SGA vote, it would be wise to make sure every rock has been turned on this issue before hastily voting "no" just because there is a lack in understanding or there

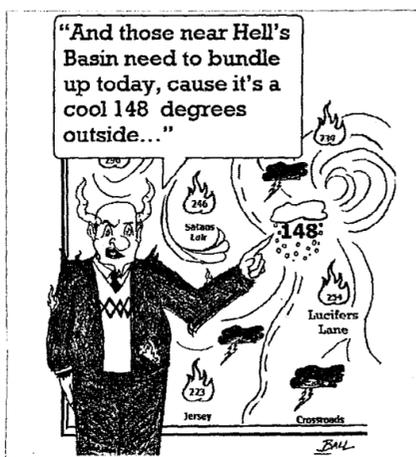
are pressures into doing so by your peers.

Also, before the next vote, it would be wise to understand what a "no" vote means: Voting no on this measure actually negatively affects the integrity of many students on campus who are a part of MTSU's diversity and have greatly contributed to the community.

Voting "no" on this measure hinders MTSU's ability to provide access to higher education to those seeking it. Voting "no" on this measure is voting "yes" to stagnant poverty and the continuation of a second-class citizenry in the United States of America.

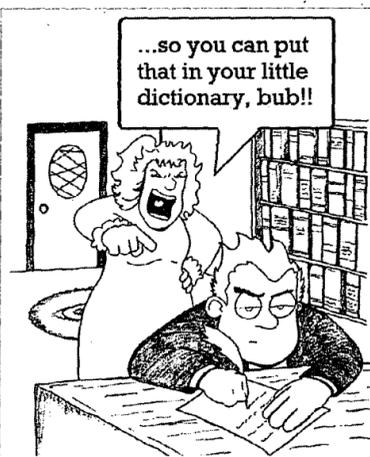
Brandon Thomas is a sophomore political science major and SGA senator for the College of Liberal Arts. He can be reached at blt3a@mtsu.edu.

The finer things...



A cold day in Hell

By JEREMY BALL
Staff Cartoonist



Webster's work was starting to affect his personal life

thefinerthingscomics@gmail.com

A QUICK WORD

From the opinions editor

Most college students are financially strapped, and many of them don't have time for anything outside of class and their part-time jobs.

When they graduate from college and move into the work force, time constraints probably won't improve much. But, as all students hope, finances will improve.

One thing I strongly believe a small portion of these finances should be used for is to purchase a subscription to a newspaper. If these objective sources of information aren't able to survive amid technological and economical changes, taxpayer dollars stand the chance of being used poorly, social injustices will happen more frequently, and the nation's democratic fabric will be badly damaged.

Since time is becoming more and more valuable in our fast-paced society, I would not expect all subscribers to become frequent readers of the newspaper. Even if they only read it once a year, they shouldn't cancel their subscriptions; rather they should look at it as an investment, one that protects themselves, their community and their democracy.

—Michael Stone, slopinio@mtsu.edu

New visitation laws triumph for gay rights

Hospital patients' choice for bedside visitors will allow for comfortable environment for ill

President Obama sent a memorandum on April 15 to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services ordering hospitals that participate in Medicare and Medicaid to allow patients to designate who their visitors may be. Patients will also be permitted to choose who can assist in making their medical decisions.

Previously, only immediate family members were allowed hospital visitation and the right to make decisions for patients when they became incapacitated.

This is a triumph for gay couples who before had no visitation rights and were restricted to waiting rooms while their significant others suffered, often alone.



Krissy Mallory

Es lo que ella dijo

(That's what she said)

"Every day, all across America, patients are denied the kindnesses and caring of a loved one at their sides... uniquely affected are gay and lesbian Americans who are often barred from the bedsides of the partners with whom they may have spent decades of their lives – unable

to be there for the person they love, and unable to act as a legal surrogate if their partner is incapacitated," Obama states in the memorandum.

Hospitals that do not comply with new visitation procedures will be denied Medicare and Medicaid funding. It's astounding that it has taken so long for our country to respect the wishes of hospital patients but good that all patients will soon have the same visitation rights regardless of sexual orientation or marital status.

"It should be made clear that designated visitors, including individuals designated by legally valid advance directives (such as durable powers of attorney and health care proxies), should enjoy visitation

privileges that are no more restrictive than those that immediate family members enjoy," Obama said.

This could create a gray area as to whether or not a power of attorney or health care proxy is required for visitation rights. It is understood that a power of attorney or health care proxy would be necessary for someone making medical decisions on behalf of another, but the memorandum makes it unclear whether or not legal documentation would be mandatory solely to grant visitation.

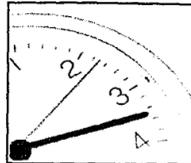
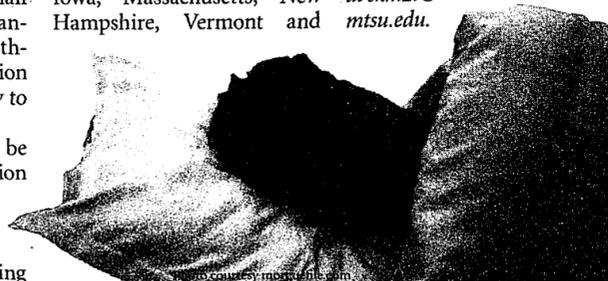
Though this seems to be a step in the right direction for gay rights, it could actually inhibit gay marriage in the long run. Until now, gay couples being

denied visitation rights in hospitals has been one of the more compelling examples of the limited rights gay couples have. If in the future gay couples attain most of the same rights as married couples, there will be little more left to the gay marriage debate than religious doctrine.

Currently, gay marriage is legal in Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and

Washington D.C. I hope that the rights granted to gays will continue to expand, but it would be a shame for the smaller triumphs to take away from the greater goal of equality regardless of sexual orientation.

Krissy Mallory is a senior majoring in journalism and Spanish. She can be reached at skm2i@mtsu.edu.



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The semester is almost over...

So if you've been thinking about writing for Sidelines
Now is the time

E-mail your interest to sleditor@mtsu.edu or pick up an application in Mass Comm 269

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FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

More discussion needed on 'Second MTSU'

Costs, technical difficulties need to be accounted for

If you haven't already heard, MTSU is thinking about opening up another campus – only this time it's in cyberspace.

From what we have heard so far, the university has approved the purchase of a remote campus in Second Island, an island-themed version of the computer program Second Life.

The goal is to use avatar technology to enhance the experience of distance learning. With the program, history battles could be recreated in virtual "classrooms," students of foreign languages could take virtual "trips to foreign lands," and students of geosciences could go on virtual "expeditions."

You could even fly to your classes and forget the entire parking debacle.

What's the catch, you ask?

This learning environment cannot simply be created in cyberspace for free. Second Life and its island companion require you to purchase everything: furniture, lighting equipment, clothing, computers and even plots of land.

The listed prices of the program have a wide range, with some very high totals on one end and some more affordable ones on the other.

For educational institutions, Linden Labs, who created and runs Second Island, gives a discount of \$980 for 16 acres of land – a pretty small price for a university with our current enrollment totals in distance learning.

The idea of such an imag-

inative experience could do great things for learning.

However, it is unbelievable that our university is even able to think of spending money on developing a "remote school."

There's also the issue of numerous students being unable to comprehend the simple procedure of using D2L.

And many days, it isn't even possible to login to the site due to technical malfunctions – this means ITD should be prepared for the expected technical problems with Second MTSU.

Many of the realities of Second MTSU would be the same as First MTSU; for example, students would still have scheduled classes throughout the week.

The only things that would be different is that students would not have to deal with the constant financial burden of campus dining or the hang-ups of parking.

It wouldn't be that difficult to train people into using Second Life, but they would have to learn an entirely different interface of computing. Second Life has completely different menus, which require textual imaging when creating an avatar.

Sure, the virtual learning experience would be heightened and brought to a different light – it just isn't going to be the best idea for someone who cannot navigate D2L.

Ohio University has a demonstration video of its "remote campus" on YouTube, and the entire presentation is very convincing. But is it worth the money?

We are completely restructuring our university at the current moment, and it just seems like we may want to take a breather before we move a large portion of the university to a "tropical locale."

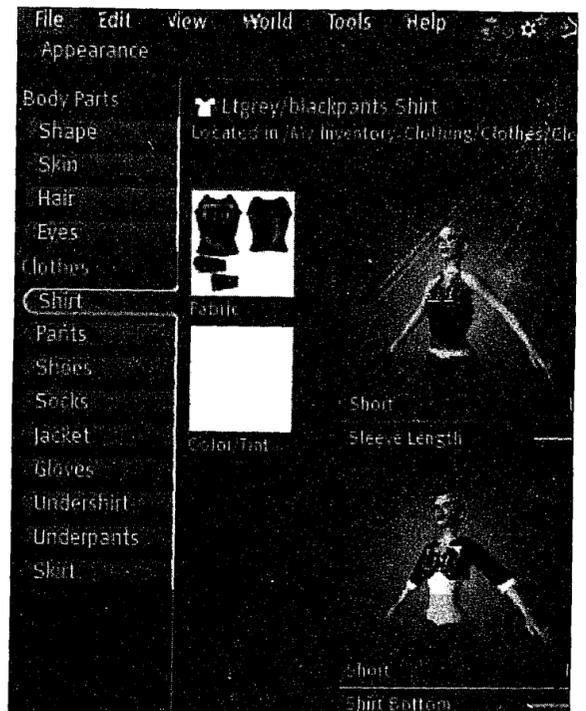


Photo courtesy East Tennessee State University
MTSU students who enroll in classes that will begin using the computer program Second Life in the fall will have the ability to customize their virtual appearance.

FACES IN THE CROWD

Are you planning on signing up for classes at MTSU that use Second Life?



Bass

"No. I like being on campus. I don't like doing online classes as it is."

Morgan Bass
junior electronic media major



Block

"No. I don't think I'd be able to do it. I'd get bored and walk away and make food or something."

Caroline Block
sophomore theater major



Hammill

"No. I'm a visual learner. We're in college, and making that effort to drive to campus is kind of a right of passage for students."

Blake Hammill
sophomore psychology major



Schmitter

"Maybe if it was something really boring like history. I'm all for physical classrooms, though."

Allison Schmitter
senior photography major

Effort may save dying art form

Lowering CD prices will hopefully rescue album cover designs

In mid-March, Universal Music Group announced that it would be lowering the price of CD prices in an effort to boost sales.

By lowering the cost of physical albums to \$10 or less, the idea is that people will buy them in stores – plastic cases and all – over using online sources like iTunes, Amazon and Rhapsody. Let's be honest, those three pretty much dominate the market.

The idea isn't that bad when you really think about it: If albums are selling for about \$7.99 to \$9.99 from online sources and anywhere from \$12 to \$15 in stores, the odds that the average consumer would choose to purchase the music online is pretty good.

When an album in stores is the same price or just a dollar or two more than it is online, everything changes. While there is no guarantee



Jonathan Herrmann
The usual vernacular

for a drastic turnaround, the price changes could at least slow the rapid growth of music downloading and spark the first real rise in physical sales in years.

Universal's plan is to save the sale of physical copies of its artists' music; if the experiment works, the company may save a lost art form in the process. The more physical albums are sold, the more relevant album art will become.

When vinyl ruled the world of music, album art

was a big deal. When the cover of an album is 12 inches by 12 inches, it has to be. When passing by a rack of vinyl albums the first thing anyone notices is the cover of the album.

With cassette tapes, cover art became less relevant, but CDs helped bring it back into the world of relevancy.

Digital downloads have hurt album sales and have nearly destroyed cover art. When artists design, or hire someone to design, their album covers, they do it with the idea that it will be seen by many people.

When the album art is produced for the purpose of a thumbnail photo on Amazon or iTunes, what reason does anyone have to put any effort into the production of album art?

Rolling Stone magazine's list of the top 100 album covers of all time does not in-

clude one album produced in the digital era. Most popular albums have begun to use little more than a headshot of the artist who released it; this was true for four of 2009's five top-selling albums.

A rise in CD sales could mean more effort put into what goes on the outside of albums. This isn't saying that someone will create the next Mona Lisa on the front of a CD in the next decade, but at least fans could see something somewhat more original than what amounts to a Facebook profile picture.

Who wouldn't love to see more iconic album covers – something so incredibly recognizable that even casual fans recognize it immediately countless years later? Try to imagine Taylor Swift's "Fearless" hanging on anyone's wall 40 years from now the way "Abbey Road" is all

across the country.

I can't begin to think of trading my blown up Beatles album cover for an exaggerated mug shot of a random pop-rock star with lots of make-up on.

Just imagine living in a place without the artwork from The Beatles' "Abbey Road" or "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band," The Rolling Stones' "Exile on Main St.," Bob Dylan's "Self Portrait," Miles Davis' "Bitches Brew," Fleetwood Mac's "Rumours" or The Clash's "London Calling."

I desperately hope that Universal's plan works. Album cover design is a form of art that the world would not be a better place without, I assure you.

Jonathan Herrmann is a junior journalism major. He can be reached at jrh6d@mtsu.edu.

Terrorism out of mind, but not sight

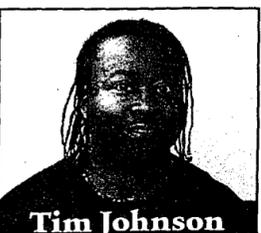
Did you think for one minute that terrorists would lay down their weapons and discontinue their activities just because George W. Bush is out of office?

Islamist Jihadists are murderers of freedom-loving people like you. The truth is, they hate you. They will always hate you.

Their purpose is to dominate you, make you submit to their will or die. I recognize that we must have moral clarity in this War on Terror, and we must fight this war as a war, not some police action.

We must recognize the enemy; close off any opportunities for the enemy to strike at us; and if profiling is necessary to keep us safe, then we must do so.

What has appeasement and negotiation strategies gained? More dead and



Tim Johnson
The virtual truth

more time for the terrorists to regroup and plan new ways to destroy you, recruit, and train themselves for another conflict.

You thought it was over? It's not over. There will be another conflict.

Look, there is no such thing as "talks" with the enemy. From early days to the present, this has proven to be a failed strategy. It has never worked and never will.

It goes without saying that every action has positive

and/or negative consequences, but so does inaction, which, of course, was the international community's preferred choice.

The fact is that the United States is not only the most hated country, but also the country that most people, given the chance, would like to live in.

The freedoms enjoyed – and perhaps taken for granted – by the average American are something to be envied and despised by those who have no real idea of how to embrace them. This is more true of those third world leaders who rule and live by 9th century ideology.

I am a realist. I don't like war, but war is a reality in this world because evil and tyranny conspires to use terror to force its ideologies upon the world.

Negotiation with radicals

must be done from a position of strength and power, stomping out the enemy. We must have an intended objective to totally destroy the enemy, leaving no doubt what the outcome will be if they threaten our security and way of life.

The Constitution makes it clear that protecting the nation is the No. 1 responsibility of the U.S. government, not the global community.

I am not pro-war, nor am I anti-Muslim, but I do recognize that these are dangerous times.

The enemy is willing to infiltrate places like the United States and lie dormant for years, exploiting the freedoms and hospitality of Americans while plotting to turn against the nation and destroy us.

They have no value for the sanctity of human life. We

must be proactive in our war on terror, targeting both terrorism and the nations sponsoring it in order to preserve our national security.

Keep in mind that no foreign policy is perfect – not U.S., European, Middle Eastern, Hispanic or Asian. Decisions are not always going to please everyone all the time.

But Winston Churchill could not have been any clearer when he said, "Radical Islam is the most retrograde force that civilization faces. It sees commerce, free trade, and material success as evil. It disempowers and oppresses women. It demands draconian punishment for disbelievers."

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

Comments from mtsusidelines.com

"At last! *Sidelines* has finally added a well-qualified columnist with wit, charm and enough sass to go around. Props to whoever made this call – for sure.

Aimeé rocks. Which wine will she cover next? I'm holding my breath."

–Megan Bridges on "Superior pairings," April 1

"Tennessee doesn't stray far from the stereotypes – go figure. Murfreesboro is a mecca of hope for the Land of Cultural Hegemony."

–Enlightened One on "Americans don't stray from stereotype," April 8

"The problem at its root is caused by American demand for cheap everything. As long as our economy demands fresh tomatoes in the frozen northeast in January, we will have illegal labor..."

–Ernie McCracken on "Bigger crackdown needed to stop illegal immigration," April 15

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Film festival brings out originality

By **JESSE CLOWER**
Contributing Writer

On the first night of the 10th Annual Student Film Festival, I walked in and took a seat next to a charismatic individual on his phone. "I don't care if you don't have a lock; you better get in here," he demands. "Bring that bike inside, and park it in the back of the theater."

I noticed his hands were bathed in a fresh layer of soot. It looks as if he had just left the coalmines, and now that his airways are free of potential black lung disease, he's utilizing every breath to express his enthusiasm about the night's featured films.

Having never met me, he leaned in with a quirky smile and jokingly told me that he's been telling people all day there would be free popcorn, pizza and drinks at the show. Amused, but now thoroughly hungry, I quickly change the subject to inquire about his hands.

"Ha! Yeah, I've never painted a naked person before, it got a little messy," says the individual whom I am now enthralled with.

Soon I would discover he had just rushed from an art class where he was using charcoal to draw a portrait of the nude guest they had posing.

It was at this point that I realized what the Student Film Festival was about – imaginative students with an appetite for creativity, showcasing their talent and expressing their originality.

Come to find out, this alluring individual is Russell White, sophomore liberal arts major and one in a team of writers, directors and actors of one of the night's short films, "Sleepy Pie-Skull News."

The Sleepy-Pie gang is made up of four creative individuals: Russell White, Cameron Chiles, Phillip Maloney and Amber Duarte.

"What's good about visual mediums, like film, is that it's able to tie in pretty much any other art," says Chiles. "The four of us have different talents; we can all write well, but we have different styles."

We all have something different we can bring, and film is nice to be able to tie it all together."

White says he enjoys film as a medium, but as an artist, he has access to multiple different methods.

"There's music, sculpture and painting," White says. "All these things I have access to, but film is definitely one of those that will stay in the main basket of ways to express one's self."

Sketch comedy was the basis for Sleepy Pie-Skull News' entertaining film, but there were several platforms, scenarios and genres being utilized throughout the festival.

"I was impressed," says Vida Robbins, a junior anthropology major who attended Monday night's screening. "I didn't know MTSU students were so talented and creative."

The two films most graciously received by the audience, "Squats" and "Ravioli Man," featured the acting and directing skills of Kenny Torrella, senior recording industry major.

"The films are a result of me and my friends being bored and having access to a digital camera," Torrella jokingly admits.

"Squats," a 55-second film about leg workouts without the use of equipment, was literally breathtaking. The film starts with a goofy yet determined Torrella doing squats with arms out, exaggerating every bend of the knees. Then in the most eloquent fashion befitting of gold-medal Russian figure skating, Torrella is hoisted up onto the shoulders of actor Hank Pruett where he lies gracefully outstretched like a swan in flight, only for Pruett to continue the plain-faced, uninspiring squats.

"Ravioli Man" clocked in at only one minute 27 seconds, and featured Torrella as a crazed ravioli fanatic, so enthusiastic about the Italian dish that he licks it off the wall. The combined two plus minutes of these films garnered an upheaval of laughs. Torrella's other two submissions, filmed on location in Bangkok, Thailand where the filmmaker was studying abroad, didn't disappoint either.

"This is the first MTSU film festival I've been a part of and I had a lot of fun with it," Torrella says. "I hadn't had any exposure to the film world at MTSU, and it was cool getting to meet other filmmakers."

Not all the films submitted were meant to elicit laughter, though. The second and third place winners, both submitted by Brian Harstine, were absent of humor. They touched on serious subjects in gruesome ways.

Third place went to "Runt," a film in which an undersized outcast stumbles upon a severed finger, and after taking it home to nurture, his bloody science experiment begins growing at an alarming rate.

Second place went to "5 Dollars," a film about domestic problems and blood-soaked secrets. A young brother and

sister are caught in a bribe that continually tears at the trust in an already broke home.

The first place prize went to "Late," submitted by Zach Hampton, sophomore mass communication major.

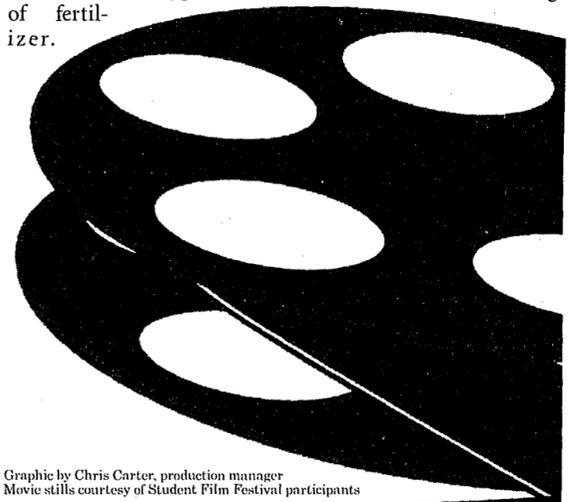
"I really enjoyed 'Late,'" White says. "It had awesome angles and good perspectives."

"Late" is a fast-paced string of events beginning with a student who wakes up and scrambles to get to class on time to turn in a paper. As the dialogue would prove, nothing goes right for the student. Six of the main actor's 12 words in the film are a certain four-letter expletive derived from a type of fertilizer.

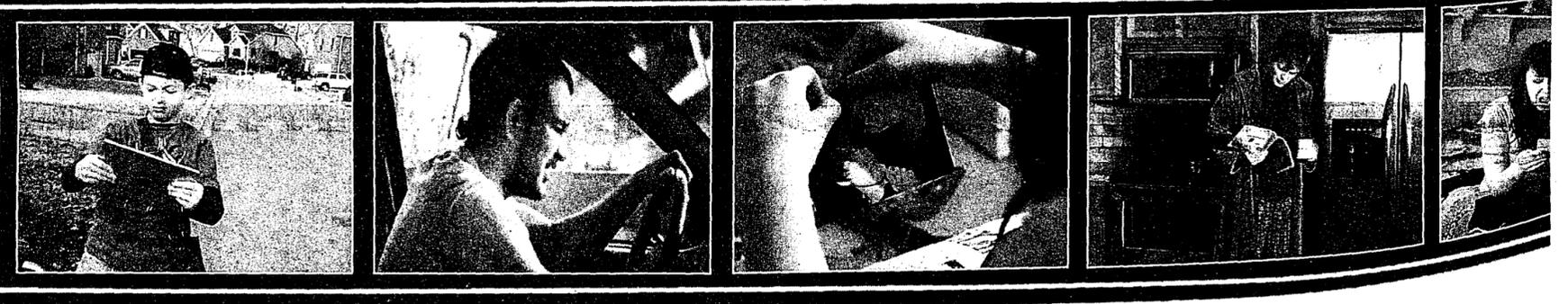
When a shoe turns up missing, a door handle falls off and his car won't start, each curse becomes increasingly justifiable.

Each submission was judged by its acting, directing, editing, effects, script, story and overall quality. The 10th Annual Student Film Festival was sponsored by the Nashville Film Festival, and presented by the MTSU Films Committee and MTSU Student Programming.

Regardless of the genre, length, quality or strangeness, every student who submitted a film, and all the people who helped in bringing those creative thoughts to reality, showed true talent in filmmaking.



Graphic by Chris Carter, production manager
Movie stills courtesy of Student Film Festival participants



Charlie Wu's woes receive recognition

By **KATY COIL**
Staff Writer

When you come to a crossroads in life, you have to choose whether to keep on your current path or take the road less traveled, to be somebody else.

That is the decision Charlie Wu faces in "The New, True Charlie Wu," when he must make the decision to leave behind the life he hates as an accountant in order to pursue his dream of becoming a high school marching band director.

The Public Relations Student Society of America staged a premiere at the John Bragg Mass Communication Building on Saturday as a means of raising money for the film and showing it to student audiences. At the premiere, director and writer Bob Pondillo, a professor in MTSU's electric media communication department, shared his inspiration for the film as well as the trials and triumphs of making it.

Pondillo has already directed three other short films: "Wait," "My Name is Wallace," and "Would You Cry if I Died." Several of these films star Pondillo's personal friend David Lawrence, who is known for his roles on television programs such as "Lost," "The Unit" and "Heroes."

Since its release, "The New, True Charlie Wu" has earned awards and recognition from various film festivals across the country and returned to MTSU for its hometown premiere.

The idea for the movie came to Pondillo in a dream, much like the dream Charlie experiences in the film.

"It's my life, it's what happened to me," he says. "I had a Charlie Wu moment, like the character in the film – I had a dream and that was the dream that changed me or at least put me on the path to a different life."

However, it took a while before Pondillo took his dream and began writing it into what would become the script for the movie.

"I'd been thinking about it for years," he says.



Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer
MTSU professor Bob Pondillo and the film crew review footage on the set of Pondillo's film "The New, True Charlie Wu," which has received awards and recognition from film festivals across the country.

"I even had one line of dialogue waiting to go and over the summer of 2008 when I was on vacation, it started tumbling out – it came out as a musical, of all things."

A few aspects of the film had to be changed for technical reasons, creating the white space background of the film.

"I wanted to shoot it on a beach, but technically it would be difficult to do that because of the moving sun and the elements," Pondillo explains. "I was convinced by Scott and Matthew Pessoni, who are MTSU alumni, that I didn't want to do that."

They said you want to shoot in a big white site area to give it the impression that Charlie is standing in a dreamscape."

Pondillo believes that it is everyone who works on the movie that makes the movie what it is, not just the writer, director or stars.

"Making a movie is a huge collaborative event," he says.

All in all, it took 15 months from when Pon-

dillo began writing throughout production for the film to be finished. He used the talents of 30 undergrads, six graduates, half dozen or more alumni, two faculty members and an entire marching band from Siegel High School for both on-screen and behind-the-scenes work. Bob Wood and Cosette Collier, professors in MTSU's recording industry management program, helped with the scoring of the film.

MTSU alumnus Janard Cross, who plays gospel singer Brother Janard in the film, first met Pondillo when he was faculty adviser at MTTV in the 2000-2001 school year. Janard consulted with Pondillo about the gospel scenes in the film when the script was in his infancy.

"Dr. Pondillo shared this with me when he was first getting started with the gospel music project," Cross says. "It's his baby, but it's also my baby – when he shared his heart with me through this film, I saw Charlie before I met Charlie."

Pondillo recruited the actors who starred in

his film in a wide variety of ways.

"I did some auditions, and asked some friends I knew," Pondillo explains. "David Lawrence is a good, good friend of mine and the guy who played Charlie I met in a screenwriting class."

Michael Su, who stars in the film as Charlie Wu, recalls how he became involved in the project.

"[Bob Pondillo] comes to me and says: 'I'm working on this project and I think you'd be really good in it,'" Su remembers. "For a while I didn't hear from him, then all of a sudden, we're meeting, we're shooting and next thing I know we're in the studio."

Pondillo has several tips for students or others who are aspiring filmmakers themselves.

"Make movies," he says. "If you wait for these big studios to call you, it's not going to happen – The only valid test of making movies is making them."

Connect the head to the heart and tell a great story."

Pondillo himself was surprised by the décor and amount of effort the members of PRSSA put into the film premiere itself. The members are hoping that the premieres of the film will not only expose the film to the public but will help pay off debts acquired while making the film.

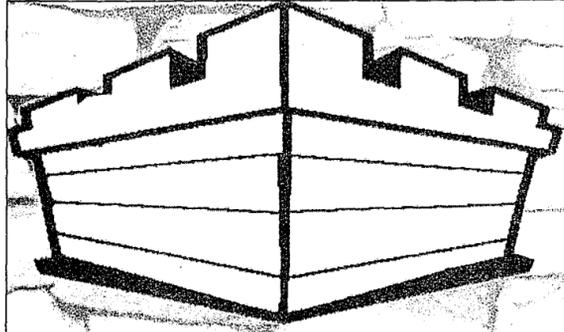
"We're trying to raise money to cover the remainder of the cost of this film," says PRSSA member Jolina St. Pierre. "We showed it earlier this morning at the Premiere 6 in town."

Meanwhile, Pondillo is already preparing for his next film; a fairytale with children playing adults.

"It's called Miracles on Honey Bee Hill," he says. "It's not a children's movie, but it's a movie with children in it – it's about love, acceptance and forgiveness."

Most of all, Pondillo hopes that everyone can relate to Charlie Wu.

"Maybe you'll see a lot of yourself in this movie," he says. "You may eventually have a Charlie Wu moment or you may have had one."



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