

# MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2010

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## Success vs. Snake Eyes

### College-age students have highest risk of gambling issues

By CHRISTOPHER MERCHANT  
Assistant News Editor

The recent allegation that senior quarterback Dwight Dasher borrowed money for gambling has attracted national attention, and the issue of college students participating in illegal gambling has been thrust into the spotlight.

"The 18- to 24-year-old age range has the highest rates of gambling participation and addiction," said Keith Whyte, executive director of the National Council on Problem Gambling. "After 25, we see these rates go down."

This age range is most prone to problem gambling because it is associated with "a time of great risk taking," Whyte said.

For instance, 30 percent of college-age students have bet on a sporting event during the

past year, compared to only 15 percent of people older than 25 years old who made such bets in the last year, Whyte said.

"Sports betting is huge for this range," Whyte said.

In addition, student-athletes have been found to be more susceptible to developing a gambling problem than their fellow students, Whyte said.

"Being a student athlete is a major risk factor for gambling participation and gambling problems," Whyte said. "A lot of the traits that make a good athlete can contribute to problem gambling."

Whyte said that traits that are valued in athletes, such as the willingness to take risks, exude over-confidence, portray a sense of entitlement, and the ability to ignore pain, are also traits of problem gamblers.

"The same ability to play through a game with a sprained ankle will allow someone to lose \$500 in an hour at a card table," Whyte said.

However, while many people are likely to gamble more during their late teens and early-20s that does not necessarily mean they will develop a gambling problem.

"Gambling can be problematic, but not addicting [for some students]," Whyte said. "It's like binge drinking: Students may party, get drunk and throw up when they are in school, but that doesn't mean

that they are an alcoholic."

Whyte said that "when a person is unable to set a reasonable limit on the time and money" they will spend gambling, and then "stick to it," they have a gambling problem.

GAMBLING, PAGE 2



## “QUOTE OF THE DAY”

"A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity. An optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty."

Winston Churchill

## Funding of Science Building remains mired by state politics

By MARIE KEMPH  
News Editor

The future of the new Science Building remains unclear since the Tennessee General Assembly again refused to provide financial support for the project, but efforts to obtain funding from the state will continue, according to officials in the MTSU administration.

For more than 10 years, the university has sought funding that would pay for constructing a new stand-alone building. Although the prospect of state approval seemed likely earlier this year, officials from both the General Assembly and MTSU administration blame politics for its subsequent failure.

"We'd like to start work as soon as possible, but the money just isn't there," said John Hood, director of Community Engagement and Support at MTSU. "For now, we just wait until the time that the funds are available, and until then we can

only plan."

During the first quarter of 2010, Tennessee's foreign shipments rose by 27 percent. The largest gains were in the state's biggest trade sectors, of which the transportation and chemical industries experienced more than a 50 percent jump in growth in just one year, according to the MTSU Business and Economic Research Center.

In meetings of the Budget Finance Committee in May regarding the 2010-2011 state budget, an amendment to provide \$80 million of the required \$143 million to begin construction was dropped because of its late entry into the legislative process, Hood said.

During an impromptu interview at Slick Pig BBQ in July, Republican state Rep. Joe Carr said he was surprised when Hood told him to "pull the amendment" at the last minute.

SCIENCE, PAGE 4

## Greeks kick off fall recruitment

### Enrollment expected to rise, 'Greekfest' offers options

By JOSHUA M. WARD  
Assistant News Editor

Greek organizations converged outside of the Keathley University Center on Tuesday to jumpstart fall recruitment efforts by hosting "Greekfest," an informational session open to all students interested in joining one of the 30 fraternities and sororities on campus.

More than 20 fraternities and sororities set up tables on the Knoll and interacted with students, giving them information about Greek life. There were awards and large wooden letters on display, drawing in many passing by.

Browder, who is a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon, said that while his fraternity was not actively recruiting at the event, the best way to get students interested in Greek life is through simple conversation.

"Basically we just hang out with them," said Blake Browder, a senior majoring in concrete industry management. "We just make [new students] feel welcome, [and] we're not trying too hard - if they want to come through, they can."

Other Greek organizations used the same approach, choosing to engage with students on a more friendly level and inform them about Greek life instead of trying to recruit them.

"Really, I think the conversation is the most important thing that we've been looking at as far as a recruiting tool," said Porsche Kristina, a junior majoring in organizational communications and president of Zeta Tau Alpha. "We've just decided to go pro-Greek for right now, so it's not really about recruitment."

Students that spoke with some of the fraternities and sororities said that the strategy was effective for the most part, and that the down-to-earth interaction was a major factor in developing their interest in joining.

"It didn't seem like they were pushing me to join yet," said Aubrey Denton, a freshman majoring in nursing. "They were just giving me a basic overview of what they do and what Greek life is [about]."

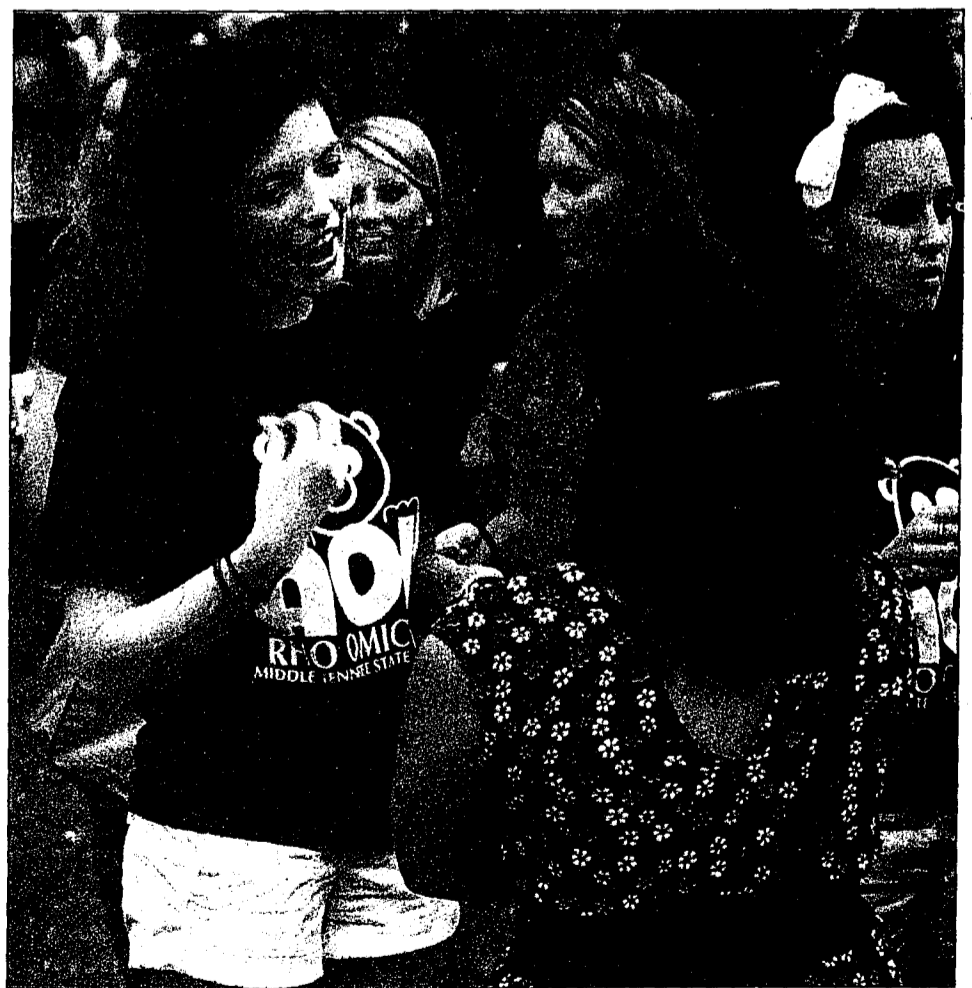


Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor  
Jordan Ferguson (Left), a junior majoring in the College of Liberal Arts and member of Alpha Omicron Pi, speaks to Bianca Kakade, a sophomore majoring in pharmaceuticals who is going through recruitment.

RECRUITMENT, PAGE 2

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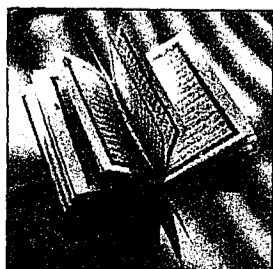
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Immersing oneself in a culture enlightens participants' perspectives.

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IN TODAY'S ISSUE



Burning of Quran highlights radicals and not the majority of America.

ONLINE @

MTSUSIDELINES.COM

## THURSDAY FORECAST

CLOUDY AND SHOWERS  
30% CHANCE OF RAIN  
HIGH 85, LOW 60

**GAMBLING FROM PAGE 1**

Easy accessibility to gambling is linked to developing a gambling illness, Whyte said. The prevalence of online poker and other remote betting services makes gambling more passive.

"[Students] are doing their gambling online because all it takes is a little bit of money, there is no cash in hand," said Sgt. Broede Stucky of the MTSU Department of Public Safety.

One college student who attends Gamblers Anonymous meetings and wished not to be named said other behaviors could indicate a problem.

"A lot of people will steal from their parents or from their [significant other,] the anonymous source said, adding that when gambling replaces a regular routine, it has begun to interfere with your life.

"I got a lack of sleep because I was a sports bettor," the anonymous source said. "I did a lot of statistic studying on the computer at night - it can affect anything, from your eating habits to your mood."

In addition to being accessible, gambling is becoming more acceptable, Whyte said.

"Statistics show that most kids probably grew up in a house with parents who gambled, even if it was just things like the lottery or a church raffle," Whyte said.

State-run gambling, such as the lottery, also makes betting seem more common, Whyte said.

"The only legalized form of gambling that I am aware of is the [state-run] lottery," Stucky said. "Online gambling in the state of Tennessee is technically illegal."

According to the Tennessee Code Annotated, gambling, or "risking anything of value for a profit whose return is to any degree contingent on chance," is a Class C Misdemeanor, punishable by up to 30 days in jail or a fine of up to \$50.

Currently, the U.S. House of Representatives is considering a pending bill entitled the Internet Gambling, Regulation, Consumer Enforcement, and Protection Act. If it is passed, the pending legislation will allow the federal government to offer licensing for Internet gambling to companies within the United States.

The problem lies, though, not with an acceptance of gambling, but with the need to bet more and more money in order to get the same excitement, Whyte said.

"People who start gambling early can develop a need for the buzz, and they can't seem to stop," Whyte said.

Some people who engage in harmful gambling now will not meet the criteria for gambling addiction in 10 years, Whyte said, but it can also be linked to other dependencies.

"Things like gambling, alcohol abuse, drug abuse and sex addiction tend to cluster together," Whyte said. "It's cumulative - 50 percent of gamblers meet the diagnosis for some form of substance abuse."

Problem gamblers also have one of the highest rates of attempted suicides and serious thoughts about suicide when compared to people with other illnesses, Whyte said.

People who think that they might have a gambling problem should not assume that they cannot change their life just because of their increased risk factor, Whyte said.

"For people with impulse problems, especially college students, there is help available," Whyte said. The National Problem Gambling Hotline is toll free, nationwide, and confidential, Whyte said.

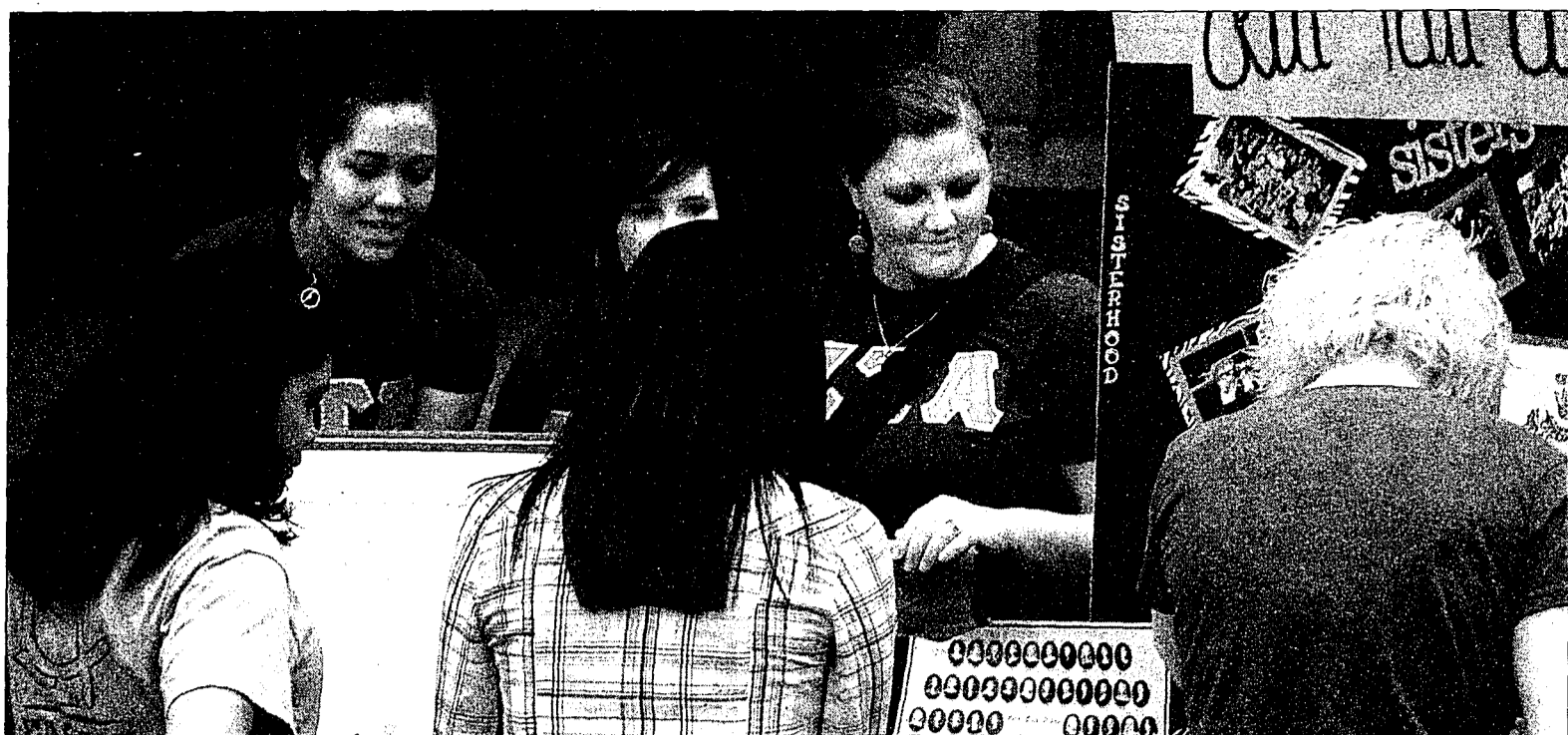


Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor  
Amber Gray (Middle), a Panhellenic Council delegate who serves as a judicial chair and member of Zeta Tau Alpha, speaks to potential recruitments at "Greekfest," an information session that allows students to speak to different members of Greek organizations, on Tuesday.

**Recruitment expected to rise**

**RECRUITMENT FROM PAGE 1**

Denton said that the interactions she had did have a positive impact on whether or not she would decide to join a sorority.

"Coming into college, I knew that I might want to join, but now I know that I really want to," Denton said.

Future plans for fraternities are unsure for now, but formal sorority recruitment begins next week.

"Students will definitely have the opportunity to meet and get to know members of Greek organizations," said Angela King, director of Greek Affairs, referring to upcoming events that fraternities and sororities are planning to host throughout the next few weeks.

Interfraternity Council President Craig Hutto, a senior in the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, said as of this week, more than 96 people have signed up to formally rush for one of the eleven fraternities that comprise the governing council, which is much higher than normal.

The IFC comprises Alpha Gamma Rho, Alpha Tau Omega, Kappa Alpha, Pi Kappa Alpha, Pi Kappa Phi, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Sigma Chi, Sigma Nu, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Sigma Pi and Tau Kappa Epsilon.

Formal recruitment begins Sept. 20, and members of IFC fraternities will be hosting various open-house tours on Greek Row. Hutto said, however, that potential members would otherwise not be allowed on campus Greek property during that time.

Multicultural Greek Council President Shabnam Etemadi said fraternities and sororities a part of its governing body are actively recruiting for more members.

"We are looking to expand our membership," said Etemadi, a senior in the College of Behavioral Sciences. "We don't do

**GREEK RECRUITMENT**

**Panhellenic Sorority Recruitment**

The following organizations will be participating in formal recruitment on Sept. 16-20: Alpha Chi Omega, Alpha Delta Pi, Alpha Omicron Pi, Chi Omega, Kappa Delta and Zeta Tau Alpha.

**Interfraternity Council Recruitment**

The following organizations are participating in formal recruitment on Sept. 20-25: Alpha Gamma Rho, Alpha Tau Omega, Kappa Alpha Order, Kappa Sigma, Pi Kappa Alpha, Pi Kappa Phi, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Sigma Chi, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Sigma Nu, Sigma Pi and Tau Kappa Epsilon.

**National Pan-Hellenic Council Fraternity & Sorority Recruitment**

The following organizations will be participating in fall recruitment: Alpha Kappa Alpha, Alpha Phi Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta, Iota Phi Theta, Kappa Alpha Psi, Omega Psi Phi, Phi Beta Sigma, Sigma Gamma Rho and Zeta Phi Beta.



*The Office of Greek Affairs advises 30 fraternities and sororities on campus. The organizations are governed by the Interfraternity Council (IFC), the Multicultural Greek Council (MGC), the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) and the Panhellenic Council (PHC).*

**UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS:**

- Sept. 16 through 20: PHC Recruitment
- Sept. 20 through 26: IFC Recruitment
- Sept. 27: National Hazing Prevention Week

**For more information on recruitment and events, visit [mtsu.edu/greeks](http://mtsu.edu/greeks).**

Graphic by Andy Harper, production manager

recruitment like the other Greek councils, but we do participate in events sponsored by Greek Affairs."

Etemadi said the Multicultural Greek Council provides opportunities for its members to build relationships with people of diverse backgrounds and become involved in the MTSU community through various interest groups and activities.

The National Pan-Hellenic Council, which serves as the official coordinating and governing agency of eight fraternities and sororities. The four fraternities of NPHC are Alpha Phi Alpha, Kappa Alpha

Psi, Omega Psi Phi and Phi Beta Sigma, and the four sororities are Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta, Sigma Gamma Rho and Zeta Phi Beta.

President Ashlee R. Gray, a senior majoring in public relations, said the NPHC has planned to host an informational session on Oct. 5 for interested students, but all students are welcomed to join in on the fun when the council hosts its 30th Annual Homecoming Stephshow on Oct. 22 in the Murphy Center.

"Essentially, all of the groups are recruiting, but each fraternity and sorority follows different recruiting methods," King said.

**WHAT'S A FOUR-LETTER WORD FOR BROKE?**

(ANSWER: KYLE)

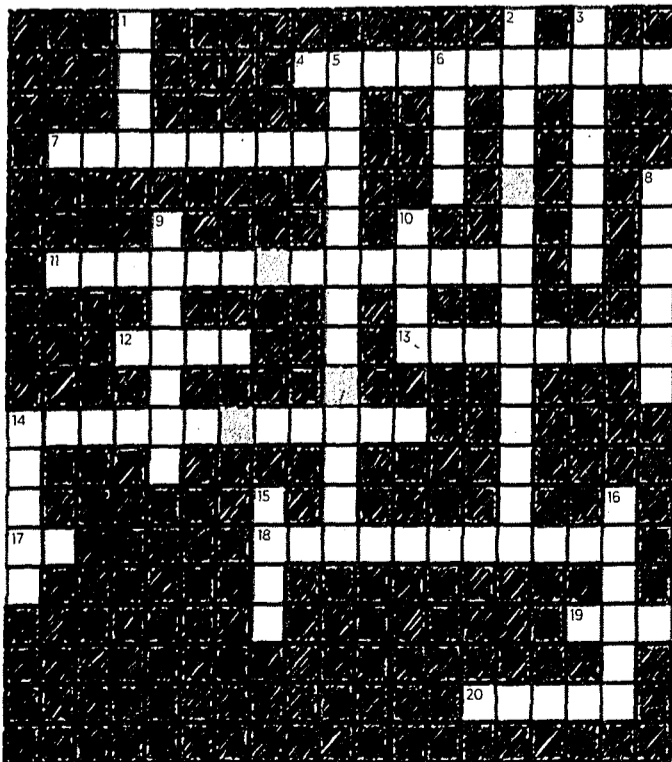
Good with money? Try this crossword and find out if you're smarter than "that guy," Kyle. He's bad with finances and even worse at crossword puzzles. To see him in action, go to [53.com/students](http://53.com/students). While you're there, enter to win a \$10,000 scholarship or other great prizes.

**ACROSS**

- 4 The more you make the less you have.
- 7 It costs you more when you spend too much.
- 11 How money puts itself into your account.
- 12 Money you get to use, but not keep.
- 13 You live in a house, but you pay this down.
- 14 Don't give yourself too much of it. Or them.
- 17 A diploma (of sorts) awarded by the bank (Abbr.).
- 18 A great town and state of mind.
- 19 Kyle's personal line of credit (Abbr.).
- 20 Kyle's constant financial situation.

**DOWN**

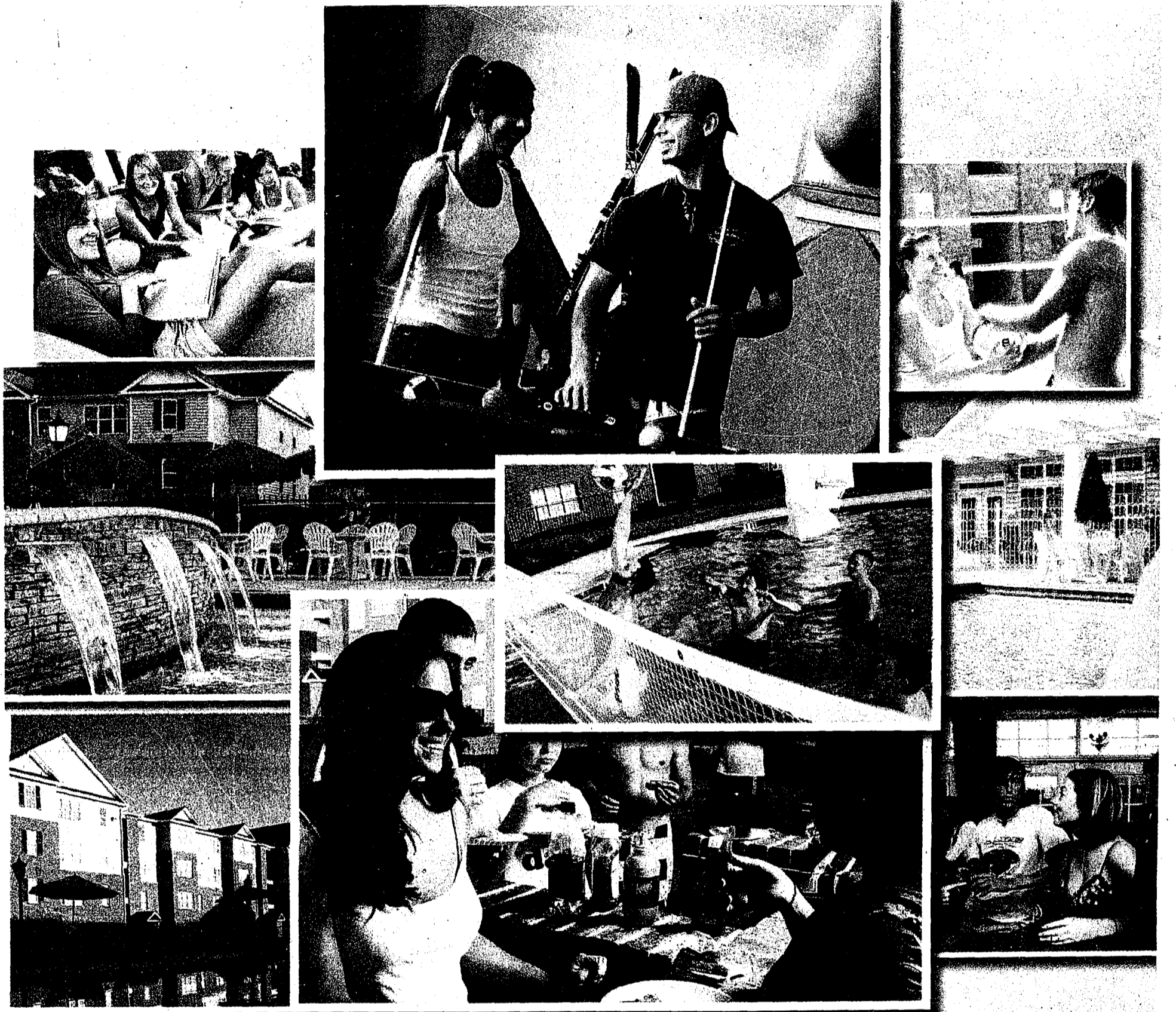
- 1 Kyle's name for man, woman or child (Slang).
- 2 A monthly declaration of your accounts.
- 3 You can't lose it, but you need to keep track of it.
- 5 A high one is good for savings, but bad for debt.
- 6 "I don't want to go into it," monetarily speaking.
- 8 A plan that's money.
- 9 You take it to the bank.
- 10 Kyle's explosive exclamation.
- 14 Use it, and your own autograph costs you.
- 15 Along a river or a corner.
- 16 Paydays: All of them.



ACROSS (4) Withdrawals, (7) Overdraft, (11) Direct Deposit, (12) Loan, (13) Mortgage, (14) Credit Cards, (17) CD, (18) Awesometown, (19) IOU, (20) Broke  
DOWN (1) Dude, (2) Bank Statement, (3) Balance, (5) Interest Rate, (6) Debt, (8) Budget, (9) Deposit, (10) Boom, (11) Check, (15) Bank, (16) Income.



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# Political science adds new minor

By MARIE KEMPH  
News Editor

The department of political science is now offering a new political and civic engagement minor to its list of available undergraduate programs, giving students the chance to learn how to become engaged in their local communities, according to an MTSU press release Tuesday.

"In this highly politically charged era, the department of political science steps forward with its new minor to guide students in ways so that they can become more fully involved in society," according to the press release.

"Part of the idea here is citizen training, but in a newer sense of the term – in the sense that it's important for people to be engaged in society in order for democracy to work," said Stephen Morris, who serves as chair of the department of political science.

The minor will include an experiential learning track that will combine real-world activi-

ties with concepts and theories learned in the classroom, and the new program has been designed for students of all majors.

"It's important for students to participate in democracy, and so, it provides the skills, [and] the experiences for students to be able to do that once they graduate," Morris said.

Some of the activities that students will be doing include participating in the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature, and partaking in legal courtroom and mediation procedures through mock trials.

A new political science course has also been created as part of the new minor, titled "Civic Advocacy," which will teach students how to be a community organizer and engage in social activism.

Sekou Franklin, a professor in the department of political science, designed the course's learning objectives.

Franklin has a personal track record of social activism in Middle Tennessee, and he is best known for his work in "promoting green jobs as a way for people to lift themselves out of poverty,"

**"In this highly politically charged era, the department of political science steps forward with its new minor to guide students in ways so that they can become more fully involved in society."**

MTSU PRESS RELEASE

according to the press release.

As part of his advocacy work, Franklin sits on the advisory board for the Tennessee Alliance for Progress; a community activist group based out of Nashville that promotes progressive policies.

It is affiliated with Green for All, the national organization founded by Van Jones that helped to jumpstart the green jobs movement in the United States, and its mem-

bers have been influenced by the Apollo Alliance's 10-point plan for energy independence through environmentally friendly jobs that promote social equity, according to the TAP organization's website.

"TAP believes that progressives need to articulate a hopeful vision for the future based on the idea that are all in it together, not that we are all on our own and out for ourselves," according to its website.

However, Morris said the communication, managerial, planning and analytical skills learned through the courses in the minor are applicable across a wide range of profession, not just those directly involved with shaping public policy.

"The job opportunities that are going to be out there – the new jobs – that are going to be created in the near future coalesce with the types of changes that we

make in terms of public policy," Morris said. "Every field that you go into has some type of political dimension to it."

The department of political science has an excellent record of placing students in internships with various government bodies and agencies, and many undergraduates have been selected for internships with political campaigns nationally and locally, Morris said.

Morris said merely voting in elections is not a sufficient definition of good citizenship. He said higher education has not done an adequate job of communicating that fact, even though it is easier than ever to become politically involved through the "technical wizardry of the Internet."

"The degree of polarization that we have reached in this country has indicated to people that if you just leave it for others to resolve the political problems, they probably will not be resolved in a way that is satisfactory to oneself," Morris said.

## Lawmakers reject proposed construction project

SCIENCE  
FROM PAGE 1

"It was a game of political ping-pong," Carr said.

Although Hood, who is a former Democratic state lawmaker, confirmed that he did relay that message when the General Assembly was in special session, he said it was because the amendment had been introduced too late for proper debate.

"It was a last minute deal," President Sidney McPhee said, referring to the circumstances surrounding Hood's actions on the floor of the General Assembly. "Politics is the art of compromise."

McPhee said MTSU officials knew the amendment that pro-

Carr said he still thinks state lawmakers should try to figure out how to provide funding for the Science Building, and he said it would be a positive addition to the MTSU campus and a good investment in higher education.

The Science Building remains the top priority on the Tennessee Higher Education Commission's capital outlay list, which determines how appropriations of state funds for construction projects in post-secondary institutions across the state are doled out to public universities and community colleges.

"We hope to keep it at No. 1 because it's taken a while to get there," said John Cothorn, senior vice president of MTSU.

During an interview

**"I'm still hopeful that we will figure out a way to secure funding for a new science building. It may take longer than I'd like, but students should know we are working to resolve the matter."**

BRAD BARTEL  
UNIVERSITY PROVOST

posed funding the Science Building did not have enough support from state lawmakers, and that everyone involved felt it would be better to wait until they could gain more support before requesting the funding.

"If the amendment had been put to a vote, and turned down, then [the university] would not have had any way to continue to work for the necessary funding," McPhee said. "The votes just were not there this year."

The Tennessee budget that passed in May includes appropriations for several construction projects, and initial authorizations for funds in the bill appropriate more than \$105 million statewide to public universities and community colleges for improvements and upgrades for on-campus structures, not buildings.

last month, University Provost Brad Bartel agreed with Carr's sentiments about the importance of having a Science Building on MTSU's campus.

"We need to update the antiquated science facilities on campus," Bartel said, adding that he was disappointed to learn that the funding for the Science Building remains in political limbo, especially in light of the fact that in the 21st century economy science education will continue to be at the forefront of innovation.

"I'm still hopeful that we will figure out a way to secure funding for a new science building," Bartel said. "It may take longer than I'd like, but students should know we are working to resolve the matter."

Joshua M. Ward, assistant news editor, contributed to this report.



Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor

Erin Rehberg, an adjunct instructor of dance for the department of speech and theatre, is serving as the faculty advisor for Generation Next, teaches students yesterday as part of her effort to better prepare them for the college experience.

## Program helps first-generation freshmen adjust to college life

By ANDY HARPER  
Production Manager

A new program run by the Academic Support Center and aimed to help first-generation freshman students integrate into collegiate life began this semester with 50 incoming students.

The Next Generation Learning Living Community program, which is being funded through an Access and Diversity Initiative grant offered by the Tennessee Board of Regents, helps eligible freshmen adjust to on-campus living.

Laurie Witherow, director of the Academic Support Center, and Vincent Windrow, director of Intercultural and Diversity Affairs, applied for the \$118,000 grant. The funds will be distributed over a three-year period to help with associated start-up costs and program maintenance.

"The grants are heavily front-loaded in money, so that each year the institution has to pick up more and more of the cost," Witherow said. "The hope is at the end of the three years, the institution makes the decision that this program worked, and it's something we will continue in some form."

Generation Next is designed to help students pay for the initial costs of living, and the program also provides a live-in faculty advisor. Witherow said because the Office of Housing and Residential Life requires a \$300 prepayment, the grant helps pay for eligible students' fees.

"We are trying to support first-generation students, [those] who may be in some financial need – for who the \$300 prepayment that is required by housing might be a deal breaker," Witherow said.

Witherow said the program also provides assistance to students who have faced other adversity. This semester, some of the participants include students who were in fos-

ter care prior to be an adult, while others are disabled.

"We looked at mainly Rutherford County, but also other contiguous counties," Witherow said. "Because, we know that living on campus during your freshman years increases your chance of graduation by 10 percent."

Erin Rehberg, an adjunct instructor of dance for the department of speech and theatre, is serving as the faculty advisor for Generation Next.

As a part of the program, students

**"I want to get the skills I didn't come to college with. I'm learning how to manage my time, my money - stuff regular teachers wouldn't teach me."**

BEN NICHOLS  
FRESHMAN BUSINESS MAJOR

room together alongside faculty advisor Rehberg in Jim Cummings Hall, in hopes of improving community interaction, Witherow said. Students also take their required university studies from Rehberg.

"So the students live in the building, they take classes in the building from their advisor who also lives there and has an office there," Witherow said. "She serves the academic and social needs of that group of 50 students while also trying to support the rest of the community in the building."

Rehberg said her main focus is advising students academically and providing any support they may need during their first year of college.

"What I see as my main goal is to graduate these kids," Rehberg said. "We have foster children, adopted children, children from single-parent homes, kids who have technically been homeless for a great portion of their lives – the group is as

dynamic as it can possibly get – I think that is what is making them so open to different conversations and are motivated to have a great college career."

An event budget is also built into the program, allowing Rehberg to schedule and pay for social outings like cookouts and on-campus performances.

"We're just finding ways for students to get involved to a level where they're comfortable and [can] make a home here," Rehberg said.

Rehberg said that even though she will only be directly working with Generation Next participants during their freshman year, she plans on staying fully involved with her students as they progress through their college career.

"I want to get the skills I didn't come to college with," said Ben Nichols, a freshman business major and member of Gen. Next. "I'm learning how to manage my time, my money – stuff regular teachers wouldn't teach me."

Other students, like freshman undeclared major, Chanel Miller, echoed Nichols sentiment. She said Rehberg's class is helping her learn how to be successfully independent.

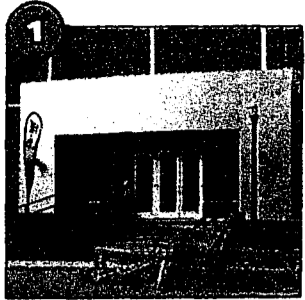
"I'm here so I can be an officer in the Army," said Wesley Smitty, a freshman majoring in exercise science. "I want to know more about the people who are here and learn how to communicate better with them, hopefully giving me a better college experience."

Witherow said the best part of the Generation Next community is the strong relationships and support network that the program aims to build.

"Bad things will happen in every student's life," Witherow said, "and if a student is really tied here, they're going to make it through those things. If they're not, sometimes those things will be a deal-breaker and they'll go home."



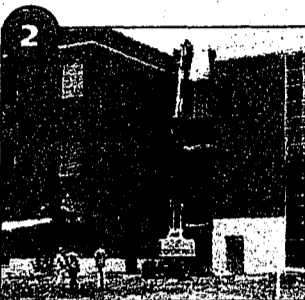
# Under Construction: campus expands



## CORLEW HALL

Renovations of Corlew Residence Hall completed in July in time for students enrolled in the fall semester to begin occupying the dormitory again.

The renovation of the dormitory is just one of many dorms slated to be redone in the coming years.

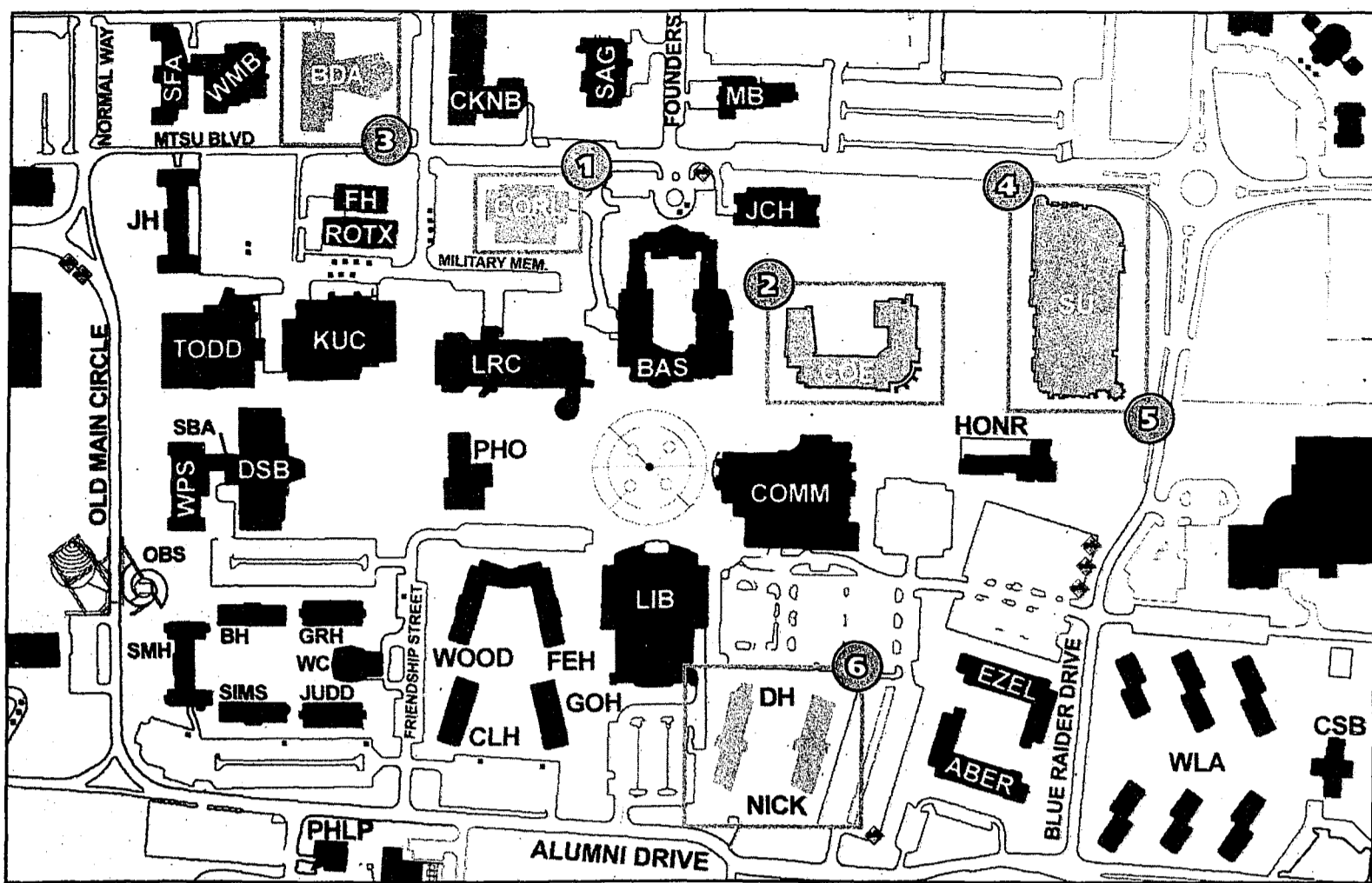


## EDUCATION BUILDING

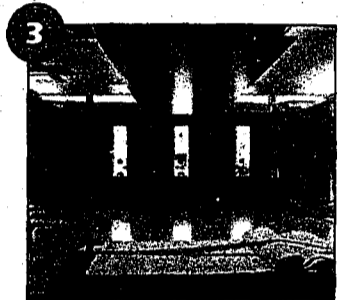
The College of Education Building has remained on schedule since the project began in October.

The building is not slated for completing until next summer but made significant progress over the past summer.

The building was funded with the help of state bonds and according to Arthur Reed, manager of Campus Planning, faculty members should be able to move into the building next year.



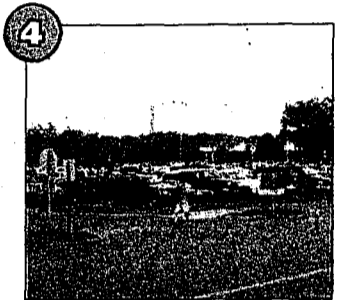
Graphic by Andy Harper, production manager / Photos by Jay Bailey, photography editor; Erin O'Leary, staff photographer; Sean Pietzsch, contributing photographer / Text by Alex Moorman, editor in chief



## TUCKER THEATRE

Renovations to the Tucker Theatre were completed in August, and according to MTSU officials should be ready for student and faculty use this semester.

The theater was paid for by maintenance funds and federal funding.



## PARKING GARAGE

A parking garage has been approved by the Tennessee Board of Regents and is slated for construction next year.

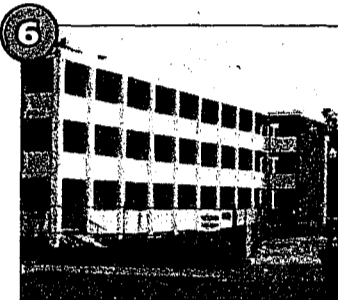
MTSU was approved in July for funding but has yet to release a concrete date when construction will begin.



## STUDENT UNION

The Student Union Building is set to be finished and available for use during the summer of 2012.

Construction on the building did not begin until after the Education Building was laid, but the project remains on schedule.



## DEERE AND NICKS HALLS

Both Deere and Nicks Residence Halls have been under renovation since the beginning of the summer and are slated for completion next year.

The construction will provide mechanical, plumbing and electrical upgrades.

## CRIME BRIEFS

**Traffic**  
Sept. 1, 10 a.m.  
Blue Raider Drive  
Kelly D. Reed, 38, was issued a state citation for a registration violation.

**Theft**  
Sept. 1, 12:25 a.m.  
James E. Walker Library  
ATI-83 calculator was reported stolen.

**Alarm**  
Sept. 2, 3:57 a.m.  
Lyon Hall  
A fire alarm went off.

**Theft**  
Sept. 2, 7:13 a.m.  
Rutledge Hall  
Two bicycles were reported stolen.

**Theft**  
Sept. 2, 11:46 a.m.  
Learning Resources Center  
A purse was reported stolen.

**Alarm**  
Sept. 2, 12:03 p.m.  
Keathley University Center  
There was a report of smoke coming from a dumpster.

**DUI**  
Sept. 2, 7:55 p.m.  
Alumni Drive  
Wesley W. Hall, 20, was arrested for a 1st offense of driving under the influence.

**Alcohol**  
Sept. 2, 10:15 p.m.  
Business Aerospace Building  
Amy Munroe, 23, was arrested for public intoxication and resisting arrest.

**Alarm**  
Sept. 2, 10:34 p.m.  
Floyd Stadium  
There was a fire alarm reported.

**Warrant**  
Sept. 3, 12:56 a.m.  
Middle Tennessee Boulevard  
Raymond Neuman, 29, was arrested on a warrant for violating probation.

**DUI**  
Sept. 3, 1:03 a.m.  
East Main Street  
Jennifer Winters, 21, was arrested for

a first offense of driving under the influence and violation of implied consent.

**Assault**  
Sept. 3, 2:44 a.m.  
Womack Lane Apartments  
There was a report of roommates fighting.

**Traffic**  
Sept. 3, 10:51 a.m.  
Sam Ingram Building  
There was a hit and run accident reported.

**Harassment**  
Sept. 3, 10:56 a.m.  
MTSU Office of Public Safety  
A female student filed a harassment report.

**Suspicious Person(s)**  
Sept. 3, 10:22 p.m.  
Smith Hall  
Addison B. Depauw, 18, was arrested for underage consumption of alcohol and public intoxication.

**Alcohol**  
Sept. 4, 2:45 a.m.  
Felder Hall  
Kathan Lillard-Tate, 20, was arrested for underage consumption.

**Alcohol**  
Sept. 4, 11:25 p.m.  
Rutherford Boulevard  
Nicholas Coates, 18, was arrested for underage consumption of alcohol. Christopher Hernandez, 18, was issued a state citation for underage consumption of alcohol.

**Alcohol**  
Sept. 5, 1:40 a.m.  
Greek Row  
Tyler Kuhn, 20, was issued a state citation for underage consumption of alcohol. Taylor Caruth, 19, and Benjamin Guenther, 19, were also issued state citations for underage consumption of alcohol.

**Alcohol**  
Sept. 5, 2:40 a.m.  
Greek Row  
Charles Patterson was issued a state citation for underage consumption of alcohol, simple possession, drug paraphernalia, criminal impersonation and violating juvenile curfew.

## CRIME STOPPERS

Crime Stoppers is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 that leads to the arrest of the person or persons who broke into Room 105 of the Saunders Fine Arts Building and stole a white iMac desktop computer and 21-inch monitor, and attempted to break into Room 113 in the building. The crimes were committed sometime between 4 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 12 and 8:25 the next morning.

Crime Stoppers is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information that leads to the arrest of the person or persons who have stolen LCD Projectors from the James Union Building. A white Epson Multimedia Projector was

stolen sometime between 3:30 p.m. on Wed., July 21. In addition, two other Epson LCD Projectors, several Sure microphones, and other electronic equipment were stolen from Room 200 of the James Union Building sometime between noon Sat., June 19 and 3:30 p.m. the following day.

Crime Stoppers is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information that leads to the arrest of the person or persons who unlawfully entered a white 1999 Ford Explorer parked in the Davis Science Building parking lot and burglarized, among other things, a Garmin GPS and a Sony CD player sometime between

2 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Sun., Aug. 15.

Crime Stoppers is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information that leads to the arrest of the person or persons who stole five boxes of books and a set of tools from a closet in Jones Hall, Room 311.

Crime Stoppers is offering a reward of up to \$300 for information that leads to the arrest of the person or persons who stole four MTSU Dining signs and two sign holders from the James Union Building Cafeteria sometime between 3 p.m. on Sat., Aug. 14 and 7 a.m. the following day.



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# September Specials



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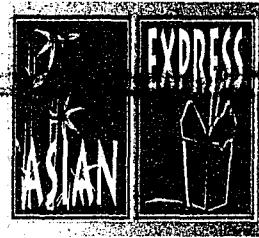
Bagel, Smear and Regular Coffee



Small Tuna Sandwich, Chips & 22oz. Drink



Blue Plate Special



1 Item Combo



Any topping pizza with 22oz. drink  
And .99 breadsticks with any special!



Burger and Drink



6" Cold Cut Combo



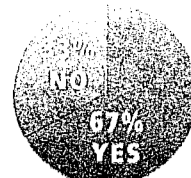
1 Topping Pizza Slice, Side Salad & 22oz. Drink



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# FEATURES



DID YOU RECEIVE FINANCIAL AID THIS SEMESTER?

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# Transcending culture through study

## Students take opportunity to experience similar interests through different perspective

By LAURA AIKEN  
Features Editor

Sight-seers look through rose-colored glasses as they toss their euros in Rome's Fontana di Trevi for good luck. They capture a snapshot of moments that are immortalized on their living room walls, and while some may find this experience appealing, in many ways, it lacks a depth and understanding of foreign cultures that some MTSU students say can only be gained through a study abroad program.

MTSU's study abroad programs not only broaden students' horizons but also encourage intercultural competence — an eye-opening experience unlike any other.

Jordan Kirkman, a senior majoring in history, has a passion for Russian studies and the language. After studying Russian for two years he decided to join recording industry students for a study abroad trip to Moscow in July.

"We were not tourists — we were immersed in Russian music culture," Kirkman says enthusiastically. "It is one thing to read about Russian history and its people in a classroom than to experience the real thing."

He believes all college students should consider studying abroad if the opportunity presents itself.

"If you are on the verge of going abroad, just let go and do it," Kirkman encourages. "People who participate in these programs take away something special."

After returning in July from a year spent in Caen, France, Sarah Arvidson-Ringer, a

junior double majoring in French and global studies, agrees.

"Studying abroad forces you to practice the languages of other countries and interact socially," Sarah explains. "These situations require critical thinking and constant deliberation because things don't always go according to plan over there — it's about personal growth."

The Office of Education Abroad offers more than 300 affiliated study abroad programs that range from short term to long term. Some students profit more in relation to the program's length.

Terrence Daly, a senior majoring in recording industry management, wishes he could have lingered in Moscow.

"I learned so much about the international music industry and the people," Daly says. "Meeting with Russian music executives and seeing music from a global view was so enriching, I would have stayed longer if I could've."

According to the Association of International Educators, Americans who study in foreign areas intensely are more prepared for the demands of the 21st century, especially in an economy demanding "international competence."

From 2007 until 2008, 262,000

American students studied abroad as op-

posed to the 114,000 who went 10 years ago. These numbers represent a 130-percent increase and a good indication that awareness is increasing, according to vistawide.com.

Sarah adds that the experience is more than just sightseeing and impeccable cuisine. Granted, French bread is something she'll never forget.

Who wouldn't jump at the opportunity to stroll around the Piazza Navona in Rome with cup of *gelato*?

But for many, ordering the bread is a horse of a different color.

Learning a language can be a daunting task but it's encouraged in study abroad programs for cultural awareness and global communication.

"I have taken Russian for two years and I still struggled to maintain a conversation over there," Kirkman admits. "I was the only person on the trip who

could speak some Russian and watching my fellow classmates pick up on the language and then put it to use was very cool."

For those who find the Cyrillic alphabet or French phrases too challenging at first, there are other options.

MTSU is partnered with many associations that offer a wide range of study abroad programs. One is with the Cooperative Center for Study Abroad, a collaboration of many college universities that offer programs in English-speaking countries.

To aid in the costs of these programs there are various scholarships and grants that students can apply for.

According to the Institute for the International Education of Students, 98 percent of study abroad participants said that programs helped them to "better understand their own cultural values and biases," and 82 percent said that study abroad "contributed to their developing a more sophisticated way of looking at the world."

"Even though I didn't have enough money to travel as much as I would have liked, I was immersed in my French community," Sarah says. "Don't be afraid to make mistakes when you study abroad — those who are willing to make them learn more."

Photo by Jordan Kirkman, contributing photographer

Pursuing study abroad opportunities helps students gain a better perspective of different world cultures.

# Festival-goer takes first look into alternate world

By ALEX MOORMAN  
Editor-in-Chief

Five. The blood gurgled through Jamie's body as the foreign substance made its faithful way into every crevice of her virgin body.

Four. She'd been told it'd only take a second but after what felt like ages she found her mind racing with anticipation.

Three. "One more second," she calmed herself. "One more second and it will all make sense, life, birth and death — I'll feel it all."

Two. Body numb.

One.  
It all started less than a year ago when Jamie Richardson (not her real name) changed social crowds and began experimenting with drugs. In college she smoked the usual marijuana and drank occasionally, but as far as any other drugs, Jamie was inexperienced. It wasn't until the fall of 2009 that she fully let herself go.

"I wasn't trying to try every drug, and I still don't want to. I can't help but want to taste and experience life to its fullest," Jamie says outside the giant neon colored mushroom fountain inside Bonnaroo. "In some respect life is more tangible when under the influence."

Jamie, a student at MTSU, knew the effects of chemicals on other aspects of life but didn't know much, other than what she'd already experience, about their effect on the human body. She started with the usual: mushrooms, ecstasy, Xanax, Lortabs and her yearning for new interesting drugs grew.

All of those earnings came to a halt at the 2010 Bonnaroo Festival when Jamie was put face to face with a drug that she'd only heard rumors of. DMT — The mavhem

was about to begin.

Bonnaroo is notorious for its eclectic music, massive crowds, unbearable heat and of course, copious amounts of drugs. Jamie couldn't think of a better place to try DMT, so when she wound up face to face with it, she couldn't have been more thrilled.

"I had heard a little about DMT, but I didn't know everything," Jamie said with an intent look. "I think a lot of what makes DMT such an interesting drug is that you can never really know what it's like until you try it — that made me really want to experience it."

Jamie watched as the salmon-tinted crystal powder was wedged out from a stranger's elastic boxer band. The fear began to rush over her as she contemplated the coming minutes. What will it feel like? Will I like it? Will I be OK? Jamie pondered the coming moments with anticipation, but as the crystal powder was passed around she tabled her inhibitions and grabbed the multicolored bowl that had long been used solely for marijuana.

The marijuana and DMT were quickly mixed together symbolizing the old and the new for Jamie, and as John Weaver (also an alias) took the first hit Jamie began to squirm uncontrollably until her cotton Volcom Stone shorts were stained with grass. She pushed her sweat-soaked hair from her face, the blazing heat radiating against her sun kissed skin. She lifted her already shaking hand and rubbed what was left of yesterday's charcoal mascara from the corners of her eyes and then the moment came. It was her turn.

"Are you ready kid?" John asked intently. Jamie stood up as if it were the first time in her life, wiped the grass and dirt from her

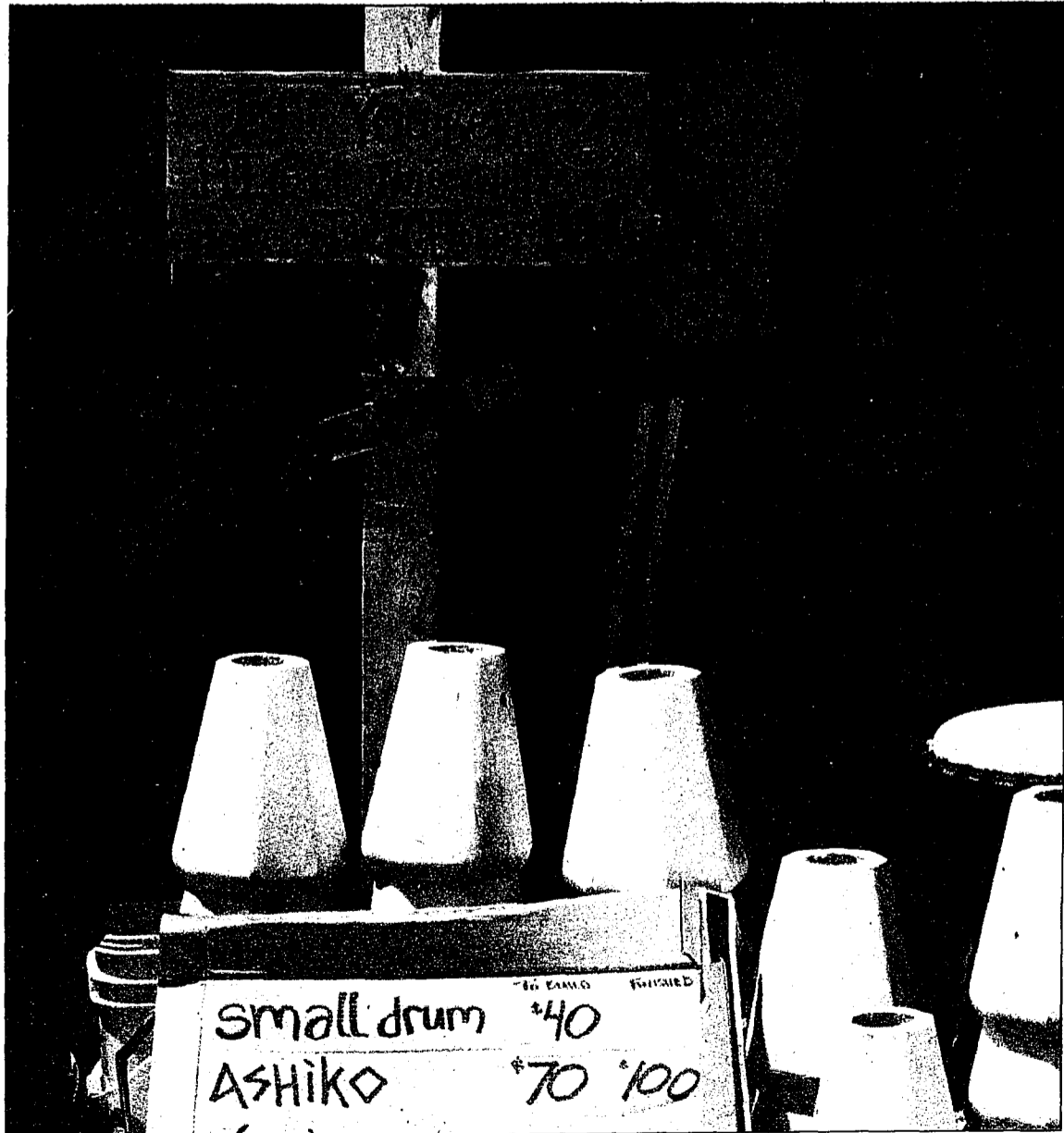


Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor

Vendors give festival-goers opportunity to assemble hand-made drums at Bonnaroo June 11. The drum makers warn attendants that their craft could take longer when under the influence of narcotics.

once expensive shorts and wipe the residue onto her shirt. "Yeah," she said coolly, knowing that in a few seconds the world around her would be foreign and even for a minute she would also be foreign to the world.

"I took the biggest inhalation I

could," Jamie said. "Shortly after a sensation like I'd never felt before rushed over me and I felt weightless, the world made sense and at the same time none at all."

Life moved slowly during those short minutes as Jamie flew through what she called "another universe."

Those five minutes seemed like a lifetime for Jamie as she glided and tripped over her own reality mixed with an unfamiliar DMT induced reality.

# WHERE TO EAT ON CAMPUS

Middle Tennessee State University

A central map of the Middle Tennessee State University campus is surrounded by various restaurant logos. Lines connect these logos to their respective locations on the map. The logos include:

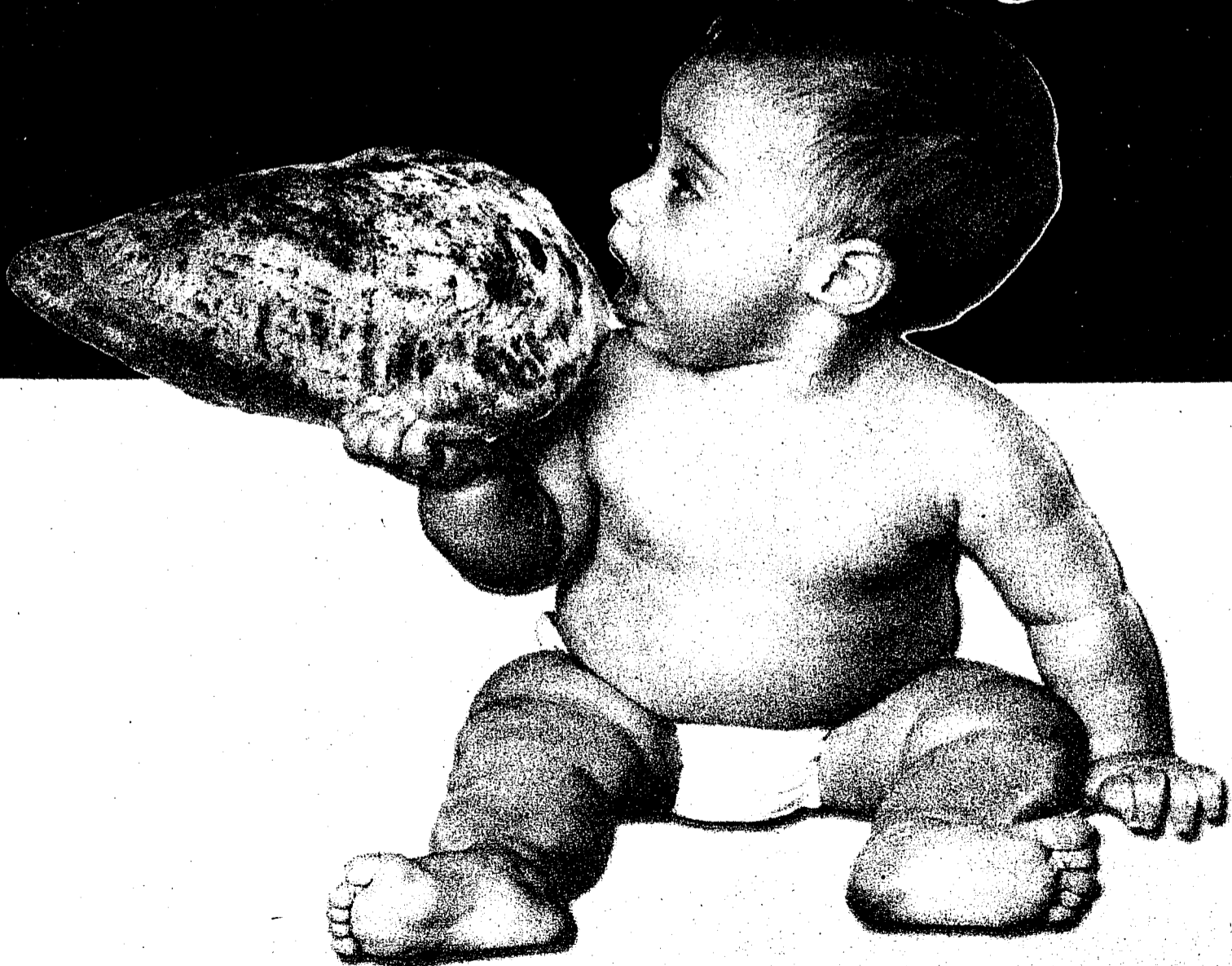
- STURD
- Chick-fil-A
- EINSTEIN BROS BAGELS
- ASIAN EXPRESS
- QUIZNOS
- HOME ZONE
- NEW LOCATION POD EXPRESS
- McCallie
- THE BUY & FLY
- STARBUCKS COFFEE Full Service
- THE BISTRO
- NEW LOCATION TOPIO'S
- SUBWAY
- PIZZA HUT
- RAIDER ZONE



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## TOPIO'S

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Photo courtesy of Susan Meiselas, Magnum Photos

The above photo is displayed at the Baldwin Photographic Gallery until Oct. 18. The show is being cosponsored by MTSU Student Programming's Fine Arts Committee in remembrance of the attacks on the World Trade Center on 9/11.

## Capturing an American tragedy

Photo exhibit displays top photojournalists' views of terrorist attacks

By ROZALIND RUTH  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Unfortunately, all Americans of a certain age remember too many painful details of Sept. 11, 2001. It was a time of confusion, anger, grief and terror throughout the nation as Americans watched in horror as terrorists carried out attacks against the World Trade Center and U.S. Pentagon.

Within a few short days after the attacks, Americans learned that a group of courageous passengers on United Flight 93 prevented a third attack on our nation's capitol. The once casual saying "let's roll" suddenly took on a new meaning – the image of 40 heroes rushing the cockpit to overpower terrorists and turn an airplane around.

As the ninth anniversary of the terror attacks on the United States approaches, the Baldwin Photographic Gallery in the Ned McWherter Learning Resource Center is presenting, "New York, September 11th by Magnum Photographers," an exhibit of photographs taken in the city before, during and after the horrible events of the day. The gallery opened with the exhibit on Tuesday and will be on display until Oct. 18.

The exhibit is giving students the opportunity to view "everything dealing with the event," describes Marissa Moore, a senior majoring in photography.

The 39 images taken by artists of Magnum Photos,

a world-renowned photography co-operative captures the "chilling and astonishing" imagery of the people, places and events in Manhattan on 9/11.

The exhibit personalizes the events of 9/11 in such a way that viewers stared in awe of the images.

"You feel how that person feels," explained Sarah Cross, a senior majoring in photography. "Heartbreaking – it definitely tugs at your heartstrings, but it's good to remember."

Everyone has a story about where he or she was when the news spread that morning. The emotions felt, the looks on surrounding people's faces, and the pain and astonishment of seeing those amazing images forever captured on film suddenly brings 9/11 back to life.

"Each image is going to have its own affect," Sarah said. "They all serve their own purpose."

Sarah pointed out two of her favorite photos as a team of photography students helped organize and hang the

**"You feel how that person feels. Heart-breaking — it definitely tugs at your heartstrings, but its good to remember."**

SARAH CROSS  
SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHY MAJOR

pieces that compose the exhibit. She pointed to the rectangle containing a statue of a man holding his briefcase, covered in dust and ashes, as stood surrounded by fallen trees, destroyed buildings and carnage.

"It shows the magnitude of the damage – you can feel the magnitude of the day," Sarah revealed.

A beautiful and prominent exhibit like this is not small news for the university. The exhibit, which debuted in 2006 for the five-year anniversary of the attacks, has traveled the country to commemorate the 9/11 anniversary.

Every piece in this exhibition is breathtaking, because of their composition, subject and raw emotion. No one should miss this exhibit. Any American who remembers that day is sure to be touched and will most certainly take a moment to remember those who died and 9/11.

## Bonnaroo allows for exhilarating experience

DMT  
FROM PAGE 7

Dictionary.com describes Dimethyltryptamine (DMT) as a powerful, naturally occurring hallucinogenic compound structurally related to the drug LSD. DMT blocks the action of serotonin (a transmitter of nerve impulses) in brain tissue. It is inactive when taken by mouth and produces effects only when injected, sniffed, or smoked. The hallucinatory action begins about five minutes after administration by injection and lasts for about an hour. Naturally formed DMT has been found in the body fluids of persons suffering from schizophrenia.

"After a minute I had to sit down because things were moving so quickly," Jamie giggled. "I looked at my friend's face and skin and it looked like connecting patterns and shapes were covering every part of his body. I was entranced by the world around me – the real and the hallucinations."

Five short minutes turned into hours for Jamie as she laid back on the grassy area surrounding her campsite. Music from every genre swarmed together creating what she could only describe as angelic sounds, and the sky began to move around her. "The clouds moved,

swarmed, circled, spiraled and then started again," Jaime said. "I felt as if they had wrapped their arms around me and were tossing me around for their own amusement."

As those minutes began to dwindle and a temporary feeling of nostalgia began to resonate, Jaime realized her life was a little different than it was only five minutes prior – better, more enlightened.

"Every moment was tangible, sweet like honey," Jamie exclaimed with a look of sheer joy. "Part of me could have lived in those short moments my whole life. Five minutes doesn't seem like much, but for me it was everything."

Once the feeling was gone and the high was far from salvageable, Jaime decided that while DMT was one of the best experiences of her life, it was one that she felt couldn't, and maybe even shouldn't, be recreated.

"I'm not going to chase that high again," Jamie stated. "I did it once and while it was brilliant, I don't need to do it again – I'll never feel the way I felt at that moment and I don't think I'd have it any other way."

*Per request due to the sensitivity of the issues at hand Jamie Richardson and John Weaver are being used as aliases.*

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## THROUGH THE SIDELINES LENS

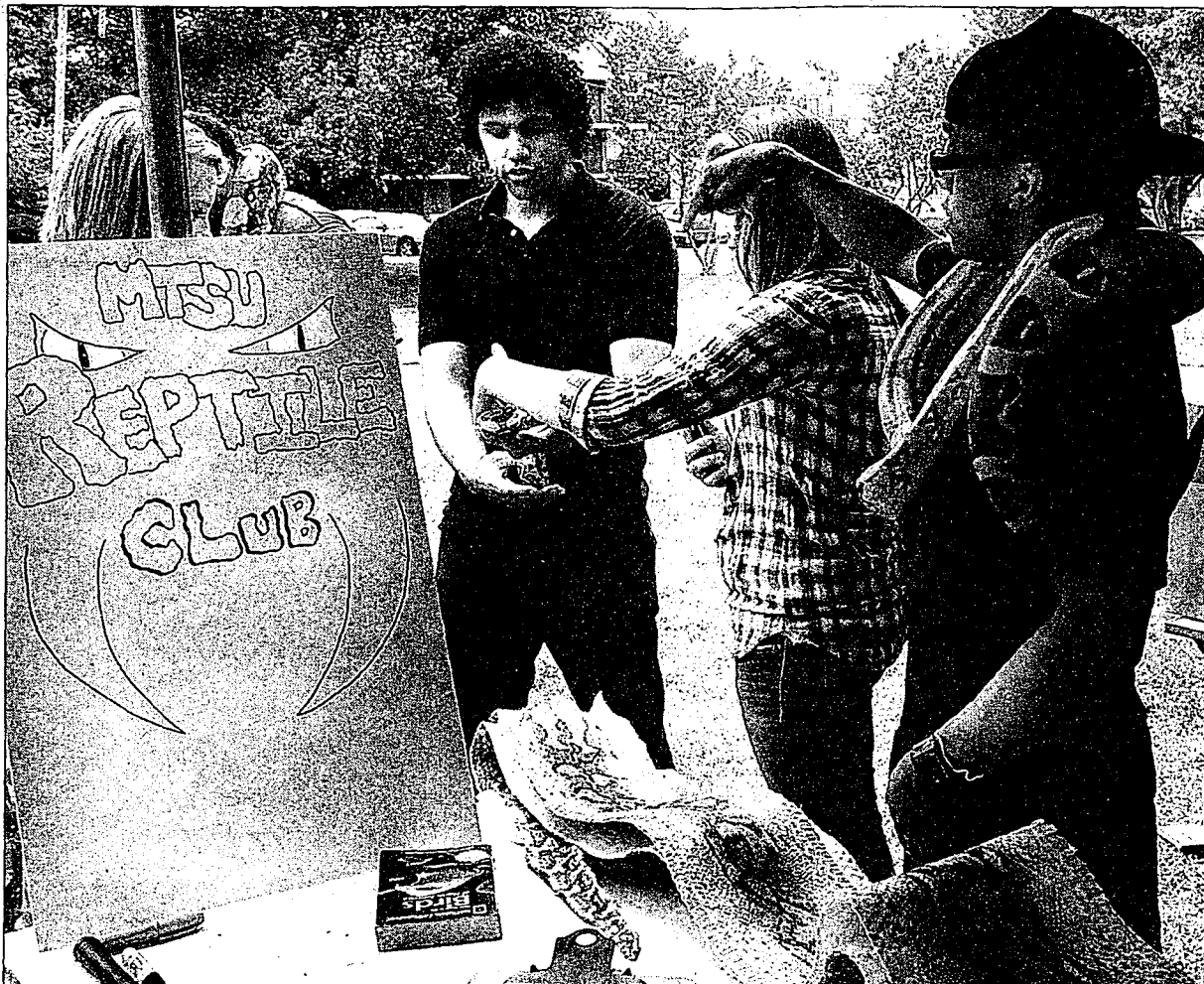


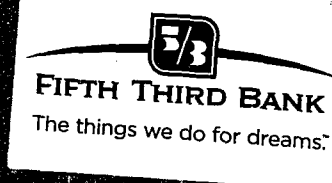
Photo by Ray Ingram, staff photographer

D.J. Patterson (Left), Leslee Prather (Middle) and Brandon Holt, members of the newly formed reptile club show MTSU students various types of snakes and inform them on safe-handling yesterday on the Keathley University Center Knoll.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Choosing the best vino for dinner time

Wine and food pairings are an individual's choice. It's not as hard as one might think to choose one to go with the other. Every person's sense of taste is different. In general, each person should decide for oneself what combinations of wine and food taste good – and don't worry about what anyone else says should work. However, I understand this is difficult when a wine drinker is just starting out. Wine drinkers will figure out quite quickly that their tongue has its own idea of what goes well together. Trust your judgment. Eat and drink what you enjoy!

Typically, drinking is done light-to-dark, just as planning a meal. Start with delicate tastes and work toward heavier tastes. For this reason, Champagne tends to go very well with appetizers or opening courses in a meal. White wine is usually a match for salads and lighter dishes, while red wine works perfectly with steaks and heavier meat sauces. A port or sherry is often the perfect end to a meal. Sipped with a piece of chocolate cake, you're sure to enjoy this choice.

Take into consideration how different an individual is, and all that has gone into developing your tastes, you will realize how truly individual your wine and food pairing ideas probably are. This is where the fun starts!

How about those two sense organs that most humans possess: the nose and tongue?

The sensation wine gives you - flavor and aroma - does not come chiefly from your tongue. Tasting starts at first smell. Your tongue, however, has zones for each type of flavor it can taste, so you want the wine to be able to go over each section. The tip senses sweet, the front sides sense salt, the backsides sense acid and the very back senses bitter.

Pairing is not an arcane science. It is simply the decision of what type of wine will bring out the best flavor in different foods, and what kinds of foods will bring out the best in certain wines, based on how you personally enjoy both. If you're the kind of person who enjoys and savors flavors of a meal, then there won't be much of a problem. You don't want the food to completely overpower the wine, so you cannot taste it at all and vice versa.

Do you match like with like? How about an apple-tasting wine along with apple pie for dessert? Or do you add some contrast, so the spiciness of your sushi balances against the slightly sweet Riesling? Either method works, as do countless others. Most of the fun involves experimenting with different combinations, so that you can see which types of win strike your palate as truly delicious.

Cheese tends to make a wine taste better, too. It smooths out the wine and brings out what is best in both. Both wine and cheese are artisan-crafted products, something created with care and aged to perfection.

In most cases a red wine goes well with hard cheese, while white wines go well with softer cheeses, but again this comes down to your own personal tastes and what combinations of flavors you personally enjoy.

You'll find that some people have created "hard and fast rules" about what always goes well with what. Learn for yourself what combinations of tastes you enjoy the most. Feel free to experiment, and show off what you've learned. Start small, and learn one thing at a time. You'll find that the person who knows the most about what you should pair together is yourself!

*Aimee Schmittendorf is a senior public relations major and wine steward qualified by the Court of Master Sommeliers. For wine related inquiries, Aimee can be reached at [itsnotjustthewine@yahoo.com](mailto:itsnotjustthewine@yahoo.com).*



**Aimee Schmittendorf**  
**One, Two, Wine!**

## Hip Happenings



**Savannah Jack**  
Sept. 10 at 6:30 p.m.  
*The Stage on Broadway*  
Free admission

**Pixies**  
Sept. 10 & 11 at 8 p.m.  
*The Ryman Auditorium*  
\$54.50; \$47.50 - Tickets still available through box office.

**Shakespeare in the Park**  
Sept. 9 - 12 at 6:30 p.m.  
*Centennial Park*  
\$5 donation recommended - Last showing of "Love's Labor's Lost"

**The Black Crowes**  
Sept. 12 at 7:30 p.m.  
*The Ryman Auditorium*  
\$49.50 - Taper tickets are available through the box office.

### Buzzfest 2010

Sept. 10 at 2 p.m.

LP Field

\$35 - Acts include Shinedown, Seether and Papa Roach.

### MTSU Faculty Piano Recital

Sept. 10 @ 8 p.m.

Wright Music Building

Free - Lynn Rice-See will perform piano works by Schumann, Brahms and Beethoven.

### Americana Music Festival

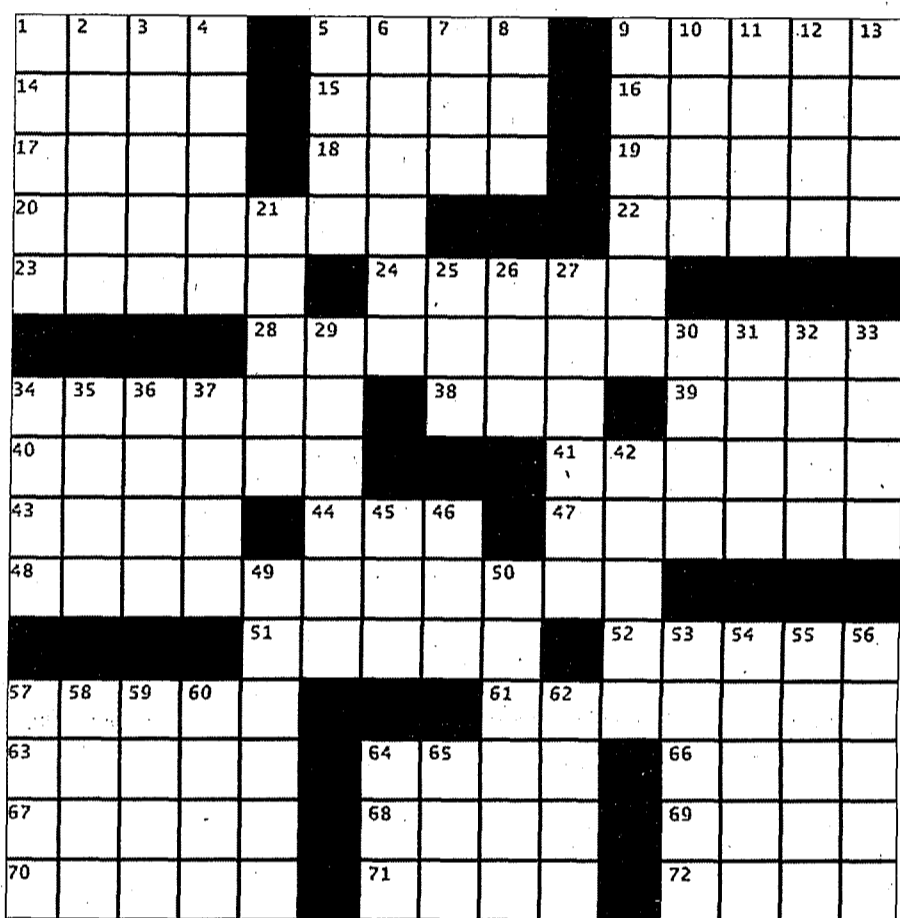
Sept. 10 - 12, various times

*Mercy Lounge, The Basement, The Rutledge, The Station Inn, The Cannery Ballroom*

\$20; \$50 - Acts include Rayland Baxter, Tristen, Greg Koons and The Misbegotten, Black Lillies, American Aquarium, Cadillac Sky, The Infamous Stringdusters and Dierks Bentley and Will Hoge.

# SIDEWORDS

The weekly *Sidelines* crossword puzzle



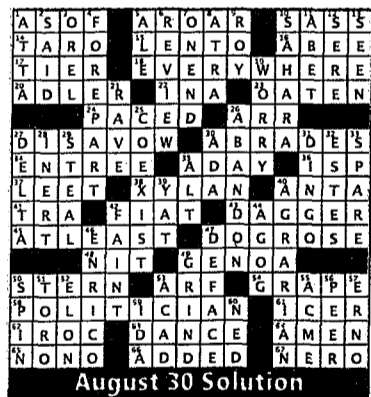
Crossword courtesy of bestcrosswords.com

### ACROSS

1 - Journey; 5 - "Dancing Queen" group; 9 - Gillette razors; 14 - Actor Auberjonois; 15 - Knitting stitch; 16 - Silhouette; 17 - Formicary residents; 18 - Old Testament book; 19 - Alma \_\_\_\_\_; 20 - Agitate; 22 - Alert; 23 - Faint; 24 - Toil; 28 - Education of both sexes; 34 - Copyist; 38 - Concorde, e.g.; 39 - Della's creator; 40 - Unless; 41 - Scrape off; 43 - Early late-night host; 44 - Neighbor of Leb; 47 - Thin layer of wood; 48 - Petty; 51 - "Siddhartha" author; 52 - Religion of Muslims; 57 - Freight; 61 - Movable cupboard; 63 - Attentive, warning of danger; 64 - Scottish boys; 66 - X-ray units; 67 - Shades; 68 - Assist, often in a criminal act; 69 - Slaughter of baseball; 70 - Grass-like plant; 71 - Knee; 72 - Not any;

### DOWN

1 - Snares; 2 - Continue a subscription; 3 - Opening; 4 - Basil-based sauce; 5 - On \_\_\_\_\_ with; 6 - Blunder awkwardly; 7 - Buddy; 8 - Capp and Capone; 9 - Capital of Eritrea; 10 - Melt; 11 - Pro follower; 12 - Impersonator; 13 - Shriveled, without moisture; 21 - Remove a covering; 25 - Commercials; 26 - Clear tables; 27 - Group of eight?; 29 - Punctual; 30 - Sea swallow; 31 - Dies \_\_\_\_\_; 32 - Shoppe sign word; 33 - Not e'en once; 34 - Enlivens, with "up"; 35 - Student's final; 36 - Final Four org.; 37 - Blackbird; 42 - Darken; 45 - Bro's counterpart; 46 - Hosp. workers; 49 - Fourth highest peak in the world; 50 - Make less sensitive; 53 - Philosopher Kierkegaard; 54 - Woody vine; 55 - Passion; 56 - Unordered; 57 - Burmese, Manx and Scottish Fold; 58 - Drug-yielding plant; 59 - Tear; 60 - Diver Louganis; 62 - Queue after Q; 64 - Fall behind; 65 - Actor Vigoda;



August 30 Solution

## Student Government Association Elections Fall 2010

**Election Packets Now Available** for Freshman Senate, Graduate Senate, and Homecoming Court!

The SGA serves as the official liaison between the student body and administration. It is the official channel of communication for all students. Our job is to listen to the concerns of students and make your college experience the best it can be.

### Important Dates:

- Sept. 14: Election Packets Due by 4 p.m. KUC 208
- Sept. 21: Candidate Eligibility Announced
- Sept. 23: Mandatory Meeting for Qualified Candidates
- Sept. 25: Campaigning Begins
- Oct. 5-7: Elections
- Oct. 8th: Results

Election packets are available in the SGA office, KUC 208. Packets due by 4 p.m. Sept. 14, 2010



## Letters Policy

*Sidelines* welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to [slopinio@mtsu.edu](mailto: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.

## Reporters shouldn't sensationalize rape

Anyone who sees or hears the word in the media is influenced immediately. Even if younger audiences don't know the exact definition, I'd bet they understand how the word seems to creep down your spine like a detestable substance – rape is fairly self-explanatory.

More often than not, the slimy words that sound hateful and deplorable usually are. But, I don't think it is the media's responsibility to enforce any moral lessons. Perhaps there are some who need a play-by-play detailing the rape of a 14-year-old girl on school grounds in order to comprehend the gravity of a severe situation.

I'm curious as to why Mark Bell felt it was necessary. In his article "School rape case advances," published in *The Daily News*



Laura Aiken  
Features Editor

Journal on Aug. 26, Bell went to a place where most people would rather not go.

The sexual depictions of the alleged victim and the accused are graphic. Paraphrases and quotes containing things like "forceful penetration" and "manipulate her into a sexual position" are planted throughout the article as if they were merely ingredients in a cooking recipe.

Is it ethical to report

about minors in this way?

The Society of Professional Journalists' Code of Ethics states that journalists should "show compassion for those who may be affected adversely by news coverage. Use special sensitivity when dealing with children and inexperienced sources, or subjects."

Granted, Bell isn't actually breaking any steadfast laws, and of course, the First Amendment still stands, but journalists should report what is in the public's best interest and not write overly graphic details in a desperate attempt to sell newspapers.

"He pulled her pants down and pulled his pants down," Bell wrote, quoting the alleged victim. Then he paraphrased the following: "The victim told him the boy grabbed her hair and used

it to manipulate her into a sexual position. Abbot said the victim told him the boy then forced her to perform oral sex on him in the stall."

This article should come with a warning: Caution! This article may contain graphic elements resembling an R-rated Woody Allen film.

This material isn't appropriate as a news story or any other kind of non-fiction story. Bell could have used more discretion. In a world where sex and scandal sell, I don't think it's necessary to print these offensive descriptions because of the insensitivity toward the victim and her family—not to mention the effect it had on readers.

Readers posted many complaints online about the sexual material in the article, including an outraged letter-to-the-editor.



Photo courtesy of Google

Why did Bell choose to contextualize with words like "manipulate?" Aristotle believed in finding the golden mean, the balance between two extremes, and I'm not sure Bell grasped that concept.

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## Preparing for job market sooner, not later

So you graduated - now what?

This was something I heard over and over again after graduation this past May. Seems like an easy answer, right? Get a job!

Well, after spending 12 years in grade school and another four in college, by the time you are done, you have spent 16 years of your life getting an education. I realize now school was the easy part.

While I was in school, I was very involved as a member of the sorority, Zeta Tau Alpha, served as senator of the College of Mass Communication in the Student Government Association, worked as a campus tour guide, and was a reporter for the campus television station, MTTV.



Brenna McDaniel  
Contributing Columnist

I graduated with a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism. I wanted to be a national news anchor one day.

However, my last year of college changed everything for me.

All my older friends told me "It's your last year of college - party hard

and enjoy it!"

They were singing a different song in May 2009 when some of them graduated at the peak of the recession.

Even though they had been involved on campus, they had no real work experience or internships to compete with a seasoned work force that was also dealing with the consequences of the recession.

It is not enough to simply earn a degree and expect to have a job opportunity waiting at your doorstep.

I knew I had to strive to set myself apart by living my life with the mantra: True progress is to know more,

be more, and do more.

I had a passion for learning and growing as both an individual and professional, but I needed the list of achievements that would be attractive to potential employers. The hunt for experience became my number one priority.

See 'ya later sorority! Bye-bye social life! And, hello internships.

I signed up for an interview communications class where I learned the basic steps of interviewing and also how to write an amazing resume. I took on another minor in marketing along with leadership studies. Next, I went to every job fair during the summer of 2009, landing my first internship, writing for *Dish Magazine*.

After that, I interned at Country Music Television of Music Television Networks and then I interned at News Channel 4, WSMV. I gained the necessary work experience by graduation in May 2010. In just one year's time, I changed my entire resume and diminished my fear of getting out in the real world.

Brenna McDaniel is an alumna of Middle Tennessee State University and is the sales director of *Anthology Creative*. She can be reached at [mc-danielbrenna@gmail.com](mailto:mc-danielbrenna@gmail.com).

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Get your facts straight, avoid generalizations

Saying it was Muslims who perpetrated the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, is the equivalent to saying that Christians perpetrated the Holocaust. Both statements are factual, and both are similarly incapable of capturing anything more than the most superficial details concerning the motives or identities of the perpetrators of these crimes against humanity.

As for plans to construct the Islamic Center of Murfreesboro or expand a mosque anywhere in this country, I think we must remember two things: First, construction is the exact opposite of destruction. Second, the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights guarantees freedom of religion in the United States of America.

We can only understand that which we seek

to know, and Muslims assimilating into our culture provides us as a people the opportunity to gain such knowledge and wisdom. Most importantly, however, is the fact that to impede the practice of any religion is very simply illegal. There is, in fact, no clause in the First Amendment indicating that a place of worship cannot be constructed unless the citizenry is pleased with its placement, the timing of its construction, or the religion it serves.

There is absolutely no ambiguity in the law guaranteeing the right to freedom of religion. To be Americans means that we accept these conditions, whether we like them or not.

The high price of freedom is paid not simply nor even primarily on the battlefield; the price of freedom is the respect we pay to the freedom of others everyday and without fail. It is a lofty ideal indeed, but it is the one upon which this



File Photo  
Reporters and community members gather around the construction site for the new Islamic Center in Murfreesboro.

country was founded and still stands. To oppose the freedom of a Muslim to worship where he or she will is an affront to all Americans.

Monica Wright is a former French professor at Middle Tennessee State University. She can be reached by e-mail at: [mlwright@wustl.edu](mailto:mlwright@wustl.edu).

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## A QUICK WORD

From the Opinions Editor

-Aimee Schmittendorf, [slopinio@mtsu.edu](mailto:slopinio@mtsu.edu)

As the new Opinions Editor for *Sidelines*, I lean over the railing of the upstairs John Bragg Mass Communications Building and watch the tops of heads and listen to the vibrating noises of a fluid hallway. The very idea of so many opinions and malleable minds that wind up and down the sidewalks of MTSU excites me. What are you thinking? No, seriously.

We've had an interesting response about the mosque coverage. I'm down with that, readers and writers. Just be aware before you

throw down some 50-cent words that you have the right and privilege to submit your opinions to me—preferably with a little less hostility and with a little more understanding that we're students as well, and we represent ourselves and the student body with the scope of our own experience. If you have something to say about politics, policy, the price of tea in China and the school we all swim in, then don't pee in the water. Type something emotionally composed and I'll be glad to hear from you!

### *Sidelines* opinions page [Sahyd-lahyns uh-pin-yuhns pey]

—noun

1. A section within the biweekly publication *Sidelines*, based in Murfreesboro, Tenn., that provides a voice for those who are in some way associated with Middle Tennessee State University and the outlying community. The editors of the section are known for urging those with opinions to e-mail them to [slopinio@mtsu.edu](mailto:slopinio@mtsu.edu) and include their names and phone numbers for verification.

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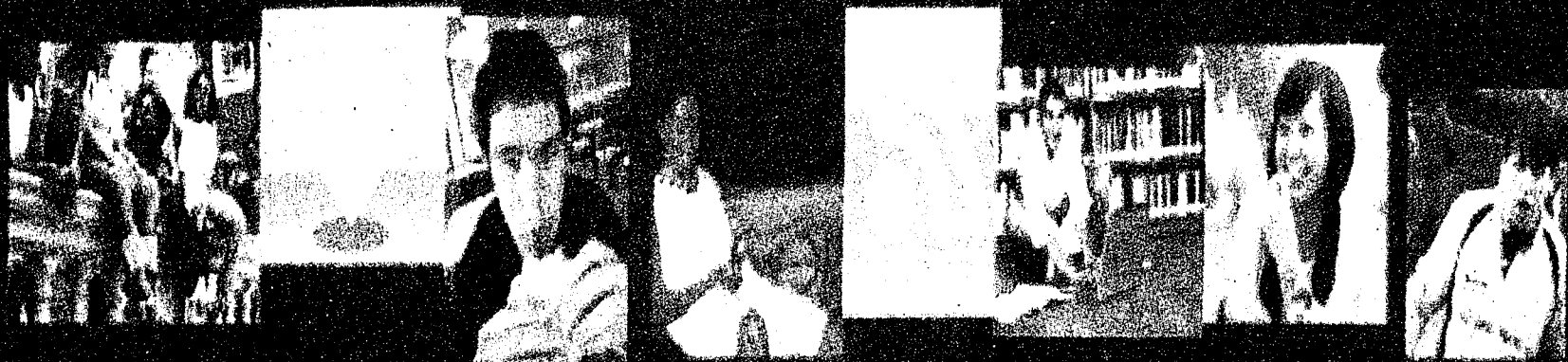


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