

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

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Public rallies to catch Walnut House thieves

By MARIE KEMPH
News Editor

More than 1,000 people have joined a Facebook group aimed at catching two people who are suspected of stealing more than \$2,000 worth of property from an MTSU student Friday night at the Walnut House.

"My entire life is on that computer," said Gareth Spinn, a junior majoring in recording industry management.

Two suspects, one male and one female, were caught on the Walnut House's security camera

rummaging through and then leaving with Spinn's belongings that had been placed in the upstairs loft, which is used a greenroom for musicians and management.

"No one is supposed to be up there," said Chris Wright, who works as the in-house booking agent at the venue.

Within 48 hours of the incident, the group's membership was quickly growing, due in large part to the efforts of Wright and Spinn. The two have joined forces to publicize still-frame images of the video on Facebook.

"We want to catch the two people who were

videotaped by our security cameras picking up [Spinn's] backpack," Wright said, adding he hopes the public will help identify the male and female subjects in the video.

Spinn is a member of the Omega Delta Psi Professional Recording Industry Fraternity, and he was working on behalf of the organization as a promoter for the fraternity's event, which showcased The Features, The Compromise and Fourth Avenue, all of which he had booked to perform there Friday.

"I brought my MacBook Pro with me because I had all of the band's contract information

stored on my computer, and I wanted to have it just in case there was any confusion with the bands' agreements," Spinn said.

In hindsight, Spinn said it would have been better if he had just left his computer and backpack, which had all of his textbooks in it, locked inside of his car. He said he is familiar with the local music scene, including its fans.

"Usually it is local bands performing, but The Features are really well known," Spinn said. "Friday night was a different type of show - hundreds of people I don't know were there."

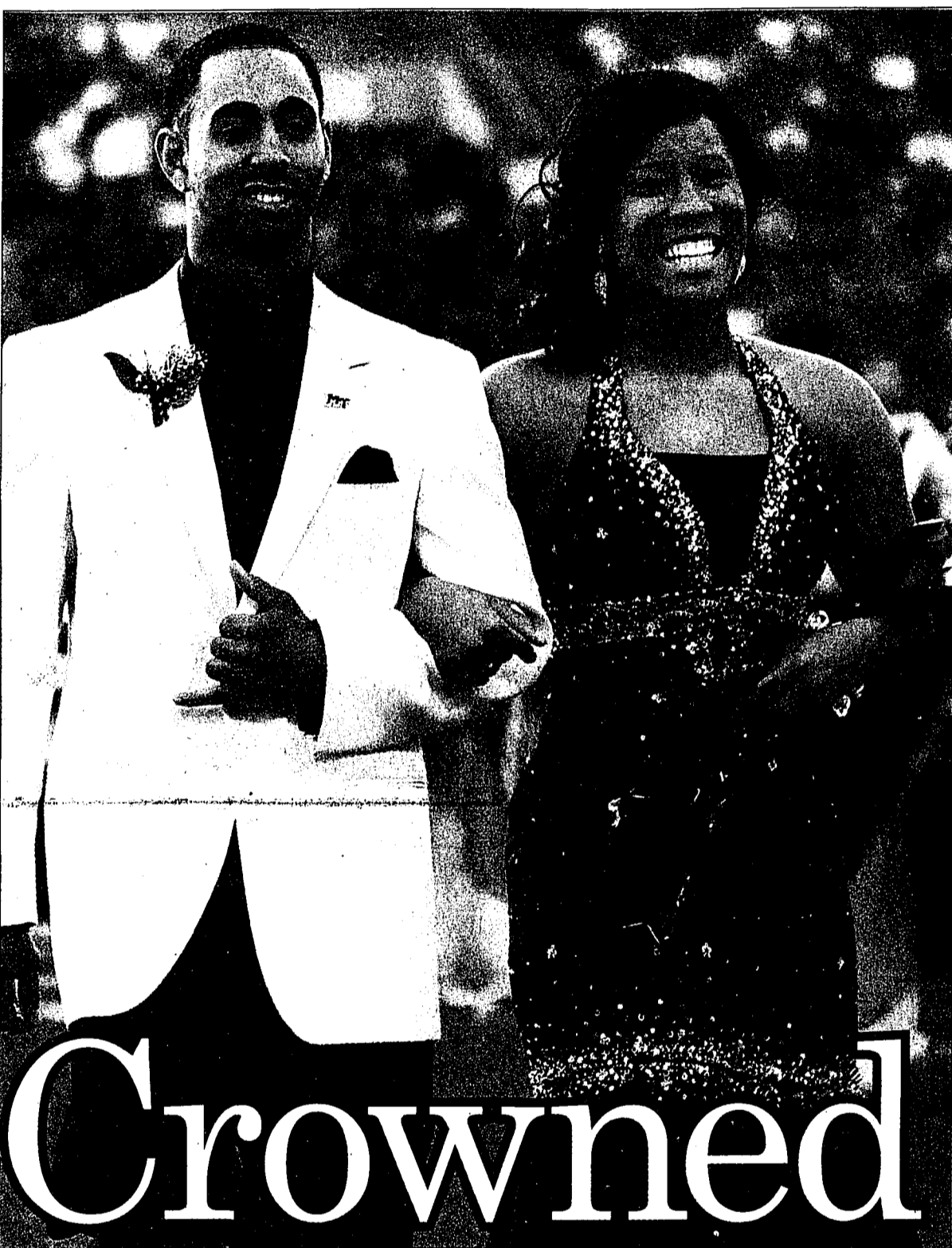


Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor

Brandon Batts (Left) and Ashley Brooks walk to receive their crowns after the Homecoming King and Queen election results were announced during the football game's halftime festivities on Saturday.

Crowned New Homecoming King, Queen anointed during Saturday's game

By BECCA ANDREWS
Staff Writer

Brandon Batts and Ashley Brooks were crowned the 2010 Homecoming King and Queen, during the halftime show Saturday.

"This feeling is overwhelming, a feeling I've never had be-

fore," said Batts, president of the Student Government Association, who is a senior majoring in business management and recreation administration.

"As [Homecoming] King, I want to let the community know that MTSU students are here to support them," Batts said. "I

want to positively represent the MTSU community."

Brooks, a senior majoring in health education, said she also wanted people to know that MTSU students care about the local community.

HOMECOMING, PAGE 2

Shariah law focus of mosque trial

By JOSHUA M. WARD
Staff Writer



www.mtsusidelines.com

Focus shifted during court proceedings last week from site plan approval to a heated investigation into connections between county officials and the new Islamic Center of Murfreesboro, as well as its intentions of implementing Shariah law.

"Religious worship is less than 30 percent of Islam," said Lisa Moore, who is one of the plaintiffs suing Rutherford County. "The rest is about killing the nonbelievers."

The U.S. Department of Justice issued a legal brief

County Judicial Building.

Wednesday's deliberations began with attorney Joe Brandon calling County Mayor Ernest Burgess to the stand and asking questions about his involvement with approval of the burial permit issued May 18 for a deceased member of the Islamic Center.

Defense attorney Jim Cope shot back at remarks involving the burial.

"Would it make you happy if we dug him up and buried him in a pine box?" Cope asked.

"Religious worship is less than 30 percent of Islam."

LISA MOORE

A PLAINTIFF SUING RUTHERFORD COUNTY

last week stating Islam is a religion.

"Every court addressing the question has treated Islam as a religion for the purposes of the First Amendment and other federal laws," according to the department's brief.

However, others agreed with Moore's statements during testimony.

"I did a documentary on world religions and it was included," said Elizabeth Coker, a former reporter who has worked for ABC and several PBS affiliates. "But now, I believe post-9/11, we should revisit whether or not Islam is just a religion."

Court proceedings resumed Wednesday after Chancellor Robert E. Corlew III called for a recess in late September, and he called a second recess Friday. Hearings will begin again Nov. 12 at 9 a.m. inside of the Rutherford

Brandon also targeted Essam Fathy. Fathy, who serves as a member of the Islamic Center's governing board, signed the permit request. Brandon alleged Fathy was given preferential treatment because he works for National Healthcare Corporation, a company for which Burgess served as senior vice president from 1974 to 1994.

Brandon said Fathy works as an employee who determines coverage for potential customers, and the profits derived from those dealings do flow to Burgess. However, Burgess said he has no relationship with Fathy, and the only funds he received from the corporation are in the form of dividends.

"The reason this is being prolonged is a refusal of the government to come clean," Brandon said. "If somebody can change my way of thinking, I'll sit down."

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SGA to tackle several pieces of legislation

By TODD BARNES
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association discussed new legislation Thursday involving creation of a forum that would give students a greater opportunity to voice their needs and concerns directly to the senate.

Bill 13-10-F would require senators from each college to create, publicize and hold a forum at least once a semester in hopes to hear students' voices. Each forum would be announced two months in advance and be publicized for a minimum of two weeks.

Sen. Scott Slater of the College of Liberal Arts is sponsoring the legis-

lation. He said he believes that the SGA is the direct voice of the student body, and therefore, should be in close contact with the students.

"I hear everyday that students are complaining that we don't listen to them, and we don't do enough for them," Slater said. "If they see that we are trying to make an attempt to listen to them, I feel like they

are going to come out, and let their voices be heard."

There are some concerns among senators about where such a forum would be held on campus, and little research has been done to estimate how many students would attend each forum.

"Every time you do an event on campus, you run the risk of

people not attending," Slater said. "I feel if it gets publicized the way I have it visualized, people would actually come."

Some senators question whether it is necessary for each college to hold a forum, or if one large universal forum should be held.

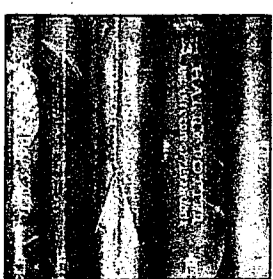
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Harry Potter series not meant to challenge religions, morals
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IN TODAY'S ISSUE



Watch our video
of the annual
Homecoming
Step Show.

ONLINE @
MTSUSIDELINES.COM

MONDAY FORECAST

THUNDERSTORMS LIKELY
70% CHANCE OF RAIN
HIGH 79, LOW 65

Homecoming brings MT community to campus

HOMECOMING FROM PAGE 1

"I want to open the door to show others how much MTSU has to offer and to get people involved," Brooks said. "This has been such an awesome experience and it really opened my eyes to all that MTSU has to offer."

Brooks said she was excited to teach public high school in Memphis after she graduates in May.

Prior to the football game, Middle Tennessee Boulevard was packed with students, alumni, and community members who lined the sides of the road to watch the annual Homecoming Parade.

"I've really enjoy[ed] the atmosphere, a lot of people gathering and eating food and watching sports," said Sebastian Long, a Swedish exchange student who is a senior majoring in audio production.

The air was filled with the beat of the Band of Blue's bass drum and cries of "Go big blue!" from enthusiastic fans cheering for the home team.

For several hundred visiting alumni, the Homecoming Parade brought on a sense of nostalgia, a throwback to college days full of friends, studying and, of course, athletic events. About 300 badges were handed out at the alumni house for returning alum-

ni, said Martha Jordan, the executive aide of the Office of Alumni Relations.

Wayne Monks, a Golden Raider who graduated with the class of 1955, said he comes back every year to support new students.

"We turn this world over to young people," said Monks, who is a Jackson native. "There is a lot of energy, a lot of knowledge, and a lot of good people here. They are the leaders of tomorrow."

Doug Haehl, a graduate student pursuing a master's degree in business education, came to the parade with his wife and son in tow - literally. His son, Carter, was happily sitting in a wagon decked out blue tinsel and MTSU merchandise.

"Homecoming rolls out the community, [and] it shows a lot of support," Haehl said. "You have got to get behind our university and support it. It's the largest school in the state."

He said he wanted to ensure his son grew up knowing how essential it is to have a college degree and enjoy the college experience.

"It is important for us to instill in our son as he grows up that higher education is important," Haehl said. "The relationships you make in college are for life."

Peck Forest was dotted with tailgaters enjoying food and friends while



Photo by Betsy Kay, contributing photographer
Members from multiple Greek organizations walk beside a student-made float Saturday during the Homecoming Parade that was held before the football game.

hanging out in between events. An hour after the parade, the Band of Blue joined in on the festivities.

Craig Cornish, director of the Band of Blue, described Raider Walk as "big, loud and funky," and the band, played, sang and danced to tunes like "Love Shack," "Cupid Shuffle" and "Shake Your Groove Thing."

"[Football is] exciting, and it's a great way to get people together, and I love the band," said Katelyn Krueger, a sophomore majoring in music theory and composition.



Photo by Chris Donahue, staff photographer
Brandon Batts (Left), MTSU President Sidney McPhee, his wife, Debbie, and Ashley Brooks celebrate Saturday moments after being crowned Homecoming King and Queen.

Student awarded prestigious scholarship

STAFF REPORT

A member of a national honors association at MTSU has been awarded one of 52 scholarships that were sought by hundreds, according to an MTSU press release.

Lindsey Duvall, a junior music business major who recently joined the MTSU chapter of The National Society of Collegiate Scholars, was awarded the Merit Award scholarship of \$1,000, according to the press release.

"We read hundreds of applications for this award and Lindsey's truly stood out," said Thomas

Locke, a member of the Scholarship Review Committee. "The Merit Award is always one of our

the financial burden they face." Recipients of the award are chosen based on their essays,

and knowledge of the NSCS mission statement and ideals," according to the press release. In addition, students are invited to the society based on their grade point average and class standing.

NSCS also awards scholarships for textbooks, study abroad programs and graduate school, as well as community service grants and "other merit-based awards," according to the press release.

NSCS is the nation's only interdisciplinary honors organization that invites freshman and sophomore students, and it has chapters at more than 270 universities nationwide.

"We read hundreds of applications for this award and Lindsey's truly stood out. The Merit Award is always one of our favorite scholarships."

THOMAS LOCKE
MEMBER OF THE SCHOLARSHIP REVIEW COMMITTEE

favorite scholarships. We really enjoy being able to support new members by removing some of

extracurricular activities, recommendation letter and demonstration of "commitment to

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Chili fires up competition

By CHRISTOPHER MERCHANT
Assistant News Editor

Eighteen teams representing student groups and Greek associations faced off Friday evening in the annual Homecoming Chili Cook-Off competition.

"It's been going on for as long as I have been active on campus," said Olivia Barker, a practicum student with the Office of Judicial Affairs and Mediation Services, who served as a judge at the contest.

The forested lot north of Murphy Center was filled with tents, competitors, attendees and aromas during the two-hour event, which lasted from 5 to 7 p.m.

This year, the categories were for students, fraternities and sororities, said Donald Abels, who serves homecoming director for the Student Government Association. Missing from the competition were the restaurant and alumni and friends categories.

This year's winners in the student organization category were Baptist Collegiate Ministries in third place, the Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity in second place, and the Third Baptist Church group in first place.

In the Greek category, Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity won third place, Alpha Delta Pi Sorority won second place, and Zeta Tau Alpha Women's Fraternity won first place.

Alpha Omicron Pi Women's Fraternity was awarded peoples' choice, and Zeta Tau Alpha won best overall.

"Winning is secondary to people loving our chili," said Sarah Robinson, a senior majoring in early-childhood education. Robinson was one of the

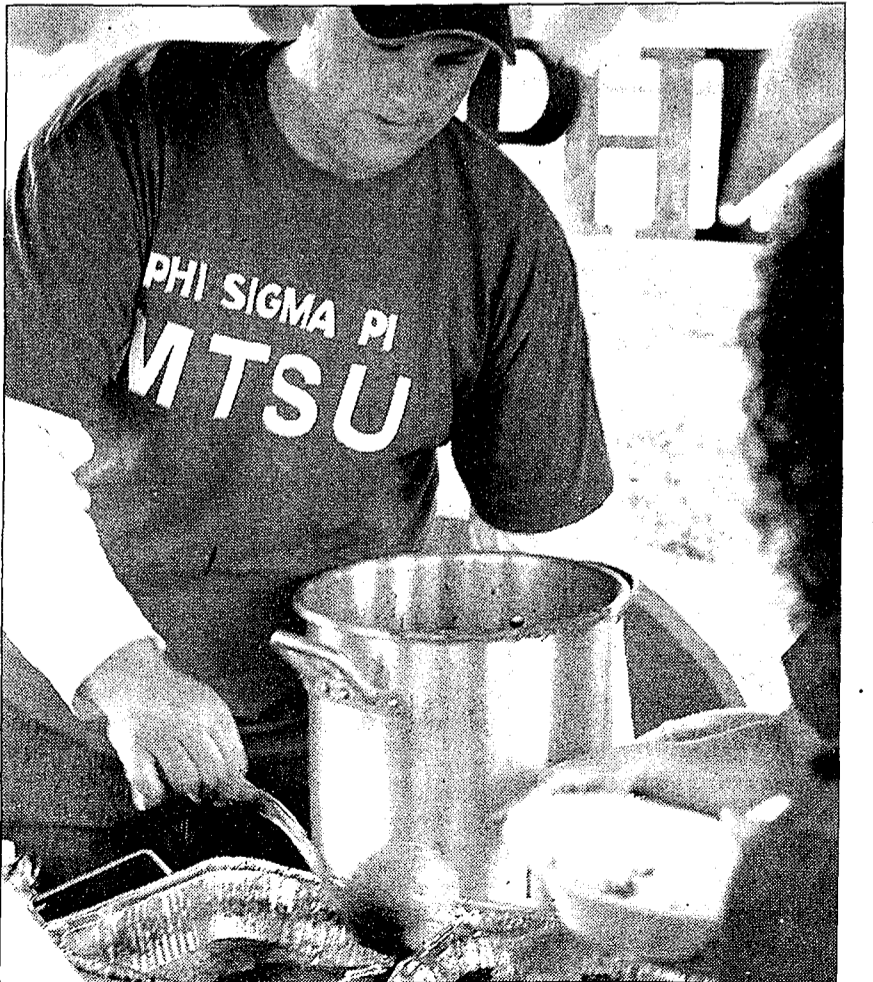


Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor
MTSU alumnus Jared Smith, who is a member of Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity, serves a bowl of homemade chili to attendees Friday during the Homecoming Chili Cook-Off.

members of the Third Baptist Church group that competed in the Chili Cook-Off.

"We didn't know we were doing this until today," Robinson said. "To have the best chili with so little notices incredible."

Robinson suggested that the group's chili was popular because it was

warm and was seasoned with brown sugar, making it sweet instead of too spicy. She said for that reason it was probably more appealing to adults and children.

Zeta Tau Alpha members suggested that they won for a different reason.

Students 'step up' for Homecoming

By AMANDA HAGGARD
Staff Writer

Members of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity stomped out the competition Friday night, both winning first place in their respective categories in the annual Homecoming Step Show that was sponsored by the National Pan-Hellenic Council.

Seven MTSU fraternities and sororities competed in Step Show in recognition of tradition, community respect, and most importantly, a \$1,000 first place prize.

The National Pan-Hellenic Council presents the annual Step Show the night before Homecoming as a time for Greeks and family members to come together and continue the stepping tradition.

Herschel James, a junior majoring in computer information systems, said the Step Show is always a highly anticipated event.

"People come from all over to watch the homecoming show," James said, "Every one of these shows are so different, and I know people practice forever, so it's always interesting to see how they turn out."

The Greek chants and step routines all had diverse themes, with some Halloween inspired and others varying from a 1920s flapper girl premise, all the way to a prison break routine.

The NPHC website said that MTSU's Step Show is one of the premier performances in the Southeast.

Ashlee Gray, president of NPHC, said the Step Show is significant because it allows historically black sorority and fraternity members to share their heritage with everyone on campus.

"It shows how hard we work to keep our heritage alive," Gray said.

Gray also participated in the show as one of the steppers.

The elaborate routines were judged by the Southeast Step Show Alliance in the categories of complexity, creativity, synchronization, crowd interaction and overall presentation.

Phi Beta Sigma stepped out on top, also winning the best overall performance for a total of \$1,500 in winnings. Second place winners, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, both won \$500.

"They put forth great effort to perfect their routines and be synchronized," Gray said, "The event itself takes months of organization as well."

Gray said fraternity and sorority members spend at least six months planning their performances and rehearse from three to six months in advance – meaning a group can spend up to a year preparing for the annual show.

Jennika Watts, a senior majoring in recording industry, performed in the Step Show with Zeta Phi Beta. Watts said, for her, it's about much more than the cash prize, it's about the community ritual.

"Most of us are involved because we're carrying on a Greek tradition," Watts said, "It's the principle of keeping something around that comes from our history."

During the early 20th century, Greek organizations at historically black colleges and universities practiced the tra-

dition of "crossing over" by singing and chanting in celebration when joining an organization as a new member.

Now, Watts said the energy of stepping is not just for the use of bonding and pride within their organizations but also for the purpose of constructing excitement for campus activities.

"It helps build momentum and excitement for events like the homecoming game," Watts said.

Shelly Lawrence, a junior majoring in social work, said that this year was her first time going to the Step Show.

"I'm really impressed at how much energy people put in to these routines," Lawrence said. "It has me pumped for the Homecoming game."

Gray said the event definitely draws traffic for the homecoming game.

"Alumni from all over the state and country come to this event," Gray said, "People who have been part of these Greek organizations for 30 or 40 years come back to see the show."

Proceeds from admission will go to funds for leadership conferences, community charity programs geared toward families who have suffered from domestic violence and will also serve as a fund for a NPHC scholarship to incoming freshman who excel in community service and academia.



Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor
Members of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority perform Friday in the annual Homecoming Step Show. The annual event is sponsored by the National Pan-Hellenic Council.



Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor
Members of the Iota Phi Theta Fraternity perform during the Homecoming Step Show that was held at the Murphy Center on Friday.

CRIME BRIEFS

Theft
Oct. 20, 4:15 p.m.
Mass Communication Building
Computer equipment was reportedly stolen from a classroom.

Davis Science Building
A complainant reported that a laptop was stolen from a lab.

Alcohol
Oct. 20, 10:38 p.m.
Jim Cummings Hall
Kareen Tabyate, 18, was issued state citation for underage consumption of alcohol.

Theft
Oct. 21, 2:45 p.m.
Greenhouse parking lot
A complainant reported that a vehicle had been entered and items were stolen.

Theft
Oct. 21, 2:19 p.m.

Theft
Oct. 21, 3:58
Womack Lane, Apartment A
A complainant reported that a bicycle had been stolen.

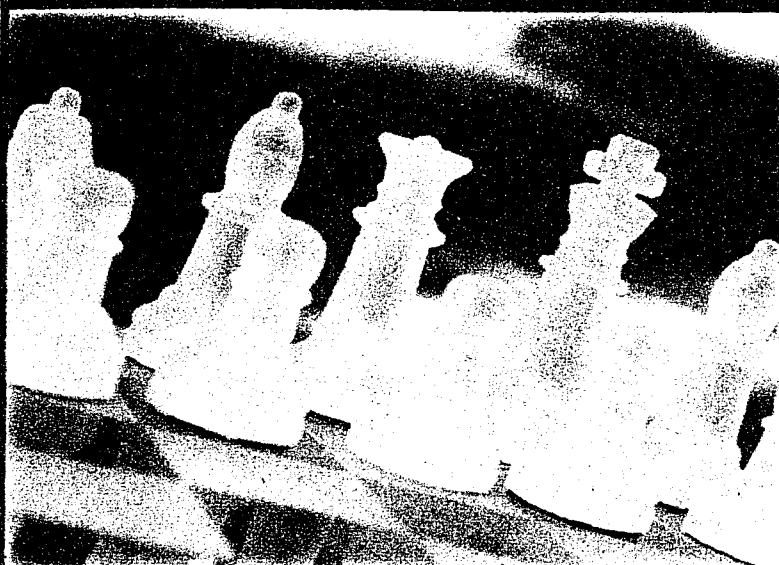
CRIME STOPPERS

Thefts:
A cash reward of up to \$1,000 is being offered for information about the theft of a Keiffer Rhein Dressage Saddle and Girth from the Miller Horse Coliseum. The saddle has a 3-inch-slit on the left side of the seat and was stored in a 200 series stall when it was stolen on Sept. 29 sometime between 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

A cash reward of up to \$1,000 is being offered for information leading to the arrest of persons or persons who unlawfully entered a blue 1992 Buick sedan parking in the Health, Wellness, and Recreation Center and stole three textbooks. The felony reportedly took place between noon on Sept. 23 and 6:15 on Sept. 27.

Anyone with information about these incidents should contact the MTSU Department of Public Safety at 898-2424.

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Homemade recipes spice up Homecoming festivities

CHILI

FROM PAGE 2

"We won because of love," said Holland-Blair Crenshaw, a senior in the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences. The sorority offered condiments alongside the chili, such as cilantro, cheese and crackers.

"People appreciate the extra little touch," Crenshaw said, who served as program council member and tailgating coordinator for Zeta Tau Alpha.

Last year's alumni and friends category winner, Adrian Holt, was unable to attend this year with his fan-favorite "albino chili," a white bean and chicken mix that is his signature

dish, Barker said.

"Everyone that comes to the cook-off always looks forward to the albino chili," Barker said. "I told him we were all really sad that he wasn't going to be here this year."

A catering company that was scheduled to represent the restaurant category backed out at the last minute, Barker said, adding that she suspected that a poor economy was affecting some mainstays of the cook-off community.

However, there were still a variety of chili dishes for the judges to taste test.

"This is what Homecoming is all about," said Mark Murphy, a graduate student pursuing his master's degree in higher education administration. Murphy officiated as a judge at the cook-off.

Several vegetarian chilies were offered, including one by the Raider Outdoor Lightning Leadership team.

"We wanted everyone to enjoy our chili, not just meat-eaters," said Natalee Lewis, a freshman who has not declared her major, who helped prepare chili for the Lightning Leadership team.

Another vegetarian offering was inspired by Indian cuisine. The chili made by Sigma Alpha Lambda National Leadership and Honors Organization was made with lentils and masala, giving the dish a curry-like flavor.

"It's the most unique chili here," said David Benneyworth, a senior majoring in psychology, who represented Sigma Alpha Lambda at the cook-off.

However, more traditional chili offerings

for fans of meat and spicy dishes were present. Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia offered a dish entitled "Don't be a menace to the 'Boro, while eating your chili in the hood," was made with three kinds of meat, including venison, according to the cooks.

"We have three different kinds of meat, so there are three different kinds of fat playing around in there," said Matt Gaddis, a sophomore majoring in entrepreneurship and business. Gaddis is the alumni relations officer for Phi Mu Alpha. "It's pretty spicy. It has a bourban-habanero flavor."

PMA's president, Chris Salt, expressed his support of the chili Gaddis made.

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

Open forums, chalking policies on Thursday's agenda

Sen. Garrett Settles of the College of Liberal Arts said that with the university consisting of many areas of study that combining all the colleges into one forum may be too large to adequately address students' needs and concerns.

"If we [take] all the colleges and put them together into one forum that would make it impersonal," Settles said.

If passed, the legislation would not take effect until the fall semester of 2011. However, Slater said he is not opposed to starting forums as early as January. The legislation will be reviewed before it is voted

on, which could occur as early as this week's meeting on Thursday.

In other business, Resolution 14-10-F would require the university to be consistent with all federal holidays, such as Columbus Day and Veterans Day. Some senators said they are concerned that more research must be conducted to see how the bill will affect semester breaks.

Resolution 15-10-F would amend the university's "chalking" laws, which would give students the ability to chalk sidewalks, walls and other architectural surfaces upon pur-

chasing a permit.

The present law regards chalking as a form of vandalism because it defaces property. Additionally, chalking requires clean up, which requires money that the university says it does not have. The funds to clean up the chalk would come from the purchase of each permit.

Resolution 16-10-F regards returning benches to the first floor lobby of the James E. Walker library. However, Sen. Slater said he has asked a library official about why the benches were removed.

"What I was told is that they

don't want it to become a congregating area anymore," Slater said. "When they had the benches there, people would [talk] loudly."

Resolution 18-10-F would require the "red route" campus bus to stop at the gravel parking lot located at the entrance of MTSU Boulevard before crossing Rutherford Boulevard into the Rutherford Parking Lot.

Resolution 17-10-F regards increasing the maximum time of campus parking meters from the current 30 minutes to an hour in some areas and as much as two in others.

LOCAL EVENTS

On Campus

Movie: Ghostbusters
Oct. 25-27, 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.
Oct. 28, 10 p.m.

Location: Keathley University Center Theatre
Admission: \$2

Make Your Own Pet Rocks

Oct. 25, 7 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Location: Corlew Hall Lobby

Tunnel of Terror

Oct. 26, 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Location: Tennessee Ballroom, James Union Building
Sexual health exhibit and information fair. Free HIV testing will also be available in Dining Room C.

Faculty Recital Don Aliquo, saxophone

Oct. 26, 8 p.m.

Location: T. Earl Hinton Music Hall, Wright Music Building
Admission: FREE

Felder Haunted House

Oct. 27, 6:30 until 10 p.m.

Location: Felder Hall
Admission: \$1 or canned good. All proceeds go to a local food bank.

Wacky Wednesday: Going to Haunted Hallways

Oct. 27, 7:30 until 8 p.m.

Location: meet in the Corlew Lobby
First Year Student Program

Movie: Rocky Horror Picture Show

Oct. 28, 10: p.m.

Location: KUC Theatre
Admission: \$5
18+, no squirt guns or candles allowed.

Off Campus

Madden tournament with Kevin Dyson

Oct. 25, 7 p.m.

Location: Blue Rooster

The Freedom Hill Band

Oct. 26, 7 p.m.

Location: Willie's Wet Spot

DJs on the Deck and Trivia

Oct. 26, 9 p.m.

Location: Coconut Bay

Blues Night

Oct. 27, 8 p.m.

Location: Toasted Toad

Ryan Coleman's Writers Night

Oct. 27, 8 p.m.

Location: Aura Lounge

Great Pumpkin

Festival

Oct. 28, 4 p.m. until 7 p.m.

Location: Discovery Center at Murfree Spring
Admission: \$ 4 with donated canned food item

Roots Music Showcase

Oct. 28, 8 p.m.

Location: Three Brothers Deli & Brew House

Events Policy

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

Sidelines is the editorially independent, nonprofit 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.

Muslim hip-hop artist slated to visit campus

STAFF REPORT

Racial and religious profiling will be the theme of a documentary screening and subsequent panel discussion, which will include the subject of the film, according to a news release.

"The New Muslim Cool," a documentary about a rap artist who converts to Islam and sings songs about his faith will be shown in Room 221 of the Learning Resource Center on Nov. 10, according to an MTSU press release.

Rap artist Hamza Perez will be a part of the panel that will be moderated by Dakari Kitwana, a senior media fellow at The Jamestown Project, which is a think-tank organization based at Harvard University Law School.

The other panel speaker will be Nura Maznavi, a staff attorney with Muslim Advocates, a San Francisco-based nonprofit sister organization of the National Association of Muslim Lawyers.

Maznavi also serves as counsel for Muslim Advocates Program to Combat Racial and Religious Profiling, according to the press release.

The documentary follows Perez, who is a performer from Puerto Rico,

as he struggles from living as a drug dealer to rebuilding his life "with a message of faith through hip-hop music," according to the press release.

Now, "Perez is an artist, community activist and educator who works for a national nonprofit organization as a youth counselor and as the vice principle of a private Islamic elementary school," according to the press release.

Perez performs with his brother Juan Suliman Perez as part of the hip-hop group M-Team and the interfaith poetry project Crossing Limits.

The film, which was released last year, was screened at the Sundance Film Festival and aired nationally on the Public Broadcasting System. It was an official selection of the Rooftop Film Festival and Lincoln Center Independents Night and the winner of the Freedom Award at the Al Jazeera International Film Festival.

The event is free and open to the public, and it is being co-sponsored by the Center for Popular Music, the department of History, the Office of Intercultural and Diversity Affairs, the School of Music and Student Programming.



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OPINIONS

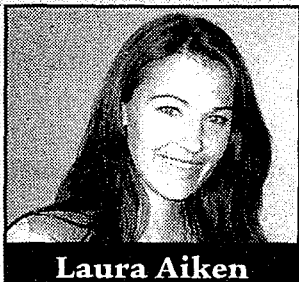
Sidelines is the editorially independent, nonprofit, student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. Sidelines publishes Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and online during June and July. The opinions expressed herein are those of individual writers and not necessarily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

Before you judge - read



It was in 2001 that my eighth grade English teacher told me to put away the book I was reading. "We do not read that rubbish," he said. Yet I was sure this particular book featuring a boy with a lightning bolt on his forehead topped all the best-seller lists: Amazon and The New York Times. This book held the No. 1 spot on those lists before it ever went on sale, meaning every purchase made around the world had been pre-ordered.

At the time, the book in my hands, "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire," was the fastest-selling book in publishing history. That's what I wanted to tell Mr. Brown and the other kids in the class who had snickered at me. After class, I asked him why reading this book was a problem. It was free reading time, and I wasn't disrupting the class, and I wasn't preaching to anyone, thank you very much. He told me, "Harry Potter is not appropriate because it involves witchcraft and sorcery. It goes against God and against the Bible and



Laura Aiken
Features Editor

that love conquers death and that we will rise from the dead in a resurrection made possible by and Christ," argues John Granger, author of "Looking for God in Harry Potter." It is "sacrificial love," he says.

Equally as prominent, another valuable message in the Harry Potter novels is that humility is the greatest power of all. While Harry does not have the brightest mind, he certainly has talent. When the sorting hat is placed on his head for this first time, it says Harry has "talent, oh my goodness, yes." However, Harry does not act

knowledge this because he views himself as completely normal, despite the wizard world telling him otherwise.

"Everyone thinks I'm special," Harry says in "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone." "But, I don't know anything about magic at all. How can they expect great things?" Rowling presents Harry as a modest hero industrially working to live up to his fame.

against religion. Read something else."

Indeed, the Harry Potter series is a phenomenon unlike any other, selling more than 400 million copies worldwide, written in more than 40 languages – and not even Tolkien can brag to that extent. The New York Times eventually categorized the series as children's literature because it was portrayed in the realm of fantasy and deemed a pop-culture fad of this era. Of course, with any best-selling series there are spin-offs: six Warner Brothers motion pictures, wands, cauldrons, Bertie Bott's Every Flavor Beans and major attractions, including a Hogwarts castle down in the Sunshine State.

But, it isn't what various religious groups and Harry Potter dissenters are raging about, as some who believe the series is too commercial might wish. Popular misconceptions have undoubtedly swept the nation upon the books' arrival – that the Harry Potter books are anti-religious, promoting witchcraft and wizardry, including but not limited to devil worshipping.

Anyone who espouses that opinion has either not read the books or is basing his or her false claims on superficial misconceptions. I believe media literacy is the issue – or lack thereof.

If the Harry Potter series was aimed at upholding pagan and occultist views, then why are there so many Christian themes and medieval representations?

In "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," Harry receives a wand from Ollivander's made with holly and a phoenix feather. In the Middle Ages, phoenixes were considered symbolic for the resurrection of Christ, because the phoenix dies once every 500 years and is then reborn from the ashes. Holly, an evergreen plant with thorns, has red berries surrounding the edges of the leaf. Rowling is symbolizing the crown of thorns that Christ wore on his head. The house that Harry is sorted into at Hogwarts is Gryffindor, founded by Godric Gryffindor. "Godric" is Anglo-Saxon for "kingdom of God," and a griffin is a bestialy from the Medieval time period that is neither lion nor eagle – it is both. A lion, as proven through C.S. Lewis' allegories, represents courage and strength, while the eagle represents courage among the creatures of the sky. Rowling uses the griffin to symbolize Christ walking on the earth, as God the father rules in a higher realm.

Also, in "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," Harry

The opposition's case isn't difficult to guess: practicing magic is bad, sorcery is bad, and it's a one-way ticket to Dante's Inferno. While this argument may ring true with some religious individuals and religious organizations, it is also as thin and flimsy as parchment. For this reason, media literacy must be taught more effectively and more efficiently in schools. Undoubtedly, there is a great divide among literary consumers, and I fall in line with those who see the Harry Potter series for what it really is: a grounded representation of underlying morals and values.

Among the subliminal messages in the "Harry Potter" novels, self-sacrifice is the most prominent. Throughout the series, J.K. Rowling offers numerous examples of sacrificial love. When Harry saves Ginny Weasley, Sirius Black, Cedric Diggory, Hermione Granger and basically everyone else who attend Hogwarts, he does it because of sacrificial love. He loves his friends, loves his school and loves the magical miracles that continually surprise him. Combined, these are the reasons Harry is willing to give up his life repeatedly for the sake of others.

The Harry Potter books appeal to "the innate human hope

meets with Dumbledore in his unconscious at Kings Cross, a train station in London. Dumbledore gives Harry a choice: He can move past reality or back to it. In an article published in The Vancouver Sun, Rowling says, "To me [the religious parallels have] always been obvious. But I never wanted to talk too openly about it because I thought it might show people who just wanted the story where we were going."

Certainly, media literacy is the culprit. Throughout the entire Harry Potter series, there are underlying values and themes, some more prominent than others. Schools must encourage reading comprehension and critical analysis, because religious groups seem to have skipped those steps. The groups are shining a negative light for those who haven't had a chance to read the books. I chose to defy what Mr. Brown said and continued to read about "the boy who lived" – I just did it at a different school.

Laura Aiken is a senior majoring in journalism, and she is the features editor for Sidelines. She can be reached at sfeatu@mtsu.

University not ready for name change

By CHRIS WRIGHT
Contributing columnist

The Student Government Association wants to change the name of a university that has stood strong for more than 50 years.

The resolution was proposed by a Sen. Gavin Mosley, who obviously has no idea what tradition and history stand for. You are kidding, right?

For what reason does the name change promote us "to step into a new era?" It's total hogwash. Some of the most prestigious universities have kept their name for centuries. Harvard University, which was founded in 1636, has had the Harvard College name since 1639. Cornell University has been known as such since 1865.

Mosley believes "the greatest benefit would be the caliber of students and faculty we pull in." Would it not make sense to follow the tradition of the greatest universities in this country?

If you are questioning the logic behind this resolution, or the intellect of SGA senators for that matter, it would not be difficult to do. All you have to do is look at Bill 2-10-S, in which a senator tried to raise the GPA for executives from 2.5 to 2.75, and it overwhelming failed.

It is funny that Mosley said one of the benefits would be an increased sense of school pride because of all the students I have talked to feel one of three ways. Most are either unaware of any type of proposed name change, believe it to be a stupid idea, or feel SGA representatives have too much time on their hands and should be focused on more important issues.

One issue that should be a higher priority is student parking. Most students believe student parking on campus is a problem. Why doesn't the SGA have a study or survey conducted on how to ease the parking problems on campus for students? The administration is consistently taking student parking away from students and giving it to faculty and staff, although the steady student incline vastly outweighs that of faculty and staff additions.

Before executive office elections in March, I e-mailed all candidates running for president and asked them all the same questions: "Do you support the idea of giving SGA executives white parking passes? Would you be willing to eliminate future SGA executives getting white parking passes, and would you abstain from obtaining a white pass? If yes, why and if no, why not?"

SGA President Brandon Batts responded by saying, "To be honest, having a white parking pass is just a benefit that the executive team gets. I would not want to eliminate it."

As for the immediate consequences, a name change would bring, oh, where to begin?

Let's start with tradition. Everyone knows the old saying "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

The university is facing massive budget cuts and imagine the millions of dollars it would cost to change signs, letterhead, domain names, marketing materials, building signs, uniforms, vehicle markings and the countless other things involved.

Consider upsetting the countless number of alumni because we are "stepping into a new era." Alumni fund countless scholarships for various departments on campus and upsetting them could have a negative impact on a vast number of students.

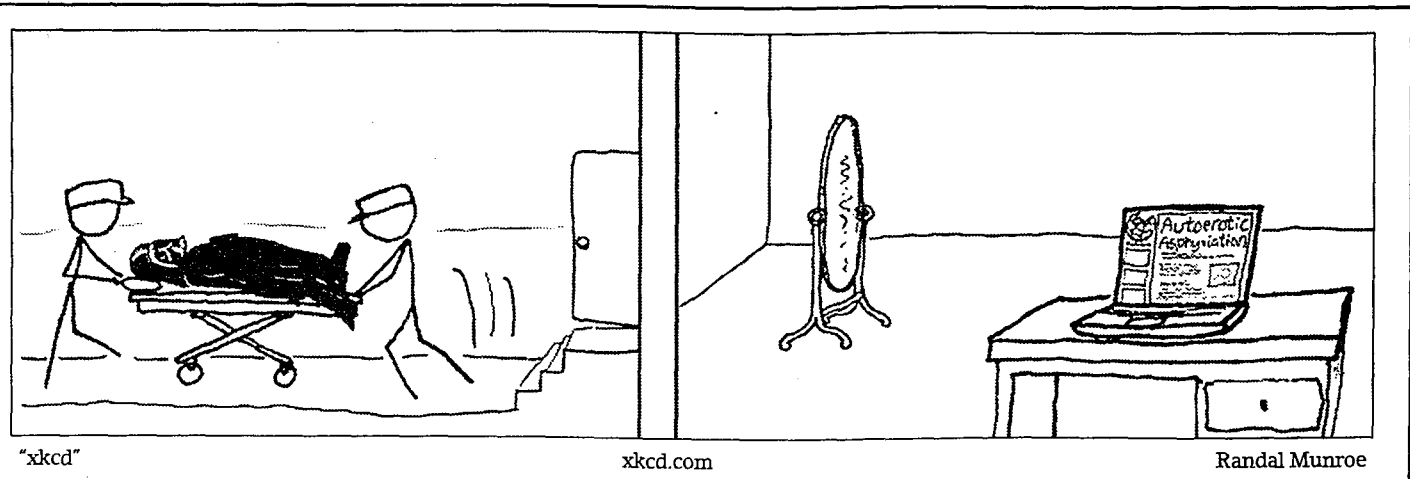
If this issue got traction, it should definitely be put before a referendum for students to decide like the parking garage issue. Unlike the parking garage issue, the students should not be able to be overridden.

Bottom line is you have to keep in mind that SGA represents you, the student. SGA should get back to just that - representing students. If they fail to do so, we must remind them of their responsibilities when election time rolls around.

Chris Wright is a senior majoring in behavior and health sciences. He can be reached at wcw2j@mtsu.edu.

Graphic by Andy Harper, production manager

COMIC



"xkcd" xkcd.com Randal Munroe

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SPORTS

Predators heating up ice

Team overcomes adversity with a Stanley Cup win on its mind

By ALEX HUBBARD
Staff Writer

The Nashville Predators, coming off a disappointing first-round play-off exit to the Chicago Blackhawks last April, hit the ice with a revamped leadership core and some new faces as the NHL kicked off its regular season this month. After racking up three straight victories to start the season, injuries have brought the squad back to earth as they endured three losses in a row, all in overtime before bouncing back with a win over Dallas on Saturday.

The Predators scorched a defensively inept Anaheim Ducks on opening night at home, 4-1, pouring on 49 shots on net.

Nashville then took to the road, heading to Chicago for a tilt against the defending Stanley Cup champion and Predator playoff nemesis Blackhawks. The Predators grabbed some revenge for last season's end when Joel Ward scored a power-play goal in the final minute of the third period to claim a 3-2 victory.

Returning home, the Predators continued their winning ways with a victory over St. Louis but struggled against Washington, Calgary and Pittsburgh. Nashville largely managed to contain Washington's superstar forward Alexander Ovechkin, playing an inspired puck-possession game that seemed to put the Capitals on their heels for long stretches, but Ovechkin broke loose long enough to score an assist on the Capitals winning overtime goal. Nashville struggled with Calgary's physical style of play in a 1-0 overtime loss, while Pittsburgh's all-star duo of Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin combined for three of the Pen-

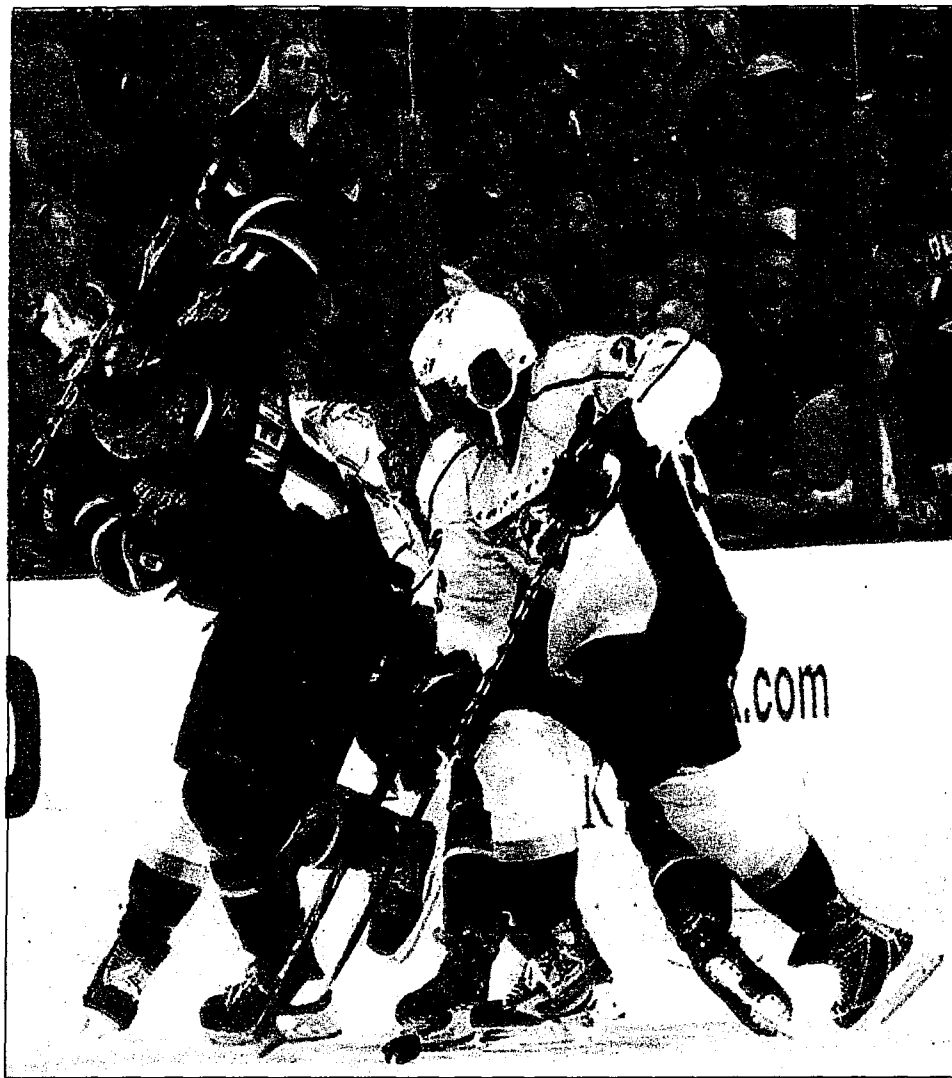


Photo courtesy of the Nashville Predators
Predator Joel Ward battles James Neal of the Pittsburgh Penguins on Saturday, Oct. 23, in Nashville. The final score for the game was 4-3 Penguins.

guins' four goals in another overtime defeat, this one 4-3.

In Dallas, the Predators managed to get back to their winning ways with a 1-0 shutout over the Stars.

Injuries have loomed large so far this season. The first and initially most concerning injury occurred to starting goaltender, Pekka Rinne, who left in the third period of the season opener with what appeared to be a knee or leg injury after a collision with two other players. First-year goalie Anders Lindback took over, finishing that game and playing the next three contests. The Swedish rookie seldom looked out of place

and impressed with a 2-0-1 record, a 2.41 goals against average and .921 save percentage.

Rinne has since returned and appears to have no residual effects from the shakeup. His shutout against Dallas marked the 15th of his NHL career. He has put up a record of 2-0-2 with a 1.58 goals against average and .955 save percentage since rejoining the team.

Matthew Lombardi, was the next Predator to join the injured list. The talented centerman who was brought in from Phoenix to replace the offense vacated by the summer-time trade of Jason Arnott to New Jersey played in the first

two contests, scoring no points, but has missed the last four games with an undisclosed injury.

Marcel Goc, a versatile, two-way player left the game against Washington after taking a hit from Capitals forward Nicklas Backstrom and has yet to return. The latest injury occurred when Ryan Suter went down with a knee injury against Calgary.

Suter was named an assistant captain this season and plays most of his minutes on the team's top defensive unit with newly-named captain Shea Weber. Goc is expected to be out for two to four weeks, while Suter will miss at least a week. Lombardi's timetable has not been announced.

Veteran Steve Sullivan, also named as an assistant captain, leads the team in goals and points scored. The 36-year-old left wing has four goals coupled with two assists for six points. Young centerman Cal O'Reilly, who has spent most of his time on a line with Sullivan, leads the team in assists with four.

Patrick Hornqvist, who broke out last year in his first full NHL season with 30 goals, has three goals and one assist in the current campaign.

Former Boston University star Colin Wilson, who is looking to build on a rookie season that showed glimpses of the player who was named as a finalist for the Hobey Baker trophy as the nation's top college hockey player, has four points.

With a renewed focus on the power play, which was among the league's worst last season, the Predators are counting on Lombardi to provide some spark. A year ago with Phoenix, he posted a career high in points with 53, including 19 goals and 34 assists.

His return to the lineup, coupled with the return of Suter, who is a regular on the power play's first unit, will give the squad its first true look at a healthy power play. As a healthy roster would certainly be meaningful to the Predators on the man advantage, so too would it help in all aspects of the game as the long season wears on.

Chemoi: endurance for excellence

By WILL TRUSLER
Sports Editor

For the first time in 26 years, the Blue Raider cross-country team will head to Bowling Green, Ky. next weekend looking to repeat as Sun Belt Conference champions.

The squad, however, is not content resting on their laurels from last season. They have only one acceptable outcome: victory.

Last year's conference runner-up and reigning Sun Belt Conference Runner of the Week, Festus Chemoi, will head into the race with a target on his back as the favorite to win.

He wouldn't have it any other way.

The senior standout from Ainobkoi, Kenya is in familiar territory with nothing but nature in front of him and pounding rubble under his feet. Chemoi has won all but one of his five races in the regular season. The four individual victories are a school record.

Chemoi now looks to capture the individual conference crown that has eluded him so far in his illustrious career at MT as well as return to the NCAA Championships where last season he became the first Blue Raider representative in 38 years to run in the meet.

He sat down with *Sidelines* and spoke of his goals heading into the postseason.

SL: With the regular season over, what are your thoughts on how you and the team performed?

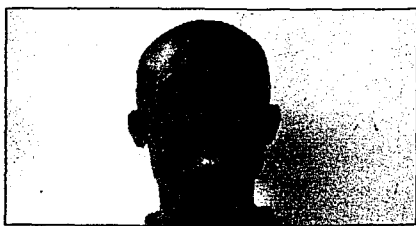
FC: The regular season has been coming along OK. At the beginning of the season we were kind of spread out as a team, but right now the team is running as a group. Personally, I've only lost one time this season out of our five regular meets, so that gives me a measure of how I've progressed over the years since I've been here and how I am doing this season.

SL: Do you feel this year's team can repeat as Sun Belt Conference champions?

FC: According to the way it looks now, it's so tight, but I'm not saying we're not going to win the championship. It's really something we have to fight for as a team. If everybody does what they're supposed to do, I don't see why we're not going to win the championship.

SL: What are your goals as an individual

BLUE RAIDER SPOTLIGHT



Festus Chemoi

Class: Senior
Major: Mechanical Engineering Training
Hometown: Ainobkoi, Kenya
Role Model: Paul Tergat
Favorite Movie: "Stepbrothers"
Favorite Band/Singer: Country Music
Favorite Food: Ugali
Pre-Game Rituals: "I just get a good stretch and rest."

heading into conference?

FC: Since this is my last year here, and I've never won an individual cross-country championship, my goal going there is to win. Although, it looks really tight with some individuals from other schools who are doing well too. I have to be tough on that day and try to win.

SL: What are your goals heading into the NCAA meets after conference?

FC: This year I want to try and qualify again for Nationals and really fight for that All-American position [top 40 at Nationals.]

SL: What are the biggest differences between life in Kenya and life here in Tennessee?

FC: It's a huge difference. Basically life here is too fast. Everything is done fast. Back home, you can tell somebody I'll meet you at one o'clock but you can show up an hour late and it was ok. Here, it was really hard to adjust to because practice was supposed to begin at three and by three I was still in my room and it was no more.

So adjusting to time and also food, it was hard the first time I cooked here. I didn't

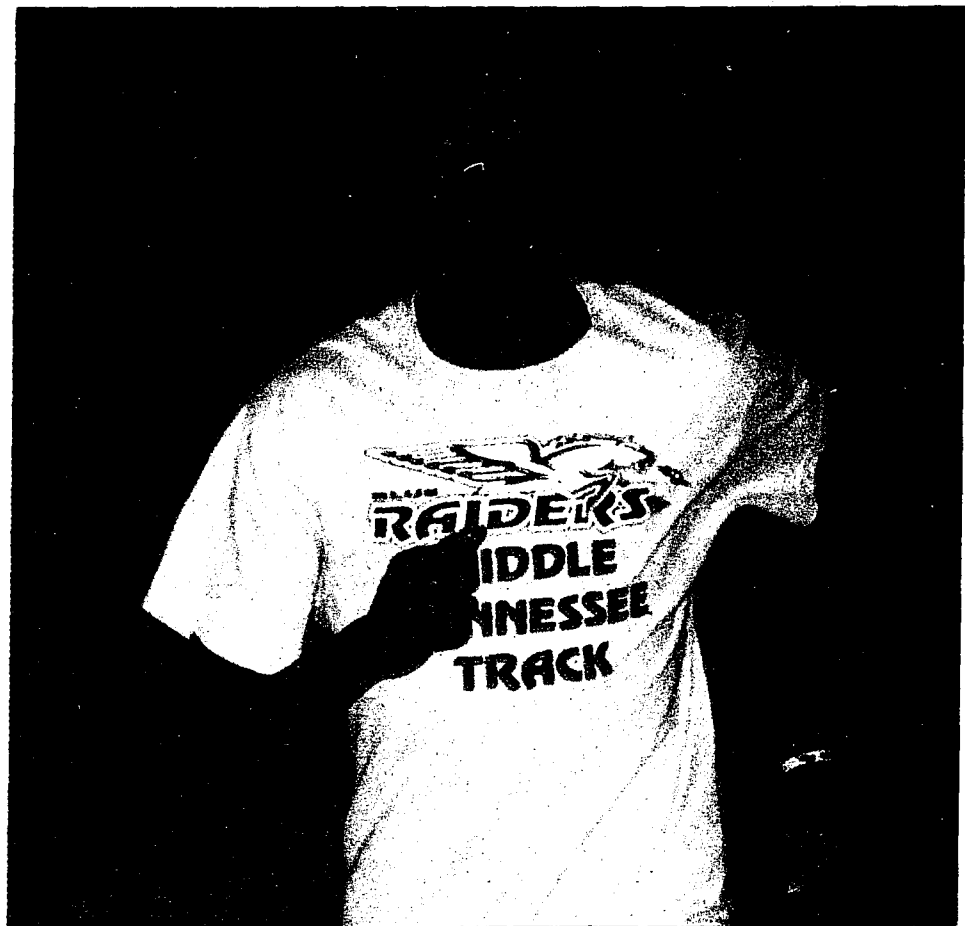


Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor
Senior cross-country runner Festus Chemoi trains Saturday in preparation for the Sunbelt Conference this weekend in Bowling Green, Ky.

know I could go to Walmart and find everything I needed to cook for myself. Talking was really hard for me too. I couldn't even hear what people were saying, but now I'm okay and I can basically chat with people.

SL: How often and how much do you run?

FC: I run every day. During the season I try to reach 80 miles a week. In the offseason or summertime, I try to go between 100 to 110 miles per week. I try to run in the morning and the evening to split it up.

SL: What do you enjoy doing when you're not running?

FC: When I'm not running, I enjoy basically hanging out with my teammates and cooking. I love cooking a lot, maybe watching a movie.

SL: Do you enjoy running track or cross-country more?

FC: I enjoy the cross-country season more, even though it's longer because you run on different courses every time. But tracks are the same all over the world. So cross-country is a bit of fun because you never know what you are going to encounter.

SL: What is your most memorable moment as a Blue Raider?

FC: My most memorable moment is winning the Sun Belt Conference cross-country championship last year. It was unbelievable because we were ranked fourth going to conference. When we were there the conditions were really bad. We ran in pools of water, but at the end of the day we emerged the winner.

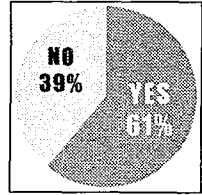
SL: What are your plans after graduate?

FC: After I graduate, I would like to stay here and go to graduate school. I want to train for marathons, too.

DO YOU THINK MTSU SHOULD CHANGE ITS NAME?

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FEATURES



ARE YOU EXCITED ABOUT THE HOMECOMING GAME?

BASED ON VOTES FROM MTSUSIDELINES.COM.

Reflecting on 'Happy Birthday'

Celebrating history of world's most popular song

By DANIEL JOHNSON
Contributing Writer

What is it about "Happy Birthday to You" that has people singing it at the birthdays of uncomprehending infants and presidents alike? It's come to be one of the most recognized songs in the English language, and now, in honor of its 25th anniversary, The Center for Popular Music, is hosting an exhibit in the James E. Walker Library that traces the history of this song, shedding light on how it came to be commonplace in popular culture.

Drawing from its collection, the center raised a display in the library that tells the story of "Happy Birthday," from the tune's origins in

Kentucky as a greeting song for children, to its customary use in today's society as one of most recognized songs in the world. But, most don't even think of it as a song with an actual beginning because it's so ingrained.

It is hard to pinpoint the exact origins of the lyrics, but the melody of "Happy Birthday" can be credited back to a tune "Good Morning to All," originally a greeting song meant to be sung to children. Sisters Mildred Hill and Patty Hill composed and published the tune in 1893, which first appeared in "Song Stories for Kindergarten."

Mildred Hill was more than just a school teacher.

"[Mildred] was something of an expert on African-American spirituals," said the center's interim director, Dale Cockrell.

The Fisk Jubilee Singers, an African-American ensemble focusing on spirituals, had a heavy influence on the tune, especially with the song "A Happy

New Year."

Lucinda Cockrell, The Center for Popular Music's coordinator of research collections, said, "Mildred was interested in African-American spirituals, and if you look at the notes of it and the tune, it's very similar, [and] you can look at it and know that she came into contact with it."

Perhaps it is this hymnal quality that lends to its endearing nature.

"It's murky, as many folk songs are," Cockrell said, referring to the song's history.

The history of the tune is hard to follow as it has been exposed in popular culture for a very long time.

"[The Hill sisters] wrote the melody, but nobody knows actually who came up with the lyrics of

"Happy Birthday," Dale explained.

According to Matthew Bess, a freshman majoring in English, the song is about "simplicity: Less is more. Nothing gets stuck in your head more than a line you repeat over and over again."

"It makes you feel special because it's about your day, it's your song. You never hear someone singing that song and they're not happy," said Hunter Scoggins, a junior majoring in recording industry.

Since the first time the lyrics and the tune were introduced they have seen many interpretations and reworking, and have been found in numerous publications. In 1933, Western Union chose "Happy Birthday" to be its first singing telegram to Rudy Vallee, a popular singer of that time.

"[The Hill sisters] wrote the melody, but nobody knows actually who came up with the lyrics of 'happy Birthday'."

DALE COCKRELL
INTERIM DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER

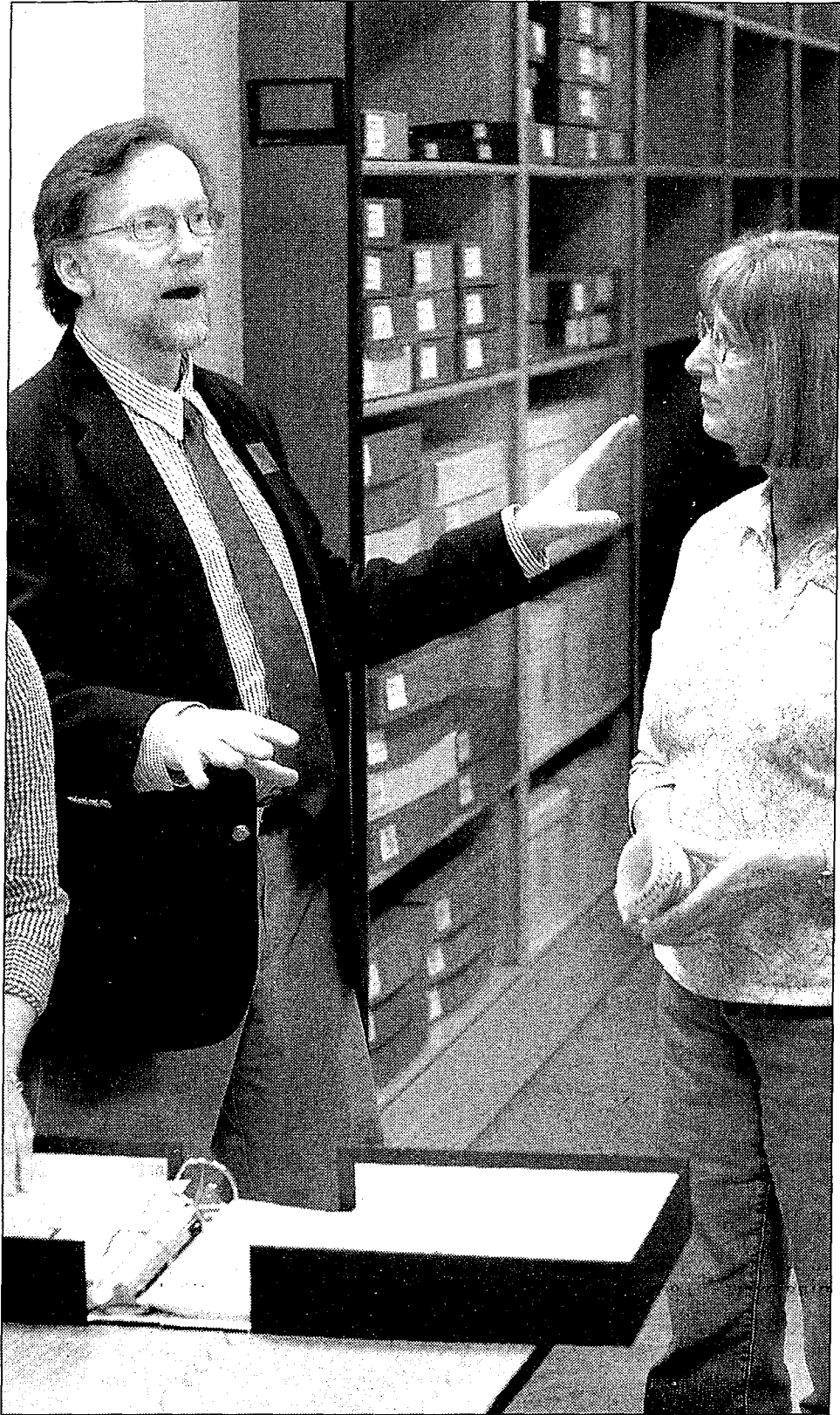


Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor

Grover Baker (Left) talks about the variety of archived media in The Center for Popular Music. The center celebrated its 25th anniversary Saturday.

BIRTHDAY, PAGE 8

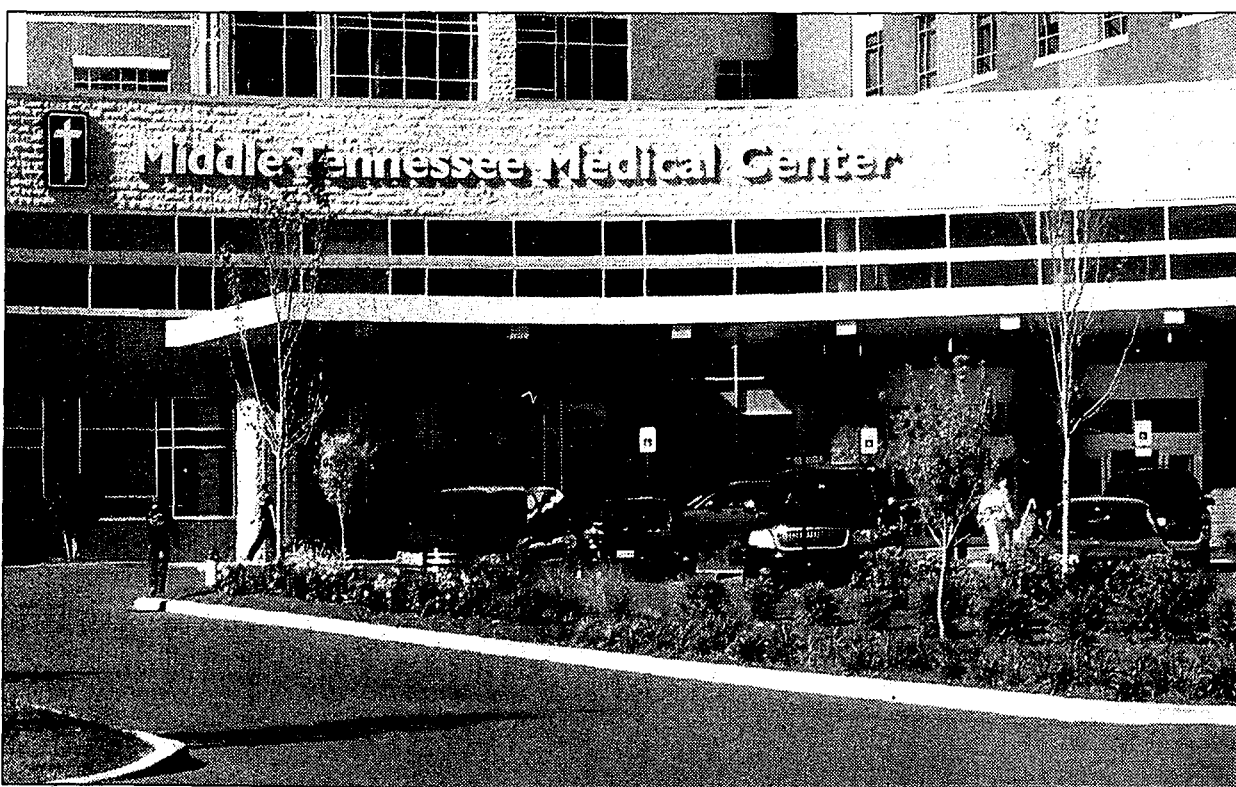


Photo by Janet Mpoiyi, contributing writer

Middle Tennessee Medical Center recently opened its new facilities, after more than 12 years of preparations.

MTMC unites local community

By JANET MPOIYI
Contributing writer

Most hospitals emit a smell of antiseptics and disinfectants.

When stepping into the newly constructed Middle Tennessee Medical Center, one might have to pause to take a second whiff of the "new car smell" wafting down the halls.

Mary Smith, who works in registration and admitting, enjoys this characteristic immensely.

"This new place is really focused around healing – its features are implemented in the hospital," Smith says. "It radiates a welcome and calming personality that indisputably is essential in a hospital environment."

It really is something you have to stop and take in for a second. The ceiling-to-floor windows allow for natural sunlight to illuminate the

interior structure of the hospital. The sunlight spotlights the donor wall, displayed on the first floor, exhibiting the community's efforts to create this place – \$20 million worth of efforts.

Rachel Ramsey, who works in the nursery, says, "MTMC carries such elegance, [and] I've worked in three different hospitals – this is truly the prettiest one I've ever been in."

MTMC officially opened the doors to its new facility on Medical Center Parkway on Oct. 2, with more than 370 physicians and 1,200 associates.

The new facility has been a work in progress for the past 12 years.

"Once we were able to confirm the 68 acres of land from the city, we worked with architects to fit what this area needed," explains Erin Yeldell, who is the hospital's public relations coordinator. "The previous MTMC was air locked and landlocked – there was no room to

expand it."

MTMC's current location became available, so construction crews broke ground in 2008, says Yeldell, an MTSU graduate.

Formerly known as Rutherford Hospital, this hospital was founded in 1927 by a local director of The Red Cross. Noticing the poor health conditions, he dreamed of bringing better health care to Murfreesboro, and he immediately took action. Working with the Commonwealth Fund of New York and joining with Baptist Hospital and St. Thomas Hospital, his dream became a reality.

In 1982, the name Rutherford Hospital was augmented to its current one. At the time, it was a trend in health care to title things "medical center," so it could reflect a tight-knit community as opposed to a regional referral center.

MTMC, PAGE 8

Gleeful misfits accentuates use of etymology

By BESSAM PIANKH-HABIB, LAURA AIKEN
Contributing Writer, Features Editor

Little kids laughed in high-pitched giggles while adults and students chuckled heartily – that mixed with the cast members' singing, established MTSU's production of "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" as a victorious pandemonium.

From the looks on the audience members' faces, it was obvious the show was a success – the event produced copious amounts of hysterical laughter, which seemed to reverberate off every inch of the recently renovated auditorium.

"From the beginning, we knew it was going to be awesome," said Matt Hunter, a freshman majoring in theater, who played the part of William Barfee, an ingenious spellcaster with a mucous membrane disorder – a quintessential "Bee" contestant.

The musical is about, well, spelling, which according to the cast, brought the group closer together.

"Everyone got a lot closer with everyone, and the upperclassmen were especially nice to me," Hunter said.

The production follows a group of adolescents, who are on the brink of puberty, and struggling as spelling whizzes that live, breathe and think about words – along with the roots of origin of the words themselves.

"We all remember those middle school years when we were passing through that weird stage called puberty," said Kristi Shamburger, the director of the show. "Perhaps you were a champion in sports, band, chess [or]... drama club?"

"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" is based on an improvisational musical that was performed by a New York City improvisational comedy troupe known as The Farm. The group held a workshop in Massachusetts in 2004, and then moved to Off Broadway and eventually to Broadway, where it ran from 2005 to 2008.

Rebecca Feldman conceived the idea for the musical, William Finn wrote the music and lyrics and Rachel Sheinkin published an adapted version for a book, which won the Tony Award for Best Book of a Musical in 2005.

Shamburger said the show was put together in less than two months.

SPELLING, PAGE 8



'Happy Birthday' song celebrates b-day

BIRTHDAY
FROM PAGE 7

"It's the art of being appreciated, having someone sing to you, it's a celebration saying we're happy that you're here, another year is a better thing," said Britany McGhee, a senior majoring in Spanish.

The Center for Popular Music is "the oldest and largest of its kind in the world," Dale said.

The 25th anniversary of The Center for Popular Music has proven to be more than just an exhibit – its historical insight into popular music has given many students on campus opportunities to discover the origins of contemporary culture on a grand scale. In a culture that has grown rather accustomed with familiar tunes, this exhibit has set a precedent for all – history that is otherwise taken for granted should be appreciated and celebrated.



Photos by Jay Bailey, photo editor
Christi Underdown-Dubois (top left) displays records.
Rachel Morris (bottom left) carries archived pamphlets.

Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor
(Top right) Patrons review welcome information. (Bottom right) Cake was provided to celebrate the center's birthday.

Spelling bee champion crowned at Tucker Theatre

SPELLING
FROM PAGE 7

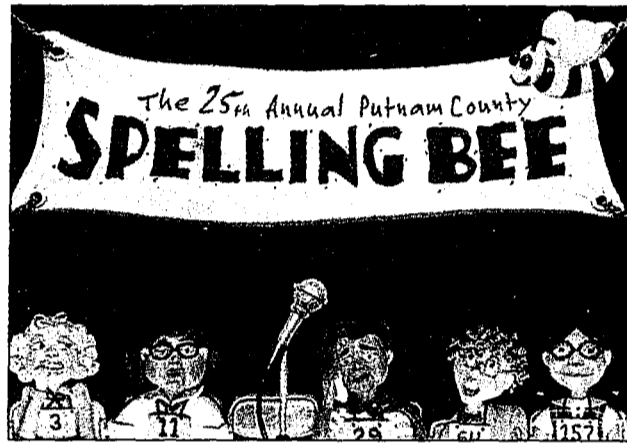
The performers began rehearsals while renovations were taking place in Tucker Theatre and while dancing around wood chips was an obstacle, the performers didn't allow these conditions to interfere with the show's production process, and the cast members never faltered.

"We weren't able to get into the space [yet], and we were falling everywhere, especially me, because I had

wheels," said Graham Shelton, a sophomore majoring in theater, who played the very jocular part of Leaf Coneybear.

For his character, Shelton had to wear Heelys, which he used to skate around the stage. Also, his face was covered in pseudo-freckles, a make-up technique to boost Shelton's character. He said he hadn't experienced anything like this before.

"The best part about my make up was putting on the freckles," Shelton said. "But it was a real challenge to learn



to dance with Heelys."

Alex McNamara, a junior in the College of Liberal Arts, who starred in MTSU's pro-

duction of "Urinetown," portrayed Logainne Schwartz and Grubenierre. Her character, the daughter of two

gay men, who are constantly pushing for her to succeed, produced a generous amount of laughs and applause.

Clint Randolph, a junior in the College of Liberal Arts, danced and sang his heart out. His character, Chip Toletino, dealt with many issues concerning puberty and growth. His efforts earned a few laughs as well. Randolph is the president of Alpha Psi Omega National Honorary Theatre Society, and his interpretation of Tolentino undoubtedly demonstrated his acumen for acting

and singing.

When the curtains closed on "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," audience members crowded around outside the auditorium in hopes of meeting some of the cast members. Several people left saying, "I wish I had been in a spelling bee."

Whether or not this show ignited a sudden urge to become more learned in etymology, people in the audience seemed rather enthusiastic about seeing this particular spelling bee at least one more time – if not more.

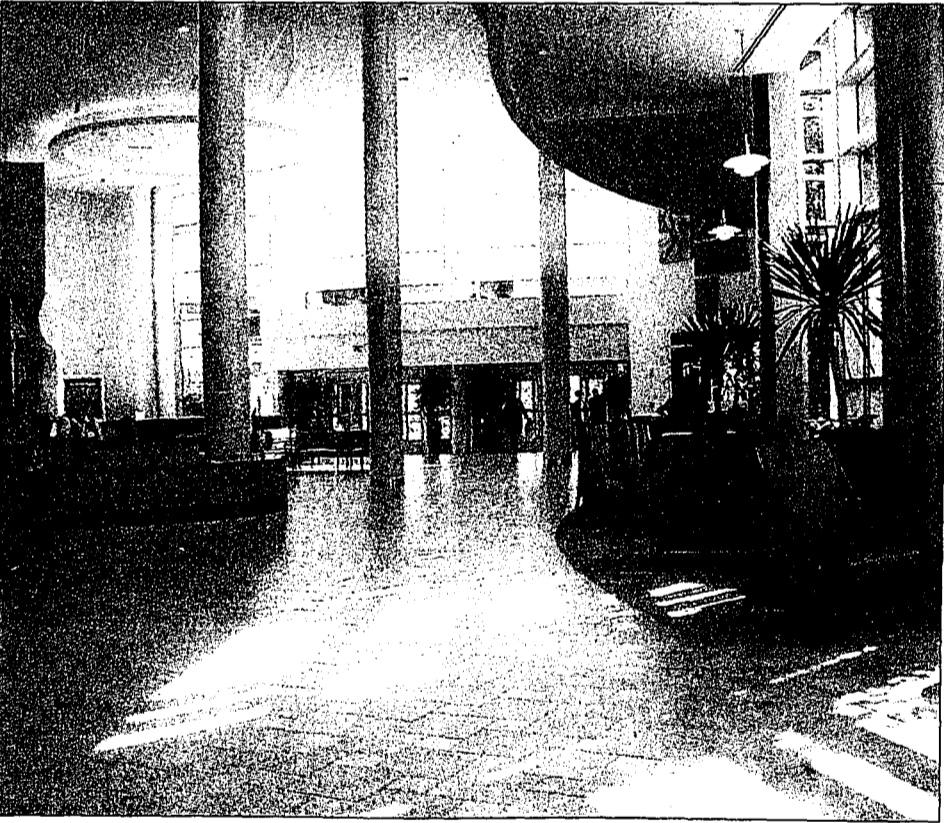


Photo by Janet Mpoyi, contributing writer
The new Middle Tennessee Medical Center building includes larger patient rooms and space for families to spend the night. The hospital also spent \$32 million on 3-D digital imaging equipment.

New facility enhances quality of patient care

MTMC
FROM PAGE 7

"There are so many significant changes," Yeldell explains. "The patient rooms are exclusively double in size, and each of them has their own closet, [and] there is also an area for the families with a sleeper sofa bed."

Yeldell portrays MTMC's hospital environment as a giant support system.

"It's a selfless environment – we take anyone, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity and ability to pay," Yeldell says. "My favorite part is that we take care of not just the physical aspects of people but spiritual as well."

The hospital spent \$32 million on medical equipment to provide the hospital with 3-D digital imaging equipment, enabling faster CT scans, MRIs and diagnostics.

Katherine Mills has been an OB-GYN nurse for four years and enjoys the nurse-call system, which involves having a patient

push a button on the side of the bed to contact the patient's nurse directly.

"We have the same great employees and great care; it's all just in a different building," Mills says. "Everyone here is more upbeat and willing to learn more."

Monica Jackson was 29 weeks pregnant at the time of the move, and she anticipated the change of location. Before her water broke, she said, "The rooms and facility were more open, [and] I kept saying, 'I am not delivering until we get to the new hospital.'"

Yeldell said she feels like MTMC contributes to the community on a personal level.

"Nobody here feels like they are walking into a foreign environment," Yeldell says. "I love the atmosphere and the people that work here, [but also,] I really feel like the town has grown around the new hospital."

A hospital generally aids the sick or the weak. But MTMC is proving to be more than just a hospital. It's proving to be a home away from home for those who need one, and MTMC's atmosphere definitely feels – and smells – like one.

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