

Stronger anti-assault efforts recommended

By LIZA SATURDAY
Staff Writer

Vice President Joe Biden and the U.S. Department of Education are advising colleges, universities and secondary schools to do more to prevent and address sexual assault cases. While reported rapes

on campuses decreased from 17 in 2009 to 10 in 2010, the number of sexual assault cases reported doubled during that same time, according to the 2010 Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Campus Crime report. The Department of Education hosted

conference call discussing campus sexual assault prevention with colleges and universities last week. "[The Office of Civil Rights] seeks to provide assistance so that all students know their rights," said Russlynn Ali, assistant secretary of the Office of Civil Rights for the

Department of Education. "It is our responsibility to provide support to women who are victims." The Office of Civil Rights also sent all schools receiving federal funds guidance on how to better understand their obligations under the Title IX civil rights law in regard to sexual assault.

Biden and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan introduced the guidelines, proposed to help schools "respond promptly and effectively to sexual violence," according to a DOE press release. "Our primary goal is prevention through education, Duncan said.

"Information is always the best tool to combat sexual violence." An estimated 1 in 5 women will be a victim of sexual assault in college. About 6 percent of male college students also report being assaulted, Duncan said.

ASSAULT, PAGE 3



Photo by Justin Bingham, staff photographer
On April 13, Melissa Wallace and Robert Watson cross Middle Tennessee Boulevard at the Bell Street intersection on their way to class. The intersection is located in the area of the road-widening project that is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2012.

Road project pushed back

By MARIE KEMPH
Editor-in-Chief

Plans to begin widening the portion of Middle Tennessee Boulevard that runs alongside campus this spring have been postponed due to a more complicated preparation process, according an official with the City of Murfreesboro. "We're a little bit behind on the acquisition phase," said Dana Richardson, transportation director for the City of Murfreesboro, adding the project is "more complicated" than others because it involves the use of federal funds, in addition to city and local dollars. Richardson said construction is not likely to begin until next year, pushing the expected completion date back to the fall of 2012. The proposal comprises widening the section of the road between Greenland Drive and Main Street, approximately .80 miles, from four lanes to five. Bicycle lanes will also be added and underground utilities will be installed, as well as other upgrades. The project is part of the city's larger goal of providing more pedestrian friendly roadways. Earlier this year, the City of Murfreesboro established a bicycle safety subcommittee with the intention of better educating the

community about the rules governing the road and cyclists, said Sarah Lovett, the education and advocacy chairperson for the Murfreesboro Bike Club. The \$9.6 million project is being funded through three parties: U.S. Congress, City of Murfreesboro and MTSU. Before retiring from office, U.S. Rep. Bart Gordon helped secure a \$7.6 million transportation grant. The city has allotted almost \$500,000, which will likely be funded through bonds or loans. The university is providing more than \$1.4 million to help pay for the road widening. "We found the money a few years ago," said John Cothorn, senior vice president of MTSU. "So, we set that money aside." However, he did not specify as to where that money was found. He said the project has been planned for quite some time, but that it is a city project being primarily funded through federal highway funds. "As other surrounding city street improvements are made, we would support adding bike lanes," Cothorn said. "MTSU and the city discuss street improvements as projects are planned that can jointly affect us." Richardson said the city is in the process of buying land that is



Photo by Justin Bingham, staff photographer
Melissa Wallace and Robert Watson chat alongside their bikes April 13 on the side of Middle Tennessee Boulevard.

adjacent to the existing roadway, which includes privately owned and university-owned property. "We're waiting on finalizing the land contracts," Richardson said. "Once we complete that phase, we will begin bid letting so that we

ROADS, PAGE 3

President-elect appoints new officers to SGA

By TODD BARNES
News Editor

Jeremy Poynter, president-elect of the Student Government Association, has appointed two senators to the philanthropic coordinator and attorney general positions. "I just want to announce my 2011-2012 attorney general and philanthropic coordinator," Poynter said, during last week's SGA meeting. "My attorney general is Katie Bogle, and my philanthropic coordinator is Courtnei Secrest." Both women will begin serving their one-year terms in May. Bogle serves as an at-large senator and sits on the SGA Court of Traffic Appeals, and Secrest serves as a senator for the College of Liberal Arts. "Basically, I put out applications that were out for about 10 to 12 days," Poynter said. "They applied, and then we interviewed them at a committee." Bogle was the only senator to apply for the attorney general position. Two other senators applied for the philanthropic coordinator position, in addition to Secrest. "Courtnei has a wonderful personality," Poynter said. "She's very outgoing and has great ideas for the next philanthropic coordinator [position]." He said Secrest's ideas were what really thrust her into the position. "This year I want to do community service projects based upon each college, like smaller projects, just so we can get the SGA out there throughout each college," Secrest said. The philanthropic coordinator is "responsible for coordinating all philanthropic programs,

such as blood drives and The BIG Event," according to the SGA Constitution. "My dad passed away from cancer," Secrest said. "So, I'm really involved in things with anybody with cancer - children and things like that. I always like to give back to kids with cancer who are in the hospital during Christmas, and I already do that on my own. That would be a great thing to incorporate for the SGA." She also proposed giving back to local high schools, such as donating formal gowns and tuxedos for students who may not be able to afford to go to prom. Bogle said she is ready for the position, even though she admits the position comes with its difficulties because the attorney general's primary responsibility is to "oversee the process of student parking citation appeals." "It's very different from any of the other [executive positions]," Bogle said. "You get a lot of angry students, and a lot of people that aren't too happy. Whereas all the other [SGA] offices are a bit more positive and positive things come out of the office." She said despite the challenging aspects, she understands how important the role of attorney general is because parking is the "main concern for the majority of students on campus." "With all the construction going on," Bogle said, "and all the transitioning and expanding, I want to be in a position to kind of ease the students' [frustration] a little bit and tell them it's going to be OK."



Poynter

House to vote on budget cuts

By AMANDA HAGGARD
Associate News Editor

The U.S. House will vote on the spending plan today, which is the cut-off date for the expiration of a temporary stopgap funding compromise that was worked out Friday night. Friday's last minute budget negotiation prevented a potential government shutdown in a

\$38 billion dollar cut, the largest one-year budget slash in history. "Like any compromise, this required everyone to give ground on issues that were important to them," President Barack Obama said Saturday morning in a press conference. "I certainly did. Some of the cuts we agreed to will be painful - programs people rely on will be cut back;

needed infrastructure projects will be delayed." Democrats said they compromised social programs and Republicans did not quite reach the \$61 billion in cuts they wanted. The deal is not what Republicans sought after, House Speaker John Boehner wrote in an op-ed in USA Today on Monday. "More of the same spending, taxing and

borrowing will not make our economy stronger or our future brighter," Boehner wrote. "This is why the spending cut agreement is important. While not nearly enough, these cuts represent a first step in taking our nation off the path to national bankruptcy, to giving employers the confidence

BUDGET, PAGE 3



Photo courtesy of Pete Souza, official White House photographer
(From left) President Barack Obama reviews his fiscal policy speech with advisors in the Oval Office on April 13 with Rob Nabors, assistant to the president for Legislative Affairs; Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner; National Economic Council Director Gene Sperling; Office of Management and Budget Director Jack Lew; and Director of Speechwriting Jon Favreau.

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IN TODAY'S ISSUE



Thief is up to something sneaky. To find out what it is, check out Arts & Entertainment.
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EXCLUSIVELY ONLINE



Find pictures of biking and music from "Tour De Fun" in our online photo gallery.
FEATURES

WEATHER



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NATIONAL AP NEWS

Allure of tablet continues dominate over PC market

SAN FRANCISCO – Last year, the popularity of Apple Inc.'s iPad hurt PC sales. This year, that trend is continuing, as new data from two market research firms indicate PC shipments declined in the first three months of 2011.

Gartner Inc. said that its research shows PC shipments dipped 1.1 percent compared to the same period last year to 84.3 million. IDC said its data show PC shipments fell 3.2 percent to 80.6 million.

Gartner had expected 3 percent shipment growth, while IDC was looking for 1.5 percent growth.

For years, companies tried to popularize tablets, but it wasn't until Apple released the iPad last April that the category took off.

FAA adds second controller for night shifts at airports

WASHINGTON – Federal aviation officials say they're adding a second air traffic controller to midnight shifts at 27 airports around the country following the suspensions of controllers at three more airports in Nevada, Washington and Texas.

The Federal Aviation Administration said in a statement released Wednesday that an air traffic controller fell asleep at Reno-Tahoe International Airport while a medical flight carrying an ill patient was trying to land at about 2 a.m. The agency said the controller, who was out of communication for about 16 minutes, has been suspended.

The statement said two controllers in Lubbock, Texas, and another in Seattle have also been suspended.

Arizona lawmakers approve birth certificate legislation

PHOENIX – The Arizona Senate has approved a bill requiring presidential candidates to prove they are U.S. citizens before they can be included on the state's ballot.

The bill approved Wednesday would make Arizona the first state to pass such legislation. Democrats say it exceeds the state's authority.

Under the bill, candidates who don't have a birth certificate could show two alternative documents, including a baptismal or circumcision certificate, a hospital birth record or a postpartum medical record.

The proposal was prompted by the claim that there is no proof President Barack Obama was born in the United States and is therefore ineligible to be president.

The bill goes to the House for a final vote.

LOCAL AP NEWS

House bill to allow guns on campus passes first hurdle

NASHVILLE – A measure to allow faculty and staff to carry handguns on the campuses of Tennessee's public colleges and universities has cleared its first legislative committee.

The measure sponsored by Republican Rep. Andy Holt of Dresden advanced out of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Wednesday despite opposition from the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police.

The law enforcement group in a letter sent to all 132 members of the General Assembly said allowing guns on campus could create scenarios where police wouldn't be able to determine whether armed people were "well meaning" or committing a crime.

The group also said handgun carry permit holders don't have the "stressful shooting" training needed to handle dangerous situations.

Guest workers sue farmers claiming harmful exposure

NEWPORT – A group of 15 Mexican guest workers is suing the owners of a Newport tomato farm, claiming civil rights and labor law violations.

The suit filed in federal court in Knoxville on Tuesday claims the workers were repeatedly exposed to pesticides while working at Fish Farms last year. It claims the workers were retaliated against, fired and deported when they complained.

The workers were brought by Fish Farms to the United States under the H-2A visa program. It allows employees to hire foreign workers when there are not enough American workers to take the jobs.

Employers are also required to house the workers, and the complaint claims the worker housing was overcrowded and squalid.

Fish Farms' attorney, Jay Mader, said the farm will respond to the allegations in court.

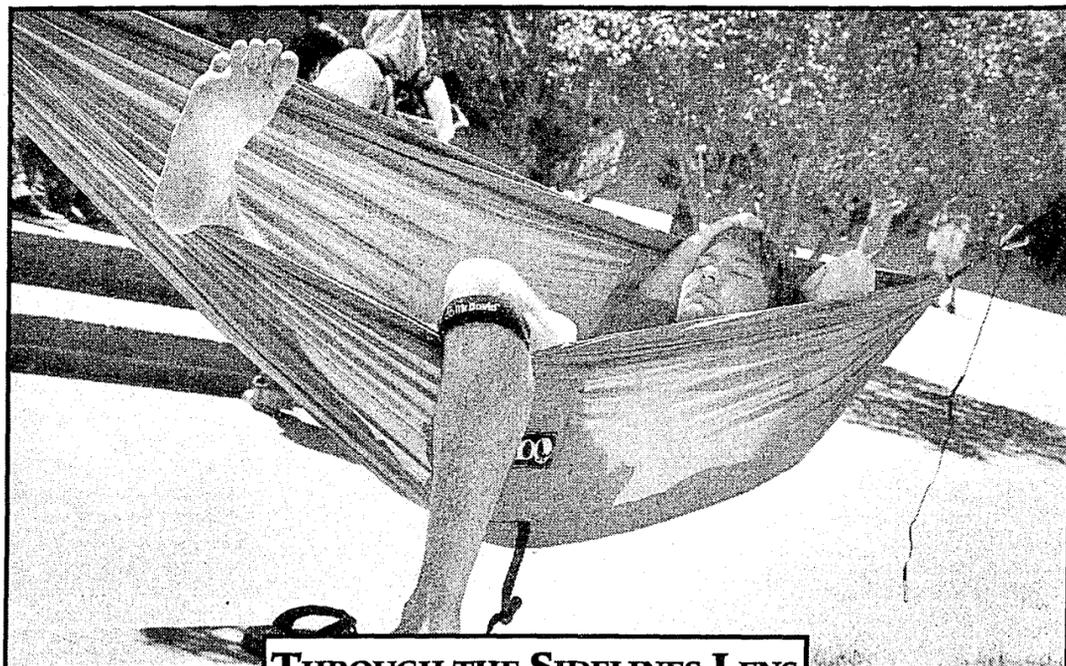
Public begins effort to save historic Memphis landmark

MEMPHIS – There is an effort to prevent demolition of the Mid-South Coliseum in Memphis. A public meeting Thursday night at Memphis Heritage will gauge support.

The Coliseum was built in 1964 and has a place in the city's integration. Architectural historian Judith Johnson told The Commercial Appeal it was the first venue that wasn't built with separate restrooms for blacks and whites.

The Beatles played the coliseum in 1966. Pro wrestler Jerry Lawler's celebrated match against comedian Andy Kaufman played out there in 1983.

Local filmmaker Mike McCarthy says he hopes the discussion isn't a mere "sentimental romp" about what people have seen at the coliseum and asks what the building could be used for.



THROUGH THE SIDELINES LENS

Photo by Justin Bingham, staff photographer

Kyle Kline, a freshman in the University College, lounges in his hammock April 13 on The Quad, located between the James E. Walker Library and Business and Aerospace Building. Kline is one of many students who has set up a hammock on campus to enjoy the spring weather.

Professor lends expertise for television show

STAFF REPORT

Derek Frisby, an assistant professor in the department of history, was an expert guest on the series "Civil Warriors," which aired earlier this week on the National Geographic Channel.



Frisby

The show included an on-camera interview between Frisby and Christian Latham, a descendant of William Fletcher, whom the show featured.

Fletcher was a Confederate soldier and prisoner who jumped from a moving train and escaped into the countryside of Rutherford County, according to his family.

"Episode 3 includes a segment filmed in Christiana at Miller's Grocery, which is near where Fletcher made his escape," Frisby said.

Frisby's interview with Latham deals with life in the occupied territory near Murfreesboro and in other places throughout the state.

"Civil Warriors" is a new Civil War documentary series that finds and follows descendants of soldiers as they trace their ancestors' footsteps, Frisby said.

He said the series would be broadcast again Monday at 2 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel.

"I think it will be aired many times after that because it contains compelling personal stories and groundbreaking animation sequences and visual elements," Frisby said.



Photo courtesy of Students for Environmental Action. Students participate in various Earth Day activities April 22, 2008, outside of the Keathley University Center.

Students to celebrate Earth Day next week

STAFF REPORT

Students for Environmental Action and the American Democracy Project are slated to host an Earth Day celebration April 21 at 9 a.m. in front of the Keathley University Center.

The schedule comprises a free document-shredding service, recycling information, music, special guests and vendors.

MaxShred will offer free shredding and recycling of documents from 10 a.m. to noon. Acoustic music and a poetry slam will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

DJ B. Roll will provide entertainment from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. Young Americans for Liberty is also holding a yard sale.

Earth Day is traditionally observed April 22, but organizers scheduled the event to accommodate Good Friday and ensure that more

students will be able to participate.

"Raiders Recycle" T-shirts and tote bags, in bright colors and in tie-dye, will be for sale on April 21.

For drive-through and drop-off of materials for shredding at the Earth Day event, recyclers should enter campus from East Main Street onto North Baird Lane, turn right onto Alumni Drive and then left on Friendship Street to circle through the Davis Science Building parking lot.

Special guests include representatives from Rover, the public transportation system for the City of Murfreesboro, ProCycling Bicycle Repair, the Center for Environmental Education, the Murfreesboro Electric Department, Origins beauty products, Scott Atkins for Kangen, and Cliff Ricketts, Charles Perry and Ngee Sing Chong, who will showcase the latest green inventions.

LOCAL EVENTS CRIME BRIEFS

ON CAMPUS

Star Wars Marathon
April 15, 5 p.m. - 3 a.m.
Womack Lobby
Tickets: FREE

Clothesline Project
April 18 - 19, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
KUC Knoll
Tickets: FREE

"Into the Wild: Discover the Undiscovered"
April 15, 7 p.m.
James Union Building
Tennessee Room
Tickets: \$7 in advance, \$10 at the door, \$15 VIP

Take Back the Night
April 19, 6 p.m.
KUC Knoll
Tickets: FREE

"Square Grouper"
April 16, 4 p.m.
KUC Theatre
Tickets: FREE

Larry Gibson: "Keeper of the Mountains"
April 19, 7 p.m.
BAS Building
State Farm Room
Tickets: FREE

OFF CAMPUS

"Burn This"
April 14 - 17, 7:30 p.m.
Out Front on Main
Tickets: \$10

Project 615 Benefit Concert
April 17, 8 p.m.
The Exit/In
Tickets: \$10

Ska Is Dead tour: Stuck Lucky, We Are the Union, and The Forthrights
April 15, 7 p.m.
The Muse
Tickets: \$10 at door

Jazz on the Move:
April 17, 3 p.m.
The Frist Center
Tickets: FREE

Jonathan Slocumb
April 17, 7 p.m.
Zanies
Tickets: \$18

"Oklahoma"
April 17, 2 p.m.
Murfreesboro Center for the Arts
Tickets: \$12 for students

Alcohol
April 9, 2:01 a.m.
Greenland Drive
Keith Austin Kimpel, 18, was arrested for driving under the influence and charged with underage possession and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Disorderly Conduct
April 9, 9:33 p.m.
Ezell Hall lot
Officers responded to a disturbance in the parking lot. It was determined that the individuals had been involved in an altercation off campus earlier in the evening. The parties left the area separately. No assault occurred on campus.

Burglary
April 10, 1:55 a.m.
Jim Cummings Hall
A complainant reported that his belongings had been stolen.

Theft
April 10, 5:34 p.m.
Womack Lane, Apartment C
A complainant reported that his bicycle had been stolen.

Theft
April 10, 12:41 a.m.
Scarlett Commons, Apartment 3
Tenese Renee Scott, 20, was arrested for domestic assault.

Vagrancy
April 12, 8:17 a.m.
James E. Walker Library
Officers cited an individual for trespassing on campus.

Theft
April 10, 8:21 p.m.
Womack Lane, Apartment L
A complainant reported that his bicycle had been stolen.

Alcohol
April 11, 2:45 a.m.
MTSU Boulevard
Joshua T. Bonee, 24, was arrested for driving under the influence and charged with felony possession of marijuana with the intent to sell.

Vandalism
April 11, 8:50 a.m.
Greek Row
A complainant reported that a window had been broken at a fraternity house.

Assault
April 12, 12:41 a.m.
Scarlett Commons, Apartment 3
Tenese Renee Scott, 20, was arrested for domestic assault.

CORRECTIONS

In the April 11 article, "Kappa Delta hosts Wing Fling," Brittany Lynn was incorrectly attributed as being the president of Kappa Delta Sorority. Lynn serves as the shamrock chair. Catherine Neal is the president of the Kappa Delta.

In the April 11 article, "Fire erupts next to campus," the battery should have been described as having "arced" instead of "arched."

In the April 11 article, "Obama doesn't live up to rhetoric," the national debt was mistakenly reported as being \$14 million, when in fact it is \$14 trillion.

Sidelines regrets these errors.

EVENTS POLICY

Sidelines welcomes current campus and community events submitted by all readers. Please e-mail events@snews@mtsu.edu. Include the name, date, time and location of the event, as well as your name and contact information. We reserve the right to refuse events at our discretion as our space is limited.

DOE addresses students' concerns

ASSAULT FROM PAGE 1

The letter to educators comes at a time when Yale and Notre Dame are up against investigations for allegedly violating Title IX, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities.

"We just want to help everybody do the right thing," Duncan said. "So, it's not by any means a warning. We think the overall majority of colleges and universities, K-12 schools, want to do the right thing and may not quite know how."

During the conference call a Yale reporter complained that it took the Office of Civil Rights two weeks to open investigations regarding sexual assault on his campus, to which Ali said two weeks is "normal."

"Most rapes or sexual

assaults are acquaintance-related," said Sgt. Demetrius Smith of the MTSU Office of Public Safety.

Ali said many victims want to reach out for help but not press charges.

"It's intimidating to have to file a police report," said Emily Curee, a sophomore majoring in early childhood education.

Ali said universities are required to have at least one counselor that is available for sexual assault victims under Title IX.

"We keep [sexual assaults] as nonpublic as possible, so that they aren't victimized again," Smith said. "We have guidance counselors who can give a personal outlet to speak."

Smith said campus is a friendly place, where everyone knows somebody.

"A lot of times those incidents are because of alcohol," Smith said.

Emily Payne, a senior majoring in finance,

said, she thinks many girls put themselves in compromising situations.

"Know who you're with," Smith said. "Don't be so naïve. Try not to be so trusting. We try to give the students a lot of education and want them to notify us."

In a speech Monday at the University of New Hampshire, Biden said that while students should be weary of their surroundings, it is also important to remember that it is never a victim's fault.

"No means no, if you're drunk or you're sober," Biden said. "No means no if you're in bed in a dorm or on the street. No means no even if you said yes at first and you changed your mind."

Amanda Haggard, associate news editor, contributed to this report.

This article has been condensed for print. To read the full version, visit www.mtsusidelines.com.



Photo courtesy of Pete Souza, official White House photographer
In his Weekly Address from the White House on April 8, President Barack Obama prepares to discuss the importance of the bipartisan budget agreement to avoid a government shutdown.

Tense negotiations ahead this week

BUDGET FROM PAGE 1

they need to expand their businesses, and to sparing our children of lives indebted to foreign countries, such as China."

There will also be a vote to extend the federal debt ceiling beyond \$14.25 trillion, a measure that will push the boundary the government can legally borrow—a limit that is expected to be reached within months.

Details of the budget compromise were not made public until early Tuesday. Republicans and Democrats have the chance to voice their concerns about the bill today.

"A serious plan doesn't require us to balance our budget overnight," Obama said in a speech at Georgetown University yesterday. "In fact, economists think that with the economy just starting to grow again, we need a phased-in approach—but it does require tough decisions and support from our leaders in both parties now."

The budget agreement will maintain Pell Grant limits for college students at the existing limit of \$5,500 maximum annually per student, rather than a freeze in the program that would have decreased the grant amount per student.

The House will also vote today on a measure to end all federal financing for Planned Parenthood, and to repeal portions of the health care overhaul of 2009, all of which Republicans strongly support.

The debate over Planned Parenthood caused a near stop in negotiations when Obama and Senate Democrats refused to defund the group.

On Tuesday, Rep. Eric Cantor of Virginia said Republicans would still seek ways to defund Planned Parenthood.

"Where I think that we have consistently been," Cantor said, "is to reflect that we believe very strongly that government dollars

should not be used to fund abortion."

Rep. Diane Black introduced the legislation to defund Planned Parenthood as part of the spending bill.

"I am proud that my first bill as a member of Congress is to defund Planned Parenthood," Black said. "As a nurse for over 40 years, I spent my career protecting life. Now as a member of Congress, I will continue to fight for the rights of the unborn through legislation like this."

Republicans also sought to block environmental regulations. While not all of those blocks were fulfilled, Tuesday's revelation of cuts showed steep reductions in funding to the Environmental Protection Agency.

The EPA's 2011 budget would be reduced by 16 percent, taking its total spending to \$8.7 billion.

"The Obama administration has dumped money into the EPA over the past two years, and what the American people have seen as a result, is a slew of new regulations pouring out of the agency," said Rep. Mike Simpson of Idaho. Simpson, chairman of the Interior Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, who helped fashion the EPA cuts.

Since Obama has been in office the EPA's budget has raised sharply, to \$10.3 billion in the 2010 fiscal year, after years in which funding hovered between \$7.5 billion and \$7.7 billion.

Most of the EPA cuts are likely to reduce aid to help states implement health and environmental-protection laws.

If passed, \$49 million would be cut from programs related to global warming.

The final deal also includes a \$700 million boost for Obama's signature education initiative, the Race to the Top program to provide incentives for school improvement.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Construction plans put on hold

ROADS FROM PAGE 1

can proceed. But, the City Council has to approve the contracts, as well as the General Assembly."

The renovated portion of Middle Tennessee Boulevard will be designed to resemble sections of the road that have already been updated, including the addition of bicycle lanes, said Ram Balachandran, a traffic engineer for the City of Murfreesboro.

"Students may choose to ride their bikes to campus in order to stay healthy, save money, or avoid the hassle of campus parking, but many motorists don't seem to pay attention to cyclists on the road," said David Hargrove, an occasional cyclist.

The addition of bicycle

lanes are needed to reduce the hazardous situations that arise when dealing with aggressive drivers trying to get home during rush hour on roads like Greenland Drive and Middle Tennessee Boulevard, said Micaiah Rockwell, president of the MTSU Triathlon Club.

"What I find is that people do not watch for cyclists," Rockwell said. "So, I use the sidewalk most of the time."

The bike and bus lanes around campus are very helpful, Rockwell said, though he conceded that he understands such lanes would not be plausible on the high traffic roads surrounding the campus.

"The bike lane on Old Lascassas Pike goes 1 1/2 miles, all the way to the end, and it is very helpful to those people living in

that direction," Rockwell said, adding that he sees the most bicycle commuters from that direction.

Rockwell said he believes that putting bicycle lanes around campus will help cyclists tremendously and might encourage people to ride bikes to school instead of driving, which could cut down on the amount of on-campus traffic.

Murfreesboro is generally a cyclist friendly community and has improved quite a bit in the past decade, with an increase in bike lanes across the city and a growth in awareness of bike safety by the public, Lovett said.

"We've come light-years in the past 10 years," Lovett said.

Alex Harris, staff writer, contributed to this report.

SUMMER 2011

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Photo by Will Cameron, contributing photographer
Thief, performing at Gilligan's, has been playing together for five years and is set to perform Saturday at the 12th Annual Ragin' Cajun Crawfish Boil in Nashville at Riverfront Park.



Photo by Will Cameron, contributing photographer
Matt Tubandt and Brennan Walsh of Thief became friends as skateboarding buddies, and have remained friends and bandmates for 11 years.

From covers to brothers

By SARAH SHARP
Staff Writer

Sometimes two people are meant to find each other. Whether it's through love, music, or simple coincidence, it changes their lives forever.

Matt Tubandt and Brennan Walsh, the two frontmen of Nashville band, Thief, crossed paths at the perfect time. They have been inseparable as friends, band mates and brothers ever since they met 11 years ago.

The two, who became friends in junior high, will be playing Nashville's Crawfish Boil this Saturday, and are currently climbing the gigantic list of bands that are participating in the Road to Bonnaroo online download contest to play this year's 10th anniversary festival.

Thief has just finished recording its debut album with local Nashville producer Don Sullivan, who has worked with artists such as Waylon Jennings, B.B. King and Carlos Santana.

Although Thief has been together for over five years now, the story of the singer and guitar player goes way back, before music was even part of the picture.

thing in common: They were obsessed with skateboarding.

Within time, their hobbies coincided just as their love for skateboarding had. Brennan had been playing guitar two years. Before Matt moved to Tenn., he was learning to play bass. Their first experience playing together was at their middle school spring fling playing cover songs.

When they continued school at Franklin High, Matt started his own Blink 182 wannabe band, Feedback, with two of his friends. After recording one of Brennan's guitar solos, they added him to the band, Brennan says.

After recording an album with Feedback, Matt and Brennan moved on to another project, Paris, that was fairly successful around Franklin, playing local venues, churches and battle of the bands competitions. On one occasion, they even beat out the brothers from Paramore, Zach and Josh Farro, who were playing in another band at the time.

Matt was singing lead and playing bass at first, but soon enough his role changed when he broke his finger skateboarding, hindering him from playing bass.

"We realized that Matt looked cool singing without a bass," Brennan says, adding that

"Our goal is to incorporate taste with catch," he adds.

Their influences range from all ends of the spectrum. First and foremost, Led Zeppelin will always be an influence, Matt explains. Brennan's dissonant melodies are inspired by the guitarist of psychedelic prog-rock outfit, The Mars Volta.

They take aspects of reverb and size of sound from My Morning Jacket, blues-crunch riffs from The Black Keys, hooks from Kings of Leon, heavy aspects from Tool and the swag and rhythm inspired by hip-hop.

So, what keeps them playing together? According to both of them, their musical chemistry is effortless.

Their strengths and weaknesses compliment one another. For example, Matt was never classically trained as a musician, so whatever sound he wants, Brennan can decipher then translate his description of a riff or effect to guitar. According to the singer, Brennan is his musical interpreter.

For Brennan, Matt's sound is truly unique that he "could never imagine playing with another singer," he says. His voice, catchy melodies, imaginative lyrics and musical vision are powerful and timeless, and are what ultimately sets him apart from the rest.

Brennan, who plays not only in Thief, but also in local instrumental progressive rock band, Deep Machine, is not shy with his shredding abilities. He plays as if he has electricity pumping through his veins, sending shocking impulses to his fingers.

Matt says he feels lucky because in his opinion, he's got the best guitar player in Nashville.

"I just think he's absolutely the most tasteful and versatile player," the singer says.

UPS AND DOWNS

To anyone else, they might seem like perfectly functioning best friends. But both Brennan and Matt admit that they've had their fair share of ups and downs.

It's been quite the journey between these two, dealing with both of their families' divorces and the fight and loss of Brennan's mom to breast cancer. It would be an understatement to say they are just friends. They understand, fight and love each other as brothers.

Living not even two miles away from each other, they experienced everything together, as Matt recalls it. From skateboarding to drinking, from girlfriends to experimenting with drugs, they truly became men together.

"We realized we were stuck with each other as best friends, musicians and as a team," Matt explains.

When they started their first year at

MTSU, things took a turn for the worse for Brennan. His mom was losing her battle against breast cancer, and was living alone in Franklin. Brennan dropped out of school and moved back to Franklin to spend the short time he had left with his mom. Like a good partner does, wherever Brennan went, Matt followed.

During that year, which they both recall as a very confusing time, they were dabbling in drugs, and meeting people along the way. It's strange how dark places can lead you to light, and for Matt and Brennan, this is how they met their future band mates of Thief.

BUILDING THIEF

While living with Brennan's mom, Brennan says he was introduced to their bass player, Ryan Hart, through a mutual friend. Ryan had a recording studio in the basement of his home in Antioch, where he would write the music for and produce Nashville rap artists.

After jamming together a few times, they both recognized their musical chemistry, so Ryan invited a drummer that he had played with before, Steve Janson, to come jam with them, Brennan explains.

"The first time we all jammed together with Steve, it was amazing," Brennan says, adding that the decision to start a band with them was instantaneous.

After they met, the band took a year learning some of Matt and Brennan's songs, as well as writing some of their own. Thief's first show was to a sardine-packed audience at a hole in the wall, otherwise known as the Muse.

That was four years ago. Since then, they've played venues like the Rutledge, 3rd and Lindsley, B.B. Kings, Exit/In, the Hard Rock Café and all around Murfreesboro.

THIEF TODAY

Thief has just finished recording their first album and are still in the process of mixing and mastering it.

Despite the lengthy process of making an album, opportunities keep on coming their way. Wall Street Rock, an independent label out of Nashville, picked them up and has been booking shows like this Saturday's Crawfish Boil, which is expected to bring around 2,500 beer-guzzling crawfish-chomping Nashvillians to Riverfront Park. The event lasts from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., and Thief will perform at 6 p.m.

The band is also currently ranked in the mid-20s out of 600 contenders in the Road to Bonnaroo online contest. The top eight bands get to audition to play the festival, which brings close to 90,000 people annually.

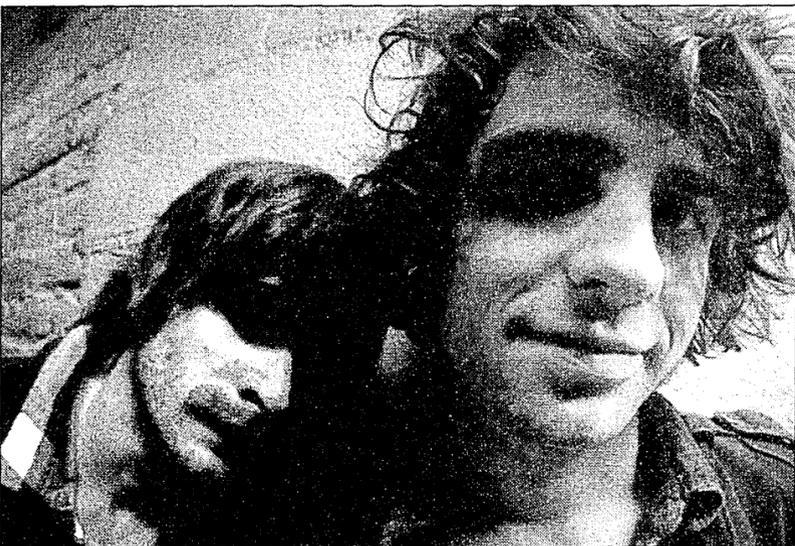


Photo by Will Cameron, contributing photographer
Brennan Walsh and Matt Tubandt of Thief admit they have their ups and downs, but they both agree they are stuck with each other as friends and bandmates forever.

THE BEGINNING

"I thought he was a total dork," Matt says of meeting Brennan.

The two had 8th grade English class together when Matt moved to Franklin, Tenn., when his dad's job was relocated from Virginia.

They were polar opposites - Brennan known for being a straight-laced athlete who played guitar, and Matt, who refers to himself as a "wild child." They had one

from this point on, Matt dropped the bass and his role as lead singer stuck.

This is when they both realized that they had a serious musical chemistry, unlike one they had ever encountered before.

THE SOUND

Matt explains Thief as placing three interacting melodies over arranged drum beats, which comes out sounding riff heavy, groove-based, with infectious hooks.

ACROSS

- 1- Small mountain; 5- Land map; 9- Objectionable; 13- Switch ending; 14- Dens; 16- Zeno's home; 17- Gone by; 18- Gandhi's land; 19- Narrow inlets; 20- Fungal infection; 22- Instant; 24- Mother and father; 27- Sterile hybrid; 28- Revolt-leader, old-style; 29- Principal; 33- Tripoli's country; 34- Little Tenderness; 35- Wash; 36- Parisian pal; 37- Abu ____; 38- Against a proposition; 39- Billiard implements; 41- Gaelic language of Ireland or Scotland; 42- Sail extender; 44- Concentrated extracts; 46- Holy city?; 47- Air-filled rubber hoop, become fatigued; 48- Authentic; 49- Silly; 52- Acknowledgment of debt; 53- Not any; 57- Blackbird; 58- Old finnish money; 60- Bones found in the hip; 61- Writer Sarah ____ Jewett; 62- Bunches; 63- Appear; 64- Attendee; 65- Chamber; 66- Coop group;

DOWN

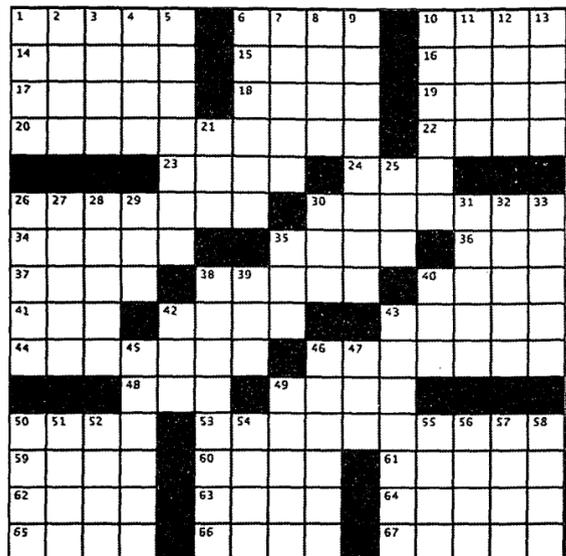
- 1- Actor Baldwin; 2- Currency unit in Western Samoa; 3- Yeah, right!; 4- Single; 5- Crosspiece above a door; 6- Plaque; 7- Mountain nymph; 8- Crux; 9- Without a saddle; 10- Nissan model; 11- Observed; 12- 365 days; 13- Della's creator; 21- FedEx rival; 25- Article in Le Monde; 26- Bizarre; 27- Conjunction; 28- Claw; 29- Mohawk-leporting actor; 30- Snap; 31- Escapade; 32- Nicholas Gage book; 33- Org.; 35- Fairy queen; 38- From sundown to sunup; 39- Fuzzy buzzer; 40- Broke bread; 42- Air rifle ammo; 43- Vegetable appliance; 45- Egyptian god; 46- In and of ____; 47- PC monitor; 49- Young eel; 50- Bull; 51- Egg-shaped; 52- Brantà sandvicensis; 54- Place; 55- Do followers; 56- Complain; 57- Fashion mag; 58- Colored;



April 7 Solution

SIDEWORDS

The weekly Sidelines crossword puzzle



Crossword courtesy of bestcrosswords.com

Teenage heroine lends to 'Hanna's' success

By JACKIE RIPPEE
Staff Writer

Current action films are fun to watch, but many often lack any semblance of a storyline. Instead, a sickening overdose of action is put into place to fill this void. But, with the release of "Hanna" this past Friday, the audience can leave the theater pleasantly surprised.

They may just leave with a little bit more than what they expected.

With the impressive films "Pride and Prejudice," "Atonement" and "The Soloist" under his belt, director Joe Wright delivered a thoughtful but a**-kicking film with the movie "Hanna."

"Hanna" follows the life of a young 16-year-old girl who has lived in the Arctic Circle for all of her life with her father, Erik (played by Eric Bana) – an ex-CIA agent who teaches Hanna all the tricks of the trade including hand-to-hand combat, the motto of "kill or be killed," and to survive above all costs.

Although Hanna is a deadly lethal weapon, she has no experience with the outside world.

She has never experienced the simple luxury of electricity, and she has never heard a piece of music until she leaves on a journey of self-discovery and finds out the truth behind her life, all while being chased by the CIA.

Saoirse Ronan, known for her work in "The Lovely Bones," captures something uniquely different in the character of Hanna. She manages to possess a cool and destructive exterior when needed, like that of Uma Thurman in the "Kill Bill" series, but Ronan maintains the sensitivity of a young girl growing up and experiencing life for the first time.

Wright shows Hanna's budding life and self-discovery through the eyes of a young girl with many abstract clips to convey the curiosities and worries of growing up – this leads to a fairy tale aspect which has not typically been used in the action genre.

But, do not let the abstract and almost feminine characteristics of the film throw away any hope for action – after all, "Hanna" is an action film.

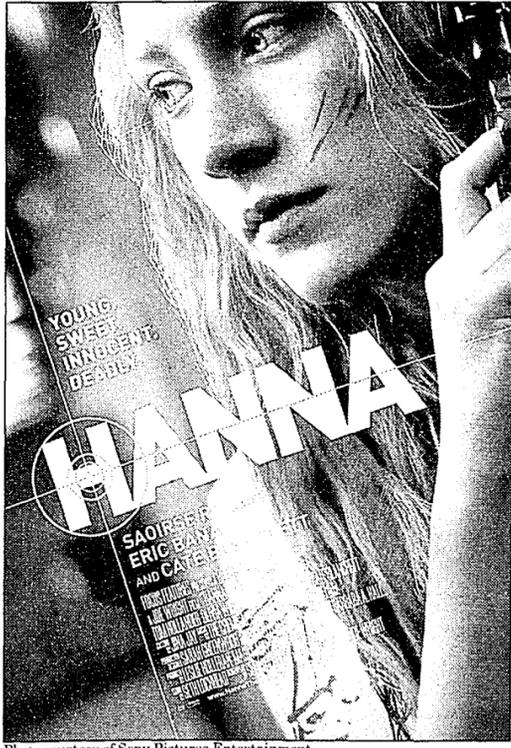


Photo courtesy of Sony Pictures Entertainment

Consensus: ★★★★★☆

of complete emotional abandonment. She is vulnerable, but she chooses to cover her vulnerability with her hot pursuit of Hanna.

This sort of action movie creates a new and unique genre of film. There is a pleasant storyline that creates an interesting and creative flow, which guides the audience through the movie, unlike action films that are a nauseating spill of pulse-throbbing excitement with no real plot to give the movie a lasting effect.

"Hanna" is an example of how action films should be, with its balance of a human plot and careful attention to the placement of action scenes. Every scene has a purpose, which only thickens the plot.

Yet, the film ends almost abruptly and feels incomplete, but this may be because the audience is left wanting more of Hanna.



Photo courtesy of Sony Pictures Entertainment

The movie begins with an adrenaline-pumping fight scene with an interesting soundtrack by The Chemical Brothers that leaves the fight scenes stunning and the audience on the edge of their seats.

Perhaps the most dramatic performance comes from Cate Blanchett, who plays Marissa Wiegler – the CIA agent who wants Hanna dead.

Wiegler has a sadistic Southern accent that makes the skin crawl, and she appears to be washing away her past with scenes of her brushing her teeth until her gums bleed.

Even with Wiegler's sinister character, there is not a sense



Photo courtesy of Sony Pictures Entertainment

I'm just
HOLLYWOOD sayin'

Producers make offer Lohan can't refuse



Lohan

Lindsay Lohan might be climbing her way out of the grave she dug for her career.

The actress has been in talks with movie producers to play John Gotti's daughter, Victoria, in a biopic about her life. Gotti, who is reportedly good friends with the Lohan family, insisted Lindsay get the role over Blake Lively and Sienna Miller, both of whom were considered before Lindsay.

Lohan and Gotti were seen together in New York Tuesday during a press conference for the film. The movie, "Gotti: Three Generations," will also star John Travolta, and it is set to be released in 2013. Let's hope her upcoming trial doesn't get in the way. It would be just her luck to get a role that might revive her career and be sent to jail before filming it.

Going goo-goo for Gaga



Gaga

Lady Gaga's new single, "Judas," officially drops this Tuesday, and I've seen some people on campus who are over the moon with excitement, but it's mostly for the singer's



Catherina Davidson

upcoming concert.

She will be performing at the Bridgestone Arena Tuesday. That's not the important part though. Lady Gaga has been making surprise appearances at local gay bars after her shows. That means that it's highly likely that Gaga will show up at Play Nightclub shortly after her concert ends. Word on the street is that if you bring your ticket stub, you'll get in for free. Be on the lookout, little monsters.

One of MTSU's own has taken the extra mile to get a chance to meet the star. Alexis Metko entered the 107.5 The River's "Be Gaga Fabulous Contest" for a chance to win tickets to the show, a limo to provide transportation and a face-to-face meeting with Lady Gaga herself.

Where Are They Now?

Do you remember 98°, the 1990s pop band where Nick Lachey got his start? None of the other members had careers that made it past the boy band phase. But now, one of the former members is trying to make a comeback – as a Chippendale's dancer. Jeff Thomas, who many dubbed the "cute one" in the group, will only wear the famous black bow tie for a limited time, so buy those tickets now!

Fashion ME Something

As the weather is warming up and flowers are beginning to blossom, the signs of spring are everywhere – so be sure to show it in your wardrobe!

It's time to shed the dark layers of winter and submit to a brighter ensemble. The fashion forecast for the spring and summer seasons are full of festive colors and adorable accessories.

To update your look, you can start by looking back to fashion from the past. This season, the runways were like a flashback through time. We saw neon colors from the '80s, high waist flared pants from the '70s, and A-line dresses and ethnic prints from the '60s.

Give your wardrobe a fresh coat by wearing citrus colors like tangerine orange, lime green, hot pink, or basically any of the colors you'll find in the hat of the Chiquita Banana girl. Bright colors are all the rage, and you'll be sure to attract attention.

For ladies looking to sport a fun and flirty look for the season, a huge trend that we saw emerge last summer is the use of eclectic prints. Light flowing skirts with floral prints will bring out your feminine side in a very casual way. Feel free to mix

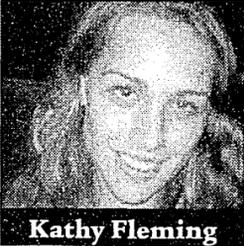


Photo by Michael Howard, Nashville Fashion Week

and match prints, as long as you don't throw in too many colors.

Other cheeky looks you'll see are sheer layers, lace dresses and knit garments. Try wearing one of these with a cream or white top and earthy-colored accessories.

We all know that being a girl isn't easy and beauty isn't free, but there is good news for those who want to be fashionable and comfortable at the same time. Loose-fitting blouses and slinky dresses are very hot right now. This is one style that will allow you to



Kathy Fleming

indulge a little for meals without worry of looking bloated.

One style that will never fade away is stripes, and they're everywhere! Vertical, horizontal, diagonal – no matter which way you prefer, you can find them. Couple your striped shirt with preppy accessories, like a cute watch or a pair of loafers for a sophisticated yet sporty look.

Neutrals and nudes are timeless colors that are always safe, as long as they aren't your only colors. The key to wearing neutral shades is to throw in another bold color like hot red or cobalt blue as shoes or a top.

Every fashionista knows that the key to a successful outfit is in the details. Whether you want to dress it up or dress it down, all you need to do is add or subtract accessories. In the *Vogue* power issue featuring spring fashion, bangles were everywhere. Wear a thin gold bangle for a charming chic look, or a big bangle with smaller ones to add more color to your attire.

If you want to dress up your outfit even more, try using long earrings or a big ring to match. A personal favorite of mine is a trend in eyewear that will help you prepare for sunny days: cat eye sunglasses. These are great because they fit a wide range of face shapes, and they come in variations from the old school '50s, striking '80s, and even some new twists.

Regardless of what new trends you decide to sport in your summer wardrobe, remember that fashion is a sense of self-expression; so don't hesitate to add your own spin to develop your signature style.

Let your sense of style evolve and don't feel pressured to buy into all the latest fashion trends. They are just trends – not laws, and if a style doesn't work for you, don't touch it.

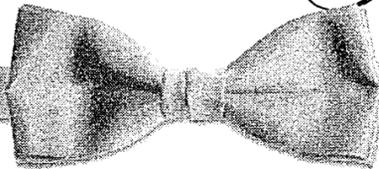
Some trends are made for certain body types, and some trends are made for specific styles. There's only one rule: Dress yourself with confidence based on what makes you feel pretty and comfortable. If you do this, you'll shine from the inside out.



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FEATURES



Mini-music festival promotes local music and bicycle awareness

By EMMA EGLI
Features Editor

On an exceptionally beautiful Saturday in Murfreesboro, many residents decided to take leisurely drives around town. The sun was shining, the birds were chirping, and the smoggy haze that seems to hang around the major intersections as cars lined up was somewhat more tolerable than normal.

Then the lights turned green. But nobody moved. Cars began backing up further and further, those in the rear honking in frustration. Nobody knew why traffic was at a standstill.

Further up the line of cars, sitting directly in the middle of an intersection, was a guy on a bicycle. On top of his head sat a giant party hat. Around his neck was a bright pink Hawaiian party lei. On his face was a giant grin.

As he motioned for confused drivers to stay put, it became apparent why traffic had been stopped. Suddenly, more than 500 cyclists whizzed through the intersection. It was as if the Tour de France had made a giant detour straight through Murfreesboro.

But, it wasn't 500-plus, spandex-clad men who were riding through the streets of Murfreesboro. It was the music and bicycle-loving participants of Tour de Fun.

Tour de Fun means exactly what the name implies. The mission is simple: to have as much fun as possible, preferably without any resulting casualties. Seeing as no one died or ended up in the hospital, this year's Tour de Fun was a success.

Mastermind behind the massive event, MTSU alumnus Tyler Walker, said the main purpose of Tour de Fun is to promote a more bike friendly environment in Murfreesboro.

"We also want to create awareness for the amazing music scene we have here, as well as promote [do-it-yourself] ethics," Walker added.

About 40 scheduled bands played 10-minute sets at almost 15 different locations around the Murfreesboro area. If you do your math correctly, that adds up to roughly seven hours of face-melting goodness.

The event kicked off with a cookout at Murfreesboro Outdoor and Bicycle store located on Maple Street off the downtown square. Gathering cyclists got to enjoy the delightful and danceable sounds of Schtoppa, Prophet Nathan and Cherub.

Friends mingled, the grills were lit up, and it was only a preview of the fun that was sure to be had during the rest of the day.

It's a wonder everyone reached their appropriate Tour de Fun destinations. But, with the numerous designated safety riders – party hat-wearing cyclists put in charge of stopping traffic, directing cyclists, keeping people out of the streets and altogether ensuring the safety of all parties involved – everyone arrived where they needed to be.

"We want to be able to do this again next year," said Israel Valdes, a junior majoring in geosciences, and safety rider at Tour de Fun. "So, we make sure nobody stands out in the streets or does something they aren't supposed to be doing."

As the massive gathering of people toured the streets of Murfreesboro, residents came out of their houses to watch the spectacle.

"What the heck is going on?" asked one man as his car was stopped to let the riders pass, his tuxedo and stressed demeanor clearly indicating that he had an irritated bride-to-be waiting for him.

Yes We Cans, a nonprofit recycling project in the Middle Tennessee area, brought recycling bins to

every house show, promoting the environmentally aware atmosphere.

The event definitely catered to those with quick attention spans, as most bands only played two songs. But what the bands may have lacked in quantity, they made up for with quality, delighting the ears of all the Tour de Fun-ners who were lucky enough to squeeze into a house.

"Every band offered something new that they normally wouldn't have played at their average show," Walker said.

The massive music pilgrimage took cyclists well over 18 miles of Murfreesboro turf, stopping at famed houses in the area, such as the Fortress of Solid Dudes, Frankie Avalon's and of course, Trash Mountain.

The pinnacle of Tour de Fun was the sun setting over the lustrous farmland at Grandma's House where Thank You Ma'ams, Good Luck Ola, Kids Are Goats and Carter Routh played to a massive gathering.

Something about the gigantic collection of bikes, the twinkling Christmas lights and Thank You Ma'ams covering Fleetwood Mac's, "The Chain" with Good Luck Ola, seemed to bring everyone together in a way that only Tour de Fun can do.

One lost Tour de Fun-ner called out, "where are my friends?" in anguish as he wandered amongst the crowd, only to be greeted with, "we're all right here!" by strangers who heard him.

Unfortunately, the fun level started to exceed its limit after the sun went down and people, according to Walker, stopped caring.

"I think people were tired and becoming intoxicated," Walker said with regret. "They seemed to act like rules didn't apply."

Walker's signature yells through a megaphone became more and more frantic as the night progressed. If people couldn't understand the "wa-wa-wa-wa's" of Walker trying to give directions when they were sober, they surely weren't comprehending what was being said in their

drunken states.

There's something a little terrifying about an inebriated person on a bike, especially if you happen to be riding in the same vicinity as them, and there were wipeouts on more than one occasion. As cyclists zoomed past stopped cars, it seemed as though the once-excited honks of encouragement had turned to those of utter disdain.

Police had been patrolling the revelers all day, keeping a watchful eye on any merriment that might have gotten out of hand. And when things did inevitably get out of hand, Walker took responsibility for the actions of others.

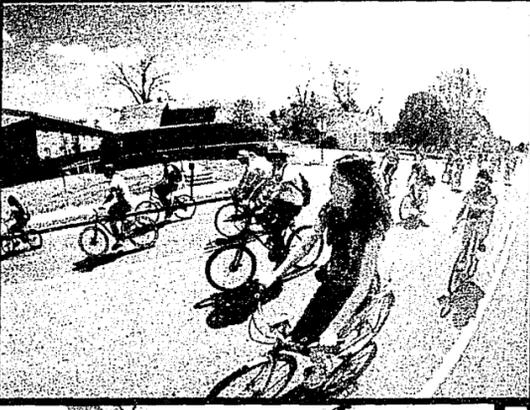
But, after an excessive amount of scolding from a group of officers and promises from Walker to keep Tour de Fun participants on their best behaviors, Tour de Fun continued on.

Only a few mishaps were reported during the event – a double-decker bike crash and burn, a few "misplaced" bikes that will hopefully be returned to their distraught owners and a minor hit and run that left one cyclist in need of a new front wheel.

But all in all, Tour de Fun definitely accomplished what it had initially promised.

Participants biked their sunburnt, aching bodies back to their own houses, their ears still ringing with good music and laughter that lasted well into the night.

"No one died," Walker jokingly said. "There were a few wrecks. Thirty-eight out of the 40 bands got to play. I'm not in jail and everyone seemed to have a lot of fun. So, it was definitely a success."



HEY THERE BABY

"We also want to create awareness for the amazing music scene we have here, as well as promote [do-it-yourself] ethics."

TYLER WALKER
EVENT ORGANIZER

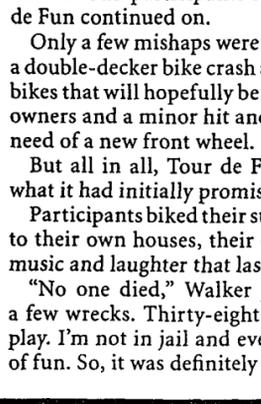
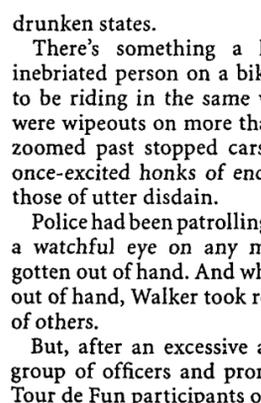
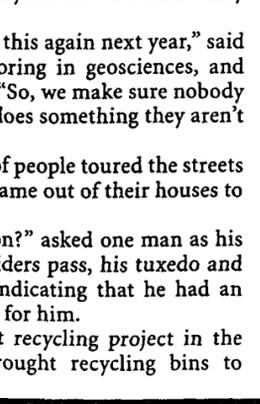
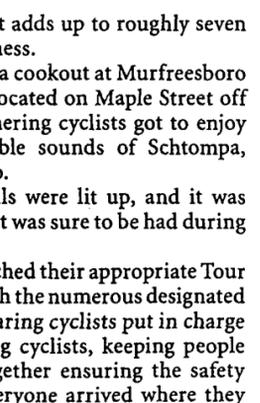


Photo by Ryan Green, contributing photographer

CARTER ROUTH

THANK YOU MAMMAS

FAKE BRAD



BABY BREATH

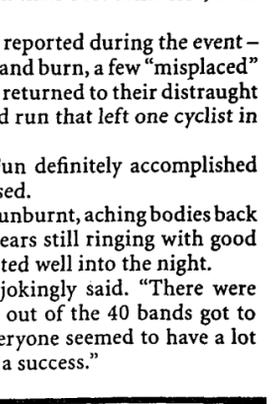
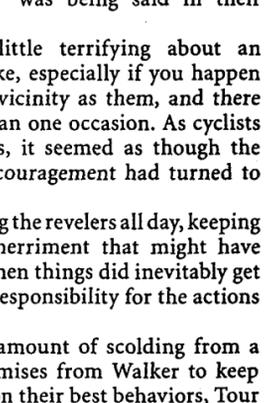


Photo by Ryan Green, contributing photographer
Designed by Josh Fields, production manager

Letters Policy

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopinions@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, student-produced newspaper affiliated with Middle Tennessee State University and the College of Mass Communication. 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 the university.

Seize the unknown after graduation

In just a few short weeks, many of you will complete your undergraduate education and begin a new journey.

Some of you will go on to graduate school to earn your master's degree, doctorate, or other advanced degree, but many others of you will enter the "real world" and find employment – hopefully in your field of study. Though don't be surprised if it isn't.

This column is for those of you who are joining the workforce. With recent college graduate unemployment higher than the national average, and salary offers the lowest they've been in years, there is some practical advice that I, a fellow recent college graduate, can give you.

First and most importantly, be comfortable with being uncomfortable. Step outside your comfort zone. Do something you didn't think you would do.

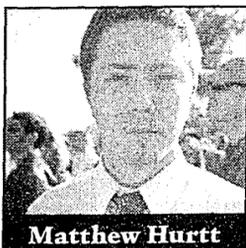
Just a few weeks before graduating in 2009, my entire world changed. I originally planned to go to law school – the U.S. has too many lawyers – and I instead took an offer in Washington, D.C.

Just six months before graduation, I said I would never move to D.C. for any reason. Boy, was I wrong. And just a few weeks after I walked across the stage and received my diploma, I packed all my belongings, fled my comfort zone, and moved away.

You should be willing to step outside your comfort zone and do something different. My decision to move completely changed my life – for the better.

Secondly, understand that it's not what you know – it's whom you know. It sounds cliché, but every meaningful connection I've made since graduation has provided an opportunity.

You should find mentors, who can teach you more about your professional career; peers, who can provide you a network of support; and "up-and-comers,"



Matthew Hurtt
Guest Columnist

who you will mentor and provide with opportunities.

There are people in my profession I look to for support: consultants, elected officials and others who have been in my business a long time. We go to lunch, have coffee and talk about what we do. These mentors have provided each new opportunity I seized.

Then, there are my peers: others in my profession and related fields with whom I connect. They may have different employers, but our professions and interests are similar. They keep me grounded and allow me to stay informed about what's going on in my field.

The "up-and-comers" are people who are new to my line of work or are looking to break into this market.

With my experience and expansive network, I can provide them opportunities in the future.

A healthy line of credit is established when I provide an "up-and-comer" with an opportunity. Without keeping a serious count, you should understand that having someone owe you something is a good thing.

Lastly, read. *Dig Your Well Before You're Thirsty*, by Harvey Mackay, and *It's Your Ship*, by Captain D. Michael Abrashoff, are two books on professional development I recommend.

Find books that interest you, as well as books that can help you better yourself. It's an investment that will pay dividends throughout your career.

Taking my advice will be to your benefit. No one says the real world is easy – and it's certainly not – but there are ways to lighten the load.

Good luck and congratulations.

Matthew Hurtt is a 2009 alumnus with a degree in history and political science. He can be reached at Matt.Hurtt@gmail.com

Parent approval bill not good for students

When I was in seventh grade, I can remember groups I joined that my parents didn't particularly like. From the chess club, to 4-H, and even the Student Government Association, my parents argued I was already a geek and needed to be like the "others."

Join a sports team. Become involved in some popular crowd. Even start a group, if need be, for the sake of popularity.

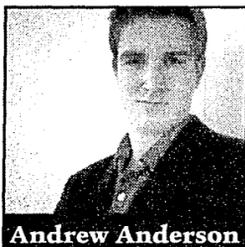
I stayed content with community service.

I truly do believe that these political and educational opportunities I had as a child, even without my parents' direct consent, molded me into the person I am today.

I am a proud conservative Republican with Tennessee values – adding a Texas traditional spin on things. I am a community aide volunteering as a server at the local Salvation Army, helping fundraise for Habitat for Humanity, even serving in my respected political party, and so much more.

My past experiences have led me to find favor in areas of knowledge I would otherwise have no interest in, changed my political perspective, gave me a political resume, and have caused me to meet and befriend fine individuals from all walks of life.

Thankfully, my life has



Andrew Anderson
Columnist

taught me how smoking was bad, preached against littering, and one group even taught the guys how you should and should not talk to girls.

My parents, I realized early on, are not big fans of really any of these ideas, concepts, or ways of life. If they had it their way, I would be the typical teen.

I would not care about politics, not help out as much, if at all, with my community, would love my sport whatever it may be, and most certainly would not read a newspaper entitled *The Tennessean*, *The Daily News Journal*, or *Sidelines*.

"Life in general would suck," as political commentator Andrew Klavan would say.

So, if I am expected to grow up, get an education, attain an honorable job, and build my life on my own, shouldn't I be expected to make such simple decisions on my own terms with my parents' advice? Or should I live life on autopilot by living my parents' dreams until it drives me bonkers?

Neil Somerville once wrote, "You are the master of your own destiny."

So my question is: Are you?

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continued down the same path, just as in childhood.

The current generation may not be as fortunate if S.B. 0426, which is being proposed in the state Senate, becomes law. This bill, as introduced, requires schools to notify parents, by way of student handbooks or policy guidebooks, of school-associated extracurricular activities, and gives parents the opportunity to prohibit their child from participating.

The funny thing that I remember about my public school experience is that we, the students, were allowed to participate in any activity group we wished to after school. Now, I'm not someone who believes that everything is a "right," but if it's your life, shouldn't you take responsibility for it? The groups I was involved in

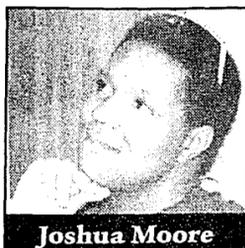
Too many ignore etiquette rules in dorms

Proper dorm etiquette is something that some campus residents need a lesson on. Rules are set for a reason and that reason is to be adhered to. Not following them leads to an uncomfortable living environment and, in some cases, tacky situations.

One of the first big issues in my experience is noise. Coming back to my dorm at two in the morning, to sleep, only to hear music blaring is unacceptable for any case short of someone being tortured.

Not only is it disruptive to anyone on that floor that may be pulling an all-nighter to study for a big exam, but it is also a hindrance to those trying to sleep at those times. There is no reason that you can't contain your music to your own room in the wee hours of the morning so others can get some rest.

Another issue I have found is the absence of common courtesies in shared areas of the dormitory. Like in the bathroom, there is no reason to leave waste behind when you get done with your business or to purposefully leave the toilets unclean when it takes so little effort to ensure all of your waste gets flushed. This type of unsanitary condition makes bathrooms smell rank when people



Joshua Moore
Guest Columnist

come in to use them and leads to a terrible experience.

This carries over into the hallways and lobbies as well.

Leaving food in the water fountains that are clearly marked against that behavior is silly and juvenile. Additionally, trash left in front of other people's doors is just rude. I understand some people may have just graduated high school, but things like that are not funny and only make someone else's job or life more difficult.

Residents are advised to bring their own trash bags when signing up to live on campus, since they are not provided to individual rooms. This means that they are responsible for containing and disposing of their own personal trash. Leaving trash sitting on the furniture in the lobby does not count as proper disposal. The campus has plenty of dumpsters for trash to be taken to should the need arise. Use them.

Joshua Moore is a junior majoring in electronic media communication production and can be reached at jam2n11@gmail.com.

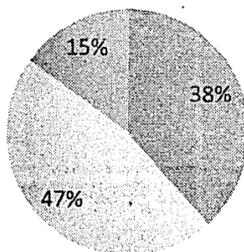


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“The registration process at MTSU is literally the same difficulty level as quantum physics.” – Rachel Kurilko

My Beatles journey – the early years

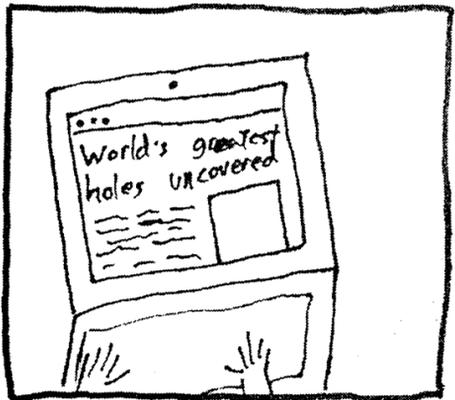
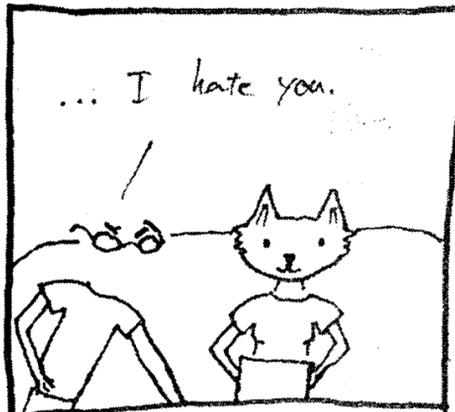
“The Beatles are very overrated and caused many African-American performers at that time to lose a lot of their business. They're an OK band but not the best. People need to get over them. Half of them are dead anyway.” – Anonymous

Kappa Delta hosts Wing Fling

“Cheers to the women of Kappa Delta Sorority [who] raised \$12,000 for child abuse prevention.” – WebGreek

American attitudes should change on illegal immigration

“The people hiring illegal immigrants are not doing so out of the milk of human kindness. They are no different than slaveholders. There is no way an honest employer can compete with these new 'slavocrats.'” – Anonymous



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