

BASKETBALL

'tis the season

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
SIDELINES

NOV. 9 - 15, 2011 VOL. 89, NO. 11

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

EVENTS

on campus

Fit'N MT's Healthy Holiday Eating
Nov. 10, 5 – 6 p.m.
Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building, Room 108
FREE

Culture Fest
Nov. 10, 6 – 9 p.m.
Tom Jackson Building
FREE

Wings and Movies
Nov. 10, 7 – 11 p.m.
Scarlett Commons Clubhouse
FREE

"Friends with Benefits"
Nov. 11, 7 p.m.
Keathley University Center Theatre
Tickets: \$2

International Film Series: "Soul Kitchen"
Nov. 12, 6 p.m.
Keathley University Center Theater
FREE

Chinese Film Festival: "Still Life"
Nov. 13, 6 p.m.
Bragg Mass Communication Building, Room 103
FREE

Karaoke Night
Nov. 13, 10 p.m. – 12 a.m.
Cyber Café
FREE

Graduate Multimedia Development Center Workshop: Powerpoint
Nov. 14, 12:30 – 2 p.m.
Learning Resource Center, Room 101-B
FREE

Honors Lecture Series: "Recycle, Do Without or Take What Belongs to Others"
Nov. 14, 3 – 3:55 p.m.
Honors Building Amphitheatre, Room 106
FREE

Academic Success Series: "How to Unwind, Relax, Chill and Still be a Successful Student"
Nov. 15, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.
James E. Walker Library, Room 248
FREE

Behind the Swoosh: Sweatshops and Social Justice
Nov. 15, 7 – 10 p.m.
Learning Resource Center, Room 221
FREE

"Underwear: The Musical"
Nov. 15 – 19, 7:30 p.m.
Tucker Theatre
FREE

Response Ability: Mike Dilbeck
Nov. 16, 7 – 8:30 p.m.
James Union Building
Tennessee Room
FREE

off campus

Artist's Forum: Jairo Prado
Nov. 10, 6:30 p.m.
Frist Center for the Visual Arts
Rechter Room
FREE

Art Show by Brian Bailey
Nov. 10, 5 – 7:00pm
Moxie Art Supply & Studio School
FREE

Charlie Murphy
Nov. 10 – 13, show times online at nashville.zanies.com
Zanies
Tickets: \$25

"Annie"
Nov. 10 – 12, 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 13, 2 p.m.
Murfreesboro Center for the Arts
Tickets: \$12

Straight No Chaser
Nov. 10, 7:30 p.m.
Ryman Auditorium
Tickets: \$29.50 - \$44.50

Those Darlins
Nov. 11, 9:30 p.m.
Gilligans
Tickets: \$10

Emmylou Harris and Rodney Crowell benefit for Epilepsy Foundation Middle & West Tennessee
Nov. 12, 6:30 p.m.
Cannery Ballroom
Tickets: \$25 standing, \$45 seated

History Alive: Escape from Nazi Germany
Nov. 12, 7:30 p.m.
Scarritt-Bennett Center
Raintree Room
Tickets: \$10 suggested contribution

Red Jumpsuit Apparatus
Nov. 13, 6 p.m.
Exit/In
Tickets: \$13 in advance, \$15 at the door

Lady Antebellum
Nov. 14, 7:30 p.m.
Ryman Auditorium
Tickets: \$25+

Chuck Ragan of Hot Water Music
Nov. 14, 8 p.m.
The Basement
Tickets: \$10

The Time Jumpers
Nov. 14, 9 p.m.
The Station Inn
Tickets: \$15

Dane Dakota's "Who Loves Judas?"
Nov. 15, 7 p.m.
Belcourt Theatre
FREE

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08 MT hoops eager for new season
By Will Trusler, Sports Editor



Check out a full image gallery of the MTSU vs. UT football game here.



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Cyclists concerned with lack of campus pathways

Bicycle culture is prominent on campus, and cyclists said they are concerned with the lack of bike pathways, which can sometimes cause a clash between them and pedestrians.

The university's on-campus bike lanes are shared with the Raider Xpress, and no streets directly surrounding the campus have bike lanes.

Student bikers also share the campus's sidewalks, street ways and grassy areas with students. The MTSU

Department of Public Safety discourages riding bikes on sidewalks, but if it is necessary to use them, cyclists are to yield to the right of way to all pedestrians.

"Biking is convenient," said Moriah Rosser, a junior in the college of mass communication. "You just have to find a way to get around the crowd."

Rosser said that she enjoys riding her bike and has no problems getting to her classes, but she is very cautious.

"I don't agree with bikers having to ride on the sidewalks, but there is no other choice," said Patrick Lee, a junior in the college of business.

Lee said he would like to see a bike lane on the pathway in front of the Keathley University Center and Learning Resource Center so pedestrians wouldn't be in competition with bike traffic.

Cyclists are safe as long as they watch out for students, stop at all stop signs and ride with the traffic, said Field Training Officer Leroy Carter.

Carter, who has been a bike patrol officer for the MTSU Department of Public Safety for about 11 years, also encourages students to avoid large crowds.

When it comes to bike theft, the university is making attempts to better protect cyclists by providing a bike registration program.

Public Safety officials recommend that students utilize the free bike registration. Students would need their bike's serial number and a brief description of what their bike looks like, such as color and brand name.

"If you don't know what you lost, we don't know what to look for," Carter said.

Besides protecting cyclists from theft, the campus has implemented activities strictly for student cyclists.

MTSU has a Bike Night event every Thursday at 9 p.m., during which bikers

ride about a three-mile hour, Lee said. They start at Greek Row, ride to the square, and after they have circled around for a couple of times, the bikers end their ride at Sonic on Middle Tennessee Boulevard.

"It's always a lot of fun, and it's a way for bikers to take the streets over," Lee said.

He said Bike Night has been in existence for four years.

Cruisers, BMX riders, mountain bikers and others come out to ride.

For the past two years, Tour De Fun has gained bikers' attention. The free biking party is organized by alumnus Tyler Walker and not linked to the university's bike activities.

Bikers ride from house to house to listen to local live bands. Two live bands perform 15 minutes per house, and after a 30-minute set, cyclists ride to the next house.

"That way disruption is limited to a half hour each house," said Lee, a friend of Walker's.

Tour De Fun is a great way to bring people together who share a common interest, a combination of music and cycling, Lee said, adding that it's a fun crowd who isn't looking to upset automobile traffic.



THURSDAY @ 9 p.m.
MTSU BIKE NIGHT

One hour. Three miles. Tons of fun.

"It's free, it's fun and you get to check out all of the awesome local bands that Murfreesboro has to offer," Walker said.

Walker said that Tour De Fun was just an idea he had and it blew up, and everyone had fun the first year and told all their friends.

This year's attendance was more than 800 people, and Walker said that he hopes to get some sponsors and some extra funding from investors next year.

"I want to take it nationally and do it at different college campuses across the country throughout the year," Walker said.

The Murfreesboro Bike Club has members who ride approximately 25 miles every Tuesday and Thursday. On Saturday, members ride a distance of approximately 50 to 80 miles, and they ride between 25 to 30 miles on Sundays. MBC's regular riding season is from April to October.

"We ride through the country roads of Murfreesboro," said Sarah Lovett, the advocacy and education officer for the club.

Lovett said the club has about 150 members, and the average ages are from 50 to 55. Several members are former runners and tri-athletes, and some still participate in triathlons. A few students from MTSU are members of the club, Lovett said.

"The only requirement for our members is that they have a bike and a helmet," Lovett said.

Every year, MBC participates in an international event called Ride of Silence in honor of those who have been injured or killed while cycling on public roadways. Ride of Silence is always on the third Wednesday of May. ■



Between the James E. Walker Library and the Business and Assurance Building, however, many bikers

ICM case pushed to April Locals protest banks

Whether Rutherford County provided sufficient notice prior to approving the Islamic Center of Murfreesboro will be decided April 25 and 26, ruled Judge Chancellor Robert Corlew III during a hearing Nov. 2.

According to his Oct. 6 press release, plaintiffs' attorney Joe Brandon said the goal was to have the approval of the ICM site reversed and have construction halted.

"Media distortions about this case have led people to believe the case is over, but we are setting this case for a final hearing on the Open Meetings violation," Brandon said. "If we prevail at any point, whatever is being built there will have to be torn down."

Jim Cope, the attorney representing the county, said Rutherford County abided by the law in approving the new ICM site.

"The dispute [is] about a challenge to the county's approval of the site for purposes of building the center," Cope said. "Rutherford County approved the site according to the rules and regulations of the planning and zoning law of the county."

According to Saleh Sbenaty, a member

of the outreach committee at the Islamic Center, the plaintiffs' complaint has no legal ground. Sbenaty is an engineering technology professor and faculty adviser for the university's Muslim Student Association.

"[The Muslim community has] been in the city for over three decades, and we're contributing members," Sbenaty said. "They're chasing ghosts. I know there is no basis for their lawsuit."

According to Brandon's website, plaintiffs contend the county failed to notify the public of zoning changes and violated various laws.

"Plaintiffs are not opposed to Muslims or the construction of mosques," Brandon said. "They are opposed to Rutherford County government officials' failure to properly notify the public of a required zoning change...[and that they] violated the Sunshine Law, the Open Meetings Act and did not provide required public notice of zoning changes."

Cope said that Rutherford County acted within legal bounds, despite the plaintiffs' claims.

"Rutherford County published the

continued...on page 15

By Jo-Jo Jackson
Staff Writer

About 40 Murfreesboro activists gathered at the Rutherford County Courthouse Friday to march in support of the Occupy Wall Street movement and Bank Transfer Day.

Before the march a general assembly was held. All decisions in the Occupy movement are made at general assemblies, said Yessi Vincent, a senior majoring in international relations and philosophy.

"We make our decisions in those meetings by direct democracy, by consensus," said Vincent, who has helped in organizing Occupy Murfreesboro since the beginning. "We really want to be an example of how democracy should function and how it can function."

However, Vincent does not consider herself an official organizer or leader of the movement because it is a "leaderless movement," she said.

At the general assembly people use a series of hand signals to show approval, disapproval or moderate approval of issues being discussed. When a person likes what is being said, they raise their hands and wiggle their fingers.

Friday's meeting was kept short,

about 30 minutes, so the protest could start on time at 1:30 p.m., but to make sure everyone knew the rules it started 10 minutes late.

Murfreesboro police supervised the event, controlling traffic as protestors crossed streets and made sure people walked on sidewalks.

"We've had a very good relationship with the police in Murfreesboro so far," Vincent said. "We want our police

here to show what public servants are supposed to do, and what they're supposed to do is protect us. We're exercising our right to free speech, and part of their job is to help us exercise that right."

Protesters worked closely with police by wearing orange X's taped to their sleeves, which denoted they were "marshals." This signified they were police liaisons helping with crowd control and conflicts, Vincent said.

The group made their way through

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Scan this
to view the
video online.

Musicians play to support First Amendment

Well-known artists in the Freedom Singers group performed controversial and censored songs Nov. 2 at Tucker Theatre to recognize the First Amendment.

The group consisted of different musicians, song writers and Grammy award winners including Bill Loyd, Dave Coleman, Jonell Mosser, Ashley Cleveland, Jason White, Joseph Wooten and Craig Krampf.

The group performed a variety of songs that have been considered questionable or banned in the United States.

Some of the songs were from musicians such as The Beatles, Elvis Presley, Loretta Lynn and other renowned artists.

"I am an old hippie from the '60s," Krampf said. "Being a part of this group makes me feel like home, and I want to sing about something with true meaning."

Krampf wrote several hits during his career including Steve Perry's "Sherry," which he played during the first portion of the program.

White's song "Red Rag Top," which originally released in 2006 and is performed by Tim McGraw.

"I was a little worried when certain stations weren't playing it," White said. "I never expected Tim McGraw to pick up this song in the first place, but he did, and the record label loved it because of all the attention it was receiving."

White said it was a task convincing people about the true meaning of the song.

"I remember debating with a disc jockey on national television about the song," White said. "The song was never about abortion, though. It was about two people who were in a relationship, and it

continued...on page 15

By Emily West
Staff Writer



Guitarist, Dave Coleman, travels with the Freedom Singers all over the nation to speak on behalf of the First Amendment. The group performed songs Nov. 2 in Tucker Theatre that were once censored or considered controversial. (Photo by Emily West, staff writer)

Forum discusses issues facing black community

Three different campus groups collaborated and held the first Creating Social and Political Awareness Now, or CSPAN, forum Nov. 3 to discuss issues affecting the black community.

The university's NAACP chapter, the Collegiate 100 of MTSU and the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity representatives said they want to find a way to make the minority community more informed.

The group also established that they were in no way affiliated with or sponsored by the CSPAN broadcasting and programming network.

The student-run coalition's mission is to get young people to face contemporary challenges and overcome them.

"No longer can you guys wait for your parents' generation," said Dumaka Shabazz, a Nashville lawyer and panelist. "This generation has the creativity and drive to move forward, and that is why I am excited to see all the students who came out for this forum and who desire to get more involved politically."

According to CSPAN members, such activity is already underway.

"We figured the motto for the forum should be 'A Voteless People is a Hopeless People,'" said Kenneth Worles, a junior in the College of Mass Communication and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha. "We wanted to put together a program that can be implemented on campus and talk about immediate issues, and I kind of feel like this forum is similar to a town-hall meeting where students can ask questions and get answers."

The forum comprised five panelists from across the state and from the university community to address students' questions regarding issues such as the Fair Sentencing Act, the Occupy Movement and the new voter ID law.

"You have to educate yourself and look at the issues," said panelist John Majors. "I know what it takes to rise up, and you young folks have a job ahead of you. I don't want to see you back down. You have to educate those who are uneducated, and that is your responsibility."

Audience members said they want their community to be more connected.

"We have to come together as a

people like we are doing right now," said senior Calvin Ockletree, the vice president of the MTSU NAACP chapter. "I bet half of the people in the room

right now don't hang out with their other black brothers

and sisters on the other side of the room. We are too cliquish, and we don't talk with each other and communicate enough, which that is the first thing we need to do before anything else."

One of the topics most heavily discussed in the forum by students and panelists was the Fair Sentencing Act, which changed jail sentences between powder and crack cocaine to eliminate any disparity under the federal law.

Lawyer and panelist Shabazz addressed this issue as he explained to students how it could potentially affect their community.

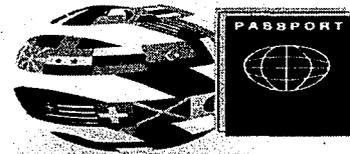
"Eighty percent of those sentenced for crack are black folk," Shabazz said. "What is so important for our community is to understand how it affects the black community, and what it boils down to is the family structure. Most people in the projects looked up to the rappers, the athletes and dope boys because they had the money. Where I grew up a lot of people looked up to the dope boys, but a lot of them ended up with drug sentences, which are crushing the black community."

The other panelists also brought to attention the issue of the voter ID law, and how it will affect college students.

"Your college ID card isn't going to work when it comes time to vote," said Denise Rucker, a panelist who works with the Rutherford County Election Commission. "It's a state-by-state mandate, and you students need to make sure you have proper identification for the next election. As of now, you have a year to get that figured out which is doable." ■



Panelists Warren Mackey, John Majors, Denise Rucker and Sekou Franklin discuss the new voter identification law during the first Creating Social and Political Awareness Now (CSPAN) forum Nov. 3 in the Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building. The forum was held to create discussion regarding political issues. (Photo by Emily West, staff writer)



STUDY ABROAD FAIR

Wednesday, Nov. 16
KUC

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

PH 207 educationabroad@mtsu.edu
MTSU Education Abroad
615-898-5178



The Apricot Girl



was a very sweet and unique Chinese name.

Three months later, on a cold day in January 1989, Su Baihua gave birth to her baby daughter, Xing Chen, the apricot girl. Xing's mother knew in her heart Xing would be destined for greatness, far more than she and her husband could ever achieve.

As the young apricot girl grew, her mother noticed that Xing favored an apricot in many ways. Xing was sweet, and people often thought her shy spirit meant she could be easily bruised. But inside this apricot girl there was a hard shell, a strong interior she

used to protect herself.

Hunan Province was known for its beautiful women, and Xing was no exception. Xing was a natural beauty. Her hair, which fell to her shoulders, was jet black and shiny like silk. Her eyes, the color of molasses, were shaped like almonds. With every movement she made she was graceful, smooth and each had its own purpose.

Xing was full of imagination and had many dreams. She imagined one day she would be a stewardess - elegant, graceful and beautiful. She imagined she would be a concert pianist for the Chinese Philharmonic Orchestra and began

practicing diligently every day. Though she lived a simple, traditional life, her dreams had no limits.

Her mother had always assured her that her heart would guide her to the right path and she should never stop dreaming. Whatever path she chose, her main ambition was to make her parents proud.

But the young apricot girl never imagined her dreams would one day take her thousands of miles away from home.

In all her years of school, Xing had remained the top of her class. Following her high school graduation, she took the *gao kao*, an entrance exam in China, similar to the American SAT, that all Chinese students obsess over and must take in order to enroll in college.

Xing studied 15 to 18 hours a day, determined to attend the best university she could. Eventually all her hard work paid off, as Xing excelled in the *gao kao*. She became the only art student from her class to be accepted to Hunan Normal University; a university only 4 percent of her province could get into.

But college life didn't bring much freedom or spark a rebellious streak in Xing. She became even more focused on her studies and always looked toward the future, concentrating on her end result.

It was her focus and determination that allowed her the opportunity to study at MTSU.

In her junior year of college, Xing heard about the chance to come to MTSU through its exchange student program and felt it was her destiny.

"I knew that coming to America would be [a] good chance to see something new and broaden my vision," Xing says.

Xing had traveled across China and Europe and was curious how Western culture in America compared to the two.

To come to MTSU, any Chinese student interested took part in an interview in which they were asked several

questions in English about their personal life, ambitions and career goals. The student chosen would receive a one-year scholarship to attend MTSU.

Xing came in second place.

Xing felt it was all over. All her studying had only gotten her so far. But Xing's parents saw the potential in Xing going to America. They felt that their

daughter deserved the best and wanted her to grow and learn in America. Xing's parents believed that, if

coming to America was what Xing's heart wanted, they had to do everything they could to get her there. They decided to let Xing come to MTSU, while they paid all school expenses.

But to realize the magnitude of their gift, their circumstances must be understood. Xing's father was a professor at the National University of Defense Technology. Xing's mother was a manager at a science and technology company. Both had promising jobs, but neither job provided their family with enough money to pay for frivolous things.

Throughout Xing's life, her family had struggled with money, so she was taught early on to ask only for practical things. Xing's room wasn't filled with dolls, tea sets or princess costumes. Her birthdays were simple, with no elaborate decorations or a big birthday cake with candles. And there were no family vacations.

Although everything was simple, Xing still had a happy childhood. She was never jealous of those around her, always content to play outside or to be alone and let her imagination change her surroundings.

To know how much her family had once struggled made Xing feel their offering was too much to accept. Xing felt studying in the States was practical but wondered if it was a necessity.

Xing's parents believed it was.

In the fall of 2009, 19-year-old Xing, the shy, apricot girl of Hunan Province,

By Bailee Jakes
Staff Writer

Many years ago in the small city of Changsha in China's Hunan Province, a woman named Su Baihua (*Sue By-wah*) became pregnant with a baby girl. One afternoon she fell into a deep sleep, and, as she slept, she dreamed.

In her dream, her baby appeared, beautiful and bright. The baby told her to give her the name Xing (*Shing*). Then the child walked away until her shadow disappeared. The mother awoke, happier than she had ever been because in China, to dream of your baby while pregnant is a sign of good luck. She also felt the name Xing, which means "apricot" in English,

FEATURES

left Hunan Normal University and came to study journalism at MTSU.

For the very first time she was alone, on the other side of the world in America – a place very different from her village in China. She had been terrified to leave her parents, but she had been more terrified of what it would be like if she didn't come to America.

She hadn't known what to pack; Western culture was foreign to her. So she packed it all – everything from her favorite pair of shoes to chopsticks.

As she sat on the plane, she could not sleep. Excitement had made her restless. She wondered how exciting her next chapter would be.

But the first few months in America were miserable for Xing.

"At that time, my English was poor," Xing says. "I had no one to talk to, no friends, and I felt so incredibly lonely."

But with time, the apricot girl developed a quiet confidence and branched out of her tiny dorm room in Lyon Hall. Slowly, she began to settle into life in America, made new friends, practiced her English and began to explore more of her surroundings. She adjusted to her new lifestyle and even began to prefer the slower-paced life in Tennessee to the

fast-paced life in China.

"Life in Tennessee is slow, but in China you are always rushing," Xing says. "You have to use every minute and not waste any time. I think it's that way because Chinese people are always focused on outdoing each other – it's too competitive."

Xing also preferred the atmosphere in the classroom. The freedom she felt in class enabled her to become more confident and be true to herself.

"The schools in the U.S. are more open than in China," Xing says. "They make you feel free in the classroom. Also, the professors are very friendly to their students – they almost treat you like a friend, and want to help you solve problems."

Xing had always thought America would bring her exciting moments, but she never thought it would bring her a new outlook toward life.

The more Xing enjoyed America, the faster time flew.

When Xing finished her spring semester in May 2010, she knew it was time to return home. Packing her suitcase for the second time was depressing.

On the way to the airport, Xing took mental pictures of everything she wanted to remember. Before stepping inside

the airport, she breathed in the fresh air one more time. She thought of the friends and memories she was leaving behind, and she began to cry.

But her eyes began to dry as the plane took off. She was leaving her American friends and life behind, but she would soon see her Chinese friends, her parents and her pet turtles, Zaizai and Qingqing.

She would readjust to her life in China, but she hoped that she would be able to return to MTSU again. Her new focus was to achieve master's degree in Mass Communication from MTSU, and her superstitious nature assured her it was her destiny.

But Xing would soon find that getting to MTSU the second time was much harder than the first. ■

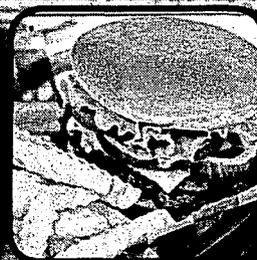
**TO BE CONTINUED
IN THE NEXT ISSUE...**



Xing at Hunan Normal University in her hometown of Changsha, China.

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Longnecks.....\$1.50

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MT hoops eager for new season

By Will Trusler
Sports Editor

With a lackluster football season coming to a close, all eyes of the Blue Raider faithful are turning to the glass walls of the Murphy Center in hopes of seeing the MT basketball teams rejuvenate our fan base and make a run to the postseason.

Both the men and women's squads return a strong core of players that has fans and coaches alike optimistic about this season's possibilities.

Perhaps the most decorated returnee from either squad is sophomore post Ebony Rowe.

The Lexington, Ky., native had a breakout freshman campaign and helped MT sustain the level of play that it's accustomed to in a year that most thought would be a rebuilding season following the graduation of four starters including All-American and the NCAA's leading scorer, Alysha Clark.

Rowe teamed with senior leader Anne Marie Lanning to form a lethal inside-out combination and led MT to a Sun Belt Conference Eastern Division regular season title and an appearance in the NCAA tournament.

Rowe was named the SBC Freshman of the Year and a member of the Freshman All-American team after averaging a team-best 17.1 points per game and a conference best 10.1 rebounds per game.

Her success last year was somewhat unexpected, but she won't be surprising anyone in her second go around. Head coach, Rick Insell, will run his offense through her, while opposing coaches will focus their defenses on attempting to stop the preseason SBC Player of the Year. With a target on her back, Rowe will face a new set of challenges that she's ready to conquer.

"They can double me if they want," Rowe said. "Now we have so many other options. If they double me, it's just going to leave someone else open. They can score 50 points, and we're still going to win."

Two players in particular that may benefit from the attention paid to Rowe are fellow returning starters Icelyn Elie and Kortni Jones.

Both players will likely see more time on the wing this year after spending most of last season in the paint and at the point, respectively.

In perhaps a sign of what's to come, the duo combined for 53 points in MT's first exhibition victory over Alabama-Huntsville. Both players seemed at ease manning their different positions on the floor.

Jones' transition to the shooting guard is a byproduct of the arrival of freshman point guard, Shanice Cason. The Murfreesboro native brings a true lead guard mentality to the floor as well as speed and scoring.



Junior JT Sulton (30) returns this year for the Blue Raiders as the team's leading rebounder and second leading scorer. His physical transformation should lead to bigger numbers in both. (Photo by Erica Springer, staff photographer)

"Shanice will be a big asset this year because she gives a relief for Kortni," Rowe said. "She was really the only point guard last year, so now she can move to the two. It just gives us a whole new option."

The guard corps will be looking to fill the void left by the losses of Lanning, Tina Stewart and also by Jordyn Luffman, who decided to leave the team in the preseason. Those three players accounted for two-thirds of the 3-point attempts of the team last season.

"I think a lot of people are saying we don't have 3-point shooters, but they just don't know we have 3-point shooters," Rowe said. "We've been coming in every morning for shooting practices, and we still have plenty of options on the perimeter. I think we'll be just fine."

Junior Jamila Ajanaku will also see significant time on the wing this season. At 6-foot-1 with agility and handles, Ajanaku has all the potential for a breakout season.

Another freshman that figures to play a prominent role in the future of MT women's basketball is 6-foot-5 Stephanie Myers. Myers is the tallest player ever to sign with the Lady Raiders.

"That just gives us an interior presence that we haven't had before," Rowe said.

Myers will face some stiff competition for playing time in the post this season though as lone-senior Molly McFadden, juniors Elie and Dymon Raynor, and sophomores Rowe, Lauren March and KeKe Stewart have all faced the wringers of playing in Insell's systems against some of the toughest teams in the country.

"We are not going to walk into gyms and have people say that these guys are freshmen and sophomores," Insell said. "Now they are going to look at them and say they have a tremendous amount of experience, and they have played in the NCAA tournament and are going to be ready to play."

There's a similar thread with their male counterparts as the Blue Raiders feature a strong nucleus of 10 sophomores and juniors this season.

Among those is preseason All-SBC member Jason Jones. The junior guard is the team's leading returner scorer and will

log plenty of minutes with his versatility on the perimeter.

Jones had a rough start last season but caught fire in conference play. He hopes to help his team right out of the gates this year.

"We want to start the season off by winning early," Jones said. "We don't want to play catch up like we did the last couple of years."

The team got a head start on

To view 2011-12 schedules scan here.



developing chemistry and identifying their strengths and weaknesses this summer with a trip to Canada for a tournament. MT finished a perfect 4-0.

"Any foreign trip you take in the summer is good for you," Jones said. "It gives the new players a chance to get a taste of college basketball. When the regular season starts, we'll already be ahead and know what we have to do."

Two newcomers who have received extensive praise from head coach Kermit Davis this preseason are redshirt senior LaRon Dendy and redshirt sophomore Torin Walker. The pair was on campus last year for practices but was unable to play due to NCAA transfer rules.

"With the two transfers that sat out but were part of practice every day last year, you almost include them as returners because they understand what we are trying to do," Davis said. "LaRon could be the best player in the league this year. Torin has the potential to be the starting center on our team."

With Dendy at 6-foot-9 and Walker at 6-foot-11, their size will be used to bolster MT's inside game. The duo will team with returning players JT Sulton and Shawn Jones to form a formidable frontline. Sulton and Jones both spent considerable time in the weight room this summer to drastically improve their bodies in preparation for the physicality of playing in the paint.

"(Sulton) was at about 206 and now he is at about 230, so he's gained about 24 pounds. It's made him a much different player," Davis said. "Then we have Shawn Jones, our 6-8 kid who is

about 240, and he's gained about 22 pounds. It's a physical frontline."

With the interior game covered, MT's biggest question mark heading into the season will be replacing graduated point guard James Washington, who started the past two years.

Washington was the team's leading scorer, though Jones led the team in conference play ranking third in the league in SBC games only. But Washington also brought a great deal of experience and leadership to the point guard spot that will need to be replaced by committee.

"I know coach wants that out of me," Jones said. "I'm trying to be more of a vocal leader."

Davis has a number of other options in the backcourt with a nice mix of

team during the trip to Canada.

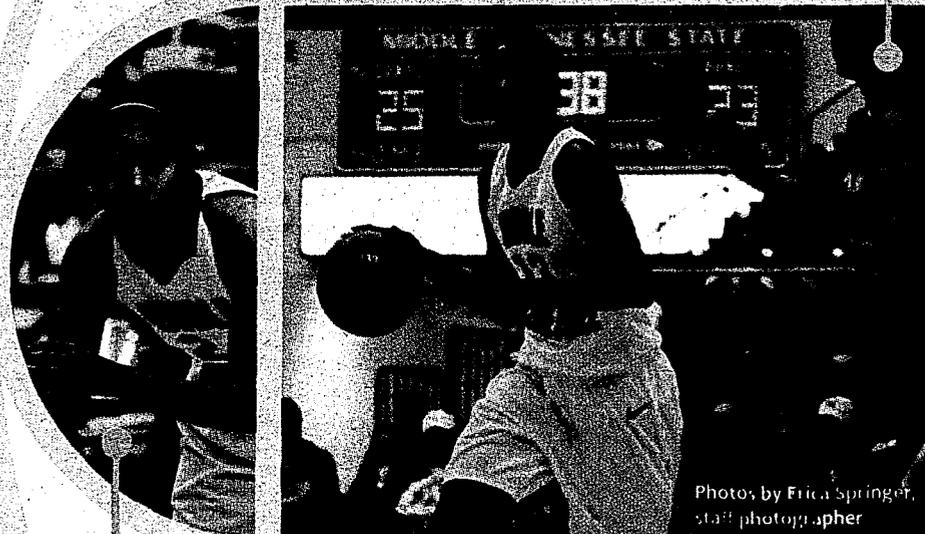
"Raymond Cintron can shoot the ball great," Jones said. "We're just trying to make him more of a point guard and understand how college basketball is."

Cintron hit seven 3-pointers in one game in the summer tournament.

"He can shoot, and he's a competitive guy," Davis said. "We think he's going to be a really good player."

Bruce Massey will also see reps at the lead guard position and has been praised for his defensive intensity and decision-making.

Junior Icelyn Elie (13) was named a second team member of the All-SBC team this preseason. Elie was third on the team last year in points per game and second in rebounds per game.



Photos by Erica Springer, staff photographer

Junior guard Kortni Jones (24) will split her time this season at the point guard and shooting guard positions. Jones led the team last year in assists and steals.

experience and newcomers.

James Gallman and Kerry Hammonds have both shown the ability to shoot the ball in their time in Blue and White, while senior Jimmy Oden can be a pesk on the defensive side of the ball.

"Washington was a big player here, but we've got other players now who can step up their game and give us that same kind of lift," Jones said.

First-year player Raymond Cintron has been quick to the tongues of both Davis and Jones when talking about replacing Washington. The junior college All-American proved his worth to the

"He's a great on-ball defender," Jones said. "The last scrimmage we had, he had 10 assists and no turnovers, too. That's what coach is looking for."

With skill, experience and depth at every position on the floor, Jones said the team wants to win the conference and make the NCAA tournament.

Davis is excited about their chances. "I like where we are," he said. "It's the deepest team we've had. It's the most talented team we've had since I've been here. They're really a pleasure to come to the gym with every day, so we're excited about the upcoming year."

The Lady Raiders officially begin their season with the Lady Lion Classic tournament in University Park, Pa., on Nov. 11. The men start the same day at home against Austin Peay University. ■

Falling into the beat: *Luis Resto's journey from funk to Marshall Mathers*

Luis Resto did not entertain dreams of hard-hitting rap music fueled by brilliant orchestral melodies when he first fell in love with music.

Now a major producer in the hip-hop world, Resto began his career in his parents' house in Garden City, Mich., playing keyboard in his older brother Mario's group, helping create a sound he describes as "fusion mixed with rock 'n' roll," with pop lyrics.

Although he lives in Detroit, Resto recently visited Middle Tennessee State University to participate in a Chrysler ad campaign that is being designed by Dick Williams' Synergistic Marketing class.

It is an acceptable assumption to make that the beat lives in Resto's blood. His family has a strong arts background. The youngest of four brothers, Resto was surrounded with the artistic talents of two of his older brothers, DeDe, a dancer, and Mario, a singer.

"My parents were Puerto Rican—we'd go to Puerto Rico in the summer times to visit, and we'd watch Beba, my grandma, accompany my grandpa in singing Portuguese songs," Resto said. "I think between that and seeing my brother [Mario] love music, I wanted to play something."

Resto's father encouraged him to pursue music, and suggested he choose either piano or organ to master. Resto chose piano, and quickly became heavily involved in Mario's group.

At 15, he found love in the form of an Oberheim OBX synthesizer. He persuaded his father to buy it for him by telling him, "I'm not sure what I'm gonna use it for, I just got a feeling it's something I'm gonna like." Lessons in Detroit and much experimentation helped mold the Puerto Rican musical mastermind into one of the most demanded producers in the business.

Resto's breakthrough moment into the industry came with his involvement as a keyboard player for Detroit-based funk outfit, Was (Not Was). His synthesizer teacher, Don Fangeson, also known under the stage name Don Was, introduced him to the band.

At the time, Don was working on the track "Wheel Me Out," one of the first singles released by Was (Not Was). Resto brought in his synthesizer and his violin to do some studio work and the rest, as they say, is history. Resto said Don acted as a



Photo: Michelle Andonian

mentor, and would bring him into the studio to work around midnight, collaborating till the wee hours of the morning.

"It was a great beginning," Resto said of the experience he gained with Don. "It was this hodgepodge of all these styles, you know? It was fun, it had Motown, rock 'n' roll—I brought the synthesizer to it."

Resto said his interest in jazz music, inspired by the tunes of his favorite band, Weather Report, influenced the direction of the group and brought a fresh musical approach.

As his involvement with the group waned, Resto found himself playing keyboard—his "main thing"—and working with musicians such as Patti Smith and The Highwaymen.

"With someone like Patti Smith, she's such a poet," he said, a wide grin lighting up his tan face. "I grew up really, really admiring Patti Smith. When I was 13, I looked at the cover of *Horses* and I just thought she was so wild-looking, and really liking what I heard, you know? So to be able to work with her 20, 25 years later is crazy."

Working with The Highwaymen was

another fulfilling experience.

"That was awesome," Resto said brightly. "I was there for three days, everybody cut in the same room. It's great to still have the old way of cutting as opposed to the other way we do it on the computer. It's just lovely, playing together. And Johnny Cash would come in and say 'Hello' to ya, not in a condescending way.

He'd recognize you, I always remember that. You're looking at him in awe, and he's all, 'Hey, how ya doin' today.'"

Resto has recorded with artists of various genres. He's played an incredible range of instruments and has filled roles from producing to co-producing to penning lyrics.

"I've co-produced quite a bit, I find that to be my best role," Resto said, leaning in. "Kind of collaborating with everyone that I'm with. It's so much easier for me to be just this spigot of creative ideas, but when it comes to decision-making? Not so easy."

Resto finds this especially true of his working relationship with rap royalty, Marshall Mathers, known to the world as Eminem. Luis was called in by Joel Martin,

Resto's manager at the time, for a session with the newcomer about a decade ago, and went in with a great deal of hesitation.

"Just a couple of weeks before, I had just heard 'My Name Is...' and I was really taking an argument against it," Resto said, a frown forming a crease just above his nose as he recalls his reservations. "I was like, 'God, what's the point,' you know? What does that contribute to the universe?"

The vulgarity of Marshall's lyrics was of hot debate for Resto and the other professionals around Eminem's budding career. However, the unique sound was something Resto found he couldn't deny.

"To hear the way Marshall did it, it was a tough crossing for me because some of it was real vile, and yet I hadn't heard a scenario set up that way," he said.

The studio session marked the beginning of a legendary friendship, a collaboration that would allow both artists to expand their styles extraordinarily over the next several years. They hit it off musically, and the positive chemistry was undeniable.

The bond that grew between the men is of rare strength in an industry as cutthroat as the music industry, Resto said.

"To me, he's one of the most trustworthy guys in the business," Resto said earnestly. "The [public] perception, the anger and stuff, I know where it comes from. His upbringing was pretty different, and his life with Kim (his ex-wife) is... well, you see a lot of it in there. It's not everything, there's artistic license taken, but it comes from a place. I'd even go so far to say some of that is common ground between us, frustration with dealing with relationships. He's inspiring, humorous, he definitely doesn't come in spewing venom other than at the mic."

The two fed off each other, with Luis developing a better ear for hip-hop and Marshall experiencing a greater exposure to orchestral music.

"I came in at that time and had hair down to my butt and everyone in this room was thinking I was Michael Bolton. They were like, 'oh, no, what is he getting into?' I didn't give a rip," Resto said firmly. "I take my shoes off in session, that kind of thing. I'm kinda like an oddball. And then I think that's why this thing works, because I came from a sense of view, not so much what the current sound was in hip-hop, because

By Becca Andrews
Arts & Entertainment Editor

'Rum Diary' a fair representation of Thompson



Fans of the late great Dr. Gonzo can rejoice—the film is a fair representation based on the author's S. Thompson's writing. The movie captures the writer's life once again. "The Rum Diary," one of Thompson's first novels, written in 1961 when he was 22, was born out of his unsuccessful attempt to work as a sports writer at an English-language daily in Puerto Rico in the late '50s. It was there he befriended many of the writers at the San Juan Star, which inspired some of the characters in the story.

The book didn't see the light of day until it was finally published in 1998. In the film, Johnny Depp stars as Paul Kemp, a young hotshot journalist who comes to San Juan, Puerto Rico, to write for the San Juan Star, a failing newspaper on its way out of business. From his first time setting foot in the newsroom after being bombarded by a crowd of protesters,

he and the audience learn he is about to get into more than he bargained for. As with any novel-to-film adaptation, especially one by an author with such a loyal following like Thompson, this film will be greatly scrutinized for accuracy and faithfulness to the source material. The basic premise and story are true to the novel, but much of Thompson's witty, thought-provoking dialogue has been left out, which is sure to bring criticism from viewers.

Jay Powell
Contributing Writer

The themes of the film and its characters are still pure Thompson. Kemp makes friends with fellow journalists Bob Sala, a man who operates at a rate of an APB wire and rarely is seen without a bottle of rum in hand, and Moberg, a man whose mind has deteriorated due to years of excessive drinking, an affinity with Nazism and a habit of distilling his own 475-proof liquor, played by Giovanni Ribisi.

There are cockfights, car chases and

all kinds of drunken tomfoolery over the course of two hours that, in the end, you are left feeling as loopy and disoriented as Kemp and his pals. The situations that Kemp finds himself in on any given night seem like something out of a Road Runner cartoon. In one scene, Kemp is on top of a car breathing fire using the homemade liquor and a Zippo lighter as he and Sala flee from a few restless natives, ending with him setting a police officer's face on fire.

Aside from the drunken shenanigans involving over-the-top rum and madness, the story is about a writer struggling to find his voice. The character of Kemp is really an aspiring novelist who has had trouble with what he calls, "writing." He writes. His experiences in the film help guide him toward his muse.

The paper he works for sticks him with the unflattering task of writing horoscopes. In the film, he goes with his friend Sala to a poor village for a cockfight that brings him his moment of inspiration. He is mesmerized by a group of poor children around him picking

up trash and begins taking photos.

When he suggests a story to his Editor-in-Chief Lotterman, played by Richard Jenkins, he is reminded that the newspaper has no interest in writing stories about the daily desperation of locals. One of the best lines in the film comes after Kemp shows Lotterman a similar story. He asks Kemp what he thinks he is doing, and Kemp replies, "It's called journalism."

Throughout and observing the corrupt, exploitative editors like Sanderson (played by Aaron Eckhart), Kemp finds his voice through the way newspapers refuse to report about the lives of the natives. A young man pays tribute to one of the most famous writers on the 20th century. It has its heart in the right place. However, one has to consider that Thompson wrote this story in 1961 at the age of 22, so the story can be a bit scattered at times. For fans of the writer, or of Depp in another Thompson-esque performance, it's worth a watch even for the least curious. ■

Luis Resto...from page 10

I wouldn't have known it. My background is classical, so I gravitate towards string, towards orchestral approach, and I think that grabbed Marshall's ear. I think for a run there, that was a sound we had. 'Lose Yourself,' to me that's the synergy that happened there."

"Lose Yourself," the theme song for Eminem's semi-autobiographical film "8 Mile," was a huge hit for the team. Luis and Marshall came back to the year-old track and made it into what would eventually be a major song associated with Eminem's career. The positive ideas expressed in the lyrics jolted Resto—he hadn't heard such sentiments from the rapper who makes his millions off pain and anger.

"So he had had the first two verses down, and I remember hearing, the lyric was just so positive," he said. "I had not heard this, and no one else had heard something like this from Marshall at that point. So I figured it would flip people out."

It was "Lose Yourself" where Resto's classical ear really came in handy.

"But the approach, [Marshall] said, 'it's too rock 'n' roll.' All the chords that you heard, the stabs, the chorus, were all rock 'n' roll chords," Resto said. "We took it out, and that's where all the orchestral thing

came in. The build, if you listen to it, it's not synth, it's all orchestra. It's flutes, it's French horns, that's the way I approached it."

And the world listened.

The track garnered attention from fans and intrigued the powers-that-be at Chrysler, resulting in the famous Super Bowl commercial that depicts Marshall Mathers himself driving around downtown Detroit to the pulse-quickening beats of his hit song.

These days, Resto spends his time with musicians and his two daughters, who are his world. Bedtimes and homework help come before any studio session. In September, he came to Murfreesboro to write a track for Dick Williams' Synergistic Marketing class in MTSU's College of Mass Communication. The class has partnered with Chrysler to market ads for the Fiat and SRT brands, as well as promote an artist within the school.

Now he's back in Detroit, continuing his experimentation with marrying unique sounds together. He sees his musical future with one foot in the classics and another in the modern, and his in-sync collaborations with Eminem will hopefully have him pounding out bass notes with haunting melodies for many years to come.

His fans hope so. ■

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North Nashville, TN

Thursday, Nov. 10

Jordan Bartlett, Tracy Champion, Casey Murdock & No Star, Levi Ray
7 p.m.

The Rutledge
410 4th Ave. S, Nashville
Admission: \$5



Jordan Bartlett is a Murfreesboro artist whose smooth voice and relatable lyrics make him an instant star who could also be your best friend. Tracy Champion's groovy melodies only accent his quietly strong vocals. Although he frequents Nashville, his talent and presence make any show of his a must-see. Casey Murdock, a Georgia boy, and his band, NoStar, fall under the genre of "American rock n' roll," and their tunes are enough to make any toe tap. Levi Ray's pop music echoes of the likes of acts such as Maroon 5 and Gavin DeGraw. All of the artists are crowd pleasers, and \$5 is so little to shell out for a show. Go go go! (Becca Andrews)

Brian Bailey Exhibit
5-7 p.m., Moxie Art Supply
316 N. Maple St., Murfreesboro
Admission: FREE

Head downtown to support one of MTSU's very own artists, Brian Bailey. His oddball perceptions make for some incredible pieces, so come see what his mind has created and get a feel for Murfreesboro's art scene. His drawings, paintings and sculptures are all phenomenal. It's free, and what else do you really have to do? (Becca Andrews)



Friday, Nov. 11

The End of the World
12:01 a.m.
Earth

Admission: Doesn't matter, you'll be there

Welcome to the end of your existence. It's time for the world's doom—prophesied by many to take place on 11/11/11. Whether it's the rapture, gamma rays, asteroids or the zombie apocalypse, 11/11/11 will be a day that will keep us humans wondering *is this the end?*

Luckily, 11:11 is a widely known time for wishes. So, it may be wise to wish the world to keep spinning, unharmed by the hand of God. Otherwise, make peace with your maker, call your mom and say I love you and party like it's the end of the world as we know it... And I feel fine. (Todd Barnes)

Veterans Day parade
11 a.m.
14th Avenue and Broadway to Third Avenue, Nashville
Admission: Free

Arguably the most important event to take part in today is celebrating and remembering American veterans. Support our veterans by attending the annual Nashville Veteran's Day parade. The event features floats, antique cars, military groups and supporters, local business and charities and local high school marching bands. Additionally, a ceremony held at Memorial Plaza will be dedicated to those who fought and continue to fight for America's freedom. If you can't come out to celebrate, then just do something simple. Find a veteran and say "Thank you" – it goes a long way. (Todd Barnes)

Blue Raiders vs. Austin Peay
7 p.m.
Murphy Center
Admission: Free (students)

Considering this semester the university has been on a football and volleyball binge, it's time to feed the need for basketball. The men's basketball team will face off in its second game this season against Austin Peay as they strive to compete in the Sun Belt Conference. This event is a perfect for a new change of pace for sports, and as always the Blue Raiders thrive on school spirit.

So, trade in that football jersey for some basketball shorts, and get your buns to the Murphy Center to help the men's basketball team win with loud True Blue banter. Perhaps this is the beginning of something great. You won't want to miss it, especially since it's free. (Todd Barnes)

Saturday, Nov. 12

"Annie Get Your Gun"
7:30 p.m.
Arts Center of Cannon County
1424 John Bragg Highway, Woodbury
Admission: \$12



There are few people in US history as unique and distinctive as Annie Oakley. Films and books have been made recording her life, but nothing has been quite as iconic as the musical, "Annie Get Your Gun."

You have the opportunity to see a production of this legendary play Saturday at the Arts Center of Cannon County. Featuring such famous songs as "There's No Business Like Show Business" and "Anything You Can Do," this play may be a small town production, but it's guaranteed to lock those catchy tunes into your head for far too long. (Dietrich Stogner)

Collector's Expo
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Marriott Hotel
865 Conference Dr., Goodlettsville
Admission: Free



If you're the type who obsessively collects as a hobby, you need to be in Goodlettsville this weekend. The Collector's Expo at the Marriott Hotel will feature collectible sports cards, pop-culture memorabilia, coins, hobby supplies, action figures, toys, Star Wars collectibles, Hot Wheels, comic books and more. Dealers from across the South will converge and bring their best treasures for you to peruse. With free admission and door prizes, this is the place to be for any obsessive collector. (Dietrich Stogner)

Sunday, Nov. 13

"Martha Marcy May Marlene"
7:30 p.m.
The Belcourt Theater
2102 Belcourt Ave., Nashville
Admission: \$7.50



Director Sean Durkin received critical acclaim and the top spot at the 2010 Cannes Film Festival for his film "Mary Last Seen." This film follows a young woman dragged into a cult by her boyfriend, and is considered an outstanding portrayal of psychological coercion.

This Sunday, you can see the sequel, "Martha Marcy May Marlene" which follows the aftermath of Martha's experience with the manipulative and abusive cult. Starring Elizabeth Olsen as Martha, this film shows the difficulty of getting back to a normal life after a horrible ordeal. (Dietrich Stogner)

Military Appreciation Day
9 a.m.
Nashville Zoo at Grassmere
377 Nolensville Pike, Nashville
Admission: Free for military



MTSU is now home to a significant number of veterans, thanks to the extraordinary new version of the G.I. Bill and a new campus veterans' center. The local community has always taken steps to show their appreciation for our men and women who have worn the uniform. And this Sunday, military personnel and veterans can get into the Nashville Zoo for free, along with their families. Sponsored by Regions Bank, there will also be a special fun zone for any children that the servicemembers decide to bring along. (Dietrich Stogner)

Figure 1 Exhibit
9 a.m.
Scarritt Bennett Center
1008 19th Ave. S, Nashville
Admission: Free

Scientists have spent centuries discovering new, unique phenomena, and many have remarked on the beauty inherent in these discoveries. A unique and innovative exhibit at the Scarritt Bennett Center on 19th Avenue in Nashville explores the point where art and science converge.

Called the Figure 1 exhibit, this display shows captured images of everything from astronomical events and microbes alongside artists' renditions of our world. The comparison between the two allows visitors to see that even in the most logical of pursuits, art can be found. (Dietrich Stogner)

'Arkham City' struggles to match brilliance of the asylum

Two years ago, Rocksteady Studios accomplished what many believed to be impossible. They took one of the most beloved characters in American pop culture, and built an extraordinary game around him. The iconic image of Batman's dark cowl looming over Arkham Asylum provided the groundwork for a masterpiece of gaming.

By Dietrich Stogner
Associate Arts &
Entertainment Editor

Two years later, the sequel brings Batman out of the asylum and into a massive city. Unfortunately, the sprawling landscape and myriad new capabilities doesn't manage to preserve the same sense of intensity as the original.

In the previous game, Batman was sealed inside the legendary Arkham Asylum, facing down one villain after another until coming face-to-face with the Joker. The Asylum was large, but tightly contained, giving Rocksteady the chance to insert details into every nook and cranny. In "Arkham City," the government of Gotham City has decided to wall off the slums of the city to create a massive super prison.

The scope of this city rapidly becomes apparent. After Bruce Wayne is trapped inside the walls of Arkham City, he rapidly scales to the top of one of the tallest buildings to receive an airdrop of his costume, utility belt and a dizzying array of toys. He quickly discovers that the city has separated into gang warfare, with the familiar supervillians leading the various factions.

Batman's encounters with Mr. Freeze, Two-Face, Ra's Al Ghul, Killer Croc and the mastermind Hugo Strange provide a cluster of tiny short stories which link together to provide a sprawling storyline. It doesn't take long to see the maniacal hand of the Joker behind it all, and the narrative takes Batman all over as he discovers the truth of Arkham City.

The combat and movement in the game is similar to the phenomenal system introduced in "Arkham Asylum." Batman drops into a cluster of enemies, and flows in a furious pattern from one enemy to the other, mowing through dozens of



Image courtesy of Rocksteady Games

henchmen with an ease that makes the player feel as brutally effective as the legendary superhero. The sequel adds new combos and techniques, rounding out Batman's combat repertoire.

Another area that's been expanded is the famous utility belt. The familiar tools and weapons from the first game are back, but they're joined by about a half dozen new gizmos, all of which can be upgraded as you progress through the game. Many of the tools allow you to move quickly through the huge city, soaring

over the rooftops and swooping down on unsuspecting villains.

More size, more moves, and more gadgets all combine to make this a much bigger game. Unfortunately, the environment feels diluted. The obsessive detail that gave "Arkham Asylum" such a dark, eerie atmosphere is absent from this sprawling cityscape.

Initially, the dialogue among random characters is interesting, but it begins to repeat, and becomes hollow. Some of the side missions are interesting, but they don't really add anything to the overall narrative.

The best sequels identify both the best and the worst of their predecessor. It fixes what fell flat, and keeps the extraordinary moments that made the first so memorable. "Arkham City" is a serviceable game, but it overreaches in trying to expand on "Arkham Asylum." As such, the atmosphere feels flat, the characters never have time to shine and the narrative doesn't have the same flow.

"Arkham City" is a decent game. But when compared to a masterpiece like its predecessor, decent just doesn't cut it. ■

CONTINUED...

Occupy Murfreesboro...from page 4

downtown Murfreesboro twice, chanting, "Banks got bailed out! We got sold out!" and parading by the three corporate banks on their way: Regions, Bank of America and SunTrust.

The point behind marching in front of the banks was to encourage Bank Transfer Day, which was Nov. 5, Vincent said.

"We're encouraging people to move their money out of the large banks and into small, local banks and into credit unions where their money can stay in the local community and support the local community rather than going to lobbyists to get politicians to make laws," Vincent said.

She said using local banks or credit unions is important because it not only supports small, local businesses but also "local banks and credit unions have lower fees. You have more control over what your money is used for, and they do keep your money in the community rather than sending it wherever in the world to get the corporate stuff done."

In addition to spreading awareness for Bank Transfer Day, protesters said the ultimate goal of the Occupy Murfreesboro

event was "to stand in solidarity with Occupy Wall Street and every other city," said Matthew Harrell, a senior majoring in computer science.

This was the first event held by Occupy Murfreesboro members, but they are planning other actions for the near future such as more marches, protests and strikes, Harrell said.

The next Occupy Murfreesboro general assembly will be held Sunday at 4 p.m. at Old Fork Park under the pavilion. General assemblies are usually held every Tuesday as well at the same place, but the location might move as the weather gets colder.

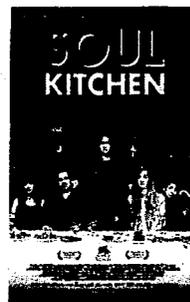
For people that cannot make it to a general assembly, Elizabeth Sharp, a sophomore majoring in sociology, encouraged people to "at least do your own research."

"This isn't just a, 'Oh, well they're going to do all the work for me' kind of thing," Sharp said, "We're all going to be in this together. If my rights are being walked over then that means your rights are being walked all over. The first step to changing things is to educate yourself." ■

All Shows are @6pm in the KUC Theatre for

FREE

First MTSU International Film Series



November 12th – Soul Kitchen

Young German-Greek restaurant owner Zinos is down on his luck. His girlfriend has left and his Soul Kitchen customers are boycotting the new chef. Zinos soon turns over the restaurant, Soul Kitchen, to his unreliable ex-con brother Illias who gambles away the restaurant to a shady real estate agent. Both brothers have one last chance to get Soul Kitchen back if they can stop arguing and work together as a team. A great character-driven comedy that is witty, fun and supported with an unforgettable soundtrack that illuminates the multi-cultural bustle of modern Germany.

December 10th – Ajami

Palestinian Scandar Copti and Israeli Yaron Shani collaborated on this independent drama, which examines how the troubled relationship between their countries shapes everyday life in the Middle East. Ajami draws us into the lives of two brothers fearing assassination; a young refugee working illegally to cover medical expenses; a cop obsessed with finding his missing brother. Through this dramatic collision of different worlds, we witness cultural and religious tensions simmering beneath the surface and the tragic consequences of enemies living as neighbors. This Academy Award nominated film is Shakespearean in its scope and themes - revenge, loyalty, hope and despair.



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Obsessed, passionate fans hurt game

Look around campus: there are all types of fans. Sure, the school is full of diehard Blue Raider fans, but in addition to that, MTSU is a safe haven for fans of various teams.

There are Crimson Tide fans, University of Tennessee fans, Auburn fans, Titans fans, and heaven forbid, New England Patriot fans. If someone were to simply peruse the area, without a doubt, that person would encounter different people adorned in their favorite team's colors.

Most fanatics represent their team in one way or another. Someone may wear a Tennessee Titans jersey or perhaps a Dallas Cowboys jersey. On top of jerseys, fans also wear T-shirts, hats, visors - you name it!

Anyone who follows and stays current with a certain team develops a type of passion that runs deep.

What that means is once someone commits to a team and devotes time following and watching that team it is hard to go back. For example, say there is a fan

of the Oakland Raiders.

This fan watches every single Raiders game, follows the team in the offseason and gets amped up every year for the NFL draft, when all of the professional teams

get their opportunity to snag the best players coming out of the college ranks.

On occasion, passion for a particular team runs a little too deep. Over the last few seasons, there have been plenty of quarrels between fans in the stadiums.

Most of the time, the debacles are between fans of opposing teams, but there have been instances where fans of the same team get into a conflict.

In fact, recently at a football game between the University of Tennessee and the University of Florida, three separate fights broke out, in the same exact section of the stands. Luckily, event security quickly broke up the altercations and threw the fighters out.

These ordeals outline a predicament with athletics in general. How far is too far for fans? This is a legitimate question.

**By Matthew Dossett
Columnist**

When thinking about some of the biggest rivalries in college football, there are a few that come to mind quickly.

There is Ohio State versus Michigan, Southern California versus Notre Dame, Florida versus Florida State, Texas versus Oklahoma, and the biggest one in my opinion, Alabama against Auburn.

The reason for considering Auburn versus Alabama the grandest rivalry of all can be summed up in two words: sheer hatred.

Sure, the other rivals mentioned have fans on both ends of the spectrum that dislike one another, but Auburn/Alabama takes it to another level. Two years ago, the Crimson Tide won their first national championship since 1994.

This past year, Auburn claimed their first championship ever. Just imagine the disgust Alabama fans had when their most bitter rival, Auburn, swooped in and won the title just one year after the Tide won theirs.

Alabama native and Crimson Tide follower Harvey Updyke took his displeasure and actually did something

about it. On the campus of Auburn University there is a prized possession: the Toomer's Corner oak trees.

After every game the Tigers win, the fans head over to the Toomer's trees and roll them with toilet paper. A month after Auburn won the national title, Updyke poisoned the sacred trees.

Both undergraduate and graduate students at Auburn have been working diligently to combat the poisoning and save the trees.

The chances of survival are said to be slim to none. The definition for too much fandom should be listed as "Harvey Updyke."

Look, it is fine to love a team and follow them season after season, year after year. What each fan needs to ask themselves from time to time is this: Am I pushing the envelope too much? Am I an obsessed fanatic? ❏



Matthew Dossett is a freshman majoring in mass communication. He can be reached at mld4y@mtmail.mtsu.edu

MISSED CONNECTION: DEMOCRAT BASE SEEKS 2008 CANDIDATE OBAMA

This is a response to Brandon Thomas' Craigslist-themed column seeking the perfect Republican candidate for President.

We were so in love, you and me. You promised "hope" and "change" - a rejection of "politics

as usual" in Washington. You promised a post-racial Presidency. You promised the economy would turn around and that unemployment would never go above eight percent. You vowed to end the Bush Tax Cuts for the rich. You even promised an end to foreign wars.

And we believed you. We believed you were the candidate who could save us from him... from the legacy of *Dubya*. I shudder even to write his name.

Now, three years later, we're wondering where you went. Where did

2008 Candidate Obama go?

Instead of rejecting the old ways of Washington, you wholeheartedly embraced them. You hosted lobbyists and special interests at the White House. And when you didn't want us to know you were seeing them, you met them only blocks away.

Your promise of a post-racial presidency has been anything but. The Congressional Black Caucus is consistently at odds with your out-of-touch message as minority unemployment hovers in the mid-teens.

We supported your bailout of Big Business just like you asked, and unemployment shot above eight percent. It's been above nine percent for 26 months of your so-far 32-month Presidency. And

now your plan to create jobs asks for even more money to bail out business.

You couldn't even manage to end the Bush Tax Cuts for the rich! For Pete's sake, Barack, the top 1% only pay 40% of the taxes in this country! Can't it be more? Why haven't you pushed them to pay their fair share?

And instead of ending foreign wars, you doubled them. You committed troops in Libya, sent military "advisers" to central Africa, and ramped up a covert war in Yemen.

You are pulling troops out of Iraq, though. But it's on a timetable set by your predecessor - *Dubya*. *shudder*

You were so dreamy, Barack. Your kind eyes. Your winning smile. Your promises of "hope" and "change." The

way you drew thousands of naive college students to your events with the promise of helping cope with our student loans.

And now I learn your college loan plan will only save me \$5 a month!

We miss you, 2008 Candidate Obama. We miss what you stood for, and we don't particularly care for the shell of a man you've left in the White House.

So, if you see this before November 2012, give us something to believe in again. ❏

Matthew Hurtt is a 2009 alumnus who lives and works in the Washington, D.C. area.



**By Matthew Hurtt
Columnist**

BAKARI: 'I AM a valuable contributor'

A few days ago I was asked to put ink to my thoughts on being True Blue and how and why I am a valuable contributor to MTSU's

progress and success. The first thing that came to mind was the spiritual relevance of the term, "I AM."

Biblically, I AM is what Jehovah told Moses when he asked, "Who shall I say sent me?" God replied, "Tell the people I AM sent you."

Beyond its biblical reference I AM is used as a mantra—word of power—in many Eastern religions because it's a declaration of existence and acknowledgment that the speaker is fully aware of his or her place, role and responsibility to society. Are you fully aware of your place, role and responsibility to your family, university and society?

As a professor and the director of the African American Studies program, I AM keenly aware of the responsibility to which I AM called. To be a teacher is to be responsible for not only the shaping of a mind but the mentoring of the person and the refinement of their character. It's what makes me True Blue.

When many people think about the word valuable, wealth and riches often come to mind. Rarely do we think about service as being valuable. From an African perspective, service is what we as humans have been called by the Creator to perform. A West African proverb teaches that humans have been called to create a world free of poverty and suffering. To accomplish this task, we must love doing good and work unselfishly for the betterment of others.

To contribute means to freely give of one's talents, knowledge and time, not just money. Through my 17 years of service at MTSU, I have aspired to pass on the gem stones of knowledge accumulated through my studies, travels and life-long maturation. I have also given freely of my time.

I have spoken at hundreds of student

events, been the adviser to a number of student organizations, the chair of Black History Month, traveled with students to Africa and fed and mentored more students than I can count.

**By Adonijah Bakari
Guest Columnist**

These things have been my contribution. Honestly, professors are not required to be nurturing, compassionate, caring, uplifting and

committed to our students' progress and success. Rather, we do it out of love and because we are True Blue valuable contributors to the university and society.

As history shows, the terms progress and success are often ambiguous and should not be tied to the accumulation of things, wealth or power. Instead, progress should be and must be measured from an altruistic and spiritual perspective. Imagine a society in which we applauded the rise of the Happiness Index instead of the Dow Jones Index (a stock-market measure) and where success was based on the good we brought into the world instead of by our address, income, profession, and make and model of our car.

To me, this is the true meaning of being True Blue. I AM. Are You? ■



Dr. Adonijah Bakari is a professor in the History Department. He can be reached at abakari@mtsu.edu.

This column is part of series about the university's True Blue pledge.

Sidelines is the editorially independent, student-produced newspaper affiliated with Middle Tennessee State University and the College of Mass Communication. The opinions expressed herein are those of individual writers and not necessarily Sidelines or the university.

Plaintiffs' sue Rutherford County...from page 4

appropriate notice," Cope said. "Rutherford County will continue to maintain that it obeyed the law and acted in accordance with the requirements of the law."

Sbenaty said the ICM acted in accordance to the law, adding that he had hoped the Nov. 2 hearing would be the end of the legal battle.

"I hope this time the lawsuit will be dismissed," Sbenaty said. "We applied like everybody else, even though we were not required to by law. We just went by the book 100 [percent]. We made sure that we are complying 150 percent all the time with all the rules and regulations."

Neither Brandon nor any of the 14 plaintiffs involved in the case, including Henry Golczynski, Lisa Moore and Kevin Fisher, were available for comment.

"The site approved was for many years a pig farm," Brandon said in a press release. "Plaintiffs contend that the Islamic leaders ignoring that history is just more evidence that their plans for the site have nothing to do with traditional Islam."

Brandon's website also indicates that

the ICM is an extremist organization.

"There have been Islamic extremists installed as [ICM] board members," Brandon said. "Specific evidence was introduced in the court depicting ICM board members squatting over the American and Israeli flags while holding AK-47s."

According to Brandon's website, the plaintiffs were alarmed by the ICM due to a shift in their leadership.

"[Plaintiffs] have lived at peace with the Muslim community for decades in Tennessee," Brandon said. "It was not until the recent radical shift in the local mosque leadership that residents have felt uneasy."

Sbenaty said the problem is that the plaintiffs are not accepting of Islam.

"These plaintiffs are not accepting the Muslim community members here in the city," Sbenaty said. "We wished that after the groundbreaking [ceremony] those plaintiffs will join our effort and unite the community together, as opposed to having this issue hovering over our community." ■

Freedom Singers discuss censorship ...from page 4

didn't work out."

Some students who attended the Freedom Sings show received T-shirts and Freedom Sings CDs.

"While I did come to receive some extra credit for one of my classes, I am glad I chose to come to this for my assignment," said Bethany Wilson, a junior majoring in animation. "It left me feeling patriotic, and music is a huge influence on our lives and one of the best ways we express ourselves."

The event was put together by the MTSU Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies and afterward four members held a panel discussion on First Amendment rights in the College of Education.

"Why not use music as an example for the First Amendment," said Deborah Gump, a journalism professor who runs the Seigenthaler chair. "The combination of words and raw emotion is powerful, especially to this generation."

One of the topics discussed was the Occupy Wall Street movement. Some students asked the panel for their opinion on the protests and its affect on music.

"Songwriters and newspapermen are kindred spirits who can get their

message across immediately," Mosser said. "There is something about words with a beautiful rhyme scheme with some music in the background that opens minds and potentially moves a generation."

The panelists also touched on today's politics and censorship, which Mosser said has decreased since the 1960s.

"I know on the Dick Van Dyke show a married couple couldn't even share a full-sized bed without people getting offended," Mosser said. "It's good that it has experienced change because I don't want people who know nothing about my music or song lyrics censoring them, nor do I want the government censoring me or someone with an opposing viewpoint."

The Freedom Sings group has been together since 1999 and is sponsored by multiple organizations, including the First Amendment Center in Nashville.

"I have been doing this since it started," Loyd said. "If it hadn't been for the people who had the idea for this organization, I wouldn't be a part of it, but I am thankful something like this is around to share such an important message." ■

Missing Issue(s)