



MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY  
**SIDELINES**

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EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

**McPhee: Frustration is the price of progress**

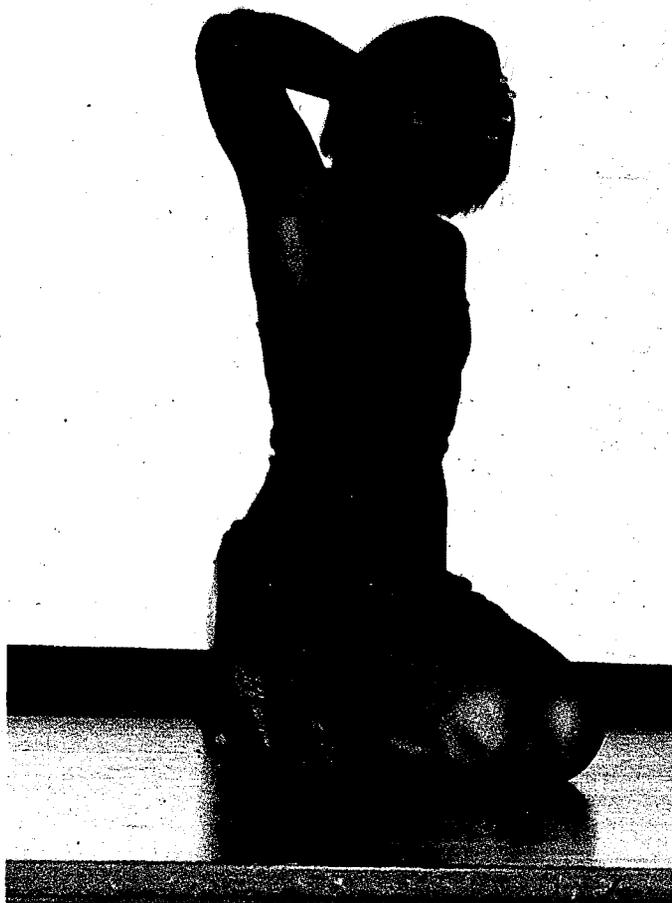
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## Sidelines Lens

# UNIVERSITY HOLDS MLK VIGIL



The university paid tribute and used different forms of expression to recognize the efforts of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. during a vigil held in the Keathley University Center Theater.

"Dr. Martin Luther King, as a person, means that one has enormous potential and we need to focus on what we do for others," said President Sidney McPhee. "If you look at his life he was really dedicated to his cause, and he had the opportunity to have a lot of fame."

Vincent Windrow, director of Intercultural and Diversity Affairs, highlighted the "I Have A Dream" speech, one of King's most influential speeches, by using an acronym for the word "dream."

"The 'a' in dream is to act like you are where you are going," Windrow said. "Who do you want to be and where do you want to be when you grow up? Begin to act like you are where you are going because what you do want to do is to arrive somewhere and you are not ready to move in that right direction."

Brandi Harlson, a freshman majoring in health and behavioral sciences, danced for the audience as a tribute. She said her piece was called "Strange Fruit." The university paid tribute and used different forms of expression to recognize the efforts of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. during a vigil held in the Keathley University Center Theater. (Emily West)

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## MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

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# Sorority to move into vacant house on Greek Row

**A**fter collaboration between Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life and the housing administration, one university sorority will become the first of its kind to live on campus this fall.

The sorority, Chi Omega, will occupy house No. 4, which has been vacant since August 2011 when Pi Kappa Alpha was suspended from campus on charges of hazing.

The house was open as an option for every sorority as a Panhellenic (or Greek) house, so several different sorority members could move into one house. That offer never went through, and the house then became open to all sororities.

Former Chi Omega president Jordan Turri, who is heading the housing project, said they were the only sorority who showed interest in the house.

"We went to our national board and had several discussions," Turri said. "Basically it is not our house, and the campus owns it. Our house will be treated like a dorm, and our national corporation or our sorority doesn't pay any part of it. The house is just technically some Chi Omegas living together in the same house."

Chi Omega said it plans on functioning as a living learning community similar to that of the Global Learning Community that is also housed on Greek Row, according to Dave Sullivan, Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life coordinator.

"It is not run through a house corporation like the fraternities,"

Sullivan said. "So how fraternities work is that they sign long term leases with the university with the facility that is sitting on that lot. The house corporation pays the fees and utilities, and at the end of each semester they have to pay for whatever their costs are."

by Emily West  
Associate News  
Editor

The sorority house works differently since it is



Chuck Redden of Glazier Windows helps complete restoration work on the new Chi Omega house. The house was originally the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. Photo by Emily West

not under the umbrella of Greek Affairs. The housing administration is in charge of the house since it will operate like a residence hall. However, Greek Affairs and the Housing Administration will continue to cooperate as a Greek affiliated organization occupies that

space, according to Greek Affairs.

"While it is a sorority house, it is still going to be a residence hall," said Andy Bickers, housing administration faculty. "They are going to live by housing and residential life policy like any other halls on campus. I would imagine they have some of their own expectations for their living-learning community environment from their chapter, but they still are required to follow our rules."

Chi Omega is working out the details for its living-learning community environment because no other Greek organization on campus has been in this housing situation.

"We haven't gotten far enough into our process to figure out everything for the living-learning community environment," Turri said. "However, we will have to follow our national chapter rules, so we will have Chi Omega and Chi Omega national rules."

Twenty-four beds are available in the sorority house space, and according to Bickers, one or two slots remain.

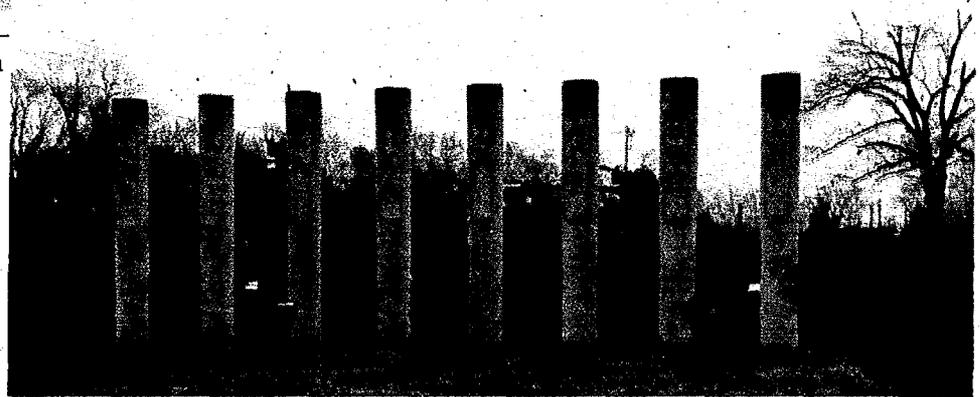
Other members of Chi Omega said they are beginning to see the

possibilities they will have in the incoming year.

"I think it is going to be really exciting step for our chapter," said Kelcy Durlin, Chi Omega's 2011 secretary. "I think it will make our sisterhood so much closer, and it gives our sisters all a place to go. There are 24 living there, and that is a big chunk of the chapter. It gives us places to all hang out and will potentially make it even more fun."

The Greek Affairs office said the university is not planning to add more houses to Greek Row, even though sororities are showing more interest.

"There have been plans, but we currently do not have the overall desire to move in that direction," Sullivan said. "If there is some point in time that several organizations, in addition to the ones we have, are dying to have housing on the row, we would look to see if we really wanted to do more. We have to look at it from a university standpoint and make sure that there is demand for on-campus beds and student organizations can support themselves." ■

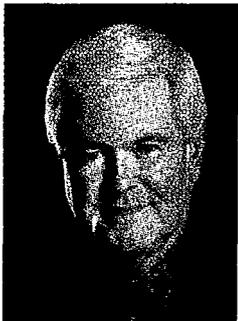


Chi Omega is the second group to enter Greek Row that is not a fraternity in the past year. Photo by Kelsey Klingemeyer, photo editor

# 2012 Presidential Candidate Preview

Tennesseeans, along with voters in nine other states, will participate in the primary election known as Super Tuesday on March 6.

The most recent primary election was held over the weekend in South Carolina, where former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich won the election with 41 percent of the vote. Mitt Romney came in second with 28 percent, Rick Santorum in third with 17 percent and Ron Paul in fourth with 13 percent of the vote. These results caused a shake-up in the GOP race, where it seemed Romney was going to run away with the nomination.



**Newt Gingrich:** Gingrich plans to eliminate capital gains tax, reduce the corporate income tax to make the U.S. more entrepreneurial competitive with others around the world and bringing more new businesses to the U.S. to create jobs. He is a "sup-

porter and defender" of the Second Amendment—the right to bear arms. As far as national security, he wants a more secure border, have clear, obtainable objectives for sending military force anywhere, and to implement an energy plan to reduce dependency on foreign oil. He wants to repeal and replace Obamacare with a health care system that places decisions on patients and doctors. He plans to implement a newer visa program for immigrants and wants to "in-source" the best brains in the world. He also wants to defund Planned Parenthood and protect teachers.



**President Barack Obama:** The nation's current commander in chief hasn't done much campaigning so far, but his stance on many of the issues remains the same. He stands behind tax cuts for small businesses, and he has proposed the American Jobs Act that

would put Americans back to work to allow them to keep more of their earnings. He offered refinancing for those with student loans, and said students won't be required to make loan payments over 10 percent of their income. He established new safety regulations for offshore drilling, and is working to

by Richel Albright  
News Editor

implement more wind and solar power, which is helping create more jobs. Obama signed the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," that now allows gay men and women to openly serve in the armed forces. He also signed the Lily Led-better Fair Pay Act that would make progress for women to receive equal pay for equal work. He passed the Affordable Care Act—known as Obamacare—that will end insurance companies denying coverage to those with pre-existing conditions, allowing young adults to stay on their parents' coverage until the age of 26.



**Ron Paul:** The congressman from Texas is running his third presidential campaign, and though he's yet to win a primary, he's not giving up. Paul is a former OB/GYN and is anti abortion. He wants to repeal the *Roe v. Wade* ruling and pass the "Sanctity of Life

Act" that would rule life begins at conception. Paul also wants to repeal Obamacare and plans to veto an unbalanced budget put on his desk by Congress. He's refusing to raise the debt ceiling and driving down gas prices by allowing offshore drilling. On national security matters, Paul, an Air Force veteran, plans to make securing the U.S. border a top priority. He also has his sights set on bringing all troops home and only sending troops to help in a conflict with a clear mission and with all necessary tools. He also plans to protect veterans and cut waste in the trillion-dollar military budget. He's a supporter of the Second Amendment, but does not support higher taxes. He wants to ban birthright citizenship to children born in

America of illegal immigrants.



**Mitt Romney:** The former Massachusetts governor is running in his second presidential campaign and has found much success this time

around. However, many Americans have admitted a closeness in religious beliefs is important in a leader, which is proving to be a hurdle for this Mormon candidate. Romney wants to push for a complete redesign of the tax system. He wants to implement the "Reagan Economic Zone," which is a multilateral trading group of nations and legislators that are open to any country committed to free trade and principals of open markets. Romney wants to repeal Obamacare and replace it with market-based reforms that enable individuals and states to reduce health-care costs. He plans to reverse Obama's defense spending cuts and he wants to restore the Naval credibility and enhance deterrents against Iran's possession of nuclear weapons.



**Rick Santorum:** The former senator of Pennsylvania has proven to be a contender in this race after winning in the Iowa caucuses. Santorum does not support gay marriage or abortion rights. He also wants to remove bans on both on and offshore drilling, create

energy security and independence for the U.S., and decrease reliance on other nations. Santorum plans to cut spending by \$5 trillion in five years, repeal ObamaCare and replace it with patient-centered care, and lower personal and corporate tax rates. He plans to make English the official language of government agencies, and stop the government from requiring states to provide services to illegal immigrants.

The candidates are in Florida, meeting with voters and continuing televised debates before the primary on Jan. 31. ■

## Former Supreme Court Justice to speak at Windham Lecture Series

Staff Report

Former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Conner will present a free lecture on Feb. 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the Hinton Music Hall located in the Wright Music Building.

Justice O'Conner was the first woman to serve on the Supreme Court being appointed under President Ronald Reagan in 1981. After serving almost 25 years on the court, she retired in 2006. President Barack Obama presented her with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2009, the highest civilian

honor in the United States.

Since retiring, she's written three best sellers and spent much of her timespeaking at events across the country.

The lecture is part of the Windham Lecture Series in Liberal Arts— named after former university faculty member William Windham— began with its inaugural lecture in 1990 with Dan T. Carter of Emory University and Dewey W. Grantham of Vanderbilt University, speaking on "The South and Second Reconstruction."

This lecture is sponsored by the university's Centennial Committee, College of Liberal Arts, the University Honors College, the American Democracy Project and the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. ■



## Campus & Community Crime Briefs

### Alcohol

Scarlett Commons Apartment 6  
Jan. 13, 11:19 p.m.  
Authorities transported a 19-year-old female to the hospital due to intoxication. The student will be referred to MTSU Judicial Affairs.

### Assault

Scarlett Commons Apartment 6  
Jan. 14, 3:19 a.m.  
Authorities responded to a disturbance call between two parties. Each of the parties involved admitted to assaulting the other, and authorities were unable to determine who the primary aggressor was. Neither party elected to prosecute the other at this time.

### Theft

Murphy Center  
Jan. 14, 1:19 p.m.  
A MTSU staff member reported that her laptop was stolen from her office in the Murphy Center.

### Warrant

Rutherford Boulevard  
Jan. 15, 3:33 a.m.  
Authorities arrested David Theus for three outstanding warrants.

### Vandalism

Scarlett Commons Apartment 5  
Jan. 15, 10:47 p.m.  
Authorities responded to a complaint of shots fired. Officers on the scene discovered a plastic bottle with chemicals littering the area. Authorities believed that this was the source of the noise.

### Assault

Scarlett Commons Apartment 7  
Jan. 16, 9:38 p.m.  
Authorities responded to a disturbance between roommates. There was no physical evidence of assault, and Residential Life agreed to separate the roommates for the night to cut down on the disturbances for the night.

### Theft

Sigma Alpha Epsilon House—  
Greek Row  
Jan. 17, 7:32 a.m.  
A complainant reported that his tires and rims were stolen from his vehicle. The vehicle was also damaged.

### Alcohol

Rutherford Boulevard  
Jan. 17, 12:38 a.m.  
Authorities issued John Jacobs, Matthew Gordon and Clayton Young a state citation for underage consumption of alcohol. Authorities also issued Joshua Pippin a state citation for furnishing alcohol to a minor.

### Alcohol

Greek Row  
Jan. 20, 3:17 a.m.  
Authorities issued Amber Antnip and Whitney Blair Hopper a state citation for underage alcohol consumption.

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# The Farmer and the Nell

**H**idden among a white blanket of cotton fields, down a red Georgia-clay dirt road, a wooden farmhouse sits next to a pond shriveled into a crater of dried-dirt puzzle pieces. Lodged beside a 6-foot-high white dock is a rusted, pine-green, two-man boat. Once used by a loving family man for lazy days of fish-

by **Todd Barnes**  
Online Editor

ing for spike-finned perch and long-whiskered catfish, the boat is now a relic, abandoned and forgotten.

Inside the farmhouse, a woman with wavy, snow-white hair and a soft face, hardly creased with the wrinkles of wear and tear, shuffles across her kitchen to stir homemade cream corn, butter beans and

rutabagas, in preparation for her family to come for supper. For Nell Kitchens, this is a family ritual of more than 50 years.

Dinner is ready and Nell begins the blessing. As she speaks to God, all heads except for one bow in prayer. The non-conformist is a man with shaggy, thinning gray-white hair and a face riddled with confusion. For Bruce Kitchens, 88- Nell's

husband- this meal means nothing. Family is merely a distant memory, and God, a stranger.

"Amen," Nell finishes.

The family quickly forms a single-file line and begins loading up plastic-foam cafeteria plates with all the country fix'ins. Nell files in last and starts to fill a smaller plate for Bruce. She reserves a seat at the end of the table, placing his plate there and

walks over to him.

"You ready to eat?" she asks in a soft, thick country drawl.

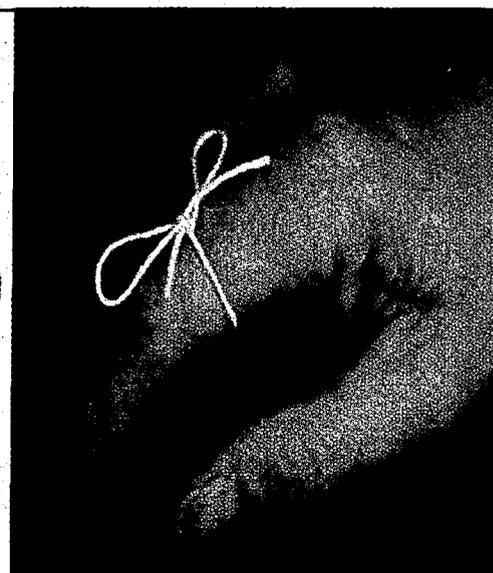
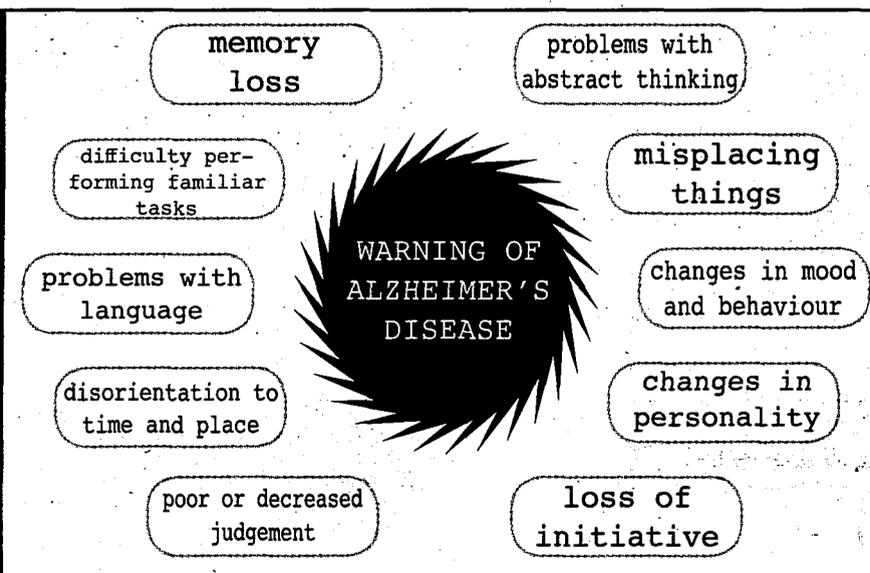
"Huh?" he replies.

"Eat," she repeats with greater force.

"Yeah," he says unsure of himself.

"Well, you got to get up," she says as she lifts out a hand. "Come on."

He grabs on to her arms as she bends her knees. She miraculously



lifts him up and leads him to his seat. He says nothing. No "thank you." No "I love you." He just sits solemnly and eats.

It didn't always used to be this way for Nell and Bruce.

"We had some very, very good times," she begins. "We worked hard, but we had some good-times."

She and Bruce would take the kids and head down to the Ohoop-ee River for a picnic and a swim.

Bruce loved to fish, and he would take his three boys and daughter fishing at the pond behind the house almost daily.

As parents, Bruce's hardworking and strict governance complemented Nell's peacemaking, matter-of-fact personality. The two were content, and as the years flew by, they were blessed to be grandparents as well as great-grandparents. The love and memories created seemed long-lasting.

However, nothing is forever, as Nell would find out. Bruce's mind began to change. The change happened so slowly, Nell didn't see it coming.

It started when Bruce developed a knack for getting lost. Nell remembers the first instance. He told her he was going to the county fair in Swainsboro to see the grandchildren show their prized hogs in a competition, but somehow he never showed up. It

seemed impossible he would get lost, considering they had lived in the area for all of their lives, rarely leaving their home Candler County.

"We didn't know where in the world he was," she says, hunching her shoulders. "And this was after dark now- we don't know where he went. But we think he went as far as Claxton, but we don't know. He said when he got to Cobb Town, he knew where he was at."

# features

Bruce could not exactly recall where he had driven to, but Nell estimates that he drove in circles within a 25-mile radius in the opposite direction of the fair. She admits she should have known something was wrong then, but Bruce was well into his 80s. She thought it was age - a lapse in judgment.

Until, he did it again. Only this time, a safety officer stopped Bruce. He had pulled Bruce over because of his weaving in and out of lanes and almost colliding with another vehicle. Bruce called his son Mike, who relayed the message to sister Monice, who was sitting next to Nell in a car. They were on their way back from a day

of shopping. The women needed to pick up Bruce or the officer would be taking further action. They happily complied and picked up a confused Bruce. Nell decided he would never drive again.

Sometimes he would ask Nell for his keys.

"No, you can't go ridin'," Nell told him.

"Why?" he asked.

"Because, remember you drove off and got lost," she says.

"No," he says, lowering his bushy brows. "I don't remember that."

A doctor in Metter said it was Alzheimer's, a disease that more than 5 million Americans are living with. According to the Alzheimer's

Association, this disease costs the U.S. approximately \$183 billion annually, and every 69 seconds another American is diagnosed with it. It's the sixth leading cause of death in the U.S. It's untreatable, incurable and cannot be slowed.

Over the next couple of years, Bruce started to lose his memory quickly, and faces became less familiar. First, acquaintances faded, then the children and finally Nell.

"Before I had to start puttin' him to bed, I'd be sittin' here in my chair, and he'd be sittin' over there in his," she recalls. "And he would say, 'I'm goin' to bed.' And he'd walk by me, and he'd kiss me good night and say 'I love you'

every night before he'd go to bed - every night. But that don't mean nothin' now."

It's been nearly four years since Bruce lost the sense of who he was and is. He barely remembers how to eat or walk. Nell is his primary caretaker, cooking for him, giving him daily baths and sometimes bearing his hostility.

These are the times that Nell reflects on her vows.

"We took our vows for better or worse," she says in a matter-of-fact manner. "We've had our better now; I reckon we're down to our worse - or my worse."

Her children think differently though. They used to ask her to put their daddy in a nursing home.



A. Nell poses with her four sisters, brother and mother. To Bruce, strangers fill this photo. B. Bruce and Nell Kitchens, married more than 60 years, complemented each other's personalities before Bruce's disease settled in. C. Bruce and Nell would take the kids to South Georgia to fish, swim and relax. (Photos courtesy of Margie Mincey.)

These days, they quit trying. "I still don't think she fully knows what this disease is," says Monice Holloway, Nell's daughter. "We've all tried to get her to put Daddy in a home, but she doesn't want to hear it. I've learned to put

**"We took our vows for better or worse," Nell says in a matter-of-fact manner. "We've had our better now; I reckon we're down to our worse - or my worse."**

it aside. If this is what she wants

to do, then she can do it." And she does.

"I just take it a day at a time," she says. "And every night before I go to sleep I say, 'Lord, give me health, strength and the patience I need to get through the day.' It's very trying sometimes, but I do the best I can."

As for Bruce, he will continue to fade away. He stares at the strangers around him while he asks his grandchildren, children

and wife: "What's your name? Where do you live?" Some answer, some don't. And some say whatever they want, knowing he won't remember it anyway.

Regardless, his doctor says he's in good health, excluding the Alzheimer's. He could live past 90. Nell is OK with that. She loves him.

For better or worse. ■

# McPhee: Frustration is the price of progress

**A**s campus grows, more construction projects are beginning to materialize, leaving students frustrated as they fight for parking.

"The first day of class was complete chaos in the parking lots," said Megan Williams, a senior majoring in public relations. "Flipping the library lot was a little ridiculous. I haven't seen the new white part filled up yet."

Before the semester began, the Recreation

of Founders Lane," said Ron Malone, MTSU alum and assistant vice president of Events and Transportation. "It is problematic to have students driving through a white decal lot and then searching for parking spaces. It creates traffic flow that can be detrimental to pedestrian access and things like that. So, we decided to reverse these. We gave the entire honors lot to students and gave the remainder of the library lot to the white decal."

With this change, the faculty gained about 40 spaces, according to Malone.

While many students felt frustrated due to this change, the administration said the short-term inconvenience will be worthwhile because of what it means for the univer-

of course have the new Student Union Building, we just completed the education building, we are beginning construction for two parking garages, plus the new student services building."

The Student Services Center will be a "one-stop-shop" to help students not have to travel all over campus for specific offices. It will have financial aid, bursar registration and other business offices on campus. The Student Services Center will be connected via skywalk to the new parking garage by the Recreation Center, and will also have a skywalk connecting it to the new student union building across the street. The building will offer parking for visitors, which has been very scarce prior to construction.

"All these services, and I know it's inconvenient at this time for students and people that come to campus, but it's progress for our university, we're a growing campus," McPhee said. "But we're trying to catch up with that growth in providing the kind of facilities a campus this size needs for the student population."

A pre-construction meeting for the parking garages is scheduled for Jan. 26, and construction equipment will be on site the following day, beginning the process of building the two garages, which will be for student use only. The garage next to the Telecommunications

by Richel Albright  
News Editor



Remnants of construction and parking signs are stored near the MT Softball Complex.

Center parking lot and Telecommunications Building lot were both fenced off in preparation for upcoming plans to build two new parking garages. Additionally, the lot between the library and the Mass Communication building went from 'green' to 'white,' and the former 'white' lot next to the Honors Building became a 'green' lot.

"With the opening of the College of Education, we had quite a few more faculty coming to this side of campus with the closure

sity's future.

"There's some construction going on regarding different road improvements, new roads, a second roundabout that we're building to take folks from the campus to Greenland," said Sidney McPhee, university president. "On top of that, we



Empty spaces are a source of frustration in the lot behind the Mass Communications building, which is monitored by representatives from parking services.

## COVER STORY

Building will have 498 parking spots, while the one close to the Recreation Center will have 492 spots. Substantial completion for the lots is slated for March 2013.

Along with new buildings- including a new science building that will house the biology, chemistry and physics departments- and new parking garages, the university is working on improving the bus routes for students. A silver line has been added to the pre-existing blue, red and green routes.

"We've got a bus shelter that we're going to move closer to the bus stop sign at that gravel lot, maybe that'll encourage people to stay there for a little bit and wait for the bus to come through," Malone said. "One of the most important things about the shuttles is that they allow us to move a very large number of people in a very short amount of time."

The silver line will run red's route in reverse from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., peak hours for transportation on campus. At

times other than peak hours, it will cut across Rutherford Boulevard to make the route quicker. Also, it will be stopping at the gravel lot on MTSU Boulevard so students don't have to walk to the inner part of campus if they choose not to.

"We're more congested than many major metropolitan cities, and if you're in New York City, you don't attempt to drive your car to Wall Street. You find the nearest public transportation system, you park your car in the available lot and then you hop on the subway or something like that, and you use the public transportation system that's available to you," Malone said. "That's what we have to start seeing happen on MTSU's campus, because with

the large number of individuals, we are just as congested as major metropolitan cities. There has to be a mindset that, 'I'm going to get up a littler earlier, I'm going to get to a perimeter lot and I'm going to give myself about 20 to 30 extra minutes.'"

According to Malone, traveling from the Rutherford lot to the farthest point on campus - the KOM stop - should only take eight minutes. There have been issues with traffic due to

the fall semester.

"The parking situation is ridiculous," said Danielle Vaughan, a senior majoring in electronic media production. "Now you have to walk 20-plus minutes to get to class or wait for a bus that will likely be full before you get on it. Spring semester is already incredibly busy, I can't believe they would choose to do construction on an already horrible parking situation."

On a growing campus of 26,000 students, building renovations, new buildings and additional parking lots and garages are necessary to accommodate students' wants and needs, according to McPhee.

"This is a beautiful campus and we want to maintain the beauty and that's what I hear from the students who visit, prospective students, and their parents and visitors," McPhee said. "They love this campus because we've not cluttered the inside, the green space that we have even with building the education facility and the student union, is going to be beautiful."

The new education facility opened last semester, and plans for the student union are still on schedule and should open late spring or early summer, according to McPhee. Along with many of the same aspects of the Keathley University Center, the new center will also have a "Chili's-style" sit down restaurant available, improved offices for student government, student organizations, game rooms and other sorts of entertainment.

"Part of it is to draw students to stay on the campus," McPhee said. "We are working and I've done a major job in enhancing programs and activities on campus, so students don't have to leave the campus on weekends. So this is going to be a welcomed addition for our students."

While students continue to adjust to the changes this semester in parking, McPhee and other members of the administration and staff said they sympathize.

"I know students are frustrated, we've heard from them, and I know people who come to the campus are frustrated," McPhee said. "But that's the price of progress." ■



The Rec Center lot, formerly used by students, lies vacant as construction for the new parking garage is slated for Jan. 27, according to Malone. Photos by Kelsey Klingemeyer, photo editor

construction, which he mentioned would add an additional three to four minutes on the red and silver lines.

"What I've found out is when students complain about parking on the campus, they're really not complaining that they can't find a parking spot," McPhee said. "They're complaining they can't find parking that is really next to the building that they have their class and they want to leave home 10 to 15 minutes before class begins and pull up next to the building and that's just not going to happen."

There are currently four red line, three blue line, three green line and two silver line buses that run during the peak hours. Transportation Services are looking to add three more buses in

# A Lucky Thirteen

by Stephen Hemingson  
Contributing Writer

The legendary group The Roots released their thirteenth album, *undun*, in mid-December. For a group that has been recording music as long as or longer than this semester's freshmen have been alive, the question isn't whether or not *undun* will be good, but rather, how good, exactly, is *undun*.

The album follows the fictional character, Redford Stephens, from his death through some of the decisions he made to get to that fatal point. The character of Stephens is taken from "Redford," a track on Sufjan-Stephens' concept album, *Michigan*. Stephens is born into a demographic and economic situation he can't control. The album

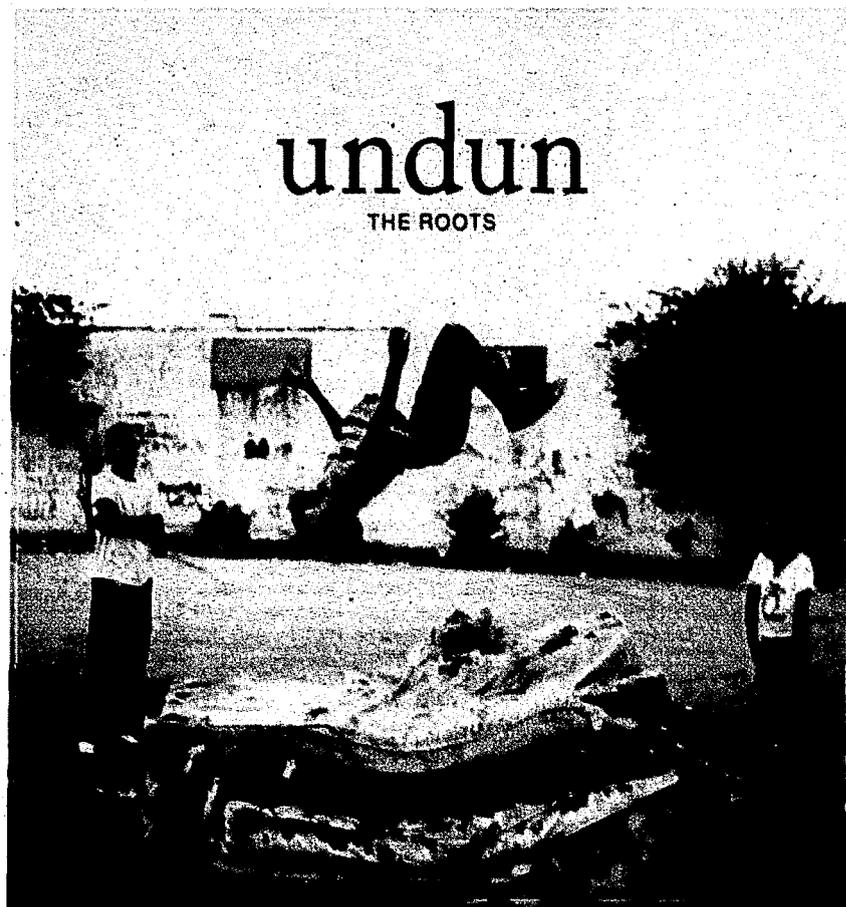
spends a lot of time contemplating Stephens' role in a society where his path seems fated.

In the track titled "Sleep," rapper Black Thought puts it like this: "Illegal activity controls my black symphony, orchestrated like it happened incidentally." The decisions he makes, regardless of intentions, only serve to further his destiny.

The deep lyrics include biblical references as well as pop-culture references from the present and past. These keep the listener fully involved while digesting the dark lyrics and down-beat instrumentals.

The refreshingly-complicated wordplay offered up by the host of rappers featured on the album lends to its depth as a cohesive story. The tale of Redford Stephens and his struggles about decisions made growing up in an unprivileged world is creatively woven and professionally crafted. He understands that while he made his own choices, there were only ever two paths that he could take and he chose a life of crime.

The Roots have impressed, yet again. Taking number 17 on the U.S. charts, *undun* is definitely one of the best albums released in 2011.



Whereas many hip-hop groups produce beats digitally, *undun* offers live instrumentation evoking a range of emotions during the story of Stephens. For anyone looking for a break from the monotony of other hip-hop acts, The Roots offer an unexpected oasis. ■

## ARTS & entertainment

# AUGUST BURNS RED BRINGS ~~HEAT~~ TO ROCKETTOWN

**M**etal is a pummeling, intense, passionate genre that no CD can truly capture. In order to understand the true nature of aggressive music, one must venture out to a venue and take in the ear-shattering sounds. One must experience the chaos of the crowd. One must witness the foolish young scene kid who ran into the pit, got punched in the stomach, and is now vomiting all over the floor (OK, most people could afford to miss that one). But the beast that is the heavy-music genre truly flexed its muscles Jan. 18 at Rockettown.

Metal gurus August Burns Red headlined the main event, supported by Silverstein, Texas in July, and relative small-timers Letlive. The latter band took to the stage in front of a sleepy-looking crowd, and unleashed a spectacle that could only be described as a group of young adults that had far too much Red Bull and then learned to

play some instruments. Vocalist Jason Aalon Butler was particularly energetic—constantly sprinting across the stage, doing front flips and generally acting like a wildman.

Butler spent his time between songs introducing humor into the seriousness that permeates this kind of event. One point he spent some time dedicating a song to A Plea for Purg-

with Butler exclaiming "This one's for Chester!"

One of the most noticeable things about Letlive's set was how practiced they sounded for a band that was so chaotic. The set list consisted of songs from their newest album *Fake History*, and was brought to the stage with all the skill of a seasoned touring band.

Next, metal act Texas in July took the stage. At the beginning of their career, the band seemed like nothing more than a less-experienced clone of August Burns Red. Indeed, none of their members were older than 18 at the time their debut EP was released. To be fair, while this similarity is still noticeable, undergoing

a member change, releasing two more albums, and relentlessly touring has given them a more relaxed, natural sound.

They performed admirably onstage, working the crowd into a frenzy and forcing them to move to the sounds of their blast-beats and breakdowns. Their guitar work has grown a surprising amount. They played solos that could outperform many less talented heavy music acts that tend to be the center of alternative music's attention (see

A Skylit Drive or Bring Me the Horizon for additional clarification).

The next act that took the stage seemed out of place upon first glance at the bill. Silverstein is one of the last bands in handful of surviving acts from the horrifying screamo trend of the early 2000s. While their early work was made up of nasally vocals and alt-rock guitars punctuated by throaty screams, they were forced to make the same decision that every screamo band had to make to survive: stay the same and

continued on page 16

by Daniel Kreipe  
Arts & Entertainment  
Editor

**SILVERSTEIN**

**January 18th**  
Rockettown - 6pm  
[www.musiccitybooking.com](http://www.musiccitybooking.com)

ing vocalist Andy Atkins and smothering him with praise, all while Atkins was present at the show. Another song was played in dedication of Linkin Park,

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# A Plea for originality

There's not much to say concerning innovation in metal these days, at least not without a look of slight disdain. Ask any kid with half-inch gauges about good modern heavy metal bands, and he'll likely use his middle finger to point to his Whitechapel T-shirt or his Attack Attack! wristband.

It seems that the rich dynamic that existed in metal a few years ago has become somewhat polarized. On one side sits the wrist-breaking rhythms of The Black Dahlia Murder and Job for a Cowboy, and in the other corner sits the ambiguously named "djent," which features spastic time signatures and low guitar strings that ring like trampoline vinyl.

Enter Nashville quartet A Plea for Purging, an oddball of sorts in the hardcore community. With their fourth full-length release, *The Life and Death of a Plea for Purging*, the group puts a foot down for tonal diversity but still mixes in the most clichéd elements of modern day metal.

Plea has undergone many changes since their third full-length release, 2010's *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*. Since the departure of guitarist Tyler Wilson in late 2010, the group has taken a groove-driven approach to riff writing,

to stop-start rhythms, and *Life and Death*, while a natural break from Plea's former style, tends to ride the same mundane formula of pounding breakdowns and low string bends. Key examples are "The Life" and "Heart of a Child," which, at times, sound like carbon

even warmer feel while lending a refreshing contrast to lead vocalist Andy Atkins.

It is in this respect that Plea seems to have truly progressed. While *Life and Death* lacks the ferocity of *Marriage or Depravity*, it does so in the spirit of change.

Songs that start out giving the impression of the dreaded "ballad" turn out to be pleasant songs in their own right, not just "good for a metal band."

Despite the positive aspects of the record, for a band like Plea, whose earlier work was so inventive, this seems like a step backwards. Sure, "The Setting Sun" and "Hands and Feet" are notable tracks, but in a genre where originality is sparking a war and far between, it's as if innovation has been swept under the rug. Razor sharp riffs and musical intricacy have been replaced by groovy, head-bobbing, mediocrity.

Plea should be commended for their strides at creating something groundbreaking. Their new work is interesting and different, but if the genre is to survive it will need more than glitch beats and recycled riffs. It seems, for the time being at least, that the plea for true innovation remains unheard. ■

by Kyle Standifer  
Contributing Writer



a rather stale move in a genre growing far too void of melodic complexity. Their earlier work, while harmonically lush, kept from over-embellishing technicality.

Bands like Periphery and Tesseract perpetuate the trend of banging away on the low string

cool of each other.

The most obvious change comes in the form of now co-vocalist Blake Martin. Besides lending backup vocal support, Martin's clean vocals shine on tracks like "Skin & Bones" and "Hell At Our Backs," giving the songs an

# rants&raves

## THURSDAY, JAN. 26

Lain York: Bedrock  
Belmont's Leu Art Gallery  
1900 Belmont Blvd., Nashville  
Admission: FREE

OK, you all can admit it; these guys had you at tribal masks. Am I right? No? Well maybe this art exhibit doesn't hold mass appeal for the average student. Most of us don't typically go for abstract art about archeology. But, on the bright side, if you have a particularly annoying date that you're trying to scare away then you can always take them by the exhibit and espouse your undying love for abstract tribal mask art. Come on, it's your last day to do it.

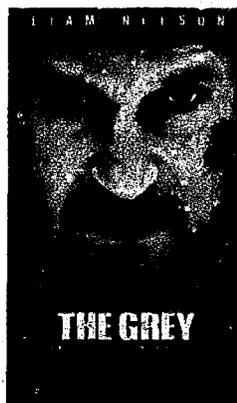
(Daniel Kreipe)

## FRIDAY, JAN. 27

The Grey  
Your Local Cinema  
Admission: Approximately \$10

If Liam Neeson has proved anything over the course of his career, it's that we enjoy watching him kick some tail. Granted, the advertising campaigns to his last few movies essentially saying "Come watch Liam Neeson kick some tail!" has been a little much, but that doesn't mean that *The Grey* will be any less awesome. You've seen him fight kidnappers, you've seen him fight English lords, you've even seen him fight Batman, now come see him fight frostbite and wolves. What's not to love?

(Daniel Kreipe)



## SATURDAY, JAN. 28

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe  
7:30 p.m., The Swan Performing Arts Center  
1203 Park Ave.  
Admission: \$12

There are few writers I have more respect for than C.S. Lewis. The depth of his knowledge and understanding of the world and spirituality never cease to shake my world. Combined with the talent and passion that is housed in The Swan Performing Arts Center, this play is sure to be a can't-miss. The price is reasonable, and proceeds support the local arts. You can't find a much better way to spend a Saturday night.

(Becca Andrews)

MTSU Flute Festival  
8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Wright Music Building  
Admission: FREE

If you stumble upon the MTSS Flute Festival webpage, you will find yourself face-to-face with an ethereal-looking older woman with long gray hair blowing in some mysterious wind, fingers poised to play a shining silver flute, lips pursed, eyes smiling and head tilted coquettishly. Meet guest artist Alexa Still, main attraction to the annual flute festival. The halls will be swarming with teeny-bopper band kids. Feel free to take

this opportunity to work out some of that stress by harassing innocent kids with nonexistent social lives.

(Becca Andrews)



Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus  
11 a.m., 3 p.m., 7 p.m.,  
Bridgestone Arena  
501 Broadway, Nashville  
Admission: \$32-\$221

I love the circus. And I'm not really talking

about the move-into-a-metropolitan-arena kind of circus; I'm talking a "Water for Elephants" kind of circus. Big tents out in the middle of nowhere, railroad cars being unloaded, Robert Pattinson looking fantastically human...just kidding. Sort of. Anyhow, wherever it is, the circus brings excitement and mystery and romanticism into your life for a few hours. I am also taking this opportunity to publicly beg someone to take me to this.

(Becca Andrews)



The Long Players perform Fleetwood Mac's FLEETWOOD MAC  
Mercy Lounge, 9:30pm  
1 Cannery Row, Nashville  
Admission: \$15

Covering a Fleetwood Mac album? That's daring. Covering a Fleetwood Mac album that isn't Rumors? That's really daring. However, if you look up some live videos of the Long Players then you might find that they're just about good enough to make you forget that you aren't hearing any songs that you've played on Rock Band. I mean hey, they sound killer playing Dark Side of the Moon. This should be incredibly interest-

ing to witness, and I would recommend stopping by if I were you.

(Daniel Kreipe)

Double Feature Friday  
Paranormal Activity 2 & 3  
7 p.m., KUC Theater  
Admission: \$2

# Freedom of consent a privilege granted, not a right possessed

It's a new academic year at Sidelines and the perfect opportunity to march out an old drum.

Of course, parking is terrible. Presumably by design, the situation on campus is simply awful and continues to degrade every semester—lots are systematically closed either entirely or at least to students because I can only imagine that buses aren't cheap and neither was the Rutherford lot. Denial is one of the most basic tactics in an overall strategy of behavioral control because, again, that stuff

wasn't cheap and we need to use it, dammit.

That is, I hope that these efforts are the products of a grand scheme to corral the student body to obeisance of administrative will because there's at least some romanticism to the idea of being in conflict with oppressive chessmasters as opposed to a loose amalgamation of incompetents who can't coordinate construction schedules, attendance trends or bus routes.

So yes: hoping for Lex

Luthor while secretly fearing that it's Wonderdog.

When I started school in 2008, you parked on campus; it was a given. You

might have to allow yourself a few minutes to find a space, but it was rare that you couldn't park in the lot most convenient to the building that housed your first class. Don't get me wrong, there was still some need for "sharking" (driving from aisle to aisle patrolling for an open space or someone to follow to their

car), but it wasn't the state of aggression and hostile opportunism that it is now, and you didn't need to be primed to go for your tire iron if you got to park instead of someone else because you were coming up the opposite lane.

Regardless, it was a different time, one where you didn't have to arrive at 7 a.m. to consistently find on-campus parking or build an extra hour into your schedule for each bus ride you had to take. And yes, an hour: fifteen minutes for a bus to arrive, twenty for it to make

a trip around campus, and another fifteen to get to where you need to be from whatever stop is closest to your destination (as even they are starting to regularly become displaced), with a ten minute buffer to accommodate something going awry such as the fairly common occurrence of two buses on the same route ending up together.

Not quite the "approximately six minutes" route as promised by Leslie Lynn's article in the December 2010 issue of *The Record*, but if we could take the official univer-

continued on page 16

By Larry Sterling  
Contributing Columnist

By Brandon Thomas  
Opinions Editor

## Yo, 2012 GOP candidates, that's racist!: A Tumblr analysis

Many of you may know the Tumblr blog, "Yo, Is This Racist?" For those of you who aren't Tumblr-savvy, the creator of this blog fields questions from average people who ask if certain aspects of their lives are racist or not.

While I can't give such lively commentary as the creator of the blog does, I can call out the current Republican field on their racism.

You are probably wondering: "Yo, is Newt Gingrich racist for calling Obama the 'food stamp president' and suggesting that poor urban youth do janitorial work in schools?"

Yes. Mr. Fig Newton suffers from a classic case of ignorance and white privilege. It is ignorant to suggest Obama is the "food stamp president" when a white guy

created the system. That is without mentioning the racial undertones of that statement. While the majority of people who receive public aid are white we all know about the stereotype of the so-called "welfare queen." Besides, it is white privilege to believe that this idea of "hard work" will help people of color out of poverty, simply ignoring other socio-economic factors that play key roles in preventing upward mobility.

"Yo, is it racist for Rick Santorum to say, 'I don't want to make black people's lives better by giving them somebody else's money,' but then later say 'blah people,' not 'black people?'"

Yes. Mr. "we all know what your last name means" needs to own up

to his own racism.

Yo, what about Mitt, is he racist?

Well, Richie Rich is kind of a mixed bag. Sure, there was that incident back in the day where he was around young black kids at an MLK event and referred to a toddler's simple gold necklace as "bling-bling." According to the National Black Chamber of Commerce, he broke with tradition by refusing to hand over the gavel to the black guy, his successor, when leaving office as governor. And his religion is predominately white and didn't allow black members 'till 1970. You know what, he's probably racist. Definitely classist.

Yo, What about Ro...

Yes. Yes. Yes. Ron Racist Paul, not to be confused with iconic drag queen RuPaul, is so racist that in an effort to not seem it he uses MLK as a cloak, and token

black people in campaign advertisements to quail white anxiety, as an attempt to delegitimize other black people's opinion of him. Then there are the newsletters and a video of him standing in front of the confederate flag talking about state's rights—which the pro-confederate Patriot Review has on their Youtube page. Most black people aren't too fond of the whole confederate flag thing or justifying slavery. Paul supporters might as well be voting for David Duke.



Brandon Thomas is a senior majoring in political science. He can be reached at [muckrakerthomas@gmail.com](mailto:muckrakerthomas@gmail.com).

# Blue Raiders to defend Sun Belt Championship

The Blue Raider tennis team began the defense of last year's Sun Belt championship last week, while the Lady Raider tennis team—coming off a successful fall season—will kick off spring action on Jan. 27.

The Blue Raider tennis team presents a picture of youth. With six freshmen and just one senior, the team's success in defending last year's conference title is highly dependent on a successful transition from last year's roster to this one.

Coach Jimmy Borendame used the fall season to ease in four of the freshmen, while two more joined the team in January for the spring campaign.

"We got in a lot of matches," Borendame said of the fall season. "Worked on team chemistry, get the new guys acclimated to my style of coaching and the way we develop players, and I think we did that."

The team's biggest star is easily Ben Davis. The sophomore from London, England, took college tennis by storm, beginning a meteoric rise from an incoming freshman last January to a national ranking to begin the fall season.

Davis posted a 19-5 dual match record last spring and route to an All-Sun Belt recognition. He then entered the fall season ranked No. 115 among collegiate tennis players as

determined by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association.

Davis posted a 7-3 record in the fall, and along with freshman teammate Ettore Zito, played in the ITA Men's All-American Championships.

"A lot of people don't realize that Ben last year was a freshman that arrived in January," Borendame said. "This year the team voted him a captain. He's the one that's going to be yelling and pumping his fist whether he's down or whether he's up, and it motivates the whole team."

Davis had two occasions to play opponents who were ahead of him in ITA's rankings. He defeated No. 77 Marjorie Koster of the State and fell to No. 10 Taggart of Indiana.

Davis finds it all in his intensity.

"Just because you have been successful in the past doesn't mean you are going to be successful in the future," Davis said. "You've got to step it up and step up training and step up your performances to repeat that success or get greater success next year."

Zito, Davis's partner at the All-American Championships, is him-

self a freshman star in the making. He posted an 8-4 singles record in the fall and won his flight in the team's final fall tournament.

With the focus on Davis, Zito and the rest of the young cast, it may be easy to overlook the leadership of senior Matthew Langley, who played a major part in last year's conference championship.

Langley's leadership is but another factor in what seems to be a talented and deep squad.

The Lady Raider tennis team is coming off what first-year coach Shelley Godwin has said to be one of the most successful fall campaigns in program history.

The team had finalists in every tournament.

"We have eight girls that can play in our lineup at any time, and that provides good competition in practice, which then translates into our matches," Godwin said.

The Lady Raiders feature two seniors on the roster and one freshman. Also a newcomer in the fall was Flavia Nagayama, a sophomore from Brazil who transferred from Jacksonville.

Nagayama won her flight in her first tournament as a Lady Raider

and was paired later in the season with junior Yui Nomoto in doubles action. There they found success in two tournaments, defeating one set of opponents 8-0, and winning a flight in another tournament.

Nagayama's fellow Brazilian, freshman Nayara Moraes, also had an instant impact, winning her first five singles matches. She then paired with senior Carla Nava to win a doubles flight with a victory over an Auburn squad.

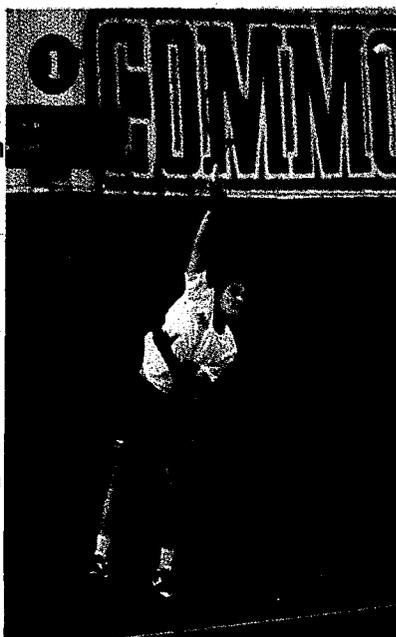
"They came right in and they jumped on board," Godwin said of her new teammates. "They compete so hard, and that equals wins. They will outfight people no matter what it takes."

While the success of the newest Lady Raiders is a reassuring sign of depth and a promising future for the team, the squad's strength comes from the veterans.

MT's final tournament featured six singles finalists, and of the three who emerged victorious, two were seniors, Taylor Coffey and Alex Dachos, while Lexi Brand, a junior, also crafted a win.

With a tough schedule featuring the first seven matches on the road, having a group with an understanding of

college tennis may not be a bad thing. ■



Ben Davis led the men's tennis squad into the 2012 season.



Yui Nomoto, a junior, earned the Hershey's flight at the Roberta Alison Fall Classic. (Photos by Beck Friedman, contributing photographer.)

## ABR pleases crowd continued from page 11

risk becoming obsolete, go mainstream, or get heavier. Silverstein obviously chose the latter.

The band held their own in the night-long breakdown competition, and featured an increased frequency of growling and screaming. Unfortunately, the signature emo clean vocals were still present, making their set sound like a continuous whine. They did not fail to keep the crowd attentive and involved.

And finally, the main attraction took the stage to the sounds of a flat-lining heart filling the speakers, and frenzied chants of "A-B-R! A-B-R!" coming from the crowd. All this was interrupted as the band launched into the song "Empire" from their new album Leveller and plunged the room into

chaos. The pit cleared in seconds as the finely tuned guitars and drums filled the room.

Intensity is the best way to describe their set. Vocalist Jake Luhrs posed at the front of the stage and moved his arms like a man directing a choir, giving the impression that he held dominance over the evening. The combined effect of the ferocity of the players, combined with an excellent lighting setup made for a night that would not soon be forgotten by those in attendance.

This night, even with the low points, demonstrates why people should be taking advantage of Middle Tennessee's thriving music scene and get out to shows—especially heavy music, which is truly meant to be played live. ■

## Parking promises continued from page 14

sity publication's promises at face value we would have been using the vaunted parking garage last semester instead of just now seeing its construction.

Let me reiterate: praying for Doctor Doom, terrified that it's Doctor Bong.

And on the subject of the parking garage, I've come to terms with it, even to the point that I am at peace with the idea that the university wants this testament to excess, irrationality, and despotism to be—according to Debra Sells in former Sidelines editor Michael Stone's article on the structure from April of 2010—a part of my "legacy" as a student. After all, actually becoming an excessive, irrational despot would probably be a good opportunity in this economy, so at least I would have a frame of reference.

No, at this point I only ask for

one concession, because I think honesty is important and I believe that the complete disregard of the student body and its objections to these administratively-engineered problems in support of a fabricated necessity and subsequent compulsory solution should be codified on the icon of that conflict (preferably in bronze), because it will be an important lesson for their continued academic career:

Freedom of consent is a privilege granted, not a right possessed. ■

*Larry Sterling is a graduate student. He can be reached at [lms4t@mtmail.mtsu.edu](mailto:lms4t@mtmail.mtsu.edu).*



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