

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

SIDELINES

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EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT



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Free and open to the public



Sidelines Lens

contents



Ronnie Milsap, Randy Travis, Natalie Grant, The Roys, Ashton Shepherd and Rodney Atkins join members of Committed, second row, to perform music from the Laura Ingalls Wilder's "Little House on the Prairie" books. Committed is a super group led by Randy Scruggs.

Students from the EMC and RIM programs at the university participated in the recording and production with PBS editor, Bill Morris. The performance was at Loveless Barn during the Jan. 6 filming of the PBS special "Pa's Fiddle: American Music." (MTSU NEWS photo by Andy Heidt)

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SIDELINES

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Student creates magazine with \$15

After experimenting with different blogging endeavors, one MTSU student decided to put his major to use by starting an online magazine business with \$15 and raw talent to his name.

Beatty Jamieson, a junior majoring in entrepreneurship, decided to invest his small amount to craft the magazine Nvate, a publication dedicated to showcasing the innovation of anything creative.

"When I started thinking about the

the magazine, and Jamieson encourages his interns – who write a majority of the articles – to write about anything they find creative. Internships at Nvate last four months.

"We want people to use the internship to highlight themselves, and we don't assign topics unless they want us to," Jamieson said. "There have been times an intern will pitch a topic that I never thought was a good article, and then they will surprise me with 2,000 word articles that would blow my mind. Since our writing is about innovation, I shouldn't be

turned off by any ideas even if I don't think they are good idea. I should encourage it."

Staff writer Linzy Novotny, one of the first interns on the Nvate staff, began her work May 2011, before the launch of the magazine in July 2011.

"I have enjoyed writing all of the stories I have so far for Nvate," Novotny said. "My favorite has been to write about

shipping containers being used in building construction. I was able to flesh out the story with multiple interviews and background research."

Novotny graduated from the Metropolitan State College of Denver in December with a degree in journalism.

The publication has seen growth since its summer start, and the Nvate staff now consists of five interns, two staff writers, an editor-in-chief and a business developer.

According to the editor-in-chief, Corey

Conley, the newfound success of the magazine can be attributed to the explosion on the Kindle market.

"My wife's grandmother just now got a Kindle Fire last Christmas," Conley said. "Everyone is starting to get a tablet or something like the Kindle. I see Nvate continue to grow as the market for this type of technology keeps growing bigger and bigger."

Nvate magazine is designed to be compatible with all sorts of devices including iOS, Android and Kindle, so the magazine can reach as many readers as possible.

"I have to go back and code everything with WordPress.com to make this work," Jamieson said. "Most magazines just take the InDesign document and upload it, which make it only compatible for those that use Kindle Fire. I try to make our magazine compatible with most, if not all, eReaders and tablets."

Despite the major growth the magazine has experienced, he said none of the revenue and readership growth is due to any type of advertisement.

"We don't do any ads," Jamieson said. "I feel like publishing is going to where people would rather pay for content with no ads rather than with ads."

The majority of the site's traffic is derived from smaller social networking sites like StumbleUpon and Tumblr.

"Smaller sites like this sift through all sorts of content, and when they find something good, they pass it on," Jamieson said. "It's hard on larger search engines like Google where there is so much to search for that sometimes it's hard to find anything."

As the website continues to grow, Conley and Jamieson said they would both like to see more college writers enter the magazine scene to make themselves published and noticed.

"I graduated in 2007, but I am not that old," Conley said. "College students are into the newest things, and they are always interested in the newest stuff and the newest gadgets. College students always want to come up with ideas to change the world, and we are trying to provide them a way to do that." ■

by Emily West
Associate News
Editor



Beatty Jameson, Nvate's owner and creator, sits at his desk working on content for the online magazine. Photo by Kelsey Klingemeyer

innovation of creativity, I saw the idea was broad enough and writers and readers alike would be interested," Jamieson said. "With this huge of a topic, you can have art, technology and all kinds of stuff."

Currently, Nvate is a monthly magazine consisting of 15 articles. Six of those articles are features that cover topics ranging from art to the latest technological gadgets. Nvate costs 99 cents per month with a subscription, and \$1.50 for each individually purchased issue.

College students across the nation write for

New theme park headed to Nashville

Staff Report

Dolly Parton announced plans in the past month that the Dollywood Company will partner with Gaylord Entertainment to bring a water and snow park to Nashville.

The park is slated to open in summer 2014.

The \$50 million park will be the first of its kind anywhere in the United States, sitting on 114 acres. It will be adjacent to the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center, with 35 acres set aside for future expansion.

Nashville has been without a full-blown theme park since the closing of Opryland USA in December 1997.

During the Jan. 16 announcement at the Grand Ole Opry House, Gov. Bill Haslam said that tourism is the second largest industry in the state, generating \$1 billion per year.

The park will have water activities for the summer season, as well as snow activities for the winter. It's projected to have 500,000 attendees in the first year, and will employ 450 full- and part-

time workers.

The park's groundbreaking is set for late 2012 or early 2013.

In 1986, Dolly became co-owner of tourist attraction, "Silver Dollar City Tennessee," which was a sister park to Silver Dollar City in Branson, Mo., but renamed it that same year to Dollywood.

From 1986 to 2010 the park doubled in size, expanding to 150 acres. The park also includes a separate attraction, "Dolly's Splash Country," which is a 25-acre park that opened in 2001. ■



Dolly Parton

Global Studies to expand classes in fall semester

by Emily West
Associate News Editor

With new classes coming next fall, the global studies program intends on expanding its courses as it continues to grow, and students are showing demand for more variety.

Including 160 majors and more than 200 minors, the program requires students to take four core classes and choose a concentration. Students are also expected to fulfill more than 40 hours of general education classes.

Now with the two new classes, students will have more choices in what courses they take.

"We are working on a special topics course, and the course

will change every semester," said Justin Phalichanh, global studies professor. "The courses are up to each professor, and next fall's special topic's course will be covering human trafficking."



Justin Phalichanh enjoyed his travels as a global studies student before coming back to MTSU as a professor in the program. Photo courtesy of Justin Phalichanh

The human trafficking course will focus on different countries across the world and the situations several nations face with this international problem.

"I plan on looking at all the

prostitution problems at a global level," Phalichanh said. "The world is full of women who get abused. There are lots of topics to cover, but this is the topic I am proposing."

Along with the special topics class, a new globalization class will also launch next semester. The class's purpose is to study globalization by looking at the world

from the beginning of time.

In addition to the two new classes added to the program for the fall, an Introduction to Cross-Cultural Experiences will be offered for the first time during the upcoming summer semester.

Introduction to Cross-Cultural Experiences is now available for all students to take as general education class and is a requirement for both majors and minors.

"I've only been able to take one of the classes and that is the Introduction to Cross-Culture Experiences course," said Omari Palmer, a junior majoring in economics. "I like the class a lot, and it was very eye opening to things going on globally. We talked about a lot of different global issues such as security, health care, social injustices, national rebellions, child soldiers, religion and different issues on a

continued on page 16

SGA elections around the corner

Staff Report

Student Government Association candidate packets are now available for those interested in running in the upcoming spring election.

There are seven executive positions, as well as numerous senators that represent the different colleges within the university.

The SGA is responsible for being the voice of the student body that now boasts more than 26,000 students. SGA has an open-door policy for



students who want to make their voices heard and get involved on campus.

Executive officers must hold at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA, acquire at least 45 university accredited hours and have served one semester on the SGA senate. Students wishing to serve on the university senate must have at least a 2.3 cumulative GPA.

On Feb. 7, the

eligible candidates will be announced, and campaigning will begin on Feb. 17.

Students will be able to watch the candidates running for executive offices debate on Mon., Feb. 20, in the BAS State Farm Room at 6:30 p.m.

Elections will be held Feb. 27 to March 1, and winners will be announced March 2.

Election packets can be picked up in the SGA offices, located in Room 208 of the Keathley University Center and are due on or before Monday, Feb. 6. ■

Campus & Community Crime Briefs

Alcohol

Greek Row

Jan. 20, 3:17 a.m.

Authorities issued citations to Amber Antnip and Whitney Blair Hopper for underage consumption of alcohol.

Alcohol

Rutherford Boulevard

Jan. 21, 3:05 a.m.

Authorities arrested Phillip Booth for public intoxication, simple possession and introduction of contraband into a penal institution.

Alcohol

Judd Hall

Jan. 21, 4:54 a.m.

A student was transported to the emergency room after consuming alcohol underage. All students involved will be referred to Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action.

Assault

Gracy Hall

Jan. 21, 5:20 p.m.

An on-campus complainant reported that she was pushed by another female. The suspect was issued a trespass warning for all residence halls. The matter is forwarded to Judicial Affairs.

Drugs

Alumni Drive

Jan. 22, 1:52 p.m.

Authorities issued a citation to Kyler Robinson and Austin Levy for simple possession of marijuana, drug paraphernalia and a verbal for a busted taillight.

Vandalism

Keathley University Center

Jan. 24, 7:10 p.m.

A complainant reported that the building had been vandalized near the courtyard.

Harassment

Womack Lane, Apt. C

Jan. 24, 9:10 p.m.

A complainant reported that she had been receiving harassing

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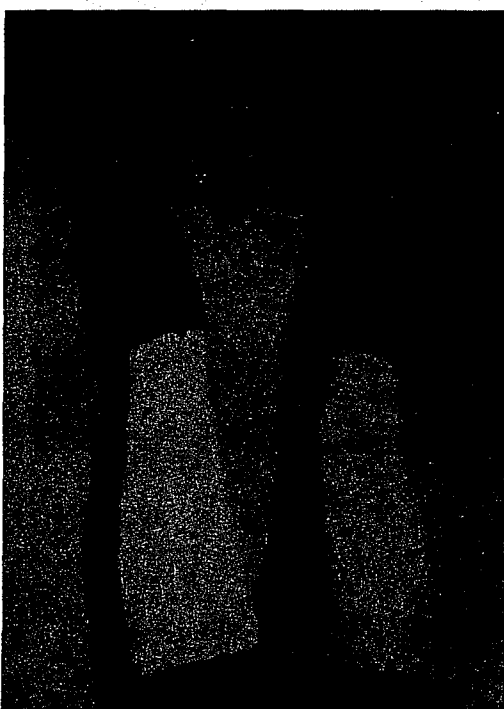
Thursday, Feb. 2

"A Very Harold & Kumar Christmas"
KUC Theatre, 7p.m.
Admission: \$2

For those of you who were knee-deep in wrapping paper and had to miss this holiday comedy, this is the time to catch up. The film picks up after a six-year lapse between the two friends that led them in different directions and different lives. After a mysterious package arrives at Kumar's doorstep on Christmas Eve, the two are reconnected when Kumar attempts to reroute the package to Harold. However, the plan goes awry after Harold's father-in-law's beloved Christmas tree is burned to the ground, leading the two on a good-old-fashioned Harold and Kumar adventure through New York City to find a replacement. The film has its moments of pure, raunchy comedy—something Harold and Kumar fans can appreciate—and it is definitely not a film for those who expect anything less than a perverse take on the holiday season. It may be the perfect solution for those needing a transition from the sluggish winter break to being in full school mode. (Nataly Morales)



"The Vagina Monologues"
Roxy Regional Theatre, 7 p.m.
100 Franklin St., Clarksville
Admission: \$10



Don't let the title scare or excite you too much. "The Vagina Monologues" is not just about the obvious. In fact, after a few minutes, you may find yourself forgetting the title completely and focusing on the raw emotion the actresses portray. The play consists of a number of women reciting other women's stories from around the country—stories about love, abuse, sex, beauty and everything in between. Each woman appears on an empty stage in an all-black (sometimes red) outfit, ready to give her performance. There are no sets, no special lighting sequences and no choreographed scenes with

a chorus of jubilant extras behind the actresses. There is simply one stage, one black curtain in the background, one actress and one scene. Some of the stories might make you squirm, but there is no shortage of humor and light-hearted accounts also. It is definitely worth checking out, if your Thursday night needs some excitement. (Nataly Morales)

Friday, Feb. 3

"The Woman in Black"
Check your local theater for show times
Admission: \$7.50 (matinee) - \$10



The beloved Daniel Radcliffe, better known as Harry Potter, is all grown up and transitioning from the round-glasses-wearing wizard to a mature, widowed lawyer in this thriller. Radcliffe's character, Arthur Kipps, travels to a mysterious town where it seems everyone is keeping a dark secret from him. Kipps soon finds himself dealing with a not-so-human and not-so-friendly presence. Going to movies today, especially for students, can be a hassle and extremely expensive, but based on the trailer, this film looks like perhaps it will make up for the wasted money you spent on other thrillers this year, namely "The Devil Inside." (Nataly Morales)

Dee Goodz w/ Fat Kids Brotha & Gravy and The Biscuits
Exit/In, 8 p.m.
2208 Eliston Place, Nashville
Admission: \$10

After living in Nashville, Dee Goodz moved to the West Coast to pursue and expand his musical career. Now he's back in Nashville again to put on a show that will surely earn him yet another warm welcome home. Since he began his journey in the music scene, Goodz has gained a significant fan base and recognition from MTV UK and the popular hip-hop website HipHopDX.com. The combination of his enthusiastic, raw performance and the uniqueness of the Exit/In are sure to put some extra excitement into your Friday night. (Nataly Morales)

Saturday, Feb. 4

The Dirty Guv'nahs with
The Cadillac Black
Mercy Lounge, 9 p.m.
1 Cannery Row, Nashville
Admission: \$10 advance,
\$12 at door

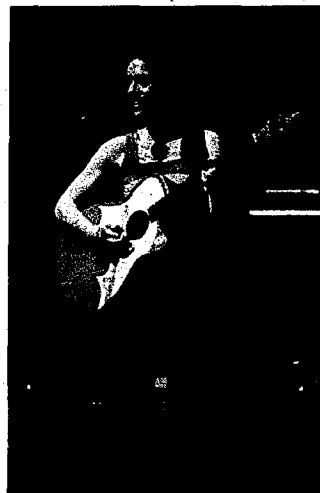
When you hear the word Knoxville, what comes to



RANTS & RAVES

mind? Pat Summit? UT football? Well, how about The Dirty Guv'nahs? This Knoxville-based band is coming to Nashville's Mercy Lounge to play what is surely going to be a gritty and soul-infused set of pure rock n' roll. Anyone who has seen the Guv'nahs play knows that you won't leave the venue without at least one of their songs stuck in your head and at least a bit of a music buzz. So, if you're looking for the perfect Saturday night in Downtown Nashville, this is the ticket. (Nataly Morales)

Ani DiFranco with Pearl and the Beard
Cannery Ballroom, 9 p.m.
1 Cannery Row



If the rowdy rock 'n' roll scene isn't really your thing, walk on over to the Cannery Ballroom for a more mellow, folksy atmosphere. Ani DiFranco is embracing her title as a modern-day folk singer, but don't expect only to hear a set full of Joan Baez-esque songs. DiFranco's music displays her range of musical inspiration by incorporating upbeat electric guitar riffs and channeling Alanis Morissette as she sings about female empowerment, political issues and the harsh reality of break-ups. Sure, the tickets for this event are a bit pricier than the Ballroom's neighboring Lounge shows, but if you're looking for a night of '90s feminist nostalgia, this is where you want to be. (Nataly Morales)

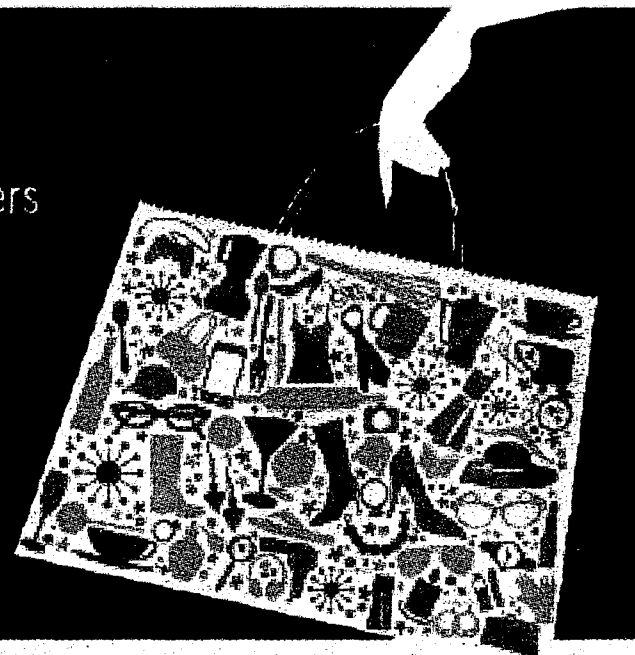
Saturday, Feb. 4

The All American Rejects
Exit/In, 7 p.m.
1 Cannery Row, Nashville
Admission: \$20



Remember the days in high school when you couldn't wait to get to your car after the last bell rang just so you could roll down your windows and loudly sing along to "Swing, Swing?" During those days, "Swing, Swing" seemed like the anthem for every shaggy-haired, Converse-wearing couple that was going through problems. Later, the band became even more popular with the catchy tunes "Dirty Little Secret" and "Gives You Hell," as if not being able to get "Swing, Swing" out your head wasn't annoying enough. If you're ready to admit that you are, in fact, an All-American Rejects fan, Nashville's Exit/In is where you'll finally be able to confront your demons and not be judged—there will be plenty of others dancing along to the pop-infused tunes. The show will be worth checking out, even if it is simply to cross off another guilty-pleasure band from your list—not to mention the Rejects' front man, Tyson Ritter, is easy on the eyes. (Nataly Morales)

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by Becca Andrews
Managing Editor

FOR THE LOVE OF GREAT COFFEE



Upon entering Just Love Coffee, you will realize that this is no ordinary coffee shop.

Retro arcade

games line the back wall of a loft, white Christmas lights are strung along a crude wooden staircase, a blank screen hangs over a stage and vinyl spins softly on the bar while a slight, bespectacled barista named Kim patiently waits to take your order.

Just Love Coffee is a place to study, catch up with friends, see a local band play or even play with your local band.

The best part of Just Love Coffee? A portion of their sales

go to charities that provide clean water to third-world countries.

The quirkiest coffee shop in Murfreesboro is owned by family man and local do-gooder Rob

bright lights, big cities and life on the road evaporated into the quiet chaos that is running his own coffee roasting company.

When Rob and his wife, Emily, began the process of adopting two girls—Amelie and Tigist—from Ethiopia, he was hit with a new kind of inspiration.

"I was doing some reading about the country... and I guess that's what kind of triggered my idea to look at specialty coffee—roasting small, specialty microlots."

Webb said. "From there, I was seeing the need from other adoptive families for fundraising. The idea just kinda sparked, 'Wait a minute, this could be the model I need to create a roasting company that not only would work financially, but help people who need help fundraising.'"

The business began in an 800-square-foot room with enough obstacles to frighten even the most seasoned business owner. Webb began his process with the purchase of a roaster that he put \$28,000 down on, which was 50 percent of his funds at the time. The company tanked, and Webb was forced to buy a smaller roaster and cut more corners than he had.

"You just do it," Webb said. "You do it, and you do it poorly, until you do it well."

A friend introduced Webb to the man who would eventually become his right hand and roast master, Jason Smith.

Smith had recently quit his high-stress job at Youth Villages, and had been roasting his own coffee at home as a hobby for the past decade. Webb called Smith, they got acquainted, but Webb told Smith that he wouldn't be able to hire anyone full time for a year.

"I gotta keep it lean, I don't know what this thing is gonna do," Webb told Smith frankly. "I've just been advertising on Facebook."

The first day came, and as Webb flipped the switch, business poured in.

"It was one after another after



Just Love owner Rob Webb chats with MTSU Sidelines about the history of his coffee shop and roasting business. Photos by Kelsey Klingenmeyer.

Webb. A 37-year-old ex-deejay and former MTSU recording industry major, Webb's dreams of



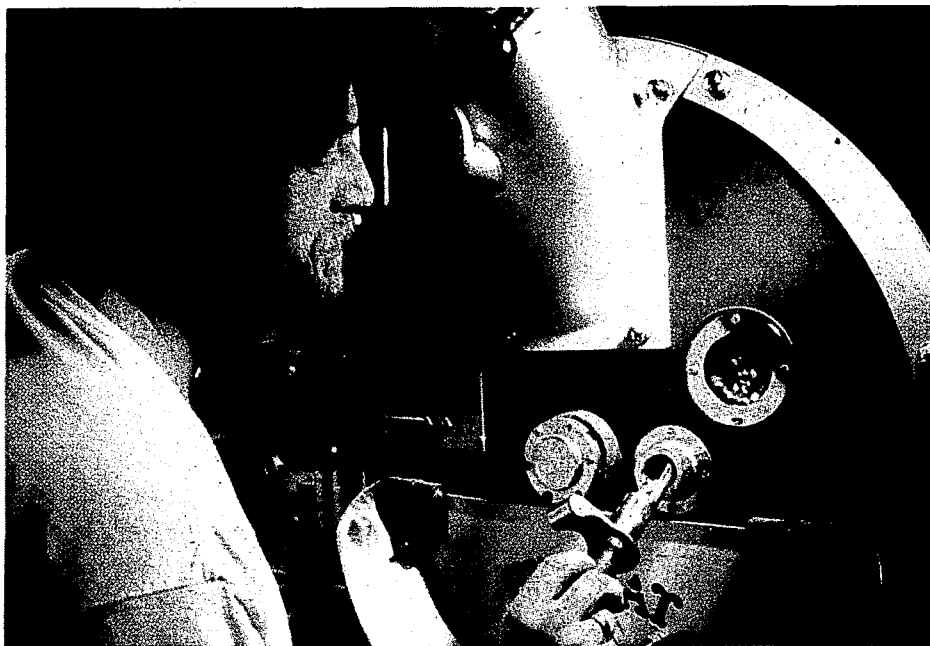
another," Webb said. "So at first I was excited, I was like, 'Oh, this is awesome,' but then I started freaking out. I was like, 'Oh, crap, what have I done?'"

On his way home, Webb made the phone call that would bring in the first member of the Just Love family.



Musicians Jeremy Robertson, Logan Rhea, Miles Metko and Zach Anderle perform Friday night to an enthusiastic and caffeinated crowd. Photo by Nataly Morales.

LOCAL BUSINESSMAN SERVES UP HOT DRINKS FOR CHARITY



Head roaster Jason Smith concentrates while giving the coffee its signature roast.

facility," Webb said. "It wasn't a coffee shop— we could brew you coffee while we roast, but this was a place where the community could come and really a showroom for my wholesale clients. We started building up some regulars, and we just noticed that people wanted more.

They wanted more than to just come in and get a cup of coffee, they were expecting a coffee shop."

Webb originally balked at the idea of spending more money and expanding the idea of the business, but caved in to the demands of his customers. The espresso bar was added in addition to the brew bar, which



remains the backbone of the Just Love enterprise.

They even hired Kim, who Webb and Smith agree is "the best barista in town" to seal the deal.

The espresso bar is fully stocked with the kind of drinks you would typically expect to come across in Starbucks, but the brew bar is a completely different animal.

There are 25 different brew blends offered daily, with seven brewing methods. Each cup is brewed by hand.

"It's a good way for people to taste a properly brewed cup," Webb said. "You can't get a properly brewed cup in an air pot or a glass pot where it's just an automatic drip."

They have a tap open in the mornings, for their morning rush customers who need to get coffee and get out, but they shut it down at 10 a.m. as a display of their devotion to a properly-roasted cup of coffee.

"We decided we didn't want to just offer a cup of coffee. That's what Starbucks does, that's what Dunkin' does, we're specialty roasters," Webb said as Smith nodded approvingly.

The shop itself is modeled after an attitude of acceptance of humanity in general.

continued on page 16

"So I'm driving home and I call Jason, I'm all, 'What are you doing tomorrow?' He's like 'What do you think I'm doing, sitting on the couch! Getting resumes out!' So I said, 'I've got enough cash to pay you through Friday, can you come in and help me?' He was like, 'Yeah! That's awesome!'"

Jason chuckled at the memory. "I was just so giddy to get my hands on a commercial roaster I'd have been over there just to get out of the house!" he said, grinning.

The storefront was in desperate need of organization. USPS flat-rate boxes littered the floor, and fine black dust filled the air and coated every surface. The high demand for quality-roasted coffee during the holidays was hard

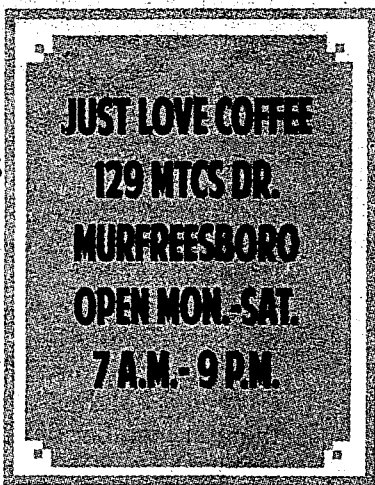
to handle for the duo.

"We were going home with literally coffee built all up into our nasal passages, like you'd sneeze and it'd come out black," Webb said, wrinkling his nose. "It was nasty, because we were grinding on a grinder that was just made for cupping."

The wrinkles were ironed out as the men began to build up a national and

local clientele. While about 90 percent of sales were outside Tennessee, the townspeople began to flock to Just Love for a good, old-fashioned bag of roasted coffee.

"What Jason and I were talking about was just a really cool roasting





Liam Neeson compels audience

The Grey, starring Liam Neeson, takes place in the heart of the Alaskan wilderness. Neeson plays the emotionally-wounded Ottway, who finds himself the leader and protector of a group of outcast oil refinery workers from the elements.

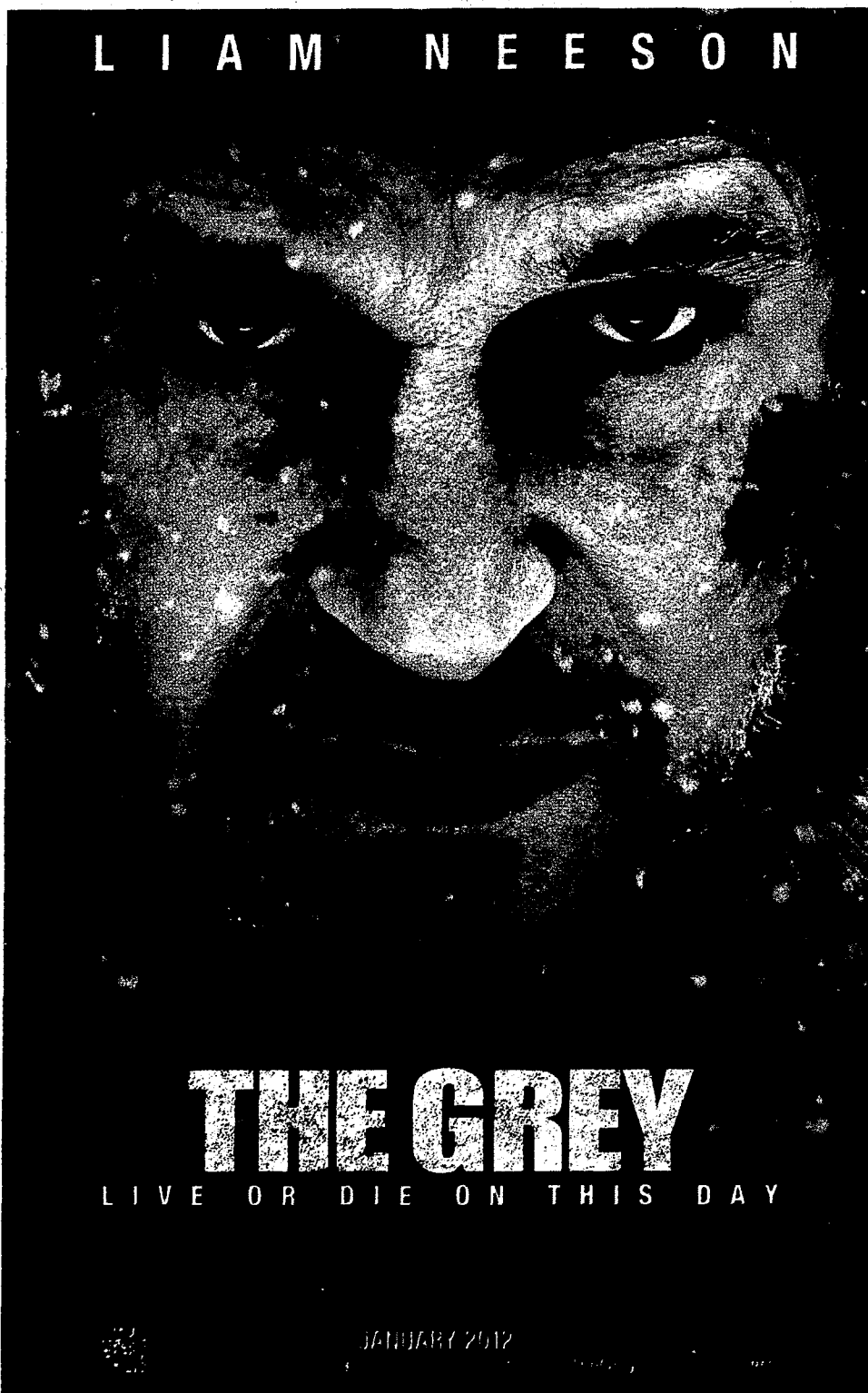
Neeson and his band of burly oilmen board a plane on their way to retrieve more oil in the Alaskan mountains, but the plane flies into a blizzard and crash lands.

Gasping for air, Neeson wakes up several hundred feet from the crashed plane.

He then organizes the survivors, played by Dermot Mulroney, James Badge Dale, Dallas Roberts, Nonso Anozie and Joe Anderson.

The men's struggle is basic, until a pack of hungry wolves notice their unwanted presence, and the plot shifts into a pulse-pounding fight for survival.

Director Joe Carnahan pulls the audience into the classic conflict of man versus nature. At the beginning of the film, Neeson struggles with depression—like most of the men working as oil riggers—due to the loss of his wife as portrayed through repeated flashbacks. His loss drives him to consider suicide. As he holds his shotgun in his



mouth, he hears wolves in the distance, forcing him to stop and consider his attempted suicide because of a moment of friendship the wolves share with Neeson earlier in the movie. Irony comes up later when the wolves try to kill him and his group of men throughout the rest of the film.

The characters in the film struggle with issues of faith and a search for answers. The director and actors capture the true tension of the human instinct of survival throughout the film.

The serious nature of "The Grey" is balanced with several moments of comic relief, giving the audience a break from the bleak situations. Neeson displays a versatility with his capability to play for comedy, despite a very serious reputation as an actor.

At its core, "The Grey" is a true masculine survival flick, but the raw emotion the characters portray in the film leaves the audience with unexpected excitement and reflection.

"The Grey" holds your attention with few details, but the film also haunts its way into the heart of the audience. ■

by Jackie Rippee
Staff Writer

Becca Andrews contributed to this review.

ARTS & entertainment

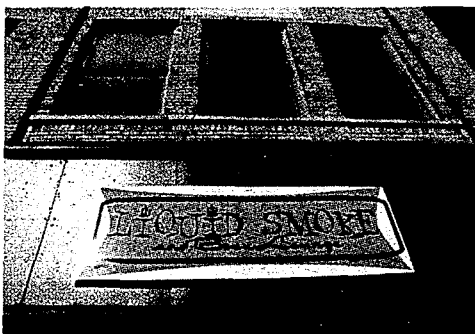


THE BUNGANUT PIG is both traditional English Pub and candle-lit music venue. They feature local and traveling music and dancing. While most nights this bar is kicking out some great acts, you may want to be picky about the night you go. Serving both beer and liquor at a reasonable rate, the Pig offers a good variety of drinks to

please even the pickiest drinker.

Pro tip: If you don't want to stand during a show, get there early to find the perfect spot.

LIQUID SMOKE is a staple in the Murfreesboro bar scene—especially if you've got more



than one V-neck sweater hanging out in your closet. More a lounge atmosphere than a rowdy hotspot, this bar is the perfect laid back hangout when you've had just a little too much of

the university grind.

Pro tip: If you're not a smoker, you might be a little overwhelmed by the amount of smoke in this bar, but with a name like Liquid Smoke—what else could you expect?

GENTLEMAN JIM'S on Main Street, or "clean Jim's" for those who know, is the most genuinely authentic college bar in Murfreesboro. On any given night, you can find the rowdiest of crowds headed down to Jim's for a dirty time. While the space is a little tight, the beer specials are excellent enough to make you squeeze in to the guy next to you.



Located on the downtown square, **WALL ST.** is a great place to grab a beer and catch a show. This bar is in a two-story location, with a typically crowded lower level that houses a fully-stocked bar and moderate seating. The upper level has a secondary bar and an entirely open dance floor, as well

as a stage frequented by local bands. The bartenders are efficient and helpful, and the music is worth the cover charge.

Pro tip: bring a pair of earplugs if you're planning to catch a show; Wall St.'s sound is notoriously loud.



With more than 200 bottled beer and 24 on tap, **THE BORO BAR & GRILL** is the perfect place for a quick beer with your buddies after class. If you're looking for a place to get margaritas and dance the night away, look elsewhere. "The cleanest little dive bar this side of river" isn't classy, but for what it lacks in class, it makes up for with a "neighborhood" feel and greasy spoon dining.



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THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO COULD USE SOME RE-INKING

“The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo” was originally titled “Men Who Hate Women.” I think they should be combined to call it “The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo meets the Men Who Hate Women.” That way, the reader gets an accurate description of almost every character in the book, and the major theme driving the plot.

The story begins when Mikael Blomkvist is hired to solve a strange murder case by octogenarian industrialist Henrik Vanger. Vanger’s niece, Harriet, disappeared amidst a strange series of events six decades ago, and he has been taunted by her captor every year on Harriet’s birthday by receiving pressed flowers in the mail—a gift he used to receive from Harriet every year.

Blomkvist is joined by our titular character, Lisbeth Salander, nearly 300 pages into the book through the forces of churning plot. Together, Blomkvist and Salander siphon through 60 years of Vanger family history, business records and photos from the day Harriet disappeared. After discovering that Harriet’s disappearance could be connected to a series of murders in the ‘50s and ‘60s, our protagonists wake up to find a mutilated cat on the doorstep. The hunt for a murderer buried in history end and they begin looking for one that is still on the loose.

The Girl

Lisbeth Salander is a 26-year-old ward of the state and also the top investigator for a large security company, where she puts her genius computer hacking ability and photographic memory to work digging up people’s darkest little secrets.

In a story full of two-dimensional characters, Salander stands out with surprising humanity. Her life at the bottom of the social food-chain is shown to us in unflinching detail.

There are two instances where her legal guardian, Nils Bjurman, uses his position to take sexual advantage of her,

the second being extremely violent. Salander’s defining moment is when she takes her equally violent revenge on Bjurman by putting him through the same physical torment she was made to suffer through, and finishing the job by tattooing “I AM A SADISTIC PIG AND RAPIST” three-layers-deep into his torso.

She also has a dragon tattoo on her back. We are never told why this is important.

Everyone Else

Mikael Blomkvist, as a character, comes up a bit short in comparison. Sharing the age

and occupation of the author, he resembles the kind of author-insert you expect to see in teenage fan fiction. He’s also the only leading male character under 70 that isn’t a violent sadist, and he manages to bed every woman he spends more than five minutes with. In fact, everyone else is boring when you compare them to Salander.

Even though Lisbeth is supposed to be the cold, emotionless one, it seems that it’s everyone else that acts on impulse. Even after 650 pages I can’t tell you how Blomkvist felt about anything he did. Is he hiding his fears with sexuality, or is he just stoic?

Characters just seem to do whatever rationale dictated for their situation and interacted mechanically. Virtually all potential for character development is wasted with this automatic action and reaction. Character development is also interrupted by a very awkward translation. Either everyone is supposed to talk like Mr. Spock, or the translator has never listened to two people converse in English before.

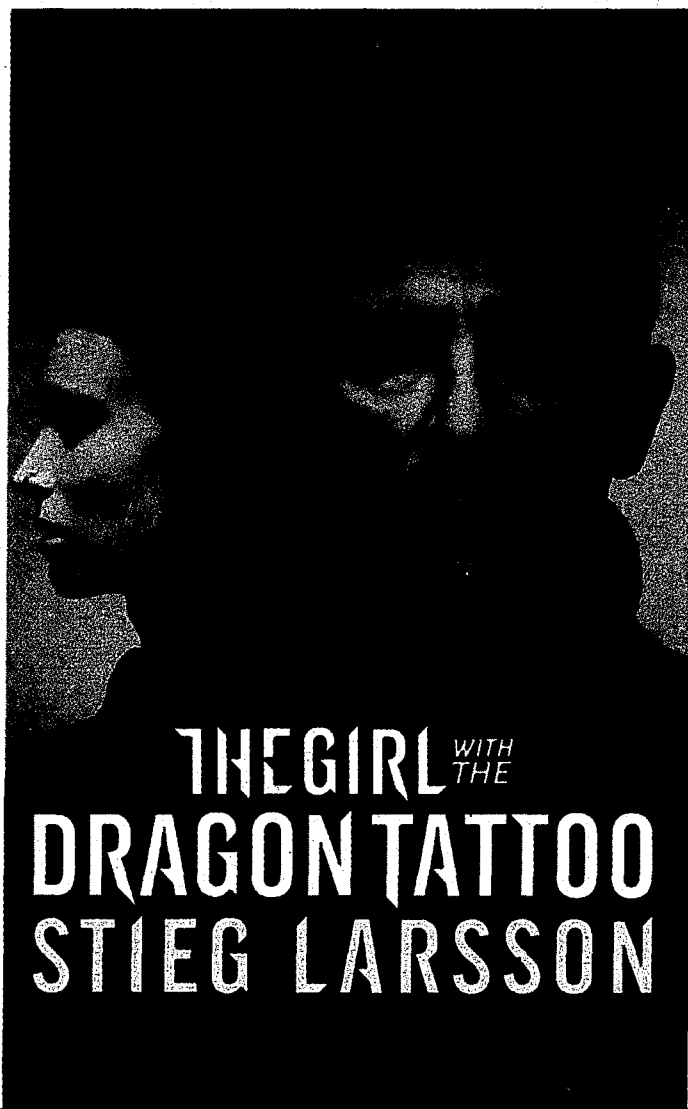
This novel is nearly twice as long as it should have been.

It is inflated with descriptions of worthless actions. Every page narrates some kind of arbitrary action with surgical detail. It also minimizes space used for things that are actually interesting or exciting. For all the detail given about Blomkvist’s research process, we get practically no description of what Lisbeth does when she sits behind a computer and starts hacking away. The book is almost entirely exposition and spends too little time actually telling the story. Even the ending goes on too long—it overshoots the logical point of conclusion by nearly 150 pages and starts getting boring as soon as the mystery of Harriet’s disappearance had been solved.

Recommending it?

Despite its shortcomings and inflated length, the story at the center of it all makes the whole thing worth reading. I would recommend it to anyone who intends to see the movie, or someone that likes gritty noire stories. ■

by James Hulsey
Contributing Writer



True Blue: I am a listener and a speaker

By John Vile
Guest Columnist

I am True Blue. I am a listener and a speaker.

I proudly list my MTSU affiliations in the books and articles that I write. My writing has, in turn, grown from my experiences participating in high school, college debate, and coaching MTSU mock trial teams. Although not everyone shares my love of writing and public speaking, all of us like to be heard. We begin making sounds as babies long before we can speak. One of the gospel writers proclaimed that "in the beginning was the Word."

Just as we increase our vocabulary as we grow into adulthood, we get a sense of satisfaction and identify with a community when others listen to

us. Although we often associate praying with petitioning, theologians often describe effectual praying (much like listening) as "waiting upon God," rather than articulating our demands.

The Blue Raider Pledge recognizes the vital link between listening and speaking, and the pledge properly prioritizes the two activities. Too often, we attempt to respond, or refute, before we listen to others. Too often we hear without listening. In an increasingly loud and busy world, where televised verbal confrontation often substitutes for discussion and genuine debate, we too easily "tune out" important conversations.

National Public Radio

proclaims that "listening is an act of love," and so it is. Listening signals our willingness to respect and honor the thoughts of others. Good listeners take time to respond and are careful how they do so. One of the world's wisest men said, "a soft answer turns away wrath." Just as railway signs caution us to "stop, look, and listen," we should think before we speak.

The Raider Pledge seeks to reduce campus violence and lay a solid foundation for life outside the academy. Listening and responding in respectful and measured ways are important components of this foundation. Listening involves intuition as well as auditory abilities. Is a

roommate giving away a favorite treasure? Could the roommate be on the verge of suicide? Has a friend suddenly "clammed up" or quit calling? Could the friend be hurt by something that we said or did? Is someone uttering a request for help? Have we listened?

Learning to get along with others is one of life's most important skills. Students can make all A's in classes, and fail the test of personal relationships. Adults can be viewed as business and professional successes and be family failures. As a part of our community, we all have the right to speak. Freedom of speech and press are so cherished that they are embodied in the First

Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Ecclesiastes says that there is a time to speak and a time to be silent. A good time for silence is while a person is speaking or immediately afterward. We should listen, think about what to say, and choose our words with care.

John Vile is the dean of the Honors College. He can be reached at John.Vile@mtsu.edu.



A letter to the illustrious Aramark

By Eric Sharp
Contributing Columnist

Dearest Aramark:

You, my favorite of food service giants, have recently undertaken some measures, that I must praise.

Specifically you have insisted that a section of your contract with MTSU be enforced - the one that binds radicals and hooligans in "student organizations" to a satisfactory one bake sale per semester.

I must applaud your protectionist efforts at safeguarding your corporate monopoly profits.

Some members of the MTSU community have taken issue with this action, but not I! No!

Some will insist that this is an unnecessary burden upon student organizations designed to protect your profits at the expense of the wellbeing of the student community.

But they are foolish neophytes. It is very important to stop

impudent upstarts from interfering in your cartel. The profits protected by this most choice maneuver are negligible, but it is important to uphold the principle of monopoly protection. I do know that Aramark is a corporate conglomerate of principles, and I fully endorse your actions to protect those principles.

After all, what would become of MTSU if ruffians and radicals were allowed to freely buy and sell food on your campus? Why, that would be craven anarchy of the vilest sort.

If not for your esteemed actions, students would be stalked by the toxic menace of choice. Can you, dear corporation, imagine students being faced with options as to where and what to eat on campus? They indeed have enough on their plate without having to choose their plate.

Choices mean instability, your

monopoly structure has restored culinary calm to our True Blue campus. Please continue to disregard calls for a freed market for food.

In Complete Sarcasm,
Eric Sharp



Eric Sharp is a senior majoring in political science. He can be reached at eas4h@mtmail.mtsu.edu.

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Guarded optimism for Lady Raiders

by Alex Hubbard
Sports Editor

Rick Insell's basketball team may not seem different on the surface.

The Lady Raiders still pile up the wins and take the Sun Belt Conference by storm. The same offensive toughness and defensive pressure mark each game.

The difference this season comes in the way Insell chose to employ the team's returning guards, and the trust he placed in the only true freshman on the roster.

After the graduation of three-point specialist Anne Marie Lanning, Insell faced the challenging task of replacing Lanning's leadership, and making sure his perimeter could withstand the rigors of a long season.

He started with Kortni Jones, moving her from the point position to shooting guard and giving her license to fire away.

Jones immediately dispelled the chatter that her squad could suffer from a lack of three-point shooters. Her three-pointers currently lead the Sun Belt.

"It kind of expands my game; I guess I could say," Jones said of her new role. "Coming from a point guard to a shooting guard at first was extremely hard, but now it's gotten to the point where I've become comfortable... I enjoy shooting of course. Everyone enjoys being a scorer."

Jones also uses her quickness to feed her teammates. Her 5.3 assists per game is second in the conference, and her 16 assists in

an 82-52 home victory over Troy set a team record.

Jones dove right in to her new assignment, managing to post leading stats while averaging 38 minutes a game.

"My body is getting used to it," Jones said. "Last year I didn't play over 30 minutes I don't think, but I've adjusted to it, and I know

game, and displays the true point guard's ability to start the offense. Her four-assist average ranks just behind Jones on the team, and fifth in the conference.

"The point guard brings a lot of the energy on the floor," Cason said. "That's what me and Kortni look to do a lot of the time is try and pump ourselves and our team

"Playing against bigger girls is what I've done all the time," Cason said. "I look for them to take charges, and just do things that I know bigger girls probably wouldn't do so if there's a loose ball on the floor, I'm going to dive on the ball. That's where I have to play my advantage of my height."

The team's remaining guards seemed locked in a battle for a starting position to begin the season. Sophomores Janay Brinkley and Laken Leonard emerged as the two finalists.

Leonard eventually assumed the starting role, starting 15 of the team's 22 games to date.

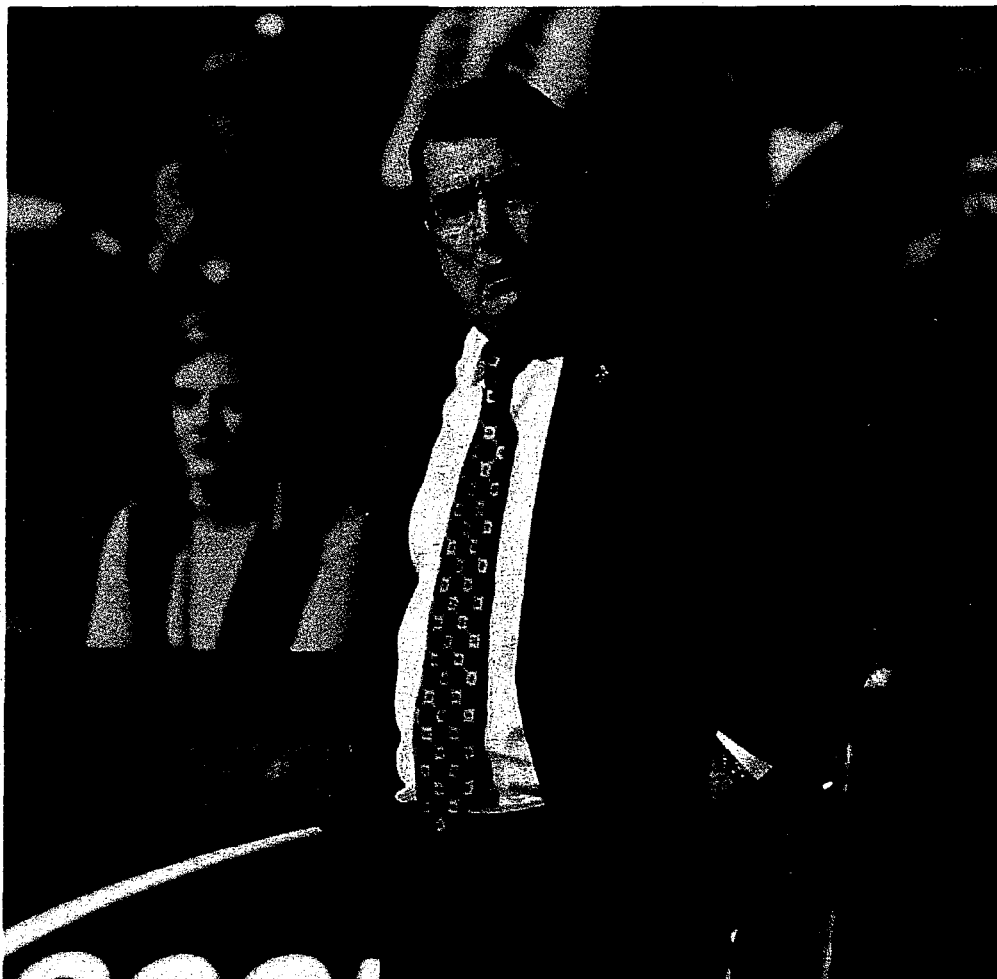
Though Leonard's impact mainly comes on defense, she routinely displays a knack for three-point shots, offering the opposition something else to worry about.

"I think Laken rebounds, and she does what the coaching staff needs her to do," Jones said. "She's knocking down three-point shots, and sometimes even penetrating if the shot clock is getting pretty low. She's also become a way better defender, and her basketball IQ is extremely high."

Brinkley averages 12 minutes a game, filling in for Leonard and Cason. Her 30 percent mark from 3-point range rounds out the Lady Raiders perimeter threat.

Change may be inevitable, but for Insell and the Lady Raiders, success remains the same.

"We have seven games left," Jones said. "I don't think we'll be considered a great team until we continue to be undefeated and actually win the Sunbelt Conference and even go maybe two or three games into the NCAA tournament. That's when we'll consider ourselves great." ■



Women's basketball coach Rick Insell. Photo courtesy of Bradley Lambert, GoBlueRaiders

Coach needs me on the floor because I'm one of the veterans and he is depending on me to lead this team."

Far from a veteran, true freshman Shanice Cason took over the point duties after Jones' move.

Cason averages 33 minutes a

up and come out playing hard at the beginning of the game."

The five-foot-six-inch Cason often finds herself matched up against bigger and more experienced players, something she tries to make into an advantage.

Commodores top Raiders to end streak

by Alex Hubbard
Sports Editor

The Blue Raiders' 12-game win streak came to an end Saturday afternoon as MT came up just short in its bid to upset SEC power Vanderbilt in an 84-77 loss at Memorial Gym in Nashville.

The two teams swapped the lead throughout the second half, and MT led with 3:30 to go in the game but failed to make another field goal for the remainder of regulation.

"I thought at the end our team kind of went out of character for about a minute and a half," said Coach Kermit Davis. "We just kind of made two or three plays at the end and had a couple breakdowns... but I was proud of our team. I thought it was just a great college game today."

LaRon Dendy posted a career high—22 points to lead MT (20-3, 9-0 Sun Belt)—while J.T. Sulton posted 12, and Marcos Knight and Bruce Massey dropped in 10 a piece.

John Jenkins' 26 points led Vanderbilt (16-5, 5-1 SEC) while Festus Ezeli finished with 21 points on the strength of 11-13 free-throw shooting. Jeffery Taylor and Lance Goulbourne posted 17 and 11 points respectively.

Vanderbilt, coming into the game as the best three-point shooting team in the SEC, was limited to 6-19 shooting for 31 percent from beyond the arc, but dropped in 24-30 at the line. They finished 27-54 from the field.

The big men, Ezeli, Taylor, Dendy and Sulton, made the game a contest largely between themselves. Vanderbilt scored 38 points in the paint to MT's 32.

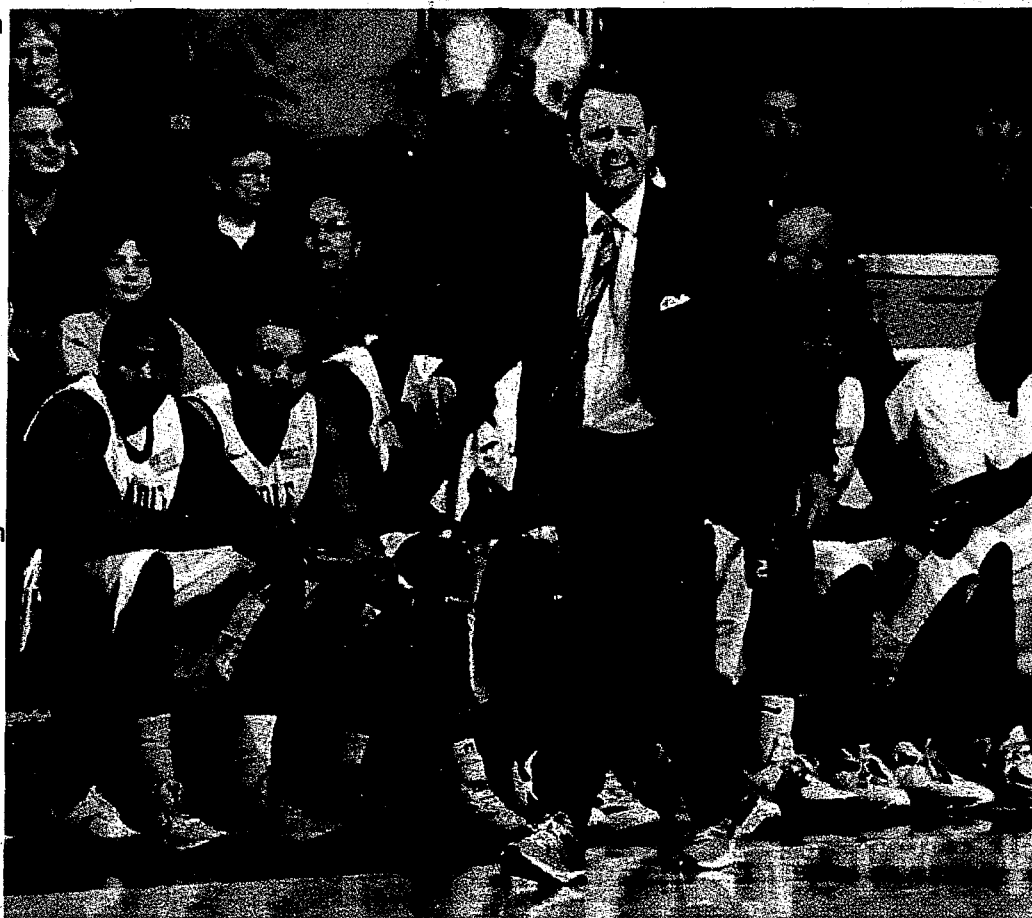
MT struggled to stop Ezeli in the first half, affording him many chances to cash in at the foul line as Vanderbilt hit 12-13 from the charity stripe in the first half, a key feature in the Commodores' 44-39 halftime led.

"No disrespect to anybody else, but he

was the best player on the floor today," said Vanderbilt Coach Kevin Stallings of Ezeli. "He was the one for us that reduced their pressure a little bit and put them in foul trouble."

Fouls did trouble the Raiders. Sulton fouled out with four minutes remaining in the game, while Shawn Jones picked up two fouls in two minutes in the first half.

Dendy picked up three fouls but remained on the floor to knock down his career best.



Men's basketball coach Kermit Davis. Photo courtesy of Bradley Lambert, GoBlueRaiders

"I feel like I have to come out and play my best against these good teams, to pull my team over the hump and get the win, but obviously it didn't happen tonight," Dendy said. "The last two minutes, with the turnovers, really hurt us."

The Blue Raiders finished the night 27-47 from the field, 7-13 from three-point range and 16-22 at the line.

After going down 7-2 early, MT rebounded to rattle off 10 straight points to take a 12-7 advantage. MT extended the lead to eight, at 26-18, before Vanderbilt responded with two 7-0 runs to tie the game at 35, and then take the lead on two straight Goulbourne baskets, a Jenkins three-pointer and an Ezeli basket.

Vanderbilt exploited the beginnings of MT's foul trouble and also took advantage of a period of minutes late in the first half when both Dendy and Sulton were temporarily sidelined with injuries.

The second half featured a tightly contested inside game as the teams seesawed throughout the half.

To combat MT's inside power, the Commodores switched to zone defense on separate occasions down the stretch.

"I felt like we were able to adjust after the first time," Stallings said of the zone. "I thought we were able to adjust, and I thought the zone was much more effective the second time through."

MT nearly found success anyway, as Kerry Hammonds contested the zone's edges, firing up a three-pointer to give MT the lead at 75-74 with 3:30 left.

Unable to maintain ball control, MT managed just two more points, both free throws, to Vanderbilt's 10.

"It was bad execution on defense and offense in the last two minutes," Dendy said. "We live and we learn. We have a lot

of games ahead of us. We're going to work on it, and get better from it."

Even in a loss, MT's style of play and ability to play close games in tough situations earned praise.

"The committee will decide whether or not they're an at-large team, but honestly they're really good," Stallings said. "That felt like a game that you would get in the first round." ■

Local man serves community: from page 9

The theme of the business is love and respect, and both Webb and Smith work hard to make sure all of their customers feel the love from the moment they enter the building to the second they leave.

Everyone is equal in the hallowed space of Just Love, and prejudice of any kind is not accepted.

"Jason and I are very careful about who's behind the bar, speaking to our customers, because really good coffee shops and coffee roasters are notorious for being snobs," Webb said emphatically.



"We wanted to have the knowledge of the snob and be able to talk to people about coffee and embrace them, as opposed to acting holier-than-thou and that's a big part of who we are."

Webb's heart for the community is obvious. He hangs out with the homeless, and says hello to each customer. He's a father to four children: Isabel, 13; Charlie, 10; Tigist, 10; and Amelie, 7.

He loves his family, his customers, his friends, Herbie Hancock and his beloved vinyl collection.

And he loves a good, hand-roasted cup of coffee. ☐

Program to expand classes in fall: from page 4

global scale."

Along with classes inside the classroom, students who major in this expanding program are expected to travel abroad anywhere from a week to a year.

Brenda Navarro, a global studies and Spanish major who is scheduled to graduate in May, used the global studies program to see the world, and she has traveled to several countries. "I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life when I started my undergraduate studies at MTSU," Navarro said.

"Like every other global studies student, I knew I wanted to travel and live the 'bohemian' lifestyle. And as luck would have it, in 2008 I boarded the Lufthansa embarking on a six-month adventure through Germany, Switzerland and Austria.

Not many college freshmen can say that they were given the opportunity to travel so early on in their college years."

Navarro went on to travel across the United States in New Mexico, and she also went to Costa Rica. Students like Navarro are whom Phalichanh said the program is all about.

"The things I teach about cultures and the United Nations are extremely important," Phalichanh said. "Yes, you can see and connect, but going and traveling is where you really learn. When students come back from studying abroad, it makes the world of difference. The fact that we have the resources and funds is incredible, and it is just a matter of getting students out there." ☐

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Applications and references must be delivered to the MTSU Alumni House no later than 4 p.m., Feb. 24th.

To apply to be a Student Ambassador, students must:

- Have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5
- Have completed at least one semester at MTSU
- Be able to serve from May 1, 2012 to April 30, 2013
- Attend one information meeting at the Alumni House



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT MOLLY COCHRAN AT MOLLY.COCHRAN@MTSU.EDU OR GO TO WWW.MTALUMNI.COM.