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# SIDELINES

AUG. 29, 2012

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# A letter from our editor...

The fall semester always brings a lot of change, but some comforting familiarity. It is time, once again, for us to convince ourselves to climb out of bed every morning and not skip class, to push deadlines, to sip pumpkin spice lattes in the library Starbucks, to run into old friends on campus and to find new music. For incoming freshmen, it's time to discover all of those things and become accustomed to a new home.

There is a lot of excitement in change—every bit as much as there is fear. Over the next academic year, we will all make mistakes, have personal triumphs and discover more about who we are and who we want to be.

We may fall in and out of love with things and people, see dreams die to make way for new ones, and we may have our wishes come to pass.

This is what I've wished for since I was 13 years old—to be editor-in-chief of my college newspaper. By the time I'm finished here, my new wish will be to eventually fill this role at a major publication somewhere else in the world. In the past three years, I've grown, achieved and failed more times and in more ways than I ever thought possible. I foresee this year to be no different. I hope it won't be.

Those of you who are familiar with our publication will see a lot of change this year. Our

digital product, [mtsusidelines.com](http://mtsusidelines.com), has undergone a complete makeover and will have much more in the way of mixed media. This means more photo galleries, videos and interactive graphics. Follow us on Twitter (@mtsusidelines) and like us on Facebook for instant news updates. Each section editor will also have a Twitter and an Instagram account, so as to better engage you, our audience, and give you more of the goings-on around town quickly.

Additionally, our print product is growing, with an average of four more pages of content for students, by students. As the 2012 presidential election approaches, we will be working around the clock to make sure MTSU is in-



formed about who Barack Obama and Mitt Romney are, what they stand for and who will eventually come out on top.

To keep up with the ever-changing industry of journalism, and to fulfill our role in the converged Center for Innovation in Media, where we are now housed, we will partner with television station MT10HD and radio sta-

tions WMTS and WMOT to ensure all coverage is represented well in each medium.

Most importantly, I am blessed to be a part of an amazing staff. I have never had the privilege to work with a group of such talented, passionate and inspiring people. Each of us is wildly different from the next, but perhaps that's what makes us so

close. We spur each other on and push ourselves to be the absolute best we can be. I couldn't be more proud of them, or humbled to be one of them.

This year promises to be a good one for the Sidelines team. My advice to you is to find what makes you tick, what makes you want to live life to the best of your ability, and chase it with everything you have. Find a group of people who feel the same, and feed off that creative energy. Most importantly, follow your fear. Do precisely what scares you the most.

I did—I am—and the result has been an unforgettable three years. I couldn't be more excited to finish my final year at MTSU as the editor of your student newspaper.

Becca Andrews  
Editor-in-chief

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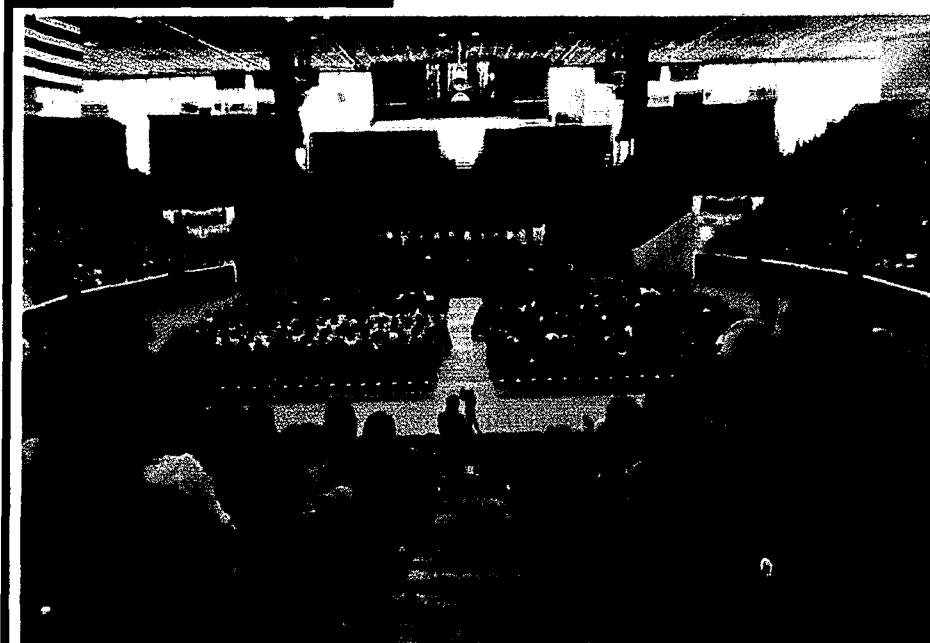
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## Sidelines Lens



Students, parents and alumni attend the 2012 Convocation ceremony inside the Murphy Center last Sunday. The ceremony featured Tori McClure, author of "A Pearl in the Storm," a memoir about McClure's journey as the first woman to row solo across the Atlantic Ocean. McClure is also the president of Spalding University. The ceremony was presided over by MTSU President, Dr. Sidney McPhee. Photo by Matt Masters.

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John Bragg Mass Communication Building  
Center for Innovation in Media  
1301 East Main Street P.O. Box 8, Murfreesboro, TN 37132  
Editorial: 615-494-7648

## Sidelines Staff

Becca Andrews  
Editor-in-chief  
[editor@mtsusidelines.com](mailto:editor@mtsusidelines.com)

Richel Albright  
Managing editor  
[managing@mtsusidelines.com](mailto:managing@mtsusidelines.com)

Asher Hudson  
Online director  
[online@mtsusidelines.com](mailto:online@mtsusidelines.com)

Abena Ka-Dumasane  
Online assistant  
[asstonline@mtsusidelines.com](mailto:asstonline@mtsusidelines.com)

Alex Hubbard  
Campus news editor  
[news@mtsusidelines.com](mailto:news@mtsusidelines.com)

Emily West  
Community news editor  
[commnews@mtsusidelines.com](mailto:commnews@mtsusidelines.com)

Emily Kubis  
Features editor  
[features@mtsusidelines.com](mailto:features@mtsusidelines.com)

Jane Horne  
Arts & Entertainment editor  
[ae@mtsusidelines.com](mailto:ae@mtsusidelines.com)

Mark Mize  
Sports editor  
[sports@mtsusidelines.com](mailto:sports@mtsusidelines.com)

Alex Harris  
Opinions editor  
[opinions@mtsusidelines.com](mailto:opinions@mtsusidelines.com)

Kelsey Klingenmeyer  
Design manager  
[design@mtsusidelines.com](mailto:design@mtsusidelines.com)

Nhu Duong  
Photo editor  
[photo@mtsusidelines.com](mailto:photo@mtsusidelines.com)

Matt Masters  
Associate photo editor  
[asstphoto@mtsusidelines.com](mailto:asstphoto@mtsusidelines.com)

Justin Threlkeld  
Ad manager  
[advertising@mtsusidelines.com](mailto:advertising@mtsusidelines.com)

Leon Alligood  
Advisor  
[leon.alligood@mtsu.edu](mailto:leon.alligood@mtsu.edu)

# Tuition spike strains students' budgets

By Ashleigh Taylor  
Contributing Writer

College students consistently face the reality of tuition increases and financial aid decreases, and this year is no different—the university and Tennessee Board of Regents have spiked tuition once again.

Students will encounter a 6.8 percent tuition increase during the 2012-2013 school year: 3.8 percent from the TBR and three percent from the university.

"We are very sensitive to [the increase's effects on students], but to do the operation of this university, to pay for the salaries of faculty, to pay for the operations of

the buildings, we have to have a budget that we can work with," said Brad Bartel, university provost. "If the state continues to decrease the amount of money they give us, we have to find other mechanisms."

Tuition rates have increased a total of 22.2 percent in the last six semesters. Prior to 2011, all colleges and universities under the TBR's management adhered to the same rate increases, except the University of Memphis.

DJ Winstead, a junior majoring in criminal justice, said he thinks he is getting more value for his dollar by coming to MTSU this fall after transferring from the

University of Tennessee-Chattanooga.

"I want to think I am getting my money's worth, but it's getting hard to believe," Winstead said. "The rate tuition is increasing doesn't seem like it makes any sense."

The student body's average family income is also less than most other universities, according to Bartel.

Bartel said the average family income for MTSU students is nearly half of students at other University of Tennessee schools, such as the University of Tennessee-Knoxville.

For example, students at MTSU pay \$3,605 for 12 hours of classes, while students at UTK pay \$4,546.

While the fee at UTK is flat rate for 12-plus hours, it is still cheaper to take 21 hours of classes at MTSU with a price of \$4,028.

"Well, for one, the parking permits here at MTSU are cheaper," said Amy Duckett, a transfer student from UTK and a junior majoring in biology and ecology. "The permits at UT were almost 300 dollars this year, on top of the usual cost of tuition. So even after you dish out the dough for tuition, you'll be scraping the floor for change to go out to eat, buy a beer or see a movie with your friends."

Each college and university is now able to request additional individual rates, and the board

approves the requests based on the needs of each institution.

Because the state has decreased the funds available to colleges, tuition must rise to compensate for the monetary loss.

"We have a model of public education for colleges and universities that is the envy of the world in terms of how inexpensive it is," Bartel said. "The unfortunate situation is if you look over the last few decades, the amount of money that public universities get from the state legislature has diminished through time."

The new rates for MTSU aid in creating more permanent faculty positions, which give

students access to more efficient, high-quality resources.

Currently, only 75 percent of faculty is permanent. The administration is pushing to raise the percentage of permanent faculty members to its previous amount, which was above 80 percent.

The university's administration understands the effects of tuition increases, and is attempting to find ways to help students lower their tuition costs, along with additional academic expenses.

"Obviously textbooks are expensive," Bartel said. "I'm working with our faculty right now on how to keep those textbook prices down. We are trying to figure out new ways to deal with that issue." ■

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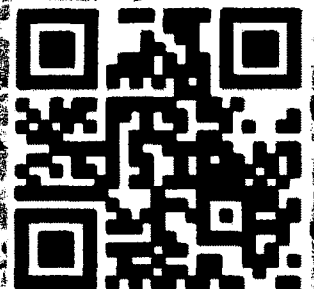


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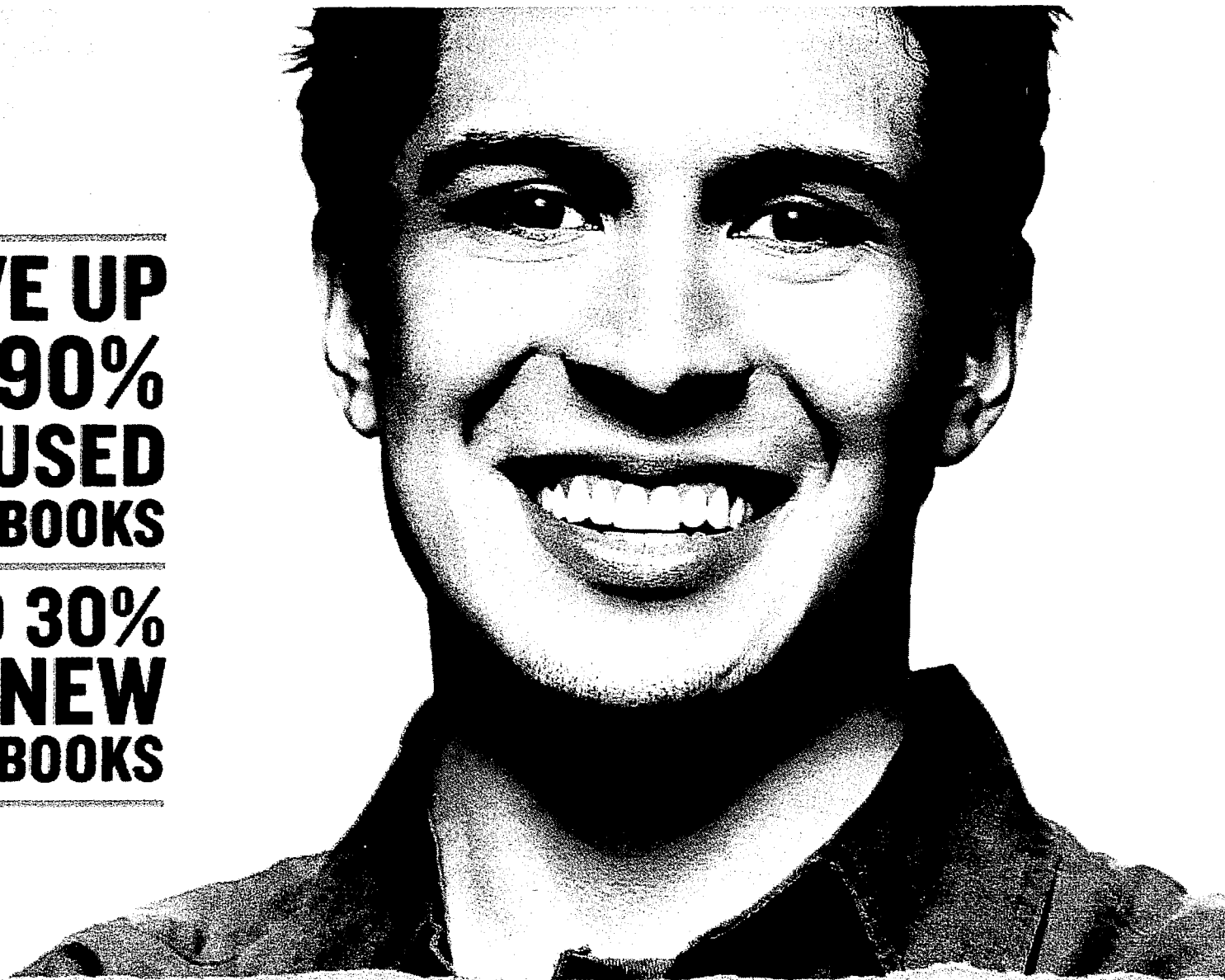
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## Tracking campus crime remains a challenge, MTPD seek solutions

By Alex Hubbard  
Campus news editor

Despite multifaceted efforts to track crimes on college campuses, under-reporting of incidents and misunderstandings about the nature of crime plague efforts to track meaningful statistics, officials and documents revealed.

These difficulties, coupled with a reported increase in campus crime statewide, comes as MTSU police look to reach out to students in new and greater ways this fall.

The crime rate on college campuses in Tennessee rose four percent in 2011, according to a Tennessee Bureau of Investigation report. Larceny and theft offenses accounted for 37 percent of all reported crimes—the most of any crime grouping—despite a decrease in larceny and theft from 2010. Assault, forcible sex offenses and drug- and narcotic-related offenses

drove much of the growth, with increases of 6.5, 47 and 26 percentage points, respectively.

The increase in campus crimes—though slight by many standards—countered what had been a drop in reported campus crimes in 2010. The mixed record offered authorities pause before subscribing rate fluctuations to external or cyclical factors such as economic concerns.

“The crime rate really fluctuates independently of any other factors,” said TBI spokeswoman Kristin Helm. “But there is really not a very large variation between the number of offenses committed 10 years ago, which is when the state of Tennessee began collecting crime statistics through the TIBR system, compared to now.”

The Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System collects categorized crime data from law-enforcement agencies around the state, as well as the rate at which those crimes were

cleared or solved.

MTSU police had widely-varied success rates in 2011, according to statistics submitted via TIBR.

Of 263-reported larceny and theft cases, only six percent were cleared. This is in contrast to assault, which posted a 60 percent clearance rate, and drug and narcotic offenses, which posted a 95 percent clearance rate.

But Helm said such low success rates are not unusual, and are not specifically the result of any failure on the part of MTSU police.

“Theft offenses many times are very, very difficult to clear and make arrests on, and the majority of crimes committed on college campuses are indeed typically theft,” Helm said. “I have to say that that’s not necessarily alarming.”

Peaster said MTPD will have a higher visibility on campus this year, and will seek to connect more

with the MTSU community through educational presentations.

Rave Alerts, a part of MTSU’s Alert4U system, will feature new safety products this fall. Rave account users can set a timer on their cell phone as they walk across campus that will alert authorities if it isn’t disabled. A general GPS sensor will take police to the area of the phone.

Rave also offers Eye-witness, a text-messaging platform in which students can text public safety dispatch 24/7. Both capabilities are set to be in operation this week.

Despite high-profile violent crimes in recent years, most campus law enforcement efforts focus on ordinary crimes.

MTSU’s total campus population in 2011 was 26,459 students, faculty and staff, according to the TBI report. Of this population, 38 were security personnel.

Peaster said the cam-

pus has no record of how many security cameras are in operation, and ITD is currently working on a more cohesive security technology plan involving surveillance. Currently, the new buildings—the education building, the student union—are outfitted with systems, to eventually be tied in centrally to an overarching system. Other departments pooled funds in the past to invest in cameras that are not necessarily organized through MTSU.

“The other places that have [security cameras] are kind of a hodgepodge,” Peaster said. “We don’t really have an active role in those systems. We’ve had to go to different entities to say, ‘Can we get video?’”

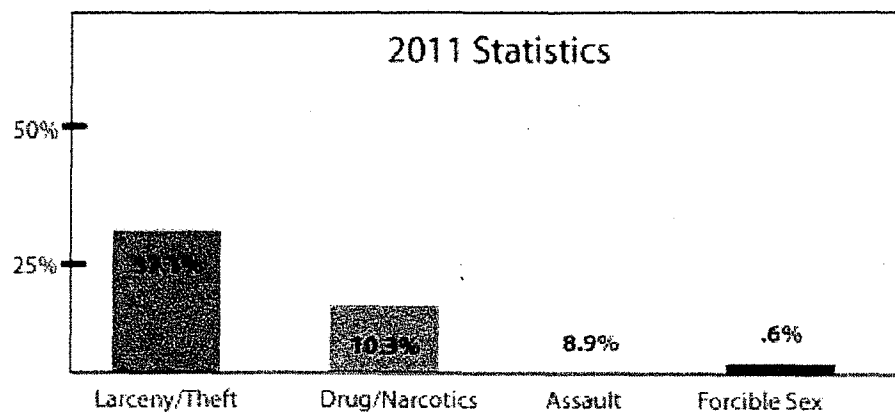
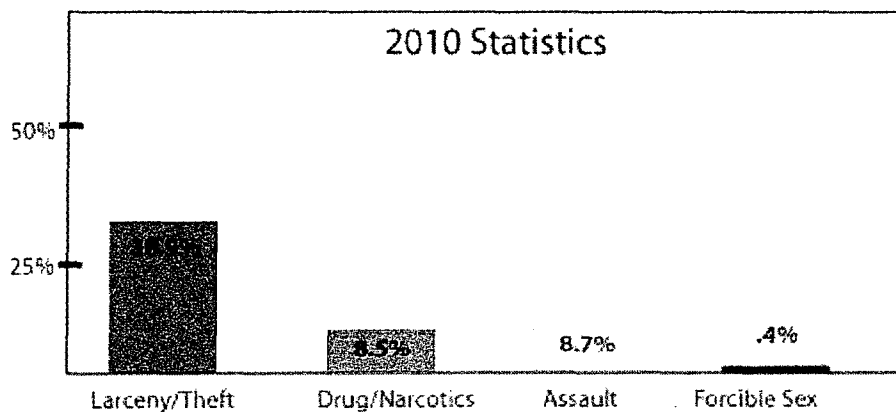
Peaster said all the new buildings henceforth will be outfitted with the security system that will eventually feed into one specific program MTPD will have control over, in accordance to ITD’s plan.

Money and the university’s prioritization play a factor in the lack of a current cohesive system, according to Peaster.

Even with a growing campus and community, Murphy said that relying on electronic surveillance, such as cameras, is often only an expensive and cumbersome option that can only capture crimes after they happen, and while it may be a good option in some cases, different plans should be considered.

“I would rather a college spend a like amount of money on strengthening the entire university’s understanding of the hurdles they face to prevent mass violence,” he said. “Understanding the basis for these makes everyone a partner for an end solution and it hopefully abates the feeling that it is the responsibility of police or security to protect us.”

*Becca Andrews, editor-in-chief, contributed to this report.*





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# Summer construction makes way for more traffic

By Emily West

Community news editor

With the completion of the Student Union and several road projects, students may find MTSU better prepared to sustain this fall's populous.

Ron Malone, director of parking and transportation services, said this fall brings full access to all entrances to campus and to much-needed parking space. Additionally, the new 211,000-square-foot Student Union building provides students with three floors of food, lounge areas, computer amenities, conference rooms and space for student-run organizations.

"I think students are so excited to finally have space," said Debra Sells, vice president of student affairs. "Obviously the space is desperately needed. Nothing makes me sadder than walking into the KUC on a busy day and see students on the floor eating Chick-fil-A lunches."

The Student Union houses new dining options, such as Dunkin' Donuts, Panda Express, a potato/salad/soup bar, a hot dog concept and a Newks'-style restaurant.

"The Student Union is intended to be a 'home away from home' for our students – it is their building," said Sidney McPhee, university president. "It has plenty of comfy seating in all shapes and sizes, and several lounges with gigantic TVs. It has huge windows with sweeping views of campus. It is a wonderful, beautiful place."

Computer labs, a new theater, a ballroom and new offices are also in the Student Union.

"The majority of the space is for students," said Sarah Sudak, associate vice president of student affairs and dean of student life. "Only half of one floor is dedicated for those who support students."

After moving out of the KUC, the Student Government Association, Student Programming, Student Involvement and Leadership, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and the Student Organization center take the third floor of the building with lounge areas in the remaining spaces.

"We expect that the new building will attract a great deal of students its first weeks of operation," said Coby Sherlock, SGA student body president. "Our SGA has prepared itself to use the expected increased student traffic in order to reach out to the students to discuss the ways for us to help improve our campus our 101st year here."

Sherlock expects the new building to help the SGA to better serve the student body and to enhance students' experiences.

"The new home plays a key role in the complete transfor-

mation of the SGA," Sherlock said. "Students should be proud to know that we will be on campus this year and engaging with the student body, so that our campus can move forward and remain the best university in the state."

The parking situation for the university has drastically improved, according to Ron Malone, director of parking and transportation services.

"The wonderful thing about this fall is that the bulk of the road construction, like MTSU Boulevard with the roundabout, and the new entrance are done," Malone said. "We were very fortunate to complete it this summer. This is one of the few falls where we enter with full access. It allows the shuttle buses to run where they need to."

With full access to roadways, Malone anticipates the bus system will work better than it did in the spring as the heart of campus was



The new Student Union building's landscape includes an outdoor amphitheater and knoll. Photo by Elijah Longwell.

undergoing heavy construction. While the Silver Route ran last semester, it ran on a trial basis. For this semester, the Silver Route will run full-time.

"The Silver Route runs the Red Route backwards, so when you have individuals in the gravel lot, the red is heading in the other direction," Malone said. "It's basically running the Red Route backwards and helping the congestion."

Three new buses were added to the routes at the

end of August, and the two parking garages being built are currently on schedule. Both garages are slated for completion at the end of spring 2013.

Construction on a new roundabout at the intersection of Lightning Way and Champion Way will begin over winter break to avoid a three-way intersection that could potentially make traffic congested.

No further changes to the lots are expected for the fall, and each lot is ready for use.

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## FEATURES

# A Beginner's Guide to Murfreesboro

By Emily Kubis  
Community news editor

Ah, Murfreesboro—geographical center of Tennessee, historical Civil War location and home to the Blue Raiders.

If you are new to our great expanse of Rutherford County, you may be unsure of where to go or what to do with your newfound collegiate freedom. But never fear, the 'Boro offers many attractions to fill all that time your mom thinks you are using to study.

If there is one thing Murfreesboro is not lacking, it's restaurants. The sheer amount of choices may intimidate a newcomer, but there are several worth your

time and money.

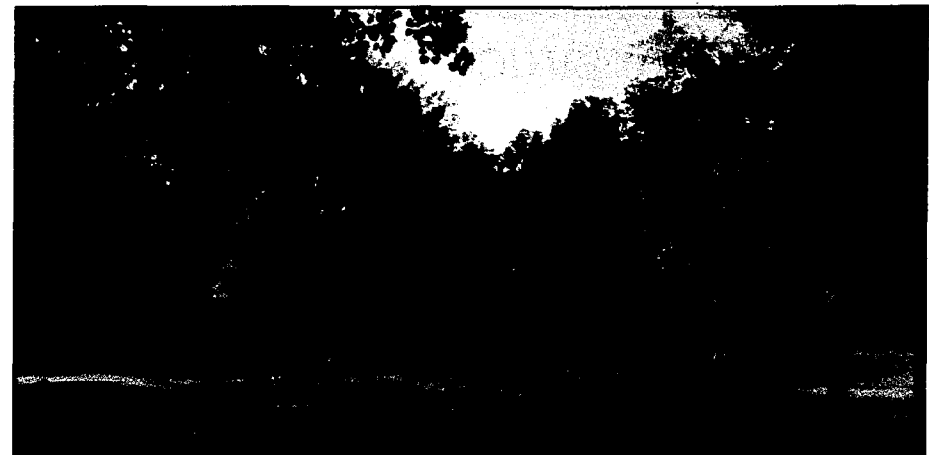
For Southern fare, try Jeff Howell's Family Restaurant- I have on good authority that the fried chicken and ribs are top-notch. If meat and threes are more your style, Kleer-Vu Lunchroom is equally delicious as it is grammatically incorrect.

The best Mexican generally agreed upon is Camino Real, conveniently located near campus- be sure to have your student ID handy to get a 10 percent discount. For sweets, Donut Country is the perfect place to grab breakfast or a late-night snack. They keep the coffee flowing, too, so it's not a bad place to study if the library gets

old (and it will).

The 'Boro has plenty of shopping, though admittedly many of us are on a shoestring college budget. The Avenue is an open-air shopping center, featuring department stores and shops such as Barnes and Noble, Ulta and Express. The Stones River Mall houses Forever 21, Pacific Sunwear and Buckle, among others.

As with any college town, Murfreesboro has its fair share of bars and clubs. Gilligan's hosts weekly shows and is generally 18 and up. For those who are legal, Wall Street and The Boro are popular places to imbibe. Mark and Wolf's Handlebar is an all-hours Waffle House



The Greenway System is a great place to go for a walk, a bike ride or an outdoors study session. The Stones River flows through for picturesque views. Photo by Matt Masters.

type of restaurant—if Waffle House served beer.

If you're an outdoorsman or woman, Murfreesboro has a great Greenway system perfect for jogging, strolling or biking, as well as the Bark Park for your four-legged friends. Barfield Cres-

cent Park is a wildlife sanctuary with beautiful trails, campsites and a disc golf course. For a historical outing, the Stones River Battlefield is a national park complete with trails, tours and a Civil War museum.

Should you find yourself bored with the

'Boro, there is a benefit to being in the center of the state. In almost any direction you set your sails, you're bound to find an adventure. Murfreesboro is located 40 minutes from Nashville, and I guarantee there's a concert there tonight or any night. There are also museums, restau-



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## FEATURES



The Avenue holds dining and shopping options, with popular stores such as Victoria's Secret, American Eagle and Express, and eateries such as Newk's and Chili's. Photo by Matt Masters.

rants and the famous honky-tonks of Music City. If you're looking to go a little farther, Murfreesboro is just two hours from the mountains of Chattanooga, three and a half hours from Louisville and four hours from Memphis.

The campus of MTSU has its share of events as well. There

are clubs, the recreation center and movies at the new Student Union building. The university hosts occasional concerts in the James Union Building or events on the recreation center lawn. And, of course, there are sporting events, such as tailgating in Walnut Grove before football games.

Be sure to check the Student Programming & Activities page on MTSU's website for more events this fall.

Welcome to Murfreesboro and MTSU. Enjoy the events and attractions that are available here, and discover for yourself all that Middle Tennessee has to offer. ☐

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# Health care to be heavily debated during presidential campaign

By Emily West  
Community news editor

As one of the most controversial pieces of legislation to be passed during President Obama's term, the Affordable Care Act has citizens across the nation questioning its definition, its legitimacy and its impact.

Entering the 2008 election, the issue of health care was a major objective of Obama's platform. In March 2010, President Obama passed the 2,400-page health care legislation, which intends to give uninsured Americans the opportunity to become insured and receive affordable health care coverage beginning in 2014.

## What it is:

The new act demands a change in insurance policies, as well as an expansion of Medicaid— a government-sponsored program that provides medical care to the poor.

Insurance companies will no longer be able to set health standards for their potential clients in regards to pre-existing conditions, and must keep insurance premiums to a level that is considered affordable to low-income families by the government.

Women also receive more benefits. Insurance companies will fully cover birth control and general gynecological services, such as mammograms and maternity care. The Women's Health Care Reform portion of the ACA began at the beginning of this month.

Obama said the na-

tional deficit will decrease by \$127 billion by 2021 because of the ACA.

However, the Congressional Budget Office and the Joint Committee on Taxation estimate the act will cost the government \$1,168 billion.

"The bill provides access," said Rick Chapman, MTSU director of student health administration. "It doesn't provide universal coverage, but it just provides at expanded access. The bill itself doesn't get at cost containment. There are ideas in the bill on how to pay for it and projects."

As questions and protests began to circulate regarding the new act, the bill found its way to the Supreme Court, and was ruled as constitutional for the nation on June 28. The focal point of the argument was the question of if the government could penalize any citizen for refusing health care.

"It presents an interesting constitutional issue that will have a lot of policy implications not only for health care, but many areas," said Clyde Willis, MTSU political science professor. "It gets down to something very fundamental, which is the power of Congress. That power has to come from the Constitution."

The 5-4 vote ruled in favor of Obama's health reform. Five members of the Supreme Court, including the usually-conservative Chief Justice John Roberts Jr., voted that penalizing those who refuse health care is taxable, and Congress reserves the power to do such. The remaining four members of the court

voted to repeal the entire act.

"It comes down to regulating an action versus regulating inaction," Willis said. "It is not so much the cause but the causation. Why this is important is because it gives Congress the power to regulate certain problems. This convoluted logic that is now constitutionally embedded in this decision has great ramifications for what we can regulate and what we can't. At the base of this are primary, fundamental constitutional issues."

## How it affects students:

The most notable change that affects young adults is the new mandate that anyone under 26 years of age is allowed to stay on their parents' insurance.

Last spring, political science professor Sekou Franklin's Democratic Participation and Civic Advocacy class conducted a survey using 221 students from MTSU. While the sample size is small, the survey showed that 63 percent of the students favored the 26-and-under portion of the health care mandate.

"We believe it is important that students will be able to stay on their parents' insurance," said Judy Whitehill, chairwoman of the Rutherford County Democratic Party. "With high tuition prices and students trying to further their education with graduate school, they need a little help with the cost of health care. Either this or you will continue to see students not seeking medi-

cal attention when they need it."

Former insurance plans don't allow for children to stay on their parents' plan for that long, and the coverage did not include non-students. The expansion of the Medicaid program will also potentially affect students who find themselves unable to stay on their parents' plans.

"For example, say I am a college student making \$10,000 a year at my part-time job," Chapman said. "I am well under the poverty limit. I can apply for these federal subsidies that will go on what is called the state exchange. The state of Tennessee is working on setting up these exchanges. All your major insurance companies will offer individual policies that will be on the exchange that are age rated. You can go on state exchanges, and apply for federal subsidies to apply for health insurance."

Franklin's survey also revealed that while students answered this question in favor of a portion of the health care mandate, only 40 percent were in favor of the entire individual mandate.

However, governors from Texas, Louisiana, South Carolina, Florida and Mississippi said they have no plans to expand their Medicaid programs even after the act was voted on in the Supreme Court.

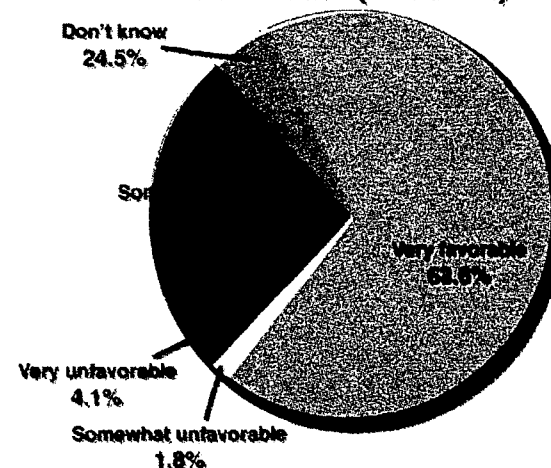
## How it affects the state:

The state of Tennessee is one of the states looking not to expand Medicaid,

## ObamaCare



## ObamaCare (under 26)



and Governor Bill Haslam does not fully support the new mandate.

"My primary issues with ObamaCare are that it takes away the flexibility for states to encourage healthy behavior, will cost Tennessee hundreds of millions of dollars, and does nothing to solve the crisis of the cost of health care in America," Haslam said in a state-

ment released the day of the Supreme Court ruling. "What was unanticipated is the section of the opinion that says states cannot be forced to expand their Medicaid program. This particular portion of the ruling is significant, but it is premature to know the exact ramifications."

Currently, Tennessee uses TennCare, which is the state's version of



Students browse the pharmacy in the health and wellness center, located in the Recreation Center. They may find their insurance policies affected by the new health care bill. Photo by Matt Masters.

Medicaid. TennCare provides over one million Tennesseans with health care coverage. After the law was signed in 2010, TennCare has been trying to anticipate the changes that will happen in 2014.

One of the issues TennCare will face is the new eligibility requirements, and that the federal government will begin to pay for more of the cost than the state.

Right now, the state covers 35 percent of the cost of TennCare while the federal government covers the remaining 65 percent. By 2014, the federal government will pay for it 100 percent for the first two years, and the percentages will continue to drop over

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the course of time.

### **How it affects the nation:**

Both President Obama and Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney address ideas on the issue of health care— ideas that are vastly different.

Since the Affordable Care Act passed in Congress, the nation saw an increase in the confidence behind the United States' health system. According to the Gallup poll released in late June, 44 percent of Americans said they have a great deal of confidence in the system.

The numbers have fluctuated through the years, especially during the re-

cession in 2007. However, the two parties have differing votes of confidence. As of now, 49 percent of Republicans have a greater confidence in the health

care system, while Democrats only 44 percent. The Independent

Party said 34 percent believe in the health care system, the Gallup Poll indicated.

President Obama believes that the health care

mandate will help better serve the middle class, and wants the insurance industry to be more accessible to Americans.

As for the nation,

Obama said he foresees 95 percent of Americans under 65 years of age will be covered, which would

be 34 million more people than currently have coverage.

Candidate Mitt Romney has used Obama's health mandate as one of

his primary arguments throughout his presidential campaign. Romney is promising Americans that if he were elected president, his primary goal would be to immediately repeal the health care act.

According to Romney's campaign website, Romney believes that President Obama's health care reform is unpopular and a disaster for the federal budget.

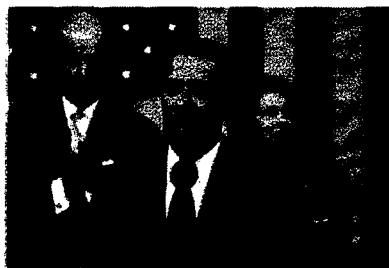
When Romney served as governor of Massachusetts, he instated a health care mandate called Romneycare, which is similar to that of the current ACA health care mandate.

His running mate, Paul Ryan, has been vocal in the past about his disapproval of a health care

mandate like that of both candidates.

The Wisconsin lawmaker has served as the chairman of the House Budget Committee since 2011. During his time as chairman, Ryan created a budget called The Path to Prosperity, which has differing views of health care than that of his running mate Romney. Including major budget cuts to health care programs like Medicare.

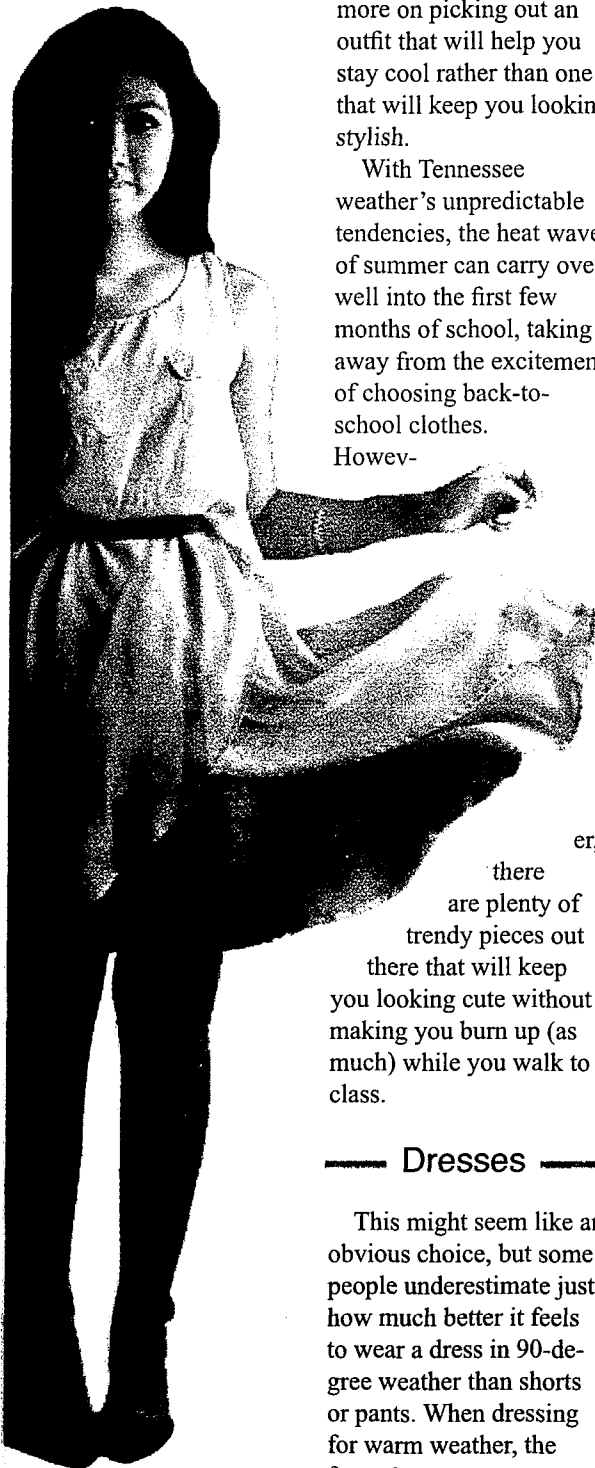
The dispute over health care is far from over. Both candidates continue campaigning and ready themselves for approaching presidential debates, with the first debate scheduled for Oct. 3 at the University of Denver.



Obama speaks about the health care bill in a public address to the nation September 2009. Photo courtesy of [whitehouse.gov](http://whitehouse.gov).

# How to stay cute and cool for school

By Meredith Galyon  
Contributing writer



During the hot summer months, it's easier to focus more on picking out an outfit that will help you stay cool rather than one that will keep you looking stylish.

With Tennessee weather's unpredictable tendencies, the heat waves of summer can carry over well into the first few months of school, taking away from the excitement of choosing back-to-school clothes. However-

er, there are plenty of trendy pieces out there that will keep you looking cute without making you burn up (as much) while you walk to class.

## — Dresses —

This might seem like an obvious choice, but some people underestimate just how much better it feels to wear a dress in 90-degree weather than shorts or pants. When dressing for warm weather, the fewer layers you wear,

the better off you will be. Whether it is a mini, midi or maxi dress, just wearing one article of clothing makes a huge difference when you're walking around in the sun. This year, hi-lo hemmed, or "fishtail-hemmed" dresses have become popular and can be found just about anywhere. The unusual hemline will add variety to your wardrobe while still staying true to the less-is-more philosophy of wearing dresses in the summer. This one from solilor.com can be dressed down and worn casually to class with flats or sandals, but could still be worn with wedges and layered necklaces to give it a dressier feel.

## — Sheer blouses —

While layering in the summer might not seem like the best idea, wearing a sheer top over a bandeau-style bra can be effective if done properly. The trick here is to not make it look too skimpy; it will give that impression if worn with a regular bra, and that is not something you want when trying to impress your professors.

A bandeau from American Eagle's Aerie line serves the same function as a bra, but is longer in length and generally has more fabric to keep you covered. Most blouses will not actually be so sheer that everything will be visible, as the purpose of them is to generally create a silhouette feel. However, if sheer tops



Sharena is wearing a dress from solilor.com (left), and her own thrift store purchased shirt and shorts (above). Jewelry is her own. Photo by Nhu Duoung.

make you uncomfortable at first, it is always acceptable to wear a full camisole underneath, or try wearing high-waisted shorts that will meet where the bandeau ends. This blouse looks great paired with shorts, but could also be draped over a floral bodycon skirt for a more vibrant and summery look.

## — Palazzo pants —

In the summer, wearing any kind of pants other than jeans is automatically going to work in your favor when you're going

to be outside. The thick fabric of denim is not ideal for walking to class, but fortunately there are plenty of other options. Palazzo pants, for instance, have widely-hemmed leg openings and usually come with an elastic waist.

The wide legs create more room for air to circulate freely, and the elastic waist pretty much speaks for itself; the less buttons and zippers, the better.

Another great thing about this style is that it is easy to find in fun patterns as well as solids, and wearing a bold pattern is

an easy way to spice up your outfit.

These are just a few ideas of clothes that can be summer weather friendly and keep you looking trendy. When you are on the hunt for end-of-summer clothes, keep in mind that anything loose and flowing is optimal, and that layering should be kept to a minimum.

You really can have the best of both worlds, and it's easier than you think—which will leave you time to worry about things that might actually be challenging—like your classes. ■

## ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

# Vulgarity and honesty works for 'The Campaign'

By Kyle McCarthy  
Contributing Writer

Deep in the small town of Hammond, N.C., the weight and emotional struggle of the political machine takes its toll. The tears, the bloodshed, the sex scandals, and, yes, the baby punching.

Political campaigns have become ugly, absurd competitions. Slander is common, and ads create a temporary soft spot on the viewers' brain to keep the endless bickering a main topic of conversation among citizens. Not to mention the constant scrutiny brought on by the media, which leave some campaigns as dramatic as any reality television

show.

Politics is a nasty game. Jay Roach, director of The Austin Powers trilogy, "Meet the Parents" and "Meet the Fockers," portrays this divisive and dirty journey in a hilarious satire of political campaigns, and every ridiculous detail that is involved in them with his rightfully and simply-titled film, "The Campaign."

"The Campaign" stars Will Ferrell ("Stepbrothers," "Anchorman") as Congressman Cam Brady and Zach Galifianakis ("The Hangover," "Due Date") as opponent Marty Huggins. After jeopardizing his political career with a very obvious sex scandal, Cam Brady,

normally unopposed in his race for the congressional seat for his district in North Carolina, is set up to be put down by two powerful and money-hungry CEOs, the Motch brothers, whose names sound similar to the real-life election-buying Koch brothers.

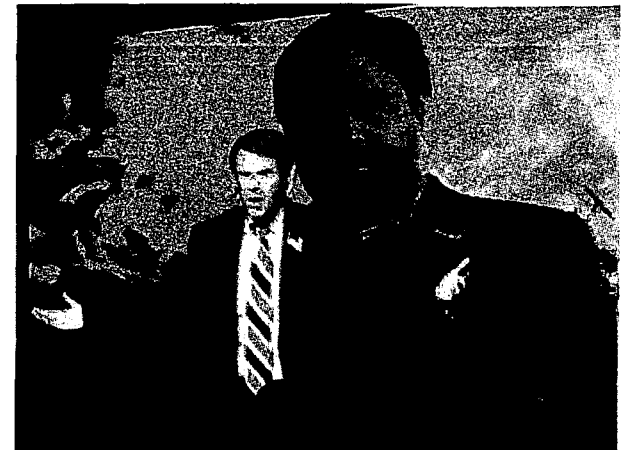
The political gears of the machine begin turning as the Motch brothers pay for the director of the Hammond Tourist Center, Marty Huggins, to run against Cam Brady and bring their diabolical plan involving China and jobs to fruition.

Fans of Ferrell and Galifianakis will rejoice when they see this duo work together. Ferrell's overly-dramatic, vulgar

and exaggerated patriotic shtick, reminiscent of character Ricky Bobby in "Talladega Nights," is still uncomfortably funny. Galifianakis, on the other hand, keeps things subtle and absurd, but dons the persona of his twin brother, Seth Galifianakis, from interviews as seen on "Between Two Ferns" and "The Comedians of Comedy." Ferrell and Galifianakis, along with an exceptional ensemble of comedians, keep their audience laughing at all the necessary moments.

In any successful satire there is a great deal of truth and insight into societal functions, as "The Campaign" accomplishes in its portrayal of the American political scene.

The job is to hold a mirror up to society, and in the case of this film, the



Will Ferrell and Zach Galifianakis star as opposing candidates in satirical comedy 'The Campaign.' Photo courtesy of Facebook.

political side of society. "The Campaign" puts a comedic spin on themes such as criticism and scrutiny by the media, dancing around questions, economic hardships and corporate takeover of the small-town man.

However, the movie's weakness in its tendency to go over the top with vulgarity.

Though funny in moderation, it took away from the essence and mes-

sage the film is trying to convey: You can take your overly-patriotic, Bible-thumping, job-outsourcing ideas and shove it, because in the end, honesty and humility triumph over lies and arrogance. "The Campaign" certainly comes out on top as a truly funny and insightful comedy for the summer. As long as a sex joke or ten isn't too bothersome, this film is definitely worth a watch. ■

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# RANTS AND RAVES

August 30



**Arpetrio with This Is ART and Quiet Entertainer**  
8 p.m., Main Street Live!  
527 West Main St.  
Admission: \$8  
Ages 18+

Nashville-based band Arpetrio is currently on tour and making a pit stop in Murfreesboro. This electronica-psychedelic group has captured the attention of many since performing at festivals like Rootwire, Dexfest and more. Accompanying Arpetrio is This Is ART and Quiet Entertainer. The sounds of This Is ART are a catchy and unique style of music that has allowed him to perform with major groups like Pretty Lights and Big Gigantic. Quiet Entertainer, aka Greg Freeman, will get you to put on your dancing shoes with his musical fusion of hip-hop, ambient and electronica. If you want to dance to your heart's content and get out all your stress from the first week of classes, then check out this event in downtown Murfreesboro.

Jessica Kryza

August 30

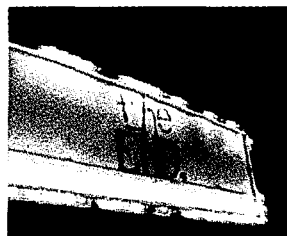


**Nashville Interactive Body Paint Festival with musical guest BREE**  
6:30 p.m., 12th & Porter  
114 12th Avenue N., Nashville  
Admission: \$10  
Ages 21+

If you have never heard of this popular Nashville event, then you might be missing out on a wild and freaky time with extraordinary visual and sensory art. You will be transported to a fantasyland with magical creations made by renowned Nashville body-painting artist Michelle Thornhill, as well as fantasy hair sculptor Aria Darling. This isn't one of those nights where you can look but not touch. Participating in the crazy, colorful fun is an essential part of the night. All kinds of performers will be at there including skillful hula-hoop performer, Iggy. Music will be provided by rock 'n' roll artist, BREE. It's also Thornhill's birthday, so this is a night you have to see to believe.

Jessica Kryza

August 30 and 31



**Screen Door Records 2 Night Takeover**  
9 p.m., The End  
2219 Elliston Place, Nashville  
Admission: \$5  
Ages 18+

Head to Nashville and find a friend with an extra couch to crash on for this two-night event at The End. The line-ups are made up of Nashville and Murfreesboro bands that all have a little something to offer. Thursday and Megajobs will take the stage along with The Subnovas, The Dead Towns and Bows and Arrows. Friday, you will see Norene, Secret Shopper, an encore performance by The Dead Towns, Self Help, Echo Group and The Joy of Painting. You may have seen some of these bands, especially the Murfreesboro natives, at a house show or two. If you biked to a house show and became a fan of theirs in a crowded living room where there was always that one guy who tried to start an unnecessary mosh pit, you should go see them perform in Nashville. If you love to dance, have tons of fun and support local music, then don't miss out on this event.

Jessica Kryza

August 31

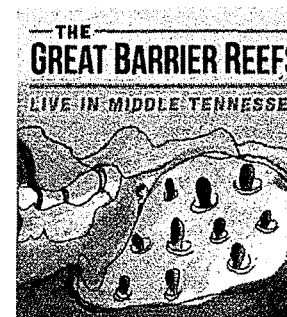


**Beatles Tribute with John Salaway and Friends**  
8 p.m., 3 Brothers Deli & Brewhouse  
223 West Main St.  
Admission: \$5

Take a fun, psychedelic trip down memory lane and see Beatles Tribute with John Salaway and Friends at 3 Brothers on Saturday. Who doesn't want a little more love in their life? According to Lennon, it's all you need. Salaway is an alumnus of MTSU who studied music business and believes in Lennon. He has performed with great musicians like Peter Frampton, Ben Folds, Kenny Olsen and many more. This drummer and guitarist, accompanied by a few of his musical friends, has the skills to put you in a chill state of mind while enjoying a tribute to one of the most celebrated bands in music history.

Jessica Kryza

August 31



**Great Barrier Reefs w/ Smooth Dialects**  
9 p.m., Wall Street  
121 North Maple St.  
Admission: \$5  
Ages 21+

The headliner of this show is a band in the genre of jazz-funk fusion, quite possibly the best of all musical fusions. Great Barrier Reefs is a local band that has been on the road touring and released a new album on August 28 titled Live in Middle Tennessee, which is a collection of live recordings from venues— you guessed it— in Middle Tennessee. GBR will be on stage after Smooth Dialects, a funk-reggae-soul band that will definitely make you want to wiggle a little and throw peace signs in the air. Not to mention, Wall Street has a chill atmosphere and a bar that will keep you coming back all night.

Jessica Kryza

September 1



**TRON**  
Midnight, The Belcourt Theatre  
2102 Belcourt Avenue, Nashville  
Admission: \$7.25

Most know of "TRON" from the 2010 sequel starring Brad Pitt's hunky cousin in "Troy." The 1982 Disney film, "TRON," was one of the earliest feature films to embody the 1980's video game craze. A younger Jeff Bridges ("The Big Lebowski," "True Grit") stars in the film as computer programmer Kevin Flynn, who becomes part of his own game that he's programming. Flynn is then forced to participate in gladiatorial games in a 3-D graphical world of computers. The only way for him to escape is with the help of a heroic security program. Also starring in the film is Bruce Boxleitner, David Warner and Cindy Morgan.

Jessica Kryza

# RANTS AND RAVES

September 1



Carrie Underwood, Oak Ridge Boys, Mandi Barnett, Bill Anderson, John Conlee, Little Jimmy Dickens and more  
7 p.m., Grand Ole Opry House  
2804 Opryland Drive,

Nashville  
Admission: \$34+

If you are a die-hard country fan who just received some scholarship and/or loan money, then eat your heart out, folks. Country music's sweetheart Carrie Underwood is performing in Music City, as well as the good ole Oak Ridge Boys, Little Jimmy Dickens and more. It's a lively line-up that any country fan can enjoy with performances from superstars, legends and newbies in country music. No matter how young or old, you can enjoy this knee-slappin' hoedown.

Jessica Kryza



Y2K Nashville featuring DJ Coach, Hands Off Sam and more  
10:30 p.m., High Watt stage at Mercy Lounge  
One Cannery Row, Nashville  
Admission: FREE  
Ages 18+

Throw together your

favorite going out ensemble, slip into your dancing shoes and get ready to shake it all out. Start your school year off by feeling good vibrations and feeding off the energy of a sweaty crowd. DJ Coach is heading up this one, and his beats paired with a drink in your hand will have you feeling free in no time. Various DJs will be taking the stage all night, ensuring maximum music and a night to remember. So head to Nashville and dance til you drop, recover at the bar, repeat.

Becca Andrews

& Brewhouse  
223 West Main St.  
Admission: FREE

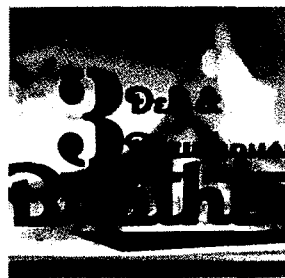
Creative Mic Night welcomes singers, poets, rappers, storytellers, songwriters, etc. If you possess a skill that you are eager to show off, this may be the answer to your prayers. This reoccurring event is on Sunday nights and is hosted by Anthony Adams, a musician who has played all around Nashville. You can also go to this event as a spectator while supporting a friend, or just to see some local talent. Regardless, 3 Brothers is the place to be to experience local talent.

7 and 9 p.m., Zanies Comedy Night Club  
2025 8th Ave. S., Nashville  
Admission: \$20  
Ages 18+

A full-time writer and performer on E!'s "Chelsea Lately" show, Fortune Feimster, will be in Nashville Sunday. The audience will probably be made up of 90 percent females to 10 percent males because she is known for her appearances on "Chelsea Lately," but that doesn't mean that it wouldn't be fun to attend. Gentlemen, if your spouse wants to go, just suck it up and take her; you might have a laugh or two. Feimster made her national television debut last year on NBC's "Last Comic Standing," and she should be pretty funny considering she was a semi-finalist. Go have a date night with your honey before the stress of the school starts to kick in, and laugh all the stress away. Trust us on this one, you'll need it later.

Jessica Kryza

September 2



Creative Mic Night w/ Anthony Adams  
8 p.m., 3 Brothers Deli



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**Amanda Terranova ('13)**  
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## ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

### HBO's 'The Newsroom' more about beauty than backbone

By Becca Andrews  
Editor-in-chief

HBO's latest television series, "The Newsroom," boasts a rapidly-beating—if sometimes misguided—heart.

Aaron Sorkin ("The West Wing," "The Social Network") has a reputation for providing sharp, intelligent dialogue in television, moving at speeds that sometimes require a mental double-take. The wit and surgical precision of the show's conversational banter is a refreshing change of pace in a culture that immerses itself in the deep life philosophies of "Jersey Shore," and obsesses over keeping up with whatever inane shenanigans those still Kardashian girls are up to these days.

The show's protagonist, Will McAvoy, is a gruff but seasoned anchor for the fictional Atlantis Cable News channel, who has his entire staff afraid to be in the same room with him.

McAvoy & Co. cover real-life news events that have occurred in the past couple years. Recent episodes have addressed the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, the shooting of Gabby Giffords in Arizona, Bin Laden's death

and—reluctantly—the Casey Anthony trial. As they process through various stories and debate news judgment in a fairly realistic manner, the viewer is forced to think.

Yes, you read that correctly. It's possible for a television program to provoke thought about today's society.

McAvoy's past flame and present executive producer, MacKenzie McHale, is a fast-talking American with an adorable British accent, a killer wardrobe, and a talent for inspiring McAvoy to be on his better behavior. The two have a chemistry that draws the viewer in, and they hold the kind of guarded adoration for each other that leaves you screaming, "Why can't you two just be together already?" at the screen every Sunday night.

The supporting cast is composed of what you would expect in a fictional newsroom—the computer geek, the innocent, yet determined young blonde girl and the two men who compete for her affections. Throw in a sexy, sometimes immature economist and the president of the company, who drinks throughout his day and wears bowties, and you have it. Sorkin wrote the

characters with quirks and quips and some interesting back stories, and the newsroom is more alive for it.

And here's the rub.

The female characters of the show leave much to be desired in brains and backbone. MacKenzie McHale, a former war correspondent who is said to have been to hell and back, has a tendency to come off as ruled by emotion rather than deep thought. She sometimes complains on the verge of whining when she doesn't get her way, a habit more abrasive than inspiring. As executive producer of "News Night," this is a fault that could be defining. Maggie Jordan, played by Alison Pill, is a mere punch line and plaything being fought over by two men, rather than a strong female member of the team. Then there is Sloan Sabbith (Olivia Munn), the brilliant economist whose insecurities leave little breathing room for an actual contributor to the team. All of these characters have the potential to fill the role of strong female leader in the newsroom, a position many women in news have fought for over the past several decades. Sorkin's lack of acknowledgement in this area is

insulting and ignorant, and the aforementioned characters' instability is frustrating. The one female character that seems to hold some sort of power is Leona Lansing (Jane Fonda), CEO of the news channel's parent company. Sorkin takes this character and portrays her as a greedy hag driven by her own selfish desires.

But they all come as journalists—humans, flawed, but determined to report the news and avoid being driven by ratings. The broadcast program, "News Night," and its band of warriors spend a lot of time and energy fighting the corporation's money lust in order to maintain the integrity of their broadcasts—an all-too-familiar reality to journalists everywhere. This is the main strength of the show—its spirit and heart. McAvoy, McHale and their fellow reporters generally attempt to do the right thing, which doesn't align with Lansing's wishes.

Another weakness exists in the constant drama and limited range of "The Newsroom." At the end of every episode, the viewer feels exhausted, and sometimes a little bewildered. The structure of the storyline varies little—McAvoy is belligerent, McHale



McHale (Emily Mortimer) and McAvoy (Jeff Daniels) concentrate on breaking news in 'The Newsroom.' Courtesy of Facebook.

yells at him and makes a scene, something terrible happens, they all go to a bar and drink it away, the end.

From a reporter's standpoint, there are several eyeroll-worthy moments. Skinner drinks in the office, and McAvoy smokes like a chimney, even showing up to an unexpected night at work high from eating brownies laced with marijuana. Perhaps these were possibilities in the newsrooms of the 1950s, but certainly not in those of today.

Sorkin reaches for a "Mad Men"-esque atmosphere by using the whiskey glasses and the thin veil of cigarette smoke

that trails from McAvoy's mouth almost as often as verbal jabs at his colleagues do. However, the result is more irritating than intriguing.

"The Newsroom" has all the makings to be great television—smart dialogue, a talented cast and real-life issues and drama. Fans of the show will wait with bated breath for the second season, which has already been ordered by HBO, and is slated for June 2013. Perhaps in the meantime Sorkin and his team can learn to balance drama and a realistic newsroom, while strengthening the female cast to its full potential. ■

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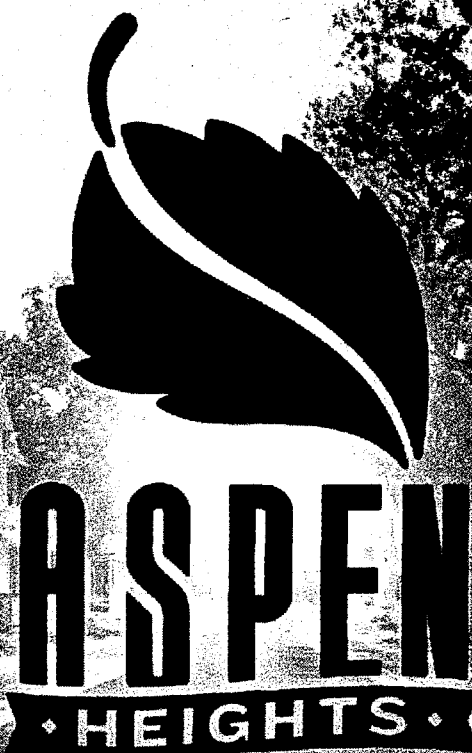
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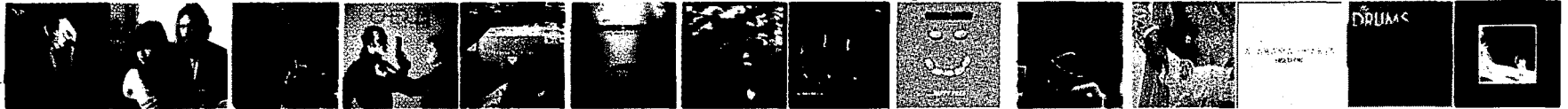


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## ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

### Hit the books, crank the tunes: An autumn playlist



By Kelsey Griffith  
Staff writer

Attention music lovers: Whether you're stoked and fully embracing the fall semester or in denial of your new responsibilities, there's no excuse not to have a rad playlist for the transition. Since you're too busy buying books and getting in the last of your summer hangs, I made one for you. DJ Kelsey G has your back.

1. "I'm Shakin'" – Jack White (Rock). With a Van Halen-esque percussion intro and simple guitar riffs, this is a fun song with slightly-distorted vocal effects and gospel-inspired backup vocals. The track is from Jack White's solo album *Blunderbuss*, released April 2012.

2. "Cherry Wine" – Nas feat. Amy Winehouse (Hip-Hop). This flirty song off Nas's 2012 album *Life Is Good* features the late Winehouse's soulful vocals and Nas's smooth-yet-articulate flow over a crisp drumbeat and dreamy saxophone and xylophone melodies.

3. "Hold On" – Alabama Shakes (Rock).

"Bless my heart, bless my soul; Didn't think I'd make it to 22 years old," are the opening lyrics. Preach it, sister (the vocalist's gender is nearly indistinguishable, but it's a lady). The powerful vocal and lyric combination mixed with a classic southern rock sound will certainly grab your attention.

4. "Barton Hollow" – The Civil Wars (Country/Folk). These Nashville singer/songwriters house voices that were made to intertwine with each other. The bone-chilling harmonies combined with a strong, classic country acoustic guitar riff tell the story of a doomed modern-day Huck Finn running from his mistakes. "Won't do me no good washin' in the river, can't no preacher man save my soul."

5. "All I Need" – Clams Casino (Hip-Hop Instrumental). This song from his 2011 self-titled mixtape has fast, glitchy sounds layered over slow, velvety tempos with chopped vocal samples. Featuring collaborations

with ASAP Rocky, Lil B and Mac Miller, you'll be impressed.

6. "Thinkin Bout You" – Frank Ocean (R&B). Ocean is a genius. This single off his debut album *Channel Orange* is a romanticized storytelling experience enhanced by a dreamy, atmospheric beat featuring violins and guitar strums. "It won't ever get old. Not in my soul, not in my spirit; keep it alive. We'll go down this road till it turns from color to black and white."

7. "Radioactive" – Imagine Dragons (Indie Rock). This track from their 2012 debut EP will blow you away. Ingredients include: intense, deep electronic beat, pretty instrumental pieces, sweetly-aggressive vocals, revolutionary lyrics and an overall fresh sound.

8. "You" – Gold Panda (Electronic). "You" is a jerky, pulsing electronic song that will make you feel alive. It's impossible to be unhappy when you hear the tambourine clinks complement the humming undertone.

9. "Shellshock" –

Noisia ft. Foreign Beggars (Drum & Bass/Hip Hop). Prepare yourself, D&B fans. This is an action-packed, bass-heavy song that features clever rhymes from British hip-hop/grime/dubstep group Foreign Beggars. The song speeds up and slows down at the perfect times, like a gory fight scene from an action movie turned slow motion. Killer.

10. "Doses & Mimosas" – Cherub (Electro-Pop/Funk). This creation from up-and-coming Murfreesboro duo Cherub sounds like Justin Timberlake had a lovechild with Deadmau5 and Earth, Wind and Fire. The relatable lyrics will make you laugh while you moonwalk onto Planet Suave.

11. "Don't Owe You a Thang" – Gary Clark, Jr. (Rock/Electric Blues). Gary Clark, Jr.'s sound is comparable to that of Jimi Hendrix and Stevie Ray Vaughn. His incredible guitar playing paired with his ability to write his own music and lyrics is unmatched. In this tune, his voice reveals a tortured

soul and the lyrics are a hilarious backlash at an ex who asks for too much.

12. "Money" – The Drums (Indie Pop Rock). With a simple, swift '50s-inspired melody, "Money" has a jumpy bass line and adorable lyrics. The chorus rings at a catchy high pitch with a low harmony singing, "I want to buy you something, but I don't have any money." Story of our lives.

13. "Happy Pills" – Norah Jones (Pop). This sunny, jazzy song was written by Norah Jones and her producer Danger Mouse (he's worked with Cee Lo Green, the Gorillaz, The Black Keys and Beck). It's got a comfortable, cool sound with nice vocal harmonies. "Would you please just let me go now?" is the hook re-sounding throughout the song, and it's impossible to get out of your head.

14. "Flowers In Your Hair" – The Lumineers (Indie Folk Rock). The Nashville newcomers tell a love story about a young romance turned mature in this tune. This organic,

sweet song sounds like a modern-day Romeo serenading Juliet outside her window. "Be in my eyes, be in my heart," is sung over a repetitive, therapeutic acoustic guitar riff and a kick drum.

Now put on this playlist and groove your way into the fall semester. Happy listening. ■



Scan here for playlist

Tune in to DJ Kelsey G's radio show on WMTS 88.3 every Monday, 10 p.m. to midnight. Twitter: @DJKelseyG



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## Anjelah Johnson brings Bon Qui Qui and solo comedian act to campus

By Jessica Kryza  
Contributing Writer

Comedian Anjelah Johnson, best known for her MADtv character Bon Qui Qui, will perform August 29 at 8 p.m. in the Murphy Center. Show up on time and ready to laugh, or Bon Qui Qui just might call security.

Although Johnson's memorable skit is quoteworthy for everyone with access to YouTube, there is more to the California native than that.

As a child growing up in San Jose, Johnson knew she wanted to be an actress, but didn't think she was qualified for it.

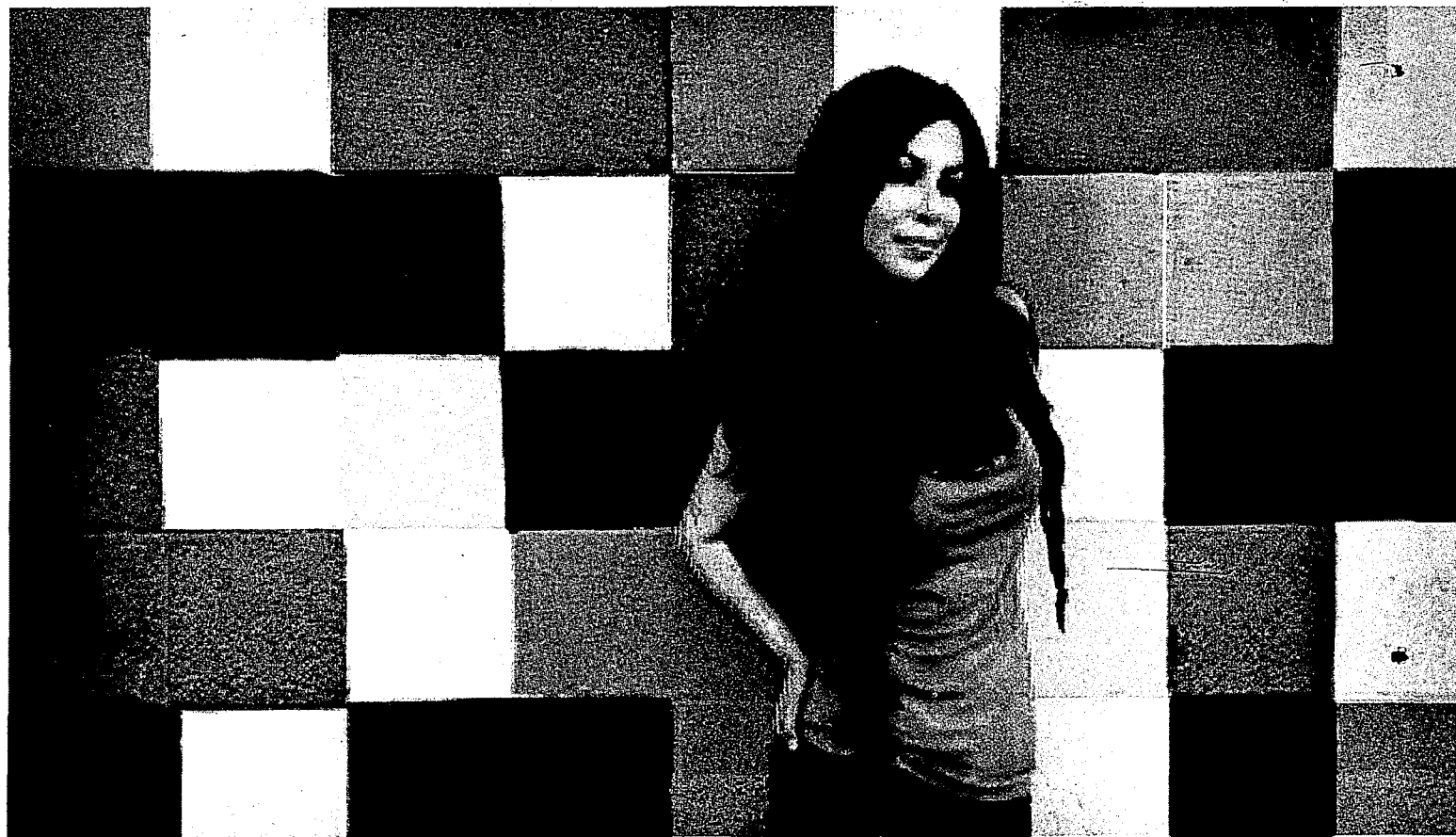
"To me, it was more like a fantasy than an achievable dream, so I kind of just ignored it," Johnson said.

Johnson had a friend who moved to Los Angeles to be an actress. She told her, "If you come out here, I'll help you get started and show you the ropes."

Johnson eventually made the move, and started from the ground up as an extra. It was there she fell into standup comedy.

"I was at a church, and on Tuesday nights they would do their creative arts ministry where they would have dancing, acting and singing," Johnson said. "There was a comedian there who was teaching a free, joke-writing standup comedy class, so I just took her class, and at the end of the class we had to perform at a real comedy club, and that was kind of my start."

Prior to moving to LA to be an actress, Johnson was involved in a different kind of entertainment—the NFL. She was a cheerleader for the Oakland Raiders, officially known



Anjelah Johnson, also known as Bon Qui Qui of King Burger, will perform her comedy routine tonight at 8 p.m. at the Murphy Center. Photo courtesy of Facebook.

as the Oakland Raiderettes, and had the opportunity to perform at Super Bowl XXXVII.

Johnson said she gets her material for her routines from observing everyday life.

"I live life, then I apply it to my act," Johnson said.

Johnson also takes observations for her routines from social media sites—Bon Qui Qui charms audiences with Twitter and Facebook accounts of her own.

The inspiration for the character that would change her life came from time spent in Memphis, Tenn.

"I had just graduated high school. I was in Memphis visiting a friend, and we went through a Burger King drive-thru, and this girl was just so

ghetto fabulous, just the way she took my order, 'Welcome to Burgah Kang. Go ahead wit yo ordah,'" Johnson said in exaggerated Ebonics, a trademark of Bon Qui Qui.

Johnson said Bon Qui Qui is a mix between the irritated Burger King employee and, oddly, her own "ghetto fabulous" brother, Kennie.

Another well-known character of Johnson's is from her YouTube video "Nail Salon" where she impersonates a nail salon employee named Tammy.

Johnson also pokes fun at her personal life, her Hispanic and Native American nationality, her family members and even her husband, Christian rapper Manwell Reyes of Group 1 Crew.

The significance of

his profession is comical because Johnson, at one point, had a joke in her routine about Christian rappers. She said her family burst into laughter once she admitted that she was dating her own joke. Her husband is a good sport about her sense of humor, and the bit at his expense.

A noticeable aspect about Johnson's routines is that she doesn't curse, a rarity in the comedy world. She simply explained that she doesn't talk like that in her daily life, and doesn't feel the need to add it to her comedy routines.

With her experience and knowledge about the entertainment industry, Johnson has two main points of advice for those wanting to pursue a similar career—take a class,

and live in a city that is a known entertainment hub.

"Do what you can in the town that you live in, but at some point if you really want to do this, then you have to make a move to where the opportunity is," said Johnson.

Johnson said that the main perk of being in the entertainment industry is that she's following her dream.

"My dreams are coming true. I'm watching it happen, like how amazing is that? Who gets to say that, ya know what I mean? Like how many people get to say I pursued my dream, and I'm watching it happen before my eyes."

Johnson has been a cast member of "MADtv," and has roles in movies such as "Our Family Wedding,"

"Alvin and The Chipmunks: The Squeakquel" and "Marmaduke." She also recorded a special with Comedy Central titled "That's How We Do It." Her television experience includes guest starring in "Ugly Betty," "Curb Your Enthusiasm," and "The Shield," among others.

Is Johnson ready to entertain MTSU during Welcome Week festivities? Oh, yes she is. Yes. She.

Is. ■



Scan here for some of Johnson's famous skits.

## OPINIONS

# Health care reform needs individual responsibility, not government mandate

By Alex Harris  
Opinions editor



Alex Harris

Famed University of Chicago economist Milton Friedman once said, "One of the great mistakes is to judge policies and programs by their intentions rather than their results."

This still holds true when one considers the

size and scope of the government, as well as the number of policies and programs that we are told we absolutely cannot live without.

One area of policy this statement is especially applicable to is health care.

Throughout the 20th century, Congress passed legislation that consequently increased government involvement in the health care industry, linked health insurance to employment for most people and unintentionally increased the costs of care, while decreasing competition in the industry.

The Affordable Care Act is just another in a long line of bad government policies that seem to be based on intent rather than outcomes.

Although there is much

in the over-2,400-page bill that is controversial and potentially problematic, the individual mandate, which imposes a financial penalty on individuals who do not possess health insurance, is easily the act's most contentious and intently-discussed provision.

It was recently ruled by the Supreme Court that Congress could not mandate the purchase of insurance to individuals under the commerce clause, but that Congress was allowed to levy a tax on those without insurance coverage.

Although this could include wealthier people who may see no need for health insurance (and who could therefore afford the penalty), it could also easily include people who are

self-employed, working multiple part-time jobs or who work for a company that doesn't provide insurance. In such cases, penalizing those who don't have coverage amounts to a tax increase on those least able to afford it.

Rather than lowering healthcare costs for Americans, this instead requires people to purchase insurance from the same companies that have been accused of overcharging and driving the costs up.

Essentially, the ACA requires that all insurance companies cover pre-existing conditions, and then ensure the subsidization of the costs for this coverage by requiring that everyone purchase health insurance, regardless of need.

While this is generally defended by referencing

those suffering from conditions like leukemia and multiple sclerosis, it also easily includes people who smoke a couple packs a day, or who eat at McDonald's several times a week and drink a liter of soda with each meal.

Which then invites the government into our personal lives to ban all sorts of things for "the good of the people."

Once the government has its hands in something, it reaches for more control—once it controls health care, everything that affects our health is within its reach. We're already seeing a push to eliminate smoking, and fast food and soda have also been demonized.

It's obvious smoking, fast food and sugary drinks are unhealthy.

However, as an adult (and as an individual), you should have the right to make those choices for yourself.

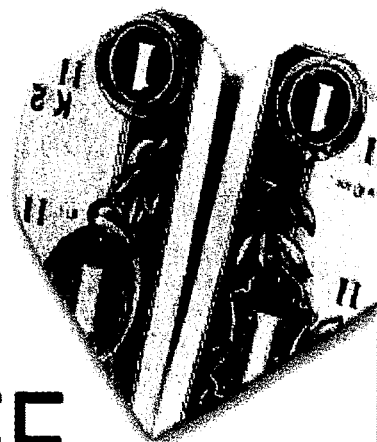
Do we as adults really need a babysitter to tell us what choices to make? With someone else making all of your choices, you will never learn self-reliance.

Whoever controls your health, controls your life. Who do you trust controlling your life more: yourself, or politicians and bureaucrats with their own agendas and concerns?

Interested in reading the opposing opinion? Read Asher Hudson's opinion:



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## A Clean Slate: 2012 Blue Raiders look to carve their own legacy

By Sam Brown  
Contributing writer

After a disappointing 2011 season, MT football looks to rebound with experienced seniors and some new faces leading the charge.

Last year's 2-10 season was far from what coaches, players and fans expected after posting a 5-3 record in the Sun Belt, and received a bid to play in the 2010 GoDaddy Bowl.

In 2011, the Blue Raiders started off on the wrong foot by winning only two of their first six games and then losing the remaining six.

Last year's poor performance doesn't have Head Coach Rick Stockstill feeling sorry for himself or the Blue Raiders. Stockstill is looking forward to his seventh year at MTSU.

"When you don't have success, it ought to eat at you," Coach Stockstill said. "It ought to just tear your guts out."

"I'm really excited," Stockstill said. "Probably as excited as I've been in my time in this profession; this will be my 30th year."

Returning players will be a key to Stockstill's success.

Senior quarterback Logan Kilgore will start his first season as a full-time starter, and said he looks forward to the challenge. Kilgore showed promise last year with his best game against Troy, where he threw for 415 yards and five touchdowns to five different receivers.

Another key senior is running back Benny Cunningham, who played well last year, prior to a foot injury that caused him to miss four games. He start-

ed in six of eight games, breaking the 100-yard mark against Troy rushing for a career-best 117 yards. He was added to the Doak Walker Award Watch List, which highlights the nation's top running backs.

Defensive senior Omar McLendon anchors a much-improved defensive line after a year where he led the defensive line with 867 downs played, and was named Second Team All-Sun Belt Conference by "College Sports Madness," an online publication.

McLendon has some help on the defensive front in redshirt-junior Jimmy Staten who played well last season at defensive tackle. He started all 12 games and recorded 29 tackles—four were for a loss, and added a sack to his resume.

The Blue Raiders will also be receiving help from a pair of junior transfers.

Safety Jajuan Harley joins MT after leaving Florida State, while Drayton Calhoun, a transfer from LSU, will be giving Benny Cunningham some much-needed support in the backfield helping out at running back.

Also new to the team is co-defensive coordinator Tyrone Nix. Nix coached with Stockstill at South Carolina under Head Coach Steve Spurrier, and spent the last four seasons in the SEC with the Ole Miss Rebels.

"He is respected as one of the best football coaches in this profes-

sion," Stockstill said. "But he is also respected as one of the best people in the profession—great person, great coach and a great communicator."

Joining Nix as co-defensive coordinator is Coach Steve Ellis. Ellis spent his first two seasons with the Blue Raiders as the cornerback coach before being promoted to his new post. Ellis and Nix are hoping to work together to improve the team's overall defense, with a special focus on their attempt to

stop the run.

"If you can't stop the run then you aren't going to win any games," McLendon said. "We showed that last season."

Also moving up the ranks of MT football is Coach Buster Faulkner. Faulkner served as quarterback coach and part-time offensive coordinator. This is his first year as full-time offensive coordinator, and he will continue to work as the quarterbacks' coach.

"The difference between

last year's group and this year's group is Omar, Benny and the core seniors are really bought in," Kilgore said. "They're not thinking about down the road, they are thinking about winning the Sun Belt this year."

Coach Stockstill said that for the team to handle a tough road schedule, they will have to be mentally tough.

Last year's failures may prove fuel for this year's team.

"When you don't have success, it ought to eat at

you," Coach Stockstill said. "It ought to just tear your guts out." ■



Kilgore looks to build on last season in which he threw for over 2,000 yards and accounted for 19 touchdowns. (Photo Courtesy of MT Athletic Communications)

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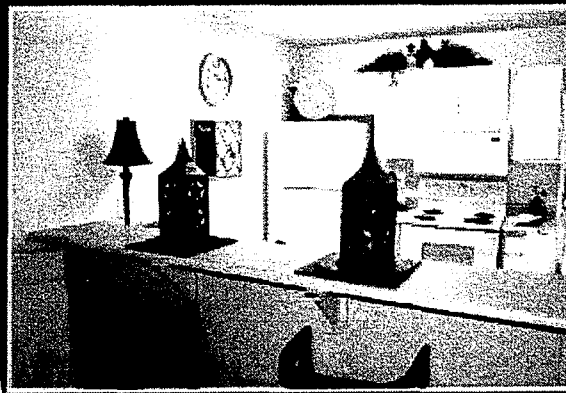
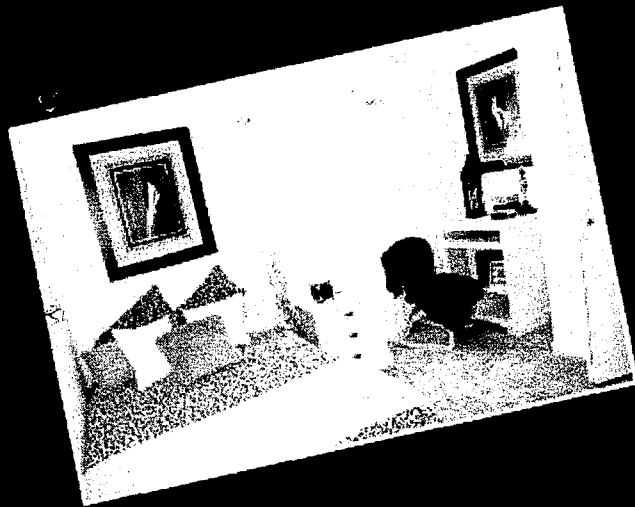
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