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MTSU students devote their spring break to helping out on the set of Professor Bob Ponzillo's movie "Happy New Year Mr. Kates." Photo by Nhu Duong.

Cover photo by Quint Qualls.

Visit us at [www.mtsusidelines.com](http://www.mtsusidelines.com)

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# University researcher is out of gas

By Samantha Hearn  
Contributing writer

The steep \$3 gas prices didn't stop alternative fuels researcher Cliff Ricketts and his team on a coast-to-coast drive this spring break because they didn't use gas.

Ricketts drove across the country a year ago on 2.15 gallons of gas and operated on solar energy and hydrogen cells from water. He plans to perform the same process this time around.

"It works like the banking system," Ricketts said. "You put in a thousand dollars. You won't ever see that thousand dollar bill again, but you've got a thousand dollars credited to your account. You may take out twenties, you may take out fifties, you may take out even pennies ... that's what we do here with the energy."

The energy is measured in kilowatts and runs through grid-line filtering units that purify the water. The oxygen is separated into the atmosphere and the hydrogen is left.

"Everything we put into the grid line is like a deposit into the bank," he said. "We can then take that out and use it as we need it."

A fueling system deposits the hydrogen pressure into tanks that are used to run the three vehicles for the journey. The team started with sun, water and then hydrogen to fuel.

Ricketts and the



Professor Ricketts lectures during the day and researches alternative fuel outside the classroom. Photo by Kati Baird.

team drove a 1994 Toyota Tercel and a 2005 Toyota Prius as the main vehicles and a 2007 Prius as backup.

Mike Sims, an expert from Jackson, Mich., also traveled with the team to assist on the five-day trip.

"We will refuel the vehicles at night," Sims said. "We're taking the tanks with us because they aren't really available for us on the road."

The tanks, which carry 3,500 pounds of hydrogen, were loaded onto a trailer and pulled behind them on the journey.

"When the Wright brothers flew the first airplane, there were no airports," Ricketts said. "Well, we're going across the country with no fueling stations. We have to take the fuel with us. This is kind of a trailblazing experience. It's not practical

in the real world, but you gotta start somewhere."

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the average cost of a gallon of gasoline is \$3.75. The average cost in Murfreesboro is 30 cents cheaper at \$3.45.

"We will run out of natural gas," Sims said. "It's inevitable. We have to find alternate solutions."

Ricketts stressed the

importance of American fuel independence.

"In a time of a national emergency, America can be energy independent. We have a demonstration site," Ricketts said. "If a war were to break out in the Middle East, I have no doubt that the price of gas would triple. I want America to know and the people to know that we've got a demonstration system here in place to show

you what we could do. We could make our own fuel."

The trip began in Tybee Island, Ga., March 9 and went through Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California. They ended their trip March 14. ■

# State prescription drug overdoses surpass national average

By **Sinclair Sparkman**  
Assistant news editor

Deaths from popping prescription painkillers sharply increased in the state the last two decades, surpassing deaths from car crashes, according to the Tennessee Department of Health.

The past 10 years showed a 250-percent increase of overdoses in Tennessee, according to a Center for Disease Control and Prevention report released Feb. 20.

Overdoses caused by opiates are among the leading causes of death in

use of alcohol.”

Abstract ailments that cannot be proven are the cause of the addictions, according to experts.

“Anyone can go in and tell the doctor their back hurts, but that doctor can’t really tell if that person is telling the truth or not,” said Sgt. Melvin Cunningham of the Rutherford County Sheriff’s Office. “These types of drugs are very easy to obtain.”

Methadone took about six times as many lives in 2009 than it did in 1999. Among opiate

used in cases of drug rehabilitation to ease the severity of withdrawal symptoms.

Insurance companies list methadone as the preferred prescription painkiller because of its low cost.

The CDC believes that some of these uses for the drug are unwarranted and that only doctors specializing in these types of pain should prescribe the medication.

Many abusers of the drug employ a method known as “doctor shopping” to acquire

the amount they want, visiting many different doctors until they find one who will prescribe them the

strongest

special studies into drug use. “Effects are multifaceted, but treatment should always be offered.”

Cunningham said that these numbers have risen because these drugs are readily available and very addictive.

Local county sponsors awareness programs to educate people about the negative effects of drug abuse. Sponsors want people to know there are ways to get help, and that they don’t have to turn to drugs to fix their prob-

dosage and the most pills.

“Not everyone who uses drugs is a criminal,” said Chris

Tate, a psychology professor who has done

lems. MTSU Public Safety and Student Affairs hosts speakers who provide information about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse. ■

Graphic by Kelsey Klingemeyer

America, but Tennessee is at the top of the national rate of deaths by 25 percent. The CDC calls it “an epidemic” in its reports, and the impact of new, cheaper painkillers is one that is costing lives.

“Prescription medication involvement in various incidents has increased over the last several years,” said Sgt. Broede Stucky, MTSU police spokesman. “I personally have seen numerous incidents involving prescription medications mixed with the

related cases, methadone accounted for 31 percent of the deaths in single-drug fatalities, according to the CDC.

Deaths attributed to methadone in Tennessee were more common than any other type of prescription drug, even though the drug was not listed among the most prescribed controlled substances in 2006.

Methadone is a generic form of painkiller that is cheap and commonly prescribed for chronic pain, such as back pain and arthritis, headaches, cancer and trauma. The drug is also

## CRIME BRIEFS

### DRUGS Murphy Center March 14, 11:48 a.m.

Authorities located a small amount of marijuana in the vehicle of a high school student allegedly smoking it at a basketball game. The matter was turned over to the Maury County School Resource Officer to be handled as a school disciplinary matter.

### ALCOHOL Gentleman Jim’s on

### Greenland Drive March 13, 2:43 a.m.

Authorities arrested Nicholas Joe Dennis, 34, for driving under the influence and Steven Nicholas Barrett, 34, for public intoxication, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

### ALCOHOL Greenland Drive March 13, 2:30 a.m.

Authorities arrested David Mischa Upton, 21, for public intoxication.

### ALCOHOL Scarlett Commons Apartment 7 March 11, 9:00 p.m.

Authorities arrested Kolton Holmes, 18, for underage consumption of alcohol.

### RAPE Scarlett Commons Apartment 7 March 11, 8:52 p.m.

A victim reported that she was sexually assaulted by a known assailant in her Scarlett Commons apartment.

Authorities are working with her to determine if the matter will be pursued criminally.

### DISORDERLY CONDUCT Rutledge Hall March 11, 8:22 a.m.

A victim reported she saw a male in the women’s restroom of Rutledge Hall who took photographs of her while she was showering.

# Energy services seek asbestos removal

By Mamie Nash  
Staff writer

The MTSU Department of Energy Services has requested \$5,000 from the MTSU Clean Energy Initiative Project to insulate pipes and remove loose asbestos in three buildings on campus.

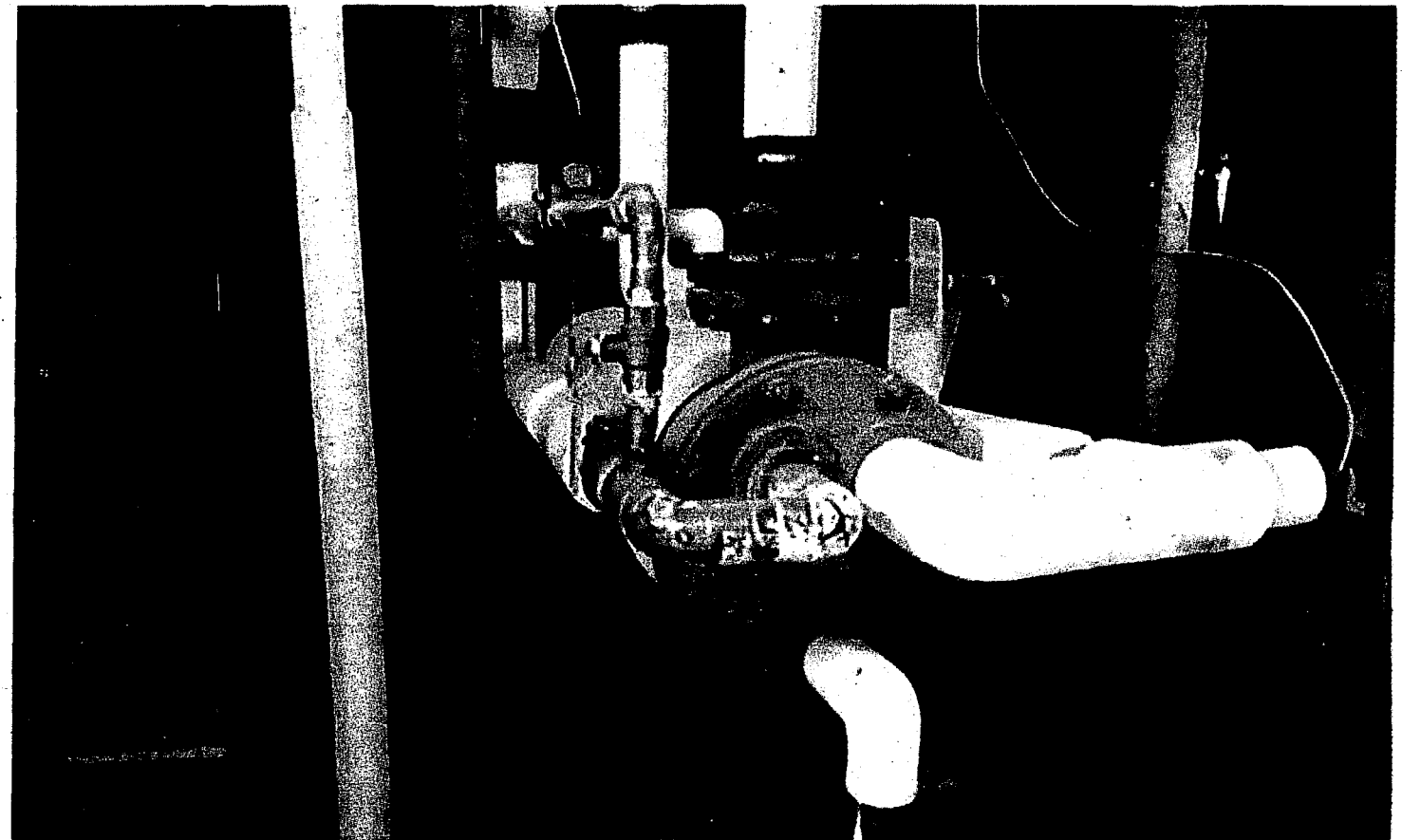
The request states that proper insulation will reduce heat loss and decrease heating and cooling energy demands for the Stark Agriculture and McFarland buildings as well as the Alumni Memorial Gym mechanical room.

"You are looking at a 15-year payload," said Joe Whitefield, MTSU's executive director of facilities services.

The goal is to abate the asbestos and reinsulate the major pipes, according to Whitefield, who added that most of the old buildings on campus contain asbestos that is not harmful when left alone.

Doug Brinsko, MTSU's industrial hygienist, agreed with Whitefield.

"The thing to remember here is that asbestos sits for 30 to



Asbestos is found in several older buildings on campus including the Stark Agriculture building for insulation. Photo courtesy of MTSU Energy Services.

40 years, and it's not a problem," Brinsko said. "The problem starts when you start sanding or drilling it."

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, people who get asbestosis were exposed to high levels of asbestos for long periods of

time and saw symptoms appear 20 to 30 years after the first exposure.

"We follow all the rules and regulations when working around asbestos," Whitefield said. "All of our workers have been trained on how to handle it, and students don't have

access to it."

Most people exposed to small amounts of asbestos do not develop health problems unless the asbestos material is disturbed.

"We just need to make sure when we work on other buildings with asbestos that we are careful and deal

with it as we need," Whitefield said.

The MTSU Clean Energy Initiative Project has been in place for six years. It is funded by student tuition and focuses on bringing energy-saving projects to MTSU. All students are able to bring ideas to the board, which

is chaired by Danny Kelly.

"There is a very large lack of awareness about the Sustainable Campus Fund, which is something that we are trying to change," said Josh Moore, Students for Environmental Action member. ■



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# Dairy program journeys 'from grass to glass'

By Brittany Moyers  
Contributing writer

Country music blares as a team of five works diligently to process the 3,800 pounds of milk that 75 dairy cows produce for campus consumption each week.

What many students may not realize is that the milk they enjoy in the dining halls or buy at Dwight's Mini Mart comes from the university's herd of Holstein and Jersey cows on a farm just off Guy James Road.

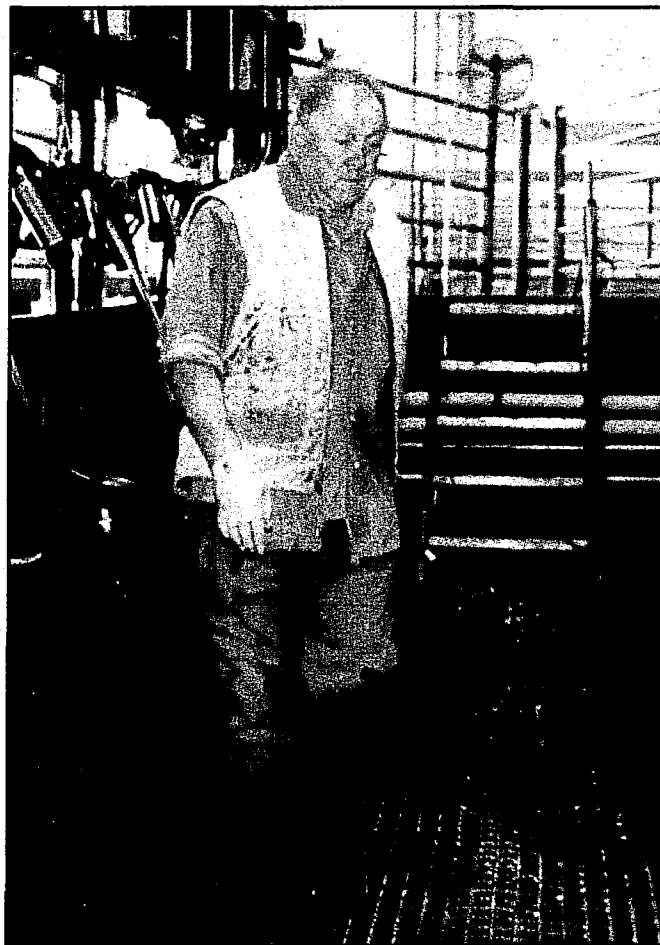
According to Carrie Major, student manager of the MTSU dairy processing plant in the Stark Agribusiness and Agriscience Center, she and her co-workers process skim, cream, 2 percent and the "most awesome chocolate milk ever." Carrie, who is of average height with light brown, incredibly curly hair, may be biased, but her life has prepared her to be an expert on all things dairy.

"I like to say my dairy experience is from grass to glass," she says in the cramped-but-cozy office the team shares.

The walls are covered with coloring book cows from each worker who has passed through the plant.

If the walls could talk, they would tell the stories of the students each brightly colored cow represents.

Major's has yet to be colored, but her boss, Liz Troup, probably won't let her sneak out without completing the



MTSU's Dairy Farm gives students hands-on experience and provides milk for on-campus dining. Photos by Emily West.

ritual.

"She's done very well," Troup brags as she slips in for her coffee mug.

Major was raised on

a dairy farm in southern Wilson County that has been in her family for 180 years. She helps milk the farm's herd of 185 cows. She partici-

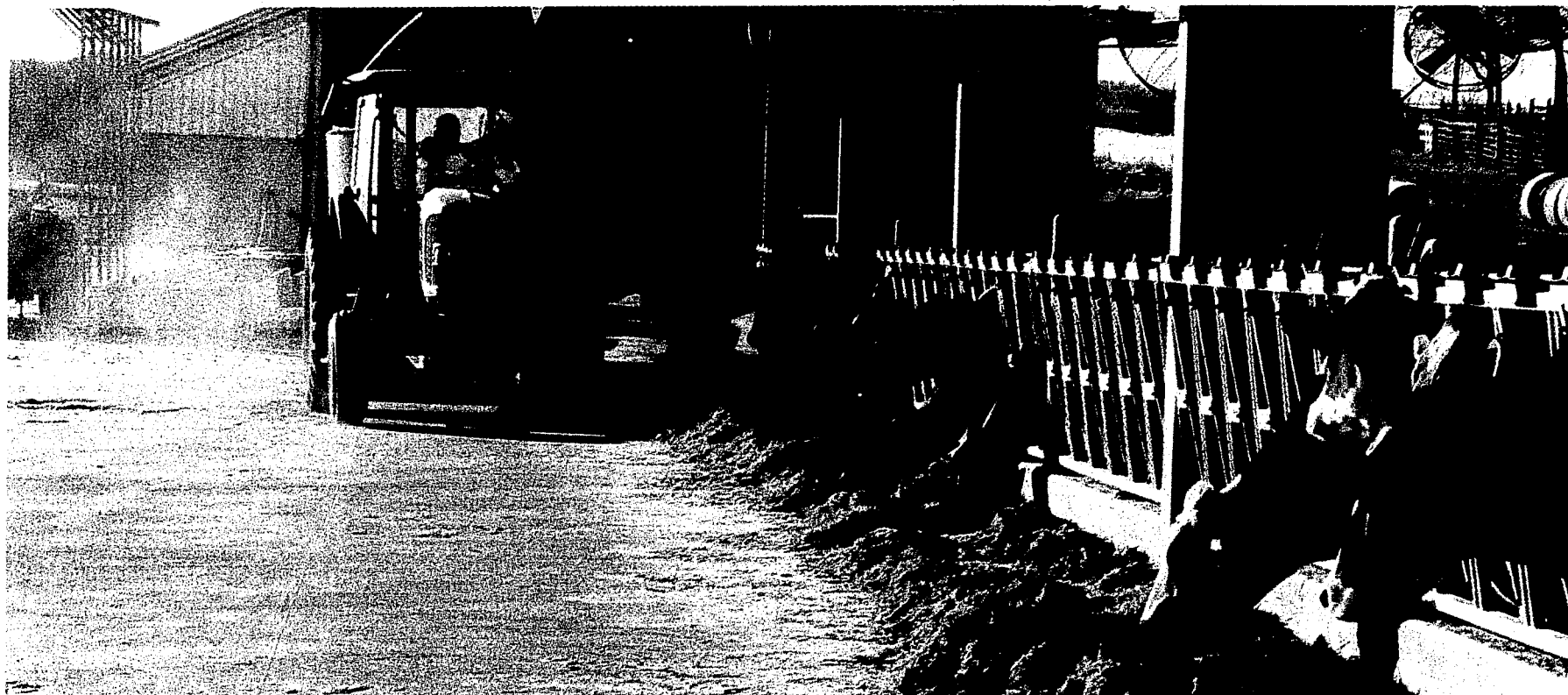
pated in dairy judging for 4-H and Future Farmers of America in high school.

In 2011, as president of the MTSU Dairy

Science club, she traveled to Manchester and London, England for 10 days, where she learned just how much the British love cheese

— so much so that every county has its own specialty cheese.

In 2012, Major competed in the National Dairy Product judging



Holstein and Jersey cows are fed on the dairy farm located off Guy James Road. Photo by Emily West.

in Chicago where she placed sixth in the nation out of 50. She studied hard for that during an “intense semester” and learned to detect by taste the defects in milk, cheese, cottage cheese, yogurt, butter and ice cream. There are 10 defects for milk alone, which is the easiest of the six. You could say milk is in her blood.

She also won reserve champion for showmanship in 2012 at the Little International Showmanship Competition for one of the MTSU Holstein cows.

In school, she became certified to test and process milk, which allowed her to work in food processing and become certified in artificial insemination. Because MTSU has the only on-campus

milk processing plant in the state to produce for campus cafeterias, she’s also met countless people from the dairy industry.

Her team consists of several women and one man.

“Bless his heart,” she says with a southern dialect you’d expect, referring to the single male of the group.

Their daily duties start by pre-cleaning the plant and picking up the milk from the dairy barn in their trusty silver and turquoise dairy truck.

Next, they pull and test the samples. If any antibiotics are detected, the whole batch gets dumped.

Then they clean.

The next step is to separate the skim from the cream, the 2 percent and the chocolate.

Re-clean.

Next, they pasteurize at 172.5 degrees to kill any bacteria and pathogens and homogenize the milk, a process that uniforms the product to keep it from separating after packaging.

Clean again.

The milk goes on to be packaged. And then, you guess it, they clean.

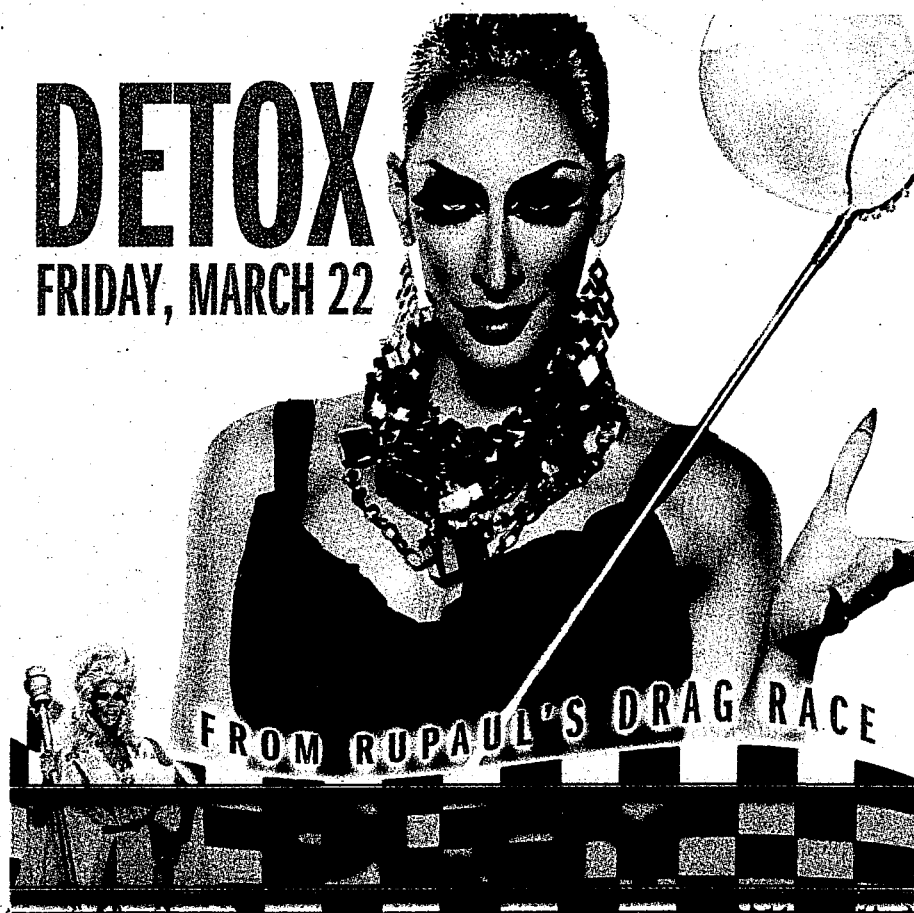
She loves her job. It’s not easy, but it’s fun. Based on the places she’s been and the awards she’s won, it’s safe to say it’s been rewarding.

Between now and her December 2014 graduation, her expertise is bound to expand.

Of course, she’ll also have to color her masterpiece for the office wall. ■

# DETOX

FRIDAY, MARCH 22



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## COVER STORY

# Tennessee Voter ID Law amendment could allow student IDs

By Quint Qualls  
News editor

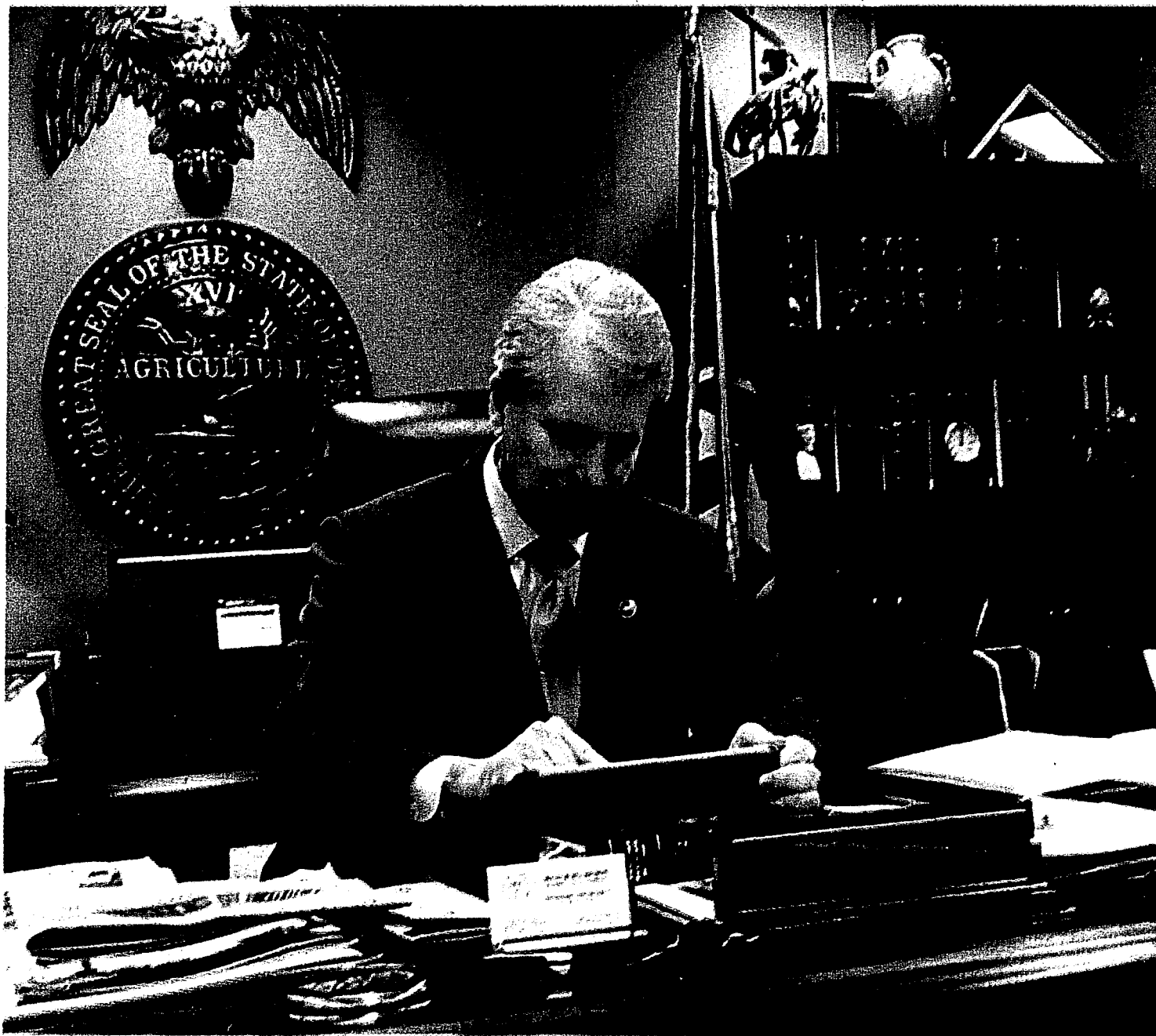
The Tennessee State Senate passed an amendment to the voter ID law March 14, which allows student IDs issued by state universities to be used as viable identification to vote.

The original voter identification legislation, which mandated state or federally issued photo IDs for constituents, became law in 2011. On March 5, Tennessee Sen. Bill Ketron of Murfreesboro initiated an amendment to the bill before the state Senate.

"[The amendment] removes the provision that allows a photo ID from another state to be accepted for voter ID purpose and allows a student photo ID card issued by a state public institution of higher education to be used for photo ID voter purpose," Ketron said before the state and local government committee.

According to Ketron, some students can use their IDs because they are faculty and on university payroll, but students who are not faculty lack the same ability. Ketron and the co-sponsors of the amendment said they are simply trying to level the playing field and make it more consistent.

The allowance of college IDs for voting is not without opposition, most aggressively from within Ketron's own party. Fellow



State Sen. Ketron's initiative to allow college IDs for voting passed the Senate March 14. Photo by Quint Qualls.

Republican Sen. Stacey Campfield of Knoxville, although in favor of the 2011 voter ID law, expressed adamant resistance to this provision of the amendment.

"I have some concerns about this legislation of allowing

college IDs to be used as valid identification forms," Campfield said. "They're pretty easy to fake, they don't have any laser etching, embossing or watermarks such as passports or driver's licenses. You don't even have to be a

citizen to get a college ID or even 18 years old."

Controversy sparked by Tennessee's Voter ID Law goes well beyond the college ID provision. Mary Mancini, executive director of Tennessee Citizen

Action, favors the college ID amendment, but opposes the overall legislation. TCA is a nonprofit organization that works to improve and protect the state's system of civil justice.

"It's a great step forward. The only problem

is that any exception to voting makes what's supposed to be the most level playing field in our democracy un-leveled," Mancini said. "While this is a good step, unless everybody gets an ID issued for free, then this law will





Students may be able to use their student IDs in the next election cycle for identification purposes. Photo courtesy of uci.edu.

always be unfair.” Mancini argued that the voter ID law harms the ability of the nation’s more marginalized voters to participate in an election.

“There’s about 25 million people nationally who don’t have government issued photo IDs,” Mancini said. “We’re talking about very often the most marginalized people in our society – people of color, the elderly, the disabled – the people for whom voting is the only voice they have

in our democracy. The lower your socioeconomic status is, the less likely you would have a government issued photo ID – whether it be a driver’s license or a passport.”

Campfield said the issue of financial obstacles to obtaining state or federally issued identification has been solved.

“We’ve got a system set up so it’s 100 percent paid for by the state for poorer voters to get identification,” he said. “I think people

should have to prove who they say they are when they go to vote. The Supreme Court has already said it’s not too high of a margin to ask people to prove who they are.”

Tennessee’s Voter ID Law went into effect in 2011. According to Ketron, its passage was in reaction to a voter fraud scandal, which rocked the state legislature.

The bill’s genesis came out of the Operation Tennessee Waltz scandal, in which several legislators were ar-

rested for taking bribes, Ketron said. Following a special replacement election, fraud was discovered. The deceased, convicted felons and people from outside the district all voted in this election.

“I myself can speak of a situation where I was working the polls while running for office,” Campfield said. “People would come out and say, ‘Stacey, I wanted to vote for you, but someone had already used my name to vote.’ It’s very diffi-

cult if you don’t require a photo ID to catch anyone doing that.”

Additionally, the amendment would prohibit the use of locally issued photo ID library cards for voting. According to Ketron, the library card amendment resulted from apparent oversight during the initial drafting of the bill.

“Memphis prior to last year never issued photo ID library cards – they were just library cards. We never intended for that to happen,” Ketron said. “We

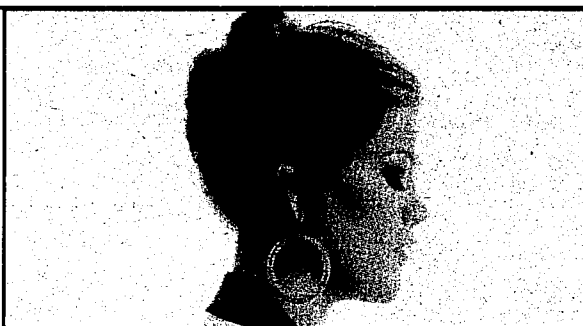
discussed all different types of identification, and we chose not to allow anything that’s not from a federal or state institution.”

Having passed the Senate 21-8, the amendment to the bill now awaits a final vote by the Tennessee State House of Representatives before it can be sent to Gov. Bill Haslam for consideration. ❧

## RANTS AND RAVES

**March 20**

Liz Longley  
3rd and Lindsley  
818.3rd Ave. S.,  
Nashville  
7 p.m.  
\$7



In Nashville, on every corner about a thousand singers are waiting to play you their song or give you a copy of their new EP. Listening to their music is always a risk. Is this going to be awesome, or will your ears melt off? If you're lucky, you might come across

someone with talent, such as Liz Longley.

Longley, a Philadelphia native and graduate from Berklee College of Music, has a voice that fits in at tiny coffee shops and huge concert halls alike.

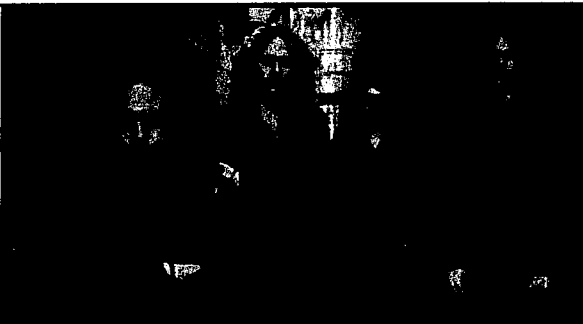
Her voice embodies the singer/songwriter genre perfectly and is

strong enough to stand alone with the exception of instrumentation here and there.

Since moving to Nashville, Longley has been quite successful and played more than 100 shows in 2012 without help from a record label. You have to hear her live.

**March 21**

Wayland  
12th and Porter  
114 12th Ave. N,  
Nashville  
9 p.m.  
\$10



Don't you just wish more hard rock bands in the world exist? Just one more of those incredibly original groups who shout more than they sing and smash their guitars more than they play them? Said no person. Ever.

Wayland is a hard rock

group like any other. Every one of their songs is filled with driving electric guitar patterns loud enough to drown out the drums. The lyrical content of these songs is mind-boggling.

In "Nobody's Perfect" front man Mitch Arnold sings of the joys of the

simple life ... "I'm a simple Jack, there's so much I don't understand. What a simple life baby." Did you get that? He's simple. Life's simple.

If you're thinking about going to this show, don't. Read a book instead. Your brain will thank you.

**March 22**

Madisyn  
Rockettown  
601 4th Ave. S.,  
Nashville  
7 p.m.  
\$8 at the door



The music industry is full of female pop stars who sing about boys, heartbreak and chasing dreams. So it is always refreshing to find a rock band fronted by a girl.

Indie-rock band Madisyn is coming to Rockettown to remind everyone that girls can hold their

own when it comes to rock n' roll.

The band's sound is similar to that of Story of the Year and Paramore. Caudill's voice is a blend of Hayley Williams and Evanescence's leading lady Amy Lee.

While they are a rock band, Madisyn does not

write songs about life on the road or late night parties. Their music brings the message of finding your own path and foraging it, no matter what.

**March 23**

Int'l Film Series: "Chico Y Rita"  
Student Union Video Theater (208)  
7-9 p.m.  
Free



This Saturday, Raider Entertainment and International Affairs are showing "Chico Y Rita."

Set in Cuba in 1948, "Chico Y Rita" is a Spanish animated film featuring dialogue in both Spanish and English.

Oscar nominated for Best Animated Feature

Film in 2012, the movie follows Chico, an aspiring piano player, and Rita, a singer with an amazing voice. Music brings Chico and Rita together, and success drives them apart. The pair experiences happiness together but are not spared the tragedies of

the time they live in.

While the movie does tell a story of romance and adventure, it also touches on themes of political and racial issues of the period. "Chico Y Rita" takes place in Havana, New York, Paris, Hollywood and Las Vegas.

**March 24**

Joshua James  
12th and Porter  
114 12th Ave. N,  
Nashville  
8 p.m.  
\$12



It's important to take care of the planet. People try to pollute less and recycle more. Supermarkets use eco-friendly grocery bags, and "green" cleaning products are available for your home. Getting back to nature is fabulous. However, it can be taken too far.

Folk musician Joshua James took it there - his connection with nature is just short of kooky. James took up gardening during his time back in Utah after touring. He learned to live off the land and raise chickens and goats and keep honeybees. He even named his farm

"Willamette Mountain," a name that came to him in a dream. It came to you in a dream? What are you really growing in that garden?

Save your cash and skip Farmer James' concert.

# Get fresh and breezy with this spring's fashion trends

By Kaela Dalecke  
Staff writer

During spring break, you hopefully refreshed your mind and body, but now it's time to give the same attention to your wardrobe. Nodding slightly to the trends presented on the runway, here are a few fun, wearable ideas to will prepare you for the warm weather sure to breeze through soon.

## Sheer Panels and Cut Outs

Sheer paneling and cut outs are a tasteful way to show a little skin. This can be incorporated into your wardrobe by selecting a dress with a sheer panel or textured cutout around the waist.

If you are not a dress type of gal, there are a variety of tops with sheer paneling or cutouts placed in a flattering manner, perhaps around the neckline or sides of the rib cage.

Also, those sheer blouses that were oh-so-popular for fall and winter can be carried over into spring wardrobes.

Roll up the sleeves of your favorite sheer blouse and pair it with denim shorts, and voila, you have a casual outfit for a sunny spring day around town.

Worried about showing too much skin or not being appropriate for lunch with your grandma? Don't fret, just slip a camisole underneath the garment.

## Dressy Shorts and Short Suits

Try to put those daisy dukes out of sight and out of mind this season.



MTSU student Valerie Biles models spring clothes from Apricot Lane Boutique in Nashville. Photo by Nhu Duong.

Dressy shorts and even short suits are all the rage.

You can dress them up or dress them down, wear them in an office setting or out shopping.

For added flair, pick a pair with buttons on the side or an interesting textured fabric.

If you need an outfit for your awesome summer internship, make this trend office-approved by simply adding a blazer. The shorts and blazer do not necessarily have to match. Take the blazer off to reveal a cute tank top, and you are ready for a night on the town.

## Black-and-White Stripes

Although black and white striped clothes do not scream "spring," they are spring-trend approved.

It can be a striped dress, blazer or pants—chances are you may have in your closet. Take them out for some fresh spring air, and don't worry about stripes being un-flattering or not.

Horizontal stripes may make you look wider, but vertical stripes will elongate your body for chic and slim look. Add a fun, brightly colored

necklace or earrings for a pop of color.

## Tribal Patterns

Patterns do not end with stripes this season. Tribal patterns are also popular. Whether it is slight or bold, this pattern is an easy way to add an interesting element to your spring wardrobe. You can weave this into different pieces, like a tank top or skirt. Throw on a pair of leather sandals, and you are ready for a day at a music festival.

## Fun Accessories

Probably the easiest way to personalize your outfit is by adding accessories. On a sunny day, throw on a fun pair of sunglasses.

Be a little daring and wear colored shades or funky shaped ones. If you do not know where to find such spectacles, pop some tags and go to a thrift shop.

Hopefully, this gives you some inspiration as you shed your sweaters for warmer weather. Keep in mind, fashion trends should never dictate your style.

Make the trends your own by giving them a fresh, creative twist, and you will be set to soak up the sunrays. ■



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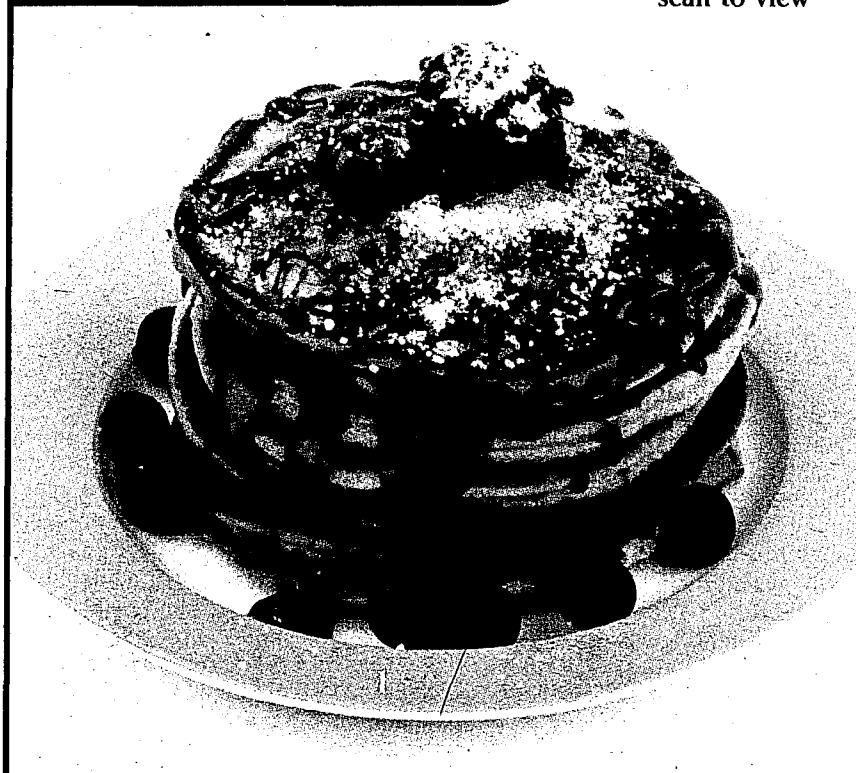
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# Friends, folk and rap come together to form Broken Folk

By Ashley Clark  
Staff writer

On the night of their album release show, Dylan Phillips and Tyler Carson are in a back room at Bonhoeffer's in Murfreesboro waiting for the opening band to finish their set.

Together, the guys are the main men of local folk-rap group Broken Folk. Folk-rap is exactly as it sounds — folk music mixed with rap.

Tonight, the duo will debut their albums *Seeds* to an audience of eager fans.

Phillips, 21, and Carson, 22, are seniors in the recording industry program. The duo met their freshman year and played music together under the name LHDC, or Long Hair, Don't Care.

"Began as a joke, but it stuck," Carson said.

Having a name like LHDC made it difficult to promote themselves. On numerous occasions, the boys were introduced as LDHC and even LSD.

"I had a guy announce us and said, 'Well, they'll tell you what their name is,'" Carson said.

The boys knew it was time for a name change when one of their songs, "Those Three Words," was featured in "Lover Boy," B-list film. What would have been a great marketing opportunity was ruined by the mistakes in the film's credits. Instead of listing the song "Those Three Words" by LHDC, the end

credits read, "Those Three Little Words" by LDHC.

As sophomores in college, Phillips and Carson were still making music, but needed to venture away from LHDC.

"We both enjoyed rap but saw the limitations that most rappers give themselves," Carson said. "We wanted to see how we could expand in that."

The two also wanted to incorporate their passion for good songwriting, and folk music was the perfect outlet. To jump start their creativity, the boys spent their spring break writing and recording songs in Carson's basement. After that, the friends were ready to form what would evolve into folk-rap.

"You're a rapper, and I'm a folk guy," Carson explained. "Let's just do it."

Thus, Broken Folk was born. The name holds almost as much significance as the music itself.

"We've taken folk music and broken it up and put other influences into it," Phillips said. "So it's not really folk music in its purest form anymore."

Broken Folk combines the upbeat lyrical style of modern rap with the instrumentation of today's folk and country music. At any given show, you can catch the boys performing totally original songs or belting out a new Taylor Swift cover.

When it comes to the recording process, Carson takes care of all



Broken Folk performs at their Bonhoeffer's album release show. Photo By Jordan Powell.

the instruments except drums. They use guitar, drums and upright bass and keep banjo, ukulele and mandolin on rotation.

The album *Seeds* features songs that are brand new and entirely Broken Folk. Inspiration for the songs comes mainly from Carson and Phillips' lives.

"Our songs are immediately relatable," Carson said. "... heartbreak and love. We do have a love song now, but it took a while."

As a band that combines two genres, the boys find inspiration in artists ranging from folk-inspired groups The Decemberists and The Punch Brothers to rappers Kanye West and Kid Cudi.

The musicians of

Broken Folk, in addition to Carson and Phillips, are guitarist Allen Keel, drummer Vaughn Head and bassist Jonathan Bragg. However, five guys means five different personalities. Lucky for Broken Folk, they all get along. The gang likes to joke and have fun, but Bragg is the real goofy one.

"We call him DJ Good, and he's always doing something," Carson said.

Even when they aren't creating unorthodox tunes, the boys still enjoy spending time together. Whether they are going to concerts, watching movies or grabbing a snack at Donut Country after practice, the five have fun simply being together, even if that means they are crammed in a car

for long periods of time.

"Our last big show was in Virginia, and all five of us were in my car," Carson said. "We played at an all girls' college, so we had a good time with that."

Phillips and Carson have mastered the art of performing. However, they still experience a little stage fright every now and again — well, at least one of them.

Phillips said he always has a few pre-show jitters and is definitely the most nervous one in the band.

"I have to get to the point where I know the lyrics so well, I don't have to think about them," Phillips said. "Because when I'm thinking about them, that's when I mess up." Carson, who played

piano for nine years as a child, is a bit more composed after years of growing up as a performer.

"I've made all the mistakes you can make performing," Carson said.

If you ask Phillips and Carson what the main purpose of Broken Folk's music is, they would tell you that it is not to introduce people to a new genre merging folk and rap. Broken Folk is more than that. They are a group of guys who appreciate all styles of music.

"Our main blurb is folk-rap," Carson said. "But it's just a catchy thing. We see the beauty in what music is. Our goal is to not confine music to itself." ■

# ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## 54 Film Fest showcase benefits of working under pressure

By Jay Powell  
Features editor

A few MTSU students will have the opportunity to screen films they not only wrote, but also shot and edited throughout a weekend – 54 hours, to be exact.

These days, just about anyone become a filmmaker. Through the advent of smart phones and YouTube, audiences are drawn toward citizen filmmaking and short films like never before. Events like the 54 Film Fest are ways new techniques are encouraged, and doors are opened to those with a desire to get their foot in the industry.

For this year's festival, Murfreesboro's first, each team had 54 hours to write, shoot, edit and submit a four-to seven-minute film. This may sound like an inconceivable task, considering the amount of time it typically takes to make a film, but Ben Jones, the festival's producer and director of accounting services at MTSU, thinks it is the perfect opportunity for aspiring Scorseses on campus to dive in for their first taste of the process.

"A lot of the draw was to approach the college students with what they are bringing here," Jones says. "There are also the high school students. We'd like to get them involved at some point. Because anyone that's interested in film, we wanted to have an avenue to be able to show their work."

Jones participated in similar festivals in the past. Knoxville has its own 54 Film Fest that debuted last year. Some even clock in at as little as 10 hours.

Jones says that the minimal time limit helps participants understand when to cut dead weight or consolidate a workload that might take weeks into hours or even minutes.

Senior Joshua Burgin is competing in this year's 54 Film Fest with his team, Dead Cat Productions. He is the producer for the group and says that he got his start in filmmaking doing film festivals.

"If you want to get involved in filmmaking in any way, seriously the best thing to do is festivals," Burgin says. "I had never really done films before until I started back in Knoxville doing some film festivals after I graduated from high school. I was just like, 'I want to do some film stuff, who wants to join me?' and gradually all of my friends ... we all just kind of got together, nobody knew what they were doing. Of course the film was complete crap, but you start learning from there, and you start building up, and you find other people like our group, Dead Cat Productions."

He says that many on his team were newcomers to filmmaking when they entered the festival, but had a great experience and plans to continue working together on future projects.

"Most of the people



Dead Cat Productions rushes to complete their entry for 54 Film Fest. Photo by Kevin Mumphrey.

on the team had never done a film festival before," Burgin said. "So I was like, 'Oh, well, be prepared. 54 hours is a very short time and long time because you don't go to sleep ... at all.'"

The festival kicked-off with an interest meeting at Possitiffitea Tiny Tea Factory, where each team was given its specific set of guidelines to follow. Films had to incorporate a certain prop, action and a specific line of dialog.

Around 17 different

genres were also assigned. Burgin's group was chosen to make a dinosaur/alien film. About halfway through filming, however, another challenge was thrown at the groups and made them rethink their strategy and film completely.

"After the 24 hour mark in the festival, they throw you with a curveball. It's not mandatory, you're just eligible for another award," Burgin says. "They sent it at 6 p.m. on the dot on Satur-

day, and we had just wrapped shooting, like, 10 minutes before, and it was just, 'incorporate water.' There's actually water in our script, so it worked out, and we didn't have to do anything extra."

The 54 Film Fest will aim to draw more participants next year. This year had 10 teams. Jones said he hopes to at least double that next year and get the word out that this is a worthwhile opportunity for those interested in getting their start in

filmmaking.

"The things that I think that are really awesome about this are networking opportunities for young filmmakers," Jones says. "I mean, you're going to get to meet people there while you're doing it, you get to meet the people that are running the competition, you get judges' feedback and when you go to the screening, you get to share and talk about your movies with the other people. It's like a mini film school." ■

# Wealth inequality an oversimplified issue

By Alex Harris  
Opinions editor

A video purporting to show the truth about the unfairness of wealth inequality in the United States circulated the web recently, and many who see it are convinced of its accuracy.

The video uses compelling language and an engaging infographic to make its point that the level of wealth inequality in the U.S. is much larger than most think, much greater than what more than 90 percent of Americans think would be ideal, according to the study cited in the video.

The video makes the assertion that the level of wealth inequality is unfair. However, the argument is superficial, mostly made with loaded language and the flashiness of the infographic.

There is no attempt to point to the cause of inequality or point to any possible solution other than implying that some level of wealth redistribution would cause a more positive situation.

This ignores income taxes alone, which is already a significant redistribution of wealth. According to Internal Revenue Service statistics from 2009, the top 50 percent of income earners in the U.S. paid 98 percent of taxes, and the bottom 50 paid 2 percent.

Much of the video's argument also rests on



Alex Harris

the false assumption that there is an "ideal" distribution of wealth. Even if there was, it implies that any person or group could properly manage that distribution.

Many factors contribute to an individual's level of wealth. These factors include societal factors, cultural factors, geographical location and government policies and programs. The video does not provide an explanation of how all of these factors could be managed to produce this "ideal" situation.

Inflationary monetary policy robs purchasing power from the dollar, which the poor already have fewer of, and contributes to wealth inequality. Inflation and low interest rates also discourage saving when individuals possess less wealth to begin with; therefore, preventing them from building up capital in an attempt to better their situation.

However, a lot of the gap in wealth can likely be attributed to politically purchased financial favors that transfer

taxpayer dollars to wealthy industries, firms and individuals, i.e., oil, agricultural subsidies and bailouts of failing banks or companies.

Personal choice also plays a part in personal wealth. Some people choose a job that satisfies them rather than a job with a higher wage, while others may choose to pursue a higher level of income, fame or power.

Monetary wealth is an arbitrary way to determine whether someone is successful and happy. Just because someone is more wealthy does not mean that their life is more full. Judging your happiness by the perceived higher level of someone else's success will generally only result in disappointment, resentment and envy.

Another question worth asking is whether the distribution of wealth really says as much about the difference in living standards as many think it does.

According to George Mason University economist Don Boudreaux, from a critique of the Harvard economist's study cited by the video, a large difference in dollar amounts between rich and poor doesn't translate into as large a difference in living standards.

Culturally, we possess short-term memory and a short attention span. We shouldn't forget that for much of human history there has been an unequal distribution of wealth,

and that upward mobility for the lower classes has only really improved in the last few hundred years as trade has become more free, and technology and innovative ideas have increased the capacity for production.

For much of this history, the standards of living for the wealthy and the non-wealthy were worlds apart. These days, it's more like miles apart.

Although the "One Percent" can afford private jets, gourmet meals, luxury cars and own several large homes, most Americans are able to fly, eat well, own a car and enjoy most modern home amenities at lower cost, such as cable TV and Internet, central heat and air, indoor plumbing, etc.

More money doesn't necessarily mean more

happiness. If I am able to feed, clothe, shelter, entertain myself and care for my loved ones, what does it matter to me if someone else has an extraordinarily large amount of money, unless it has been literally taken from me?

How does their possession of a greater abundance of wealth hurt me? How does it actually hurt society? These questions should be answered before the level of wealth inequality can be said to be fair.

The economy is not a zero sum game. Though the wealthy do have more than most, it doesn't mean that there is less available.

Look at how our economy has grown throughout the centuries. Look at how new discoveries, industries and initiatives have created more jobs and

wealth and prosperity for the nation overall. This wealth has been produced throughout the years by hard work, trade and new and shared ideas.

Although those in poverty haven't seen much improvement in real wages throughout the years, the overall standard of living and quality of life has risen

The real wages haven't risen, but more goods are available that would have been considered luxuries 40-50 years ago.

Working to alleviate poverty is a reasonable and noble cause, reduction in the conditions of poverty is best achieved through an overall rise in the standard of living for society, rather than restricting and reducing the amount of wealth held at the upper income levels. ■

Applications are now being accepted.

Candidates for the position must be currently enrolled students in good standing, have a 2.5 minimum GPA, and have two semesters of media experience.

To apply, complete a *Sidelines Editor* application (available in The Center for Innovation in Media located on the first floor of the Mass Communication building). Attach a resume, cover letter, three letters of reference and at least three bylined clips, and deliver to:

Leon Alligood, *Sidelines* Director, Box 8 or deliver applications to The Center for Innovation in Media.

Application deadline: April 5th

Editor selection interviews will be held the week of April 5th.

# MT Football prepares for Pro Day and practice

By Jordan Mayton  
Staff writer

Spring is an important season for Blue Raider football because it encompasses spring practice, MT's NFL Pro Day, Football Letterman's Golf Tournament and the annual Blue and White game.

March 25 marks MT's NFL Pro Day. These annual events act as a miniature combine exclusive to the university. They are set up by NFL personnel and are attended by scouts and NFL general managers of various teams to evaluate skill sets for the upcoming draft.

"They'll run through different drills; broad jump, vertical, bench press, flexibility test, 40 yard dash, and position drills," said MT Head Coach Rick Stockstill.

This year, MT will have six players participating, including wide receiver, Anthony Amos, who led the team in virtually all major receiving stats last season en route to being named First Team All-Sun Belt Conference. This eventually landed former walk-on Amos a spot in the NFL's Senior Bowl. Running back Benny Cunningham will also be performing. The Nashville native led the team in rushing before a season-ending knee injury. Three-year starter Omar McLendon, who led all Blue Raider defensive linemen in tackles this year, will be competing, and MT's final three participants will be rounded out by defensive lineman Kendall Dangerfield, defensive back Jajuan

Harley, and offensive lineman Micah James.

After the potential NFL prospects show their skills, spring practice for the returning players will begin on March 23. Spring practice is a time for players to hone their talents for the upcoming season and for coaches to make adjustments on offense and defense.

"It's constant evaluation. We focus on improving as team and as individuals. We'll coach up the red-shirts, and improve schematically. The main thing is to improve fundamentally," said Stockstill.

The Blue Raiders have a little more than a month to practice and prepare before the Blue Raiders' move to Conference-USA in July. This also gives the two

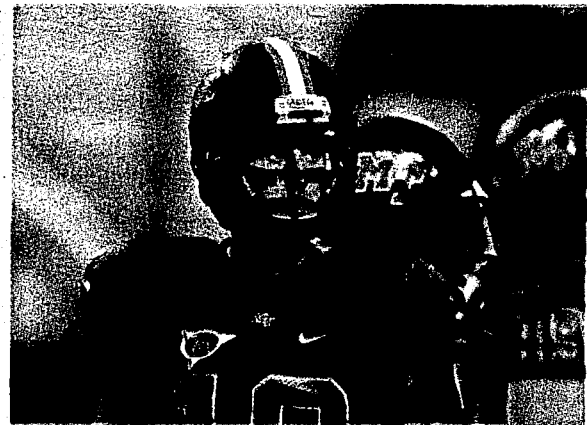
early enrollees a chance to feel how a Division I football program will compete.

"Chris Perkins and Devin Clark are our early enrollees," said Coach Stockstill. "We're just running mat drills right now, and the guys are great athletes."

Nearing the end of spring training, the team will host the Eighth Annual Football Letterman's Golf Tournament. The event will be held at Champions Run Golf Course in Rockvale, Tenn. It is open to alumni and former lettermen and divisions will be sorted by decade.

To wrap up the spring season, the team will compete in the annual Blue and White Game. The game will be held April 20.

"We'll divide up



Senior quarterback Logan Kilgore returns for his final year in a BlueRaider uniform after passing for 37 touchdowns over the last two seasons. Photo courtesy of MT Athletic Communications.

into teams, and get out there," said Coach Stockstill. "We think of it as a reward for all the off season conditioning, not just for the players, but for the fans, too.

It gives them a chance to see the players they haven't seen before.

Teams are chosen as

evenly as possible. If Blue gets the number one quarterback, they'll get the number two running back. If White gets the number two quarterback, they'll get the number one running back. We try to pick the teams as evenly as possible." ■

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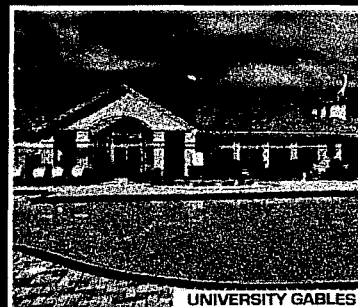
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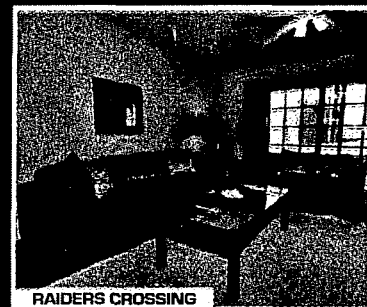


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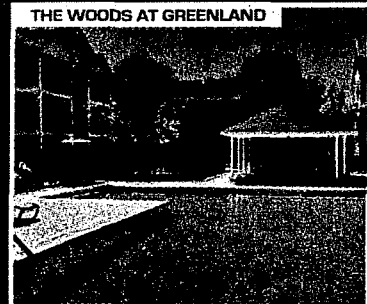
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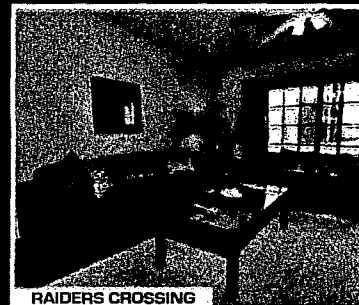


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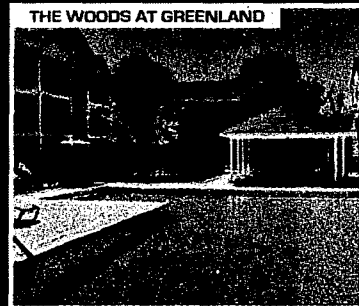
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