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Performers Morgan Johnson, Shodriell Smith, Brittany Howell and Bianca Spencer dance at the Miss Universal Scholarship Pageant. Lens Photo by Emily West

Cover photo by Matt Masters.

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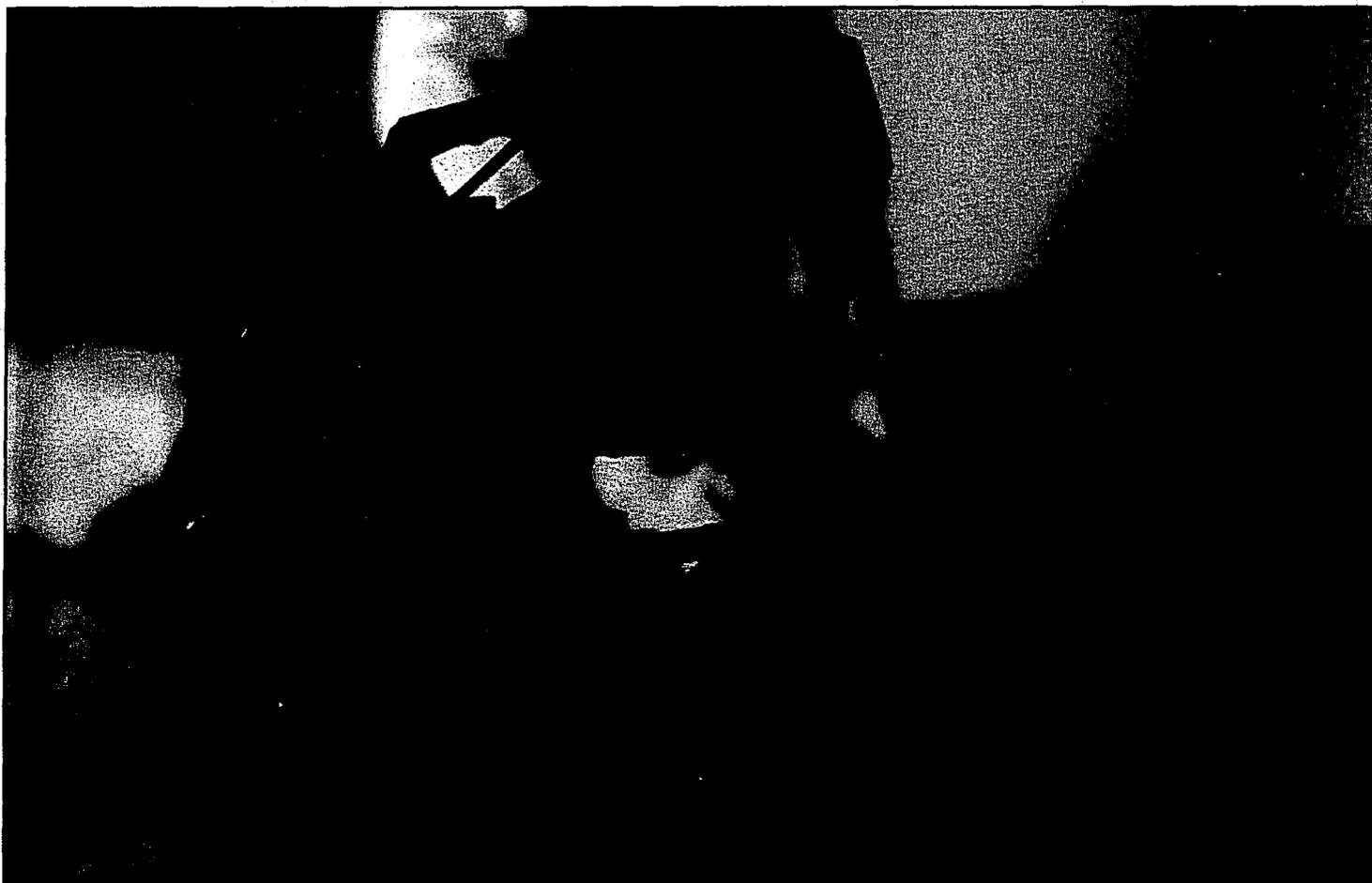
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Student filmmaker featured at Nashville Film Festival



**By Leah Phillips
Contributing writer**

MTSU student filmmakers reached the high echelon of the Nashville Film Festival when their project "Mancipo" was selected for presentation in the Tennessee First category for short films.

Sam Willey, a senior electronic production major, directed the film. He and his team's work will be showcased in the event in late April.

"It means the world to people like me," Willey said. "... I had an amazing crew, including the great actors, and I couldn't

MTSU students' film "Mancipo" was selected to be viewed at the Nashville Film Fest this year. Photos courtesy of Facebook.

have done it without them."

In "Mancipo," the protagonist finds hope in a hopeless situation in order to save his family.

The short film was originally entered into a contest as a music video, according to Willey. It did not win, but it did place. It wasn't until later that a friend suggested he turn the music video into a film.

Not only did he write, direct and produce the film, but Willey also did the voiceover for the roughly six-minute short.

"I have always had a passion for storytelling," Willey said. "But my real interest didn't develop until my later years in high school. That was when I discovered my own personality."

He said it took a while for him to discover his talents, but when he did, there was no stopping him.

"Sam is the assistant director for MT10 news, and he's here three to four nights a week helping new students," said Robert Jasso, professor of electronic media communication and adviser for MT10 and WMTS.

"He's very organized and dedicated not only to MT10, but to his extracurricular work and his job as a soldier. He was actually Tennessee's soldier of the year in 2012."

The entire film was produced in two weeks. While filming at Cannonsburgh Village in Murfreesboro, the crew had five hours to shoot the entire first half.

"Sam Willey is a leader, a visionary and an artist," said Josh Lockhart, the film's co-producer. "The Nashville Film Festival is just the beginning for him. His storytelling abilities and his

love for the medium will take him quite far. I would work with him on just about anything."

Willey said he is optimistic about his film and is currently working on future films. He will be traveling to Florence, Italy, this summer to produce a short film with other students from MTSU.

"Mancipo" will premiere at the Regal Green Hills Cinema on April 18 at 8:15 p.m. and again April 24 at 5 p.m.

Quint Qualls, news editor, contributed to this report. ■

CRIME BRIEFS

VANDALISM

Sims Hall

April 3, 9:17 a.m.

Residential Life reported the bathroom on the first floor of Sims Hall was vandalized.

VANDALISM

Greek Row

April 3, 8:26 a.m.

A complainant reported a broken window at the Sigma Nhu House.

TRAFFIC

Greenland Drive

April 2, 9:04 p.m.

Authorities issued a state citation to Levarious Adams for reckless driving.

TRAFFIC

Ezell Hall lot

April 2, 4:56 p.m.

A complainant reported his parked vehicle was struck on campus.

THEFT

Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building

April 2, 9:53 a.m.

A complainant reported theft of food valued at approximately \$100.

THEFT

John Bragg Mass Communication Building

April 1, 2:24 p.m.

A complainant reported that a computer was stolen from Mass Comm 228.

THEFT

Womack Lane Apartment F

April 4, 1:13 p.m.

Victim reported his bicycle stolen.

Intimidation crime causes campus assault rate to increase

By Quint Qualls
News editor

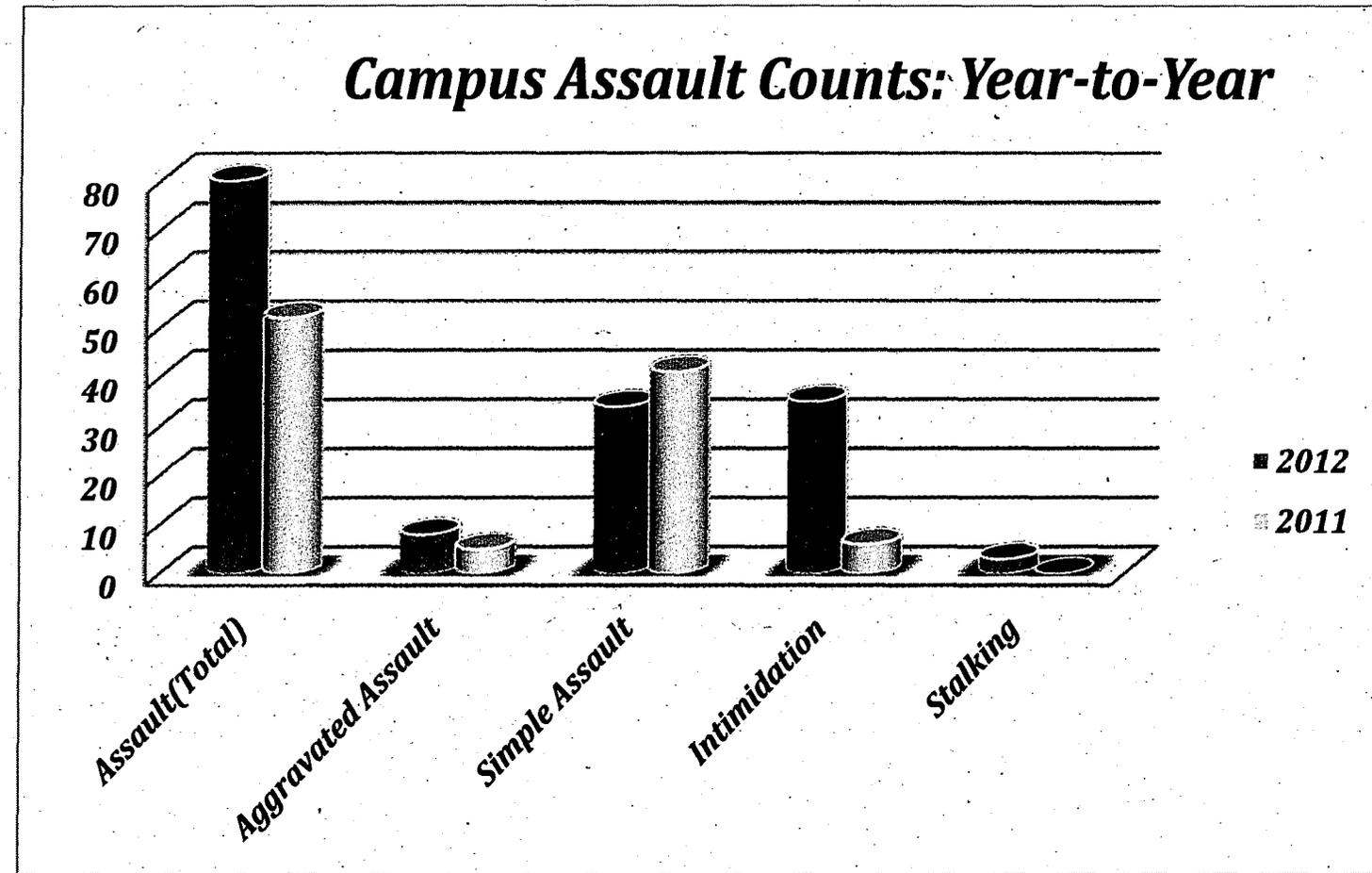
Assault offenses have increased 13 percent statewide, according to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation's annual campus crime report, but MTSU experienced a dramatic 32-percent increase in assault crimes and a 31-percent increase in drug offenses.

Eighty cases of assaults on campus were reported in 2012, 60 percent of which went unsolved, according to the report. However, Detective Lt. Jason Wofford of MTSU Public Safety said the reports were misleading.

The rise in assault crimes resulted from a surge in intimidation crimes, which falls under the category of assault. The number of intimidation crimes increased 83 percent in 2012.

"Intimidation is the imminent fear of being assaulted and a subcategory of assault, but it's a case where an actual physical assault does not take place," Wofford said. "A good example would be an argument where an individual might feel threatened. It appears a large number of our community are reporting problems even when actual physical assaults are not taking place."

The statistics in the TBI report do not take a number of factors into account. The complexity of crime cannot



Graphic by Quint Qualls. Data is courtesy of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.

simply be assessed by statistics. Wofford said the increased crime reports may indicate that law enforcement is improving.

"With more personnel, we have more resources to enforce those laws, and the police department has the ability to be more proactive," Wofford said. "It doesn't appear that way when you're just looking at numbers, but it can be a sign that things are getting better in terms of policing."

The most common offenses in the statewide report are larceny and theft, said Bill Persinger, director of Austin

Peay State University Public Relations and Marketing.

"You can pick any campus college in the nation, and you will

find that's the highest form of crime," Persinger said. "An example is leaving your iPhone around

when you get a cup of coffee in the university center or the library, and it gets stolen. In regards to safety, that's across the board."

Earlier in the year, crime has become an issue on MTSU's campus.

"Any environment where you have people,

"... A large number of our community are reporting problems even when actual physical assaults are not taking place."

you're going to have crime, but relatively speaking, crime is very low on campus," Wofford said.

According to MTSU

Public Safety's crime log, on Jan. 29, shots were fired in the courtyard of Scarlett Commons apartments, and investigators later found

a chemical explosive that had detonated. On Feb. 26, shots were fired at an apartment door in Scarlett Commons building six. On Feb. 1, a sexual assault

occurred in a Sims Hall dorm room.

"Many incidents, while occurring on campus or nearby apartment complexes, in-

involved folks who were not MTSU students, but trespassers," said Andrew Bickers, director of MTSU Housing and Residential Life.

Bickers said he's confident students should feel safe on their campus.

"Several different levels of safety and security are in place. We have gone to card swipe access in many of our facilities," Bickers said. "I think students should feel safe on our campus and should take all reasonable precautions, from registering their bikes to locking their doors." ■

Job market appears hopeful, preparation still key

By Mamie Nash
Staff writer

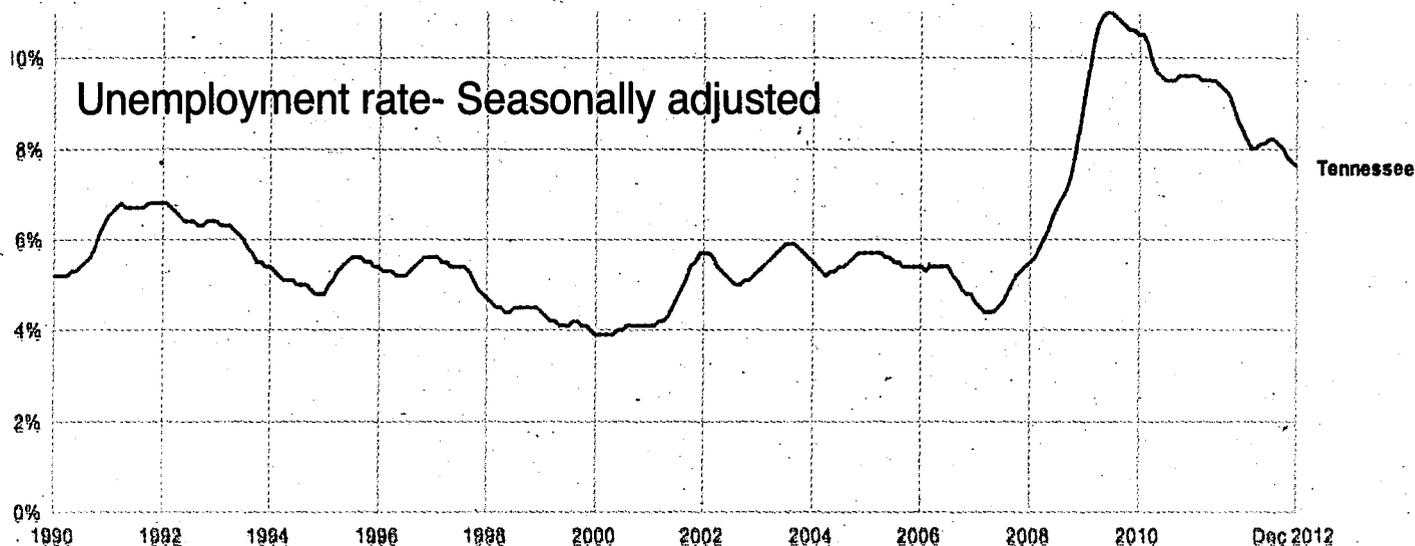
MTSU graduates entering the job market may find more welcome prospects than in previous years following a 0.2 percent decrease in Tennessee unemployment rates, but competition remains high.

At a 6.2 percent unemployment rate, Rutherford County boasts the third lowest county unemployment rate in Tennessee.

"The unemployment rate varies depending on your educational level," said Jeff Hentschel, communications director at the Tennessee Career Center at Murfreesboro. "The unemployment rate for people who have not completed high school is at about 12 percent, a number which decreases to about 4.5 percent for those with a bachelor's degree."

MTSU is focused on providing top preparation to its students to ensure post-graduate work in a competitive economic market, said Billy Pittard, chair of the Electronic Media Communication department.

The school focuses on combining internship experience with professional extracurricular opportunities and providing students with training in everything from building portfolios to honing



Graphic courtesy of U.S. Department of Labor.

interview technique, according to Pittard.

"We have a lot of hands-on opportunities for students, so that by the time they get out into the field they are really career ready," Pittard said. "By the time they graduate, they will have really an impressive amount of professional-level experience. We try to make those experiences as real world as possible."

It is important for the university to make curriculum changes to pre-

"The economy has been pretty tough, and recent students are having a hard time finding work," Pittard said.

"There is disruption in the field, but in disruption, there's opportunity. The jobs are there, but they don't look like they used to."

Pittard said the importance of portfolios is paramount to career success in the media market. An eclectic portfolio shows competency and experience.

Michael D. Allen, vice provost for Research and Dean of the College of Graduate Studies, said an emphasis on interview techniques is necessary to career success.

A student should always

do background research of the hiring company and bring a list of questions to an interview; preparation is imperative to making

a good impression on a potential employer, Allen said.

The university focuses on job preparation for all of its students, including athletes. Athletes are often focused on playing professional sports after college, but the department concentrates on helping them create a backup plan, said Wynnifred Counts, associate director and coordinator of Life Skills for the Student-Athlete Enhancement Center.

"We have résumé writing seminars every semester," Counts said.

"Every semester we bring in a company called Athletes for Hire, and they do a program to prepare students for life after sports. Our challenge is to help them realize that they do have to have another plan. In the Athletes for Hire program, they list 25 skill sets that make a good athlete, and they tell them how to carry that over into the business world. It really resonates with our

students because that's something they can really relate to."

According to labor force estimates for Metropolitan Statistical Areas, the Nashville-Murfreesboro labor force numbered 849,000 in February 2013, with 54,500 residents unemployed. This 6.4 percent unemployment rate is down from the February 2012 rate of 7.1 percent. ■

"The unemployment rate for people who have not completed high school is about 12 percent..."

pare students for work in an aggressive field, Pittard said. Media curriculum is constantly evolving to adapt to changes in the field.

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Select STAFFING

Students discover history and culture in Vietnam

By Sinclair Sparkman
Assistant News editor

Hot temperatures were no match for nine students who took a journey to Vietnam in March to study abroad and gain an understanding of the aftermath of the war in Vietnamese culture.

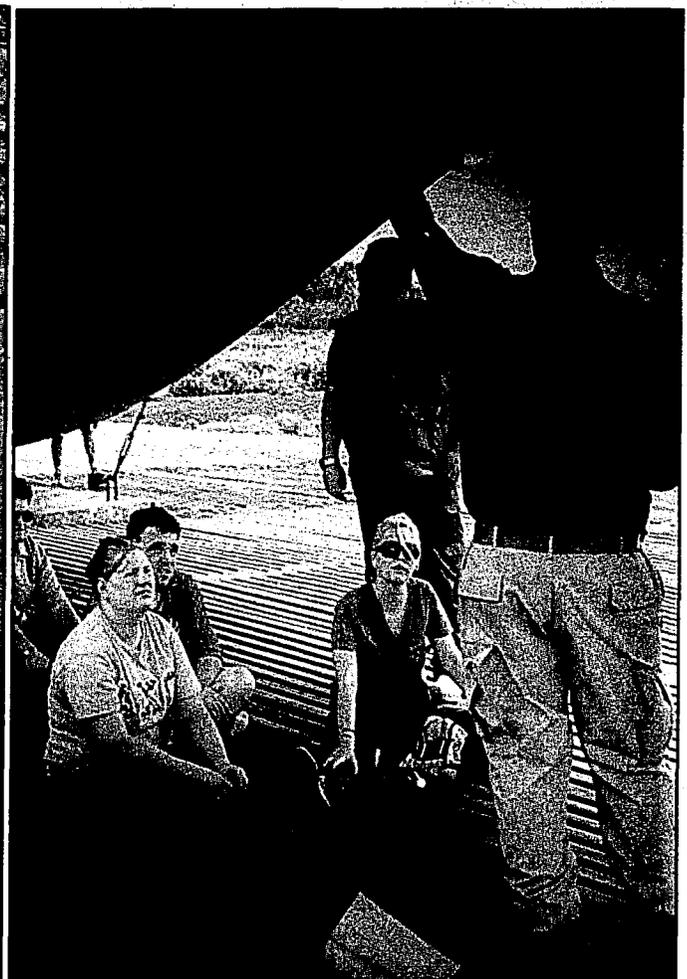
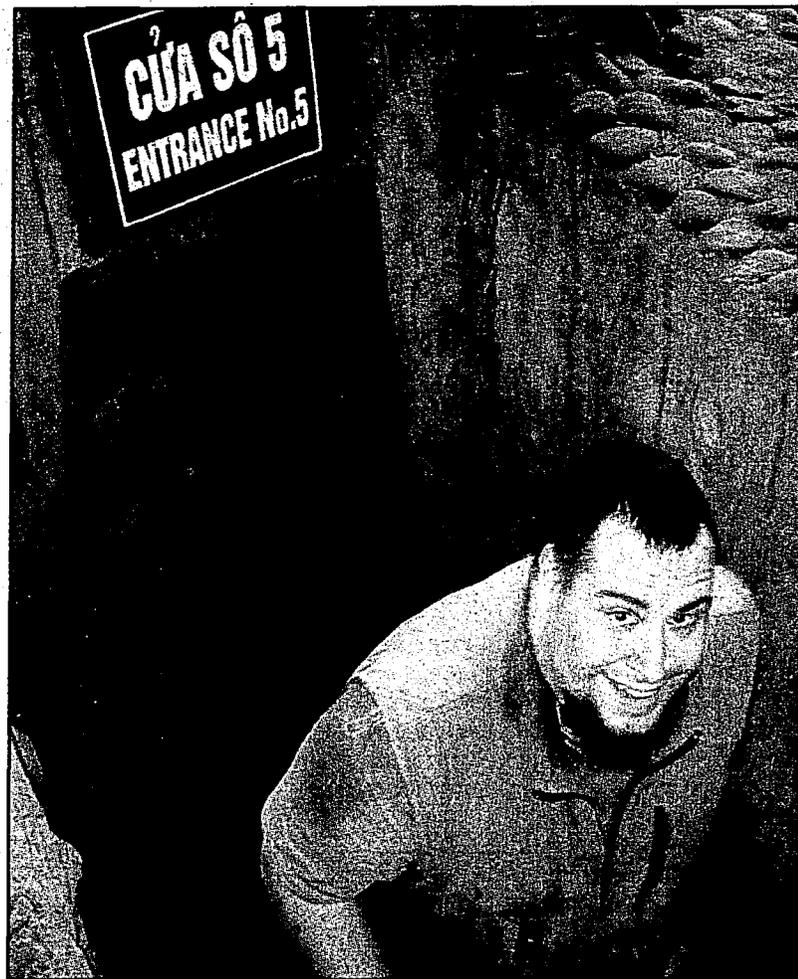
Derek Frisby, associate history professor and veterans adviser at MTSU, planned and led the group from one end of Vietnam to the other to teach students about the different perspective on war through the eyes of Vietnamese culture.

"The connections between war and society, war and culture is really what we wanted students to take away from the trip," Frisby says.

Most of the students on the trip were history and anthropology majors. The trip was part of the War and Memory program sponsored by the international studies program. Students spent two weeks in Vietnam gaining an understanding of the how this culture differs from American culture's interpretation of the war.

"The purpose of the class was for students to juxtapose what they had come to understand about Vietnam with what they encountered when they got to Vietnam and could see things for themselves," says Gina Louge, veteran News and Media Relations staffer.

It took two weeks, beginning March 10,



"The purpose of the class was for students to juxtapose what they had come to understand about Vietnam ..."

Top right: Matt DeVille smiles upon emerging from the claustrophobic tunnel complex in the village of Vinh Moc. Top left: At the site of the 77-day siege of Khe Sanh, Derek Frisby (back to camera) lectures to students in the shade of an American C-130 helicopter. Bottom left: (R to L) Courtney Schaaf, Kenna Porter, Lizette Palk and Sergio Azueta pose atop Marble Mountain north of Hoi An.

for the group to travel from the southern tip to the northern edge of Vietnam. Temperatures were in the 90s most of the time with 80 percent humidity, according to

Logue. Though it may sound like the dead of Tennessee summer, these temperatures are relatively mild for the region.

Frisby was not alone

in leading the students. Vietnam Battlefield Tours helped by giving the group two tour guides to plan the agenda. VBT is a nonprofit organization run by

Vietnam veterans that places other veterans back into Vietnam to find closure, experience the culture and foster an understanding of life after the war. Two own-

ers of the organization went on the tour.

Students visited battlefields, museums of war history, monuments, temples, citadels and many other places



Derek Frisby leads MTSU study abroad students to learn and experience Vietnamese culture. Photos courtesy of Gina Logue.

in their quest for a broader understanding of the Vietnamese culture.

The students first visited The War Remnants Museum in Saigon. The museum featured attractions about how different groups were affected during the war, including children and journalists. The experience gave the group their first dose of how the war is depicted through the eyes of the communist regime, with local labels like "the war of American aggression."

"There was a definite anti-American slant to some of the captions," Logue says. "All of this, of course, the students took with a grain of salt, recognizing it as a part of the very complicated picture of a very complicated war."

The Presidential Palace, where former South Vietnam presidents operated, was

also on the list of stops. The students also paid a visit to some of the area's religious sites. The Cau Dai temple showed a unification of three religions: Buddhism, Christianity and Confucianism.

William "Bud" Morris, a Vietnam war veteran and MTSU alumni, participated in the experience.

"Having Bud on the trip was fascinating. It really gave the students a more personal insight into the war," Frisby says.

Morris served in the Vietnam War 43 years ago in 1970-1971. He served on a base called Charley 2 for his first six months, which was one of the sites visited during the trip. Charley 2 was the forward most firebase in all of Vietnam. His mission was fire-based security.

"We would go out every day and look for booby traps and land mines and spider

holes," Morris says.

His last six months were spent assisting a region force program training the Vietnamese to be militia-type soldiers.

His experience going back to Vietnam, he said, was phenomenal. He pointed out the commercialization that has taken place, and said the veterans of the Vietnam side were very warm and just wanted to put things behind them.

"I don't know that I particularly went back for closure," Morris says. "The kids, the young students who went on the trip, really gave me hope for the future."

Students were grateful to have Morris on the trip and asked him many questions about his experience in a wide range of ways.

"Having the opportunity to share Mr. Morris's first trip to Vietnam since the time

he served was extremely rewarding. The intensity of his emotion as he came face to face

with a place of his past was felt by all of us," says Justin Lowe, a history major who went

on the trip.

Frisby is planning another trip next spring. ■



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Widespread campus space issues threaten instructional rooms

By Daniel Jansouzian
Staff writer

Because she is the director of academic affairs space planning, K. Watson-Harris expects daily emails from colleges trying to rearrange buildings to use the most space possible.

Each college has its concerns, ranging from faculty office shortage to classroom space. Some departments are being relocated.

The College of Liberal Arts identifies faculty space as its primary concern.

According to Mark Byrnes, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, faculty are doubled-up in offices, and professors and staff need their own workspace.

The liberal arts faculty has reserved office space in the Davis and Wisner-Patton Buildings after the science building is complete. The new Student Services Building's completion will open up space in the E.W. Middett and James Union Building for liberal arts classrooms.

The Photography Building will be demolished after the new science building's completion to make way for a quad. Photography classes will move to the McFarland building, and those housed in McFarland will move to their new building next to the Rec Center.

The College of Behavioral and Health Sciences wants to build a new facility. The college has been approved for construction and

is waiting for funding. Jones Hall would then have more space for liberal arts, according to Watson-Harris.

Majors from the college have future job opportunities with the state, which helped gain the department building grant money. Watson-Harris said colleges need to work toward outside fundraising, because the state no longer fully funds building grants.

According to Watson-Harris, when the state approved the Complete College Act in 2010, changes were made to the funding approval process.

"When we submitted for funding for the Behavioral and Health Sciences Building, they told us we needed proof that there will be an occupational need for these jobs in the state," Watson-Harris said. "It was part of the justification process."

The Honors College has a different student space problem, according to John Vile, dean of the Honors College. Vile said students come to MTSU expecting specific class times, and faculty cannot appease them all. The college is creating more online classes to amend the problem.

However, the College of Education has the newest classroom design to accommodate teacher interaction with students. Similar to other buildings on campus, it hosts classes that aren't strictly for education.

"We understand and

welcome any class that needs space," said Lana Seivers, dean of the College of Education. She said the building belongs to the university, and it is their responsibility to share.

The College of Mass Communication has made several proposals for a building expansion but has not received funds because the number of graduates outnumber job needs.

When the departments in the Mass Communication building applied for an addition five years ago, they never made the list for state funding. Watson-Harris said she looked at the numbers and saw that the supply for the jobs is higher than the demand.

For example, the Audio and Video Technology and Film Pathway supplies 685 majors but only has 220 jobs. The numbers are similar for journalism, broadcasting and other concentrations.

"Taxpayers in Tennessee do not want to pay for a building that won't generate needed jobs," Watson-Harris said.

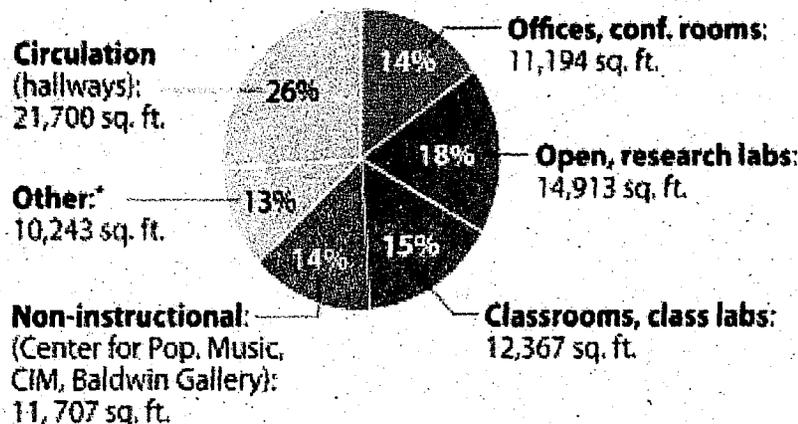
Moore said they have increased their fundraising and raised approximately \$500,000 this year.

Professors in the School of Journalism expressed concerns about a new photography gallery in the John Bragg Mass Communication Building, which will take up space originally intended for instructional purposes.

The Baldwin Gallery

Total Building Space: 82,124 sq. ft.

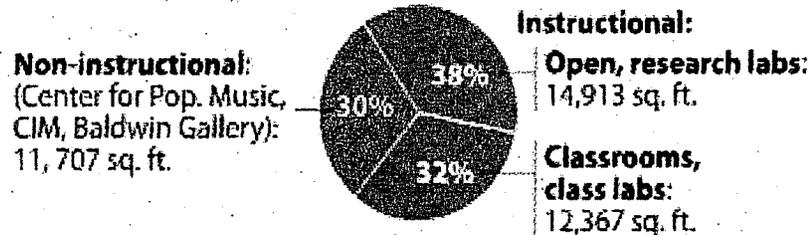
Space allocation including Baldwin Gallery.



*Mechanical, custodial, food service, lounges
Total building space does not include restrooms or stairwells

Functional Space: 38,987 sq. ft.

Space available for instructional and non-instructional activities.



Non-instructional space:

Center for Popular Music:	6,690 sq. ft.
Center for Innovation in Media:	3,675 sq. ft. (excluding room 111)
Baldwin Photo Gallery:	1,342 sq. ft. (proposed)

Source: Campus Planning Office

Distribution of Mass Communication building space as it stands now. Graphic by Phil Loubere.

is scheduled to occupy the former *Sidelines* office and the computer lab in 270A. After the newspaper moved to the Center for Innovation in Media, MT10, the student-run television station, used the

space as a studio.

Philip Loubere, assistant professor of visual communication, who also serves as the chair of the technology committee for the college, said the journalism department was

promised the former office for classroom space.

"Everyone in the school knows we need to move forward in our knowledge of technology," Loubere said. "We need space to learn

and teach new technology.”

The department needs specialized labs outfitted with graphic software, but there are no plans to implement this yet.

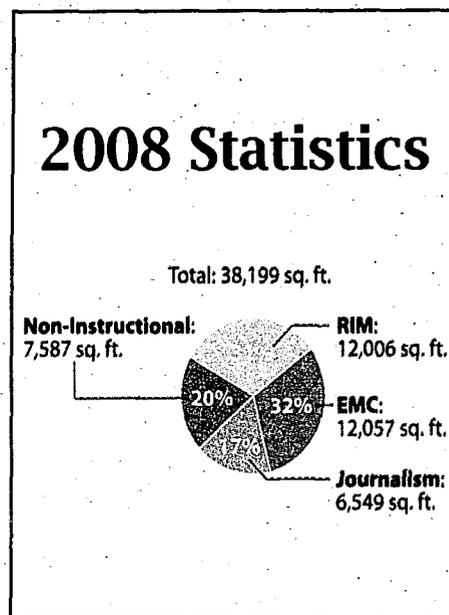
“I examined total usage of building space to see if there are any other options for us, and that’s when I added up the numbers and found two things,” Loubere said. “The School of Journalism has lost a considerable amount of space in the last four years, and the amount of space being used in the building for non-instructional space will increase to 30 percent.”

He said there are 20 full-time journalism instructors and only five classrooms where journalism has first priority. Loubere said this means journalism classes will have to start moving out of the building.

Roy Moore, dean of the College of Mass Communication, said there is always a concern about losing space when new programs move in. The department chairs generated a proposal for the gallery that was granted by the college.

“It did not satisfy all needs, but that is, of course, impossible,” Moore said.

The Baldwin Gallery moved out of its former space in the Ned McWherter Learning Resource Center due to renovation. Because the photography department is part of the Electronic Media Communication department, the mass communication building was the only option. Moore



Right: Breakdown of space allocation in 2008. Left: Floor plan space as it stands now. Graphics by Phil Loubere.

said this is an example of how nontraditional space enhances the learning experience.

“This is a positive opportunity to show students and the general public the best of our student works to potential students and visitors,” Moore said.

Part of the problem for the journalism department space revolves around enrollment numbers, and the department that gets priority for space must have the greatest needs. According to Moore, journalism enrollment has decreased in recent years.

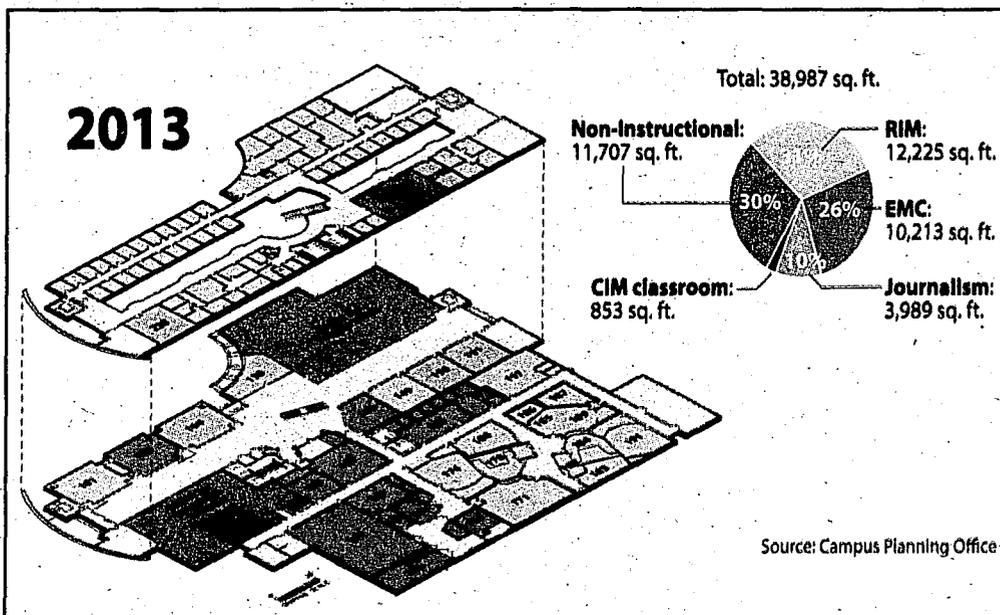
Loubere disagreed and said that there has not been a significant decrease in enrollment. The department expected a decrease because the university has seen a decline, and the journalism department raised requirements for candidacy last year. Watson-Harris said she will be meeting with the School of Journalism to work through space concerns.

“The departments need to share resources and find a way to be efficient and leave the rest of the space to the college,” Watson-Harris said.

Only two journalism courses were offered this semester in Comm 111, a room in the CIM used for instructional space. The Electronic Media Communication department used the classroom the most. Watson-Harris emailed the directors of both programs in hopes of resolving the issue.

Every January, colleges meet with the provost’s office to submit proposals for the Technology Activity Fees Committee. The science and mass communication programs are the primary users of TAF funds. This year, the College of Mass Communication received \$373,616 from the TAF committee.

The money is used for classroom renovation and cleaning. The college submitted two classrooms for renova-



tion this semester. One classroom, Comm 150, will be transformed into a computer lab; however, this room is a tiered

lecture hall and not intended for computers, according to Watson-Harris.

“Faculty and staff

need to be good stewards of money given,” she said. “They need to know what works for them.”



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RANTS AND RAVES

April 11
Mockingbird Sun
12th and Porter
114 12th Ave N.,
Nashville
8:30 p.m.
\$10



Even though the music scene in Nashville has come a long way from the capital of country music, sometimes it's nice to remember those roots. Thursday night Mockingbird Sun is reminding Music City how we got our start. The band's sound is full of country twang and is made distinctly Southern

by lead singer Charlie Berry, whose voice resembles Darius Rucker's, country artist and former front man of Hootie and the Blowfish. Guitar player Brett Taylor and multi-instrumentalist Truck Roley join Berry. Mockingbird Sun's songs don't stray far from traditional country themes but

are still fresh and entirely their own, such as in "My Hometown" and "Made For Loving You." Both are about finding love and not being able to live without it. The group has traveled with artists Toby Keith, Jack Ingram and Pat Green, and their latest album, *3*, is out now.

April 11
BoomBox
Exit/In
2208 Elliston Pl.,
Nashville
8 p.m.
\$12 GA, \$15 at the door



If the definition of insanity is doing the same thing repetitively and expecting a different result, then why do artists continue to make music that sounds exactly the same and assume they will be considered unique and original?

It's bad for those trying to make it in electronic music.

Is there really any way to tell one guy's synth loop from the next? In the spirit of repetition, producers, DJs and friends Russ Randolph and Zion Rock Godchaux, or BoomBox, are coming to Exit/In to turn out some not-so-fresh electronic beats.

The band's sound falls somewhere between Passion

Pit and Foster The People with weaker vocals.

April 12
Humming House
Keathley University
Center
4 p.m.
Free



Humming House, a band that successfully blends elements from folk, bluegrass, rockabilly and Irish music, is gracing campus through their swinging tunes.

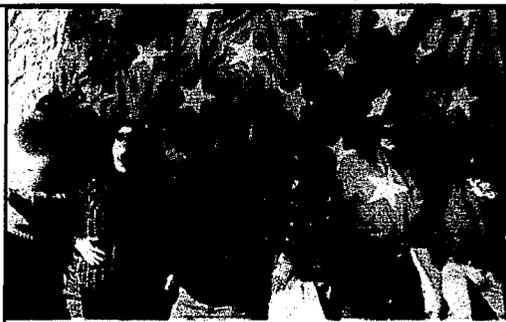
The band's self-titled debut album released in 2012 and was produced by Grammy Award recipients Mitch Dane and Vance Powell.

Since the release, the band and the record gained wild success. Humming House is made up of talented, multi-instrumentalists.

The members include lead singer and ukulele player Justin Wade Tam, backing vocalist and tambourine player Kristen Rogers, Mike Butera on viola and guitar,

Joshua Wolak on mandolin and Ben Jones on kick drum and upright bass. Humming House does an excellent job of mixing tempo and mood on their album, with upbeat, fun songs such as "Gypsy Django" and "Cold Chicago," and slower, mellower songs like "Baltimore Boats."

April 13
Futurebirds
Mercy Lounge
1 Cannery Row,
Nashville
9 p.m.
\$12



It's always nice when a band can blend two genres, and it's especially sweet when the genres are some you'd never expect to hear together. No one is a better example of merging than the country-rock-meets-psychedelic group the Futurebirds, who happen to be playing Mercy Lounge Saturday

night.

The band consists of members Payton Bradford, Thomas Johnson, Carter King, Dennis Love, Brannen Miles and Daniel Womack. The band is known for its impressive harmonies, especially on songs like "APO," off of their album *Hampton's Lullaby*, released in 2010.

The band's sound could be described as something close to the Avett Brothers and Mumford and Sons, but that doesn't mean they don't make it their own.

April 13
Star and Micey
The Boro Bar and Grill
1211 Greenland Dr.,
Murfreesboro
9 p.m.
21+ only



Artists have back-stories so interesting they have to be told first before any music is played. According to vocalist Joshua Cosby, Star and Micey's is one such story. Cosby was walking home when a man in the street stopped and asked if he could play him a song about a woman named Micey.

Cosby agreed and the two men stood and played each other songs about heartbreak. As Cosby left that night he learned the man's name was Star, and the band's name was born. Maybe you believe that, and maybe it sounds crazy. Regardless, the music of Star and Micey is something everyone can agree on.

The band creates music that is at times haunting and beautiful, like their song "No Pets Allowed," but is also upbeat and poppy on songs like, "I Can't Wait." Their vocals resemble Bob Dylan's, and their instrumentation is closer to Vampire Weekend's.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

10 books for procrastination

By Will Carrington
Staff writer

People handle stress in different ways. Some go for a run, and some play a mindless video game. Others, however, like to read.

With exams and the semester's end rapidly approaching, overwhelmed students more frequently escape this way.

1. "The Sirens of Titan" by Kurt Vonnegut – Nothing about this book is "anti-stress," but it's a favorite. It has science fiction, a love story, a wonderfully poetic ending and a few examples of chronosynclastic infundibula. Everything one needs to ignore exams for a while.

2. Any novel by Christopher Moore – I debated which books to include, but I figured they all belong. Moore has a formula that has worked out well – introduce a lovable loser character and make something bizarre and supernatural happen. I would give the edge to his novel "Lamb," a hilarious, but respectful, recounting of Jesus' early years told by his childhood best friend, Biff.

3. "Among the Thugs" by Bill Buford – This book is mostly about Buford's nonfictional journey into the heart of the violent British soccer world, but it also manages to discuss the culture. Additionally, it boasts completely disgusting moments.



Escaping into a world inside a book is a way to get away from the stresses of the end of the semester. Photo by Jaclyn Edmonson.

4. "The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay" by Michael Chabon – Chabon's masterpiece follows two young Jewish kids who create and sell a new comic book character to attain some degree of success. The story's plot is similar to the real-world invention of Superman. It spans decades and reveals the ups and downs of each character. By the end, you don't want to lose your two new friends.

5. "I Drink for a Reason" by David Cross – Cross's collection of loosely-connected essays are completely inappropriate for most audiences, but he's one of the funniest comedians working today. Reading an article that is simply a satirical list of silly indie film plots, i.e. "Allergic to most shampoos" and "Uncle invented Ziploc bags," is a wonderful, quick respite from nightmarish school obligations.

6. "How I Became Stupid" by Martin Page – After studying tedious, trivial facts

for hours, you'll relate. Trust me.

7. "The Polysyllabic Spree" by Nick Hornby – Compilations of essays, such as this one, are effective for the purpose of wasting a little time. Take a break and read something fulfilling for a few minutes – that isn't accounting homework – and get back to it. If you're a consummate music geek, Hornby's delightfully British outlook on popular and obscure songs will be a fun read.

8. "People Who Deserve It: Socially Responsible Reasons to Punch Someone in the Face" by Casey Rand and Tim Gordon – You're tired, you're angry and your head hurts. Read a book with a list of people you should be allowed to punch, i.e. "crooked car mechanic," "office food thief" and "full-volume headphone guy."

9. Any work by J.R.R. Tolkien – I have never shaken my obsession with Middle-Earth that began in my middle school years.

Sometimes, you want to go to a world that's vastly different from your own, and what better place than one with giant spiders, talking trees and bad jewelry?

10. "Infinite Jest" by David Foster Wallace – If you can read all 1,000-plus pages of this novel and the extra 200-plus of footnotes, which contain ad-

vanced calculus, and understand it, congratulations, you are smarter than college. ■

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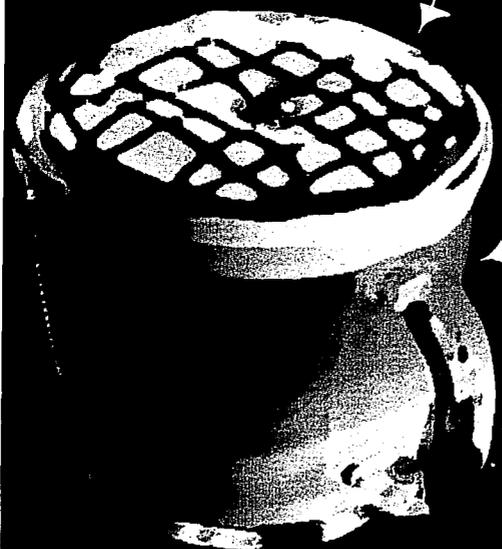
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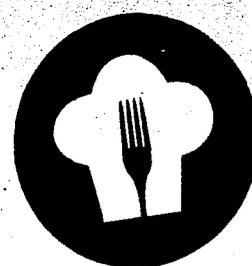
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For Amanda's full story on the fake artistry of the macchiato, visit www.mtsusidelines.com/starbucks-dupes-coffee-addicts-with-new-drink.

Graphic by Kelsey Klingenmeyer. Text by Amanda Gambill.



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The purpose of law is to protect, not restrict

By Alex Harris
Opinions editor

"Life, liberty and property do not exist because men have made laws. On the contrary, it was the fact that life, liberty and property existed beforehand that caused men to make laws in the first place," wrote Frederic Bastiat, a French essayist, in 1850.

This original purpose of law – to protect an individual's life, rights and property – has been long forgotten or ignored as politics have influenced government and laws have been written to restrict and control behavior.

The law's reason for existence is to allow individuals a system to seek recourse if wronged, such as in cases of robbery, assault or imprisonment against one's will, not to restrict people from behaviors deemed morally undesirable by those who possess the most political pull.

A brief consideration of modern political rhetoric and debates, as well as laws that are considered and passed by our state and federal governments, provides evidence that instead of offering protection, modern law imposes the will of the majority or that of a powerful minority.

Laws based on individual morality tend to be "one-size-fits-all," which is problematic when the diversity of the human experience is considered.



Alex Harris

People learn in different ways and have different ideas of what is moral for their life. Sometimes what is moral for one is immoral for another, and that leads to a contradiction between law and morality for some.

"When law and morality contradict each other, the citizen has the cruel alternative of either losing his moral sense or losing his respect for the law," wrote Bastiat in his essay, *The Law*.

Laws, such as seat-belt requirements or marriage restrictions, that attempt to control behaviors that may be socially frowned-upon by some, but are not socially harmful, diminish justice under the law, contribute to a loss of respect for the institution of law and encourage rather than discourage more law breaking.

But what about other laws based in morality, such as laws against prostitution and drug use? Is there an obligation to protect the society from devolution caused by these illicit and morally-degrading

activities?

In short, no. The result of laws attempting to control what consenting adults put into their bodies can be clearly seen throughout today's criminal justice system.

But there is also an excellent before and after example in American history of the outcomes of moral laws: the Prohibition of Alcohol.

In 1920, the United States added a constitutional amendment forbidding the manufacture and sale of – though not the private ownership and use of – alcoholic beverages.

At the end of prohibition, criminals found other areas of corruption, and the booze trade became relatively peaceful.

Similarly, it follows that if laws today were to reflect the actual protective purpose of law, rather than being used as a bludgeon to discourage socially unacceptable behavior, there would likely be less violence and criminal activity surrounding drugs and prostitution.

Were prostitution and drug dealing legally protected professions, individuals engaging in these businesses would be able to seek assis-

These roles would be fulfilled through the legal system. Additionally, this would free up law enforcement resources from harassing the voluntary "working girls" and allow them to focus more energy on real dangers, such as human trafficking.

Likewise, drug dealers wouldn't have to take the law into their own hands when faced with a territorial dispute or being ripped off. The violence that surrounded illegal booze operations subsided with the legalization of alcohol, and it logically follows that the same would happen

one for money affect anyone other than those involved, so laws prohibiting these actions aren't truly in the realm of protective law, and legalizing these activities would help to limit the associated undesirable attributes.

Encoding these guidelines and standards of living into law is problematic at best. When societal views change in the future, changing the policies of law and government will likely take a lot of time and work, which is evident in the past struggles of the women's suffrage and civil rights movements and

"Were prostitution and drug dealing legally protected professions, individuals engaging in these businesses would be able to seek assistance from the legal system or law enforcement officials if they've been wronged by a customer or competitor."

Alcohol prohibition lasted 13 years before Americans had enough of the negative consequences of criminalizing the behaviors found undesirable a fraction of the population.

During prohibition, there was a significant growth in organized crime, including the rise of the Mafia. This increase in criminal organizations led to violent conflicts in the streets, such as the St. Valentine's Day massa-

crade. At the end of prohibition, criminals found other areas of corruption, and the booze trade became relatively peaceful.

Women choosing to sell sex as a way to make ends meet would no longer require a possibly abusive pimp for protection from dangerous clients or as a way to ensure payment for services rendered.

with the domestic drug trade.

Additionally, it is now easier for kids to get pot than booze, due in part to the different legal statuses of these substances. Legalized drugs would most likely be regulated just as booze is, with strict age limits and licensing requirements to prevent underage consumption.

Neither the action of using drugs or the consensual decision to have sex with some-

the current struggle for marriage equality.

The causes of freedom, equality and justice are not properly served under the current interpretation of the law's purpose. If we want to see a legal system that supports these ideals, then we need to reconsider the purpose of politics and law and demand a change from a restrictive system of law to a protective system. ■

SPORTS

MT men's tennis sweeps Senior Day

By Justin Rockroth
Staff writer

The Middle Tennessee men's team celebrated Senior Day by reaching their sixth-consecutive match win after the team dismantled both Southern Miss and Morehead State Saturday at Buck Bouldin Tennis Center.

The Blue Raiders took the first match of Senior Day in Murfreesboro (4-3) by defeating SMU (14-9-1) in a singles shoot-out. Before the team clinched their sixth-consecutive victory in the second match of the day, the Blue Raiders took time to honor Middle Tennessee senior Dimitri Pippas. After the cer-

emony Middle Tennessee defeated the second team of Eagles, MSU (6-11), 5-0.

Southern Miss proved to be the tougher match for the Blue Raiders and forced MT to win through singles play. Ben Davis and Victor Cornea took the only doubles victory for the Blue Raiders, but they defeated Matt Frost and Andrew Goodwin of SMU, 8-7 (1-0) in No. 1 doubles. MT was unable to win another match, therefore dropping the doubles point.

A pair of freshman would help secure the victory against the Golden Eagles, though.

Freshman David Fox sparked the comeback by defeating Juan Escob-

ar, 6-1, 6-4 in Flight 6 singles. The Blue Raiders were then delivered two more wins, the first from fellow-freshman Cornea (6-1, 6-4) and second from sophomore Ettore Zito (6-3, 6-2).

As the match came to a close, MT needed to win just one of the three singles matches that remained. All three matches came down to the third set, and it was MT's Yannick Born that clinched a Blue Raider victory. The 6-foot-11 sophomore was able to defeat Benjamin Feldmann, 6-2, 2-6, 6-4 in the Flight 4 singles and give MT their fifth-straight win.

MT's Christopher Lang dropped to SMU's Goodwin in the Flight

2 singles, 3-6, 6-2, 6-4. The Blue Raider's Davis also fell short against SMU's Frost in the No.1 singles, 2-6, 6-1, 3-6.

"We had to squeak it out today, [we] didn't play to our potential, winning ugly is what we call it," Head Coach Jimmy Borendame said after the SMU victory.

The Blue Raiders doubles teams foreshadowed the team's total performance second match of the day as all three teams claimed victories over MSU, only to be followed by yet another MT sweep in singles.

Davis and Cornea bested MSU's Ji Hoon and Nick Mercer with an 8-1 victory. MT's



Sophomore Ettore Zito leads all Blue Raiders with 24 victories this season, including 16 duals wins. Photo courtesy of GoBlueRaiders.com.

Marlon Brand and Born, as well as Fox and Lang had no problem following their teammate's lead. Both Blue Raider teams defeated their MSU opponents 8-3.

Ettore Zito only lost one game against his MSU opponent during the No.1 singles match. Cornea was also able to beat Heo, 6-2, 6-0 and clinch his second win

of the day during the Flight 2 singles.

MT's sweep of MSU was sealed again by Born, who bested Clifford, 6-2, 6-3.

The Blue Raiders will shoot for seven-in-a-row on April 12 through 13 in Orlando Fla., where they will look to serve both Central Florida and South Florida a loss. ■

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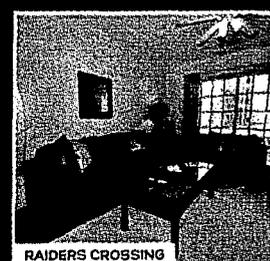
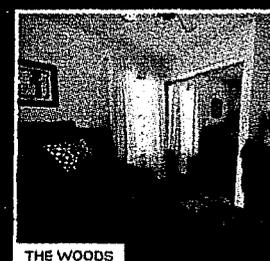
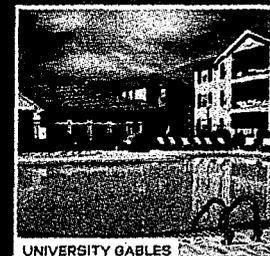
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