

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

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Volleyball releases 2009 schedule

By **ETHAN LANNOM**
Contributing Writer

Although the Blue Raiders' volleyball team were ousted in the second round of last year's NCAA tournament, its spirits are high for the upcoming 2009 season.

The team is looking to move up this year with a particularly tough host of opponents.

MT will face nine teams that participated in the 2008 NCAA tournament, including five that ended the season with an RPI of below 25. This bevy of foes consists of the University of Northern Iowa, University of Washington, University of Alabama-Birmingham, Saint Louis University, Ohio University, Rice University and the University at Albany.

"Top to bottom, I believe we have one of the top schedules in the country," said head coach Matt Peck. "I imagine we are going to have a good season."

The Blue Raiders will face schools from 10 different conferences. With

this difficult schedule, Peck looks to not just strengthen his own team's resume but the entire Sun Belt Conference's as well.

"Top to bottom, there are always competitive matches inside the conference, especially on the road," Peck said. "I think our continued success will influence the strength of the Sun Belt even more."

Even with all the strong opposition in the impending season, one match resonates in Peck's mind.

"We played our worst match last year against Ohio," Peck said. "We want a chance to redeem ourselves."

"We have them coming into our gym this time, [and] in the back of our minds, we want to get them back in the same way they defeated us."

Peck is referring to the 3-0 loss the Blue Raiders suffered at the hands of Ohio last year on Sept. 18, 2008.

It will be pivotal for MT to get off to a good start to the 2009 campaign. The team will kick off the season with seven matches at Alumni Memorial Gym. It will end the season-opening home stand with the retribution match against Ohio.

On his team's beginning home stretch, Peck said, "I think it's going to be a good couple of weekends."

"We need to be tested early; it's what makes your team better."

After the grueling home stand, MT will participate in tournaments in Miami and San Antonio, Texas in the middle of September. They will go on to face UAB in Birmingham, Ala. before starting their Sun Belt Conference section of the schedule against Western Kentucky University at Alumni Memorial Gym on Sept. 25.

Although the Blue Raiders face a

difficult climb, Peck said he is not perturbed.

"Last year, I think we could have fared better if not for Ashley Adams graduating early and going on to law school," Peck said. "She was a two-time All-American and an integral part of our team."

"This year, I'm very optimistic. I could see us getting to the Sweet Sixteen at least and possibly making a deep run in the NCAA tournament."

After the regular season, the team will head to the Sun Belt Volleyball Championships. This year it will be hosted by Western Kentucky and will take place from Nov. 19 until 21. The Blue Raiders' final match before the NCAA tournament will be at St. Louis on Nov. 28.

To see the
2009 MTSU
Volleyball
schedule,
check out
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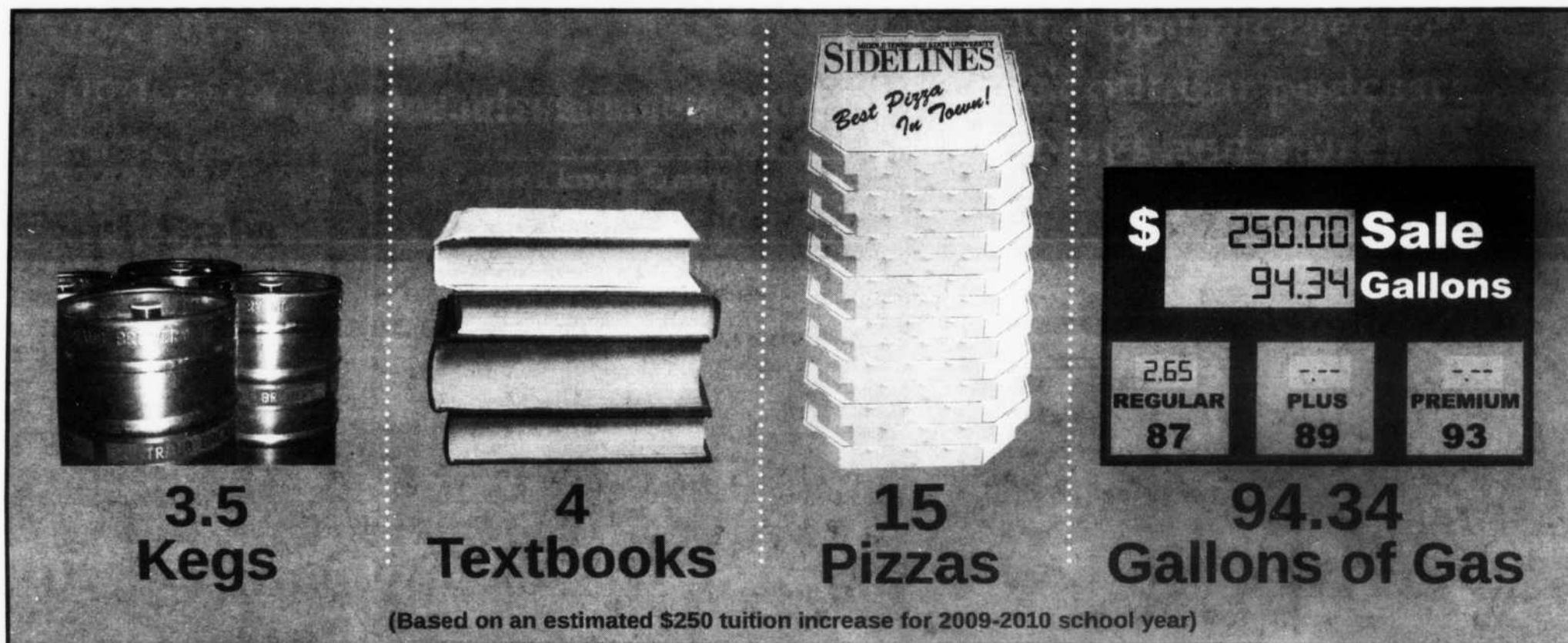
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Tuition set to increase in fall semester



Graphic by Chris Carter, production manager
 Images courtesy of Morgue File

By **BEN UNDERWOOD**
 Staff Writer

The Business and Finance Committee of the Tennessee Board of Regents voted unanimously for a resolution to raise the rate of tuition for university and community college students across the state, beginning fall 2009.

The committee met on the Tennessee Technological University campus last Thursday and Friday to review and approve the new fees and budget information.

The new plan will assign a value to every credit hour and remove the 12-hour tuition cap. Students used to taking classes above 12 hours for free will now be charged a flat rate for every credit hour.

However, part-time undergraduate students taking fewer than 12 hours will benefit from the changes. In the past, part-time students paid around \$6,000 or 30 percent more than full-time students for a university degree, the TBR Web site said.

In fall, students will pay \$10 more

per hour for every hour over 12. Close to 60 percent of university students fall between the 12 and 15 credit-hours mark, and will see an average increase of about 7.5 percent. Full-time graduate students will see an increase of \$15 per hour for an average of 7 percent for in-state students, the TBR Web site said.

Chelsea Drummings, senior liberal arts major, said she will take 17 hours this fall and her bill will increase by almost \$200, due to the new billing system.

"It [the increase] will affect me in how much more money I'll need from loans," Drummings said.

Drummings said she has avoided taking out loans up to this point, but expects to use loans to help pay for her next two years for school. She said the increases will be more of a concern while she is continuing her education.

"MTSU is still not that bad compared to other schools in Tennessee," Drummings said. "I'm not swayed either way about this because I don't think they [TBR] had much of a choice, and this is probably the best way to spread the cost over more people instead of a certain group."

Diane Miller, the interim executive

"I'm not swayed either way about this because I don't think they [TBR] had much of a choice, and this is probably the best way to spread the cost over more people instead of a certain group."

CHELSEA DRUMMINGS
 SENIOR LIBERAL ARTS MAJOR

vice president and provost, said the change may be difficult for students to deal with because of the economy.

"Any increase is significant for students in the current economy," Miller

said. "The \$10-per-hour increase seems reasonable for what the TBR is trying to accomplish."

Miller said she thinks parents of students will tune into various sources for news to stay informed about the increase.

Zane Roper, a senior business administration major taking 18 hours, said he is concerned that the changes will not help and could actually hurt higher education.

"As tuition goes up, few people can afford school [and] there may be a lower demand of higher education," Roper said. "This will be more expensive all around for me."

The increase in tuition is part of the TBR's drive to make every school cost effective by 2011 when federal bailout funds will no longer provide a safety net, the TBR Web site said.

TBR approved MTSU's request to increase the student activity fee by \$3 to cover Campus Recreation Center and Student Health Services costs. TBR also approved a \$25 increase for all upper division nursing classes.



Photo by Erin O'Leary, photography editor

The John Bragg Mass Communication Building is the multimedia hub for students at MTSU and may converge with of more media outlets on campus in the future.

Media Center Task Force plan for multimedia platform

By ALEX MOORMAN
News Editor

A Media Task Force Committee is discussing the possible creation of a student media center at MTSU.

In President Sidney McPhee's "Response to the Oversight Steering Committee's Report for Positioning the University for the Future," he requested the Dean of the College of Mass Communications and other members involved to begin the creation of a student media center in an effort to converge all media outlets on campus.

"Joining the different media outlets will make it a hub for the entire student body," said John Egly, WMOT director. "The media center is a solid plan for the university because all of the media hubs can assist each other on being the best multimedia platform, which will also help students involved become more prepared for their future in the industry."

The center would include "Sidelines," WMOT, WMTS, Channel 10, "Collage" and MTSU Records.

The university is looking at several options for WMOT that will result in retaining the station in some form. However, McPhee's response to the Steering Committee's Final Report said it might have some significant reductions in its' univer- sity budget.

Dennis Oneal, electronic media communication chair, said that after the decision was made to get a student media center, the next concern would be where it should be located.

"Dean [Roy] Moore would like to have a majority of it located in the Mass Communications Building," Oneal said. "Everything will fit but MTTV because as it stands, they have a prime location for the station."

Wendell Rawls, a journalism professor and member of the committee, said that he thinks the student media center is a great opportunity for the students and the university.

"I think this is a once in a generation opportunity for the university and for the College of Mass Communications," Rawls said. "It will enhance the value of the electronic media, the radio stations the television stations and as for the students, they will get a better 'Sidelines,' a better WMOT, a better WMTS and a better MTTV."

Oneal said that he also agreed with making a student media center because of the way the generation is heading.

"For students who participate, it's a multimedia platform because currently we are operating under an older more traditional platform," Oneal said. "Each media outlet has their own base and their location nowhere near each other."

Wingstop stops hunger

By ALEX MOORMAN
News Editor

Wingstop is joining the coalition against hunger by partnering with Feeding America to raise \$25,000 by July 11.

"Everyone seems to be supportive because they can go out and eat, so maybe I can kick out 50 cents for people who can't," said Nick Hawn, owner of Wingstop in Murfreesboro and Antioch, Tenn.

Leah Templeton, public relations consultant from Wingstop, said Feeding America supplies food to more than 25 million Americans each year and supports approximately 63,000 local charitable agencies that distribute food directly to those in need. She said Feeding America's agencies operate more than 70,000 programs, including food pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters, after-school programs, Kids Cafes, Community Kitchens and Backpack Programs.

"Hunger could happen to anyone," Templeton said. "This is a way for Wingstop and Wingstop's guest to help."

Templeton said this organization is great because it is able to use one dollar

and give seven meals.

Hawn said that while the Wingstop Corporation does not force him to join the initiative, he feels like it is a great way to help the community.

"The main thing I wanted to do is let customers know that we care and there is an avenue for them to help out people who don't have the ability to help themselves," Hawn said.

Templeton said that the corporation wanted to make it as easy as possible for customers to donate.

"We supported it with some marketing materials and talking points on the best way to speak to guests," Templeton said. "We also created a coupon that can be given to customers so on a return visit they get a discounts."

Templeton said that last fall Wingstop had a similar fundraiser and raised \$25,000 with less stores than this year.

"We have more stores participating this time around, and I think we'll definitely raise 25,000 and hopefully more," Templeton said. "We want to keep the online component so guests can continue to donate even after the three-week period is over."

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Summer Football Preview

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Louisiana looks to reload at key positions

By **STEPHEN CURLEY**
Assistant Sports Editor

Last year's record : 6-6

The Ragin' Cajuns began 2008 losing three of their first four games to the University of Southern Mississippi, the University of Illinois and Kansas State University. They bounced back, rattling off four consecutive wins against the University of Louisiana at Monroe, University of North Texas, Arkansas State University and Florida International University, bringing them into bowl discussions. Unfortunately for them, they dropped the next three games to the University of Texas-El Paso,



Florida Atlantic University and Troy University before ending the season with a win over MT to bring their record to the .500 mark. Despite being eligible, they were not invited to a bowl game.

Key Departures: RB Tyrell Fenroy and QB Michael Desormeaux

Arguably, UL's two best players from 2008 are no longer with the team and its production will be difficult to duplicate. Fenroy's 1,406 rushing yards and Desormeaux's 1,139 will not be easy for the crop of running backs and quarterbacks still there. It's going to be running back by committee in Lafayette, La. with seniors Undrea Sails and Matt Dupre likely getting the bulk of the rushing at least at first. Sails is the early favorite for the starting spot, said head coach Rickey Bustle.

"He's the leader in our competition right now," Bustle said. "He would have had a bigger role last year if he wasn't hurt most of the year.

"And if that doesn't work we've still got Draylon Booker and Julian Shankle."

The three backs in the field with experience combined last year for just 70 carries for 276 yards. To compare, Fenroy alone had 226 carries.

"This kind of gap is hard to fill, but

we've got a good group of young players we're confident in," Bustle said.

The departure of Desormeaux opens up another competition among several players vying for the starting quarterback job. Whoever wins will be stuck with the task of trying to reproduce 1,876 yards passing and 13 touchdowns. Brad McGuire is the likely candidate to win the job, but this position could be done by committee as well.

"We have two good quarterbacks with different styles playing for the job," Bustle said. "When we figure out who our guy is we will have to just make the offense around them."

Toughest opponent in 2009: Sept. 12 vs. Kansas State University

In the start of a tough three-game stretch, including Louisiana State University and the University of Nebraska following this week two game, the Ragin' Cajuns will host the Wildcats in what likely isn't a winnable game, but is certainly their only chance at a victory in that stretch.

"Our whole schedule is tough," Bustle said. "You have to bring your 'A' game to beat anybody right now."

Key game in 2009: Oct. 10 vs. University of North Texas

After the brutal stretch with KSU, LSU and Nebraska, UL comes home to host the Mean Green in what could be the indicator of how the rest of the season will go. With the possibility of starting the season with a 1-3 record, a loss at home to the team that finished last in the Sun Belt Conference in 2008 could be devastating, not only for their record but team morale. Unlike last year, this team is not built to handle a slow start, and by the time things start to turn around it could be too late.



June 3: Arkansas State University



June 10: Florida Atlantic University



June 17: Florida International University

July 1: University of Louisiana in Monroe

July 8: Middle Tennessee State University

July 15: University of North Texas

July 22: Troy University

July 29: Western Kentucky University and University of South Alabama



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MTSUSidelines.com



Photo courtesy of UL Media Relations

Head coach Rickey Bustle will have the task of replacing two key players in 2009.



2009 Volleyball Schedule

Home matches are marked in bold and will be played in Alumni Memorial Gym

Aug 28	Kansas	7:30 PM	Oct 11	Arkansas-Little Rock	TBA
Aug 29	Murray State	1 PM	Oct 16	North Texas	7 PM
Aug 29	Xavier	7:30 PM	Oct 18	Denver	TBA
Sep 4	Georgia Tech	7 PM	Oct 20	Western Kentucky	7 PM
Sep 5	Northern Illinois	2 PM	Oct 23	UL-Lafayette	5 AM
Sep 5	Northern Iowa	7 PM	Oct 24	UL-Monroe	7 PM
Sep 6	Ohio	2 PM	Oct 26	New Orleans	7 PM
Sep 11	Albany	11 AM	Oct 30	South Alabama	7 PM
Sep 11	Miami	5 PM	Oct 31	Troy	7 PM
Sep 12	Florida State	11 AM	Nov 6	Florida Atlantic	7 PM
Sep 18	Rice	Noon	Nov 7	Florida International	7 PM
Sep 18	UT-San Antonio	6 PM	Nov 13	South Alabama	7 PM
Sep 19	Washington	Noon	Nov 14	Troy	7 PM
Sep 22	UAB	7 PM	Nov	Sun Belt	TBA
Sep 25	Western Kentucky	7 PM	19-21	Championships	
Oct 2	Florida Atlantic	6 PM	Nov 28	Saint Louis	3 PM
Oct 4	Florida International	6 PM			
Oct 9	Arkansas State	TBA			



Photo by Bradley Lambert, MT Media Relations
Redshirt junior Sasha McGlothin and junior Izabela Kozon will be key players for the volleyball team this season. Last season, it was 27-8.

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FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

No use crying over lifted tuition caps

Last week, the Business and Finance Committee of the Tennessee Board of Regents unanimously decided to increase tuition beginning in fall 2009 – sort of.

What the Business and Finance Committee actually decided was to lift MTSU's credit hours cap. Currently, students taking over 12 hours did not pay for additional hours. Now, every credit hour over 12 will have to be paid for.

While paying more for tuition is not ideal, students will really just be paying for the classes that they take. Students who take more than 12 hours a semester will experience about a \$200 difference - hours the university has previously been giving students for free. For students who have taken more than 12 hours since you've been at MTSU, you have come out ahead my friend.

As university students, we should remember that attending school is expensive but expecting free classes is ridiculous. For example, if someone goes to Kroger to get a gallon of milk, they don't expect to be handed a second gallon for free. If Kroger continuously gave us free milk, it would be nice but someone is ultimately paying for it. In this case, the free milk was courtesy of MTSU, and unfortunately the cow has run dry.

It isn't easy adjusting to paying for extra hours, especially for juniors and seniors who have spent a good couple of years not having to worry about it. But during tough budget cuts, measures have to be taken to ensure that the university can keep its head above water.

Some may worry that lifting the cap may cause decreased enrollment, but the real villain for decreases is the economy. If we can't pay to take 15 hours a semester, we will have to settle for 12.

MTSU is simply closing the all you can eat buffet. Will it stop people from eating there? Maybe. Is it reasonable that MTSU expects compensation for their service? Definitely.

Speaking out is a choice

On Monday morning, 20-year-old Chris Brown pleaded guilty to the Feb. 8 felony assault against 21-year-old former girlfriend Rihanna.

It was announced that Brown would go to trial in March, shortly after Rihanna was subpoenaed to testify. The estimated punishment ranged from probation minimum to four years in jail maximum.

The final outcome on Monday resulted in 180 days of community service and five years of probation for Brown. The court also administered a "complete stay away" order in which Brown and Rihanna must remain 50-feet away from each other. The only exception is at industry events where both are present. The limit is then lowered to 10-feet.

It would be nice to say the media frenzy surrounding the R&B artists is over, but we know that it won't be until everyone hears Rihanna's version of the events. And with Brown's plea agreement, her subpoenaed, public-record testimony was not needed.

Before the scheduled court appearance, celebrities, media and fans alike all clamored for Rihanna's version of what transpired. Everyone wanted to know what exactly happened.

We then started to receive details via



Yeah, Whatever

Andy Harper

hospital photos and police reports, but still nothing from Rihanna. And despite the fact that we know the basic premise of what happened and have seen the results, people still want Rihanna to talk.

I would like to think that this strong moral outcry comes from a need to publicize the truth about abusive relationships – but really I think the majority of people just want to hear the juicy dirt. If we were really interested in teaching people about how to prevent abuse, we would – with or without Rihanna's testimony.

In fact, here's a little lesson on domestic abuse. The May 2000 "Intimate Partner Violence" report by the Bureau of Justice says 20 percent of dating couples between 16 and 24-years-old report

some type of violence in their relationships.

This makes Rihanna's unfortunate situation not uncommon. But instead of trying to reach out to those one-in-five victims, we're too busy trying to get Rihanna to spill the gossip about what happened to her. We forget that the important lesson in this situation is starting a dialogue, not rehashing the assaulted pop star's wounds.

Crimes like assault, rape and abuse need to be talked about – but it's a heck of a lot easier to talk about them when we aren't the victims. These are crimes that people – especially teenagers – need to know about, know how to spot and know how to stop. But speaking out about a personal experience as a victim should be viewed as courageous – not as a requirement.

Maybe Rihanna will eventually talk about what happened to her – and hopefully inspire others to stand up and talk about their experiences. But she should also be allowed the opportunity to heal in her own way before she is comfortable enough to relay her experiences with others.

Andy Harper is a senior journalism major and can be reached at slopinio@mtsu.edu.

COMICS

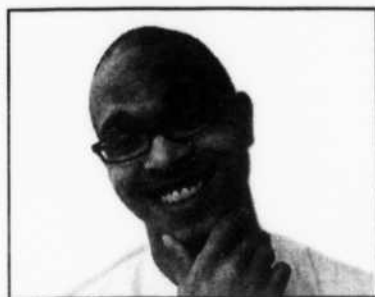


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Low Down

Richard Lowe

A funny thing happened this past spring with all the talks of budget cuts and the protests that came along with it – I started to not care anymore. It's dangerous for any student to think like this and it is especially hard to be motivated when all we saw was a large number of the student body wanting nothing more than to protect themselves – even at the risk of destroying what others believe in.

While students turned against each other, professors turned against our administration. They believed that in some way, if everyone just blames the nation's economic problems on Sidney McPhee, then we can gain some kind of victory. For an institution that is based on building a long-term vision for everyone involved, playing the blame game is such a shortsighted goal.

This is not an endorsement towards how our administration has handled the budget situation, nor is it a complete condemnation of everyone that has opposed the administration through this process.

Here is something to contemplate – are you motivated by what's good for you or what's good for the university?

It's no secret that many of those protesters will never give back to this university, even if they succeed in saving what they are fighting for. I don't expect everyone to become a big money donor to MTSU, but it's not wrong for me to expect protesters to have a plan that helps not only their issue but also the university for the long term.

I have a renewed vision towards the issues on our campus because I realize what I'm fighting for. It's about more than the worth of "my" degree. I'm looking for MTSU to be a training ground and today's problems will not mean as much as tomorrow's solutions. Come up with a plan that can help everyone and not just yourself.

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Photo courtesy of The Compromise

By ANDREW SWANSON
Staff Writer

Brandon Bell, J.D. Short, Matt Stark and Adam Inman are The Compromise; a pop-rock quartet that's here to make your hips shake.

Hailing from Murfreesboro, Tenn. the band has been making music since the winter of 2004, and have two individual records: one full-length album and an EP. Right now the band is currently working on their second full-length album "Revive the High Five."

The band is also playing numerous shows around the region and plan on going on a second tour soon. Their first tour was earlier this year with Josh Phiffer and Anathens.

"We chose to go with these guys because we have known them for awhile," Bell says. "We had 11 people in a 15-person van, and you don't want to spend weeks at

a time with people you don't like.

"You might want to murder them in their sleep after a few days if you do."

Bell says the tour lasted for two weeks and took them around the Northern part of the Midwest. He says overall, the tour went well, but one major incident occurred.

"Anything you have ever heard of going wrong on tour, a version of that happened," Short says. "In Chicago we were broken into, Adam's iPod was stolen [and] our GPS was also taken.

"But they missed the seven or eight laptops that were in the back of the van, so that was lucky."

After the successful winter tour, The Compromise went to work on their new record. The album was set to come out in April, but with their producer moving to Baltimore, they had to put the record on the back burner.

"We were kind of discouraged because we had to push the release date back,"

Bell says. "But now we have a more relaxed recording schedule and are able to put more time into each song.

"It's really cool to be able to do that."

As of right now, there is no set release date for the new album, but the band is gearing up to get back into the studio.

"The new record is going to have a more mature sound," Short explains. "We have a lot of songs that go across a lot of genres, [and] we go from sounding like electropop, similar to HelloGoodbye, with the song 'High-Five for Fun' to an alt-country sound with 'On His Front Porch.'"

Short says he thinks people are going to be really surprised, in a good way, by the new record.

The first single released off The Compromise's new album was called "Like the Stars." With one single already out, the band are getting ready to release their second single called "Let's Spend the Night in Vegas." The song is an interest-

ing concept song that is a prequel to Katy Perry's "Waking Up in Vegas."

"We came up in with the idea for the song when we were taking Adam back home to pick up some of his stuff," Bell says. "We were listening to the song and were discussing the lyrics.

"That song is all about waking up after a long night of partying and we decided to do a song that explains what happens the night before."

Bell says the band listened to each line of Perry's song and wrote a call to her response.

"It turned out awesome," Bell says. "I am very proud of this song."

With a new album coming out soon and another tour in the works, The Compromise is ready to "blow the 'F' out of stuff," Short laughs.

"In all seriousness, we really want to make the band a full-time thing, and we can't wait to start doing that."



Listen to The Compromise's new single
"Let's Spend the Night in Vegas"
online at MTSUSidelines.com



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