# MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2010

VOL. 87, NO. 22

### **GOUOTE OF THE DAY "**

"Look at a day when you are supremely satisfied at the end - it's not a day when you lounge around doing nothing; it's when you've had everything to do, and you've done it." Margaret Thatcher

### Provost candidate seeks originality

By MATTHEW HAMMITT Staff Writer

One of the three candidates vying for the executive vice president and provost position said MTSU should focus on distinguishing itself from other universities in Tennessee during an open forum Wednesday.

Brad Bartel, president of Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colo., visited campus last week to speak with faculty, staff and students about what his vision would be for MTSU if selected as the university's provost.

"I would like to work with you, if I came here, on defining those distinctive qualities of Middle Tennessee that make you different from the other state schools," Bartel said.

Bartel is one of the three people the university is considering to replace Diane Miller, who has been serving as interim executive vice president and provost for the

According to the job description posted on HigherEdJobs.com, "the university provost is the chief academic officer of the university and reports directly to the president."

In addition, the provost is responsible for overseeing academic programs and policies relating to curriculum, university research, public service initiatives, faculty performance and enrollment management.

"You need a person as a provost who understands what constitutes quality programming and the best ways to approach student success," Bartel said.

The candidate, who has 35 years of experience as both a professor and an administrator in institutions of higher education, said MTSU must strive to align its academic programs with its long-term goals in order to

achieve success in those endeavors. "I think I bring to the table that kind of experience so that students can feel assured that every single program will be the best that it can be,"

Bartel said. During his tenure as provost for Florida Gulf Coast University, Bartel said while under his leadership, the college was focused on becoming the environmental institution of the

state of Florida. "Every student, regardless of discipline, did a senior project on the environment," Bartel said. "You need distinctiveness when you're part of so many institutions in one state."

Although Florida Gulf Coast University has less than half the student population of MTSU, Bartel said his experience as associate dean at San Diego State University, which he said has about 10,000 more students than MTSU, has adequately prepared him for managing a larger university.

PROVOST, PAGE 4



Chelsea Drummings, junior liberal arts major, tests Phi Mu Alpha's new wing recipe Saturday during Kappa Delta's seventh annual Wing Fling.

# Kappa Delta 'wings'

### Sorority hosts contest to raise money for child abuse prevention

By ROZALIND RUTH Community News Editor

The MTSU community came together Saturday for Kappa Delta Sorority's seventh annual Wing Fling, a contest held to raise money for child-abuse prevention.

Wing Fling has become MTSU's largest philanthropic affair. The all-you-can-eat event included competitions for best table decorations, smoked wings and best wings by a fraternity, sorority

and restaurant. The Sigma Nu Fraternity won first place for best fraternity wings and Zeta Tau Alpha Fraternity for best sorority wings. Kirkenburt's Smokehouse Grill won for best smoked wings, while Slick Pig Bar-B-Que won for best restau-

Sigma Nu Fraternity member Mason Peters said the fraternity participated in order to show support for KD and to help raise money for the sorority's philanthropic project.

"I think this is one of the best fundraisers Greek life has out here," said Peters, junior concrete major. "A lot of people come out to this thing."

WINGS, PAGE 4

### SGA votes down DREAM Act resolution

### Representatives express concern, say no to support of illegal immigration bill

By ROZALIND RUTH Community News Editor

Among the topics addressed during Thursday's SGA meeting, members voted against passing a resolution that would have expressed MTSU's public support of the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act.

The DREAM Act is a federal bill pending in Congress that would give illegal immigrants who came to the United States as children conditional residency so that they could pay in-state tuition for higher education and eventually gain U.S. citizenship.

Sens. Brandon Thomas, Jacob Wittenberg and Scott Slater of the College of Liberal Arts, and AtBogle co-sponsored SGA Resolution 9-10-S.

rant over all.

The resolution would have required the SGA to send a letter to federally elected representatives expressing MTSU's support of the proposed DREAM Act, as well as send the SGA resolution to President Sidney McPhee.

The resolution failed by a 20-10-14 vote. Of the 67 senators elected this semester, only 34 were present during the SGA meeting Thursday.

"They're more than welcome to come to MTSU," said At-Large Sen. Travis Gay, who opposed the bill. "They have the right to get to any college that they choose, but the bill was for them to have in-state tuition," Bogle, said she Large Sens. Sam Ashby and Katie thought the legislation was voted



Student Government Association senators engaged in a weekly meeting earlier this semester.

on too quickly and supporters of day," Bogle said. "When people the DREAM Act were not given enough time to properly argue their case.

"I think politics had an enormous part of what happened tosee a piece of legislation that really has the power to do something, especially in our SGA, it cannot go well."

SGA, PAGE 4

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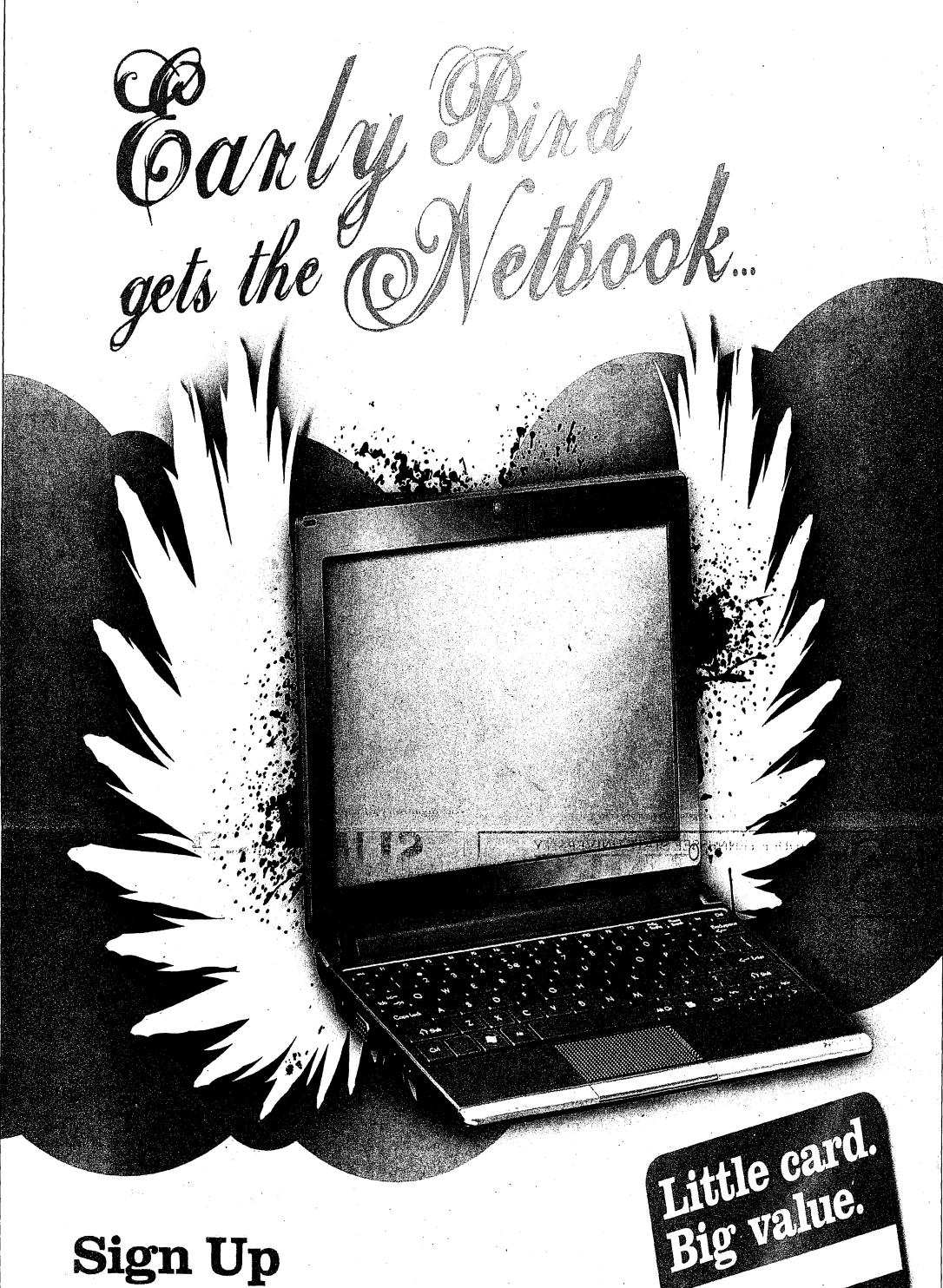


Check out the photo gallery of Saturday's Fashion Show.

ONLINE @ MTSUSIDELINES.COM MONDAY FORECAST



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# University digs anthropologist



Kathy Reichs, who inspired "Bones," an award-winning Fox-TV series, will visit campus to discuss life as an anthropologist and how her life inspired the TV show.



Photo courtesy of Kathy Reichs Kathy Reichs is giving a free lecture at MTSU titled "From Crime Lab to Crime Fiction" on April 14 at 7 p.m. to share

### 'Bones' doctor, author to speak about forensics

By HANNAH HOPKINS

The forensic anthropologist who inspired the award-winning Fox-TV series "Bones" and best-selling author Kathy Reichs will be speaking to MTSU students about her real life crime scene dramas Wednesday.

Known as "Dr. Bones," Reichs is giving a free lecture titled "From Crime Lab to Crime Fiction" on April 14 at 7 p.m. in the Murphy Center, and it will be followed by a book-signing event.

Sponsored by MTSU's Forensic Institute for Research and Education, the lecture series was designed to bring internationally known lecturers in the world of forensic science to MTSU each fall and spring

semester, said Hugh Berryman, director of FIRE.

Berryman said Reichs is one of only forensic anthropologists certified by the Ameri-Board

of Forensic Anthropology. will she discuss experiences she has had on the job, but also she will speak on what goes into writing her fictional books.

Legends in Forensic Science Lectureship series was designed to bring internationally known, top-of-the-line experts to MTSU, Berryman said.

"It is one thing to watch a television show like 'Bones' or 'CSI," Berryman said, "but when you come to this it's the real deal."

Berryman said the lecture series is normally held in the State Farm Room of the Business and Aerospace Building, but this year organizers anticipate an audience of and Education at 615-494-7713.

more than 1,500 people. As a result, he said, Wednesday's event is going to be held in the Murphy Center.

Ali Jordan, graduate student and president of the Middle Tennessee Forensic Science Society, said it is an honor to be able to meet someone like Reichs.

"It is always exciting to have the opportunity to hear someone of Dr. Reichs' caliber and distinction speak on a subject for which you, yourself, have such a passion," Jordan said.

Jordan said she was interested in learning about how Reichs views the Hollywood interpretation of crime scene investigations.

"I think I am most intrigued to hear her take on the portrayal of crime labs in mainstream media and popular culture and how that affects the day-to-day lives of working forensic anthropologists," Jordan said.

Jordan is a member of the Forensic Anthropology Search and Recovery Team, which consists of 10 students trained in forensic anthropology, human osteology, and archaeological field methods, who

> are dispatched as needed to assist local law enforcement and the medical examiner's office with the search and recovery of skeletal remains at crime scenes in Middle Tennes-

see and surrounding areas.

Berryman said students are encouraged to publish their research and papers about

"I am honored to have the opportunity to meet and converse on such an intimate, intellectual level with people who have paved such an incredible path in my chosen field," Jordan said. "Anyone with interests in forensic sciences is truly lucky to have the invaluable opportunities offered by the Forensic Institute for Research and Education."

For more information about the event contact the Forensic Institute for Research

seeks an

### **Editor in Chief**

for the '10 Summer and '10-'11 Fall and Spring Semesters

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 COMM 269) and attach a resume, cover letter, three letters of reference and at least three bylined clips, and deliver to:

Steven Chappell, Sidelines Director, Box 8 or deliver applications to COMM 269

Application deadline: 4 p.m. Friday, April 16

Editor selection interviews will be held the week of April 26

Sidelines is also accepting applications for the following staff positions in the Summer and Fall 2010 semester:

**Managing Editor News editors Sports editors Features editors Photo editor Opinions editor** 

**Copy editors Assistant editors** Staff writers **Staff photographers Production Manager Distributors** 

To apply, come by COMM 269 and fill out a staff application. These positions are open until filled.

PRACTICUM CREDIT IS AVAILABLE TO ALL APPLICANTS.

### SUMMER 26 **TENNESSEI** STATE UNIVERSITY

"It is one thing to watch a tele-

vision show like 'Bones' or 'CSI,'

but when you come to this it's

the real deal."

**HUGH BERRYMAN** 

DIRECTOR OF FIRE

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#### **WINGS FROM PAGE 1**

Chi Omega Sorority member Asheton Winborn said it was important to support other sororities, because she understands how important it is for everyone to get involved because of her own organization's involvement in philanthropic work.

"Even though they're all different they're all still amazing," said Winborn, junior broadcast journalism major.

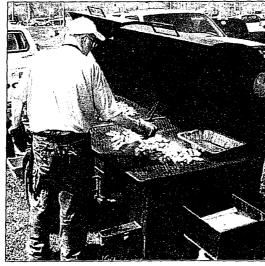
KD member Becky Asbury, junior nursing major, said 80 percent of the proceeds would go to the Exchange Club of Murfreesboro, and the remaining 20 percent would be donated to Prevent Child Abuse America, a national nonprofit

Asbury said the sorority's goal was to top last year's profits of \$18,000. She said more than \$75,000 has been raised since KD began sponsoring the annual contest.

KD member Brittni Hislop said she liked being able to help a local organization.

"It's so exciting to know where your money is going," said Hislop, junior business management major. "You can go to the shelter and you can see the kids that you're helping."

Jackie Victory, leadership and service director for the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership, said she thinks the event was a success because of the beautiful weather. She said Wing Fling is a great family-friendly event that everyone can enjoy, and she has been every year except for one since it began seven years ago.



Grady Andrews, father of Zeta Tau Alpha member Haley Andrews, cooks during Kappa Delta's annual Wing Fling.

"This is probably one of my favorite events here on campus," Victory said. "They do a great job."

KD Grace Janoski, senior organizational communication and psychology major, helped to organize the event.

Janoski said she thought the event turned out to be a success, and that all of the organizers were too busy taking care of the large crowd to count the amount of money as it was made.

KD Charley Tally, liberal arts major, also helped organize the event.

Tally said she thinks MTSU could look forward to future Wing Fling contests and hopes the event will continue to attract as many people, and more, for years to come.

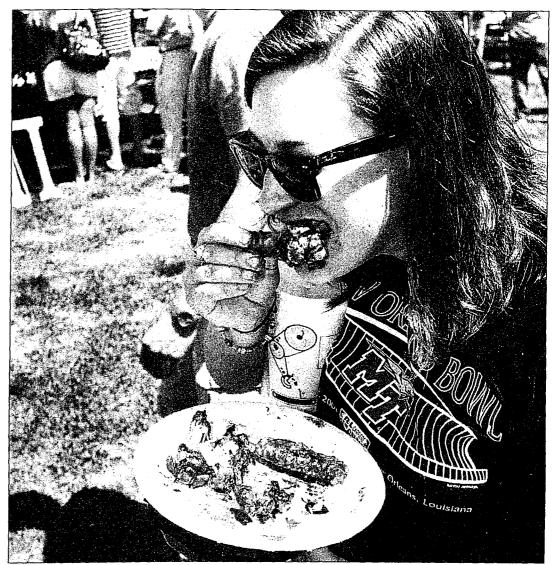


Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor Elaine Pearce, MTSU alumnae, finishes a plate of wings at the Kappa Delta's Wing Fling on Saturday. All funds raised at the event are being donated to help stop child abuse.

### **PROVOST FROM PAGE 1**

Bartel said, for example, if MTSU intends to pursue economic partnerships with the community, its infrastructure and faculty rewards programs must be organized with those goals in mind.

"You have to modify the promotion and tenure guidelines to reflect what you consider to be important," Bartel said. "Faculty needs to be rewarded for participating in those things."

Bartel was asked for his thoughts on the restructuring of colleges, a main challenge currently in the hands of the university student-centeredness of the president's office.

"You have to have some the Future Initiative.

positive things come out of it," Bartel said. "That usually includes better efficiencies and cost reductions, better synergy among faculty for research, and better learning environments for students – those are the reasons for reorganization."

Bartel said communication between administration and students is critical during periods of transition such as the current one.

"If you're doing something major, whether its budget cuts or reorganization, you want to engage all the stakeholders in the issue," Bartel said.

Addressing the university's long-term plans, Bartel said he is enthusiastic about the Positioning the University for

"I liked how he emphasized centralizing the students," said Lyndsay Tarus, freshman global studies major. "As a student, of course, that's very good to hear."

Among his past achievements discussed during the forum, Bartel talked about the importance of service learning programs most often.

Service learning is a teaching strategy that focuses on community partnerships arranged to address local needs as an important part of a learning curriculum.

Campus officials are in the process of interviewing candidates for provost. There has been no official word on how long the selection process will take, or if there is a deadline in place for filling the position.

#### **SGA** FROM PAGE 1

Thomas, who is a senator for the College of Liberal Arts, said he plans on introducing the resolution again because he feels it is designed to bring awareness.

"I think that fear-mongering and false information got the better of some peo-

ple," Thomas said. He said the situation felt similar to what happened during the gender iden-

tity bill debate from last summer. "I've been through that once," Thomas said. "I feel it's coming back and I really

feel passionate about this." SGA President Brandon McNary said he thinks the bill was called to question rather quickly, not allowing everyone to respond.

"One of the drawbacks of being president is that you don't get to vote," Mc-Nary said. "I don't think this bill not passing here is going to hurt the [federal of Liberal Arts.

or state] bills, because basically now I'm not going to write a letter."

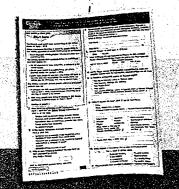
In addition to the DREAM Act resolution, the SGA discussed details about the new e-mail accounts available to students enrolled in future semesters. McNary said the new addresses could hold 10 gigabytes of memory, while the current accounts can only hold 20 megabytes.

SGA Resolution, 10-10-S, which proposed placing plastic recycling bins around the university's intramural field, passed by a 34-0 margin. It was cosponsored by Freshman Sens. Jordon Hall and Rachel Lee, and Sen. Brittney Sceals of the College of Liberal Arts.

McNary also said it was announced Monday that Slater won the run-off election for a seat in the 2010-2011 SGA senate. Slater was running against Curtis Strode Jr., junior liberal arts major, for the eighth seat in the College



# X Attention off-campus students the Census needs you to return your form.



There are special programs in place to count students on campus. But if you live off campus, you have to complete your own 2010 Census form that arrived in the mail. By participating, you're helping future students enjoy some of the same benefits and services that you have today. It's just 10 questions and takes about 10 minutes. So fill it out and mail it back.

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2010census.gov

#### **Letters Policy**

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopinio@mtsu.edu and include your name and phone number for verification. Sidelines will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit grammar, length and content.

# **OPINIONS**

Sidelines is the editorially independent, non-profit student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. Sidelines publishes Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and Wednesday during June and July. The opinions expressed herein are those of individual writers and not necessarily Sidelines or MTSU.

**SIDELINES NEEDS YOUR INPUT:** 

## Should our sports section stay in print?

Lack of student sports writers, local competition make it difficult to keep the section viable, updated

In the growing age of technology, the media is feeling more pressure than ever to have more information faster. Sidelines is also feeling that pressure, and this semester we have tried to keep our information available more quickly.

As I am sure many of you noticed last month, Sidelines decided to only print the sports section in Monday's paper as opposed to both Monday and Thursday.

This decision was not an easy one, but one that many of us felt necessary. Because we did not want our readers to feel that the paper had apathetically deleted a section from print, we decided to replace the sports section on Thursday with a new creation, the arts & entertainment section. Sidelines will still be posting sports content online both Monday and Thursday, but, as for print, Sidelines is unsure what will best suit our readers.

Since I began working at Sidelines, I watched one editor in chief after another ask the same thing of the sports



From the editor

section, "we need more upto-date content, more often," and the response was always the same, "we need more writers." This problem, which has been becoming more and more troublesome for Sidelines, has only worsened this semester.

In prior semesters, the College of Mass Communication has offered a sports writing class; however, even the university is beginning to see our problem as the class was canceled this semester due to low enrollment.

Every semester, we print advertisements in the paper for writers, and every semester, all of the sections, other than sports, reap the benefit. In many cases, Sidelines is able to

produce timely content to fill paper, is it worth setting aside the pages of the biweekly paper, and this semester we have been trying to increase our coverage and speed. However, because of the lack of sports writers, the section is unable to compete with news sources such as The Daily News Journal and Goblueraiders.com.

Both of these news sources update their sports content numerous times a day, and Sidelines cannot compete with them because we only print twice a week, which makes having timely content run in the paper nearly impossible, because content must be prepared two days ahead of time due to our printing schedule.

If you are a reader of Sidelines' sports section, I am sure you have seen that in recent weeks, many of the bylines in the paper read, "MTSU Dispatch," meaning those stories were taken from Goblueraiders.com. This is because with the low number of writers, the sports section is being left to pull content from other news sources.

While a sports section is a very important one in a newsan entire page if it is not filled with original content?

This is where you, our readers, come in. We at Sidelines would like to know your opinion about the possible deletion of the sports section from our print edition and moving it online. While the idea of not having a sports section is devastating to many of us, we want to provide our readers with the most creative and original content as possible.

If you feel that Sidelines should keep the sports section or you have any ideas on what vou would like to see done with the section, please let us know. We as a news source want to give our readers the best experience, and if the sports section is something you enjoy and you would like the section to remain in the paper, please let us know or apply to be a sports writer for Sidelines.

Alex Moorman is a senior journalism major and editor in chief of Sidelines. She can be reached at sleditor@mtsu.edu.

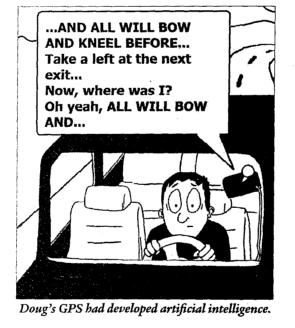


The finer things...



It was over. Bessie and the dirt dobbers could no longer compete with that pig and his spider next door.

By JEREMY BALL Staff Cartoonist



thefinerthingscomics@gmail.com

Graphic by Michael Stone, opinions editor

From the opinions editor

Ever wonder what your professors' salaries are? You can see them by checking out the budget books from the reserves' desk at the James E. Walker Library.

There's one problem, though, with the figures in the books: They are printed every May for the following year. This means the only public record access citizens have to comprehensive faculty, staff and administrator listings and salaries is a snapshot of the fiscal year from the prior year.

Fiscal years for MTSU last from July 1 to June 30. When a fiscal-year budget is printed in May, it's inaccurate because it is representative of the year prior since the book is basically overhauled starting July 1.

MTSU should print public budget books in July instead of May so those citizens who want to look at them can have accurate, updated information.

-Michael Stone, slopinio@mtsu.edu

### English-only testing will further isolate Hispanics

The chambers of commerce in Tennessee's four biggest cities - Nashville, Chattanooga, Knoxville and Memphis – sent a letter to lawmakers in opposition of a bill that would require citizens take the written portion of drivers' exams in English.

The bill is meant to promote safety among drivers. Supporters of the bill say that it is unsafe for citizens who are not proficient in English to drive because they may not be able to read traffic signs, even though there is no evidence supporting that language barriers cause more traffic accidents.

Most traffic signs are universal. Someone could



Es lo que ella dijo (That's what she said)

travel to almost any country and still recognize stop, yield and merge signs.

The bill is discriminatory. I do not feel the inability to speak English causes a hazard to society. Some Tennesseans who support the bill may think that it helps tackle illegal immigration

issues, but they fail to consider that some of those trying to get drivers' licenses are legal citizens and should be able to enjoy the same rights as everyone else.

A bigger safety issue is that if the bill is passed, there will be more unlicensed drivers on the streets. Those who cannot attain licenses will still drive, and they will lack the training required to get a driver's license.

Currently, those who take versions of the written exam in languages besides English must still be able to identify road signs and pass the practical portion of the driving exam in cities with English road signs. If they fail to be functional

drivers due to English road discourage international insigns, they aren't granted a driver's license.

The inability to drive would prevent those trying to learn English from driving to English classes or to jobs where they have interaction with others who speak English. Though the bill may be intended to keep our roads safe and urge immigrants to learn English, it actually isolates them, which makes learning the language even more difficult.

Tennessee currently offers drivers' license exams in English, Spanish, Korean and Japanese. Tennessee business leaders say a bill forcing all citizens to take the exams in English could

vestors who are stimulating our economy, such as Volkswagen and Nissan, which have plants in Tennessee.

To appease business leaders, an amendment was adopted that would exempt those in Tennessee for investment reasons with work visas from having to take the test in English. This still sends the wrong message to investors and gives the state a bad reputation.

As a bilingual person in the workforce, I feel that the majority of Hispanic people I encounter are genuinely trying to learn English. I speak with several customers daily who appreciate that I speak to

them in Spanish and English because they need to practice. When I say words in Spanish that they don't know in English, they ask me how to say them in English, because they have a true interest in learning our language.

It is difficult to learn another language without practicing it and communicating with others who speak it. Our focus should not be on isolating those who do not speak English but on helping them acquire the language skills they need.

Krissy Mallory is a senior majoring in journalism and Spanish. She can be reached at skm2i@mtsu.edu.

Middle Tennessee State University 1301 East Main Street P.O. Box 8 Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Editorial: 615-904-8357 Fax: 615-494-7648

Advertising: 615-898-5240 Fax: 615-904-8193

www.mtsusidelines.com

**Editor in Chief** Alex Moorman sleditor@mtsu.edu

**Managing Editor** Dustin Evans\*

slmanage@mtsu.edu

Chris Carter sldesign@mtsu.edu Advertising Andy Harper sl4ads@mtsu.edu

Photography Jay Bailev slphoto@mtsu.edu

Production Manager Features Emma Egli\*

slfeatur@mtsu.edu slonline@mtsu.edu

**Sports** Steven Curley slsports@mtsu.edu

**Opinions** Michael Stone\* slopinio@mtsu.edu

Multimedia Larry Sterling\* **Community News** Rozalind Ruth\* slnews@mtsu.edu

**Campus News** Marie Kemph slcampus@mtsu.edu

Asst. News Christopher Merchant

slcopy@mtsu.edu

Magan Glaze Adviser

A&E

Laura Aiken

**Copy Editors** 

slflash@mtsu.edu

Steven Chappell

schappel@mtsu.edu

Allison Roberts \* denotes membe

Eveon Corl

**Business** 

of editorial board

Advertising

jlamb@mtsu.edu

Jeri Lamb

ecorl@mtsu.edu



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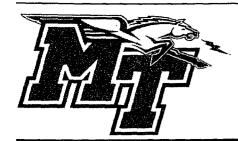


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Sidelines is an editorially independent newspaper affiliated with Middle Tennessee State University and the College of Mass Communication.



# SPORTS

Check MTSUSIDELINES.COM for more information on upcoming games and other sporting events at MTSU.



# San Antonio selects Clark

### **Sun Belt Conference Player of** the year becomes third MT Lady Raider to be drafted into WNBA

MTSU Dispatch

step of her basketball career in San Antonio, as the Lady Raiders star was selected in the second round, 17th overall by the San Antonio Silver Stars in the WNBA draft Thursday.

The Mt. Juliet native and All-American is the third Lady Raider to be drafted by a WNBA team, following Chrissy Givens' 31st overall selection by the Phoenix Mercury in 2007 and Amber Holt's 9th overall selection by the Connecticut Sun

Clark leaves MT as a two-time Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year as well two-time Atlantic Sun Confer-

Alysha Clark will begin the next ence Player of the Year at Belmont, the only two-time All American in school history and the nation's leading scorer the past two seasons.

Clark's 1,756 career points put her in eighth place on the Lady Raiders' all-time scoring list.

She put on one of her finest performances in the 2010 SBC Tournament, setting the record for most points scored in a conference tournament with 132, breaking the single-game record in the first round, then breaking her own records in each of the next two.

The Silver Stars finished 15-19 in 2009, earning the fourth seed in the Western Conference.

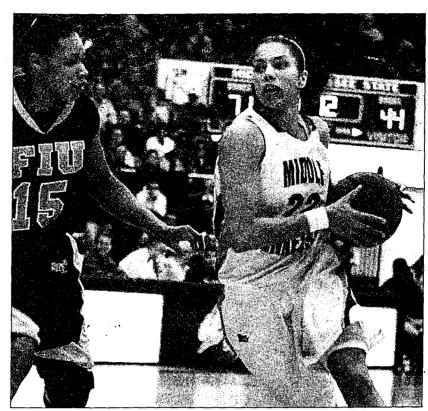


Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor Senior forward Alysha Clark drives down the court against Florida International on January 13. The MT Lady Raiders won the game 90-58.

# Defense dominates MT spring game

By JACOB WELLS Staff Writer

The house was rocking as 3,110 fans piled into Floyd Stadium on Saturday to witness the Blue Raider's defense rack up 12 sacks and four interceptions in a 56-42 victory.

Senior defensive end Jarrett Crittenton led the charge, registering 10 tackles, six for loss and three sacks. Marquise Dixon, freshman defensive back and most-improved defensive back during spring practice, maintained a stout secondary as he posted nine tackles.

Offensively, MT did not show much in the running game, leaving most of the scoring up to the quarterbacks and receivers. Sophomore quarterback Logan Kilgore finished 21-34 for 322 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions.

Starting quarterback Dwight Dasher was limited to only one series in the game, finishing 2-4 for

"I guess [the coaches] wanted to see what [the other quarterbacks] could do," Dasher said. "All of them looked good. We just got to take out some of the minor mistakes like throwing interceptions."

Freshman quarterback Jamal Ramsey threw for 60 yards, completing 11 of 18 passes. Spencer Wise, another freshman quarterback, finished with 13 yards and two interceptions on 2-4 passing.

One of Kilgore's touchdowns was an 80-yard strike to senior wide receiver Garrett Andrews in the first quarter. Andrews made an overthe-shoulder catch between two defenders and darted to the end-



MT freshman quarterback Jamal Ramsey fakes a handoff to D.D. Kyles on Saturday during the 2010 Blue and White game.

zone with turf flying and defenders gasping for air.

With Wise leading the offense, freshman running back William Pratcher broke a 47-yard run to the White 17-yard line just before the end of the first quarter.

On the first play of the second quarter, Wise attempted a fade to the corner of the endzone, but was intercepted by sophomore defensive back Bryan Armstrong.

In the third quarter, freshman wide receiver Arthur Williams caught a 40-yard touchdown pass from Kilgore.

Three second-half interceptions helped the defense secure the win for the White team. The White team played only defense, and the Blue team played only offense. The scoring was adjusted

to allow the defense to score on third and fourth down stops, sacks, missed field goals, turnovers and touchdowns.

The offensive scoring was the same as a normal game except that points were awarded for first downs and plays that were over 20 yards.

FOOTBALL, PAGE 7

### Lebron's name **overshadows Durant's MVP**caliber season



The Usual Vernacular

Turn on ESPN and watch any analyst talk about the NBA MVP race for more than 30 seconds and you're likely to hear LeBron James' name mentioned about 74 times.

Better yet, ask any casual basketball fan who the MVP should be, and odds are you'll hear people gushing over King James and his talents; you may be lucky enough to encounter one of those special fans who believes that James has already surpassed the great Michael Jordan.

James' praise is well deserved. He currently leads the league in scoring and averages over seven rebounds and eight assists per game on a team that has the league's best record. The problem is, while he will likely win the award with a nearly unanimous vote, he is not this year's NBA MVP.

The person who deserves this title is a kid who is barely old enough to drink, yet has been dubbed "Durantula" by the sporting world. Kevin Durant, the 6'9" forward for the Oklahoma City Thunder, has been electric all season long.

Trailing James by less than half a point in points per game, Durant has averaged better from behind the threepoint stripe than James, Kobe Bryant, Dwyane Wade and Carmelo Anthony; he has also shot a much higher percentage from the foul line than any of these players.

Durant gets the job done on offense alone, and has also out-rebounded each one of the aforementioned opposing MVP candidates. Durant averages one block per game, the same as James, just one tenth of a point lower than Wade's average and more than Bryant and Anthony. The only place that his game really lacks statistically when compared to the others is in assists.

The most outstanding statistic does not come from a stat-sheet. Durant's Thunder finished the 2008-2009 NBA season with the fourth worst record in league, 23-59, making him the only current MVP candidate to finish last season out of the playoff race.

Every other MVP candidate entered the season with a playoff-caliber team around them and championship aspirations. Durant picked the Thunder up on his shoulders and made them a playoff team with a streak of 29 consecutive games with 25 points or more.

MVP, PAGE 7

### **Anderson Silva embarrasses** sport, himself at UFC 112

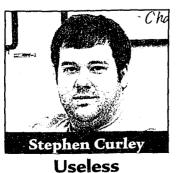
The title "world champion" is meant to command respect, and in doing so, a champion should reciprocate that respect to his or her opponents, who have worked just as hard to put themselves in that position.

UFC Middleweight champion Anderson Silva's actions Saturday had nothing to do with any of that.

Silva, whose showman-

ship and charisma are second to none in mixed martial arts, went confidently into the fight with Brazillian Jiu-Jitsu superstar, Demian Maia.

Unfortunately for those watching at home as well as in attendance in Yas Island, United Arab Emirates, that showmanship turned into arrogance as Silva toyed with Maia, us-



Information

ing the first two rounds to take careful shots, turning the challenger's face into a smashed mess.

The three rounds that followed were an embarrassment, as Silva easily could have finished Maia seemingly whenever he pleased, but danced (figuratively and literally) around the challenger while taunting him at every turn.

In sports, characters are important. Flamboyant personalities sell tickets, merchandise and advertising, whether people love that personality and want to see them win, hate it and want to see them fail or are simply intrigued by it and want to see what happens.

UFC, PAGE 7



Silva celebrates the defense of his UFC Middleweight championship in 2009.



Photo courtesy of slamonline.com Oklahoma City Thunder small forward Kevin Durant takes on Los Angeles Lakers' shooting guard Kobe Bryant in a 2009-2010 regular season matchup.

### **MVP** FROM PAGE 6

This marked the longest such streak since Michael Jordan's 40 consecutive 25-point games in the 1986-1987 season and passed Allen Iverson's 2001 streak by one game, no active player has a longer streak.

With everything Durant has accomplished this season, the biggest thing holding him back in the MVP race is the celebrity of James. Durant trails James in endorsements more than he does in any other area of

With James' puppet commercials for Nike and his high profile friendships with people like Jay-Z, James finds a way to stay in the public eye as much as he can. Case in point is his appearance with Dr. Dre in ESPN's pre-game coverage he deserves this season:

of the Boston Red Sox season opener against the New York Yankees.

Durant has two games left to win the NBA's scoring title over James, with whom he has played a season-long game of "leap frog" for the points lead. Whether or not he wins that title, his successful season will give him the notoriety to have a legitimate run at next season's MVP award, the award that

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#### Tech during the offsea-**FOOTBALL** son. Defensive coordinator FROM PAGE 6 Manny Diaz took the same position at Mississippi

MT is coming off its best football season since transitioning from Division II status to the Football Bowl Subdivision and the Sun Belt Conference. Head coach Rick Stockstill led the Raiders to their first 10win season and first bowl victory, the New Orleans Bowl, in 2009.

Stockstill was forced to find new offensive and defensive coordinators this season. Mike Schultz replaced Tony Franklin, last year's offensive coordinator who signed with Louisiana Floyd Stadium.

State – he was replaced by Randall McCray.

"When they come in and switch the coaches you have to adjust some things," Dasher said. "Right now we are trying to play the way (Schultz) wants us to play.'

New coaches and a talented group of young players have MT fans ready for the season. With the spring tease now over, the team and the fans will have to wait until Sept. 2 to play again, when the University of Minnesota will visit

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#### **UFC** FROM PAGE 6

The difference between what Chad Ochocinco does most of the time and what Silva did Saturday, is that Silva showed a malicious discontent for his opponent while Ochocinco usually talks trash and acts out all in good fun.

For the UFC, who are continually trying to build a global audience, the displeasure of the Abu Dhabi, U.A.E., crowd probably does not help in that department, though they clearly knew how to heckle. Towards the end of the fight, the crowd began chanting "GSP" and gave the loudest positive response to the fight when referee Dan Miragliotta finally decided to admonish Silva for his showboating, threatening to take a point away if he kept it up.

The chants of "GSP" came up due to rumors that following the fight, Silva would drop to 170 pounds to take on Welterweight Champion and the man right behind him on any poundfor-pound list, Georges St. Pierre.

A matchup between the two would have the potential to be one of the most hyped fights in the history of the sport and could elevate the

promotion to new heights. UFC president Dana White said that after the stunt Silva pulled, he doesn't even want to see that fight.

What's lost in all of this controversy surrounding Silva is the way Maia toughed it out. Maia's nose was shattered early in the fight, and he apparently made the mistake of blowing it between rounds, causing his left eye to swell

up and close completely, effectively forcing him to fight with one eye for the final 'two rounds.

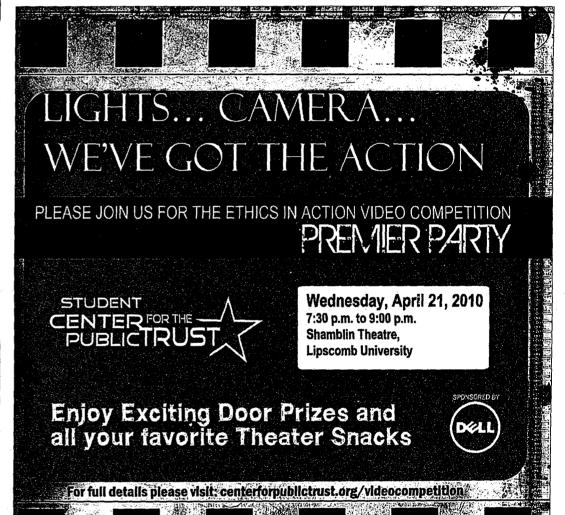
Also lost in the controversy is the loss of the seemingly unbeatable BJ Penn at the hands of Frankie Edgar.

When people look back on UFC 112, the completely unsportsmanlike conduct of the promotion's best fighter will be all that stands out.



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# FEATURES



DO YOU KNOW IF THE **COLLEGE RESTRUC-TURING WILL AFFECT** 

BASED ON VOTES FROM MTSUSIDELINES.COM.



Participants in the 2010 MTSU Spring Fashion Show, which showcased handmade designs to the MT community in an effort to raise funds for the Red Cross Haiti Relief and Development fund, strike a final pose.

# Decades race at catwalk pace

### Fashionable students send retro-themed garments down runway for charity

"You have to get

each pattern to fit – perfectly ."

**MARGARET MAY** 

JUNIOR APPAREL DESIGN MAJOR

By LAURA AIKEN Arts & Entertainment Editor

A catwalk leading back to an old-fashioned clock severed down the middle is the gateway to a fashionable world – one where the latest Manolos are discussed, the most recent Stella McCartney design is fervently scrutinized and Vera Wang's style – which is mainly simplistic is pondered.

This evening, titled In Search of Lost Time, had audience members checking their watches impatiently, anxious to witness designs that might evoke bittersweet nostalgia and jog a memory or two.

Behind the clock and the curtain, you'll see designers scurrying around with safety pins and double-sided tape, merchandise majors with clipboards screaming "show time" and models standing in allegiance, sucking in their stomachs, mentally preparing to glide down the runway.

The 2010 MTSU Spring Fashion Show on Friday showcased months of preparation from students in the textiles, merchandise and design sector of the human sciences department, which not only promoted students' handmade designs, but also raised money for the American Red Cross Haiti Relief and Development fund.

Pieces exemplified the essence of iconic figures like Marilyn Monroe and Audrey Hepburn, and others were inspired from early childhood. Every pattern, design and intricate outfit shouted fashion from its surface, silencing the audience in the beginning and summoning full-throated cheers in the end.

This fashion show, encouraging innovative

just have easily been located at the intersection of 17th and Broadway, which was evidenced by the overall professionalism and reaction from the audience. High fashion exists in more places than just New York City, which is precisely what Ryan Ripley strived for Friday night.

Ripley, senior apparel design major, knows his way around the industry – high fashion is his niche. In his ripped jeans and raw edges, Ripley modeled pieces in the fashion show that were made with his

"I like to make things quirky," Ripley laughs. "I like casual distress with a little bit of an edge to it, but not

own two hands.

too serious." A tousle-haired male model wearing one

of Ripley's designs - a trench coat with a flaring collar - procured pleased cries from the audience.

Ripley says he enjoys making things that are more costume-oriented, merely a sliver of his monumental inventiveness.

"MTSU has a great program, and I'm glad to be a part of it," he adds.

Another participant who made a splash on the runway was Tera Ptacek, MTSU alumna. She says that the fashion department instills "a lot of confidence." In the months leading up to Friday's fashion extravaganza, Ptacek says she was coached for an innumerable amount of hours because designers needed the rehearsal time to see how the garments would be interpreted. Plus, the models' walk had to complement the garments they wore.

creativity among fashion-enthusiasts, could it worked itself out because we rehearsed

Ptacek says modeling is not about signature moves or classic poses; it is about what the clothes are trying to express. "It's -world at MTSU. the garment that decides what you do,"

And the garment that took first place for the apparel design scholarship was that of Margaret May, junior apparel design major. She received a \$200 cash prize for her winning garment.

"My biggest fear was that a garment would break," May admits. "Backstage, a zipper broke off one of my garments - but I fixed it with a safety pin, so

luckily it was all good." The garment, a black dress with tiers emerg-

ing from the waist down, wasn't good – it was great. Exquisitely designed, the dress bore resemblance to something you'd see in a Dolce & Gabbana advertisement or donned on Blair Waldorf along with the other gossiping girls who live on the Upper East Side.

May began sewing at a young age, deriving from it her love of artistic design. She finds

"I chose apparel design so I could sew, and because I could be creative," May says, starry-eyed. "You have to get each pattern to fit - perfectly."

Perfection is difficult to achieve, but here is a woman, goal-oriented and quick witted, who demands perfection. She challenges, inspires and leads the students in her class every

garments for the annual fashion show. They adhere to her instruction, follow her direction and speak to her in hushed, reverent tones, because she is the Miranda Priestly of the fashion

Jasmin Kwon doesn't preach or stand on a soapbox. Kwon, assistant professor of human sciences and director of the MTSU fashion show, willfully makes things happen.

"All my students are winners without a blink. "All semester I criticize and critique their work, but at the end of the day they love me and I love them."

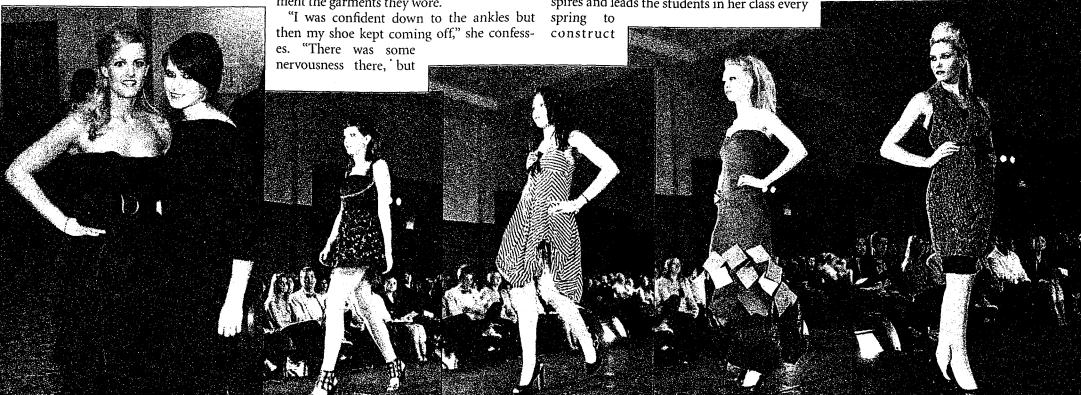
The fashion industry doesn't just take pieces of fabric and tape them on starved legs that extend for miles. Kwon says that fashion is just another form of expression like music, dance or sculpture. And the fashion program's creativity is growing steadily, improving day by day.

This year's theme incorporated retro fashion, a clothing style which consists in wearing clothes commonly used in the past, she says. The clothing is exaggerated and characteristic, which identifies with the personalized style seen in the show.

Compared to previous years, Kwon considers Friday night's show the best one.

"When I interviewed at MTSU, Murfreesboro was full of flowers and trees and people were so nice - it was like God's calling," she gushes. "Murfreesboro is full of miracles."

During the show, tears silently rolled down her face, which she quickly wiped away. A woman who wears Prada never lets her adoring pupils see her sweat.



to by Jay Bailey, photography editor Margaret May, junior apparel design major, placed first for her original designs.

The textile, merchandising and design department produces an annual fashion show, giving students the opportunity to work in a runway environment.

# Songstress has MT singing new tune

Nashville's indie scene shines with the music and grace of Natalie Prass

By EMMA EGLI Features Editor

Wise beyond her years, songbird Natalie Prass trills twangy and sparkly indie pop in the Music City.

Refreshingly distinctive, Prass's songwriting sensibility and charming demeanor seems to be lending her a hand in what looks to be a very promising career in the music industry. She has potential to give Jenny Lewis a run for her money.

Her passion for music stems back to her childhood when she began playing piano by ear and wrote her first song when she was in first grade.

"I wrote it about Jesus," Prass laughs embarrassedly. "Then I attached it to an Applebee's balloon and let it go."

She might have killed a bird, but the anecdote is adorable nonetheless.

Hailing from Virginia Beach, Virginia, Prass knew while growing up that she wanted to pursue a musical career path, as evidenced by her serious musical endeavors - i.e., starting a band when she

"We did Disney covers," Prass chuckles. "Super cheesy, but we played songs that I really liked."

As Prass got older, she began taking music more seriously and ended up at Berklee College of Music in Boston.

"The classes were incredible," Prasssays of the prestigious school. "It was extremely challenging and extremely competitive."

But unlike Nashville, a city that exemplifies a songwriter's idea of heaven, Boston proved to be a dismal area for any artist looking to book a show and make

"There are 20 plus colleges in Boston," Prass says. "Yet everyone was poor or busy studying - plus, I didn't want to carry my equipment around in the snow."

Using the time spent stuck sea of country singers one usu- indoors from the less-thanally comes to associate with the enjoyable weather, Prass picked up the guitar and taught herself how to play.

"I had a close girlfriend who is incredibly talented with guitar," Prass says. "She had a huge influence on me and made me want to practice all the time."

During her stay at Berklee, Prass's parents moved to the Franklin area. Upon visiting them and other friends from her hometown who had moved to Middle Tennessee, Prass was struck by how well the area catered to her interests...

"I would ask myself 'what am I doing in freezing, miserable, cold Boston?" Prass says. "This is my scene down here - with all the songwriters and so many places to play."

With a year of Berklee under her belt. Prass made the decision to move to Nashville, commute to MTSU and major in the recording industry, a decision she says was the right one.

"I really love the program here," Prass says. "At Berklee, I would think to myself 'oh my God I'm being taught by Miles Davis's guitarist'— but the professors here are just as good."

While most artists struggle to book shows, Prass has been fortunate enough to never encounter this problem since moving to Nashville. She has frequented venues such as The Basement and The Rutledge, to name a few.

"The friends I have here are really well connected," Prass explains. "I would go to their shows and they would ask me to open for them."



Photo by Phillip Chad, contributing photographer MTSU student Natalie Prass will release her first full-length album this summer. The former Berklee student performs regularly in the Middle Tennessee area and says she takes inspiration from all types of music, including rap.

Her biggest accomplishment est in rap. "I hang on to things try," Prass says. "They don't since gracing Middle Tennessee like that.' with her presence has been her six-song EP, "Sweet & Small." Indeed, the EP is small in stature, but each song is candy-coated with Prass' delightful voice and captivating lyrics.

Prass says she draws inspirait Motown, musical theater or surprisingly, rap.

"Maybe I won't like an entire song, but hey, maybe that one part is awesome," Prass explains after admitting her recent inter-

Songs like "Deer" and "Jenny" are evidence of her Indigo Girls influence, not to mention, are catchy and upbeat, folky ballads that rival those of Feist and Rilo Kiley.

Next on Prass' plate is a fulltion from all things good, be length CD that she is looking to finish in the summer after graduating. Prass has also been talking to numerous publishing companies who have shown an interest in her.

"The problem is, I'm not coun- writing and working."

know where to place me so they are sending my stuff to New York and L.A."

People in the industry may not know where to place her, but she is perfectly fine accepting the fact that she doesn't fit the generic female singer-songwriter persona the industry tends to replicate and spit out.

"I've learned not to get too excited about things," Prass humbly admits. "Someone might like my stuff, but I'm just going to keep



