

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

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VOL. 84 NO. 58

INSIDE

Check out the band of the week



A local Johnny Cash tribute band so convincing you might think you're watching the Man in Black himself.

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Don't make civic service mandatory

The president-elect should protect individual liberty.

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Tennessee returns to the Murphy Center

Twenty years after their first meeting, MT and UT will face off in Murfreesboro tomorrow.

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COMMUTE

Alumni Drive from Blue Raider Drive to Friendship Street will be closed for the fall semester for road improvements. With the closing of Alumni, there will be no access to the Library parking lot. During the construction period, the northern part of the parking lot by the Honors Building will be changed from green to white. The southern end of the lot by Ezell Hall will remain green for students. You will not be able to access the campus via Womack Lane.

Due to construction, several lots have been rezoned. All legal parking areas are designated by signs, painted stripes, or other marks. Be sure to check the posted signs BEFORE you park your automobile. If it is not marked, don't park!

For more information, visit www.mtsu.edu/parking.

Electrical problem sparks evacuation

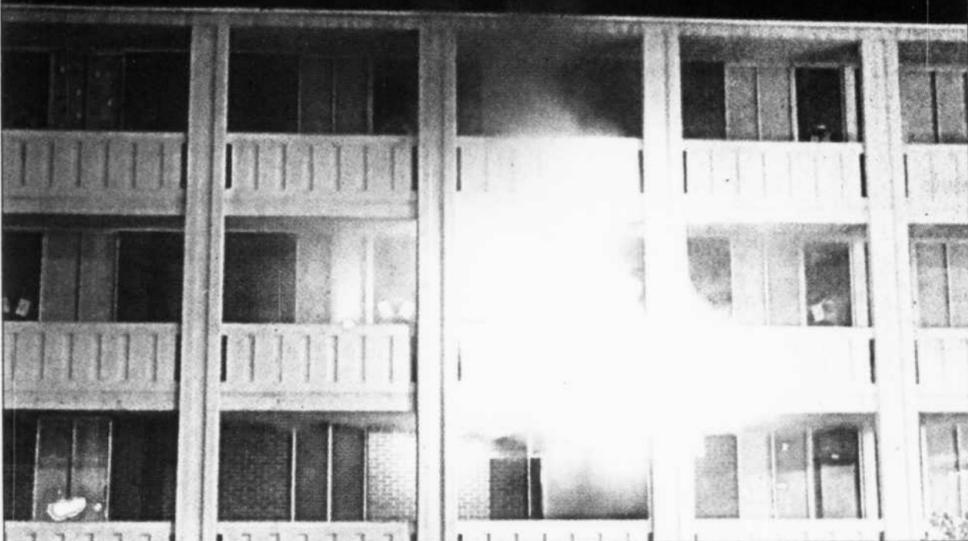


Photo by Jamie Donahue, contributing photographer

By TANNER EADS
Contributing Writer

A steam line burst in an MTSU dormitory late last night causing residents to stand in the cold until the issue could be resolved.

At 11:30 p.m., a steam line snapped in Deere Hall, exposing

electrical wires which caused fire alarms to sound. According to the MTSU Police Department, however, there was no fire.

The students were evacuated just before midnight and had to remain vacated until the steam line was repaired.

According to Reggie Floyd, director of Energy Services at MTSU, the incident was contained within an hour of a technician's arrival and no one was injured. Students were allowed to return to the dorm at around 1:30 a.m., once repairs were complete.

McPhee: Nothing immune to cuts

By BYRON WILKES, FAITH FRANKLIN
Community and Assistant News Editors

President Sidney McPhee spoke in two open forum meetings this week to address the budget crisis for faculty, staff and students, who showed up in droves amid concern for university programs and positions.

"We cannot continue with business as usual at this institution if we are going to continue to exist," McPhee said. "We can't do this without major restructuring, major bleeding and significant pain."

The office of the president held two faculty open forums which attracted more people than could even fit in the room. The first took place Tuesday at 3 p.m. and the second Wednesday at 1:30 p.m.

"I was impressed by the sense of transparency that was displayed in terms of the budget," said Vincent Windrow, director of Intercultural and Diversity Affairs. "[Especially] in terms of the allocations of money and President McPhee's forthrightness in detailing that there are some hard times coming."

The forums are a direct result of Tennessee's budget cuts, which the state government has demanded of the state departments twice in the 2008 fiscal year. Gov. Phil Bredesen has made two budget rescissions

FORUM, PAGE 3

New science building, landscape concerns push photography building out of focus

By ALEX BLACKWELDER
Photography Editor

With Tennessee's deficit being \$200 million more than expected, certain programs and buildings run the risk of being eliminated.

Since the photography building is not part of the long-term facilities plan, students are wondering what

will happen to the program.

John Cothorn, senior vice president, said that the plan to tear down the photography building is purely aesthetic and will give the new science building a plaza.

"The master plan has been approved, and once we know we have the funding for the science building, it will move up the need to ex-

pand the Bragg Mass Communication building" Cothorn said. "Once the science building funds are approved, it will take at least two years to build, so it is not in the immediate future."

According to Dennis Oneal, department chair of electronic media communication, the photography building will remain the photog-

raphy building until it has a new home in the expansion of the mass communication building.

Oneal said that the photography building will eventually be demolished, but it can't be done without a home for the program.

PHOTOGRAPHY, PAGE 3

Economic woes might lead to larger classes

Tenn. study shows student-teacher connection important in education

By ALEX MOORMAN
Assistant News Editor

With eminent budget cuts approaching, students will have to face the possibility of their classes becoming larger and how that will affect their ability to learn.

In this year alone, MTSU has experienced \$10 million in budget cuts but the possibility for that cut to double looms in the future. This threat may decrease students' electives and negatively affect their learning.

"We are asking teachers to try and be more efficient in regards to the number of students that can be seated in a certain room," said Kaylene Gebert, executive vice president and provost of Academic Affairs. "We

are trying to use our rooms more efficiently and that could mean upping the number of students in certain classes."

According to the National Education Association, few education issues have been studied more than the effect of class size on student achievement. Tennessee's lengthy class-size study, Student Teacher Achievement Ratio project, had results that were contradictory and inconclusive.

The STAR project showed that students enrolled in small classes were more likely to graduate on time, complete more advanced math and English courses and graduate with honors.



Photo by Aya Matsuo, staff photographer
Students take notes during a highly-populated class in the LRC room 221.

CLASSES, PAGE 3

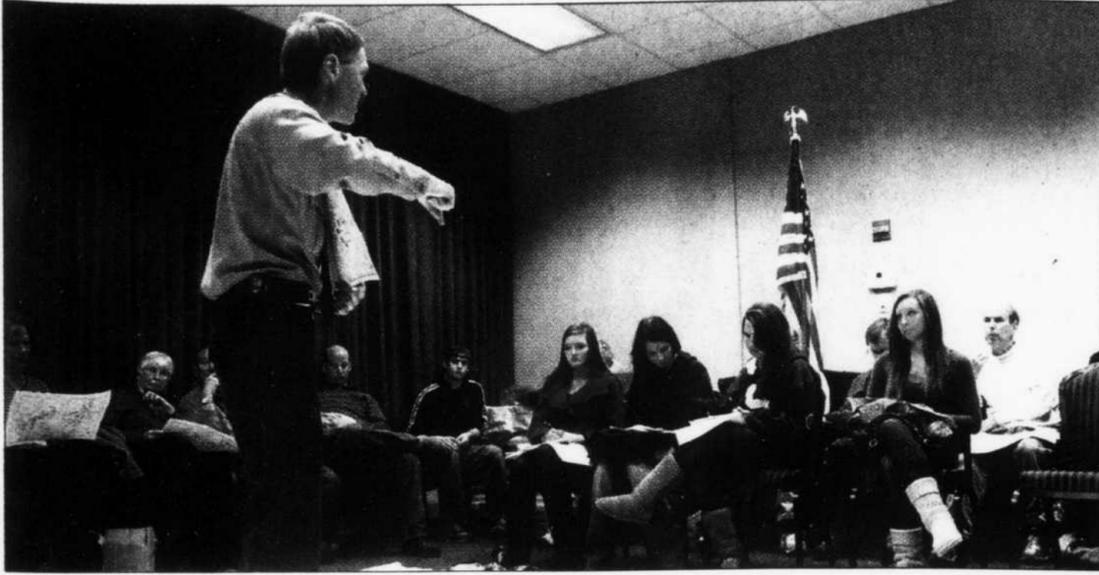


Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer
Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park historian Jim Ogden presents an overview of troop positions of the conflict

Civil War Round Table reviews battle tactics, failures of era

By BYRON WILKES
Community News Editor

The Murfreesboro Civil War Round Table held its monthly meeting Tuesday, featuring a discussion on the Battle of Chickamauga by a Tennessee historian who used a large floor map to discern troop movements and strategies employed

there. Many MTSU students, as well as normal members of the Murfreesboro CWRT, attended the meeting, which began at 7 p.m. and took place at the Bradley Academy Historical Center on South Academy Street. "I learned a lot tonight," said Pilar Howard, freshmen in chemistry. "There

was a lot I didn't know that happened in the battle. It was very interesting." Historian Jim Ogden of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park walked around a large floor map in the center of the room to show the group different troop positions of both Union and Confederate forces.

"One of the most important factors in this battle is the setting," Ogden said. "It's very difficult to fight or to bring supplies through an area like this..."

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Plans for new student union center revealed

By MICHAEL STONE
Features Editor

The major functions and floor plans to the new university center were displayed to students this week, though some of the building's content has not yet been set in stone.

"What we're seeing is a snapshot of the building, but we're still pretty early in the process," said Stephen Rick, principal owner of the firm designing the building, Street Dixon Rick Architecture.

The building is to provide four major functions: a food court, a bookstore, a convention room and office areas, said Gene Fitch, associate vice president for Student Affairs and dean of Student Life.

The university center will be located near the intersection of Blue Raider Drive and MTSU Boulevard. It will replace the parking lot off Blue Raider near the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building and portions of the field outside Cummings Hall.

The 175,000 sq. ft. university center is being built to replace the 120,000 sq. ft. Keathley University Center, which was built in 1967.

The starting date for construction on the building

has been set for early 2010, and the completion date has been set for the end of 2011, though these times still require some "fine tuning," Rick said.

A "central utilities package" will be constructed this summer to prepare for the building, Rick said, adding construction will begin in May and will be complete by August so the majority of students will not be affected.

To begin paying for the building, which has a projected cost of \$55 million, students are paying a \$121 fee this semester, Fitch said. This fee was raised to \$121 this semester from \$60 the previous semester, Fitch added.

These fees will continue past this semester, through the construction and past the completion of the building to pay for maintenance, Fitch said.

The construction has been contracted out to Messer Construction in Nashville.

To read more, visit us online.
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Martial Arts Club fights for St. Jude Children's Hospital

By SPENCER MOHEAD
Contributing Writer

The MTSU Martial Arts Club will hold its third annual fundraiser for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in courts three and five of the campus Recreation Center on Thursday, Nov. 20 at 7 p.m.

Seating for the free event will begin at 6:45 p.m., and donations start at \$1.

The fundraiser will consist of 10 or more members of the Martial Arts Club participating in five exhibition matches of various standing and grappling styles of martial arts. Between sparring bouts,

there will be a board breaking demonstration.

"It's a very exciting tournament, and the turnout is always big," said Craig Simmons, Martial Arts Club secretary and sophomore psychology major.

Last year's St. Jude fundraiser had over 230 in attendance and raised \$250. This year's event is expected to have an even greater turnout, Simmons said.

The Martial Arts Club hosts other charity events such as a fundraiser each semester for Project HEALTH. Project HEALTH is a public fitness initiative that works

to improve the health of low-income children and families by organizing undergraduate volunteers.

This year they did a women's self-defense class. They also sold doughnuts, valentines, and held clothes and teddy bear drives.

"We were looking for a national [charity to] sponsor," said Billy Colepaugh, event coordinator, club co-founder and alumni coach. "It's a great hospital."

Martial Arts Club President and senior nutrition major Julian Chatham-Tombs said

that he welcomes students who are thinking of joining the club, which is primarily an open gym.

"You can come and learn about different styles of martial arts and improve your knowledge," Chatham-Tombs said.

The club meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8 p.m. in the Rec. Center's second floor aerobics room.

For further information about the MTSU Martial Arts Club, readers can access its Web site at martialartsclubcampus.com.

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Search for MT grad called off

By COURTNEY WATSON
Staff Writer

Aerial and specified ground searches have been called off for an aircraft and its crew, including two former MTSU graduates, that went missing in Guyana, South America Nov. 1.

Christopher Paris, 23, was serving as first officer aboard the Beech King Air N87V aircraft that went missing about an hour after taking off from an airfield in Georgetown, Guyana.

The basis for ending the search was the belief by Guyana Aviation officials that all three men on board have perished in the wreckage.

Zulficar Mohamed, director of the Guyana Civil Aviation Authority, said that while no more aerial or specified ground searches will be conducted, the search by residents in the area and other individuals who are familiar with the terrain will

continue.

Paris graduated from the university's Aerospace program in May of this year.

He also became a flying instructor at the school and had received Federal Aviation Administration certifications to pilot single and multiengine aircrafts.

"I had Chris in my class and he was an above average student and was absolutely committed to his career," said Wayne Dornan, department chair of the Aerospace Program. "It is not only a loss that will impact family and friends but the industry as well, Chris would have made a significant contribution to the field."

Paul Mosey, chief flight instructor at MTSU, said that Chris was very well-liked while he worked as a flight instructor for the university.

"He was very knowledgeable and very reliable. As an instructor, he was laid back in

his approach but took the job very seriously," Mosey said.

Other occupants of the plane were Wesley Barker, 28, who graduated from the



Paris

MTSU Aerospace Program in 2004 and served as the captain on board, and Patrick Murphy, 20, a Canadian geophysics technician.

The plane was chartered by Terraquest Limited, a Canadian company that specializes in airborne geophysics, and the men were surveying parts of Guyana for uranium mines.

"Chris definitely possesses the knowledge and preparedness that he would need to help him handle any situation that would arise, so

we all hold out for the best," Mosey said.

Mohamed said that none of the sophisticated equipment, including thermal heating, infra-red and day cameras, direction finding devices and GPS, has yielded any results.

The eight aircrafts assigned blocks to systematically comb the area, and the intense ground searches that followed have yielded no results either. "The business of aviation is very exciting and rewarding in many ways which is why Chris and others get into it. Unfortunately, it can also be terribly unforgiving," Mosey said.

Paris' fiancé, Dara Hall, is a current MTSU student set to graduate this December. Their wedding is scheduled for Dec. 27 of this year.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with Chris, his family and the families of the other crew members that they will return home safely," Mosey said.

Student shot in back

By TIFFANY GIBSON
Campus News Editor

A 23 year-old MTSU student is recovering at Vanderbilt Medical Center after being shot in the back by a stranger last Friday in the parking lot of his apartment complex at College Point.

Shashanka Pulluru, a master's candidate majoring in Business, told officer Sam Day that several black males approached him in the parking lot right in front of his apartment, according to the police report.

In the report, Pulluru said that after he was shot from behind, the males fled from the parking lot.

Murfreesboro police have

determined that Pulluru was shot with a handgun.

Police have no suspects, but Detective Sergeant Richard Davis and Detective Richard Presley are currently investigating.

Tech Wubneh, MTSU International Program director, said that he has visited Pulluru at Vanderbilt Medical Center.

"He is going to be fine," Wubneh said.

Richard Hannah, economics and finance professor, said that his main concern for Pulluru is his recovery.

"This is a terrible reminder that we should all take reasonable precautions for personal security."

PHOTOGRAPHY FROM PAGE 1

"The addition to the mass communication building is one of the higher priorities for the university, but [with] hard economic times, it is hard to tell," Oneal said. "If they said go right now, it would be three to five years."

Christina Roth, senior photography major, said many photography students are weary of the move.

"There is pretty much a rumor every semester that something new is going to happen, whether it is that they are tearing down the building and putting us somewhere else or doing away with darkrooms completely," Roth said.

She said most students aren't worried about the program going away, but most older students and alumni see the photography building as a second home and will be sad to see it go.

"I personally love this building," Roth said. "I get

scared every semester when a teacher mentions a planning meeting."

Roth said that the photography program at MTSU is unique because it is one of the few programs in the nation that emphasizes both digital and darkroom coursework.

She said she fears that moving might make the program go completely digital.

Oneal said that moving to the Braggs Mass Communication building will not affect the traditional processes.

"We aren't trying to do away with the darkrooms, we are trying to enhance them," Oneal said.

James Norton, professor of photography, said that the photography building used to be the security headquarters for MTSU and that the photography department had to adapt the building to its needs.

Norton said he looks forward to the move.

"We would like to have a building that is built in the inside to what we need," Norton said.

FORUM FROM PAGE 1

already, the first for 6.1 percent (about \$6.1 million) on July 1 and another 3.4 percent (about \$3.2 million) on Oct. 1.

According to McPhee, anywhere from \$9 to \$13 million will be cut from the budget again, but this time the consequences will be more severe.

"The President said that in the first two budget cuts, academic affairs was largely spared," said Paul Fischer.



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer
President Sidney McPhee speaks to a room full of students and faculty about the budget cuts.



CLASSES FROM PAGE 1

"My experience as a teacher is it all goes back to the teacher," said President Sydney McPhee. "I am not sure class size in itself is the only factor in terms of the effectiveness

in the teaching and the learning process so you do have to factor in, the ability of the professor, the type of class. We are going to try to do the best we can to insure that the environment that we create fits the need of our students and that it supports excel-

lence." Some students don't think that class sizes should be increased because they feel that, educationally, it will not be conducive to a good environment.

"I prefer small classes," said Lindsey Locke, sophomore children and family studies

major. "I'm in a large class now, and I don't understand the teacher half of the time. It's just harder to learn."

Tara White, graduate student, said she has mixed feelings on class size but sees advantages in both.

"Small classes are better, but there are ways to finagle larger classes. However, I prefer a smaller class," White said. "Depending on the structure of the course, you can get what you need from larger classes. It's your responsibility in those classes, though. It makes stu-

dents be more proactive in learning."

While no plans have been officially made on whether or not these budget cuts will directly affect class size, it is something that could be an option.

"We had significant budget cuts last year, as well, so this year raising class size numbers may be an option," Gebert said. "There will be discussions between faculty and the chair members before any definite answer will be made."

Class size increasing is one option, but McPhee said that

there are a lot of other considerations to the classes that don't always involve bumping up their number.

"We are going to have to look at all options, which involves increasing class size, being more efficient in regards to the number of classes and who enrolls," McPhee said.

"We ran a lot of classes that didn't have the maximum number to help students graduate, and of course, if we have these kinds of cuts, that might not be an option. But we haven't made any decisions yet."

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OPINIONS

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

When it comes to budget cuts, where do we draw the line?

President Sidney McPhee said at two open forums this past week that he expects the university will have to cut a total of \$20 million to \$22 million from the budget before 2010.

The cuts include an expected \$10 million to \$12 million decrease in state funding in the next academic year. These cuts are on top of our university losing more than \$6 million in state funding over the summer with another \$4 million in October.

MTSU started fiscal year 2008-2009 with more than \$100 million in funding from the state, and that number has since dropped to a little more than \$91 million of the university's total budget of more than \$345 million.

McPhee said some tenured faculty may even be laid off.

And though he said all cuts will be done with academics as priority No. 1, the fact that faculty—even tenured—are beginning to worry about their futures at MTSU makes us a little uneasy.

A \$55 million new student union center is slated to be completed by 2011. And while we are sure the new building will be a positive addition to the campus, we can't help but question how much sense it makes to spend an absorbent amount of money replacing a perfectly-adequate student center with a state-of-the-art facility when tenured faculty are facing potential layoffs.

MTSU can no longer afford its own janitorial services. Recent budget cuts have forced administrators to cut back on janitorial personnel and depend on a contract with Aramark employees.

And the cleaning problems shared by many buildings on campus are not because of neglect, but because of the lack of funds available. We are millions of dollars behind in what we need to maintain our buildings.

So, in a few years we'll have a new student center, replete with fancy dining facilities and computer lounges. But we can't afford a staff to clean it.

If academics truly are priority No. 1, then maintaining our university's scholastic integrity—ensuring our professors keep their jobs and our departments, even the tertiary ones, remain intact—should come before a fancy new building.

We already almost lost our philosophy department. But at least we have a sparkly new workout facility.

"There's no question about it, there are going to be tough times," McPhee said. "There is a lot of anxiety on campus, and rightly so, in anticipating that next semester is going to be rougher."

Having an aesthetically pleasing campus is important in attracting new students. But, please, let's really keep academics as our priority.

We might have a brand new Rec Center and, soon, a brand new student union building. What good are they, though, in the grand scheme of our university without a solid, accomplished faculty and the ability to offer well-rounded education?

Service should not be mandatory



Uncommon Ground
Alex Blackwelder

President-Elect Barack Obama's close association with compulsory service is frightening.

Compulsory or national service, like the draft, requires citizens to complete mandatory, involuntary labor decided and controlled by politicians.

Today, calling something slavery isn't politically correct. The word immediately conjures images of black slaves in chains, but according to Merriam-Webster dictionary, a slave is "one that is completely subservient to a dominating influence." Being required to complete a service or face the consequences without choice is enslavement.

One of the most promi-

nent compulsory service countries, Israel, requires men to serve three years and then be a reserve force. Two years are required of women. A bill has been introduced that would restrict the rights of draft-dodgers, including the right to vote, drive, and study medicine.

Rahm Emanuel, Obama's newly appointed chief of staff, volunteered for the Israeli Defense Force and supports the conscription of America's youth.

In 2006, Emanuel co-authored the book *The Plan: Big Ideas for America*. He wrote, "We propose universal civilian service for every young American. Under this plan, all Americans between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five will be asked to serve their country by going through three months of basic training, civil defense preparation and community service."

Some might argue that this required service could only benefit our country, but it seriously damages individual freedom. Everyone should have the right to choose his

or her own path in life, especially during the formative years of eighteen to twenty-five.

If one chooses to serve his or her country it should be a choice, not a requirement. Compulsory servitude reinforces the statist idea that a man's life belongs to the state.

Even though the chief of staff has no direct effect on policy, Obama himself has

spread around on the blogosphere, the site conveniently changed the word "require" to "set a goal," but you can't sugarcoat a compulsory mandate handed down from the federal government.

Community service should be a regular part of a compassionate person's life, not a chore to be marked off his or her to-do list. Required service does more to instill resentment toward volunteering than to foster a dedicated life of service.

After a couple of days of

that's just as powerful, just as strong, just as well-funded as the U.S. military," which "people of all ages, stations, and skills will be asked to serve." How will he achieve this without mandatory service?

In the coming years there are no doubts that some of Obama's zealous supporters will try to justify every act during his presidency, but this does nothing to help our country. We should approach every decision with caution to prevent something like the Patriot Act from slipping in under our noses.

I urge Obama supporters to not turn into the Bush drones that defended his every move in the White House. The road to hell is paved with good intentions, and no matter how much you sweeten the idea of mandatory service with pretty rhetoric, it still intrudes on personal liberty.

Alex Blackwelder is a sophomore electronic media communication major and can be reached at anb4f@mtsu.edu.

Obama will...set a goal of 50 hours of community service in middle school and high school and 100 hours...in college every year."

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OBAMA WEB SITE

taken his "Serve America" rhetoric a little too far for my comfort.

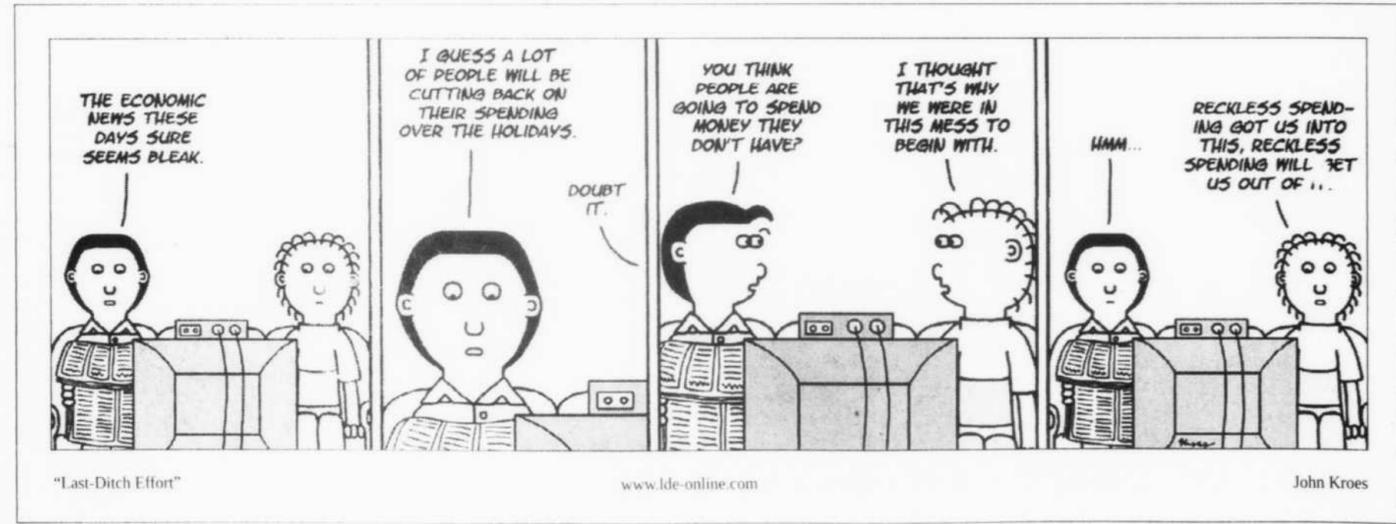
Three days after the election, Obama's change.gov Web site declared that "Obama will call on citizens of all ages to serve America, by developing a plan to require 50 hours of community service in mid-

spreading around on the blogosphere, the site conveniently changed the word "require" to "set a goal," but you can't sugarcoat a compulsory mandate handed down from the federal government.

In July, Obama stated during a speech that he plans for "a civilian security force

Finals are coming up. Writing is a great way to relieve stress. You should write for *Sidelines*. We're like a journalistic day spa. Mass Comm 269.

COMICS



FACES IN THE CROWD

How do you think MTSU will do against UT during the basketball game this Friday?



Crony

"I don't know. I don't know a lot about basketball."

Andrew Crony, freshman
Computer science



Tomac

"If I had to guess, I'd say we're going to kick their butts."

William Tomac, freshman
Engineering Technology



Matthews

"I truly believe that if the players believe in themselves, they'll be just fine."

Hallie Matthews
Sophomore, pre-law



Biegel

"I think they'll do fine. I guess. I really don't know. I don't know a lot about sports."

Alex Biegel, freshman
Foreign Languages

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SHOULD MTSU REQUIRE FRESHMEN TO LIVE ON CAMPUS?

BASED ON VOTES FROM MTSUSIDELINES.COM.

Chillin' out in The Quad

Students describe why they like the land between three of MTSU's academic buildings

By MICHAEL STONE
Features Editor

Autumn falls farther away from the endless days of summer and winter's invisible, cold blade looms in the air. The sugar maple trees have shed their leaves, which skim across the imprinted quotes that together make a circle surrounding the seal of Murfreesboro.

"A man may die, nations may rise and fall, but an idea lives on," one quote by John Fitzgerald Kennedy reads.

Some of the red and yellow foliage finishes its journey by accumulating in the amphitheaters embedded in the four plateaus. Some of it skates sporadically in the breeze until vanishing from sight.

Students are outside basking in the calm environment—reading and writing, talking and laughing—on what could be the last bearably temperate day until spring.

"The Quad is an open, peaceful place," describes Mike Barnes, junior recording industry major, as he enjoys an afternoon snack. "I don't feel isolated out here."

Students like Mike have been enjoying the peace this symmetrical place provides since its completion right after the turn of the millennium.

Its construction began in 2000 after the James E. Walker Library was built and was finished about a year later.

"The intent by the group that was behind [The Quad's] construction was to create a comfortable, symbolic place that could become more of an icon for the university's campus," explains Patty Miller, assistant vice president of Campus Planning and Development. "There is a compass in the middle to give a sense of direction in one's education."

Before 1998, the area where The Quad is now located contained a "road that had a parking lot on either side of it," Miller recalls.

Miller says there was



Photos by Eain O'Leary, staff photographer

The Quad was built in the late 90s after the James E. Walker Library was built. It was designed "to create a comfortable, symbolic place that could become more of an icon for the university's campus," says Patty Miller, assistant vice president of Campus Planning and Development.

also a drainage ditch, basketball courts and tennis courts in the area.

But now, approximately eight years after the beginning of construction, the drainage ditch has been replaced by grassy, shaded areas ideal for studying, the roads have been replaced by walking paths for students to discuss issues with professors as they transition classes, and the athletic arenas have been replaced by amphitheaters that provide a peaceful place to sit.

The resonating sounds that the semi-circles make is my favorite part of The

Quad," says Krissy Mallory, senior journalism major, referring to the echoes given off by students' voices when they speak facing the amphitheaters.

Mallory remembers that one of her favorite moments at MTSU happened in The Quad.

"On Valentine's Day, these two girls came out here and started playing Outkast's 'Happy Valentine's Day' and started dancing," Mallory remembers with a smile. "And we joined them."

Mallory isn't the only student with a Quad story to tell.

"It's entertaining when those guys get out there and take their shirts off and do Jiu Jitsu," says Kelly Waldron, junior business administration major.

The Quad, though, isn't always about fun and games. Some might remember that, in accordance with MTSU folklore, it can be hazardous to walk across the middle of its symmetry. Students that do this may not receive their diploma.

"I like to sit out here and watch people walk across the seal in the middle and know they won't graduate," says Ko-



Photo courtesy Campus Planning

The area in front of the library looked like a different place before the current Quad was built.

rie Gower, freshman dental hygiene major, as she watches a fellow female student walking briskly through the middle of The Quad. "She's not going to graduate now."

In a few years, The Quad will not be the only place for students to fulfill their symmetrical, quadrilateral needs. Miller says a new quad is be-

ing developed to go in the area outside the new student union building.

"The new quad will extend northward from the area near the Honors Building," Miller says. "It is being envisioned as a grassy, tree-lined area where people can play Frisbee and hang out."

But until this new quad is

built, students will have to settle for the place that junior Emma Smith calls "a nice place to come and relax," and that senior Steven Downs says always has "a nice breeze coming through it," and that sophomore Mikaela Herr calls "a convenient place to tell people to meet you": The Quad.

KEEPING CASH ALIVE



Photo courtesy Far From Folsom

(From left to right) Shawn Jackson, Anthony Schumann, Ted Meek and Dean Marold have "made it their mission to bring a live and energetic representation of the legend himself, Johnny Cash, to every show," according to the band's Web site.

BAND OF THE WEEK

A local Johnny Cash tribute band almost as good as the real thing

By MICHAEL STONE
Features Editor

Within the cozy confines of The 'Boro, four men dressed in black prepare the stage. Laughter in the bar becomes more and more abundant with time passing farther from 5 o'clock.

Once the instruments and mics are set up, it's time for the sound check.

Lead guitarist Shawn Jackson strokes his guitar one string at a time as he twists the knobs at the end of the neck. Bassist Dean Marold plucks a quick riff on his tow-

ering upright bass. Drummer Derrick McCollough beats a drum roll on his five-piece set.

"Check, check. How's everyone doing tonight?" asks Ted Meek, lead vocalist and rhythm guitarist for Far From Folsom.

With that, the crowd cheers and the song "Walk the Line" flows from the stage.

Due to Meek's resemblance to Cash, both in appearance and sound, and the precise musical replication the band generates, it is hard to convince yourself that what

**BAND
FROM PAGE 5**

you're seeing isn't the real thing.

"They sound authentic," bartender Brett Clem describes. "They look the part and they sound the part."

The band plays a show compiled of Cash originals and cover songs The Man in Black did during his musical career. At one point, Meek's wife, who the band considers to be the June Carter of FFF, appears on stage to sing a few songs.

When the show ends, the four walk around and talk with the crowd. They offer gratitude to fans for coming to the performance and encourage them to attend their next show in Murfreesboro at Wall Street on Dec. 6.

The men that make up the Johnny Cash tribute band, which has two other interchangeable members, bassist Rande Hall and drummer Steve McComb, have been playing together for less than a year. But the group has already learned enough Cash cover songs to fill a lengthy

show.

"We take the songs one piece at a time," Meek explains. "[Cash] did over 800 songs, including a lot of cover songs, so we have a lot to draw from."

And when performing the Cash songs live, the guys like to keep the experience as authentic as possible for their fans. Adorned in black, the band utilizes a simple drum kit like Johnny Cash's original drummer W.S. Holland

performance at San Quentin prison. When asked if they will be playing at a penitentiary or two anytime soon, the men of FFF let out a chuckle.

"When we first started out, we almost played at a juvenile center," Meek remembers. "They wouldn't let us bring cameras or anything, so we decided not to do it."

"We definitely got to play a prison," Jackson says with a

what some listeners may have heard.

"Cash had different versions for everything," Meek explains. "When we first got together, we all had learned different versions of different recordings."

Now that they have learned the same versions and played at the same different venues, the guys of FFF have attracted a diverse crowd of fans, Marold says.

"The great thing about Johnny Cash music is that all type of people like it," Marold says. "College students, bikers, metal heads — any crowd of people dig the music. His music has spun the globe."

As to where the musicians from the Cash tribute band want to go with their music, Meek says the ideal gigs are "casinos and corporate parties."

And as indistinguishable as FFF is from the real thing, the band may just get there.

To hear Far From Folsom's renditions of The Man in Black's songs, visit myspace.com/farfromfolsom for sample music and upcoming shows.

“They sound authentic. They look the part and they sound the part.”

Brett Clem

Bartender for The 'Boro

did, as well as an upright bass.

"Upright is more associated with Johnny Cash," Jackson says. "David Roe [Cash's bassist] couldn't play upright at first, but he just sort of learned how to play because you can't beat that slap-bass sound."

Cash was known for playing prison gigs, especially his

smile.

Meek says that he wouldn't be able to keep a crowd of inmates under control like Cash did.

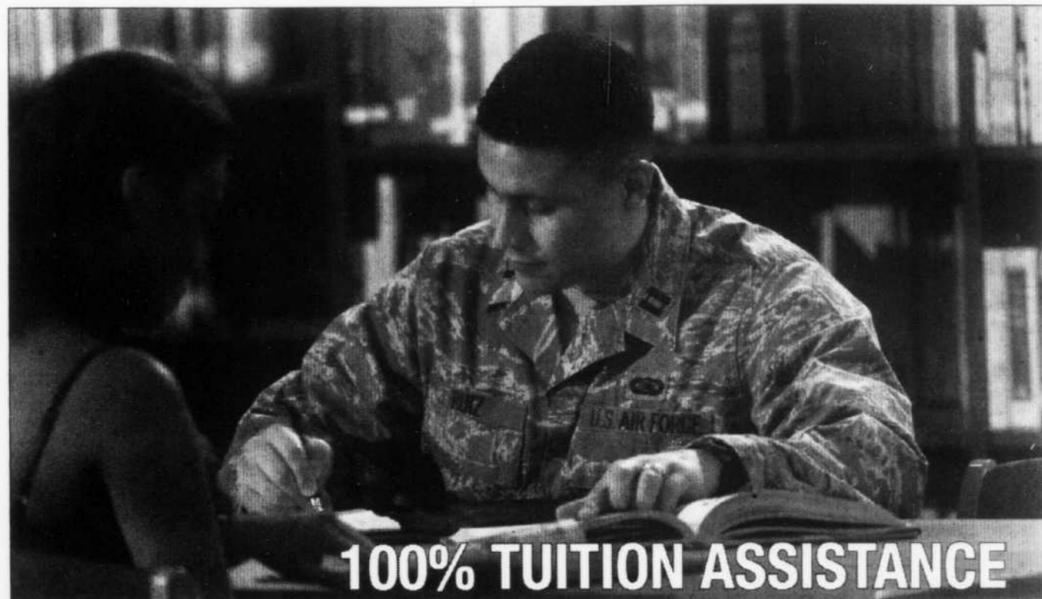
"He had interesting way of controlling those guys," Meek says. "He kept them under control just enough so he wouldn't cause a riot."

FFF's renditions of certain Cash songs are different than



Photo courtesy Far From Folsom

Far From Folsom frontman Ted Meek plays the part of Johnny Cash in the band.



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SPORTS



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor

The Blue Raiders will have their hands full against the No. 13-ranked Volunteers. Desmond Yates (19.5 ppg) will lead MT against UT.

MT shoots for UT takedown

By CHRIS MARTIN
Sports Editor

For the first time in 20 years, the University of Tennessee men's basketball team will square off against Middle Tennessee in the Murphy Center.

The last time UT came to Murfreesboro, MT came away with an 85-80 victory in the first round of the National Invitational Tournament on March 18, 1988.

The game is expected to draw one of the largest crowds in Murphy Center history, and as of yesterday at 11:25 a.m., it is officially a sellout. The record for the most-attended game is 11,807, which was set on Feb. 24, 2004 against Western Kentucky.

The No. 14-ranked Vols (2-0) bring one of the best teams in the nation to Murfreesboro. UT was picked as the preseason favorite to win the SEC, and junior forward Tyler Smith

was selected as the Pre-season SEC Player of the Year. Smith, who averaged 13.6 points, 6.7 rebounds and 3.4 assists per game in 2007-08, has continued to put up impressive numbers this season.

The Pulaski, Tenn. native is averaging 20 points, four rebounds, five assists and two steals through two games this season.

Smith isn't the only threat on UT's roster. Six Vols are averaging at least 11 points a game. Redshirt freshman Cameron Tatum is UT's second leading scorer with a 14.5-point average. In the front court, Wayne Chism and Brian Williams are putting up a combined 26 points and 20.5 rebounds per contest.

As a team, UT is scoring 102.5 points, pulling down 50 rebounds and dishing out 27.5 assists per game. Meanwhile, its opponents are only scoring 69.5 points, grabbing

35.5 rebounds and collecting 15.5 assists (compared with 21 turnovers) a contest.

There are many similarities between the Blue Raiders and the Vols. Like the Vols, MT sports a 2-0 record and has beaten its opponents by an average margin of 29 points. The Blue Raiders were also picked to win their conference, and they boast the Preseason Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year in junior forward Desmond Yates.

Yates has lived up to his billing thus far, averaging 19.5 points, five rebounds and two steals per game. Guard Kevin Kanaskie also received preseason accolades when he was selected to the Preseason All-SBC Second Team. Kanaskie has been on a tear to being the season. The junior is averaging 15.5 points, 10 assists, and 6.5 rebounds a game while only committing three total turnovers this season.

Also like UT, MT has spread the ball around in 2008-09. The Blue Raiders have five players with scoring averages in double figures.

The Blue Raiders will be heading into the game with some injury concerns. Senior center Theryn Hudson and senior guard/forward Demetrius Green have yet to see the court. Hudson was last season's starting center and averaged 9.1 points and 5.4 rebounds last season, but has been hampered by a foot injury. Green was MT's second-leading scorer last season, putting up 12.5 points per game to go along with his 4.6 rebounds. Green has missed time due to both injury and suspension. Hudson is considered questionable for the game while Green is probable.

The game will take place Friday and is set to tip-off at 7:30 p.m.

Bidding farewell to Blue Raider seniors

This Saturday will mark the last time that nine Middle Tennessee football players will ever step onto the turf at Floyd Stadium in a Blue Raider uniform and play a game.

Joe Craddock, Ted Riley, Ivon Hickmon, Lonnie Clemons, John Marc Stephens, Anthony Glover, Andrew Harrington, Wes Hofacker and Trevor Jenkins will dawn the blue uniform they have come to revere for the final time.

While the list may be a little short - tied for the fewest seniors in the nation - the personnel have been some of the most productive bunch in recent history.

Allow me to pay homage to these players for a moment.

Craddock has become one of MT's most clutch and productive quarterbacks as a starter, and should go down as a great player in MT history. He is now ninth on the all-time list for most touchdown passes, with 24 in his career.

Ted Riley came to MT just a year ago as a junior college transfer, but has transformed himself into the ultimate team player and is excelling on the field this year as a result.

Ivon Hickmon is arguably the best player MT has on defense this year. His NFL stock has risen through his tenure at Middle, and his skills have placed him among the most elite Blue Raiders to ever play the linebacker position in the history of the program. With a strong finish to the season, Hickmon could become only the third Blue Raider linebacker to play on Sundays.

Lonnie Clemons will be another player to go down as a great team-first competitor. If not for some injury problems to begin the season, he could be putting up Hickmon-like numbers this season too.

John Marc Stephens is that guy who has sacrificed a lot to be a part of this football program. He has moved around and tweaked his game for the betterment of the team. He is possibly the most intelligent football player on the team in terms of the game.

Anthony Glover is the leader of the secondary. The younger guys who have learned and played under Glover during his career will



Real Talk with C-Bow
Casey Bowman

always have the upmost respect for the man. Glover went from not being guaranteed a returning spot to the roster after 2006, to becoming another of Stockstill's early graduates with a starting job.

Andrew Harrington came to MT from the same junior college as Ivon Hickmon. The fastest linebacker on the team, Harrington has played in nine games this year and has grown into a dependable player for the coaching staff.

Enough can't be said in regards to Wes Hofacker. Another true team-first player, Hofacker has stuck with the program through thick and thin. He will go down as one of the hardest working players to ever play at Middle. Finding a player with a motor like Hofacker's will prove to be challenging for the coaching staff.

Trevor Jenkins has been the heart and soul of the Blue Raider defensive line since he arrived at MT in 2005. Saturday will mark a team record 36 consecutive starts for Jenkins, and hopefully it will be a special day for him. Players like Jenkins are hard to find, but finding quality people like Trevor Jenkins is even harder to find. Trevor Jenkins will be missed sorely when he is gone.

These nine men are the only scholarship-receiving seniors on this team. Without them, this season would likely have been over a long time ago.

Much thanks goes out to these men for all of their hard work and dedication. Here is to a good game and a Blue Raider victory on Saturday. They have all earned the honor of going out on top.

Casey Bowman is a senior journalism major. He can be reached at cbow0328@gmail.com

Blue Raiders look to keep postseason hopes alive against Mean Green

By CASEY BOWMAN
Assistant Sports Editor

The final home game for the Middle Tennessee football team will be this Saturday inside the legendary Floyd Stadium.

Seventy-five years ago, Floyd Stadium opened its gates for the first time.

Saturday will mark the last time those gates open, at least for this season.

The Mean Green of North Texas (1-9, 0-5 Sun Belt) will travel to Murfreesboro and attempt to gain their first conference victory of the season.

It wasn't long ago when this game held more meaning than what it will on Saturday, but that doesn't mean that MT (4-6, 2-3 SBC) will be letting their guard down.

"We are not good enough to think we are that much better than North Texas to think we can just walk out there and win," MT Head Coach Rick Stockstill said during Tuesday's weekly press conference.

Middle comes into Saturday's contest riding a two-game win streak and with bowl eligibility still in sight.

If the Blue Raiders would be expected to put up big numbers in any particular game this season, it would be against the Mean Green.

UNT is currently last in the nation in scoring defense and total defense.

They aren't too far from the bottom in the rushing and passing defense categories, either.

For the season, the Mean Green are allowing nearly 49 points per game, 285 passing yards per game and 206 rushing yards per game.

Those numbers are not very good, but Stockstill knows they don't tell the whole story.

"To me, their defense is not giving up 48 points a game," Stockstill said. "Their offense has a lot to do with it. They have turned the ball over a lot offensively and the games in which they have played

well they have not turned the ball over. We have to create turnovers because when North Texas has not turned the ball over they have played well."

On offense for MT, running back Phillip Tanner will look to finally eclipse

the 100-yard mark this season, while quarterback Joe Craddock will look to pick apart UNT's seemingly weak secondary.

Stockstill knows that for MT to be successful, the running game will have to step up and allow the passing

game to follow suit.

"I think that the teams who have been successful throwing the ball against North Texas have also been successful running the ball," Stockstill said. "Teams that have thrown the ball for a lot of yardage against them

also have had good running games. We have to be able to run the ball well and have balance."

Saturday will be "Senior Day," as well as "Salute to Veterans Day" inside of Floyd Stadium. Kickoff is scheduled for 2:30 p.m.

MT		LEADERS		MT	
	YARDS	TDs		YARDS	TDs
PASSING			PASSING		
Joe Craddock	2184	12	Giovanni Vizza	2329	13
RUSHING			RUSHING		
Phillip Tanner	477	8	Cam Montgomery	730	6
RECEIVING			RECEIVING		
Malcolm Beyah	539	6	Casey Fitzgerald	902	5
TACKLES			TACKLES		
Danny Carmichael	78		Tobe Nwigwe	99	
INT			INT		
Three players tied	2		Tobe Nwigwe	3	
SACKS			SACKS		
Two players tied	3		Two players tied	1.5	

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