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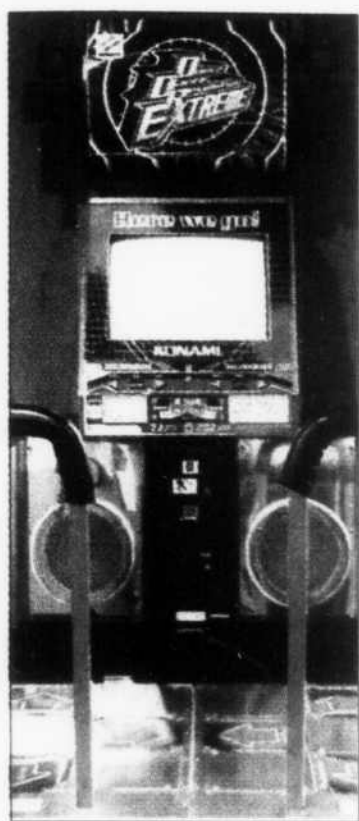
EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2008

VOL. 84 NO. 60

INSIDE

A galaxy of fun



A new arcade with a retro style joins Hickory Hollow Mall

FEATURES, 5

OPINIONS

Columnist disgraces local paper

Murfreesboro Post writer authors "most racist column in the U.S."

OPINIONS, 4

Check out this week's comics.

OPINIONS, 4

SPORTS

Cajuns dash postseason dreams for MT

In the final game of the season, the Blue Raiders lose to Louisiana-Lafayette eliminating them from Bowl contention.

SPORTS, 7

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!

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TBR FLEXES MUSCLES

By BYRON WILKES
Community News Editor

The Tennessee Board of Regents' plans to formally approve a new business model today were inexplicably rescinded after an addendum sent out the day before stated no action would be taken at that time.

The measure comes after a Nov. 20 memorandum was sent to TBR presidents by Chancellor Charles W. Manning (who could not be reached for comment), disclosing specific ideas concerning board action on a new business model (or more) in order to enhance long-term productivity.

Manning even earned the 2008 "Turkey at the Top" award by The Chronicle Review, a news publication for those in the academic world, for the memorandum, beating out University of Louisville Dean Robert Felner, who was indicted for conspiracy to commit fraud, tax evasion and money laundering, in the process.

MTSU Faculty Senate President Alfred Lutz voiced concerns over the several jarring changes, originally slated to be approved today, in a letter sent to the TBR, the TBR faculty sub-council, Tennessee Higher Education Commission Executive Director Richard Rhoda and all of the MTSU faculty.

"The point of my letter was to make known our thoughts on things in the plan that were not particularly useful," Lutz said.

TBR's actions come in the wake of a series of budget cuts imposed by Gov. Phil Bredesen to counter Ten-

nessee's budget deficit, which is estimated to be about \$900 million this fiscal year.

The new business model proposes, among other things, initiating mandatory online classes,

"formaliz[ing] a system that anticipates even greater use of adjuncts," cutting salaries and "permitting furloughs as a short-term expedient in dealing with budget reductions," according to Manning.

Among the faculty's complaints was the proximity with which Manning sent out the original memorandum.

TBR, PAGE 2



Graphic by Alicia Wilson, production manager



Photo Courtesy of Facebook
Lee Sandstead examines art in numerous museums across the globe in his new television show on the Travel Channel.

Travel Channel premieres alumni 'art attack' show

By EMMA EGLI
Staff Writer

An MTSU alumni now has an international show on the Travel Channel called "Art Attack," which allows him to visit some of the most well known museums in America.

Lee Sandstead, an art historian, took an in-depth look at five must-see pieces in each episode. The museums he visited for research included the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington D.C. and the Frick Collection in New York.

"We had such a great time shooting [Art Attack]," Sandstead said. "Filming was so intense [because] one day of shooting could last up to 12 hours and the end result was a

22 minute long episode."

Sandstead received his Bachelor in Arts in Philosophy, a Bachelor in Science in Mass Communications from MTSU and was given the prestigious award for Outstanding Magazine Journalism Graduate in 1996. It wasn't until he came back to get his masters in journalism that he discovered an interest in art while



taking an art history class.

"The professor of the class gave me a love for art, so I went to a lecture on art history," Sandstead said. "We were told to think about light, texture, shadow and things I had never thought about."

"After that I went home and put up prints of art from floor to ceiling on all my walls, and from there, I just grew with art," Sandstead said.

Sandstead has taught art history at numerous colleges and universities, including City College and New Paltz in New York, as well as Monclair State University in New Jersey. His lectures on art history and art

Robbery backfires when thief shoots partner

By BYRON WILKES
Community News Editor

An attempted armed robbery and murder at University Terrace Nov. 3 ended when a suspect accidentally shot one of his accomplices as they fled after a struggle with the victim.

Police responded to apartment G1 of student Tremayne DeJuan Johnson, a sophomore in business, at 910 Brown Dr. a little before 12 a.m., and arrested 5 individuals at 3:30 a.m. in connection with the alleged crimes, according to Murfreesboro Police Department Public Information Officer Kyle Evans.

"There were two juveniles and three others, one of whom is at Vanderbilt, involved with the incident," Kyle Evans said. "The three individuals who approached the apartment were all wearing face masks when they barged in, causing the owner of the apartment to struggle with them before the weapon discharged the first time."

According to police reports, three suspects were identified as Deonday Antwon Evans, 19 of 1969 Old Castle Dr.; Lisa Marie Watson, 21 of 350 Tremont Dr. and Edward Pope, 19 of 2709 Calias Court. Pope was struck by shots fired by one of the suspects as they fled Johnson's apartment.

Deonday Evans, Watson and the

ALUMNI, PAGE 2

ROBBERY, PAGE 2

TBR FROM PAGE 1

"Before sharing our substantial concerns, we would like to register our discomfort at the process," the letter said. "Chancellor Manning's memorandum was released as late as Nov. 20, a week before Thanksgiving, and about two weeks before the Board 'will formalize its approval of this undertaking' at its Dec. 4 meeting."

Manning sent out another memo stating that the meeting would elicit no immediate action, but could not be reached to comment on precisely why he had changed his plan.

"Some readers may not find a radical attack on faculty members — and this is what this document [Manning's memorandum] amounts

to, make no mistake about it — [It's] troublesome, but they may find an attack on students' interests less palatable," the faculty's letter said. "Students, we are told, will receive a tuition discount if they 'work online with no direct support from a faculty member except oversight of testing and grading when a student is ready.'"

The letter goes on to discuss the possible impact this will have on students who aren't as affluent as their peers, including the conjecture that "the wealthier students would be able to consult faculty members, and, as a result, receive a superior education and graduate with higher GPAs."

Aleka Blackwell, associate professor of English, wrote the following excerpt in the faculty senate's letter:

"Why do we have higher education? We have it not so that students can earn yet another diploma. Nor is higher education so that professors — who are trained analytical thinkers and who have thought about the nuances related to their disciplines for years — can train others to be equally (if possible) analytical: to think in ways that they have never thought before, to evaluate information from multiple perspectives, to learn methodologies and analytical strategies that are new to them and are current in their respective fields, to notice the limitations of their knowledge and of the methodologies, and to be wise consumers of information and logical thinkers more generally once they graduate."

place two weeks ago in which an MTSU student was shot while walking to his apartment," the e-mail said. "The MTSU Police Department urges all students, faculty and staff to remain vigilant as you go about your daily routines."

ROBBERY FROM PAGE 1

two juveniles, 16 and 17, have all been charged with aggravated robbery, aggravated burglary, attempted first-degree murder and reckless endangerment with a weapon after confessing to police that they went to the apartment to commit a robbery. Their bond is set at \$700,000.

According to police reports, Detective Edward Gorham responded to a home invasion when the victim, Johnson, told him that three men wearing masks, later identified as Deonday Evans, Pope and one of the juveniles, barged into his home. Pope then allegedly pointed a gun at him when Johnson grabbed his arm, struggling with him before the gun went off and struck a wall.

Watson and the other juvenile waited in the car while the other suspects approached

the apartment.

Police reports then state that as the three suspects fled the apartment, Deonday Evans was most likely to have been the one who turned around and fired three shots at the apartment, striking

“We’ve seen an incident like this earlier in the proximity of this incident.”

JIM FANGUY
SUPPORT LIEUTENANT

Pope in the process. Pope was then taken to the Vanderbilt University Medical Center for treatment of his wounds.

In an e-mail sent to faculty, director of News and Public Affairs Tom Tozer implied that the Nov. 3 incident could possibly be connected with the shooting of MTSU student Shashanka Pulluru two weeks ago, which happened about 600 yards from the apartment.

"There is some speculation that the two incidents are connected... [T]his is the same area where a shooting took

The two juveniles are being held at the Rutherford County Juvenile Detention Center, and hearings for them were held Nov. 3 at 1:30 p.m. Deonday Evans and Watson are slated to appear in General Sessions Court Jan. 12, according to police.

"We've seen an incident like this earlier in the proximity of this incident," said Support Lieutenant Jim Fanguy. "We sent the e-mail [to faculty] because the victim was an MTSU student and we wanted to make sure everyone knew in accordance with the Jeanne Cleary Act."

is cool and it's ok to be a dork and like it."

Sandstead said one of his greatest career goals, as an art historian was to take photographs of 19th century art and capture the timelessness and beauty of the unappreciated art.

"There's a huge problem with how art history is taught today," Sandstead said in an interview on his Web site. "Art history from the 19th century has been buried by a very modernist academia, so the art from only 150 years ago hasn't been studied and books haven't been written

on one of the greatest periods of man's time on this earth."

Sandstead's Web site features thousands of photographs of art that he has taken in museums all over the country, as well as the world.

Sandstead's next project includes writing the first book on 19th century master-sculptor, Evelyn Beatrice Longman.

"I never imagined that I would end up hosting a TV show," Sandstead said. "It's hard to express how much I've enjoyed filming it."

Students disagree with TBR model



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer
Ashley Renner and Chris Mayo discuss rallying students against possible policy changes.

Students for a Democratic Society met with professors at 319 Poplar Rd. Nov. 3 to discuss the Tennessee Board of Regents' recent proposal to institute a new business model for colleges statewide.

"The events that are tak-

ing place lower the value of a degree from MTSU," said MTSU Senate Faculty President Alfred Lutz. "Students are the only group who, when unified, can truly make a difference."

The TBR is holding a meeting today to formally

approve one or more new business models, though TBR Chancellor Charles Manning issues a memo stating no new action will be taken then.

"We need to connect students across the state," said Michael Cannon, junior in liberal arts.

ALUMNI FROM PAGE 1

appreciation have also been heard nationally and internationally.

Sandstead said he hopes that he can persuade viewers to give art a chance and get out and visit a museum.

"Looking at art wasn't one of the cool things to do when I was a young man at MT," Sandstead said. "I got picked on all the time by my friends, but my French girlfriend always used to tell me that art



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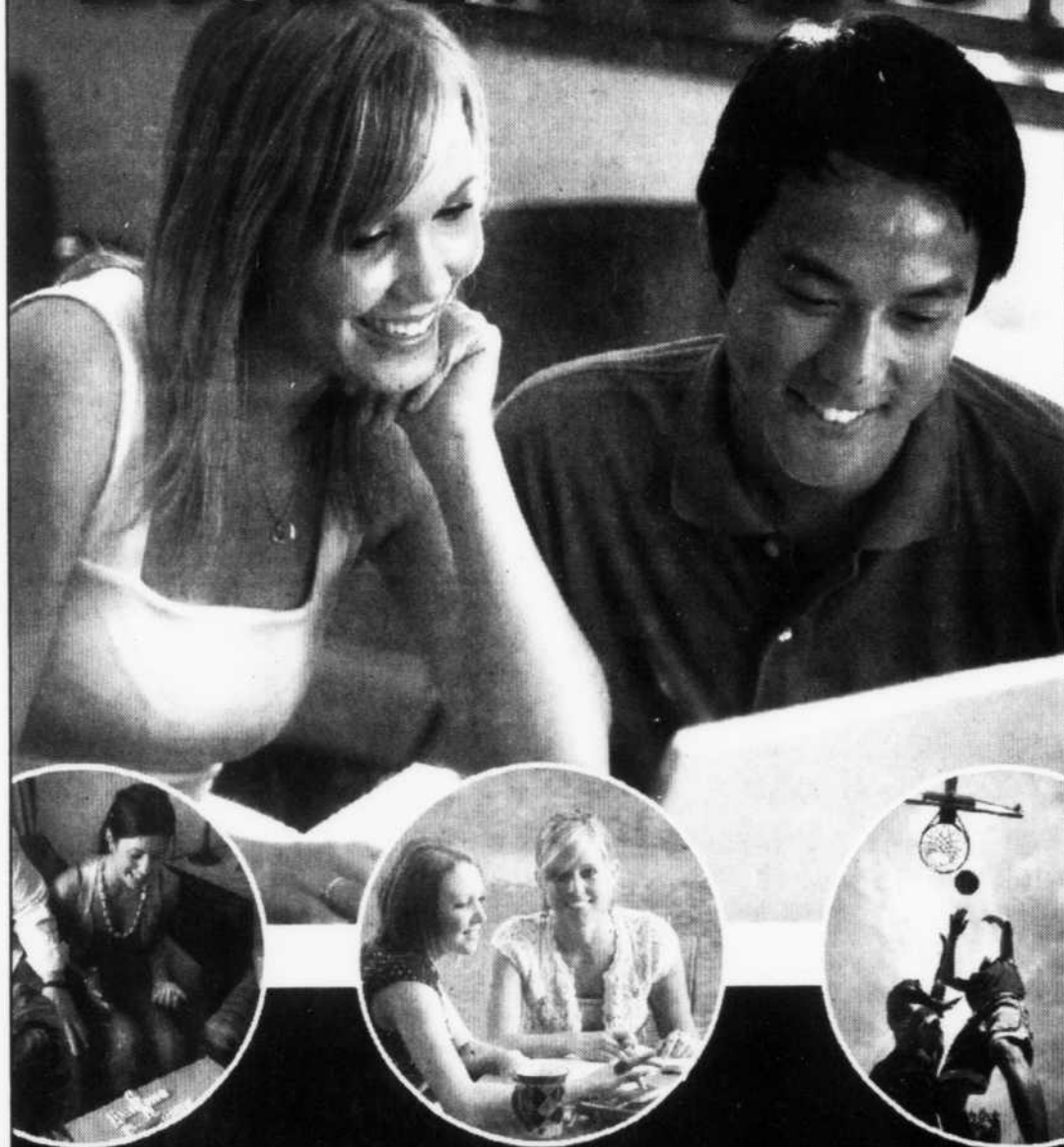
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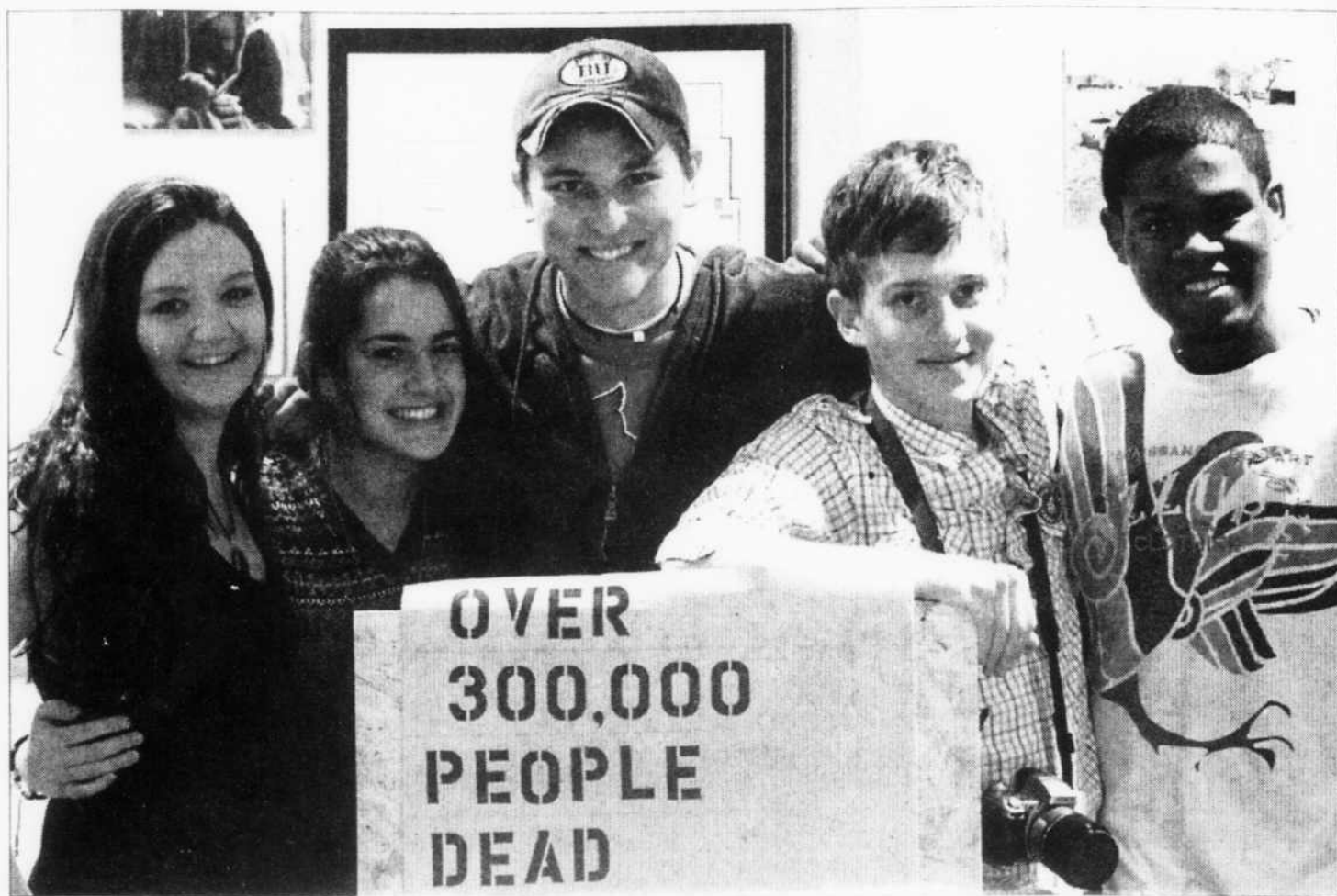


Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

Leaders of the Amnesty International group at MTSU try to inform students about massacres through the documentary, *Darfur Now*.

Amnesty International raises awareness on Darfur issues

By JAY BAILEY
Staff Writer

Over a hundred students gathered last week to view *Darfur Now*, a documentary that chronicles the genocide of the Darfur region of Sudan, which was shown by Amnesty International.

Often compared to the Holocaust, the genocide in Darfur has resulted in 300,000 deaths and 2.6 million displaced by mercenaries. The Sudanese government denies these numbers and claims that Americans are exaggerating the situation, according to the film.

The government of Sudan has hired mercenaries, or Janjaweed as they are natively called, to exterminate the African residents of Darfur. The film says that governments

have unofficially hired mercenaries throughout history to carry out actions that may yield controversial results, but often lose control of them. The Janjaweed, as a result, have been known to burn villages to the ground, rape, beat and humiliate the villagers.

The film follows the lives of those who have survived these massacres and congregate in small townships where they serve as little more than target practice for the Janjaweed. Women often go without firewood for fear of being raped if they even approach the township borders. The children who are left with nothing else, play in the dirt streets with sticks and rocks to pass the time.

With rebel armies forming

in the same areas, it is becoming more difficult for outside aid to get through, as mercenaries control the area.

It is also interesting to note that respected, single notable celebrities such as Don Cheadle and George Clooney, to become vocal in their beliefs through films such as *Darfur Now*. The movie chronicles the story of six individuals in their efforts to raise awareness of the genocide and insight through petitions and mass mailings to government officials. Through their journey, the audience is allowed to see a first-hand account of the conditions in Darfur, Sudan, and the amount of effort required to change them.

"I wasn't aware of Darfur until today, but now I'm

thinking of looking into it," said Jessie Buttrey, a sophomore basic and applied sciences major.

While the film doesn't provide any sort of contact information in the credits, it makes reference to various foundations periodically.

"While they don't give any direct ways to contact organizations it is very easy to find ways to contact them online," said Roberto Velazco, an undeclared freshman who helps with the MTSU branch of Amnesty International.

The MTSU-based division of Amnesty International supports a variety of humanitarian causes as an advocate for human rights. They can be contacted through their Amnesty International MTSU group on Facebook.

CRIME BRIEFS

Nov. 24, 9:30 a.m.

Forgery

Floyd Stadium

Subject requested to speak with an officer in reference to a counterfeit bill passed to a parking attendant at the UT vs. MTSU basketball game.

Nov. 24, 12:16 p.m.

Vandalism

Beta Theta Pi House- Greek Row

Subject requested to speak with an officer in reference to vandalism/ spray paint applied to the side of the house

Nov. 24, 12:27 p.m.

Theft

Peck Hall

Subject reported his bicycle stolen from Peck Hall between the dates of 11/8/08 and 11/22/08.

Nov. 25, 8:43 a.m.

Theft

Gracy Hall

Subject requested to speak with an officer regarding theft of checks.

Nov. 25, 2:33 p.m.

Theft

Murphy Center

Theft of a backpack containing a laptop and books.

Nov. 25, 7:33 p.m.

Alcohol

Ryan Self

Ryan Self was issued a citation for possession of alcohol under the age of 21.

Nov. 25, 8:11 p.m.

Assistance

James Union Building

Faculty member having difficulty securing JUB front entrance.

Nov. 25, 8:48 p.m.

Alarm Fire- Fire present

Off Campus

Subject came in lobby advising a fire at Allen House apartment.

Nov. 26, 8:55 a.m.

Theft

Murphy Center

Subject requested to file a report in reference to a stolen cell phone.

Nov. 26, 10:34 a.m.

Vandalism

Corlew Hall

Housing requested to speak with an officer in reference to extensive graffiti and vandalism on the fifth floor of the dormitory.

Nov. 26, 11:06 a.m.

Harassment

Felder Hall

Housing requested an officer in reference to reports received from two students regarding harassment that has occurred over the past 10 days in the dormitory.

Nov. 26, 2:26 p.m.

Vandalism

Greek Row

Subject requested an officer in reference to his vehicle being vandalized while parked in the parking lot.

Nov. 27, 1:33 p.m.

Theft

Murphy Center

Report of personal belongings stolen from several individuals in the Murphy Center men's visiting team locker room.

Nov. 29, 2:20 p.m.

Vandalism

Keathley University Center

Subject said two men jumped over the wall at the KUC and they were purple spray painting "BUY! CONSUME! REUSE! REPEAT!" on the KUC.

Dec. 1, 12:08 a.m.

Theft

Business Aerospace Bldg.

Subject said their backpack was stolen.

Dec. 1, 1:18 p.m.

Traffic

Voorhies Industrial Studies

Subject called and said someone had hit his vehicle.

Dec. 1, 2:17 p.m.

Burglary

Recreation Center

Subject came to the station and said his book bag had been stolen.

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OPINIONS

Farewell, MTSU



From the Editor
Sarah Lavery

I almost didn't get to graduate this semester. A month ago, I received an e-mail saying I was four credit hours short outside of my major, and because of a glitch in new software in the Mass Comm department, it took nearly eight months from the time I turned in my upper-division form to notify me of the deficiency.

Pipeline's degree audit function, as most of you have probably noticed, hasn't worked all semester. And yeah, yeah, I know it's my fault, but I worked myself into a frenzy trying to figure out how to graduate on time.

The thought of extending my stay another semester made my head spin.

So within one week, I signed up for two CLEP tests, studied as hard as I could, and passed both. I could breathe easy—graduation would come as planned.

But now that it's here, now that I'm watching the last night of *Sidelines* production unfold around me, now that I'm putting the finishing touches on the last paper of my undergraduate career, I can't help but wish I had spent more time savoring it rather than counting down the days 'til I could don the cap and gown.

The economy is becoming progressively scarier, the job market frighteningly slim. Who knows what awaits me—and all of you—when the comforting grounds of Middle Tennessee State University can no longer be called home.

So, while you're here, enjoy every moment. Learn as much as you can. Relish having a good excuse to live off of Ramen noodles and saving extra pennies for beer. For now, it's just an expected part of the collegiate lexicon. But later, it's just gonna look kind of sad.

During my last week at MTSU, I've been doing my best to give each moment its fair due.

I've noted, in somewhat exaggerated emotion, my last time picking off a yellow parking ticket from underneath my windshield wipers.

I've noted my last time walking the seemingly endless distance from the Mass Comm building to the Peck Hall side of campus, a journey I've endured and dreaded for years now.

I've noted the last time I'll ever be infuriated with the countless empty spaces in the parking lot behind the Mass Comm building that they recently transformed into faculty-only.

Indeed, it has been a college education filled with frustrations and enjoyment. And despite it all, I'm sad to say goodbye—to MTSU and, even more, to my home here at *Sidelines*.

Columnist disgraces local paper

By JASON COX
Guest Columnist

A recent boneheaded decision by a local newspaper provides a teachable moment for journalism students.

Last month Murfreesboro Post writer Stephen Lewis penned a column headlined "Ode to President Obama." He used his soapbox to share a ditty about Obama sung to the tune of the theme for "The Jeffersons," tossing in a reference to Sean "P. Diddy" Combs. For good measure, he also implied Obama would turn the White House into a "pimp pad."

The column contained no new insights and voiced blatant racial stereotypes; inappropriate for an obscure

Blogspot site, much less a newspaper.

It's bad enough that the columnist thought this was appropriate for a mainstream newspaper to publish. It's worse that the piece slipped by at least one editor.

In one fell swoop their newspaper's credibility has taken a hit (the column was called the most racist column in the United States in 2008 by Gawker.com), and Murfreesboro was mocked on the Web as a backwater, redneck place.

Is this what a newspaper is supposed to accomplish?

By the time the newspaper's editor formally apologized, the damage was done. Just Google the paper's name.

Journalists shouldn't be

afraid to tackle sensitive issues, but it's hard to justify a place for racial humor in any mainstream newspaper.

And this point is important: It's not just whether you find something offensive, it's what your readers may or may not find offensive. Especially in communications, perception is reality.

If you consider yourself a rebel against the politically correct police, too bad: Readers equal dollars. Unnecessarily angering readers can mean less revenue, particularly in an economy where advertisers are scaling back.

For this reason—and to show respect to a diverse audience—it's important

as editors and reporters to see a story or column from a reader's eyes, keeping in mind how our cultural backgrounds affect the way we perceive.

It bears repeating that the column should never have hit newsstands. But other potentially offensive material can be harder to detect at first glance.

What's more is that intent matters not a whit once it's out there. The media is an easy target, and something in the morning paper can set off a firestorm by lunch. Geraldine Ferraro, Samantha Power, the Rev. Jeremiah Wright, Joe the Plumber, etc. can tell you how brutal a few 21st century news cycles can be once foot is inserted in

mouth.

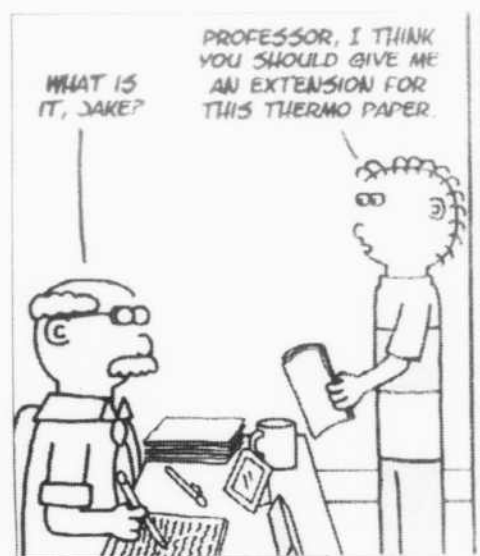
And while the Post column was just one man's opinion, a sufficiently odious paragraph or 10 can cement an entire publication's reputation for a while.

Such publishing decisions are an unnecessary business aggravation in a media world turned upside down by economic recession and a rapidly-evolving media landscape.

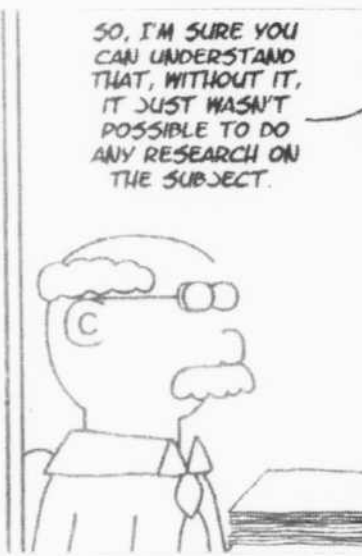
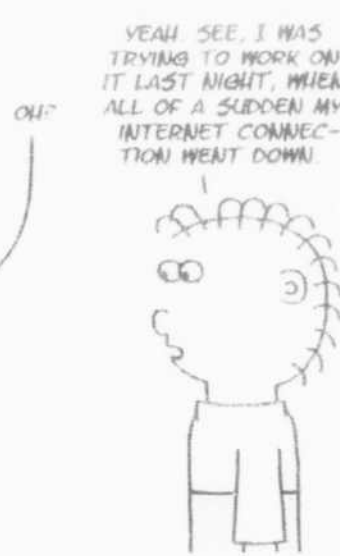
Again, remember: Perception is reality. Forgetting is simply bad business.

Jason Cox is an 2005 mass communication alumnus, a former *Sidelines* editor in chief and current news editor for Wheatland Publishing.

COMICS



"Last Ditch Effort"



John Kroes



"Last Ditch Effort"



John Kroes

How differing perspectives color our lenses

Editor's note: to read Jessica Laven's original column which was published on Nov. 24, visit www.mtsusidelines.com and click on "Back Issues."

This is not high school. That is where my agreement with Jessica Laven's editorial on Nov. 24 ends.

I think we spend far too much time being angry and spiteful towards each other these days, and I cannot figure out what good it does.

When the story of why school was canceled back in September started to unfold, the last thing that was of concern to me was that Justin Davis was a brat who failed to study for his tests.

It concerns me that Davis has been convicted before a trial. It concerns me further that Davis may be suffering from a mental disorder, and that it seems to me the belief that he went to such lengths to get school closed because he did not study is the first clue that something may be very wrong with him.

I worry that we are so pu-

nitive these days that we focus on the responsibility of the guilty to pay for their bad deeds so strongly that we forget we, as a civil society, have a great responsibility to be rational when doling out our punishments.

Finally, it concerns me that journalists do not seem to be questioning the use of terms like "acts of terrorism" as a charge for seemingly anything these days.

Deanna Lambert reported on WSMV.com that Davis was at the beginning of his second year at Middle Tennessee State University, had no criminal record, and his mother was concerned about him several weeks before the incident on campus.

All of this information makes me think that something more than a failure to study for tests was at the heart of Davis' alleged behavior.

Laven went on to discuss a Web site called mtsureview.com and clearly stated she believes the site to be ridiculous. It is a healthy exercise for students to give their



Think. Write. Do.
Katie Fowler

opinions about the teachers they encounter at MTSU.

After reading about the site in Laven's article, I went and had a look around. I think the people who run the site have a good idea, and seem to be trying to handle the site with fairness in mind.

I decided to use my schedule for the upcoming spring semester as a way to test the usefulness of the site. I was pleasantly surprised at how helpful I found it to be. Yes, there were some students lamenting the amount of homework a certain teacher gave him or her, and while I may be of mind to ignore that because I do not mind the challenge, another student may in fact seek out a teacher who assigns less homework.

Is that an indication of them being brats, or just smart enough to find what works best for them? I think the latter because then that means MTSU as a whole has sanctioned this phenomenon of some teachers being tougher than others. There must be a reason for that.

I noticed in my sampling that most of the grades were "C's" or above, even when complaining, so displeasure with the teacher's practices did not seem to indicate an inability, or unwillingness, to accomplish what was asked of them.

This is not high school. No truer words have ever been spoken. As adults, we are all free to design this experience to our liking, and reap the rewards or pay the consequences, whichever our behavior dictates. As adults, we can now decide for ourselves and live up to our own expectations. It seems that two opposing ideas are in competition when one says this is not high school and quickly follows that with a lecture

about how we should conduct ourselves.

We all have choices to make, and the potential paths are endless.

I can also tell you from close to 40 years of living experience that there is no right way to live your life. There are employers that will hire every type of human there is. Slackers do find, and keep, jobs. Many employers would hire a homecoming queen solely because she has a great personality, and wins people over easily.

Sometimes when you feel like you are the only serious minded hardworking person in a bunch, and you are always the one picking up their slack, it can get very frustrating. I understand that. I try to seek out like-minded hard workers to associate with, and leave the slackers in the dust. I find this solution far more satisfying than giving finger-wagging lectures that are ignored.

Katie Fowler is a junior journalism major and can be reached at kcf2n@mtsu.edu.

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A galaxy of fun

An arcade with a retro feel opens in Hickory Hollow Mall

By ANDREW SWANSON
Contributing Writer

Walking into the dimly lit blue room, shouts erupt from the left as a fight breaks out. A few feet from the brawl, someone dances to techno music pumping out of six-foot-high speakers.

There are gunshots, roars from alien space mutants and weapons clanging together in what seems like one hellish place.

In reality, these are the sights and sounds of Game Galaxy, the new arcade that opened on Nov. 15 in Hickory Hollow Mall.

The arcade is run by Street Fighter veteran Jason "DreamTR" Wilson and arcade enthusiast Robert Selfridge. These two men met a few years ago while working for Namco Cyberentertainment.

"I was getting let go from Namco, and [Wilson] was going to be my replacement," Selfridge says. "The guy who was letting me go and hiring him didn't have a clue as to what was going on, so we started talking. After that, we would meet up and play games together."

Originally, the two thought they were going to be working together.

"I thought it was going to be fun with Rob doing the tech work and I would be doing collections, the meters and ordering plush," Wilson says. "But in the end, it was not like that."

Selfridge and Wilson have acquired a vast selection of games for their arcade. They have more than 70 cabinets and six pinball machines. Also, their arcade makes Tennessee one of five states to have a Tekken 6 machine.

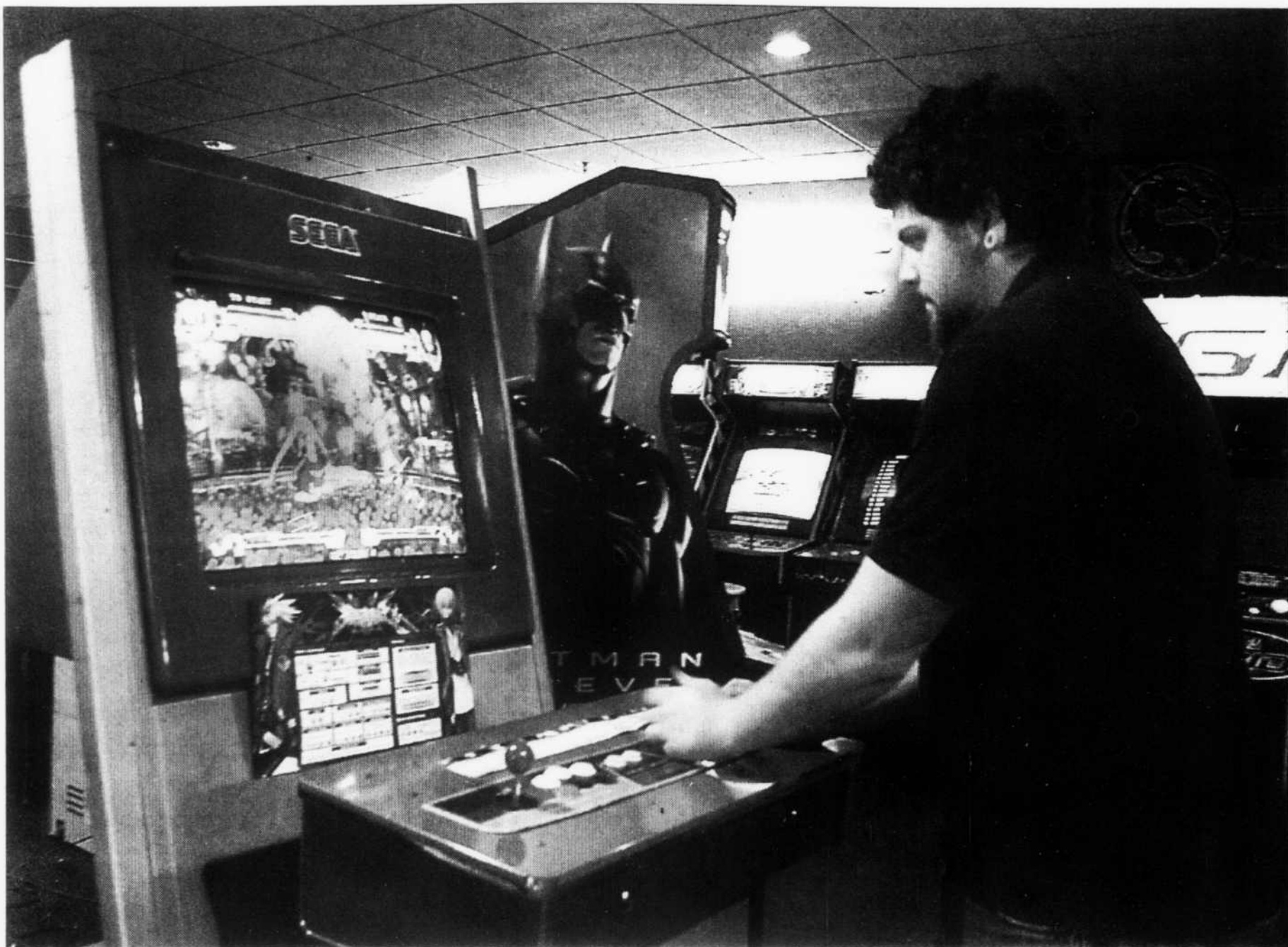


Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer

Gamer Richard Smith plays Game Galaxy's Tekken 6 machine on Wednesday. The arcade makes Tennessee one of five states in the nation have an arcade that houses one of the machines.

The other states are Texas, California, New York and Pennsylvania, making Game Galaxy the only arcade in the Southern United States to have this particular game.

They also have non-console-based games like Midway's last arcade game *The Grid* and *War: Total Assault*.

"No one out here has much of any arcade-wise," Wilson says. "The



Selfridge

community in Tennessee."

Wilson says he believes it is better to have a public

place to play these games. "We want this to be a meeting place people can come to play, and you know it's inexpensive," Wilson says. "If you can have like five bucks and come have a whole day of fun, we are up to it."

Not only do Wilson and Selfridge own an arcade,

but they also buy, sell and trade home console games that big chain stores will not take.

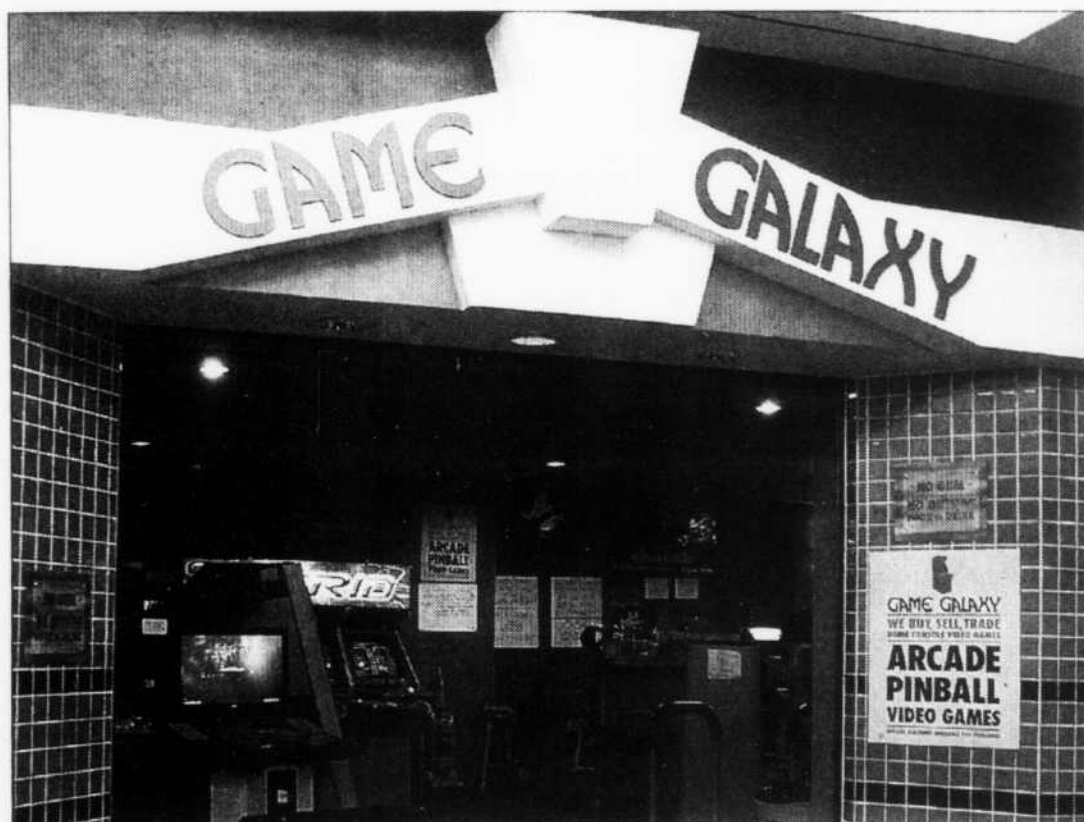
"We are kind of doing a retro vibe because GameStop – for trade in – they don't except retro games at all," Wilson says. "Anything below Playstation 2, they are really not taking into consideration anymore."

Wilson says that he and Selfridge carry Xbox, Playstation 2, Super Nintendo, regular Nintendo and Nintendo 64 games.

"We want people to trade

games in so we can grow the more retro feel because there are not many places that do the more retro stuff," Wilson describes.

The bleeps, bloops, shouts, Japanese dance music and gunshots can be heard for a good distance as patrons of the mall make their way to the exit. Selfridge and Wilson say they hope to keep these sounds alive for a very long time.



Photos by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer

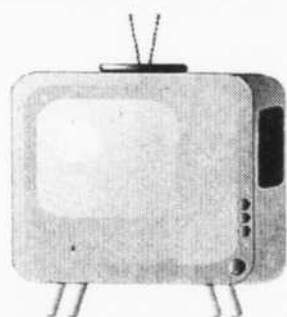
Game Galaxy, located in Hickory Hollow mall, was started by Jason Wilson and Robert Selfridge. The arcade houses a vast selection of games and allows visitors to buy and sell used video games.



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A ghostly night at Stones River Battlefield

An MTSU student tells his tale of a search for apparitions at the historic battleground

By TIM STAR
Contributing Writer

It is a cold Monday night. The trees are bare and a light fog settles over the ground where the Battle of Stones River took place nearly 150 years ago.

Ryan Burk, sophomore recording industry major, and I bundle up in warm clothes while carrying a couple of Sony voice recorders and a flashlight.

Tonight, we are not here to enjoy the sites. We're here to catch a ghost.

Ryan has already had a few years of experience in paranormal investigation from working with groups like Tennessee Ghost Hunters.

The anniversary of the beginning of the battle, which began on Dec. 31, 1862, is at the end of next month. The battle ended on Jan. 2, 1863.

"This is the peak time of [paranormal] activity on the battlefield," Ryan says.

The air is still when we arrive at the battlefield, and we spend about 30 minutes

quietly listening. Nothing. We decide to engage in some conversation with one another.

We try a few things to provoke spirits, such as asking questions and talking about major generals of the Civil War, but still nothing happens. After 90 minutes, we decide it is time to go.

But the night is still young. When we return to Monohan Hall, I am greeted by a group of three other college students. They know what we were doing and are eager to see a ghost.

The three convince me to return to the battlefield with them around 2 a.m. Ryan says that from 2 a.m. until 4 a.m. is the time that Ryan says is the best time for ghost hunting.

"A lot of it has to do with the gravitational pull of the moon," Ryan says. "It takes a lot of energy to pull the oceans' tides. That is energy that spirits can use to manifest themselves."

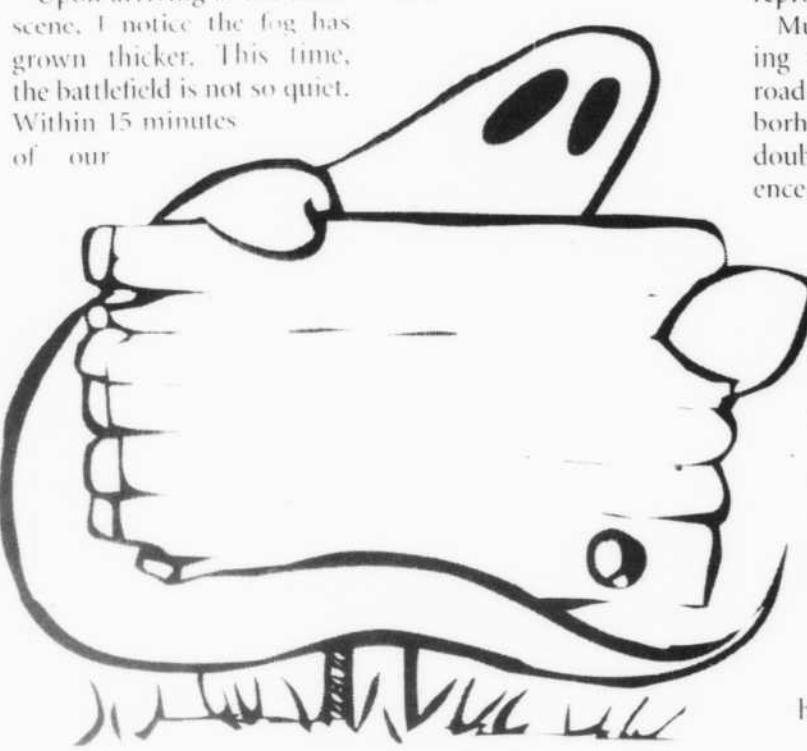
Leave Monohan Hall with the other three students

almost immediately. Ryan is forced to stay behind because he has early classes the next day.

Upon arriving at the same scene, I notice the fog has grown thicker. This time, the battlefield is not so quiet. Within 15 minutes

of our

drops from full to one bar. The mood among us begins to lighten. Each of us wants to have some kind of experience.



arrival, we see unexplainable flashes and experience cold spots.

Shortly afterward, my voice recorder's battery indicator

Soon, we begin to see a number of possible shadow figures and hear strange screeching noises and faint footsteps.

We try to replicate the flashes we previously seen by moving objects in front of the flashlight. Nothing we try reproduces them.

Much of the area surrounding the battlefield contains roads, factories and neighborhoods. This makes us doubtful that we will experience anything paranormal.

After another 90 minutes on the battlefield, we return to campus.

While listening to my recordings of the night, I hear a loud scratchy voice commenting on a crude joke one of us said. What the voice says is incoherent.

Still, the question remains — Is Stones River Battlefield haunted?

"Most of the proof for paranormal activity can only be experienced," Ryan explains. "[This] means all we have to go by is recorded evidence, which can easily be disproved."

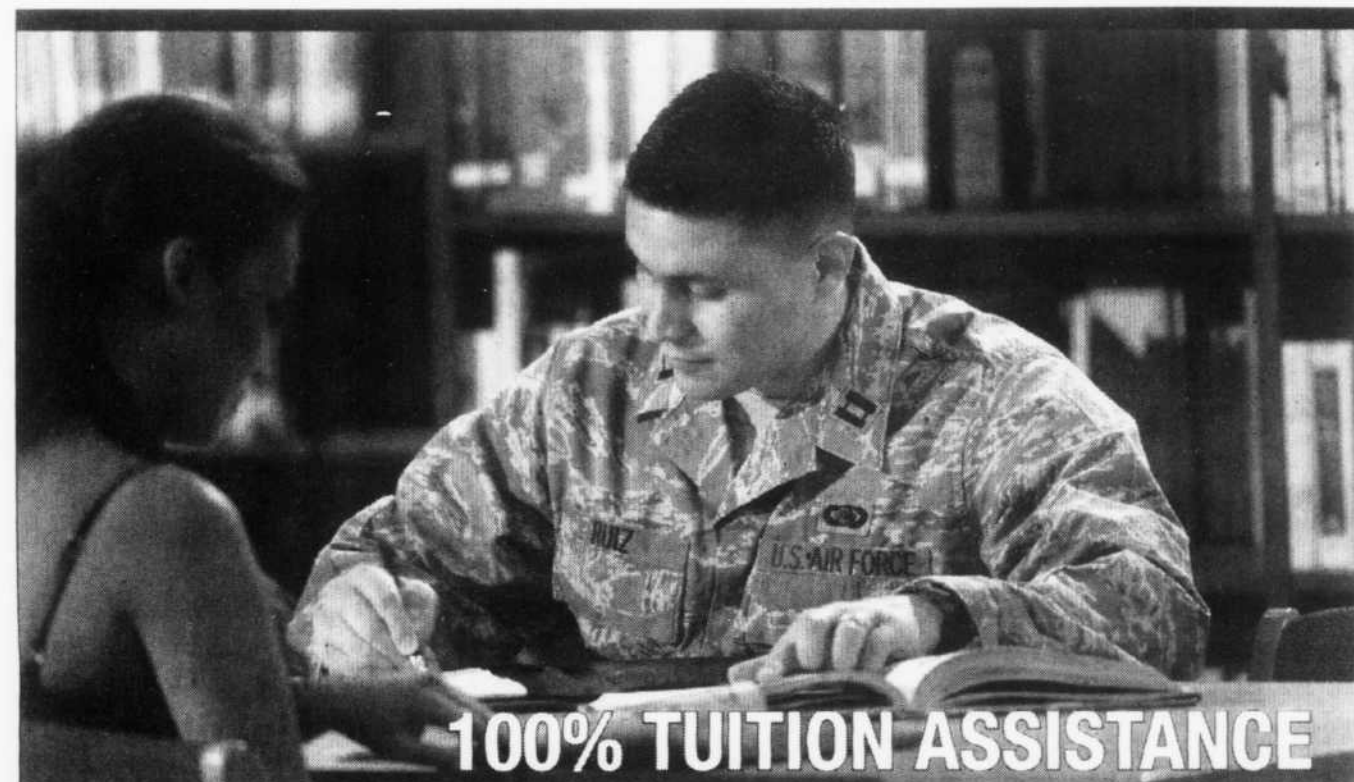
The key to ghost hunting is research, Ryan says.

"Know the history. Know what happened," he says. "This can strengthen any evidence you find."

For some, Stones River National Battlefield may be an incredible site for ghost hunting. According to the National Park Service Web site, there were nearly 24,000 casualties during the battle, making the Battle of Stones River the second bloodiest battle in the Civil War.

Unfortunately, some of the more interesting sites of the battlefield belong to the state park, which closes before nightfall. The actual battlefield itself, though, spans far beyond the state park's boundaries into neighborhoods, roads and local businesses.

The Stones River National Battlefield State Park is located on Old Nashville Highway near the Thompson Lane overpass. For more information on the Stones River National Battlefield State Park, visit nps.gov/stri.



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SPORTS



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

The Blue Raiders will miss the postseason after falling 42-28 to the ULL Ragin' Cajuns yesterday. The loss dropped MT to 5-7 on the year, leaving them one win short of being bowl eligible.

Cajuns crush Blue Raiders' bowl hopes

By CASEY BOWMAN
Assistant Sports Editor

The scenario couldn't have been any simpler - win or go home.

The Middle Tennessee football team was up for the challenge, but they could not walk out of Lafayette with the win or their bowl eligibility.

In a back and forth offensive-minded game, it was mostly turnovers late in the game that spelled doom for the Blue Raiders.

From the get-go, the game had all the makings of an instant classic.

After ULL (6-6, 4-2) scored on their opening drive, the Blue Raiders (5-7, 3-4) did not take long to respond, answering with a touchdown on their very first drive as well.

Running back Phillip Tanner capped the impressive eight-play, 78-yard drive with

a one-yard touchdown run. Tanner finished the game with 78 yards on 23 carries and two touchdowns.

From there, the Ragin Cajuns used their impressive rushing attack to wear down the Blue Raiders.

Running back Tyrell Fenroy showed the Blue Raider defense exactly why he is deserving of the Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year award. The talented senior finished off two ULL scoring drives with touchdown runs of four and three yards, respectively.

Trailing 21-7, offensive coordinator G.A. Mangus decided to open up the playbook for the MT offense. Quarterback Joe Craddock converted on key third down opportunities, highlighted by some striking, highlighted by wide out Eldred King.

Tanner closed the gap to 21-14 when he punched in his second score of the game with a five-yard scamper.

The Blue Raiders caught a major break following their score, when ULL's Jason Chery had a 92-yard kickoff return called off for a block in the back.

The MT defense would step up their game after that fortunate turn of events and held the ULL offense to a three and out possession.

With the first half winding down, MT again converted on key third down plays, driving deep into ULL territory in the process.

All would be for not, though, as placekicker Alan Gendreau missed on a 46-yard field goal attempt. Had it connected, the freshman would have set a new school record for most consecutive

attempts converted in a row.

ULL carried their seven-point lead into the second half, but Middle once again produced on their opening drive.

After ULL defensive back Derik Keyes dropped an interception in the end zone, MT cashed in on the break with a 22-yard touchdown haul from Craddock to King.

Unfortunately, though, the Ragin' Cajuns answered with their own mind-boggling drive.

Quarterback Michael Desormeaux utilized ULL's tricky offensive schemes to cruise through the MT defensive unit, eventually connecting with tight end Ladarius Green for a 5-yard touchdown play.

But MT displayed the heart of Rocky Balboa, answering the bell for another round

and responding with Joe Craddock's arm. Craddock drove MT down the field before connecting with wide receiver Sancho McDonald in the corner of the end zone on a 15-yard strike.

For the game, Craddock was 22 of 28 for 242 yards and two touchdowns.

MT's flawless offensive out-put came to a crashing halt midway through the fourth quarter.

Trailing by seven and in good field position, Desmond Gee put the ball on the ground and the Ragin' Cajuns defense picked it up.

From there, ULL did not lose capitalization on the turnover when Desormeaux connected with Drew Edmiston for a 37-yard pass and catch for the score to go up 42-28.

MT's next possession end-

ed as quickly as it started, when Craddock's attempted pass to Tanner in the middle of the field bounced off of the running backs hand and into the hands of ULL linebacker Daylon McCoy. This was Craddock's only interception of the game.

The Blue Raider defense held ULL on their next drive, but after MT got the ball back and drove deep into ULL territory, lineman Mark Thompson's snap to Craddock's left over the quarterback's shoulder.

Craddock's attempt to secure the ball failed, and ULL picked up the ball, and the win in the process.

Louisiana Lafayette will now await a decision as to whether or not they will be invited to a bowl game, while the Blue Raiders season comes to a close.

Giants suspend receiver Burress for rest of the season

By TOM CANAVAN
Sports Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — The New York Giants expect Antonio Pierce to play in Sunday's game against Philadelphia while the team gathers information on the linebacker's involvement in a shooting that led to the season-ending suspension of star receiver Plaxico Burress.

Coach Tom Coughlin said Pierce would practice Wednesday with the Super Bowl champions.

"Each case is different, each is separate," Coughlin said when asked about the Giants' disciplinary action the team took against Burress on Tuesday — fining and suspending him for four games, the rest of the regular season.

The team also placed Burress on the reserve non-football injury list for conduct detrimental to the team, which means he won't be back for the playoffs, either.

Coughlin said there currently is no need to consider potential punishment of Pierce, the Giants' leader of defense.

"There is no doubt we'll do the right thing," Coughlin added, "and that's no threat to the players, they know that."

The Giants punished Burress a day after he was charged with two counts of illegal weapons possession. He shot himself in the right thigh at a Manhattan nightclub early Saturday morning.

Pierce, who was with Burress, has not talked to police about his involvement since the incident. Authorities are trying to determine whether he tried to cover up the shooting; investigators impounded Pierce's Cadillac Escalade and are searching it for any blood or gun residue. He might face potential charges and a possible suspension if he did.

Coughlin said Wednesday that he used two words in discussing the Burress' situation with the team — disappointment and sadness.

"That sums it all up," Coughlin said. "I had a conversation with Plaxico. He was very humble. He was remorseful. Obviously that doesn't change anything.

But you have to understand that he is part of our team and our concern is with he and his family's well being, and the ability of him to get through this circumstance and be healthy again."

The Giants handed down their decision on Burress after Dr. Scott Rodeo, a team physician, examined the gunshot wound would sideline the 31-year-old player for 4-to-6 weeks.

The Giants (11-1) are deep at wide receiver, however, with players such as Domenik Hixon and Sinorice Moss who can replace the man who caught the game-winning pass in the 17-14 Super Bowl win over the New England Patriots.

It would be much harder to replace Pierce.

Pierce smiled but declined to speak to The Associated Press on Wednesday morning when he reported to Giants Stadium about 8 a.m.

Running back Ahmad Bradshaw was also in the club, but not near the other two players, his attorney said.

Following the shooting, police say Pierce drove Burress to the hospital and returned to New Jersey with Burress' gun in the glove compartment of his black Cadillac Escalade.

Pierce's lawyer said Tuesday he contacted prosecutors as soon as he was hired by the linebacker on Monday.

"After the events in question, Mr. Pierce did what any other reasonable person would do under the circumstances, he hired counsel," attorney Michael Bachner said. He said he hasn't been notified that Pierce will be charged.

"Mr. Pierce, given the extraordinary circumstances of that evening, acted responsibly in trying to save what could have been the life of a friend," Bachner said.

Bradshaw's attorney, Charles Stacy, said his client wasn't suspected of any wrongdoing.

Both players said they were planning to speak with the district attorney's office soon.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg spoke out again about the

case Tuesday, saying he talked to Giants president John Mara and NFL commissioner Roger Goodell. He told them the law says "you see something, you got to call the cops. That's the thing you should do."

Police also plan to interview the people at New York Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center who treated Burress and did not report the shooting, as required by law.

Dr. Josyann Abisaab was suspended for not reporting Burress injury. She apparently arrived at the hospital at 2 a.m. to treat him, but it's not clear why she was called.

Giants spokesman Pat Hanlon said the team has no tie-in with Abisaab. "She is not...we have no relationship with her... we do not know her," Hanlon said Wednesday.

Abisaab could not be reached for comment. She graduated from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and has no history of state disciplinary action. She is affiliated with the hospital and specializes

in internal and emergency medicine.

Giants officials expressed concern for Burress.

"As we have said since Saturday morning, our concern is for Plaxico's health and well-being," Mara said. "This is an important time for him to take care of his body and heal up and also deal with the very serious legal consequences and other issues in his life. When I spoke with Plaxico he expressed great remorse for letting down his teammates."

Neither Burress nor his agent, Drew Rosenhaus, was immediately available for comment.

Receiver Amani Toomer, whose 13 years with the team make his the current longest serving player, called the situation unfortunate.

"There is nothing good that will come out of it and there isn't much to say," he said as players reported for practice Wednesday. "It's just tough, it's just tough for everyone to deal with. I'm just glad he is OK. It could have been worse."

Cougars deal men's basketball third-straight loss

By TONY STINETT
MT Athletic Communications

Kevin Kanaskie's 3-pointer from the top of the key carried off the rim with no time remaining as Middle Tennessee suffered a gut-wrenching 70-67 setback to Houston at the Murphy Center Tuesday.

The Blue Raiders had rallied from a nine-point deficit, 65-56, with 5:21 remaining to force overtime at the final buzzer; however, the depleted squad ran out of time before it could complete the comeback. MT was playing without seniors Theryn Hudson (foot) and Nigel Johnson (knee) and transfer Eric Allen (knee) also was unavailable due to injury.

Desmond Yates and Demetrius Green carried Middle Tennessee in their absence, combining for 36 points and 16 rebounds, including four

offensive boards. Yates narrowly missed a double double with 19 points and nine rebounds, and Green finished with 17 points and seven rebounds. Green has scored 15 or more in each of his three starts. Kanaskie finished with nine for MT (2-3).

Houston (5-1) used the talents of guards Kelvin Lewis and Aubrey Coleman to do in the Blue Raiders. Coleman finished with a game-high 24 points and seven rebounds, followed by Lewis with 23 points.

Despite a growing injury list, particularly to key components of the squad, MT still had an opportunity to secure victory. MT Head Coach Kermit Davis generally gave seven players a bulk of the minutes and two of those (Antwaun Boyd and Demario Williams) are freshmen.

Trailing 33-31 at the half, MT came out strong in the second half and used a 7-0

run almost midway through the final stanza to pull ahead 50-44 on Montarrio Had-dock's jumper at the 12:48 mark. The strong Blue Raider run was followed by an even stronger Houston run as the Cougars outscored the Blue Raiders 21-4 over the next six-plus minutes to go up 65-54 with 5:56 remaining.

"The critical part of the game, we were up by six and then for about a six-minute period they just got it to the rim," Davis said. "The game flip-flopped in about a three-minute span. I really commend our guys' effort; they played hard for the last five minutes or so to give us a chance. We have to give Houston credit, too, though. Their two guards played great tonight. We couldn't keep them out of the paint and they made shots. No matter who was out or didn't play we still have to win that game."

The Blue Raiders showed

tremendous grit and determination in almost overcoming the 11-point deficit in the game's final five minutes. Williams' 3-pointer from the left wing cut the deficit to 67-63 with 2:10 and, following a strong defensive stand that ended with a miss of a long 3-pointer, Calvin O'Neil hauled in an offensive rebound, drew the foul, and hit one of two free throws to cut the lead to 67-64.

After Houston stretched the lead back to five, Green buried a long 3-pointer to pull the Blue Raiders to within 69-67 with 13 seconds remaining. Horace McGloster made the first of two free throws to extend the lead back to three, 70-67.

MT had an opportunity to get off a good look at a potential game-tying 3-pointer; however, Kanaskie bobbled the ball at the top of the key and had to force an off-balance jumper.



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer
Redshirt freshman Antwaun Boyd (35) tries to get into the lane.

Non-conference losses make road to Tournament difficult for MT



Outside the Pocket
Chris Martin

In a season where most MT fans expect a postseason berth, the Blue Raider men's basketball team has potentially put the chance of an at-large NCAA Tournament bid out of reach.

Over the past three games, the Blue Raiders have traversed their out-of-conference schedule, and they've come out with a 0-3 record in those games.

On Nov. 21, No. 10-ranked Tennessee beat MT 76-66 at the Murphy Center in a game that was much closer than the score. Next, the Blue Raiders traveled to Vanderbilt and fell 65-57 on Nov. 24. Last, MT returned to the Murphy Center and narrowly lost 70-67 to Houston.

That three-game losing streak puts the Blue Raiders in a position where they really need a conference tournament victory in order to make the Big Dance. The Blue Raiders really needed to win two of these games, but ending this stretch without a victory is discouraging. Even if MT had beaten Houston, the Cougars look to have an uphill climb in Conference USA considering they lost their two top scorers from last season and UAB appears ready to challenge Memphis for C-USA dominance.

It is only the beginning of December, and maybe the Sun Belt will be a strong conference this season like it was last year, but the remaining out-of-conference games provide little resume-building opportunities. MT's remaining non-SBC schedule consists of teams such as: Houston Baptist, Belmont, UT-Martin, Southern Illinois (Edwardsville), UC Irvine, Norfolk State and Missouri State.

Those teams hold a combined 9-27 in the early season. Now, those teams will probably put together a better win percentage once they've finished conference play, but the 25 percent win

percentage does show that the remaining non-conference competition isn't top caliber.

The schedule isn't a complete cakewalk, though. Belmont was picked as the pre-season favorites to take home the Atlantic Sun crown, and UT-Martin has one of the best players in college basketball in Lester Hudson.

If fans want to criticize the MT Athletic Department for the soft schedule, they need only look at last season to see that the Blue Raiders are unafraid of tough competition.

Last season, MT played nine games against teams that went to the Tournament last season, including a neutral-court game against Memphis and an away game at Tennessee.

Now, the Blue Raiders will need to rely on the strength of the SBC in order to look more appealing to the Selection Committee. Fortunately, the Sun Belt has put together a strong start.

Western Kentucky has already jumped out to an impressive 4-2 record with impressive wins at home over Georgia and Southern Illinois and an enormous victory on a neutral court against then-No.3-ranked Louisville. Arkansas-Little Rock is 5-0 with a quality home win against Creighton. Meanwhile, Arkansas State is 5-1, North Texas is 4-2 and South Alabama is 5-3.

Regardless, the best chance MT has now, as with all other teams, is to just get back on the winning track and win the conference tournament. If UALR and WKU can continue their early-season successes, and the Blue Raiders can win at least two of their three encounters with the Trojans and Hilltoppers, then MT can have some quality wins under its belt.

The three losses don't condemn the rest of the season, but the Blue Raiders will definitely need to put together an impressive season, preferably with a SBC tournament championship, in order to live up to the preseason hype.

However, the road to March Madness doesn't get any easier.

Chris Martin is a junior journalism major. He can be reached at slsports@mtsu.edu.

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