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SIDELINES

SEPT. 12, 2012

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Sidelines Lens



Students show off their creations for the Experimental Vehicles program on the Keathley University Center knoll last week. The program is sponsored by the Society of Automotive Engineers. The vehicles are built over the course of a year by a team of students and are entered in competitions.
Photo by Matt Masters.

Visit us at www.mtsusidelines.com

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Lectures focus on 'The City'

By Emily West
Community news
editor

Students will explore different cities through speakers in the Honors College fall lecture series that began Monday.

This semester's series, titled "The City," focuses on how the different places played a key role in the lives of authors, TV shows and cultures.

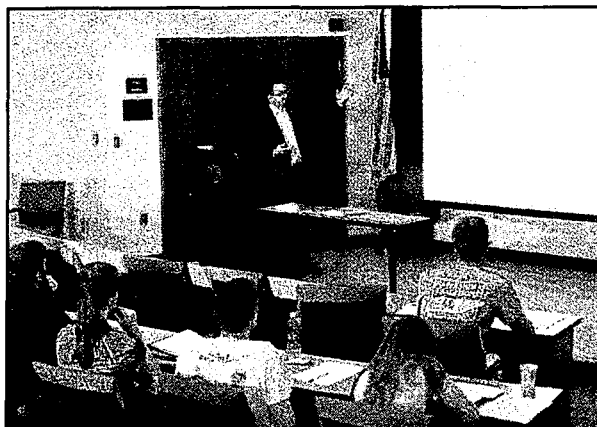
"I saw this theme as a way to pull in different speakers and offer a wide range of topics," said Philip E. Phillips, associate dean of the Honors College. "The theme came about as I was doing research on Edgar Allan Poe and his city of birth, which is Boston."

Phillips kicked off the series Monday with his lecture, "Edgar Allan Poe and the City of Boston."

From the Middle East to the French Quarter of Louisiana, the series includes an eclectic group of MTSU professors and outside guests who are exploring different cities across the globe.

English professor David Lavery is bringing something different to the literature-heavy series, speaking on the British TV show "Dr. Who" and the city of London.

"Dr. Who" is a science-fiction show that has been airing for the past 50 years, and the recent reboot has drawn attention of American viewers. The plot deals with the main character, an alien referred to as "The Doctor," traveling anywhere in time to save the universe.



Phillips began the fall lecture series by an analysis of Poe and the city of Boston. Photo by Kyle Kline.

"Dr. Who" is huge here now for the first time," Lavery said. "Dr. Who spends an odd amount of time in London, and the city of London is like another character in the show. It isn't just contemporary London, either, as he goes back in time and stays in the present."

After living in London for two years, Lavery went through the city and retraced the steps of the main character on the show. He currently plans to teach a class about "Dr. Who" in London December 2013 for MTSU students.

English professor Robert Bray visited the sights and sounds of his lecture topic, which proved to be an easy task, since Bray hails from New Orleans. Bray's Oct. 8 lecture focuses on Tennessee Williams and the city of New Orleans, where Williams eventually settled.

"I will mainly talk about that along the way from St. Louis and from Memphis, he changes his name from Tom to Tennessee, and

[he changes] the year he was born from 1911 to 1914," Bray said. "He does this because there was a writing contest to be able to qualify."

Bray will cover William's homosexuality and the symbiotic relationship between him and New Orleans.

"He got to New Orleans, particularly the French Quarter, [and] he was thrust in this world with French and Spanish architecture and food, but it was really the lifestyle," Bray said. "He came from a conservative Midwestern city. When he got there, he had not consummated his homosexuality but had an affair with this guy while he was there. It was integral and forming his sexual identity."

The Monday lectures begin at 3 p.m. in the Honors Building Amphitheater, room 106, and will run through Dec. 3. Next week's lecture is from professor Robb McDaniel called, "Thought Polis: Ancient Athens and the Urban Imagination." All the lectures are free and open to the public.

Death on campus under investigation as meningitis

By Becca Andrews
Editor-in-chief

Freshman student Jacob Nunley passed away around 8 a.m. Monday at Vanderbilt University Medical Center due to bacterial meningitis, MTSU officials confirmed.

According to several students on Twitter, Nunley was participating in a Greek celebration known as Alpha-gammaroo at the Sigma Alpha Epsilon house on Greek Row last night before being taken to Vanderbilt.

"Mouth and nose fluids in close contact are a vehicle for bacterial meningitis to spread," said Tom Talbot, chief hospital epidemiologist at Vanderbilt Medical Center.

Talbot said there is no indication that alcohol consumption can make the disease more severe, and the only possible connection to drinking

is through sharing cups.

Those who have had recent contact with Nunley are encouraged to go to Student Health Services in the Recreation Center for a free antibiotic pill.

Nunley hailed from Dyersburg, Tenn., and had not declared a major.

Check mtsusidelines.com for more information.



Jacob Nunley, freshman, passed away early this week. Photo courtesy of Facebook.

Meningitis is a bacterial infection of the membranes covering the brain and spinal cord.

Bacterial meningitis infections are serious, and may result in death or brain damage, even with treatment.

The symptoms come quickly and include:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Fever and chills | Mental status changes |
| Nausea and vomiting | Sensitivity to light |
| Severe headache | Stiff neck |
| Agitation | Rapid breathing |

Those living in close quarters, such as college dormitories, are at a higher risk.

COVER STORY

Immigrants become citizens, population more diversified

By Alex Hubbard
and Emily West
News editors

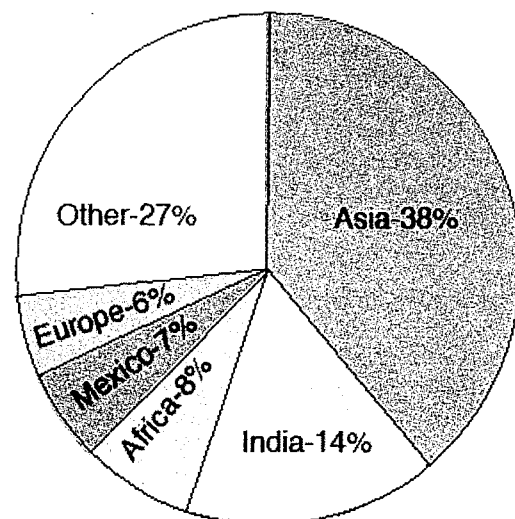
The university will celebrate the 225th anniversary of the United States Constitution and naturalization of 240 new citizens Sept. 17 in Murphy Center, an occasion that highlights the historic and contemporary difficulties of achieving citizenship.

How residents become citizens

After holding a green card for a minimum of five years, lawful permanent residents who wish to become a naturalized citizen of the United States have to go through a naturalization process and fulfill the proper requirements.

"My work is to bring new Americans into citizenship," said Anahi Gutierrez, citizenship and integration coordinator of the Tennessee Immigration and Refugee Coalition. "An

Percentage of Immigrants of Rutherford Co.



Graphic by Christopher Do

immigrant has to become a resident and that is the hardest part. Once they become residents, I try to fully engage them in U.S. society. I see all sorts of people, and we have quite a large demographic."

The residents pursuing naturalization must be 18 or older and live in the same state for three months before fill-

ing out the application. They must also live in the U.S. a minimum of five months while possessing a green card.

Residents also have to remain in the U.S. through the entire naturalization process beginning when they dated and submitted the application. The remaining requirements ask that the potential new

americans read, write and speak English and be knowledgeable of U.S. government and history.

To prove their knowledge about the U.S. and their English-speaking abilities, United States Citizen and Immigration Services test all the applicants through a civics exam.

The civics exam is 100 questions, and ten of the questions must be answered verbally in English. Applicants are required to answer six of the ten verbal questions correctly. The remaining 90 questions are in a testing format.

In addition to the civics exam, future citizens must fulfill the requirement of being an upstanding citizen of the U.S. during the time they were lawful permanent residents. Residents must maintain a clean record with no arrests or charges brought upon them.

After fulfilling these requirements, potential citizens have to submit

an N-400 form, which is ten pages long. The fee of the application is \$595. The TIRRC holds workshops four times a year to help immigrants fill out their paperwork.

"Workshop is one day with trained volunteers that help people complete their applications," Gutierrez said. "The volunteers help fill out the forms and translate. We also have attorneys who do legal screenings to make sure the people haven't violated any of the requirements."

The next workshop from TIRRC is slated for November in Nashville.

Immigration throughout history

Traditionally, immigrants came to the U.S. through a number of processing centers, such as Ellis Island and San Francisco, where they were processed one after another, in near assembly-line fashion.

More than 12 million people passed through

Ellis Island between 1892 and 1954, according to the National Park Service.

But this system, based on its action and efficiency, had strains.

"The heartbreaking thing about the Ellis Island experience is that if people were ill they got sent back," said Martha Narkunas, an MTSU history professor who specializes in oral history. "Single women often weren't allowed at some point because they thought they were going to be prostitutes."

Modern air travel and an interconnected global economy has transformed the traditional point of entry, but despite calls from across the opinion spectrum for reform of the current system, immigration remains mired in the same political process as any other issue.

"It's the area of politics that is eluded congress, the president or our leaders on many issues," said Kent Syler, an MTSU political sci-

Q&A with Zeny Panol, associate dean in the College of Mass Communication

1) Where are you originally from?

I am originally from the Philippines. Even then I was peripatetic already since I moved from the city of my birth to two other Philippine cities to pursue my undergraduate and master's degrees and eventually (after all that studying) to find gainful employment. I guess because of these relocations or transplanations, it didn't come as a huge surprise that I would cross an ocean

and become a citizen of the country of my choice.

2) Why did you come to the United States?

I came here to study for my doctorate and upon completion of my graduate degree – that is after three years of living/studying in the U.S. – I realized that I like how things are done here. There is clearly a meritocracy that rewards hard work and talent. The efficiency

and reliability levels here are much higher.

3) How did you end up in Murfreesboro?

A better job opportunity to teach at Middle Tennessee State University came up, so I moved from Texas where I had taught for nine years.

4) When did you become a citizen of the United States?

In 2008 – just in time to vote for the historic

presidential election.

5) What was the experience like to become a citizen here?

I remember that the oath-taking ceremony was a very solemn and well-organized event. It was long awaited and greatly anticipated. After the ceremony, you can feel the high-octane festive air in the courtroom as the judge congratulated and posed for pictures with each one of us – the newly-

minted citizens of the United States. I proudly held my little American flag that was given to me together with my citizenship documents. That flag still occupies a special place in my desk at home.

6) Does any more of your family currently reside in the United States?

I have a brother and two sisters who reside here in the U.S.



COVER STORY

ence professor who also served as chief of staff to U.S. Rep. Bart Gordon. "It's figuring out how to compromise and address the issue and how to move on from there."

How it affects Middle Tennessee

In recent years, Nashville has become a top destination for a diverse set of immigrants from Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and Africa.

One of the most vibrant communities in Nashville is the Kurdish, a group of people from a region of Iraq who were some of the first of the modern wave of immigrants to settle in the area.

Another group of people that came to the U.S. in search of safety is the Karen people from Burma. The Karen people do not have a home country and have been dealing with constant government problems with Burma for more than 80 years.

Smyrna High School math teacher Robert Drake has been teaching Karen students for over six years in his ESL math classes.

"The majority of the students I have in my classes have been refugees," Drake said. "Over the six years I have taught, I have probably taught at least 60 Karen students in my class."

One of Drake's former students, Geo Pew, came to the U.S. four years ago and graduated from Smyrna High School in 2012. She now serves as an educational assistant for Rutherford County

Schools and helps translate in ESL classes.

"When I was six, a Burmese soldier came to my village and burned the houses," Pew said. "They shot and killed people, and we had to move. I was then a refugee for 10 years. When we lived in the refugee camp, we only had a bamboo house, and everyone had to stay in barbed wire. If we went out, the Thai soldier could arrest you and put you in jail. In our refugee camp, the [United Nations] gave us food. It was rice, chili, beans, oil and salt. Every month we would have to eat this."

Pew said that while some of the people she knew in the refugee camp moved to Canada, Europe and Australia, more of her people have moved to the U.S.

"They call it chain migration," Narkunas said. "They'll come over, and then they will bring their uncle and cousin and brother, and then someone else, a person from their hometown."

Narkunas said this chain creates a critical mass of people that eventually inspires an economy of stores, coffee shops and other businesses and religious centers run by immigrants.

"Why they come to that place initially, I'm not quite sure," Narkunas said. "Usually it's they can get jobs or someone sponsors them."

With many rules and regulations governing different workers and circumstances, the immigration system seems to escape easy classification.

"In Congressman Gordon's office, we had an individual who spent probably 50 percent of his time dealing with immigration questions, both for individuals and companies who were wanting to bring workers over," Syler said. "We talked with Nissan very frequently because they would have people coming back and forth from Japan ... It really runs the gamut from the Nissans to farmers in Cannon County trying to get workers to get their pimento-pepper crop in."

In recent years, reform discussions have focused on undocumented immigrants and ways to improve border security. Wide-ranging attempts to address these issues and others facing immigrants applying to become citizens have generally failed in the legislative stage.

The highest-profile failure of immigration reform came most recently in 2007, when a bipartisan bill that garnered support from President George W. Bush as well as Sens. John McCain and Edward (Ted) Kennedy failed in Congress.

"When the economy is tough, it is especially hard to work on immigration issues," Syler said. "It is very easy to look at someone who has come to this country undocumented and pretty well put the blame on them for all the ills of the economy."

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Friday, September 21

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Tuesday, October 2

David Byrne & St. Vincent



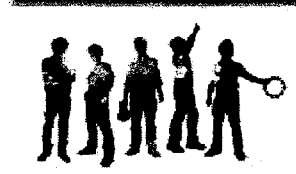
Wednesday, October 3

gotye
with Missy Higgins



Wednesday, October 24

STSS



Saturday, October 27

moe.



Sunday, November 11

regina spekter
with Gaby San



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Ryman Auditorium is a National Historic Landmark, open daily for tours.

MTSU supports bike culture with new rental program



Students can now rent bicycles from the rec center for \$15. Photo by Matt Masters.

By Rachel Nixon Contributing Writer

With the continued parking problems on campus and the growing trend of "going green," the university's recreation center has a new option for students: to rent bikes.

The bicycle-rental program, which began Sept. 1, came to fruition due to the limited availability of parking and the vast size of the campus. The outdoor equipment rental service has commuter bicycles to rent and a repair shop.

"The bicycles are Origin8 Cutlers, single speed and are very easy to ride," said Josh Stone, associate director of student recreation center. "They are also accessorized with baskets and racks so that students can use them to go grocery shop-

ping or to carry their books. Each bike also comes with a lock and a helmet."

The bike shop will be renting the commuter bikes during operating hours—Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Students can purchase a bike rental card for \$15, which allows them to rent a bike for 48 hours as many times as they wish during the semester.

"Students already pay a recreation fee and many of the costs of the program will come out of that," said Jenny Crouch, student recreation center marketing coordinator.

This is not the first program of its kind. The Association of the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education lists bike-sharing initiatives all over the country.

"The program was researched based upon a few other successful bike programs out there, predominantly the University of Oregon and also Boise State University," Stone said.

Campus Planning is in the process of making parking stations for the bicycles in strategic locations on campus. These stations will be secure and monitored. Covered bike shelters will be constructed in the Rutherford lot and Greenland lot. The shelters will allow students to lock their own bikes overnight there.

Students can get more involved with the program throughout the semester. The recreation center will hold several workshops for students to learn about repair and maintenance of their bikes. ■

Student media outlets seek to fill positions

By Quint Qualls Contributing Writer

From disc jockeys to writers, news anchors to cameramen, MTSU's TV and radio stations are looking for students to get involved in the production of the campus broadcast programs.

The student-run TV station, MT10, and radio station, WMTS, will both be holding general interest meetings in the coming weeks. MT10 will explain how to get involved Sept. 12 at 7:30 p.m., and WMTS will do the same Sept. 17 and 18 at 9 p.m.

Both meetings will be held in room 103 of the John Bragg Mass Communication building.

"At MT10 we have a variety of opportunities for students, and we will be talking about all of the different opportunities at the general interest meeting," said Michelle Potts, news director for MT10. "Some of the topics that will be talked about are how to get involved with news, getting production or writing experience, on-air positions, sports and even those who are interested in making their own show. These are just a couple of the fantastic opportunities that we offer at MT10."

Currently the university's electronic media communication department is part of the fifth-largest communications program in the nation, and its merit is reflected in the quality of its me-



MT10 anchors work in a robotic studio to produce a newscast. Photo courtesy of the CIM.

dia outlets.

Robert Jasso, faculty adviser for WMTS and MT10, said it isn't difficult to join either outlet.

"There is room for infinite amounts of people," Jasso said. "Bringing in new, fresh young talent is vital to the sustainability of the stations—so really, the freshmen and sophomore classes become the lifeblood of the station."

WMTS—88.3 FM—provides purely an outlet of expression for students and entertainment programs—one program on the fall schedule is titled "The Zombie Apocalypse."

MT10—Comcast channel 10—has a focus on broadcast news with four newscasts a week.

"MT10 News is a great way for students to learn the basics of television production and to learn how to operate the equipment," said Lee Miller, student

media coordinator for the Center for Innovation in Media, where both organizations are housed. "Broadcasts are held Mondays—Thursdays at 6:30 [p.m.], and they hold open crew calls every night at 5:00 [p.m.]."

MT10 also features music and entertainment programming.

"We do have other entertainment shows that are done on a weekly basis," Jasso said. "We have a show that is entirely based on skits and puppets."

It's even possible for students to have their own radio shows.

"To become a DJ you have to be an intern first, which means you have to learn the gear," Jasso said. "Once you do that, in the spring you would become an actual DJ. You would put in a proposal for a show and then find out when your show would air." ■

Madden files motion for retrial

By Richel Albright
Managing editor

Shanterrica Madden, who was convicted of second-degree murder and tampering with evidence in July in the stabbing of Lady Raider Tina Stewart, has filed for a retrial through her attorney, Joe Brandon Jr.

Brandon filed the motion with Rutherford County Circuit Court on grounds of an unfair trial.

In the motion, Brandon cites insufficient evidence, excessive sentencing and no basis for consecutive sentences as reasons for retrial. It says Madden had her constitutional rights violated with the admittance of juror questioning, a routine process

in many cases, and was denied due process when Judge Don Ash failed to recuse himself from court.

Due process is the promise of fair treatment in criminal and civil cases through the availability of all protections by the law.

"Unquestionably we are entitled to a new trial," Brandon told WSMV-TV.

Brandon is questioning Ash's connections to MTSU. Ash is scheduled to be sworn in by Gov. Bill Haslam as a senior judge this week, and it is unknown if Ash will preside over the motion.

There is no date set regarding the motion on the circuit court docket, as transcriptions of the original trial are not

complete.

"We reviewed the motion for a new trial, and there is nothing in there that surprises us," said J. Paul Newman, Rutherford County assistant district attorney in an interview with WSMV-TV. "We believe the judge conducted a fair and just trial. We don't believe any errors were made. We think that the motion for a new trial will be dismissed."

Brandon was out of town and did not respond to a request to comment to Sidelines.

The altercation between Stewart and Madden took place on Mar. 2, 2011, at the Raiders Crossing apartment the two girls shared.

CRIME BRIEFS

ALCOHOL

Middle Tennessee Boulevard

Sept. 4, 2:46 a.m.: Authorities arrested and charged Christopher Anders, 37, with public intoxication.

THEFT

Blue Raider Drive

Sept. 4, 5:35 p.m.: A complainant reported that her bicycle had been stolen.

THEFT

Recreation Center

Sept. 4, 10:35 p.m.: A complainant reported that his cellphone had been stolen.

ALCOHOL

Alumni Drive

Sept. 5, 12:04 a.m.: Authorities arrested Michael Watson, 20, for underage consumption.

ALCOHOL

Blue Raider Drive

Sept. 5, 2:37 a.m.: An authority arrested Timothy Slater, 23, for driving under the influence with a violation of implied consent and issued him a violation for expired registration.

VANDALISM

Judd/Sims Hall Lot

Sept. 5, 10:54 a.m.

A complainant reported that a flyer had been placed on his vehicle and become stuck to the window.

THEFT

Keathley University Center

Sept. 6, 8:54 a.m.

Authorities arrested Richard Greer Jr. for theft over \$1,000, which occurred on Aug. 27 in the Student Union Building.

SEXUAL OFFENSES

Bell Street Lot

Sept. 6, 4:06 p.m.

Officers responded to call of a person exposing himself near the Bell Street Lot. Officers located the individual, but he was not engaged in any criminal activity at the time. The complainant did not want to prosecute, and the individual was issued a citation.

TRAFFIC

Greenland Drive Lot B

Sept. 6, 6:30 p.m.

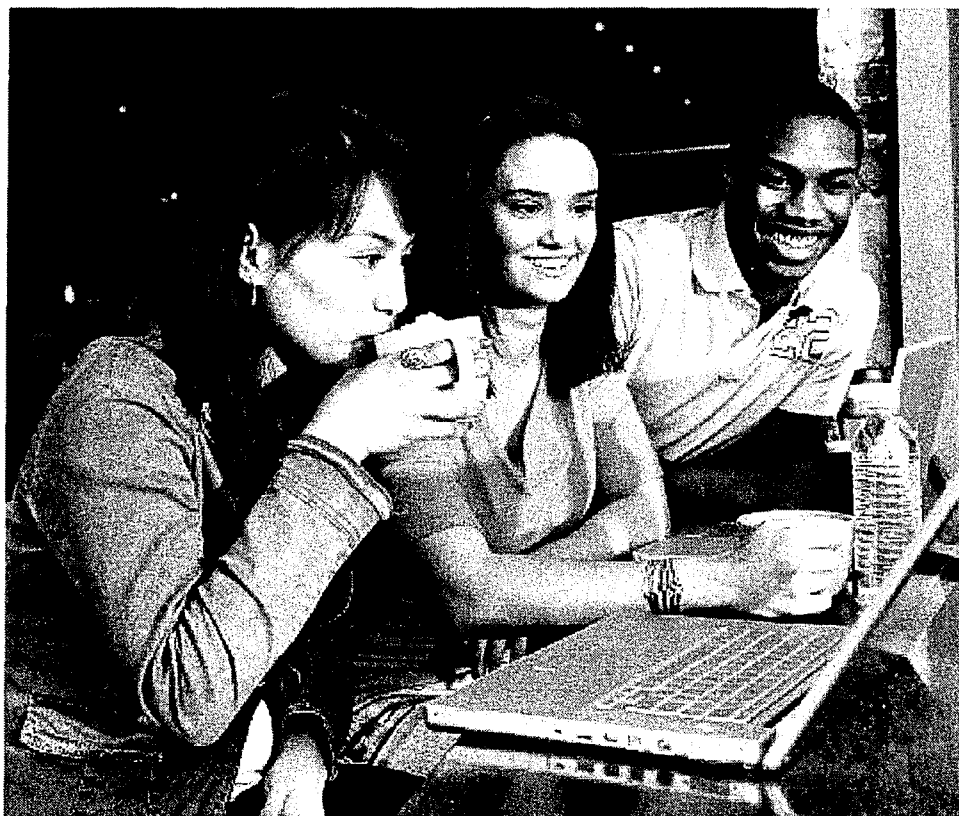
A complainant reported that his vehicle had been struck while parked on campus.

VANDALISM

Rutherford Parking Lot

Sept. 6, 8:30 p.m.

A complainant reported that her vehicle had been vandalized.



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Obama accepts nomination, promises progress at convention

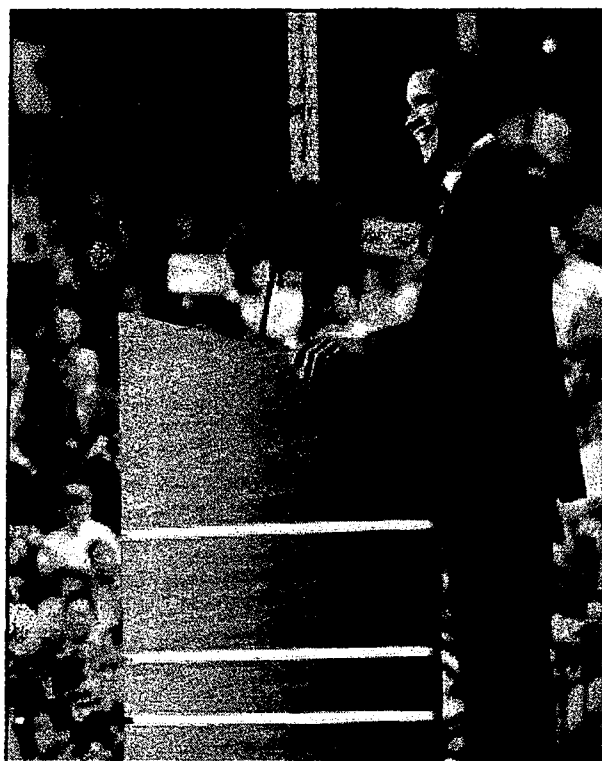
By Jo-Jo Jackson
Contributing Writer

President Barack Obama's message of moving forward continued to propel his campaign as he accepted his party's presidential nomination on Sept. 6 at the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, N.C.

"If you give up on the idea that your voice can make a difference, then other voices will fill the void," Obama said. "The lobbyists and special interests, the people with the \$10 million checks who are trying to buy this election and the people who are trying to make it harder for you to vote."

Starting on Sept. 3, the four-day convention was held at Charlotte's Time Warner Arena, which holds approximately 20,000 people. First Lady Michelle Obama, former President Bill Clinton and Vice President Joe Biden were among the keynote speakers who addressed the audience of delegates and supporters during the event.

The last day was scheduled for the approximately 73,000-seat Bank of America stadium—home of the Carolina Panthers—but threats of thunderstorms forced the convention committee to move the event inside, causing upwards of 60,000 community-credential holders, which included campaign volunteers and others from across the country, to be turned away from attending Obama's acceptance



Right: President Obama smiles while addressing the crowd gathered at the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, N.C. Left: Obama and Clinton grin, arm in arm. Photos courtesy of Facebook.

speech.

In response to the venue change, Obama held a community conference call to extend apologies to community credential-holders and encourage his constituents to continue their efforts.

"We can't let a little thunder and lightning get us down," Obama said during the conference call. "We're going to have to work really hard over these next two months ... this is going to be a really close election."

Obama's 40-minute speech addressed administration goals that he wants to continue working toward, such as "getting back to basics" by continued revitalization of the U.S. manufacturing and auto industry, investment

into renewable energy initiatives, restructuring of public and higher education and reduction of the national deficit. "Business leaders are bringing jobs back to America, not because our workers make less pay, but because we make better products," Obama said.

Expanding the number of teachers for K-12, making vocational training more available at community colleges and reducing tuition costs are all key parts of the plan, Obama said.

"Help me recruit 100,000 math and science teachers within 10 years and improve early-childhood education," he said. "Help us work with colleges and universities to cut in half the growth of tuition costs in the next

10 years."

Obama highlighted his administration's national security and foreign policy achievements, such as ending the war in Iraq, crippling the Taliban and al-Qaida, killing Osama bin Laden, strengthening foreign alliances and developing new ones.

"Four years ago I promised to end the war in Iraq; we did," Obama said. "Al-Qaida is on the path to defeat and Osama bin Laden is dead ... We've forged new coalitions to stop the spread of nuclear weapons. We reasserted our power across the Pacific and stood up to China on behalf of our workers."

Overall, Obama's theme was clear: to distinguish Democratic goals and visions from

GOP candidate Mitt Romney and the Republican Party's vision. "When you pick up that ballot to vote, you will face the clearest choice of any time in a generation," Obama said. "It will be a choice between two different paths for America ... two fundamentally different visions."

Obama steered away from attacking the GOP or Romney, but did spend a brief time commenting on the Republican National Convention, and what he considered the party's plan to be.

"Down in Tampa, at the Republican National Convention, [Republicans] were more than happy to talk about

everything they think is wrong about America," Obama said, "but they didn't have much to say about how they'd make it right ... They want your vote, but they don't want you to know their plan."

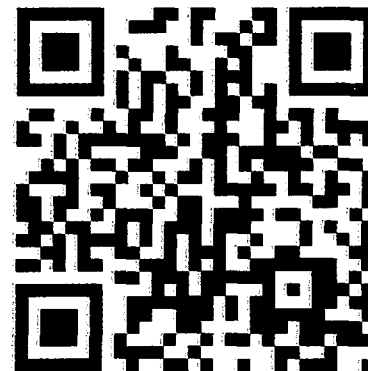
Obama also addressed the issue of slow-going progress that critics consider a weakness.

"It will take more than a few years for us to solve challenges that have built up over decades," he said.

Obama discussed what he considered the "basic bargain" of traditional American values, which he said included fairness and upward mobility for everyone, and how his administration will restore this.

"America's not about what can be done for us, it's about what can be done by us, together," Obama said. "If you believe in a country where everyone gets a fair shot, and everyone does their fair share, and everyone plays by the same rules, then I need you to vote this November."

To check out coverage on the Republican National Convention, scan here:



Award-winning chef brings creativity to his cravings

By Michael Wilson,
Sam Brown and
Megan Bowen

College cafeteria food is often remembered for the wrong reasons: mystery meat and vegetables that look nothing like what mama made back home.

Glen Pugh's job is to make cafeteria food tasty. As chef at MTSU's McCallie Dining Hall, Pugh plans menus aimed to please. What most students do not know is that they now have an award-winning chef supervising the preparation of their three squares a day.

Last May, as most students were settling into summer jobs, Pugh, 25, won the gold medal at the ARAMARK Culinary Excellence Challenge in Knoxville. This is an annual competition between chefs from colleges and universities throughout the South. ARAMARK is the food services vendor that operates all the dining facilities on campus.

"I was one of the youngest chefs to ever win a gold medal and one of the youngest chefs to be on the team nationally," he said. "That is a huge honor; it made my head swell up real big, but I got over that."

Pugh, who grew up in nearby Readyville, Tenn., found himself drawn to cooking at an early age by helping his mother prepare family meals.

At 16, Pugh got a part-time job on campus making sandwiches at

Subway. He really liked working with food, and his enjoyment was noticed by then-MTSU Chef James Quinn, who studied in England and throughout Europe. Quinn took Glen under his wing and taught him the ins and outs of the culinary world.

Although Pugh did not attend a formal four-year culinary school, he learned enough from Chef Quinn and others who followed him to earn membership in the American Culinary Federation.

Even without classical training, Pugh finds ways to put gourmet spins on Southern classics. He enjoys coming up with new recipes in his free time with his family. "My sister and I even made gourmet chicken and dumplings one night."

When Pugh was hired as executive chef, he decided he wanted to make food not only healthy for the customers, but also eco-friendly.

"I love sustainability," Pugh said. "I was put in charge of creating the menus, which I wanted to be as fresh and healthy as possible."

Cooking for thousands of college students with different tastes is no easy task, which is why Pugh and other ARAMARK employees meet with students on the last Wednesday of every month to give feedback on what they like or dislike about the food.

He also likes to take classic cafeteria food

and let his personality shine through the food.

"I love using wine every day, and sometimes I even put it in the food," he joked.

Pugh plans all the meals in MTSU's three residential dining facilities, McCallie, the James Union Building and the Raider Zone. All the eateries serve different food because they cater to different groups of people.

"Every dining hall is different," Pugh said. "There's no two places that are the same."

Pugh was awarded the gold medal for jalapeno, bacon, cheddar stuffed chicken served with a fire-grilled red bell pepper sauce.

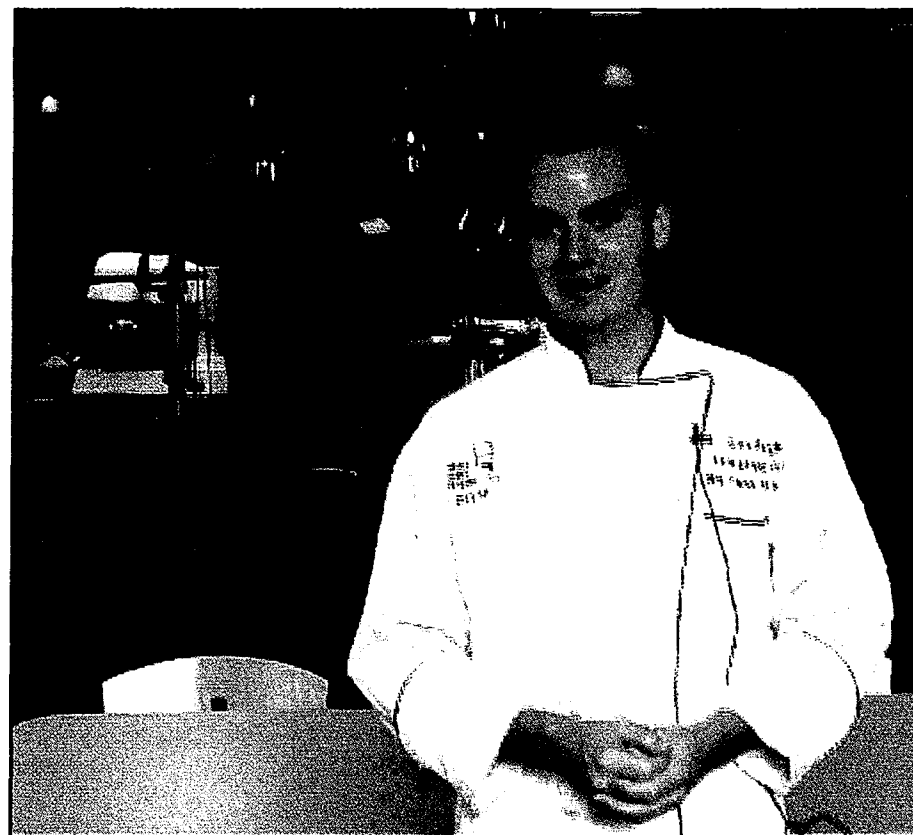
Some may think that with a gold medallion in hand, the next step would be to work for a four or five star restaurant, or opening his own place, but that is not what Pugh has in mind.

"I love this environment. I love the opportunities that ARAMARK provides for me. They provide me the medium to hone my craft and become an expert. I don't plan on ever leaving," he said.

And he's proud of the products served every day.

When asked if there was anything else he wanted to say, Pugh smiled and tilted his head.

"Do y'all want to buy a meal plan?" ■



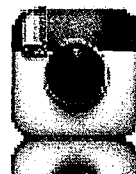
Glen Pugh, an award-winning ARAMARK chef, serves students his gourmet creations daily. Photo by Matt Masters.



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FEATURES

Live On The Green brings New Orleans spirit and heat to kick off the season

By Kelsey Griffith
Staff Writer

Nashville's free concert series Live On The Green kicked off Thursday night with New Orleans musician Jon Cleary, local outfit Moon Taxi and Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Dr. John as the headliner.

The stage sits directly in front of the colossal columned Davidson County Courthouse, and tents dot the outskirts of the lawn, while vendors sell microbrews, wine and pizza. Others sell merchandise and doggie treats (the park is pet-friendly). Each concert is free, thanks to Nashville's independent radio station Lightning 100 and other sponsors.

Jon Cleary, a British funk and R&B musician who lives in New Orleans, performed solo as the opening act. He tapped his foot as he played his piano as his raspy, flighty voice sang original, 100-year-old New Orleans tunes. He didn't move from his piano until his set was finished. The sun was setting behind the skyscrapers, and it felt as if the concert was suddenly transported to a piano lounge on Bourbon Street.

"It was real, respectable New Orleans jazz," said Robert Taylor, a biologist at Vanderbilt University.

The sun finally sank into the horizon, and the green lights lit up the stage as Moon Taxi took



Moon Taxi gets the crowd in gear at the first Live on the Green event of the season. The concert series is sponsored by local independent radio station, Lightning 100. Admission is free, and the concerts are held on the Davidson County Courthouse lawn. Photo by Briana Mailey.

over. They opened with "All The Rage," and the lyric held true—the crowd began to swell. Their band included a rotating performance of drums, vocals, guitars, bass, piano, organ and synthesizer. Moon Taxi's vocals had a unique sound, although the majority of their set was a danceable jam

session of rich instrumental pieces. Charlie Staton, a pharmacist from East Nashville, described the performance as "noodletastic" because there was "lots of noodling."

When Dr. John & The Lower 911 took the stage, the crowd wildly applauded the five-time Grammy winner. There

were 12 musicians on stage, including Dr. John on the piano and guitar, four soul singers, a drummer, a trombone and tambourine player, a saxophonist, a bass player and guitarists. The sound was "swampy, like straight out of the Delta," according to local attendee John Hawkins. The

crowd was in a constant blissful state during Dr. John's performance, some barefooted and others swing dancing.

The music was great, but the overall experience was better. Next week's show features The Dunwells, Delta Spirit and The Wallflowers.

The Live On The

Green concert series is a weekly showcase of local talent and nationally-popular acts held in downtown Nashville at Public Square Park. The festivities begin around 5 p.m. and end at 11 p.m. on Thursdays between Sept. 6 and Oct. 11.

RANTS AND RAVES

September 12-15

13th Annual Americana Music Festival & Conference

Times and venues will vary, all in Nashville
Admission: \$50 wristband for entire four day pass/ \$20 for single show
Ages: 21+



A four-day music festival in downtown Nashville? Yes, please. Enjoy close to 100 live performances spread out amongst six music venues including Mercy Lounge, Cannery Ballroom, The High Watt, The Basement, The Rutledge and Station

Inn. A \$50 wristband will give you access to all of the participating venues for all four nights, or you can purchase a single night ticket for \$20. This event will be populated with thousands of artists, industry professionals and, of course, fans from everywhere.

Headliners include Punch Brothers, John Hiatt, Brandi Carlile, Reckless Kelly, Buddy Miller and more. To purchase your wristband or ticket and acquire line up information regarding time and venue location, check out Mercy Lounge's website for more details.

September 13-29

Legally Blonde The Musical

1 and 6 p.m., The Larry Keeton Theatre
108 Donelson Pike, Nashville

Admission: Adult- \$22-27, Child- \$13-18



Dinner and a show with Elle Woods, anyone? Go experience the quirky and lovable character who many of us quoted and imitated from the romantic comedy "Legally Blonde." Elle Woods is a well-known character who was portrayed on the big screen

by Reese Witherspoon in 2001. This time, enjoy the character in an internationally award-winning musical with a nonstop singing and dancing cast. The Larry Keeton Theatre is offering a meal prior to the musical number and is also offering special ticket

pricing for those who want to "bend and snap" together in a group. The musical is running from Sept. 13-29, so make plans with friends, dress up in hot pink from head to toe and watch Elle and Bruiser take on Harvard Law School.

September 13-15

Boyz II Men

7 p.m. on Thursday, 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Schermerhorn Symphony Center
One Symphony Place, Nashville

Admission: \$54+



It's not the "end of the road" for this successful R&B group. Boyz II Men is celebrating their 20th anniversary this year and are coming to Nashville to perform three nights in a row for the group's die-hard fans. In the 90s, Boyz II Men made the ladies swoon

with harmonized vocals, charm and heartfelt lyrics that put boyfriends everywhere to shame. The group is still going strong, continuing to redefine R&B. Enjoy a night of emotional ballads and dance the night away with friends and family. The group will

perform their timeless hits, as well as some Motown soul. Be prepared for the ladies to throw their hands in the air and sway back and forth while yelling the lyrics to "I'll Make Love to You."

September 13

Just Jam Promotions Presents The Welcome Show featuring Jeremy Robertson, The Rising and Collin Baxter
8 p.m., Bonhoeffer's
610 Dill Lane
Admission: FREE



Free music and free frappuccinos? Sounds like a great way to start the weekend before the first set of dreadful exams are given out. Bonhoeffer's is hosting an event for Just Jam Promotions called "The Welcome Show." It will include live performances by local favorites

and new talented artists. You can expect performances by Jeremy Robertson, The Rising, Collin Baxter and introducing newcomer Lauren Lieu. These performers will provide a pleasing mix of genres for you to enjoy, including some acoustic pop, blues, alternative

rock, folk and a little rock dubstep performed by The Rising. Have fun, make some new friends and celebrate the ending of your third week of college with some local music. Don't forget about the free frappuccinos.

September 14

Metric with Half Moon Run
8 p.m., Ryman Auditorium
116 Fifth Avenue North, Nashville
Admission: \$40+



Have you dropped your books and screamed out loud with excitement yet? Indie-rock group Metric is coming to the Ryman Auditorium Friday to give you an unforgettable performance. Lead singer Emily Haines will dazzle you with her unique vocal range as she

shows off her other musical attributes, performing with her guitar and synthesizer. Some of Metric's songs have been in soundtracks for movies, such as "Scott Pilgrim vs. The World" and "Twilight Saga: Eclipse." The band recently released its fifth album, *Synthetica*,

which received a three out of four star rating by the Los Angeles Times. Accompanying Metric during a few of its tour stops in the United States is Half Moon Run. Middle Tennessee indie lovers, this is your night.

RANTS AND RAVES

September 14

Crayons and Antidotes, Rales, Shelton Summersgill and Calicocat
9 p.m., The Boro Bar and Grill
1211 Greenland Drive
Admission: FREE
21+



Murfreesboro's wild boys Crayons and Antidotes will be at The Boro Friday to give you an insane performance that will make you dance your pants off. This electronica, futuristic, experimental band has been on the Murfreesboro music scene for about a

year-and-a-half, blowing people away with their creative and unique shows. You might have seen these guys, and many more, play over the summer in the local one-day music festival known as Tour de Fun. Rales, Shelton Summersgill and Calicocat will

open for Crayons. Local music supporters should experience Crayons at least once while trying to survive the stress of college. Remember that you can only use cash to buy your drinks at The Boro.

September 14

The Enablers with Humps and the Black Outs
8 p.m., 3 Brothers Deli and Brewhouse
223 West Main Street
Admission: \$5



Are you a fan of bluegrass, country and southern rock? Then 3 Brothers has a good show for you to attend Friday. Nashville natives Humps and the Black Outs will open up for the six-member band The Enablers, who are also citizens of Nashville. This event

is going to be wildly entertaining for those who need a break from studying and cleaning up after their roommates. These bands will perform with traditional bluegrass instruments like the mandolin, banjo, upright bass and a washboard. It is for all ages, which means

freshman can go to downtown Murfreesboro and stomp to the rhythm. This colorful bunch is ready to give one heck of a knee slappin', banjo pickin' hoedown for y'all's entertainment.

September 15

Greenway Art Festival
10 a.m., Greenway Trail at Old Fort
916 Golf Lane
Admission: FREE



Instead of sleeping in Saturday, go check out a plethora of art displayed along the Greenway trail in Murfreesboro. Friends of the Greenway is hosting its annual Greenway Art Festival, gathering countless artists in the area who want to show off their talent. This is

perfect for all of you starving artists in need of some fun and inspiration. There will be a wide selection of original artwork created by all types of art mediums: oils, watercolors, acrylics, pottery, sculpture and more. At the event there will also include

music, activities and food vendors, allowing art lovers to enjoy themselves throughout the day in a great atmosphere that is perfect for appreciating local art. Let's hope that the weather cooperates for a great day of outside entertainment.

September 15

Kelly Clarkson with The Fray and Carolina Liar
7 p.m., Bridgestone Arena
501 Broadway, Nashville
Admission: \$37+



America's first "American Idol," Kelly Clarkson, will exercise those powerful pipes of hers Saturday at the Bridgestone arena. Jump and yell out the lyrics to "Since You've Been Gone" and "Stronger" with no shame. Be prepared to take a miniature trip

down memory lane to your junior high school days when she performs her older chart-topping hits, such as "Miss Independent" and "Because of You." Joining Clarkson is piano rock group The Fray, which will perform its top hits "You Found Me" and "How to Save

a Life." Also performing at the concert will be alternative rock group Carolina Liar. Dip into some of your scholarship fund and go have a fun night of pop/rock music in Nashville.

September 16

Blood Culpit with Wolves and Jackals, War Within, Defying Tyrants
9 p.m., The Boro Bar and Grill
1211 Greenland Drive
Admission: FREE
Ages: 21+



One of country music's top female vocalists, Sara Evans, will perform a collection of her hit songs for her fans Saturday at the historic Grand Ole Opry. Evans released her first album, *Three Chords and the Truth*, in 1997, and has been releasing albums ever since. Evans

won the prestigious "Top Female Vocalist" award in 2006. Her latest album, *Stronger*, was released in 2011, and the first released single was "A Little Bit Stronger," which was said to be about her very public divorce. The song has become somewhat of an

anthem for breakups. Ladies, gather your friends or force your significant other to take you to the Grand Ole Opry for great night of country music.

Circa Survive makes violent waves with their first self-release

By Meredith Galyon
Contributing Writer

Seven years after their debut album, the Philadelphia-based progressive rock band Circa Survive bring us their fourth album *Violent Waves*, which they claim is their "best record yet."

Aside from the album being extremely well-crafted in typical Circa fashion, they switched things up and tried a self release—something they had never done before and have successfully pulled it off.

Violent Waves, which dropped Aug. 28, was designed to release straight to fans from their website for \$5. After going through several independent and major labels, they decided this album would

album, *Blue Sky Noise*, which was released on major-label Atlantic Records.

This album was a pleasant surprise because it went back to their original dark and moody sound without sacrificing any of their ability to progress as musicians. The first track, "Birth of the Economic Hit Man," starts off with airy, distorted guitars and builds up to a mid-tempo guitar riff, followed by the undeniably unique crooning of lead singer Anthony Green. The chorus picks up to match his voice as he wails, "Nothing is sacred, nothing is sacred," and this line is repeated throughout until the end, where it slows down until it almost sounds like an experimental lullaby.

"Sharp Practice" brings the listener back to life. As the most up-tempo song on the album, it has the ability to make listeners want to get up to jump angrily around the room while screaming along with Anthony as he says, "You get what you pay for, we can't

sell our souls anymore." These lyrics possibly allude to their situation with record labels and why they decided to self-release; whatever the cause, this song is definitely one to look forward to seeing live at their concerts (more specifically the one at the Cannery Ballroom on Sept. 26).

The third track, "Suitcase," was the first



The members of Circa Survive. Photo courtesy of Facebook.

single to be released from the album as a free download. It takes us back down to a slower tempo and moodier vibe, a good song to sit back and relax to. Then it picks back up with "The Lottery," a song that is undeniably full of angst, with angry guitar riffs, fast paced drum beat and spiteful lyrics. Green's vocals are extremely powerful on this song, and are nicely contrasted against those of Thursday frontman Geoff Rickly.

"My Only Friend" is reminiscent of "Imaginary Enemy" from *Blue Sky Noise* in its lyrical content and is set against slow guitar and a very noticeable bass line. From there it really picks up with "Phantasmagoria," an upbeat, acoustic-driven song about Green's continuous search for answers regarding religion—a recurring theme throughout each album. The mood takes yet another turn with "Think of Me When They Sound," a slow, haunting ballad in which Green expresses

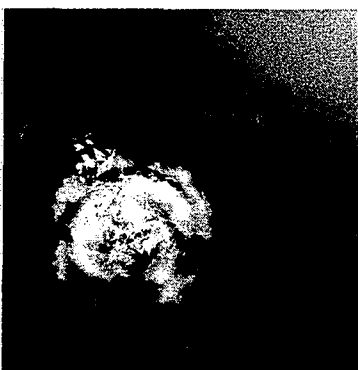
his guilt to someone that he believes to be bringing down.

"Brother Song" is light and refreshing, with a wailing guitar against a slow and steady rhythm, creating a very soulful effect.

"Bird Sounds" keeps up with the album's tradition of being a rhythmic rollercoaster, bringing back the heavier guitar sounds along with cryptic lyrics. The intro to "Blood From a Stone" places heavy emphasis on Stephen Clifford's unique drumming technique, leading up to a haunting chorus as Green cries "What'll bring you back to life?" and continues to search for this answer as the song crescendos into one of the most powerful parts of the whole album. Then the journey ends with "I'll Find A Way," an uplifting song with lyrics such as "Don't give in to wild currents," that pay tribute to the album's title. At 7:18, the longest

song on the album, it definitely experiments with different instrumental techniques as it fades out and leaves us wanting more.

While this album admittedly took a few listens before the beauty of it fully sunk in, it was worth the time investment to get to this point of appreciation. It met and exceeded expectations, especially from the standpoint of someone who was aching to hear more of the brooding sounds like those of *Juturna*, their first release. Skip out on your Starbucks iced latte for the day, and go download this for five bucks—the boys of Circa will appreciate it.



Violent Waves

Image courtesy of Facebook
be produced and paid for directly by the band members themselves. This is said to be their first record in which they were fully involved in every facet of its creation, so taking that into consideration when listening to it creates a much more intimate connection that listeners might not have gotten from their previous



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The chic girl's shopping guide to Nashville



Goodbuy Girls boasts everything a girl could want—from the perfect pair of boots for fall, to fake hipster glasses, to a dress simple but chic enough for walking to class. Photos by Matt Masters

By Jane Horne
Arts & Entertainment
editor

Every college fashion-loving diva has run into the dilemma of finding those unique, one-of-a-kind outfits — outfits that showcase your style and set you apart from the rest. You may be searching for a dress that no one else on campus has or the perfect pair of Aztec-print pants that look fabulous on you and only you. Having style is more than about staying on trend, it's about wearing outfits that exemplify you in every way. And finding those rare and

beautiful pieces is essential to that perfect, individual style.

As college students living in Murfreesboro, it's easy to head over to Stones River Mall or The Avenue and hit up a few reliable chains to get our shopping fix. But why do that when Nashville and its plethora of special clothing stores run by friendly, like-minded fashion lovers are right up the road? Don't show up to class wearing the same top as a classmate; head to Nashville and find pieces that will leave that classmate wondering, "Where did she get

that and where can I find it?"

Fire Finch
1818 21st Ave. S.
Nashville, TN 37212
305 Church Street
Nashville, TN 37201

With locations in both Downtown Nashville and Hillsboro Village, Fire Finch is the perfect shopping destination for clothing that is sure to be unique and trendy. The clothing is dreamy and unique and the accessories are fun and quirky. The stores themselves are very visually appealing from

the moment you walk in the door, bombarding your eyes with beautiful clothes, accessories and various odds and ends. While the prices may be more on the upper end (\$50+ for clothing, \$20+ for accessories), items you purchase from Fire Finch will be items that you treasure. If you're downtown, stop by Fire Finch in between the honkytonks and cowboy boot shops for a breath of fresh air. The Hillsboro Village location is perfect for an afternoon of shopping, coffee and strolling around. You can stop by Fido's for lunch, Hot

n' Cold for dessert and peruse new and used books at BookMan-BookWoman. The Fire Finch store cats, Monty and Finnegan, are also more than happy to lend a paw in helping make fashion choices.

UAL
2918 West End
Ave. Nashville, TN
37203

UAL stands for United Apparel Liquidators, and the name gives away what this store is all about. Offering both men's and women's clothing, UAL is constantly getting in

new inventory of name brand items for 70 to 90 percent off the original retail price. Brands like Marc Jacobs, Ralph Lauren, Diesel, Lanvin or Martin Margiela are in stock in stores and online on their eBay shop, which you should definitely check out. UAL has several stores throughout the southeast, but the Nashville location is on West End. Its location is kind of random and you might almost miss it. But once you find UAL and its sleek shop full of clothing goodies, you'll always remember where it's located. Go for a



The Hip Zipper in East Nashville takes the hassle out of thrifting by finding unique vintage clothing and tagging it at an affordable price. Photos by Matt Masters

while, and go often. The benefit of liquidation stores is that it's full of pieces that you might have missed out on in its original store—now, you just have to find it. And be quick about it, the greatest and cheapest pieces are sure to go fast.

The Hip Zipper

1008 Forrest Ave.
Nashville, TN 37206

Ever get tired of searching through thrift store racks for the perfect vintage clothing? This East Nashville store specializes in thrifted vintage finds, and has taken out all the hard work for you.

Walk into the cramped store and be bombarded with racks and racks of vests, tops, dresses, coats, pants, slips... the list goes on and on. Shoes, belts, handbags, jewelry and even bolero ties are available for your individual taste. Whether it be a bell-bottom pair of jeans or a 50s dress, your affinity for decades past will be satisfied. The prices will make your college-student budget smile as well. Tops can be found for around \$15, and dresses start at about \$30. Whether it be an outfit for class, work or even a costume party, you'll find what you didn't realize you were looking for at The Hip Zipper.

Blush

4326 Harding Pike -
Suite 104
Belle Meade, TN
37205
782 Old Hickory
Blvd. Brentwood,
TN 37027

For a preppier, classic, yet still uniquely different shopping experience, head to Blush. The Belle Meade location is more convenient for a day of shopping in Nashville. This store is the perfect place to look for something a bit dressier because of their reservoir of dresses and shoes. A sorority informal or maybe a date? Blush will have that, and casual pieces

perfect for a regular day in class. It's mid-priced, with items ranging anywhere from \$15 to \$100. The prices are already reasonable, but be sure to visit when their seasonal clothes and shoes are on sale—the fashionista in you will be even more pleased. With their simple yet on-trend selection, Blush will not disappoint, no matter the occasion.

Goodbuy Girls

1108 Woodland
St. Nashville,
TN 37206

Walk into this quaint shop in East Nashville and be greet-

ed by vintage clothing, comfortable dresses and a wall of western vintage cowgirl boots. Goodbuy Girls includes everything a well-dressed gal in Nashville should have in her closet, and for decent prices, too. The combination of brand new and new-to-you items makes for an all-around satisfying experience for your budget. Due to the variety of products, the prices range broadly as well. Accessories can be found for \$10 and less, and new clothing items begin at about \$25 and go from there. The vintage price spectrum is pretty dramatic, depending on how unique and fabulous the piece is. If the product isn't reason-

enough to shop here, owners Tanya and Kim will make you feel like you're shopping with a group of girlfriends. It's a fun and unique shopping experience, and one you won't forget.

The clothes you wear should make every day feel special. Why should the shopping experience be any less satisfying? So the next time you feel inclined to go purchase a few pieces of clothing that you'll tire of in three months, grab your girlfriends and head to Nashville for a day of self-indulgence. Your closet will feel refreshed and you'll feel fantastic. ■

Minus the Bear takes unnecessary chances with latest album

By Meredith Galyon
Contributing Writer

Fans of the soft, Caribbean-esque tunes and smooth vocals of Minus the Bear's lead singer Jake Snider may be slightly disappointed by the sound of *Infinity Overhead*, the band's fifth studio album.

Released on Aug. 28, *Infinity Overhead* seems like a desperate attempt to combine hints of their old sound while experimenting with different elements of rock (even some pop) — but it doesn't work quite as well as one would imagine.

The first single, "Steel and Blood," starts off with heavy guitar chords that don't match well with Snider's vocals. The synthesizer comes out in the chorus in previous MTB fashion, but doesn't mix well with the overall tone of the song. The lyrics "Two become one, the cacophony of a car crash" tell the story of a dramatic accident, but the song itself is more of a cacophony than anything.

The second song, "Lies and Eyes," doesn't do much to recover from the opening track. The musical range is lacking, and although the vocals flow much better with the melody, there are too many wailing guitars doing too many different distracting things toward the end of the song.

Things take a turn for the better with "Diamond Lightning," which features a nice, distorted intro that cre-



Minus the Bear's new release is disappointing and overdone. Fans who are comfortable with the old sound may not need to pick this record up. Photo courtesy of Facebook.

ates an aching, haunting vibe for the rest of the song. Snider has much more vocal range on this track, proving to be a nice refresher from the gruff sounds we hear on the previous tracks. The momentum continues with "Toska," an interesting, upbeat track complete with female background vocals and unique instruments that give it a tropical feel against strong guitar chords similar to songs on *Menos el Oso*. This track combined with the acoustic sound of "Listing" really helped keep the disappointment

at bay— the tempo and style of acoustic guitar playing at the beginning give it a pop feel, but as the chorus begins there is a distinguishable violin melody in the background that complements the tone of the song nicely.

"Heaven is a Ghost Town" begins as a haunting ballad, with Snider crooning, "No bathing in the warmth of the peace, did the Lord stop paying the lease?" The lyrics are insightful and thought-provoking, but the soothing melody is quickly overshadowed

by a loud, techno-style drum beat, which overpowers the brooding effect established early on. There are mild uses of sitars and violins, which add a unique effect, but would probably have been more intriguing if they had been used more instead of the electronic elements.

The upbeat, synthesized rock vibe comes back to life in "Empty Party Rooms," which starts out soft and picks up where Snider pleads, "It doesn't matter if we let it go, just don't turn this love off," which is

harmonized with male background vocals. The synthesized effect continues with "Zeros," which gives off a much darker and grittier vibe reminiscent of *Planet of Ice* classics like "Double Vision Quest" or "Cat Calls and Ill Means." This one features female background vocals as well, something that MTB has always pulled off well in the past. The lyrics definitely take a turn in a different direction, as Snider sings "Exchanging your life for a paycheck / Sometimes I think it's all a joke on

the middle class." The wailing guitars toward the end go well with the angry mood that these words create.

"Lonely Gun" is mostly just loud, chaotic noise, but it does keep up with the recurring theme of love and violence. One particular distorted guitar riff repeats throughout the entire verse, and then takes a deeper sound for the chorus, which doesn't mix well with the clapping drum beat as they compete to be the most distinct sound at the same time. A saxophone is introduced at the end, which is not only random, but it makes you wonder why it wasn't used more throughout the song instead of the other instruments. The album concludes with "Cold Company," a surprisingly powerful song that opens with an intense guitar solo and dives into an epic tale of breaking free from oppression, with lyrics like "This ain't my stone to roll, my aching feet can't take it anymore."

While there are a select few songs that aren't up to par with previous MTB standards, the entire album isn't a complete bust. Fans of *Menos el Oso* may not be as pleased with those who enjoyed the rock infused sounds of *Planet of Ice*, but accepting that musicians have to take risks in order to grow is crucial in order to fully appreciate any kind of music. At the very least, MTB can say that they took that chance. ■

Less-restrictive immigration policies drive economic growth

By Alex Harris
Opinions editor

There are two basic actions that the American government can take if it wants to attempt to alleviate global poverty.

One is foreign aid—the giving of money to foreign nations to distribute through aid programs to those suffering in conditions of poverty.

This poses a problem though, because most aid doesn't actually make it to its intended recipients.

As Doug Bandow of the Cato Institute once said, foreign aid is “poor people in rich countries giving money to rich people in poor countries.”

The other action—more of an inaction in the long run—would be to remove many of the restrictions on immigration.

According to an August 2011 Center for Global Development working paper on economics and immigration, the elimination of worldwide immigration restrictions could nearly double the world gross domestic product.

Though the Center's paper deals with global immigration as a whole, America should take heed. Immigration is as important to the growth of a nation's economy, if not more, as education is.

Less-restrictive immigration policies contribute to a freer flow of information and



Alex Harris

ideas, which is what human progress is built on. The competition and debate between new ideas brings their strengths to light and allows the weaknesses to be discarded.

Immigration helps to provide a constant flow of new ideas and new perspectives to aid in this growth of ideas.

It has always been a part of American history. The founders of this nation were all immigrants, and very few Americans can say that their ancestors were native to this land.

Yet our government restricts immigration, and the labor force tends to view it negatively.

It's a part of the national identity, but it's treated as if it will end the national identity.

Although there has been a history of anti-immigration sentiments since the influx of the Irish as a result of the potato famine during the 1840s, America used to be proud of the success stories of its immigrants.

The rags-to-riches success story of a penniless immigrant achieving the “Ameri-

can Dream” was seen as evidence of what made this country successful and distinctive from the rest of the world.

Now accusations are made that they steal jobs from American workers and are a drain on the economy.

Much of this negativity stems from the perceived “crisis” of illegal immigration. Most illegals are low-skilled workers, who, in addition to being blamed for stealing jobs, aren't perceived as a positive contribution to the economy.

However, according to a study by the Migration Policy Institute, the effect of low-skilled immigrants on wages and employment opportunities for low-skilled Americans is negligible.

Additionally, another Migration Policy study indicates that, on average, 1.8-million permanent immigrants entered the U.S. annually between 2002 and 2006—about 500,000 of which entered illegally each year.

During this period unemployment was low, and states with high immigration actually thrived, suggesting that during this period, the economy needed more low-skilled workers than were legally available to employers.

Additionally, a study done by the Institute for Taxation and Economic Policy found that in 2010, households headed by illegal immigrants paid a total of \$11.2 billion in state and local taxes.

Research by the Congressional Budget office has also found that anywhere between 50 and 75 percent of illegal and unauthorized immigrants pay federal, state and local taxes.

The number of illegal immigrants in the U.S. illustrates that, regardless of government policy, immigration (legal and illegal) will occur as long as the options available to the immigrants here are better than the options they have at home.

It's generally human nature to take the path of least resistance, and it shouldn't be surprising when immigrants do the same. When the channels for legal immigration are restricted, the desire of the downtrodden to seek a better life remains, but their options have been reduced to either breaking the law or waiting in line and continuing to live in conditions they'd rather escape.

Therefore, in order to encourage more legal immigration, less prohibitive immigration policies should be adopted.

The immigration policy of the U.S. Government is actually very restrictive: if you lack skills, don't come from a preferred nation or don't have family already residing in the nation, you're pretty much out of luck.

Even if you do possess all of these qualities, the wait time for a green card can be around at least six

months.

Some restrictions do make sense though, such as a background check to identify criminal or terrorist activity, and a medical screening to protect against the spread of disease. But once an immigrant passes those tests, they should be free to engage in the pursuit of happiness.

Opportunities for citizenship without deportation should be allowed to those already here. More work and education visas with an easier path to permanency should be offered for new immigrants.

In fact, current regulations on H-1B worker visas and foreign student visas force the visa-holders to return to their native lands once their work or educa-

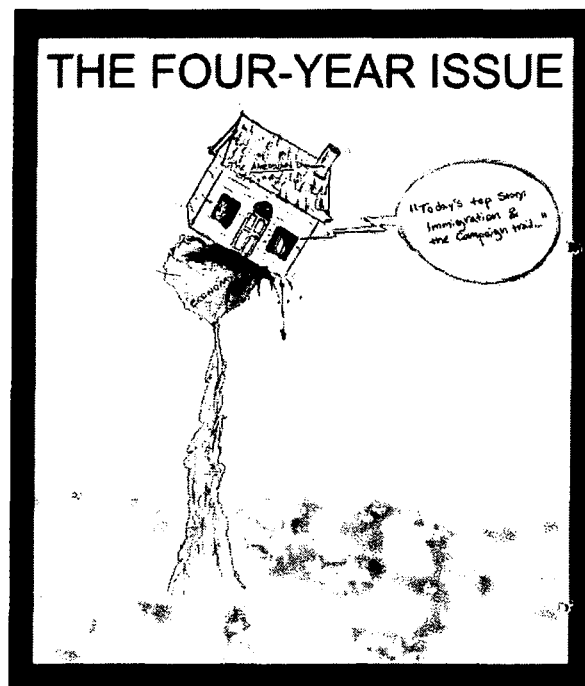
tion is completed, even though many of these skilled and educated individuals may want to stay.

Instead of allowing them to remain and benefiting from the skills and knowledge they possess, we send them back home to work in economies that are in competition with ours.

Most immigrants come to America for the opportunity to make a better life for themselves and their families, not to cause trouble or mooch off of the system.

They deserve the same opportunities to achieve the American Dream that our ancestors had.

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Immigration Comic by Matt Masters

The problem with #whitepeopleproblems

By Christopher Merchant
Columnist

"I really hate it when you go to the bathroom and you forget to bring your phone and all you can do is stare at the floor. #whitepeopleproblems"

This was a status that one of my white friends posted on Facebook recently. Interestingly, the first comment on the post was her own. It read:

"P.S. Is there a better term for that? I feel like that's a little racist."

There's a reason my friend had a gut reaction that told her that her Facebook status was a little racist: her Facebook status was a little racist.

Now don't get me wrong. I think my friend was making a funny joke, but it had nothing to do with race.

After all, what #whitepeopleproblems usually refers to is a less-than-serious conundrum that shouldn't really be such a big concern. In this case, it was about the digital



Christopher Merchant

generation's attachment to technology – we need our virtual worlds close by, even during our less glamorous moments in the physical world.

However, enjoying the comforts and convenience of technology is not a problem exclusive to white people, and that's where this whole meme runs into trouble.

My friend has plenty of friends on Facebook who are people of color. After I read her status, I couldn't help but think about what my reaction would have been if I wasn't white.

"Oh, look at that poor white girl," I thought. "She forgot her phone when she went to the bathroom. Too bad

people who aren't white can't relate to her precious privilege. Only white people know how to have those problems."

#sarcasm, in case it wasn't translating to the page.

While it may not seem like a big deal for a white person to poke fun at themselves for having some trivial problems, it actually alienates people of color by suggesting that their lives are so tremendously wrought with strife, so bogged down in the laborious task of survival, that they simply can't find the time to be irritated when their Wi-Fi goes out or they open the cookie jar only to find that the last cookie is gone.

In other words, it suggests that people of color don't enjoy comfort or convenience or sophistication – and that's dead wrong. It suggests that people of color aren't savvy enough or wealthy enough or intelligent enough to have the problems associated with contemporary society – and that's flat

out racist.

Don't get me wrong, I like my friend who posted the status, and I understood the humor behind what she was saying. After all, she was only poking fun at herself.

Unfortunately, that's part of the problem with #whitepeopleproblems.

Sure, it's good to be able to make fun of yourself. Perhaps it is even more important, at least from a social perspective, to be able to recognize the privileges you might have that are granted to you simply because you were born as a person of a certain race, sex or economic status.

And that's the most ironic thing about this meme to me. It allows white people to poke fun at themselves for being privileged: You have free reign to say, "Oh hey, I've been coddled a bit, isn't that funny?" And yet at the same time the meme reinforces a myth that only white people can have contemporary frustrations.

As absurd as it may be, the meme has characterized white suffering as a privilege.

Since some people on the thread were leaning toward the opinion that the meme was indeed "a little racist," one alternative hashtag was offered by an honest-hearted and helpful commenter. Unfortunately, it wasn't much better.

"#firstworldproblems" was supposed to be a more palatable meme to lump the whole discussion under, but it ultimately led to the opening of an entirely different can of worms. After all, it implies a hierarchy of culture – who would want to be in the third world if they could be in the first world?

I only recently learned where the term first world came from, and it's certainly relevant to this conversation: it originated during the Cold War as a way to differentiate the West from the U.S.S.R., which was dubbed the "second world." The United States and Western Europe were the "first world."

As if lumping in almost the entire population of the continent of Asia into a group of second-rate people wasn't enough, literally every other part of the planet's people, from Africa to South America, was thrown into the big, "primitive" sack of the third world.

You can see why #firstworldproblems isn't better than #whitepeopleproblems, right?

What both of these hashtags demonstrate is the regrettable obliviousness of the people using them. Being born in a certain country or with a certain skin color doesn't make you especially delicate and more apt to enjoying convenience.

And being bummed that you forgot your cell phone when you went to the bathroom isn't a lament exclusive to white people.

So the next time you start to type #whitepeopleproblems, take a hint: it doesn't make you sound clever. It just makes you sound ignorant and bigoted.

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Blue Raider Hall of Fame adds prestigious field in 2012

By Sam Brown
Contributing Writer

The Blue Raider Athletic Hall of Fame added five new members to one of the most exclusive clubs in MT Athletics Saturday, Sept. 8, before the Blue Raiders faced off against Florida Atlantic University.

The 2012 class were inductees 118-122 in the Blue Raider Athletic Hall of Fame. Harry Gupton, Jayhawk Owens, Diane Cummings Turnham, Tawanya Mucker Wilson and Mike Caldwell all added their names to an exclusive list that include some of the brightest stars to ever don the MT royal blue and white.

Gupton attended MTSU when it was Middle Tennessee State College between the years of 1949 and 1952. He was a dual sport athlete who excelled in both basketball and baseball. He was drafted into the MLB before being drafted by the Army to fight in the Korean War. At the ceremony, he proudly sported his original letterman sweater from his time at school.

Owens was a baseball great who chose to attend MTSU over going pro when he was selected by the Boston Red Sox in the second round of the MLB draft after high school. He was drafted again after his years at MTSU and spent six seasons in the MLB before retiring due to a thumb injury.

Turnham did not attend MTSU for her college education, but is a true Blue Raider at



Photo by Jay Bailey

heart. She has spent the last 30 years with the Blue Raiders working as everything from assistant basketball coach to head volleyball coach to associate athletic director with MTSU.

Wilson is an MTSU legend who led the women's basketball team to four Ohio Valley Conference championships, two OVC tournament titles, three years as the leader in blocks and rebounds and an overall record of 88-32.

She was also a part of MTSU's first ever NCAA win when the Blue Raiders defeated South Carolina 78-77 in overtime in 1986. She stills ranks No. 1 in free throws, No. 2 in scoring, made field goals, field goal percentage, and double-doubles and

No. 3 in rebound blocks and starts in women's basketball history.

Caldwell was a football star at MT before being drafted 83rd overall in the 3rd round of the 1992 NFL draft. While with the Blue Raiders, he was a part of three OVC championships. He has spent the last 16 years in the NFL—11 as a player, five as a coach. Caldwell was not on hand to receive his award because he is coaching the Philadelphia Eagles in their NFL season opener this weekend against the Cleveland Browns, ironically the team that drafted him.

Although Caldwell was not in attendance to receive his award, his three children were. They all took turns

expressing their father's honor and gratitude and ended with a message he told them to send to the Blue Raider faithful: "Go Blue Raiders," the three children shouted, pumping their fists high into the air.

Gupton gave the shortest speech, partially because he did not plan on speaking. After receiving his plaque, he returned to his seat before realizing he was expected to say a few words. He graciously laughed it off and thanked the MTSU fans and supporters for coming out to see him.

Jayhawk Owens was also a quick speaker who cut straight to the point. He said he loved MTSU and the people that he worked with there. He thanked all his

coaches and teammates and spoke about choosing to play for the MT athletic program.

"The decision was easy," Owens said. "It was the best decision I have ever made." Wilson thanked all of her coaches, and said the MTSU Athletic Hall of Fame was the greatest milestone in her life. She also acknowledged the love, help and support of her teammates. "I want to thank all my teammates," Wilson said. "Without my teammates there is no way I could be here today, and all I want to say is, 'Go big blue.'"

Diane Cummings Turnham by far had the longest speech—and the longest standing ovation. The audience was packed with MTSU

supporters, and many of them were there to support and honor Cummings Turnham for all that she has done and continues to do for the program.

"Thirty years and what an incredible experience," Turnham said.

She had always planned on teaching, not being a part of MT Athletics.

"I was just going to coach a couple of years but God has a funny way of showing you that your dreams aren't quite his dreams," she said. "When I set foot on this campus I knew; it got in my blood and I knew I had to stay." Director of Athletics Chris Massaro holds her in high regard and said that she is more than just the associate AD.

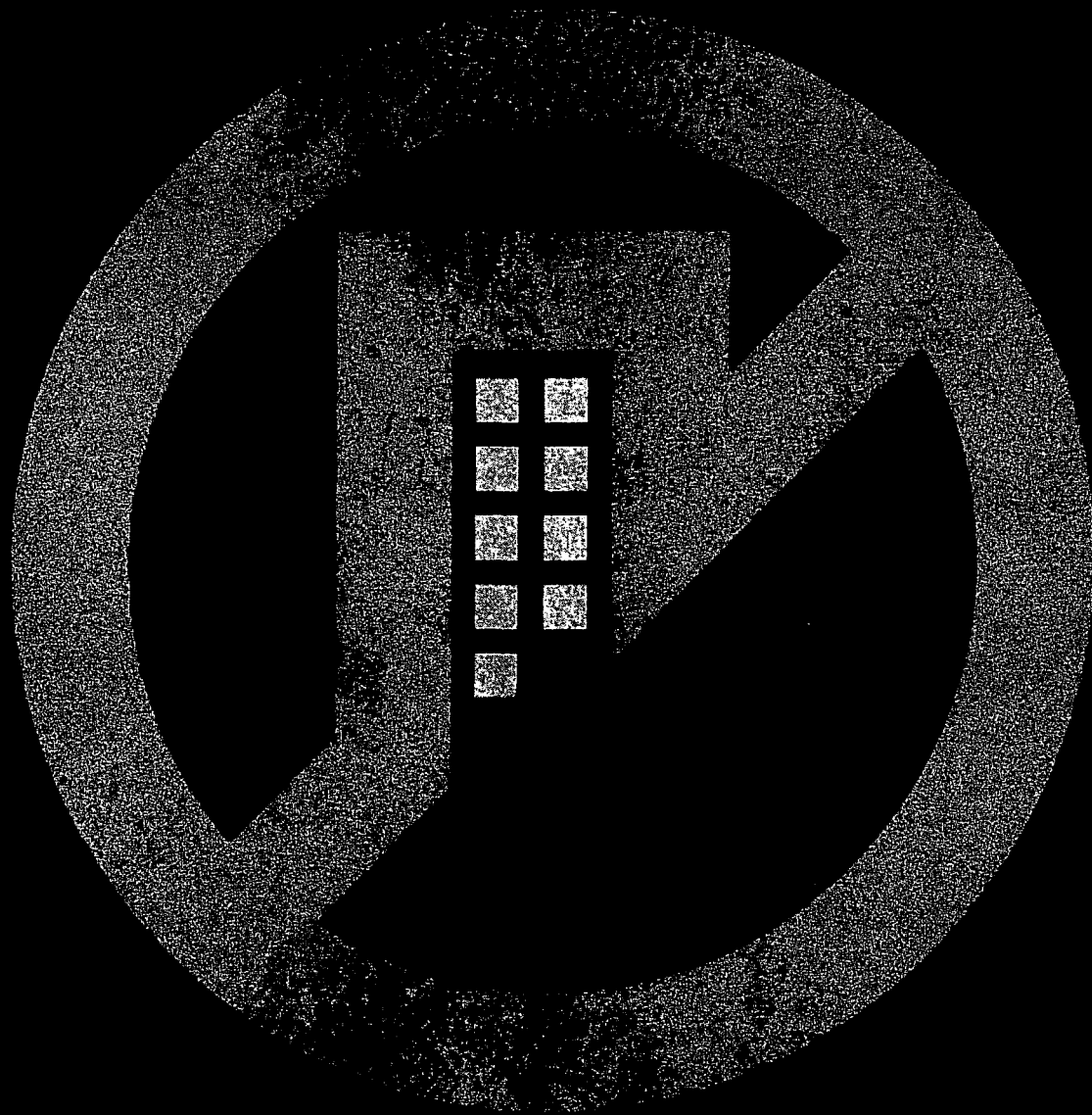
"She's our welcoming mat," Massaro said. "She's involved in every hiring decision that happens here. She does much more than oversee women's sports; she oversees everything."

Turnham got emotional on the stage. "This place is just so special to me," she said. "I am so honored to be a Blue Raider; for as long as they'll let me stay, I'll be here and I'll be true blue."

The ceremony brought together many of the first 117 members, as well as the new inductees.

The MT crowd displayed support for the legends of yesteryear and Director of Athletics Chris Massaro agreed.

"What's impressed me is how much people care about this." ■



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