

FEATURES



Transgender student, James Huff, finds acceptance and understanding at MTSU

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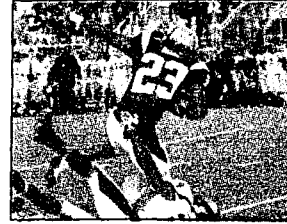
OPINIONS



Are Americans motivated by fear? One columnist explores the ideas that influence us.

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SPORTS



Blue Raiders look to extend three game winning streak against University of Louisiana.

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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

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Needle investigation may take months Police say testing syringes found in vending machines not top priority

By ALEX MOORMAN
News Editor

More than a week after hypodermic needles were reported in two separate vending machines on campus, Buddy Peaster, chief of MTSU Police, said that it would likely take months to get any more information.

"Once we get the syringes to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation it could very likely be months before we get it back," Peaster said. "They get so many items and so many cases [that] it takes time. While it is important to us because we want information, in comparison to a

homicide, I doubt they will put a high priority on it."

Peaster said he doesn't expect to hear anything back from the crime lab on any examinations for quite a while.

A student pricked her right thumb on a hypodermic needle on Oct. 29 after

she reached into the change dispenser of a Pepsi machine located in Peck Hall.

The second incident occurred on Nov. 9 on the first floor of the Keathley University Center after a student reported something suspicious in the SoBe Lifewater machine, which later turned out to be another needle.

Peaster said that while the police department is working hard to inspect machines, they are also employing many other people on campus to keep students safe.

"We have had police officers check the vending machines in the area of the incident, but we have also employed people who main-

tain the machines to check the machines and utilize our student patrols when they go on their rounds," Peaster said. "We have given the duty and assignment to more people to make sure we stop this from happening again."

SYRINGE, PAGE 2

Students 'veg' out

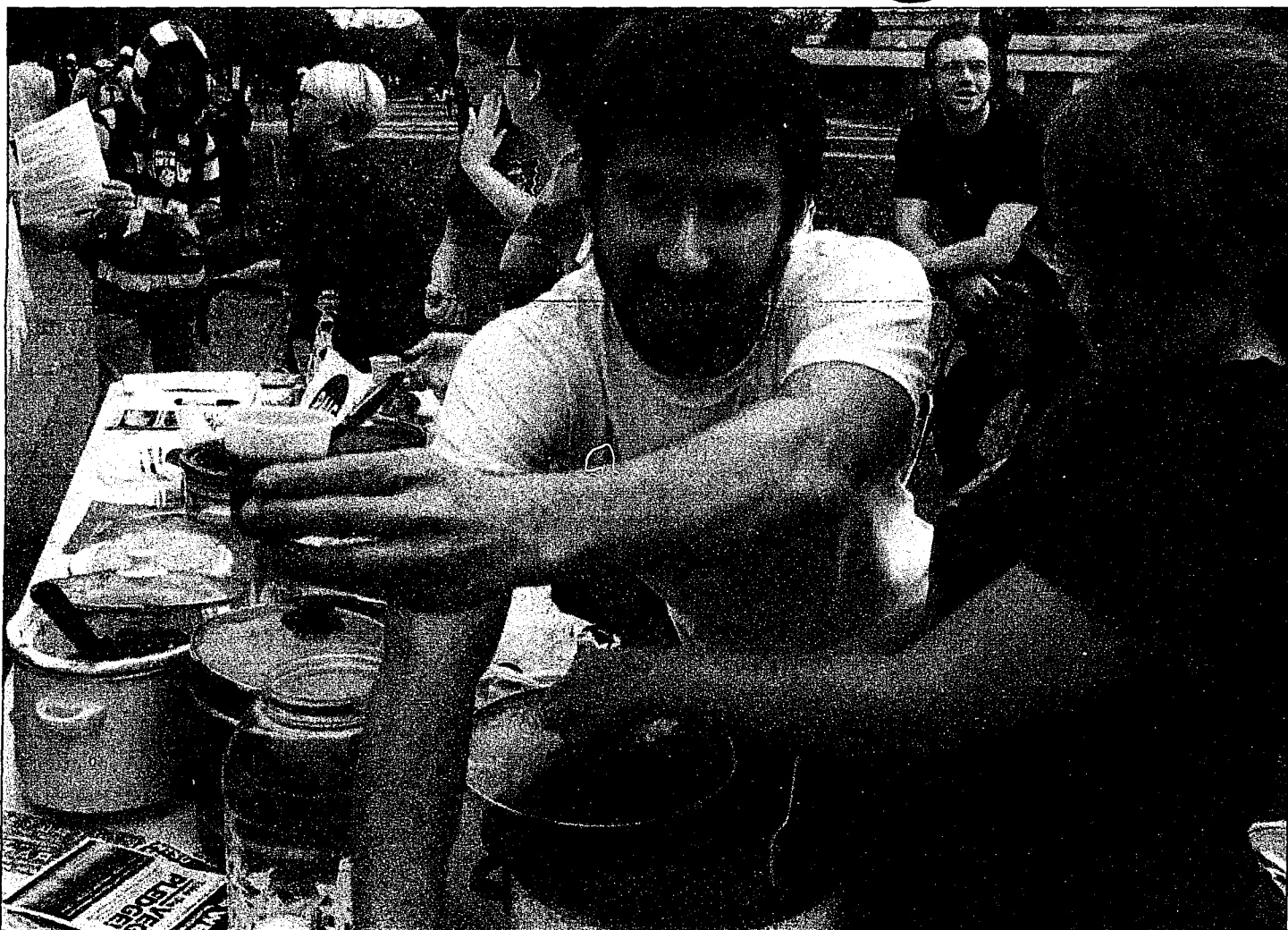


Photo by Gina Deprimo, staff photographer

Kenny Torrella (center) hands out vegetarian chili to students at a Chili Cook-Off hosted by the Raiders Against Animal Cruelty.

By EMMA EGLI
Assistant Campus News Editor

Raiders Against Animal Cruelty is hosting "Veg Week," a weeklong celebration of vegetarian and vegan diets with events to get students aware of how they can improve their health and the environment.

The student organization that advocates awareness of the cruelty animals face in society is asking everyone to try a meat-free diet for one week.

RAAC started the week by hosting a chili cook-off on the Keathley University Center Knoll Monday.

"I think this chili cook-off is a good idea and all the information they have is really helpful," said Ellen Goertzen, a freshman animal science major. "I'm a vegetarian, but I only started a few months ago so I'm still exploring my options."

Shannon Roche, a senior biology major and member of RAAC, said money for the ingredients used in the chili were provided by VegFund, a vegan outreach program that helps fund the distribution of educa-

tional materials and vegan food at local events.

"Because of their help, all the chili is free for students," Roche said. "It's 100 percent vegan and 100 percent free."

"Earthlings," a multi-award winning documentary about

human dependency on animals for food, clothing, entertainment and experimentation, was shown in the John Bragg Mass Communications building Monday evening.

"I'm going to warn you and tell you guys this film

is incredibly graphic," said Kenny Torrella, a senior recording industry major and RAAC member, to the audience beforehand.

VEGETARIAN, PAGE 1



Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor

A juvenile female claimed she was assaulted at the Sigma Nu House.

Police postpone questioning assault suspect

By ALEX MOORMAN
News Editor

The alleged sexual assault on Nov. 3 that occurred at the Sigma Nu House on Greek Row is still under investigation, but the MTSU Police Department has an idea of the suspect and is saving his questioning for last.

"The sexual assault case is still pending but we feel like there is a high probability for an arrest soon," said Buddy Peaster, chief of MTSU Police Department. "We want to make sure that we have as many of the facts as possible and go through everything as best we can before we make an arrest."

Peaster said that neither the victim nor the suspect are MTSU students. Peaster also said that the victim met the suspect at the Sigma Nu house, but Sigma Nu President Austin Tenpenny said the male suspect is not a member of the fraternity and was not being considered as an addition.

Tenpenny said the fraternity is working closely with MTSU police to make sure the suspect is caught.

While the victim was taken for medical examination

Peaster said the results from the tests are not always conclusive and the police department intends to continue the investigation with or without medical test results.

"Regardless of the medical report, we will still investigate this case because there may not be clear signs of trauma," Peaster said. "It's just that you don't know until you try, so we are trying to cover all of the bases to get a clear picture."

Peaster said a suspect is under consideration, but before they question him they want to make sure all of the possible evidence is recovered.

"We plan to interview him dead last," Peaster said. "I know they have a few more things to do but once we get to that point, we will interview him."

Peaster said the investigation is on track, but investigations of this type take time.

"In many ways, an investigation can be like turning over rocks and you keep at it until you find enough information that you can then utilize in a court of law," Peaster said. "We are doing the best we can to turn over all the rocks to get the most information we can use."



Photo by Jaz Gray, staff writer
Savoir Faire Modeling Troupe practice prepare for its fashion show on Thursday in the JUB.

Savoir Faire Modeling brings affordable fashion, new looks

By JAZ GRAY
Staff Writer

With fashions for every budget, Savoir Faire Modeling Troupe will present its fall event, titled "The Recession: The Road to Reconstruction" Thursday, at 7:00 p.m. in the Tennessee Room located in the James Union Building.

Unlike shows in the past, with scenes highlighting different areas of fashion such as couture and urban, this season's production is centered on a variety of places students can shop to create affordable outfits.

"In the course of the show, you are going to go from the lowest person who doesn't have that much money to spend, to the person who has a lot of money to spend," said Len Bur-

ton, vice president of Savior Faire. "You are going to go from thrift stores to high-end boutiques."

Savoir Faire plans to feature clothes from stores in Murfreesboro including Goodwill, Anastasia's, A'Gaci as well as The White Room in Lebanon for female models. Male models will wear clothes from Goodwill, Plato's Closet, GAP and The Tuxedo Shop.

Jessica Dozier, president of Savoir Faire, said that the outfits from each store not only showcase different price ranges, but a variety of styles.

"You can probably get an entire outfit for \$10-\$15 or less, and it's usually going to be one of a kind," Dozier said.

Dozier said that clothing from Plato's closet will show students items that are

more current, and "a little more expensive, but it's still reused clothing."

For students that can afford to shop in more expensive stores, clothing from Anastasia's will provide looks found in boutiques where "only a few of that piece [exist], so it's less likely somebody else will have it," Dozier said.

"And, when you get up to The White Room, it's very classy elegant gowns for evening wear," Dozier said.

The Savoir Faire event will also include a mixer after the fashion show with food, beverages and a disk jockey.

To read more, visit us online.
online
www.mtsusidelines.com

CRIME BRIEFS

Crime briefs will not be published this week due to the MTSU Campus Police Department's Web site being partially inoperable and also its failure to update the printed crime log. The police department's Web site link to the crime log is currently not working, and paper copies of the crime log available for the public have not been updated since March.

VEGETARIAN FROM PAGE 1

Using hidden cameras and never-before-seen footage, the documentary exposed things such as the daily practices of factory farms and the cruelty animals face before being slaughtered for consumer goods.

Ryan Green, a senior recording industry major, said it was hard seeing how animals were actually killed to satisfy human demands.

"You can wish and think that, 'oh maybe this chicken went through a nicer way of dying,'" Green said. "But you have no assurance of where you are really getting your meat from."

RAAC encouraged students to attend the 18th Annual Tennessee Undergraduate Social Science Symposium's screening of the award-winning documentary "Food, Inc.," Tuesday in the Tennessee Ballroom of the James Union Building. Following the film, author of "Food Matters" and columnist for the "New York Times" Mark Bittman gave a discussion on what he thought of the food industry in America.

Bittman said there were numerous influences that inspired him to write "Food Matters," including the fact that the industrial production of livestock is the second largest contributor of greenhouse gases in the world.

"Here is a system that is essentially cruel to animals



Photo by Gina Deprimio, staff photographer
Students are given an opportunity to taste vegetarian chilli on Monday.

and could care less about consumers," Bittman said. "So you've got the cruelty to animals, the bad for the environment and the bad for your health thing— what more do you need?"

While Bittman himself is not a vegetarian, he said his book "How to Cook Everything Vegetarian" is a book about appreciating vegetables in order to maintain a healthier lifestyle.

"My argument is not 'don't eat meat,'" Bittman said. "It's, 'eat less meat or at least eat meat that's been raised in a conscientious fashion.'"

Bittman shared his experience

of losing 35 pounds and lowering his cholesterol and blood sugar levels after trying a diet he called "vegan before 6." By only eating a plant-based diet before 6 p.m., he grew accustomed to a style of eating that was less reliant on animal products and nutritionally worthless junk food.

"If he can help to convince a handful of people to eat meat three less times a week, then even that is a step forward," said Charles White, a senior liberal arts major. "That makes a difference, no matter how small it is."

SYRINGE FROM PAGE 1

Peaster said that they have received multiple phone calls in regards to the first needle found but no one has reported any information about the second incident.

"Someone reported that they saw a flyer that was being held up by a hypodermic needle but that was before the first incident," Peaster said. "But that's about it, we

haven't had anything else that has come up and we have yet to identify a clear motivation whether it was frank in nature, someone who is more disturbed in nature, or just a joke."

Peaster said that students should take caution, but not become paranoid or alarmed at the idea of more needles because that type of reaction does not keep people safe.

"Just don't let the idea of, 'Oh my God, this might happen to me,' get into your head, but

general concern can help students get prepared for what to look for and that gives students the best chance to be safe in the environment that they are in," Peaster said. "Statistically there is a higher risk of [infectious] diseases standing about with someone who is sick or having unprotected sex than getting pricked by a needle in a vending machine."

Students, faculty and staff should contact the MTSU Police Department at 615-898-2424 if they have any information about the needles.

CURRENT EVENTS

Phillip Glass' The Fall of the House of Usher
Nov. 13 - 14, 8 p.m.
Nov. 15, 2 p.m.
Location: Tennessee Performing Arts Center
Admission: \$17 - 80

Who's Bad: Michael Jackson Tribute Band
Nov. 14, 9 p.m.
Location: Cannery Ballroom
Admission: \$12 advance, \$15 day of show

Saxophonist Bob Mintzer
Nov. 12, 7:30 p.m.
Location: Hinton Music Hall
Admission: \$15 adult, free for MTSU faculty, staff and students

Young Americans in the New Economy: Bakari Kitwana
Nov. 12, 5 p.m.
Location: State Farm Lecture Hall, Business and Aerospace Building
Admission: free

Frugal Friday with Static Revival
Nov. 13, 8 p.m.
Location: The Boro Bar and Grill
Admission: free

"The Biological Basis of Physical Activity in Youth"
Nov. 17, 7 p.m.
Location: State Farm Lecture Hall, Business and Aerospace Building
Admission: free

A Christmas Carol
Nov. 27 - Dec. 13
Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m.
Location: Nashville Little Theatre
Admission: \$20 dinner and show, \$15 adults, \$10 seniors and students

Events Policy
Sidelines welcomes current campus and community events submitted by all readers. Please e-mail events to slcopy@mtsu.edu or snews2@mtsu.edu, and include the name, date, time and location of the event, as well as your name and a phone number for verification. We reserve the right to refuse events at our discretion as our space is limited.

Sidelines is the editorially independent, non-profit student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. Sidelines publishes Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and Wednesday during June and July. The events listed are not necessarily associated with Sidelines or MTSU.

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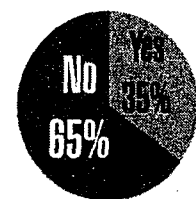
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FEATURES



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Transgender student finds haven

James Huff discovers identity, acceptance through his attendance at MTSU

By ALEX MOORMAN
News Editor

James Vincent Huff walked the halls of his high school just like so many other students, hoping that after graduation things would be different.

A little more than two years later, James says finally feels like he fits in.

James, 20, is a typical college sophomore: he makes good grades, hangs out with his friends and spends time with his girlfriend.

Each day he makes the commute from Nashville to Murfreesboro for work, because he says that MTSU makes him feel like he belongs.

James is transgender, a term describing an individual who feels that the gender assigned to them at birth is not correct or a complete description of what gender they truly are.

He says while times are still hard, MTSU is one of the first places he's ever been fully comfortable to not only be different but free to be his self.

James explains that he has felt different all his life, but a couple of years ago he came to the realization that he was transgender. After that realization, it was then that his life began to change.

"I got more information on what transgender was and I felt that I fit into that box," James says. "Then I started making the effort to change some things; I changed my name and started making people call me 'he' and 'sir' and I also changed the way I dressed."

James says while the transition was hard, the real test of strength was



Photo courtesy of James Huff

James Huff believes that his time friends, and various organizations at MTSU have helped him find acceptance as a transgender student.

not in his ability to change himself but in his ability to realize he can't change the world.

"Every day is difficult," James explains with a wounded look on his face.

"I get misgendered a lot of the time and I have a lot of

things against me. I'm 5'2 and my voice is high and it is really hard because in my head I am who I am. When people don't see you as you see yourself it is hard to deal with."

James says that confusion remains the main source

the general population's inability to communicate and sometimes function around him when it comes to his gender.

"People like to classify other people and it doesn't matter who you are, you are going to do it no mat-

ter what," James says. "No matter if you're unbiased, it just happens because people see in black and white or male and female."

James says that people feel more comfortable putting each other in one box or the other and

if they don't know then they get confused and that scares them.

"People get uncomfortable and then they start calling you 'he', 'she' and 'ma'am' in the same sentence and it is awkward for you and them," James says smiling.

He continues by saying that the confusion and curiosity that people have is not the problem, it is some people's eagerness to confront him with inappropriate questions that he feels they wouldn't ask otherwise.

"People just automatically assume that since I'm transgender that they can ask me anything, but what they forget is we are human just like them," James says, looking concerned. "We are sensitive too and I'm not about to share my whole personal life with just anybody unless we are really close."

"People are curious and they don't understand and that's why they ask but a lot of the time it is really intrusive."

James says half-joking and half-serious that he wouldn't ask why someone is a specific ethnicity or why someone's hair is purple.

Sometimes people forget just to what degree that their questions can seem offensive and insensitive.

While James is not his legal name, he says that the idea of even saying his given name disgusts him.

"My birth name is not something I like to say out loud," James says nervously. "I get really uncomfortable with it and don't say it unless I am at the bank or something."

TRANSGENDER PAGE 4

We Were the States rocks the Boro

By JESSICA PACE
Staff Writer

Murfreesboro band We Were the States picked a fitting moniker, considering it once went by simply The States. Upon discovering that there was a New York band of the same name, We Are the States was adopted for a stint but then discarded after the band heard its name announced one night at Mercy Lounge's Eight off Eighth.

It took a while to get the verb form right, but playing music was something that came much more naturally. Its members brought together primarily through attendance at MTSU, the current WWTS lineup has played together for two years.

The band has spent that time building a fan base in the Boro, achieved through the help of friends and friends of friends, according to WWTS guitarist Jay Stoyanov.

"I haven't seen anybody become that popular in Murfreesboro just through normal promotion," he says. "It generally has to be a word-of-mouth friend thing."

Stoyanov, in his final semester at MTSU, is a friendly type of guy and he is more than willing to tell a story or two whether it concerns the repercussions of posting his phone number on WWTS Web site or the value of variety in a record.

WWTS is currently in a transitional phase of sorts, working on a new album with no set show dates at present.

The band has been spending its time in Nashville, recording a little album – which is nameless as of yet – that has a big change in it compared to what fans may be used to hearing from the band.

The upcoming record swallows a con-



Photo courtesy of We Were the States

We Were the States consists of Tyler Coppage (drums), Jason Harding (keyboard), Benjamin Moore (bass), Justin Webb (vocalist) and Jay Stoyanov (guitar) and is based out of Murfreesboro.

cept that bands generally explore later in the game, after they have weathered a few more albums than WWTS have. Stoyanov is very particular in providing an explanation for it.

"The last record was very much a garage rock record in the way we recorded it," he says. "There weren't many overdubs."

**BAND
OF THE WEEK**

"We just did it live in a room together. This project is more of a full-figured rock record. We're not opposed to any kind of instrumentation we can put on it this time."

Stoyanov describes "electronic beats, real big rock songs and bigger choruses on some songs," which all have a place on the new record. We Were

the States is expanding in the sense that it is breaking out of its own niche to write a varied collection of songs that are not all of the same strain, and instead embrace a range of colors and tempos.

"I think the way we described it one time is, it's more like a four-course-meal kind of album," Stoyanov says. "It's not a concept record or anything, but it's definitely going back to what I liked in high school, where there were bands like Smashing Pumpkins who could do a slow song – we're not going to do any sappy slow songs, that would never happen – but they would have a slow song here, a 30-second song here, a giant rock song here. It's more well-rounded."

As a result, Stoyanov has somewhat relinquished his unofficial role as primary composer. There is less dictation and format as songs come together, and the band is figuring out the beauty of improvisation.

"I started writing riffs and writing parts and when I brought the songs to the band, I didn't know what to tell them, so I'd just start playing and they would play whatever came to their heads," Stoyanov says. "I realized these songs are pretty open-ended. Anything could go here."

The album is expected to see the light of day in March 2010. In the current stages, it is clear that song and album titles have not been at the forefront priority-wise, as Stoyanov describes a song he is excited about that has been unofficially titled "Bitch Poison."

STATES, PAGE 4



Photo courtesy of We Were the States
Justin Webb sings as the band records its most recent album.



Photo courtesy of We Were the States
From left to right: Justin Webb, Tyler Coppage, Jay Stoyanov, and Benjamin Moore are all students who have or are currently attending MTSU.

STATES FROM PAGE 3

“That’s just something you do when you’re drunk in the studio,” he says. “Bitch Poison” aside, one of WWTS’ most innovative and ambitious ideas for the record includes releasing the album as a two-sided disc. One side would play the album and the other would feature videos to accompany each song. Stoyanov says that money determines whether this comes to be, but the band still plans to have accompanying videos to at least be downloadable from the Web site. The videos are not the only apparent signs

of ambition. The band has gained credibility at SXSW in Austin, where its label, Chicken Ranch, is based, and gained approval through Next Big Nashville. However, We Were the States has not reached the caliber of success at which Stoyanov posting his phone number to the band Web site would not be prudent. The guitarist has heard the matter of his phone number available to the public brought up in interviews before, and says that he would still post his number simply as a way to have another connection with fans. “But I have a funny story about that,” he offers. He delves into an entertaining tale of an Atlanta

transplant looking to start a band in Murfreesboro, who mistook We Were the States’ posted invitation of “Give us a call, we’d love to hear your pretty voice” to be a want ad for a singer. “He wanted to sing to me over the phone,” Stoyanov laughs. “I called like three people right after that happened. I had to tell them about that.” When Stoyanov is not taking odd calls, he focuses on expanding the musical range of We Were the States past the pop songs he grew sick of writing. He maintains the sole goal of making the band into a sustaining career. “I’ll be happy if I can be a musician for a living,” he says. “Anything that comes after that is just icing.”



Photo courtesy of We Were the States
The members of the band pose in a ‘Midsummer Night’s Dream’ setting as promotion for their new CD.

Facts on Transgender

- According to the America Psychological Association, antidiscrimination laws in most U.S. cities and states do not protect transgender people from discrimination based on gender identity or gender expression.
- Consequently, transgender people in most cities and states can be denied housing or employment, lose custody of their children, or have difficulty achieving legal recognition of their marriages, solely because they are transgender.
- According to Youth Pride Inc., 33.2 percent of transgender youth have attempted suicide and 55 percent of transgender youth report being physically attacked.
- According to Youth Pride Inc., 74 percent of transgender youth reported being sexually harassed at school, and 90 percent of transgender youth reported feeling unsafe because of their gender expression.
- In a survey of 403 transgender people, 78 percent reported having been verbally harassed and 48 percent reported having been victims of assault, including assault with a weapon, sexual assault or rape.
- Unemployment among transgender individuals is twice the national average. Of respondents to a transgender workplace safety survey by National Center for Transgender Equality, 97 percent of reported harassment on the job, 47 percent reported an adverse job situation (firing, lack of raise/promotion, not hired), and 15 percent of transgender people lived on \$10,000 a year or less.
- The term transgender was popularized in the 1970s (but implied in the 1960s) describing people who wanted to live cross-gender without sex reassignment surgery.
- In the 1980s the term was expanded to an umbrella term, and became popular as a means of uniting all those whose gender identity did not mesh with their gender assigned at birth.
- It is estimated that up to 60,000 US citizens identify as transsexual, though there are no concrete statistics on the transgender population of the US.
- Students hear anti-gay epithets 25 times a day, and teachers fail to respond to these comments 97 percent of the time, according to the Gay Lesbian Straight Educator’s Network.
- More than 84 percent of Americans oppose employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, according to “Newsweek.”

TRANSGENDER FROM PAGE 3

To alleviate the issue of professors calling James by his registered name, he says that he e-mails every professor before hand just to make sure there is no confusion that could leave them confused and him humiliated. “My name is James and my professors have been very receptive,” says James with a smile. While most of his teachers have been helpful and curious James said that one teacher in particular stepped over the line. “A teacher and I had a conference about a paper and she was curious about my gender and I understand that but she doesn’t know me and so it doesn’t give her permission to talk to me like that,” James explains in a hurt and defensive tone. “They ask questions like ‘What is your real name?’ “Well my real name is James. It is obvious that they are implying that they don’t really see me as what I am presenting, and that hurts.” The fight for gay rights that has been raging for 50 years in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community and times can be hard for students like James. However, he says that MTSU has been almost a light at the end of his tunnel for acceptance. “There are tons of different people at MTSU and I feel like I fit in more and I am so much happier and less stressed out about trying to present myself correctly,” James says with a

smile. “I feel like I belong here socially and the fact that we have a Lambda here is a big deal. “It is an open door for people that are like me and it is so progressive.” The organizations at MTSU, James says, are open and see people as people and not as a color or gender. While James has found acceptance and happiness in his college career he still has his family life to tackle, the first issue being that he has yet to come out to his mother, father or 16-year-old brother. “My parents are older

derstand and that they could possibly not want to speak to me. It is all up in the air.” James explains that he came disturbingly close to telling his parents, but monetary constraints prevented him from seeing his therapist further, so he didn’t. Without the therapist, he didn’t feel confident in his ability to go at his struggle alone. “I think I could do it alone, but I’d rather be seeing a therapist at the same time,” James says instinctively. “I’ve been gathering materials for my parents so they can read it and know they aren’t the only ones out there with this issue, but I feel like I need help.” James says that the effect of his parent’s obliviousness stretches further than just in his relationship with them, but also his relationship with everyone, and that his friends encourage his coming out. “It is a big burden on me and I feel that I am in a different weird world at home with them,” James says desolately. James says the future holds exciting things for him, and while coming out to his parents is important, he feels the strongest about beginning testosterone doses and having a double mastectomy. As far as continuing his transformation, he says that technology needs to progress before he makes that decision. James says that while his future with his family, school and girlfriend is unclear, he is excited and ready to further his transition into what he says has always felt right.

“When people don’t see you as you see yourself, it is hard to deal with.”

JAMES HUFF
TRANSGENDER STUDENT

For more info and resources on LGBT issues and support, contact MT Lambda at its Web site: mtsu.edu/~mtlambda

and they don’t know about the LGBT. God forbid I tell them that the child that they gave birth to isn’t that child any more, [or] that their old child is dead,” James says with a disappointed look on his face. “They are going to mourn what they lost.” He says that his parents’ idea of him as a female, and even the roles that he might have played if things had been different, inhibits them from fully understanding him. “I am the same person but it is different in the same sense,” says James. “I fear that they won’t un-

Letters Policy

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OPINIONS

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Fear pandemic pointlessly grips nation, world

Our nation has been plagued by news of war, illness and crime to the point that some people fear leaving their homes.

To listen to a recent news-reel on the radio or to read a newspaper or Web site is to be frightened. If someone isn't catching swine flu, then the economy ruined the finances of some hapless person, and while you read about it, you think, "This could happen to me."

Recently, the reported disasters have been a little closer to home. Over the past two weeks the campus has seen several crime updates of a rather horrifying nature. If the hypodermic needles of unidentified origin didn't work the students into a fear-induced lather, then the Dumpster containing a burning body sure did.

In a world where information is available in all forms, everywhere, anytime, and through innumerable venues, it is expected that the largest campus in Tennessee would have a way of sharing information among students. But are these creepy, bone-chilling updates hurting or helping campus life?

Certainly if there were a terrorist attack on campus the students would all be grateful for the warning, but hypodermic needles?

Is there really anything people can do to avoid that? It keeps the students looking in the coin slots before they stick their fingers into them, but isn't it common sense to look into a dark, dubious cavern before one places a digit into it? And shouldn't students always be careful when walking through campus at night, not simply because they fear a particularly horrendous death, but because it's good safety policy?

When news updates are minute-by-minute instead of day-by-day, it is to be expected that the world would be more exposed to individual crimes instead of rounded statistics, but those in charge of putting out all of this information must be mindful of their effect on the public. Is it their goal to instill fear and wariness in the minds of their audience?

Why should MTSU students and Americans at large be forced to live under the shadow of fear because our information sources have verbal diarrhea? Some people in this country need to learn the meaning and beauty of self-censoring. As it was so eloquently put in the 1950s, "If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all."

Let it not be said that I support censorship, but why



Pearl before swine

Pearl Howell

does the world need to be informed of every tiny, horrifying incident that occurs in and around campus when nothing can be done about it? Why not tell the students to watch out for themselves and each other, rather than inform them about individual crimes? Fear is a poison that infects whole groups of people and can be impossible to leech out. Under the influence of fear, people become quivering apathetic lumps. A nation cannot survive when fed a diet of anxiety and fear.

If the media and news sources are not more careful about publishing fear-riddled messages, they will soon find themselves out of an active audience. When people are too scared to leave their homes, the world stops.

Even if there are reasons to be afraid, we cannot live constantly under the influence of those fears. I am tired of being afraid to walk into a room without washing my hands. I am tired of being afraid to spend money because I may not have a job the next day. I am tired of being afraid to buy a Pepsi out of a machine for fear that I might get pricked on the finger. I am tired of being afraid.

Why does this great nation have to live under the constant weight of fear? When people look around at the chaos of American government and economics, they can trace the source of the wreckage back to fear. This country needs a strong voice of leadership to overcome the many soft voices of doubt and worry and rise above fear. Decisiveness, bravery and action will overcome dilly-dallying and rumor-mongering.

Once America escapes this downward spiral of fear, she can move forward. Having courage and eradicating fear will lead to a new age of prosperity and happiness.

The only people who thrive on fear are profiteers and ambulance chasers. Rise above it.

Pearl Howell is a freshman theater major and can be reached at rph2t@mtsu.edu.



"Seattle Spew"

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Kyle Patterson

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Abortion murder, not healthcare

To the Editor:

I wrote this commentary in response to Rozalind Ruth's recently published piece, "Anti-abortion health clinic exposed" (Nov. 9). I feel it is time, especially since *Sidelines* decided to publish her material, that *Sidelines* open its public forum for discussing abortion. I have included citations for every claim I make, although *Sidelines* may strip them to shorten length (I hope they won't).

This part of Ruth's statement made me particularly ill: "Hamilton [of MTSU Health Services] said she thinks Planned Parenthood does the best job of being non-biased and does not try to persuade a person to one option over another."

Hamilton must be grossly misinformed to honestly make such a statement: More than a third of Planned Parenthood's income comes from abortion, from a conservative estimate (nrlc.org/news/2009/NRL05/PPAnnualReport.html) and you're going to claim that they're unbiased?

We must estimate from the information Planned Parenthood provides because, of course, an organization with blood on its hands does not want the public to know how it makes its profit.

Rather than listen to an uninformed MTSU Health Services worker, why not check out what an ex-director of a Planned Parenthood abortion facility has to say (lifesitenews.com/ldn/2009/nov/09110505.html)?

It is very clear that this organization profits from abortion. It is a business, and not only is it profiting from [abortion], but it receives taxpayers' money from our government.

Abortion is not "health care" or "health services;" it is the murdering of a human baby. In 1987, I made it successfully out of my mother's womb, while that same year in the United States alone, an estimated 27 million were killed before they had the chance to do the same (gutmacher.org/pubs/fb_induced_abortion.html).

I was born that year while 27 million others were killed. The number of people who have been murdered by abortion in the United States alone currently rivals the death toll for the entirety of World War II (counting from 1973), and will continue to rise unless people wake up and speak up. (gutmacher.org/pubs/fb_induced_abortion.html and en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II_casualties#Total_dead).

We have seen numerous times already how

society is affected when humans are treated as objects and property. Abortion is murder. Do not murder your children.

Daniel Bridges

Senior, College of Basic and Applied Sciences

Clinic article false, misleading

To the Editor:

It is regrettable that Monday's article about Feminist Majority Foundation and the Murfreesboro Pregnancy Support Center lacked real objectivity and basic fact checking.

I have a family member that works with another pregnancy support center and between my conversations with her, other employees and volunteers, along with any literature I have read from them, I cannot find anything that would suggest that these clinics seek to deceive. From everything I have ever received as a supporter of the Pregnancy Support Center I would draw the same conclusions. Abortions carry certain risks, both physically and emotionally, and they only seek to inform those that come in of those risks.

Additionally, what further should an organization have to do to explain who they are and what they are about? Does a grocery store need to include in its name every product it offers? When checking the PSC Web site they state that they don't provide abortion referrals. The name of the center is the "Pregnancy Support Center." I don't see how any part of that is misleading. It would be rather easy to assume it supports women facing unplanned pregnancy. They just don't refer for abortions. How is that wrong?

I am also disappointed that there was apparently little fact checking done. When the writer refers to FMF claiming that the PSC lists itself as an abortion clinic I just couldn't find it. The 2009-2010 edition of the AT&T Yellow Pages doesn't list PSC under "Abortion Services."

The writer's bias is clear as the main source for the article appears to be an organization that is obviously biased. The PSC director appears to be the only pro-life person interviewed for the article. Basic facts are just plain wrong.

I would encourage anybody who has real questions to contact the Murfreesboro Pregnancy Support Center and find out the truth about who they are and what they do.

Christopher King
Murfreesboro, Tenn.

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

MTSU Veg Week offers information, tasty foods

Let's hear it for Veg Week. It's nice to see educational events open to all. How often do chili cook-offs happen around here, anyway?

In the interest of full disclosure, none of the five members of the *Sidelines* editorial board are vegetarians, but that doesn't stop anyone from enjoying the fruits of others' chili labor.

Raiders Against Animal Cruelty also sponsored the recent screening of Food Inc., which was a good precursor to Veg Week.

It's important to note that a stereotype of vegetarians or vegans (a mysterious term to many) is one of ecoterrorist radicals demolishing chicken coops and sneaking cameras into meatpacking plants.

Reality, however, is far less scandalous. Many of the vegetarians made that choice for health reasons, and it's helpful for anyone with questions about their diet, or anyone who's read "The Omnivore's Dilemma," to be able to ask those who have been there.

One thing on which most of us can agree is food. We like it. Everyone eats it. To give someone food is to give them love, and that's in short supply these days.

The point of Veg Week is not to shame or coerce omnivores into shunning meat. It's about spreading the love of information to those who enjoy food, which should be everyone.

If you love to eat beef, eat beef that was ethically raised. If you like sausage, look into the raising and feeding of swine. Read up on the harmful effects of certain chemicals often present in meat. Information is never a bad thing.

It's refreshing to see activists not only using knowledge as their main tool but also not disheartening others while trying to prove their point.

Raiders Against Animal Cruelty is fighting nobly for their cause and not only teaching students how to be vegetarian, but also informing them that if they want to keep eating meat, there are ways to minimize animal cruelty and still eat meat.

Students can also rejoice, because beer contains no meat.



Listen to the editorial board online at mtsusidelines.com/multimedia

CORRECTION

In the article "Anti-abortion health clinic exposed" (Nov. 9), *Sidelines* incorrectly reported the Murfreesboro Pregnancy Support Center was listed in the Yellow Pages under "Abortion Clinics," when actually it was on superpages.com.

Sidelines regrets this error.



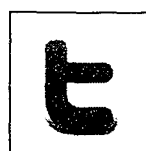
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SPORTS

Blue Raiders look to tame Ragin' Cajuns

By **STEPHEN CURLEY**
Sports Editor

The Blue Raiders look to extend a three-game winning streak Saturday at 3:15 p.m. as the Ragin' Cajuns of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette visit Floyd Stadium.

MT will look to its rejuvenated rushing attack against a ULL defense giving up 162.7 yards per game.

Sophomore running back D.D. Kyles is coming off back-to-back 100-yard games against Florida Atlantic University and Florida International University, and has helped fill the void left by the absence of Phillip Tanner.

Junior quarterback Dwight Dasher is also coming off consecutive weeks where he rushed for 130 and 178 yards, respectively.

"It is a direct reflection on our offensive line," head coach Rick Stockstill said. "They have played their three best games of the season. D.D. has run better because he has had more opportunities. He has improved setting up his blocks and reacting to the defense. Dwight has had some dynamic runs as well."

Dasher looked shaky in the third quarter of an otherwise good performance last week against FIU, throwing three interceptions on MT's first four possessions.

"There is 70 to 85 plays in a game and he made three poor decisions," Stockstill said. "There are highs and lows. Everything is not going to be 30 to 40 points per half. How you respond to adversity is what is important."

The Ragin' Cajuns have given up 229 yards per game through the air, so opportunities to make plays will be there for Dasher. Mistakes will be costly, however, as ULL has intercepted the opposing quarterback 13 times this season. Gerren Blount, Maurice Rolle and Dwight Bentley led the team with three interceptions each.

ULL's primary offensive

playmaker is quarterback Chris Masson, an efficient signal-caller who has thrown for eight touchdowns and rushed for five more in his nine starts this season.

"He is a good player, Stockstill said. "He has done a great job of leading their offense. He is a tough, competitive guy who understands what they want to do and has led them to some good wins this season."

With running back Undrea Sails out for the season with a fractured leg, the Ragin' Cajuns will turn to a large group of less experienced backs. The most productive of the group, Brad McGuire, has averaged 5.1 yards per carry and ran for four touchdowns.

"They're still a great running team," senior defensive tackle Brandon Perry said. "They're a different team this year too. Running the ball is one of their main goals and something they always want to do. It will be a very tough game this week."

The Blue Raiders are still in the mix for the Sun Belt Conference Championship, trailing Troy University by just one game, with the Trojans traveling to Fayetteville, Ark. to take on the University of Arkansas.

"We have no control over what happens with Troy," Stockstill said. We have a chance, but we need help. The only thing we can control is how we play against Louisiana-Lafayette."

The game will include the Salute to Armed Services/Veterans, with the Blue Raiders wearing a helmet sticker with the Tennessee-based 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment. The team will wear the insignia until the regiment leaves Iraq, expected to be in January 2011.

"We just want to show respect for the men and women who are protecting our country," Stockstill said. "This is a way to honor the entire mid-state and I hope everyone comes out Saturday to show their support."

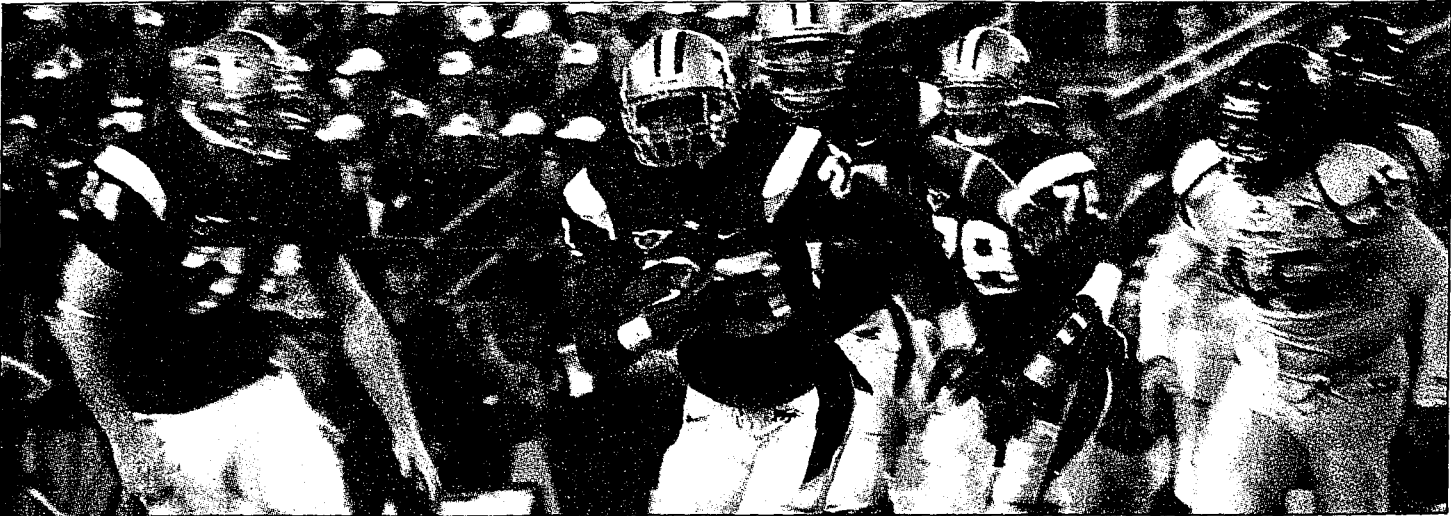


Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor
Sophomore RB D.D. Kyles runs for one of his 22 carries this past Saturday in MT's game against FIU. Kyles would finish with 110 yards.

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	4-1	6-3
	4-1	5-4
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	1-5	2-7
	0-5	0-9

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