MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERISTY

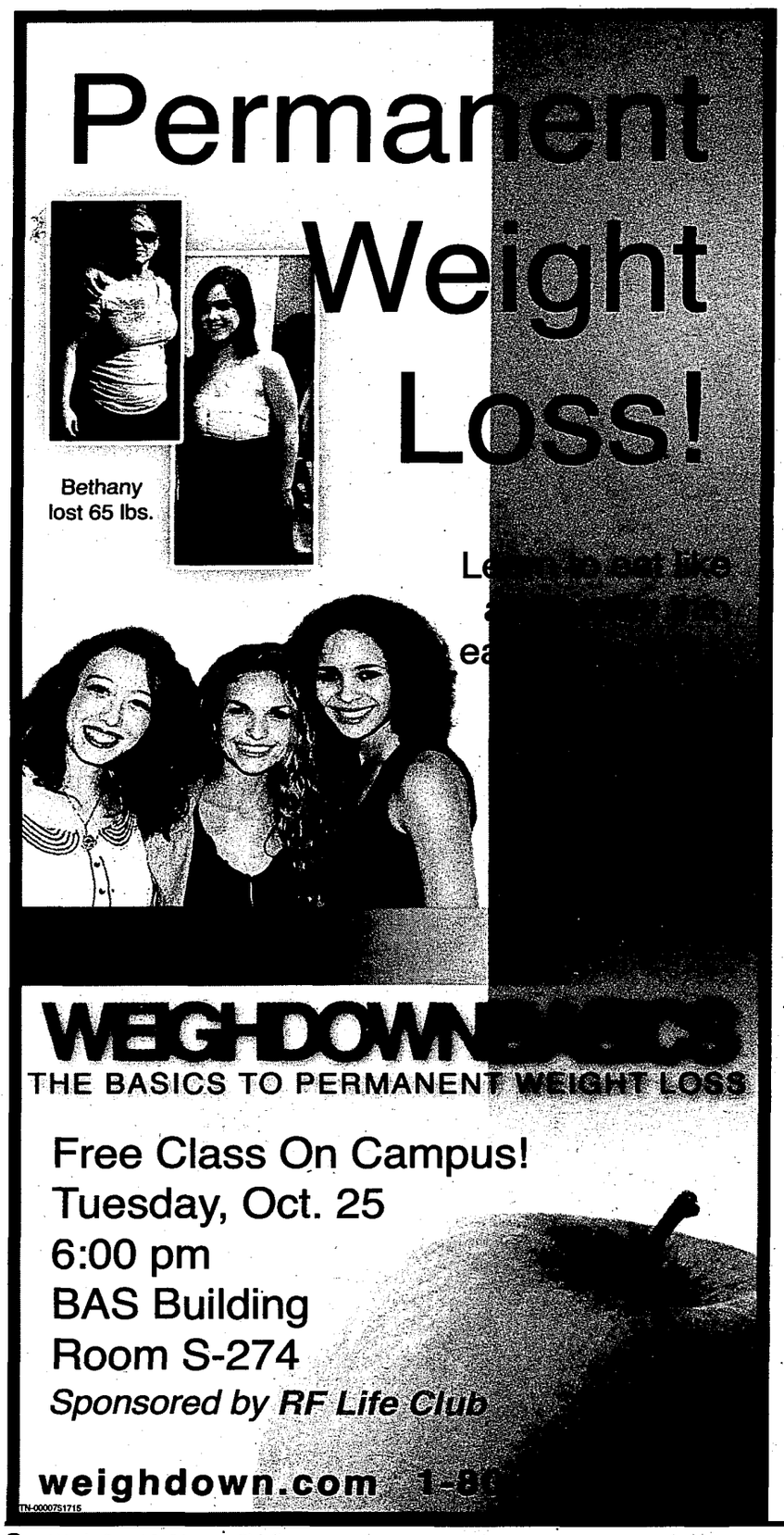
SIDELINES

OCT. 19 - OCT. 25, 2011

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

VOL. 89, NO. 8

Tennessee farming faces changes



CONTENTS

COVER STORY

08 Tennessee farmers change market, techniques
By Emily Kubis and Taylor Hixon

NEWS

03 Greeks react to Global Learning Community
04 Completion of Islamic Center slated for Ramadan
05 Fraternity, sorority team up for charity events

FEATURES

06 More on nudists...
The most intimate family you'll ever find

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

10 Adams' voice breaks through *Ashes and Fire*

10 Deas Vail's sophomore release avoids slump
11 Thai restaurant offers more than flavor

RANTS & RAVES

12 Upcoming Events

OPINIONS

14 Leave your bias at the door
14 Constitution under attack, needs defense

EVENTS

13 On Campus, Off Campus

SPORTS

15 Volleyball rolling with nine-game winning streak

Visit us on the web at www.MTSUSidelines.com

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
SIDELINES
1301 East Main Street, P.O. Box 8,
Murfreesboro, Tenn. 37132
www.mtsusidelines.com

Editor-in-Chief
Amanda Haggard
sleditor@mtsu.edu
Editorial: 615-904-8357
Fax: 615-494-7648

Managing Editor
Todd Barnes
slmanage@mtsu.edu

News Editor
Christopher Merchant
slnews@mtsu.edu

Associate News Editor
Alex Harris
slcampus@mtsu.edu

Arts & Entertainment Editor
Becca Andrews
slflash@mtsu.edu

Associate Arts & Entertainment Editor
Dietrich Stogner
slcommunity@mtsu.edu

Features Editor
Emma Egli
slfeatur@mtsu.edu

Opinions Editor
Brandon Thomas
slopinio@mtsu.edu

Sports Editor
Will Trusler
slsports@mtsu.edu

Design Manager
Courtney Polivka
slproduction@mtsu.edu

Photography Editor
Bailey Ingram
slphoto@mtsu.edu

Multimedia Manager
Josh Fields
slonline@mtsu.edu

Social Media Manager
Michael Finch
slstate@mtsu.edu

Adviser
Leon Alligood
leon.alligood@mtsu.edu

Business Manager
Eveon Corl
ecorl@mtsu.edu

Advertising Contact
Heather Kent
hkent@dnj.com
615-278-5126

Cover art by Courtney Polivka

Greeks react to Global Learning Community

By Mack Burke
Contributing Writer

After the addition of international housing in the vacant Beta Theta Pi house on Greek Row, many in the Greek community said they are confused and concerned.

The international Global Learning Community housing is designated for international exchange students, study abroad returnees, students interested in global affairs and any student that has a major with an international component.

"Housing is already involved with Greek Row in terms of maintenance, and we've already got a relationship with Greek Affairs. I was really intrigued by the opportunity," said Andy Bickers, the university's housing director.

This plan aims to help the university's global studies environment, but some Greeks see it as a threat from campus.

"The GLC is a test case to see what happens," said Sam Wilson, a junior in the College of Liberal Arts and Sigma Nu member.

Wilson said that the test is to see if the new project makes money.

"We did have some fraternities show interest in the Beta house," said Danny Kelley, assistant vice president for Student Affairs. "None of them would have been able to move enough of their members into the house to pay the required mortgage."

Sigma Pi was one of the leading fraternities that expressed interest, but backed out, Kelley said.

Multiple fraternities have been removed from Greek Row on account of financial issues and/or unacceptable conduct, including Kappa Sigma, Pi Kappa Phi, and most recently Pi Kappa Alpha and Beta Theta Pi.

"It is a threat from campus to the rest of Greek Row," Wilson said, implying the GLC.

However, the university doesn't want to put students into a house they will not be able to handle financially, Kelley said.

The fraternities that occupy Greek Row are expected by campus administration to fill their respective house with members every semester, pay all campus fees and handle their own respective fees and dues.

"We've got 35 or more spots to deal with," Wilson said. "That's a lot of beds to fill every semester, and if we don't accomplish that, we're immediately behind."

When rushing new members, Greeks want to attract quality and quantity, said Shaun Luber, a senior majoring in political science, Sigma Nu member and vice president of the Student Government Association.

"Now, fraternities are more prone to just seeking quantity due to the strict burden of filling the house," Luber said.

When the university's Greek Row was first established in 2000, the fraternities set to occupy the houses signed a lease, and this lease was a 30-year binding agreement to the fulfillment of the house and the payment of dues.

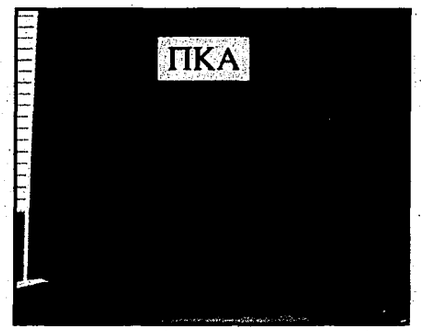
The continuous disappearance of fraternities from the Row, and the reluctance of off-campus Inter Fraternity Council fraternities to enter the Row, is a result of this lease, some Greeks said.

There was talk among Greeks that the lease was a 99-year agreement.

"Ninety-nine year leases don't make sense," Wilson said. "They put us there in a stupid situation, and now act like they have no interest in helping keep us here."

With the former Pi Kappa Alpha house still vacant on the Row, many questions surface about the future of Greek life at the university.

"I want to see what they do with the Pi Kappa Alpha house," said Tyler Shapard, a junior majoring in video production and Kappa Alpha member.



The former Pi Kappa Alpha house on Greek Row stands vacant. Many different groups have shown interest in the house. (Photo by Bailey Ingram, photography editor)

"Why not put another fraternity in the house? It's called Greek Row for a reason."

Some sororities have shown interest in the Pi Kappa Alpha house, Kelley said, but nothing has been confirmed.

"All I know is it's being renovated, beyond that, I am waiting to hear who will be responsible for occupancy," Bickers said. ■

TOOT'S®
Good Food & Fun
Murfreesboro's Best Happy Hour!
SCAN & "LIKE" US ON FACEBOOK!
8pm-CLOSE / EVERY NIGHT!
2 FOR 1
• 10oz. Drafts • Well Drinks
• Daquiri's • House Wine
Liquor and Wine Specials
End 1 Hour Before Close
$6 TriCycle Samplers
THE ORIGINAL
860 N.W. Broad St.
Murfreesboro, TN
(615) 898-1301
TOOTS SOUTH
2992 S Church St.
Murfreesboro, TN
(615) 410-3335
TOOT'S SMYRNA
301 Sam Ridley PKWY W
Smyrna, TN
(615) 223-8858
toots.com

(Left) **Members of the Islamic Center of Murfreesboro prepare to break ground for their new $1.8 million facility on Sept. 28. (Photo courtesy of Lema Sbenaty)**

(Above) **Children help with digging at the groundbreaking ceremony. The building will house recreational services for ICM members and is expected to be finished on Ramadan. (Photo courtesy of Lema Sbenaty)**

Completion of Islamic Center slated for Ramadan

By Cecilia Sinkala and Jo-Jo Jackson Contributing Writers

Following a groundbreaking ceremony, founders of the Islamic Center of Murfreesboro said their goal is to finish construction on the center by next August in time for Ramadan.

The ceremony was a success, as both Muslim and non-Muslim community members attended the celebration, said Saleh Sbenaty, a member of the outreach committee at the Islamic Center, a professor of engineering technology and faculty adviser for the university's Muslim Student Association.

"The ground breaking [ceremony] was really heart-warming," Sbenaty said. "We celebrated it with many members from the community at large... Even kids with small shovels were [there]... it was really beautiful."

On campus, the MSA announced the ceremony on the organization's Facebook page, and encouraged members to go if they didn't have class.

"Murfreesboro [will] benefit in many ways from an expanded Islamic Center," said Lema Sbenaty, 20, president of the MSA, an MTSU junior with a double major in biochemistry and international relations, and Sbenaty's daughter. "Everyone is always welcome to the ICM, and maybe once it is built, skeptics will finally see that there is nothing to worry about."

Nashville-based S&A Constructors LLC, was contracted to build the new Islamic Center, and, according to Sbenaty, construction should be finished by next summer.

"By the next Ramadan, which will happen in August of [2012], the community will celebrate the opening of the Center," Sbenaty said.

The construction site endured much controversy leading to vandalism, including spray painting "Not Welcome" on the first sign in February 2010, breaking the sign in half in July 2010 and then the arson of construction equipment in August of 2010.

In light of the controversy regarding the Center's construction, confusion has amassed over whether the center is a Mosque, but it's not, Sbenaty said. The Islamic Center's purpose is not for worship, but is for social gatherings.

"[The Community Center] is like the YMCA," Sbenaty said. "Our children [go] to participate in activities with their friends at churches – [this will] help for our children to invite their friends to our center and participate in the same way."

She said the events held at Islamic Center should help heal the community and showcase Mufreesboro's diversity.

"Community events will be held [at the center]," Sbenaty said, "including ones that will be educational in nature, so that people can learn more about Islam."

She said funding for the new Islamic Center has come solely from donations, especially through the charitable Muslim practice of Zakat, in which an obligatory 2.5 percent of yearly savings are donated toward Muslim or non-Muslim aid.

"There are [also] many supporters from other faiths who donated money," Sbenaty said. "It's 100 percent donations."

In addition to financial donations, Sbenaty said businesses across the country offered the center help with electrical services, carpeting, steel, windows and other such needs to complete construction.

"Companies [have] offered their help...with providing materials or providing services either at no cost or at discounted prices," Sbenaty said. "We were really so pleased the non-Muslim community has donated to our cause."

As a student organization, the MSA hasn't volunteered or donated to the new Islamic Center. According to Sbenaty, the organization centers itself on campus-related outreach and educational events, but it doesn't discourage individual members from helping out with the new Islamic Center if they want.

"Since we are a student organization, we are funded by the state," Sbenaty said. "Our funds are allocated to events, which are better suited to what a campus organization should be involved in."

Still, despite the celebration, the legal battle regarding the center's construction, with plaintiffs represented by Attorney Joe Brandon Jr., continues in the Rutherford County Chancery Court. A new hearing date is set for Nov. 2 at 8 a.m. in Room 306, according to Deputy Clerk and Master Tanya Webster.

According to Brandon's website, the lawsuit isn't about an opposition to Islam. It's about zoning.

"The plaintiffs are not opposed to Muslims or the construction of mosques," Brandon said. "However, they are opposed to Rutherford County government official's failure to properly notify the public of a required zoning

continued...on page 13

Fraternity, sorority team up for charity events

By April Bailey
Staff Writer

Members from the Kappa Xi Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and the Iota Tau Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta sorority teamed together last week for a week-long community service program.

This fraternity and sorority duo has been partnering together since the 1920s, and the purposes of the events were to provide services for the body, mind, health, the unfortunate and the future, according to a press release.

The goal of each event was to inform the community about different causes, said Kenneth Worles, a senior majoring in advertising and a member of Alpha.

"The whole week is about making awareness in our school, community and society because if we won't, who will?" Worles said.

The week began with a service for the body, in which members dressed in pink and hosted a breast cancer awareness table in the lobby of the Keathley University Center.

Information about breast cancer was given along with information about self-examinations and mammograms. A prop made to feel like a breast was set up to teach participants how to locate a potential lump.

More than 100 people stopped by the table, which means the overall message is spreading, said Jasmine Riddle, a senior majoring in health education and member of Delta.

"It's a good way to reach out to students, plus community service and giving back is always great," Riddle said.

The next event included a dunking booth on the KUC knoll, where participants could pay a dollar per ball or $5 for an automatic dunk. Members encouraged participants to dunk depression and in just three hours, more than $135 was raised for the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

Members and participants also conducted a walk for Toms shoes.

The purpose of the walk was to show support for the Toms shoes movement—for every pair of Toms purchased, a pair is shipped to a shoeless child in another country, Worles said.

"Two, four, six, eight, we're not wearing shoes today," chanted participants as they walked from the KUC to the James Union Building and back, either barefoot or in socks. The dunking booth and walk for Toms was co-sponsored by G2 Entertainment.

Tevin Hughes, a junior majoring in Health Education and a member of G2, said he had no problem walking barefoot to show his support for the cause.

"It helps you realize what you need to be grateful for," Hughes said.

The week was closed out with a forum and an aerobics class on the KUC knoll. The forum included a speech from Lowell Perry, CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee, who spoke about building the future.

This week is a way of showing that Greek life isn't just about throwing parties and community service isn't just about raising money, said Kara Jones, a senior majoring in political science and president of the Delta chapter.

"At the end of the day it's not about how many people come out or participate, it's about the effect it has on people who watch us do it," Jones said. ■

The Toms shoes movement donates a pair of Toms shoes to a shoeless child in another country for every pair purchased from the company. (Photo courtesy of www.Toms.com)

Members and visitors frequently socialize at the outdoor dining and dart deck or intside the clubhouse in the winter. (Photos courtesy of Rock Haven Lodge)

More on nudists...

The most intimate family you'll ever find

By Courtney Polivka
Design Manager

He sinks into the couch, sitting on a snakeskin print towel, smiling from under his salt and pepper goatee, his blue-grey eyes twinkling. The man looks comfortable and relaxed, casual.

Normal. Except for the fact that he's stark naked.

His legs are crossed, hiding his privates from view, but it's hard to ignore all that tanned skin, unencumbered by hems and stitches, decorated only by a simple gold watch and gold wedding ring on his left hand. Next to him sits his wife on a matching snakeskin towel, equally unadorned and equally at ease. Her hair is a healthy brown, cropped short, her eyes a shade of somber evening blue, and her skin like coffee and milk. She also wears a gold ring on her left hand.

Don, 68, and Elaine Rawlings, 71, have been full time residents at Rock Haven Lodge Family Nudist Park in Murfreesboro, Tenn. since moving here in 1997. They've been members for even longer—since 1990. Both are former military, retired after 20 years of service, both finishing as lieutenant colonels. In 1985, Elaine, 45, retired as a nurse, and in 1989, Don, 42, retired as a pharmacist. After both were retired, they didn't waste time in joining the community, becoming members just a year later.

"It's nice here," says Elaine. "About 26 of us live here year round."

"At first we wanted to try different communities before settling on one," says Don. "We were a part of the American Sunbathing Association back then, as it was called, and we had looked for different communities to settle down in."

"But we waited until we retired," Elaine chips in, "because we didn't want to be associated with it and then not get promoted or something, you see?"

"Anyway, so we looked into two or three, and Rock Haven was the furthest south. We said, 'Further south, longer season.' Right? So we visited Rock Haven first. Well, we never left, and we bought a house here on our second visit."

The Rawlings aren't the only ones who have found contentment here among the tall trees and open air. Tucked away under aging cedars, maples and oaks are little houses, rental units, RVs and camping grounds. Decks have been built on and around long-standing houses and RVs, and the permanent residents have planted flower gardens. The atmosphere is peaceful and inviting. A wooden "Campsite" award hangs by a resident's front door. A kiddie-sized rideable train encircles the residential area on its own track, small box crates serving as seats in the middle car. Rock Haven's members laid the entire track.

"People here are more like family than family. Everyone takes care of everyone else," says Elaine. "We maintain the flowerbeds—I do the ones out front by the gate—and we collect cans, pick up branches and trash. We all pitch in."

The members here are from all different walks of life.

"But it seems like most of the people here used to be in the medical field or worked with bodies at some point," said Anne, 38, a member who was cooling off in the pool.

"Everyone has a different story," said Carol, 30, also in the pool. "It's interesting to see how people get into this."

Don and Elaine's introduction to nudism was innocent enough.

"When I met Don, he was into cave exploring—spelunking—and got me into it. I was not into nudism at all then.

The couple attended an annual caving convention in West Virginia, where it was routine to have a big bonfire.

"So we walk down this trail, and we go across this little creek, and we walk up into this clearing, and here's a big bonfire with big logs around it, and the logs were lined with people that were nude sitting on their towels around there.

"And I felt so uncomfortable walking up there because automatically, when someone walks up, they look at you. I grabbed the bottom of my T-shirt, and I said, 'We are staying aren't we?' And I mean, I couldn't wait to get it off because I felt like I was the voyeur standing there with my clothes on with these people. And from then on—no problem!"

For Rock Haven owners Susan "Susie" Palmer, 65, and her late husband Dennis Palmer, exposure to nudism came in a different way.

"Believe it or not, my credit card company offered us a buy one get one free flight to Jamaica, and my husband was talking to somebody that he worked with about it, and he suggested 'Well, you should go to Hedonism II in Jamaica. It's a lot of fun. You'd really enjoy it.'"

Hedonism II is an all-inclusive adult resort in Negril, Jamaica.

"There's a prude beach and there's a nude beach," Susie remembered her husband telling her.

"I looked at him and said, 'Are you nuts? I don't want to go to a nude beach." Susie laughs.

But, of course, the nude beach made them curious.

"I had on a little bikini—I was thinner then and much younger—and we decided we were going to go swimming, and thought 'Well, what the heck? Just take it off! We're never going to see any of these people again anyway.' Wrong! Because, as it turned out, we did. But anyway, that was our first time."

It was that first experience that actually led them to Rock Haven.

INFO

Rock Haven is open to members year round and non-members during the "on-season," which is April 15 through October 1.

Day passes for non-members are $30 for a single or a couple but only $5 for students with a valid ID.

Visit www.RockHavenLodge.com for more information.

The same guy who told the couple about the Jamaica beach recommended they visit Rock Haven. That was in the early 1990s. Little did they know that they would buy the place almost a decade later.

"Dennis had always just teased the prior owners that if they ever got ready to sell to let him know. And so we came and negotiated, had an appraisal, the whole nine yards, everything you do when you buy a business."

The Palmers officially took over Rock Haven Lodge, Inc. on Aug. 1, 2005. The park has been around since 1969—42 years. The facilities include 25 well-cared-for acres, a walking trail, lush green lawns, a clubhouse with a library, fireplace and dining area, a new bathhouse with indoor and outdoor showers, covered dart deck, shuffleboard, billiards, horseshoe pits, ping pong, volleyball, swimming, a miniature raceway, outdoor dining and picnic tables, and its very own "Country Store," where you can purchase goods on the honor system.

And then there's the fully-functional vintage firetruck, ready to be used should there ever be a need.

Members tend to congregate in three places: the pool and hot tub area, the volleyball courts and the outdoor dining deck. The large oval-shaped wooden pool deck features sunbathers lying on green and white slatted lounge chairs, clustered toward the center of the space to catch the sun. The edges of the deck are embraced by shade trees. Looking up from the middle of the pool, the trees seem to bow inward, creating a sunlit halo of leaves around a perfect piece of blue sky.

The volleyball courts are a constant sea of visual motion as the players—wearing nothing but hats, sunglasses or ponytail holders—jump and lunge at the white spinning ball, yelling "I got it!" Their shoulders are freckled and tanned dark from the sun, their feet covered in pale dusty sand.

"Now, you thought the hardest thing you were going to do today was take your clothes off. But the hardest thing you're going to do today is put your clothes back on."
—Susie Palmer, owner

The outdoor dining deck is filled with the laughter and the chatter of friends. People challenge each other to a game of darts or grab lunch at the outdoor bar. That they're all wearing nothing but their birthday suits becomes a moot point more quickly than most people think. To the west of the outdoor dining deck sits the dwarf-size train, and just beyond that is golf cart parking.

Almost everyone who lives at Rock Haven drives a golf cart to get around on the 25-acre property.

With more than 150 members, Susie works hard to maintain the integrity of the small community feel, while still turning a profit.

"You're always trying to grow a business, but I'm fairly picky in who I offer membership to. I don't do background checks. I don't feel the need to do that yet. I just focus on maintaining a good balance of members and visitors and keeping everything looking good, and, of course, making money." Yet, Rock Haven doesn't advertise. At all.

"A lot of people find us through the American Association for Nude Recreation website. Or they'll Google nudist parks in Tennessee, and we'll come up first."

Besides the obvious "NO CLOTHES ALLOWED" rule, Susie tells visitors and members to abide by the following basic guidelines:

- No cell phones in the common areas.
- No cameras in the common areas.
- Be polite and courteous.
- And always sit on a towel.

Some visitors, the young men especially, worry about "the unmentionable problem."

"They'll worry that they're going to get an erection," says Susie with a chuckle. "I say, '99% of the time that's not going to happen because you'll be too nervous. And if it does...you see that big red pencil down there?'" Susie points to a pencil about the size of a forearm that would definitely hurt if a guy got whacked with it.

She laughs again. "I just look at them and smile and say, 'Don't make me use it!' They'll give me a funny look, and I say, 'Now! If you think you're going to get an erection, just think about the big red pencil and you won't have a problem—and neither will I.'"

Susie says she thinks that some of the younger ones do think it's sexual, when actually nudism is not about sex at all.

"The ones that think it's sexual are the ones that come in, pay their fee, go to the pool, and leave within a half an hour because they did not find what they thought they were going to find here."

Susie asks first-timers to see her before they leave the compound.

"And I say, 'Now, you thought the hardest thing you were going to do today was take your clothes off. But the hardest thing you're going to do today is put your clothes back on.'" ■

COVER STORY

Tennessee farmers change market, techniques

By Emily Kubis and Taylor Hixon
Staff Writers

Efficient farming practices are needed as food demands grow alongside population, but data show smaller scale markets are the future for Tennessee's 21st century farmers.

Mirroring the industry shifts that have occurred nationwide over the past 100 years, agriculture in Tennessee continues to change.

Full-time farmers make up between only 1 to 2 percent of the United States' working population, said Director of the Agribusiness and Agriscience Department William Gill. As consumers have moved away from family farms and into cities, the need for agriculture and food production to become ultra-efficient has increased too.

"At the turn of the 20th century, everybody was a farmer, and a few people lived in town," Gill said. "That's completely flipped, and it will stay flipped. But every one of those people that live in the town eats. And as long as they eat and wear clothes, there is a need to take what these super-efficient farmers produce and give it to those of us who eat."

Large, efficiency oriented farms are rare in Tennessee. In fact, the land devoted to farm production has drastically decreased between 1950 and 2010. More than 19 million acres were given to farm production in 1950, whereas fewer than 11 million acres were used for farming in 2010, according to USDA statistics.

Out of about 79,000 farms, the average farm in Tennessee was about 58 acres in 2007, according to United States Department of Agriculture statistics.

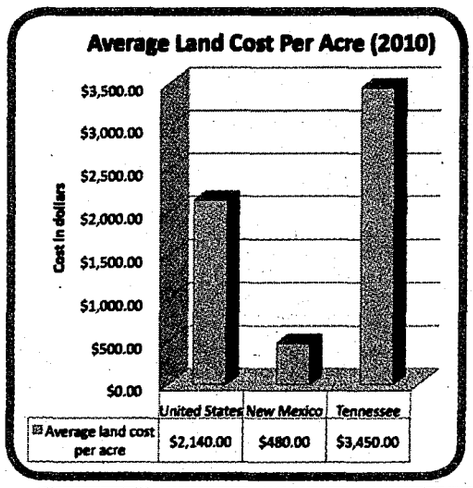
Most farmers in this area do not have the acreage to produce the crop harvests equivalent to the efficiency farms popular in the West, an issue Gill blames on the rising land prices due to urbanization.

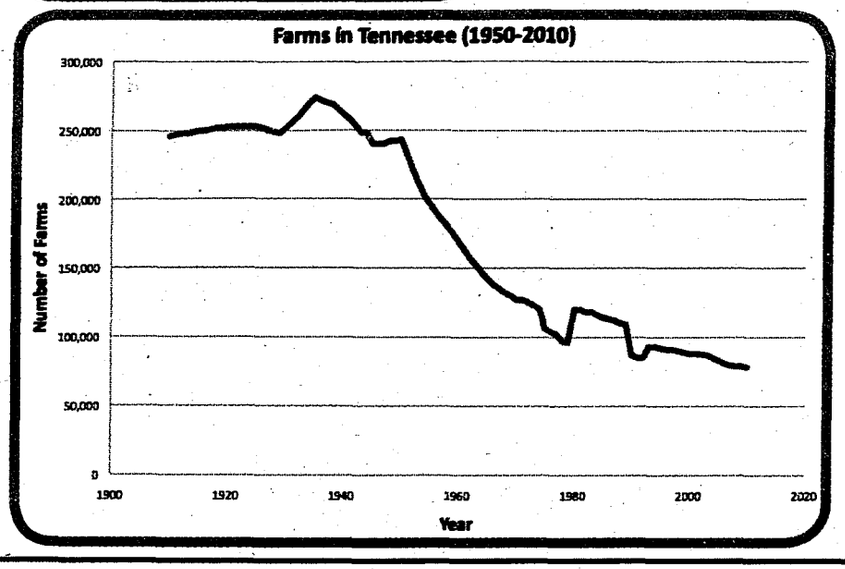
An acre of land in Tennessee cost, on average, $3,450 in 2010. Land prices in Tennessee have sharply increased in the past 20 years. Adjusted for inflation, an acre of land in 1990 cost $1,757.02, about half of what it is today, according USDA statistics.

In comparison, an acre of land in New Mexico cost $480.00 in 2010, and on average an acre of land in the United States costs $2,140, according to USDA statistics.

As urbanization has driven up land prices, it has also driven out once-popular farming practices in the Middle Tennessee area.

"Tennessee has urbanized so much," Gill said. "Davidson County and Rutherford County used to both be very big dairy counties, and there are very few dairies anymore in most of Middle Tennessee."





There used to be thousands of dairies in Tennessee, Gill said. But in 2008 there were only 550 licensed dairies, and the number is falling every year, according to the Southeast United Dairy Industry Association.

The loss of subsidies from the government may have contributed to the decrease in the number of dairies in Tennessee. In 2010, Tennessee farmers received only $614,363 from governmental dairy subsidy programs, which is a sharp decline from the $11,483,765 received in 2009, according to Environmental Working Group statistics.

The loss of subsidies in other areas—particularly tobacco—has also hurt small farmers.

Tobacco used to be the No. 1 crop produced in the state, but after the United States government eliminated tobacco subsidies in 2005, farmers were faced with finding a new crop or market, said Tony Johnston, agribusiness and agriscience professor.

"Quite a few people just gave up farming," Johnston said. "Those who remained have learned some really tough lessons that they can't do what they used to do. They have to learn something new."

Only 837,821 of the 2,204,792 farms in the United States collected any subsidy payments in 2007, according to EWG statistics.

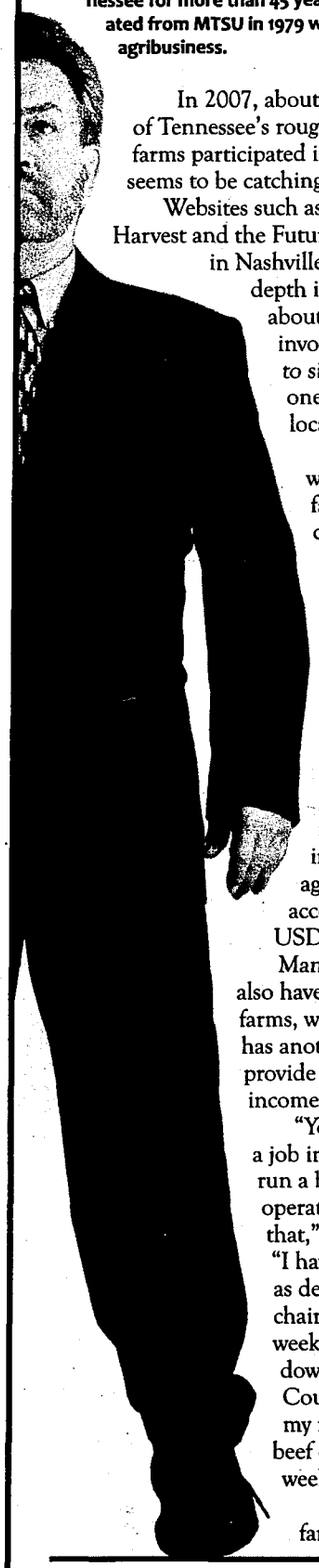
Many Tennessee farmers have found unique ways to profit in the agricultural market and adapted to emerging market needs through niche markets—a modern agricultural buzzword referring to markets that exist outside of the industrial and efficiency farming systems.

"For most of the commodity products—corn, wheat, soy, beef cattle—if I have too small of a plot of land I can't compete," Johnston said. "Now, what I can do, I can compete in a niche market where maybe I produce strawberries, and I have a pick-your-own operation."

A popular niche market is community-supported agriculture (CSA), an idea that began in Switzerland and Japan. Starting a CSA is a risky but rewarding endeavor. People invest in a farm financially and receive a piece of the production, meaning a box of fresh fruit and vegetables during the harvest seasons, according to the USDA.

"That's a great market for a farmer who doesn't have thousands of acres," Johnston said. "Small farmers have converted to CSAs or niche markets for a product."

Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer



Anthony Rowell, 55, has been farming in Tennessee for more than 45 years. He graduated from MTSU in 1979 with a degree in agribusiness.

In 2007, about 249 out of Tennessee's roughly 79,000 farms participated in CSA, and it seems to be catching on.

Websites such as Local Harvest and the Future of Food in Nashville provide in-depth information about what a CSA involves and how to sign up for one through a local farm.

Another way Tennessee farmers compete in the agricultural industry is through agritourism. In 2007, 547 farms in Tennessee reported making an income from agritourism, according to USDA statistics.

Many farmers also have hobby farms, where a farmer has another job to provide a steady income.

"You can have a job in town and run a beef cattle operation. I do that," said Gill. "I have this job as department chair, but on the weekends I go down to Lincoln County, and my family farms beef cattle on the weekends."

Hobby farms are an increasingly growing trend among small-scale farm operators. Only 38 percent of farmers list farming as their primary occupation, and in 2007 more than 32,000 principal farm operators were off their farm for 200 days or more, according to USDA statistics.

"That statistic is right on," Gill said. "America's changed. We have different expectations. We want television, more than one car, to be able to travel. Farmers are exactly the same, and income off a smaller farm just won't do that."

He said as a market, the organic movement has succeeded because it has a niche of loyal consumers.

In 2008, Tennessee had 26 certified organic farms, 2,543 acres of organic crops, and 112 acres of pastures and rangeland, according to USDA data. But those numbers do not include farms that perhaps use organic practices without an official certification, said Nathan Phillips, agribusiness and agriscience assistant professor.

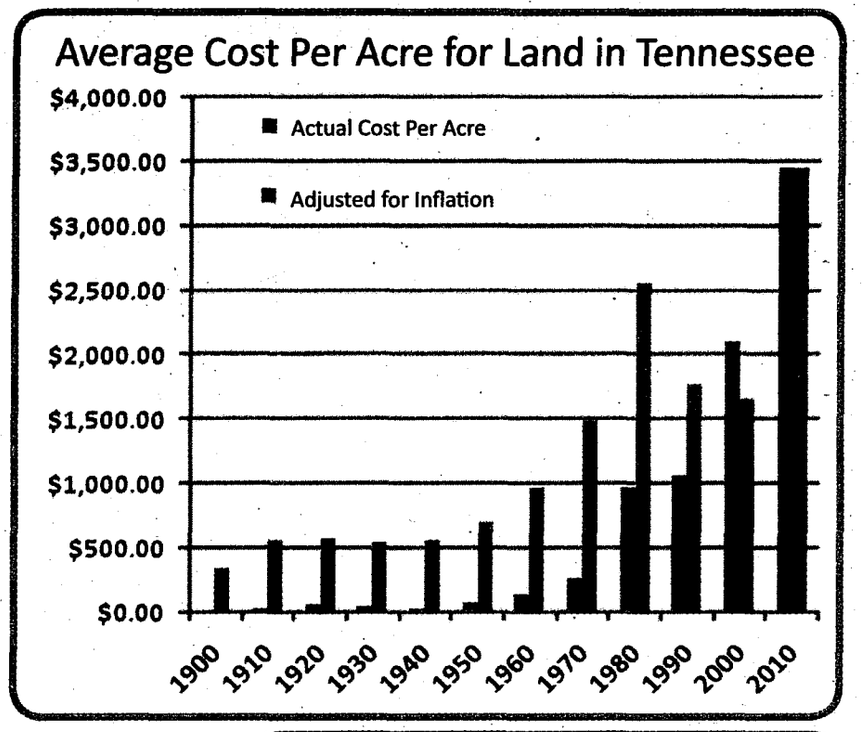
Because not all farms are certified as organic, farmers markets, like the ones in Murfreesboro or Nashville, allow consumers to ask producers face-to-face about growing practices.

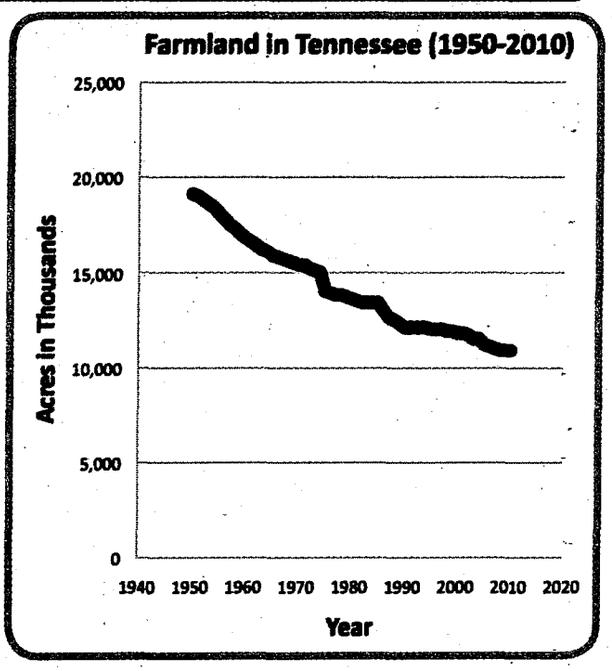
A growing agricultural sector, organic farming offers one of the best chances for farm employment nationwide, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In an employment context, labor-intensive organic farming is a good thing.

From productivity and efficiency standpoints, though, labor intensive is not what farmers want to hear because it takes up time and money that could be used to increase crop yields.

"The implied message there is that organic is a lot more labor intensive than, say, traditional production merely from the standpoint that I'm going to use my same equipment, but the problem is when I go to harvest," Johnston said. "I can't pick everything and send it to the marketplace. Now I have to sort through the product that is for sale. It's a lot more labor intensive."

Niche and organic farming practices do not produce high-yield, efficient harvests, which is important to modern farmers. Consolidation of small farms into large-scale productions means more efficiency, Johnston said.





In the agriculture community, efficiency farming is the preferred term for what many people know as industrial or factory farming. There are differing opinions about the effects that these large-scale farms have on smaller farms and overall quality of production.

With higher production and efficiency, the need for employees lessens. However, low employment rates due to consolidation do not worry Johnston, he said.

"The way I define agriculture is everything involved in getting food to the people, to us, and actual employment in the food production system has remained constant over the last 100 years," Johnston said.

Such jobs are in the broader agricultural sector such as agribusiness and marketing, and not in the actual farm sector, Gill said, adding that employment in the post-harvest food production industry is crucial to informing the way the university teaches

continued...on page 11

Adams' voice breaks through *Ashes and Fire*

By Garreth Spinn
Staff Writer

Any great voice will break through. If there's any doubt, go through the list of great vocal performers like Paul McCartney, Marvin Gaye, Billy Joel or Thom Yorke – all great artists whose voices were bound to break through into a different stratosphere.

Ryan Adams is an incredible vocal force, which is probably the third or fourth great thing about him. On his new record *Ashes & Fire*, he pulls out the big guns to create the best album of the year and his best record since the 2001 release, *Gold*.

In 2009, he publicly announced he would be quitting music and breaking up his rock band, the Cardinals. His mini-retirement was due to a serious inner-ear condition called Ménière's disease.

The symptoms include vertigo, vomiting and balance issues. Loud music worsened these and made concerts far more difficult than usual. A break was understandable. Still, this was a terrifying thing to hear from an artist who put out 10 albums in eight years.

Though not every album was perfect, knowing that each year you'd get a new Ryan Adams record was comforting. Regardless, he still managed to put out two albums of unreleased material between then and now.

Now, Adams is fully healthy and is returning with a gorgeous, concisely composed album.

He called producing legend Glyn Johns, who has worked with Bob Dylan, The Rolling Stones and The Beatles – a modest list of clients to say the least. Johns brought back the rawness of Adams's solo debut, "Heartbreaker," and cherry-picked key moments to sweeten the beauty of Adams' airtight songwriting.

The lead single, "Lucky Now," is a simple folk tune that slowly evolves and gracefully explodes from the speakers with a heavy reverberated electric guitar.

A song with a similar effect, "Do I Wait," is a dark, brooding, slow rocker that builds over four minutes. Adams's aching wail delivers his loving woes perfectly.

"Do I wait here forever for you?" He croons, "Did you ask me to?"

His voice, breaking through better than it has in years, slows your heartbeat.

Not only did Adams get a legend to man the knobs, he had some famous friends fill in the sonic gaps.

Benmont Tench, keyboard player for Tom Petty's Heartbreakers, brings key tracks, "Kindness" and "I Love You but I Don't Know What to Say," to life.

His wife of two years, Mandy Moore, appears, as does past collaborator Norah Jones.

At the record's worst, it has moments of sleepiness that are tough to wake up from. "Rocks," in particular, drags like, well, a bag of rocks.

At its best, songs like "I Love You but I Don't Know What to Say" float around in the air. Its dream-like vibe is something straight out of a James Taylor record.

Ashes & Fire holds strong. Its low-key approach makes it perfect for any fall day. Even though I miss Adams and the Cardinals, Johns and Adams make an undeniably perfect team.

Any great voice will break through, I have no doubt that his will too with Ashes & Fire. ■

Deas Vail's sophomore release avoids slump

By Amber Leone
Contributing Writer

I'll be honest; I've always been sort of indifferent toward indie-rock band, Deas Vail. This is not because I didn't like their music or because I didn't think they had a good sound; I was simply uninterested. When I began hearing about their new self-titled album however, I got pretty excited.

Although the first single, "Sixteen" didn't really do anything for me, I realized later that I liked it much better in the flow and framework of the album. The charming, homemade music video for the second single, "Summer Forgets Me" was light and caught me off guard, compared to the last album that seemed to have more apparent notes of dark undertones. In fact, both singles seemed to have this new positive energy that sparked an interest in me, and soon I was eagerly anticipating the release.

The first track, "Desire," immediately captured my interest. The marriage (pun intended) of Wes and Laura Blaylock's beautifully blended voices coupled with a simple intro that builds into a solid indie-rock chorus was the perfect way to instantly leave me wanting more. Some artists forget how important the first track is to the listener, but Deas Vail nailed it.

"Bad Dreams" is another one of my favorite tracks on the album. This song just "grooves"– I can't think of any other way to describe it. It's light and catchy without being overly poppy and the instrumental outro is unique, yet simple.

Deas Vail brought in Relient K guitarist and first-time producer, Matthew Hoopes to help produce their self-titled sophomore release.

After listening to the album once, I got a totally different vibe than what I felt initially from their last record. For one, the overall tone seemed a bit more positive, although still authentic to their signature sound. The second and most notable difference was the realness of how the instruments sounded, especially the guitars, which is most noticeable in the track "Quiet Like Sirens."

The band took a more organic, live performance approach to recording this album, and I think it was a genius move. Wes's perfect, angelic voice has a tendency to make their work sound extremely produced. However, the blend of that pureness with the gritty, rock-driven guitars on this album gives their sound an interesting contrast that is unique and aurally pleasing.

Overall, the entire album is cohesive and each song seems to flow well. However, I don't feel like many of the tracks stand out. I recommend experiencing the record as a whole, rather than just listening to individual tracks out of context. While this may be viewed as a weakness, I think it actually says much about the band's musicianship

Amid the heavily dominated singles market we live in, this record takes me back to the time when albums were meant to be played all the way through, during the era of the record player. Deas Vail further illustrated this idea by releasing a limited number of vinyl copies of the record. This album is meant to be actively listened to, not thrown on as background noise.

Although the album is consistent in style, the tone within each track varies. When you rearrange some of the tracks out of their original placement on the album- for example, take light, poppy single, "Summer Forgets Me" and put it next to the emotionally-tense ambience of "The Meaning Of A Word," - they sound like two completely different bands. The arrangement works because of the specific placement of each song on the album and positively highlights the band's musical diversity.

Deas Vail is often compared to bands like Mae, Death Cab for Cutie and Copeland, and to an extent I would agree. However, with this sophomore record, Deas Vail finally breaks into a sound that is mature, defined, and their own, while still staying true to those influences that made them who they are. ■

Thai restaurant offers more than flavor

On a rainy Tuesday evening, I went to my favorite restaurant in Murfreesboro for a delicious meal: Thai Pattaya. It's my favorite because of the healthy, affordable food and family atmosphere generated by its owner and staff.

By Kelsey Griffith
Staff Writer

I ordered an appetizer of two vegetable egg rolls for $1.99. They were crunchy and crispy, packed with cabbage, bean thread noodles, yam, celery, onions and carrots, and served with their house sweet-and-sour sauce. They were so tasty; I ate them in a matter of seconds.

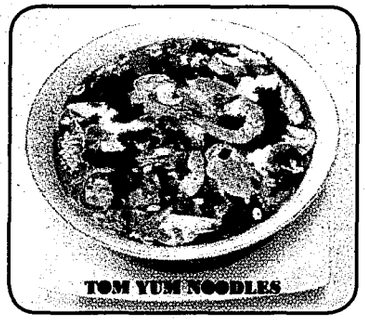
The gloomy day convinced me to order a cup of Tom Yum soup with vegetables. The soup ($2.95) was an aromatic, orange hot-and-sour soup loaded with fresh-chopped, crunchy vegetables like zucchini, mushrooms, carrots, ginger and cilantro. The soup tasted tangy and sharp, and the ginger and cilantro dominated the flavor. Never have I had a soup so zesty and exotic.

For my entree, I ordered vegan ginger stir fry (Pad Khing) with tofu for $7.95. It had sautéed ginger, mushrooms, green beans, corn, green peas, carrots, green bell peppers, onions and tofu in a roasted chili paste served with jasmine rice, cabbage shavings and a twisted orange slice.

At Thai Pattaya, you can choose how spicy your meal is using a five star system, with five being the spiciest. I dared to order mine four stars. It was the spiciest thing I have ever ordered at a restaurant. The spice didn't dull the flavor, though¬– the stout garlic and ginger flavors pulled through. My eyes watered and my lips turned bright red as I boxed up more than half of the gigantic portion of the Thai dish for leftovers. I give Ginger Stir Fry with tofu four stars.

My all-time favorite meal at Thai Pattaya is Pad Woonsen (definitely a five-star dish), made with bean thread noodles, garlic, egg, bell peppers, bean sprouts, water chestnuts and long beans. A must-try are their spring rolls, which are served chilled and made with mint leaves, cilantro, lettuce and rice noodles served with a homemade peanut dipping sauce. I have also tried Pad Thai, Drunken Noodles, Drunken Fried Rice and Eggplant, all of which are healthy and unique. The cook will make any dish vegetarian or vegan upon request.

Thai Pattaya also serves Thai tea and coffee. I recommend the Thai Ice Coffee ($2.50). It is a thick, milky beverage with a robust explosion of Thai coffee that will be sure to wake you up. They have a special brewing process that makes their coffee distinguishable from other coffees you're probably used to. I'm proud to say that I'm a regular guest at Thai Pattaya, and I can't wait to go back. ■


TOM YUM NOODLES

INFO

Located at:
833 Memorial Blvd, Suite B
Murfreesboro, Tenn. 37129
(beside Burger King)

Cheap lunch specials
10% MTSU discount

Sun - Thu: 10:30 am - 9:00 pm
Fri - Sat: 10:30 pm - 10:00 pm

CONTINUED...

Agricultural practices defy traditional heritage...from page 9

agriculture students.

"We teach our students to milk cows," Gill said. "I'll be surprised if a single one of our 535 students make a living milking a cow. What we're training them for is to become part of this much bigger industry—the food processing, food marketing, everywhere from the retail agricultural sector."

Despite employment and quality issues, there is an enormous market for efficiency farming.

"Their role needs to be there because our population is huge and is going to continue to rise," Gill said. "We don't need to become less efficient. The United States feeds the world because of a lot of these larger, very efficient farms."

Gill disagrees with what he calls the "agendized movement" against industrial farming. "Bigger operations succeed because they've got efficiency, smaller operations succeed because they find these niches," Gill said. "It's such a great big tent and so many parts under that tent are doing so well. There's a lot of ways to make it in agriculture."

The two sectors of agriculture—efficiency and niche—ultimately need each other, Phillips said.

"You've got benefits either way, and it really comes down to what the consumer wants to do," Phillips said. "Do you want to pay a little higher price, or do they really need that lower price? In a sense I think they both need each other, because you need somebody that's got the higher-price, value-added product to be able to show how low your price is, and vise versa, you've got to have this niche quality product to show that you differ from the cheap product. I think they work off each other."

The agriculture sector is incredibly complex, and today's farmers have to be savvy in a variety of fields.

"Now the industry is multi-faceted, and the average farmer has to know the ins-and-outs of their market as well as coexisting markets," Johnston said. "Now farmers have to make economic decisions that I don't think previous farmers would have even been faced with."

New complexities in the farming industry create challenges for new and old farmers alike. In the 21st century, farming presents a web of opportunities.

The agricultural spectrum includes technology, mechanization, crop markets, economics and financing. The small percent that still call themselves farmers must have a foothold in every corner to succeed in the increasingly competitive market of feeding America and the world. ■

Live, learn, and work
with a community overseas.

Are you wondering what do after graduation?
This is the best time to gain international experience.

Peace Corps has assignments in
76 Countries for MTSU graduates.
**** Full travel and living benefits included ****

Contact your MTSU recruiter for more info.
Toby Rowell: trowell@peacecorps.gov
or 404 562.3468

Apply NOW! For fall 2012 Departures
www.peacecorps.gov/apply/now
www.peacecorps.gov

Thursday, Oct. 20

"Cowboys and Aliens"
KUC Theater
7 p.m.
Admission: $2

"Cowboys and Aliens" is a film adaptation of graphic novel by Scott Mitchell Rosenberg., set in Arizona in 1873. The plot consists of gold-digging aliens trying to take over the Earth, and cowboys that are standing against them. The film takes the viewer for an unexpected loop as a classic western becomes mixed with something resembling a Steven Spielberg film. If you have a love for science fiction, or a love for watching a handsome cowboy save humanity, this is your kind of movie. *(By Bailee Jakes)*

Friday, Oct. 21

"The Rocky Horror Picture Show" (first showing)
KUC Theater
11 p.m.
Admission: $5

"I would like, if I may, to take you on a strange journey..." If you missed the live performance at the Boiler Room Theater, check out the 1975 kinky science-fiction film version from the comfort of our campus theater. The "midnight movie" is about a young couple that stumbles into a castle inhabited by unusual characters from the planet Transylvania. To explain it any further would be confusing, because it's one of those movies you have to see to understand. "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" is unlike any other. What other film includes a transvestite Frankenstein in rhinestone heels? *(By Bailee Jakes)*

Shaq's All Star Comedy Jam
Ryman Auditorium
116 5th Ave North, Nashville
8 p.m.
Admission: $50

This is the first new venture following Shaq's retirement from the NBA. The tour brings lineup featuring many of the hilarious All-Star comedians such as Deray Davis, Corey Holcomb, Michael Blackson, Capone and Gary Owen. *(By Bailee Jakes)*

Wicked
TPAC
505 Deaderick St., Nashville
8 p.m.
Admission: $60 (minimum)

Back by popular demand, Wicked has been called the "best musical of the decade." The mind-blowing musical based on the Gregory Maguire novel is Broadway's biggest blockbuster, winning 35 awards so far. The musical tells the story of two girls meeting in the magical Land of Oz—long before Dorothy lost her slippers. One girl, Elphaba, is born with emerald green skin and is misunderstood. The other, Glinda, is a beautiful, bubbly girl. The two form an unlikely friendship, but struggle with opposing personalities and rivalry. As these two grow up they become known as the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda the Good Witch. *(By Bailee Jakes)*

Saturday, Oct. 22

The Headhunters
8 p.m, Exit/In
2208 Elliston Place, Nashville
Admission: $15

Jazz history wouldn't have been the same without the legendary Herbie Hancock, and this Saturday, you have the opportunity to see the band that backed Hancock on his remarkable album *Head Hunters*. The Headhunters are playing at the Exit/In, showcasing the style of jazz-funk fusion for which they've become known. Their deep, rich lyrics and unique percussion are some of the most sampled music in history, and it's the rare music fan that can listen to the Headhunters and not find themselves dancing. *(By Dietrich Stogner)*

"Night of the Living Dead"
KUC Theater
2 p.m.
Admission: $2

Find us on Facebook

Today, it's impossible to flip through the television channels, make it through a bookstore or visit a GameStop without seeing zombies everywhere. Zombies have infested every aspect of our entertainment, and many people would be perfectly happy never to see another shambling undead again.

If you somehow haven't gotten your fill of decomposing pedestrians, you can see the film that launched our cultural obsession with zombies: George Romero's timeless classic "The Night of the Living Dead." It's a rare treat to see this on the big screen, and while the KUC theater isn't quite as vintage as watching this at a drive-in from the back seat of your car, it's not a bad opportunity. *(By Dietrich Stogner)*

Geek Media Expo
Maxwell House Hotel, Oct. 21-23
2025 Rosa L Parks Blvd., Nashville
Admission: $30

GlaDOS, steampunk, and Azeroth. If you know what any of these three things are, congratulations: you're a massive geek. Don't worry, though. This weekend, you and those like you can congregate at the Maxwell House Hotel in Nashville for the third annual Geek Media Expo.

Featuring voice actors from video games, comic book artists, science fiction writers and more, the Geek Media Expo is the biggest convention of its type in Tennessee. If you want to see the man who provides the voice for the sniper in "Team Fortress 2" in the same room as '80s pop sensation Tiffany, grab your costume and anything you want signed and head downtown. *(By Dietrich Stogner)*

Sunday, Oct. 23

Hell And Back Again
Belcourt Theater, Nashville
2102 Belcourt Ave.
7:30 p.m.
Admission: $7.25

follow us on twitter

In 2009, U.S. Marines assaulting a Taliban position in Afghanistan were surrounded by insurgents and endured a brutal battle. Embedded in this unit was photojournalist and filmmaker Darfung Dennis who went on to produce a documentary about this savage fight and the lasting effects it had on Sgt. Nathan Harris, who was wounded during the firefight. This moving and critically acclaimed film provides an unfiltered view of the trials and sacrifices soldiers endured overseas and is one of the more moving experiences of the year. *(By Dietrich Stogner)*

Swing Dancing at the Farmers' Market
Farmers' Market, Nashville
900 Rosa Parks Blvd.
1-4 p.m.
Free Admission

If you've ever wanted an opportunity to buy honey from Mennonite farmers, browse a selection of handmade flowerpots and dance to music made popular in the 1920s all in one location, you're in luck, because you can do all those things this Sunday at the Nashville Farmers' market.

Live music will be provided for all three hours, so you can dance the whole time, burning calories in preparation for devouring the side of beef and cases of jelly you're sure to buy at this outdoor market. Maybe it's an unusual combination, but it's also free, which should draw plenty of fiscally responsible dancers looking to break out in a Lindy Hop. *(By Dietrich Stogner)*

"Dracula"
The Center for the Arts, Murfreesboro
2 p.m.
Admission: $10

In the mood for vampires that don't sparkle or gaze longingly at melancholy adolescent girls? The Center for the Performing Arts is presenting a stage production of Bram Stoker's Dracula, the famous tale of the clash between the infamous vampire and Van Helsing.

This is the final day for this production, so grab the opportunity to start getting into the Halloween spirit by seeing a vampire that's dangerous, not just bare-chested and moody. This creepy tale is one of the true classics of horror, and should not be missed. (By Dietrich Stogner)

EVENTS

on campus

Holocaust Studies Conference
Oct. 19 – 22, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
James Union Building
FREE

Artists' Reception for Graphic Design
Student Juried Exhibition
Oct. 19, 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Todd Art Gallery
FREE

Unite featuring Charlie Hall
Oct. 20, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Recreation Center Lawn
FREE

MTSU After Dark:
Go-Karts, Batting Cages, Mini-Golf
Oct. 20, 10 p.m. – 2 a.m.
Go Fun USA
FREE

Extreme Mustang Makeover
Oct. 21 – 23
Tennessee Miller Coliseum
Tickets: FREE, except for Saturday night finals performance ($15)

Rocky Horror Picture Show
Oct. 21 and 22, 11 p.m. – 2 a.m.
Keathley University Center Theater
Tickets: $5

50th Annual Contest of Champions Marching Band Competition
Oct. 22, preliminaries at 10 a.m., finals at 7:30 p.m.
Jones Field
Tickets: $15

October Scarefest:
"Night of the Living Dead"
Oct. 22, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Keathley University Center Theater
FREE

MTSU Fall Choral Concert -
Concert Chorale and Women's Chorale
Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m.
Wright Music Building
FREE

Volleyball vs. Georgia Tech
Oct. 26, 6:30 p.m.
Alumni Memorial Gym
FREE

Lecture:
"Swag: Masculinity in Today's Culture and Media"
Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. – 9:15 p.m.
Business and Aerospace Building
State Farm Room
FREE

off campus

17th Annual Vanderbilt Lambda Drag Show
Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Vanderbilt University
Student Life Center Ballroom
FREE

"Bug"
Oct. 20 – 23, 7 p.m.
Out Front on Main
Tickets: $5

"Dracula"
Oct. 20 – 22, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 23, 2 p.m.
Murfreesboro Center for the Arts
Tickets: $10

Geek Media Expo
Oct. 21 at 6 p.m. – Oct. 23 at 6 p.m.
Millenium Maxwell House Hotel
Tickets: $35

Ladypalooza:
Benefit for Tennessee's Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence
Oct. 21, 7 p.m. – 12 a.m.
Little Hamilton Collective
Tickets: $5

Femme Fatale Film Series: "Psycho"
Oct. 21, 7 p.m.
Frist Center for the Visual Arts Auditorium
FREE

"The Boys Next Door"
Oct. 21 and 22, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 23, 4:30 p.m.
Springhouse Worship and Arts Center
Tickets: $8

Occupy Nashville Rally
Oct. 22, 11 a.m.
Centennial Park
FREE

Movies at the Town: "The Ring"
Oct. 24, 7 p.m.
Rocketown
FREE

Pistons and Pipes Concert
Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m.
First United Methodist Church
FREE

EOTO w/ Deep Machine, Thunderbear and Beat Repeat Live
Oct. 25, 8 p.m. – 3 a.m.
Gilligans
Tickets: $15

Dubs and Hallows featuring Clicks and Whistles
Oct. 26, 8 p.m.
Mercy Lounge
Tickets: $5

CONTINUED...

*Islamic Center of Murfreesboro to host recreational events...**from page 4*

change, which denied the plaintiffs and residents their legal right to express their opinion and carried out illegal spot zoning."

However, in an emailed press release from Brandon, the Islamic Center is referred to as the "Muslim Brotherhood Training Center" or the "Islamic Training Center," and the goal is to have the site torn down.

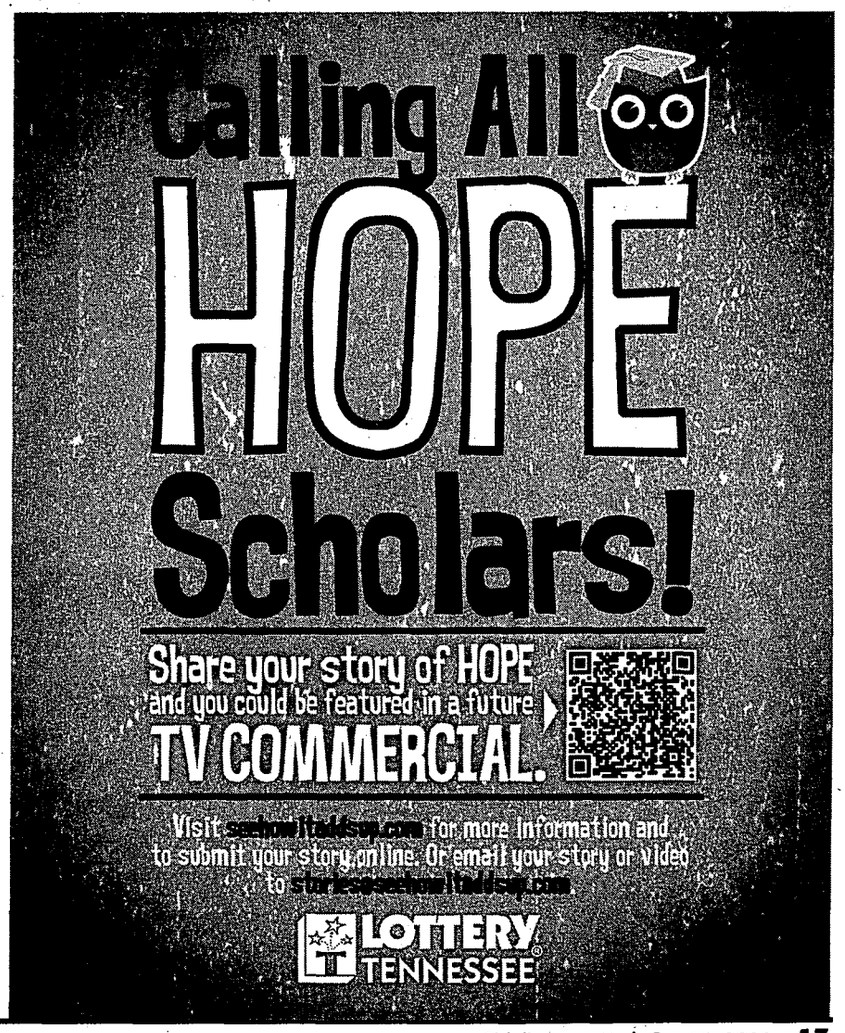
"The site approved for the Islamic Center was for many years a pig farm," Brandon said. "Plaintiffs contend that the Islamic leaders ignoring that history is just more evidence that their plans for the site have nothing to do with traditional Islam."

Sbenaty said the controversy tarnishes Murfreesboro's reputation.

"These plaintiffs are not accepting the Muslim community members," Sbenaty said, "even though we have been in the city for over three decades."

Sbenaty said she shared similar sentiments, and that it's the plaintiffs who have a problem with Muslims, and they don't represent the whole community.

"I don't think that the problem itself lies with the Center for most people," Sbenaty said. "For those who have been opposed to this project, the issues lie with Islam as a religion."



Leave your bias at the door

By Brandon Thomas
Opinions Editor

The lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community celebrated National Coming Out Day last week. This day is intended to celebrate LGBT people and their supporters.

It is amazing to see how far the LGBT movement has come, and it is, at times, sobering to see how far we still have to go. We don't have to look at national trends or listen to ignorant Republican candidates spout their anti-LGBT propaganda, when just looking at the local level shows that there is much work to be done.

More specifically, we can look at the university. We may offer protection to students from harassment or discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, but this does not mean that anti-LGBT bigotry doesn't exist on campus.

For example, this university holds blood drives on campus where, due to federal regulations, men who have sex with men and transgender people (most often trans women), are barred from donating.

It boggles my mind to hear anecdotes about transgender students having to deal with uncomfortable and inappropriate questions from professors or dealing with the housing department and their lack of knowledge on how to meet the needs of transgender students.

More specifically, the housing department in one instance gave a student two options: the student, who identifies as male, could live with a male friend in an on-campus apartment (provided he was "out" as transgender to that friend) or be assigned a female roommate in the dorms.

It is important to note that coming out as transgender isn't the same as coming out as gay or lesbian. When one comes out as gay or lesbian, they are telling others the truth about their life and who they love.

With transgender individuals, it's not the same type of liberating

continued...on page 15

Sidelines is the editorially independent, student-produced newspaper affiliated with Middle Tennessee State University and the College of Mass Communication. The opinions expressed herein are those of individual writers and not necessarily Sidelines or the university.

Constitution under attack, needs defense

By George Menzies
Columnist

The U.S. Constitution was written more than 200 years ago to restrict the powers of government and protect the rights of the people. Many today view the Constitution as irrelevant and a barrier to progress in an ever changing society.

Though many see our military might, Monday night football, and homemade apple pie as the hallmarks of America's greatness, it is our Constitution that sets America apart in history.

In our modern society, with the risk of "hate speech," the hype of terrorism, the call for preemptive war, and entangling alliance economics, the Constitution is being considered more and more irrelevant.

Today a significant number of Americans would advocate restrictions on the First Amendment in the name of political correctness or out of fear of offending certain groups. However, the desire to regulate free speech is dangerous, especially when there are forces in government that want to do just that.

The largest platform for freedom of speech is the Internet, which is also under attack. The media has grown into a talking mouth piece for the government, regurgitating talking points that are easy to digest in order to control perception.

Many feeling deprived of real information have resorted to alternative news sites.

The government and corporate news giants are losing the control of perception, which has lead to increased disapproval of our leaders and lead to dissention, such as the Tea Party and the Occupy Wall Street movements.

To control perception, is to control reality—thus the reason for government proposals to regulate the Internet in the name of cybersecurity.

Sens. Joe Lieberman and Jay Rockefeller both are in favor of cybersecurity legislation that would give the White House the authority over internet service providers to shutdown parts of the Internet in a state of "emergency."

Though this bill has not passed, the .com authority, VeriSign, wants to assist national governments in terminating websites deemed "abusive."

In addition, White House appointee Cass Sunstein advocates Federal Communications Commission regulations that would require websites and broadcasts with dissenting views to also link or air information the government deems as fair and balanced. These plans clearly challenge the First Amendment.

The Fourth Amendment, which protects citizens from unreasonable searches, is also under assault in the name of preventing terror. The Transportation Security Administration, known for its notorious grope down procedures at airports, is now partnering with the NFL as it slowly expands to other parts of society. The expansion of the TSA is another move to indefinitely subvert the Fourth Amendment, in an endless "war on terror."

The unconstitutional wars and bombings in Iraq, Libya, Pakistan, Yemen and other nations are an example of the growing unchecked powers of the White House that continues to result in mounting American and innocent civilian deaths. Not to mention, America's tarnished image and the substantial increase in the national debt.

America's unconstitutional economic policies are also contributing to its decline. Globalist policies such as NAFTA and unfair trading deals put America at a huge disadvantage to other nations in the world market.

These policies have resulted in the evaporation of American jobs and rising unemployment. Furthermore, the unconstitutional Federal Reserve, which is not federal but private, contributes to America's economic woes by printing too much money, decreasing the dollar's value.

Politicians favor the Federal Reserve System because it issues cheap money, which allows for big government and endless wars. However, Americans have to pick up the tab by paying for higher goods and services.

Though many make the case that the Constitution is irrelevant in today's society, they fail recognize its significance. The trend of a free society is a recent one in history. Throughout history, individuals have lived under a tyrannical ruler with little to no liberties.

Hence, the constitution is not just some old document, but rather a new and great idea to be preserved. Since its founding, America has drifted from the sound principles of the Constitution that were meant to protect the people and preserve our nation. Unless America re-embraces its constitutional foundation, America will lose its exceptionalism and become another example in history of unsustainable greatness.

George Menzies is a senior majoring in the College of Business. He can be reached at gmenzies3@gmail.com.

Volleyball rolling with nine-game winning streak

By Will Trusler
Sports Editor

After beginning the season with a 2-9 record, MT's volleyball team has defeated nine consecutive opponents bringing their record over .500 (11-9, 8-1 in SunBelt play) and realign their season on the path to championships.

Not only is the win streak important in terms of their total season record, but the eight wins against conference foes vaulted the Lady Raiders to first place in the Eastern Division of the ever important conference standings. Though they have not fared well against out-of-conference opponents, if they continue their play as of late, MT will be in a position to reach their sixth NCAA tournament since 2006 by means of the automatic bid given to the conference tournament champions.

Last year, MT captured both the regular season and conference tournament crowns.

There have been a number of individual players who have stepped up their game in the winning streak.

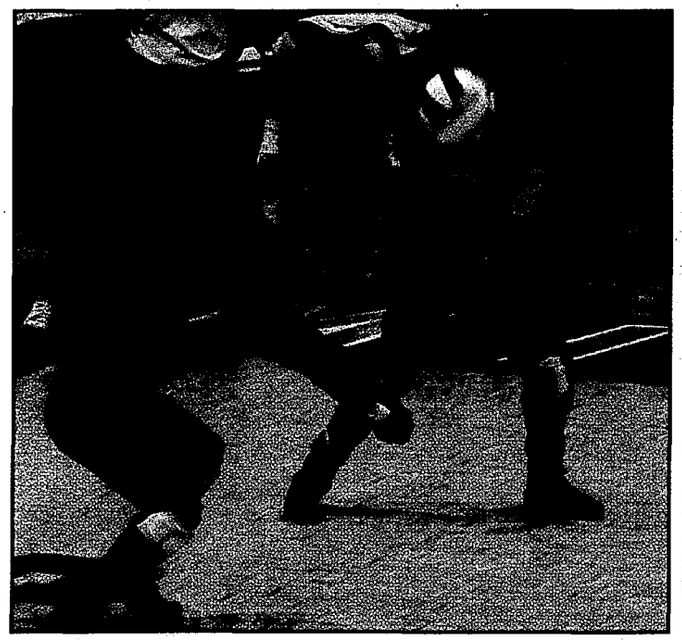
Junior outside hitter Ashley Adams has posted double-digit kills in the last eight matches and currently leads the team in kills (270), kills per set (3.97), solo blocks (13) and attacks (571). Her emergence as a go-to player on the offensive side of the ball is a big reason for the Lady Raiders' recent success.

"Ashley has had a few very nice matches for us," said head coach Matt Peck. "She's stepping up when it counts and making the plays down the stretch, which is great to see."

Adams has led MT in kills for the last five outings and in the process was named SBC Player of the Week for the second time this season. She also became the second MT player ever to tally 20 kills in a three-set match earlier this month against Troy. Izabela Kozon accomplished the feat for the first time last season against Florida Atlantic. Kozon then went on to win SBC Player of the Year honors.

"I think Ashley's had some very good matches, but if you look at our stats, all of our outsides have played extremely well recently," Peck said. "Part of that is that our middles can draw some of the defense away with their play, and we've been taking advantage of that. When our hitters are playing like this, we can be very hard to defend."

Adams has been aided in her hitting efforts by a trio of players.



Senior libero Brynne Henderson (blue) digs the ball on Friday, Oct. 14, against Florida Atlantic University at the Alumni Memorial Gym. Henderson surpassed the 1,000 dig mark for her career on Tuesday, Oct. 11, in a match against Marquette. She now sits in ninth all-time on the Lady Raider record books for career digs. (Photo by Erica Springer, staff photographer)

Preseason SBC Player of the Year Maria Szivos has put up solid all-around numbers in her senior campaign and ranks second on the team in kills and service aces while ranking third in digs. The Jaszbereny, Hungary, native also eclipsed the 1,000 kill mark for her career this season. She entered the 2011 season just 24 kills shy of the milestone and now has 1,134.

Similarly, redshirt seniors Alyssa Wistrick and Oyinlola Oladinni are using their final season to climb within reaching distance of the 1,000 kill plateau and help their team accomplish its goals. Wistrick sits at 960 kills after spending her first two years at the College of Southern Idaho. The outside hitter, though not as tall as Adams, has an athletic ability matched by few. When she is using it and being aggressive, she compliments Adams' power to form a hitting duo that is hard to beat.

Oladinni has registered 920 kills during her time at MT and does most of her damage around the net. The La Vergne native leads the team in hitting percentage, blocks and surprisingly service aces. She has accounted for 18 service aces on the season including back-to-back career-highs of three and four, respectively, in the last two matches.

"Oyinlola has worked very hard on her serving over the past couple of years, and now when she goes back there, I'm expecting her to score some points," Peck said. "She's really improved at it this season, and it's been huge for us."

Six wins during the nine-game stretch have been played at home in the Alumni Memorial Gym. All six of them have also been swept by the Lady Raiders in 3-0 fashion. MT is 3-4 on the road, however, so with more than half of the games remaining on their schedule taking place out of state, they will have to find a way to keep up their winning ways in order to bring home a championship.

MT will look to extend the streak this weekend in a pair of matches as they travel to Louisiana. MT faces ULM first on Thursday. Louisiana then awaits the Lady Raiders on Saturday. ■

CON'T

LGBT...from page 14

experience. Many trans people consider their trans status to be a private matter, and coming out often means dealing with assumptions and misunderstandings that people have about trans individuals. Forcing individuals to come out to complete strangers is wrong and will likely increase their gender dysphoria (their sense of discomfort with their body and/or their assigned-at-birth sex).

Our Health Services Department also tends to perpetuate heteronormativity when treating students. Gay men who don't pass the "straight test" often get asked whether or not they want to get tested for HIV/AIDS, despite their objection and letting the doctor know they had already been tested before their current visit to Health Services. Just because someone has the sniffles doesn't mean they need to get tested.

While doctors and nurses probably mean well, and getting tested is important, this pressure to get tested can often feel bothering and make non-straight men hesitant to go to Health Services at all.

Female-assigned individuals may have to deal with ridiculing or scolding from doctors and nurses if they disclose that they are sexually active but not on birth control. It seems that some medical professionals don't realize that there are more forms of sexual activity than heterosexual sex.

Many of the people on this campus perpetuating negative stereotypes or assumptions about LGBT people simply don't know any better. But all this means is that LGBT students should take the opportunity to educate (provided they feel safe doing so), and their straight counterparts should be willing to learn.

Until the attitudes and actions from individuals on campus reflect our written policy, MTSU will not truly be an inclusive university. ■

Brandon Thomas is a senior majoring in political science. He can be reached at muckrakerthomas@gmail.com.

Bink's Outfitters
Buckle
Forever21
GAP
PacSun
+ many more

FRIENDS WITH BENEFITS: For access to special offers and events like us on Facebook or sign up for emails at **StonesRiverMall.com** and be entered into our monthly drawing for a **$100 incentive card.**

1720 Old Fort Parkway | Murfreesboro, TN 37129 | 615.896.4486 | StonesRiverMall.com

Stones River MALL
Shopping. Centered on You.

TN-0000751491