

Students learn nutrition values, page 3

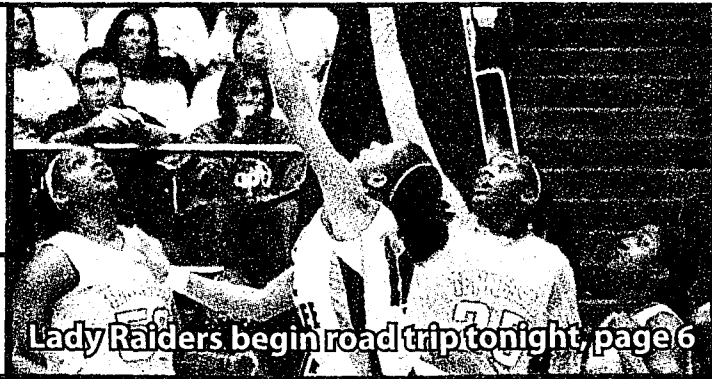
Time for parents to cut the cord, page 5

CONTENTS

- Student dance concerts, page 3
- BOTW: Mellow Down Easy, page 4
- New Seattle Spew comic, page 5
- Ed. Board: Censorship, page 5
- Volleyball set to open NCAA tournament, page 6

Thursday
44°/29°

Sidelines is the semiweekly student newspaper of MTSU. Anyone can have up to two copies of the current issue free of charge.



Lady Raiders begin road trip tonight, page 6

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2009

VOL. 86, NO. 23

Friendship Street not so friendly

Student robbed from behind outside Clement Hall Monday

By ALEX MOORMAN
News Editor

MTSU police have not apprehended a suspect in the robbery of a student on Friendship Street outside Clement Hall on Monday.

Matthew Mack, freshman undeclared major, said two suspects approached him from behind, put an object against his back and ordered him to hand over his valuables and then fled on foot.

"The suspect said he passed two males outside the dorm but he didn't think too much about it until they approached him from behind," said Buddy Peaster, MTSU police chief.

According to police reports, the two males were standing on the north side of Clement Hall, talking to each other. They approached the victim at the bike rack beside the dormitory.

Mack described the suspects as two black males, one light skinned and the other dark skinned. He said the light skinned black male was approximately 5'10" and weighed around 155 pounds. He said the male had short hair with a mustache and goatee and was

wearing a solid black T-shirt and dark gray sweatpants.

Mack said the second male was around 5'11", weighed 200 pounds and was wearing a black face warmer, solid black hooded sweatshirt, black sweatpants and black tennis shoes.

Mack said the suspects told him not to move and preceded to search his pockets, stealing his wallet, lighter, keys, hooded sweatshirt and headwear.

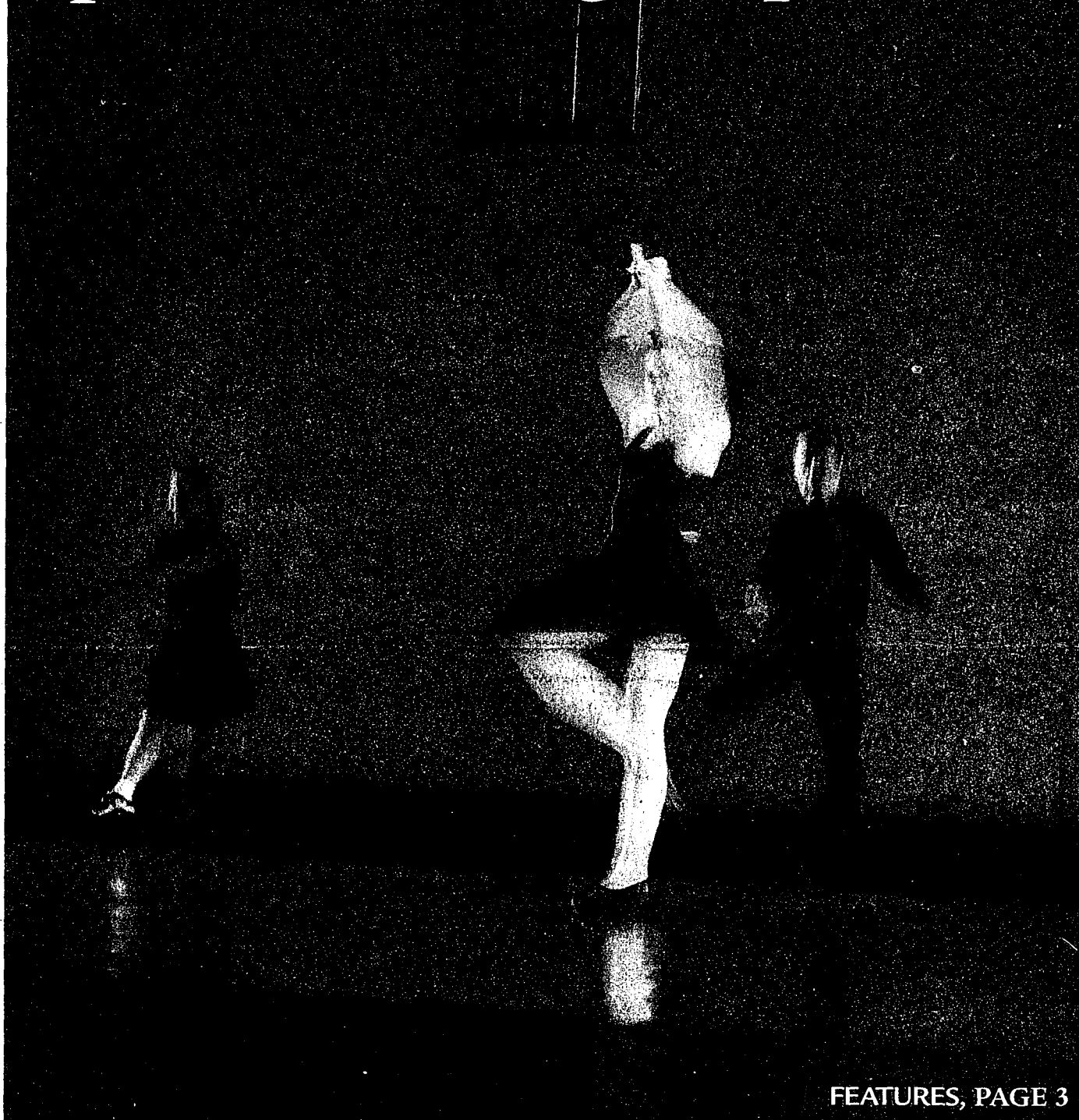
"No gun was recovered and we have no real way of knowing whether there was a gun present because they fled after taking his valuables," Peaster said. "We are going to pursue the investigation, but right now we are relying on interviewing the victim and hoping someone else saw something."

The student was not injured and no weapon was seen.

"We don't have any substantial evidence right now and I'm not sure if the victim had any bank or credit cards, but if he did and the suspects try to use them, then we will go from there," Peaster said.

MTSU police are asking anyone who may have information about this incident to call 615-898-2424.

MTSU Dance Theatre spins out eight pieces



FEATURES, PAGE 3

Photo by Gina DePrimo, staff photographer
MTSU Dance Theatre holds dress rehearsal yesterday for its spring dance show and its last show this year.

McPhee signs Confucius Institute agreement



Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor
President Sidney McPhee and President Ye Gaoxiang shake hands after signing the Confucius Institute agreement.

By CHRIS MAYO
Staff Writer

MTSU President Sidney McPhee and President Ye Gaoxiang of China's Hangzhou Normal University brought Chinese and U.S. cultures closer by signing the Confucius Institute agreement Wednesday morning.

The signing, done in both English and Mandarin, officially marked the beginning of a partnership between the two schools to open a school of Chinese study at MTSU, CIMTSU, with the goal of increasing cross-cultural cooperation and education between the two countries, McPhee said.

MTSU is one of only two U.S. schools to be granted a Confucius Institute this year, joining the ranks of 80 other schools across the country and 282 schools world wide, said McPhee, an accomplishment that he says fits well into the plans to globalize the campus. "[CIMTSU] is the putting of MTSU on the world stage," McPhee said.

McPhee also said that MTSU will be receiving \$500,000 over the course of five years by the

Chinese government in order to support the CIMTSU, which will be managed by both MTSU and HNU officials. The dean of the school will be Yang Xiaohong, a professor in the school of foreign language at HNU.

The director of the institute for MTSU will be Guanping Zheng, associate professor in the department of electronic media communication in the College of Mass Communication.

"This will be one of the best in the whole world," Zheng said.

The two schools will work together to determine policies and regulations for CIMTSU, as well as oversee teaching, research and fiscal operations. CIMTSU will provide, among other things, Chinese language and culture classes, training for teachers to teach Chinese languages and the promotion of research on contemporary China.

Gaoxiang said one of the key purposes of CIMTSU is research in how to raise efficiency in the learning and teaching of Chinese as a language. He also said he looks forward to future endeavors between the two schools like co-sponsorship of majors or masters programs in shared

interests, such as music and philosophy.

Gaoxiang is at MTSU, along with a delegation from HNU, for a three-day visit to see the site of CIMTSU and discuss plans for its development and grand opening this spring. The delegation included the dean of CIMTSU, as well as the deans of the school of foreign language and school of materials and chemistry, and the vice director of the international cooperation and exchange division.

HNU is located in the city of Hangzhou, in the Chinese province of Zhejiang. McPhee said Hangzhou is a vibrant city and a major business city for China. It was a major point of interest for Gov. Phil Bredesen during his October trip to China, which was meant to improve trade relations between the country and Tennessee.

At the end of the ceremony, the HNU delegation presented MTSU with a gift, a hand-painted portrait of Confucius, designed through interpretations and descriptions in the many texts written by and about the intellectual leader. The painting will hang in the Confucius Institute.

Community extends open arms, welcomes new residents

By DUSTIN EVANS
Assistant Community News Editor

As new students enter Spring CUSTOMS, the city of Murfreesboro and MTSU have recently instituted programs and services to help introduce newcomers to Rutherford County.

Sherian Huddleston, associate vice president for enrollment services, said out of the first time freshmen enrollments this fall, 2,852 listed their permanent address as outside Rutherford County. She said the total number of transfer students in the fall is 2,137, although it is possible that some of those students may have been previous residents of Rutherford County.

Chris Shofner, the public information officer for the city of Murfreesboro, said the municipal government has created the New Resident Services Guide to help the new residents become better acquainted.

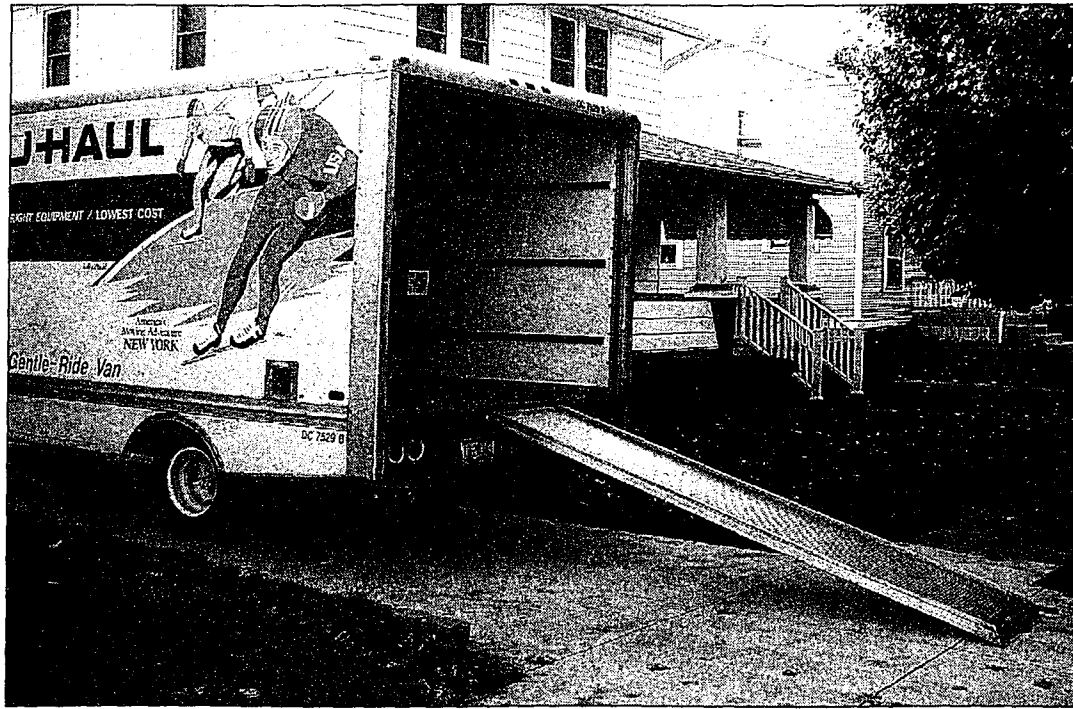
"We have access to information that we think would be helpful that we would like to pass on," Shofner said. "There are city services many people don't know they have or when they are offered."

Shofner said the new guide can be accessed on the city's Web site, murfreesborotn.gov, and contains information on waste management services, noise ordinances, building codes and important contact information.

"We are still getting newcomers all the time - they change every semester," Shofner said.

Shofner said he has received compliments from recent newcomers about the packet and the city hopes to formulate an expanded print edition for students at MTSU.

Carol Ann Baily, director of Off Campus Student Services, said her department



MorgueFile.com

has helped to form the Riding Raiders, a new student organization for students who commute.

"It is specifically for commuter students, whether they commute from an apartment a mile away or from 100 miles away," Baily said.

Sarah Martin, president of Riding Raiders, said the organization is a "support network for those people that have [challenges with] traffic, parking and carpooling."

"Riding Raiders is designed to get people who are commuting to become an organization, and one of the things is to work out car-pools," Baily said.

Martin said the organization uses the Off Campus Student Services Web site to host the carpooling board, a message board where students can leave information about their commute to campus so that others may join them and share the expense and the headaches of the commute - like parking on campus.

"We know it's working, but there is not a volume of people

that are going on there," Baily said. "They find each other even in that small group, but if we had hundreds of people to go on and list, then they would really find one more easily."

Baily said the OCSS Web site also has message boards for sharing out-of-town rides for special events or holiday travelling, furniture, roommates or apartment listings.

"Eighty-five percent of the student body do not live on campus," Baily said. "Students who move here from some other place within Tennessee or from somewhere out of state, they have even more need to make connections on campus because they don't have anybody else."

Baily said students who moved here sometimes get lost from student life and miss vital aspects of the full university experience. She said the Riding Raiders, and other student organizations, can help newcomers feel like they are truly a part of the student body.

Baily said she recommends new off-campus students to

find apartments that are set up for students. She said the common-room floorplans and planned activities help facilitate meeting new people and forming friendships.

"We also have the 'Blue Raider Guide to Living Off-Campus,'" Baily said. "That will give them information about what they need to know before signing a lease, things about the noise code of the city and how to keep in contact with the university."

Gina Poff, director of New Student and Family Programs, said the university has other existing services, like CUSTOMS and the Week of Welcome can help new student residents familiarize themselves with the Murfreesboro area.

Poff said 93 to 94 percent of the incoming students attend these programs, and current students could participate to help get newcomers more involved.

"Everybody comes out to them," Poff said. "Anything that students can do to reach out to new students will help with retention."

CRIME BRIEFS

Nov. 21, 12:23 a.m.
Underage Alcohol Consumption
MTSU Boulevard
Robert Riggle was issued a state citation for underage consumption, carpool lane violation and violation of open container.

Nov. 21, 2:05 a.m.
Vandalism
Greek Row
A vehicle was reported vandalized behind the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity house.

Nov. 21, 2:19 a.m.
Underage Alcohol Consumption
Greek Row
Matthew Pahde was issued a state citation for underage consumption.

Nov. 21, 2:53 a.m.
DUI
Middle Tennessee Boulevard
Brandon Jordan was arrested for DUI first offense.

Nov. 23, 9:02 a.m.
Theft
Deere Hall
A report was filed claiming stolen items from dormitory over the weekend.

Nov. 23, 3:17 p.m.
Traffic
Old Main Circle
Zane Estes was issued a state citation for driving the wrong way on a one way, driving on a suspended license and failure to provide financial responsibility.

Nov. 23, 10:17 p.m.
Theft
James E. Walker Library
Subject reported a stolen cell phone.

Nov. 24, 7:54 a.m.
Drug Abuse
Mapco Express
William Webb was arrested for possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia and public intoxication.

CURRENT EVENTS

MTSU Dance Theatre Fall Dance Concert

Dec. 3 - 5, 7:30 p.m.

Location: Tucker Theatre

Admission: free

Cheap Trick

Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m.

Location: Ryman Auditorium

Admission: \$30 - \$50

MTSU Percussion Ensemble

Dec. 3, 8 p.m.

Location: Hinton Music Hall

For more information, visit mtsumusic.com

First Friday Star Party "Binary Stars: Strange Star Dances"

Dec. 4, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Location: Wiser-Patten Science Hall, Room 102

Admission: free!

Pauly Shore

Dec. 4 - 6, select times

Location: Zanies Comedy Showplace

Admission: \$25

Deadchain and Piranah 102.9 Buzz Toy Drive

Dec. 5, 8 p.m.

Location: The Boro Bar and Grill

Admission: free

"Messiah"

Dec. 6 - 7, 7:30 p.m.

Location: Hinton Music Hall

Admission: \$10

Tornado Siren Test Date

Dec. 8, 12:20 p.m.

Location: MTSU campus

Events Policy

Sidelines welcomes current campus and community events submitted by all readers. Please e-mail events to slcopy@mtsu.edu or slnews2@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.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

seeks students interested in the following positions for Spring 2010

Managing Editor

Production Manager

News Editor

Assistant Campus News Editor

Assistant Community News Editor

Opinions Editor

Features Editor

Sports Editor

Assistant Sports Editor

Advertising Editor

Photo Editor

Multimedia Editor

Copy Editors

We are also looking for writers, photographers and graphic designers for news, sports, features and opinions.

Applications are due on Monday, Dec. 7.

For more information, please stop by our office in the Mass Communication Building, Room 269.



One Night.

One Cause.

Our Campus.

Thanks again for all the hard work! Just a reminder if you checked out letters at the Great Lick-A-Thon, please make sure those letters are turned in before the semester is over.

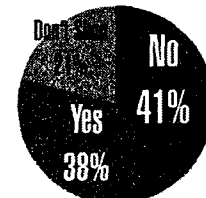
Contact Chloe Robinson or Edgard Izaguirre at uptldawn@mtsu.edu with any questions of concerns.

HAVE YOU EVER HAD ANYTHING STOLEN ON CAMPUS?

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FEATURES



HAVE YOU BEGUN YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING?

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Nutrition science hearty, educational helping

MTSU's Health Sciences Department teaches student dietitians, nutritionists tricks of the trade

By JOLINA ST. PIERRE
Contributing Writer

What's wrong with a little healthy competition? Nothing, if you are a nutrition and food sciences major who wants to become a registered dietitian.

Registered dietitians are health care professionals who apply the science and art of human nutrition in order to help individuals and families of all ages and cultures choose the right kinds of foods for adequate nourishment.

Oftentimes, registered dietitians work in hospitals and other health care facilities, but they also enter into private practice. The hot career area right now is sports nutrition, as well as exercise science and nutrition, which is generally associated with gyms.

Just be sure not to confuse a registered dietitian with a certified nutritionist. In fact, Janet Colson, Ph.D. and R.D., says that they should not call themselves certified nutritionists because the term "nutritionist" is for someone with the proper credentials and appropriate background. Perhaps "nutrition educated" is a better term.

Colson is not just a professor; she is the program coordinator of nutrition and food sciences at MTSU. She explains that in order to become a licensed R.D. in the state of Tennessee, a person must obtain a 4-year degree in nutrition from an accredited university, like MTSU.

During the students' senior year, a practicum is required, which introduces them to a variety of practice areas of dietetics. Students work under the supervision of registered dietitians in a range of settings, that includes hospitals, nursing homes and public health nutrition clinics.

After graduation, a nine to 12 month dietetic internship is required. There are only three of these available in



Photo illustration by Jay Bailey, photo editor

Health science students prepare for careers that aid patients in creating healthy eating, lifestyles, and diets, including the food shown above.

the Middle Tennessee area: Vanderbilt, David Lipscomb and National Healthcare in Murfreesboro.

Upon completion of the internship, the student must take the registration exam administered by the American Dietetic Association.

In addition, registered dietitians must complete 75 hours of continuing education every five years in order to remain licensed. Workshops and lectures help an R.D. stay up to date on nutrition knowledge.

Colson recommends that students have a strong science background. There are four chemistry and three biology courses required, in addition to a variety of courses in nutrition or food science and food systems management, as well as completion

of core classes.

Becoming a registered dietitian is highly competitive, and nationwide, it is very difficult to get a dietetic internship.

"There are twice as many students applying for internships as there are slots," Colson says.

That does not stop stu-

dentetic Association. She says she realized her calling when she learned she had diabetes four years ago.

"I realized that I needed to educate some people because there is so much misinformation out there," Richard says.

Although she is on a personal journey, Richard feels

in order to pursue her doctorate, but she is currently unsure of the area in which she will specialize.

She is sure to come closer to a decision once she completes her practicum next summer, and she wants to find a coordinated master's program with an internship.

From one student to another, Richard encourages others to join honor societies, as well as organizations like the SDA.

"It is important to get involved and understand the necessary steps required because it is such a competitive field and so many people are interested," Richard says.

The SDA emphasizes the importance of good grades and community service. The organization is involved in projects such as Second Har-

vest food bank and canned food drive and the Adopt-an-Angel program.

The students also host nutrition lessons and hold fundraisers in order to raise money for scholarships.

What Richard likes most about her major is the holistic approach to the actual science of food and the balance of life and health care.

"It really takes into effect the reality of what's going on and it's fun to be involved in that and to know that you can change it," Richard says. "Find the extra in ordinary. If there's something that you like, and it's basic, then just go for it, and you can make it your own."

Richard feels that radical health care and nutrition changes are necessary, as well as on an individual basis.

"That's what we need to do at this point in our culture, in our society," Richard says.

Although registered dietitian is a competitive profession in Middle Tennessee, the job market tends to be better in Memphis, as well as east Tennessee.

An entry-level position starts around \$16.50 per hour in the Middle Tennessee area, but after a few years, salaries tend to reach closer to \$30,000.

Despite the competition, students are encouraged to consider health sciences.

"If you're concerned about helping people and you really have a keen interest in nutrition and food and if you want to help people, then this is the area to be," Colson says.

"I realized that I needed to educate some people because there is so much misinformation out there."

MONIQUE RICHARD
STUDENT DIETETIC ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

dents like Monique Richard from pursuing a career as an R.D.

Richard is a senior and president of the Student Di-

etetic Association. She says she realized her calling when she learned she had diabetes four years ago.

After graduation, Richard will attend graduate school

Student dance concert showcases varied genres, performances

By ELIZABETH WARREN
Staff Writer

Darkness encompasses the auditorium. Each move the dancers make is vivid and flowing. Their concentration is completely focused on each move, on each step. They practice movements over and over again so that it becomes a part of their muscle's memory.

Dedicating hours to honing their craft, the MTSU Theatre and Dance students prepare their minds and bodies for the Fall Dance Concert premiering tonight and running through Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in Tucker Theatre.

The concert is a show comprised of eight different pieces: faculty members created five of the pieces, professional dancers brought in two pieces and one was developed by a student.

According to Julie Edwards, senior liberal arts major and participant in the concert, the program contains as many genres of dance as possible:

"The show is on a professional level," Edwards says. "It is very mature, covering the basis of this performing art."

The first piece, "Sweet



Photo by Gina DePrimo, staff photographer

Student dancers rehearse for the dance concerts, which take place tonight through Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the Tucker Theatre.

Suite," is by MTSU adjunct dance faculty member Erin Rehberg.

This is a funny jazz number about going to prom. The quirky steps and upbeat music make this a lively opener for the show.

Moving into a more serious mode, "Empowered by Legacy," the only student-

created piece in the show, begins. Tiffany Philpot, senior theatre and dance major, said the women's suffrage movement inspired her to create the piece.

With each elegant movement that the dancers make, the idea of women's power is dominant the entire time.

A very impactful piece, "In the Pecking Order" follows. Naropa University counselor and dance therapist Wendy Allen created this dance.

It is an intense piece with the dancers running back and forth screaming out harsh words toward each other.

There is no music in the dance, only the dancers speaking. The notion of how human beings push each other into a "pecking" order and how easily one can slip to the bottom of that order is explored through the dance.

The fourth piece "Morning at the Bus Stop" created

by Elaine Husted, MTSU adjunct instructor of dance, is a humorous tap dancing piece that brings the idea of tap and daily human scenarios together. This piece has no music, and uses more dialogue among the dancers.

Next is "Semaphore" by Dance Director Kim Neal Nofsinger.

The dance gives off an intimate, sensual feeling. The dancers are very sensual with each other, arousing the senses of the audience. A dark stage and the pure white attire of the dancers aid in creating this powerful piece.

Nancy Ammerman, assistant director of dance theatre, created the next piece, "Adagio and Vivace".

A ballet, this piece sets a light, happy mood for the audience as the dancers perform fluid movements to a fun piano piece.

The next piece, a solo performance to be done by a different dancer each night of the concert, is "Circus" by Paula Frasz, who is artistic director for the professional dance company DanszLoop in Chicago.

Mellow Down Easy achieves recognition, success

By JESSICA PACE
Staff Writer

Mellow Down Easy's back story is about as southern-rock-loreish as it gets, founded on old schoolmates, grocery store want-ads, addictions and sour relationships.

Drummer Rodney Russell first met guitarist/vocalist Andrew Adkins after answering a "drummer wanted" flyer posted at a Piggly Wiggly in Russell's Portland, Tenn. hometown. Eight years ago, they teamed up with bassist and Adkins' long-term friend Daryl Dasher, and thereby created Mellow Down Easy.

Sometimes southern sounding but not southern, and too classic to be indie but too off-beat not to be, MDE defies the confining box Adkins dislikes so much when it comes to music and art.

Though praised by some of the highest of the high (Johnny Cash, Artimus Pyle), the band still never seemed to really have a breakthrough moment with an album, staying relatively dormant while releasing only live recordings with very few overdubs and studio work over the past decade.

All of that changed in early 2009 when, with Dualtone Music Group, the band released "Cosmisutra," the first formally produced and structured album for which Russell modestly anticipated "fans and a little more attention."

"Between Daryl and I specifically, there was so much going on outside of the band - bad relationships, addictions, crazy, excessive behavior, turmoil within the group - you name it, we were going through it all leading up to the making of this album," Adkins says. "You can hear it in every song on 'Cosmisutra.'"

"Quite honestly, the making of this album is what saved our band from falling apart," he adds.

While the album was personal savior to the band, it proved something borderline epic to listeners and the press. Nashville's Outlaw Magazine pegged it as "the most original style I've heard in the last decade."

Then the juicy labels began to be stamped onto Mellow Down Easy's sound like "jam-



Photo courtesy Mellow Down Easy
Bassist Daryl Dasher (left) and guitarist Andrew Adkins (right) perform together. Mellow Down Easy's sound can be described as country and indie, though they do not like being labeled musically.

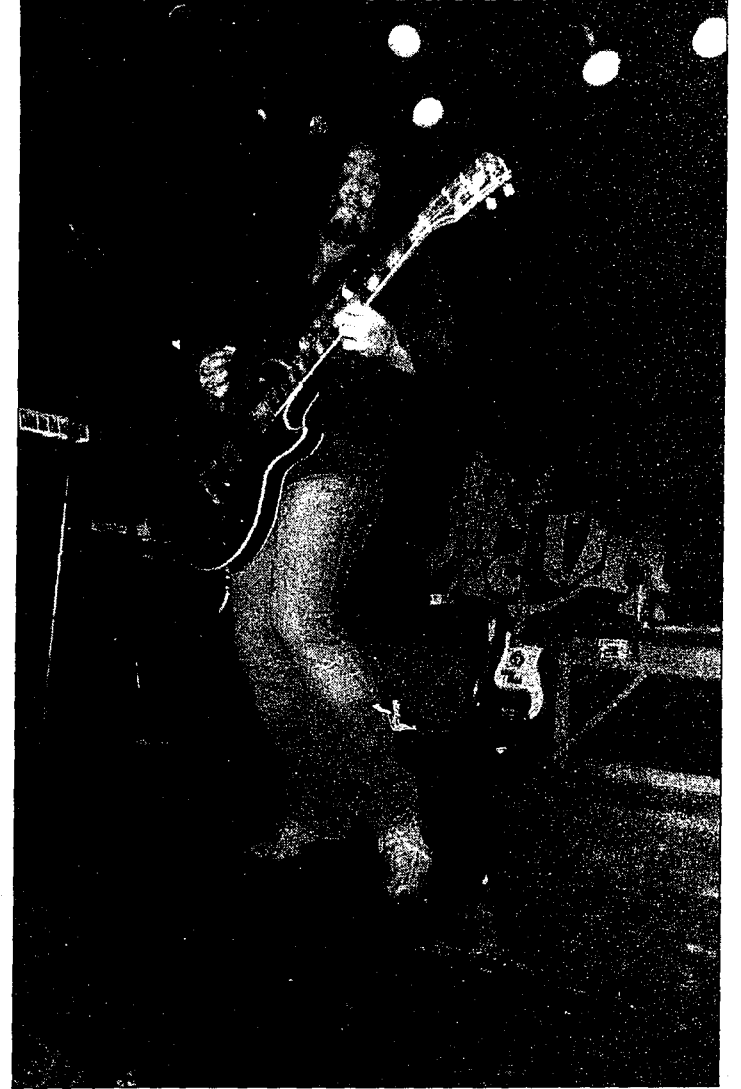


Photo courtesy Mellow Down Easy
Andrew Adkins, who also does vocals, plays a solo on his guitar as part of one of the Mellow Down Easy's performances.

pop" blended with indie and country. It is difficult to decipher the appeal. "Most original" is a bold statement. That said, Mellow Down Easy is not the least original, either.



While it isn't that this band has gone outside the box with "Cosmisutra," it has almost broken the box completely by jamming every fathomable influence into the 13 tracks from Oasis and Zepelin, to Cream and My Morning Jacket.

To trace the roots of Mellow Down Easy's influences, one would have to consider the "very eclectic home - musically speaking" Adkins says he grew up in.

"There was always music playing, be it old school country, '50s and '60s rock, '80s

country, Elvis Presley, bluegrass, Waylon, Willie, Johnny Cash, Kris Kristofferson, Buddy Holly, just on and on," Adkins says. "The way if affected me is I don't listen to Jimmy Martin and hear 'bluegrass music' and then listen to T. Rex and hear 'rock music,' Jay-Z and hear 'hip hop' - I just hear music. It's either good or bad."

Russell grew up with varied tastes that are catching up to him now.

"When I was little, I listened to a lot of rock, then metal, hip-hop, country, grunge, punk and whatever else I could get my hands on," he says.

As a result? "When I play, I tend to favor straight grooves, but I like to throw in a little flash here and there too," Russell says.

All the sounds poured into Mellow Down Easy now its members are grown up might seem exhausting, but if one can stop asking questions about what to call "Cosmisutra."

It might be easier to see it for what it is - a folderol of easy,



Photo courtesy Mellow Down Easy
The Mellow Down Easy has signed with Dualtone Music Group. The band's new album "Cosmisutra" deals with the pressures and problems the band has dealt with during their tenure performing together.

windows-down melodies that most often play the '60s rock card ("I Am the Universe," "Undergoing Resurrection"), and are held together with a glittering lyrical grip ("A Million Pages of Ugly Stories").

Like the music the band was raised on, Mellow Down Easy

has something that people can, if not enjoy, at the very least respect.

"I like going all over the board and creating pieces of music that reflect every ounce of music that is in my head," Adkins says.

"I think our style is exactly

who we are and what we become when three separate people blend their minds, musical tastes, sense of humor and emotions together in one room."

DANCE FROM PAGE 3

This is a very unexpected piece. It is performed to a spoken narrative paralleling self-worth with circus life.

Nofsinger also created the last piece "Christina's World," inspired by a painting of the same name. This is a sort of tableau movement, where the dancers are creating the painting on stage with their progression throughout the piece.

Nofsinger says he wanted to create a still moment of the painting on stage through the dance and costumes of the students. This expressional piece performed to upbeat music sets an earthy tone; it is very connected with the idea of nature.

Though the pieces may all have different meanings and set various moods for the audience, they



Photo by Gina DePrimo, staff photographer
Two students in silhouette perform during dance rehearsals for the student dance concerts, which is premiering tonight.

work well together. They bring the talent of MTSU's Dance and Theatre Department alive, showing the rest of the campus what they're missing.

The hours of practice and study that went into the

concert shines through on each step, movement, jump, kick, twirl, or slide that these dancers perform.

"The concert really impresses me," Philpot says. "It stimulates and challenges us as dancers."

Live national and local news in drive time From the campus of MTSU



5-6 a.m.



6-9 a.m.



4-5 p.m.



5-6p.m.

Jazz programming all other times



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OPINIONS

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 opinions expressed herein are those of individual writers and not necessarily Sidelines or MTSU.



"Seattle Spew"

megapencil5@yahoo.com

Kyle Patterson

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Censorship, breasts both found offensive

To the tremendously appreciated readers of our newspaper, we at Sidelines would like to ask a serious question: Which is more offensive, the tasteless advertisements objectifying and degrading the female form or censorship?

We at Sidelines not only took the time to ponder this important topic, but we also took part in an experiment on the matter.

For most of you who are completely unaware, mainly because all efforts of advertisement have proved entirely futile, we are holding a contest for students to participate in painting the newspaper racks that were generously bestowed upon us by our local USA Today office.

Our flyer, like the majority of advertisements on campus, also featured a tasteless pin up girl and a cleverly placed euphemism. Get it? "Paint Our Racks" - hysterical, right?

Sadly, as we have journeyed through campus, we have noticed two percent of our flyers remaining, which incidentally were approved in full by appropriate officials prior to their posting.

Certain individuals, including Kim Neal Nofsinger, the director of the dance theatre, have informed us of the offensive material we posted, and how they have also heard numerous complaints.

Then, in an act of passive-aggressive desperation in our own host building, our flyer was even removed off of our front door while our backs were turned.

Earlier in the semester, the College of Mass Communication hosted "Constitution Day," which celebrated the Bill of Rights. Due to the support of the John Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence, the week-long event was a salute and tribute to the First Amendment.

We digress. While we are 100 percent sorry for our offensive use of breasts, we find it ironic that a college who so adamantly supports the First Amendment practices censorship over not only its student body - but its newspaper as well.

We were not aware that having the Al Gore's undying support meant that Tipper's supreme vision must be enforced in the halls of campus.

Statistically speaking, there is approximately one breast for every human on the Earth, and honestly, how else are you supposed to market a rack-painting contest. It practically begs you to go down that path.

Point blank: either you are down with the First Amendment or you are not.

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

Overbearing parents: cut cord

Is there such a thing as too much parenting? This week in Time magazine, the concept was discussed at some length, and it is an idea that leads the mind to bigger, scarier problems.

Most MTSU students are still in contact with their parents on at least a weekly basis. For many this is a healthy thing, a way to keep in touch with family and bellyache about any problems the week has presented. It helps students' distress and assures them that they are not completely alone in this terrifying endeavor.

There are exceptions to this rule, though. There are overprotective parents who hover over their darling children and involve themselves in their children's life as much as they possibly can without actually going to class with them. These parents overprotect their children when they are young, over stimulate them when they grow older and make their decisions for them when they are supposed to be completely independent.

It isn't merely parents that place too much weight on the already shaky shoulders of today's youth. Elementary school teachers are now giving homework in preschool. High school teachers are giving college-level courses. College has become geared toward graduate school. When does the chain of preparation for life end and actual living begin?

Recent research indicates that the best thing parents can do to guarantee their child grows up with the intelligence and sense to survive in this world is to let them learn for themselves.



Pearl before swine

Pearl Howell

By playing and dealing with children their own age in an unorganized environment, children pick up the skills they need to have a healthy, normal life. What good is a piano prodigy who can't talk to his peers on a day-to-day basis? What sort of life does a karate champion have if she doesn't know how to play simple childhood games?

Even without parents breathing down the necks of middle-class American children, the average child faces pressures from everyone to be some kind of gifted or talented genius. At school, he or she must make perfect grades to get into a good college. Peers pressure the child to have great fashion or be a masterful dodgeball player.

The problem only gets worse as the child begins to grow up. If teens aren't activists or don't have an opinion on everything, something is wrong with them. By the time freshmen enter high school, they are expected to know what they want to do with their lives every step of the way there. Colleges must be chosen, ACT scores must be perfect, grades must be high, extracurriculars must be impressive and rank must be top 10 percent.

Off this poor, confused child



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons, under Creative Commons License 2.0

goes to college. It is bigger, and there is freedom, but now the child does not know what to do. No more parents to direct and manage time, and no more regular, home-cooked meals. It becomes a struggle to discover what life is about anymore. Without parental control the child doesn't know how to make decisions. So he looks to peers to tell him what he should do.

Drink! Party! Dress trendier! Believe this! Eat this way! Think that way! So the child does. He has so little idea of whom he is that he must create his persona from those around him. For so long his

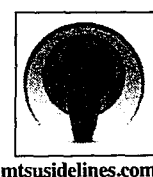
parents have defined him that he has trouble doing it for himself. Therefore, he chooses his peers as his new parents, but it is commonly acknowledged that freshly-liberated college students make poor parental substitutes.

Still, somehow this person manages to graduate college relatively whole and unscathed. After college, who knows how this outwardly independent but mentally unfailingly dependent person will survive in a cold, hard and uncaring world? Some go on to successful careers, but there are certain horror stories. The freshly

graduated go home to live with mom and dad, and occasionally the parents go so far as to "help" their child get a job. At 22, a person should be perfectly capable of finding a job, but who would turn down a little help? Parents weasel and finagle their way into their children's lives.

When does it stop? When do parents pull back from their children's lives and let them live for themselves? When did independence lose its value in America?

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



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SPORTS

Blue Raiders open NCAA tournament

STAFF REPORT

The Sun Belt Conference champion Blue Raiders open NCAA volleyball tournament play in Fort Collins, Colo. Thursday night when they take on host Colorado State University.

"I'm excited about our draw," head coach Matt Peck said. "Colorado State has a very strong history in volleyball. They have a very good team, a well-coached team and a very physical team. I think it will be an interesting match-up. I don't think they are too familiar with our style and we have a good history in the NCAA tournament as well."

The University of Washington and Northern Colorado University will join the Blue Raiders in Fort Collins.

Washington and NCU will play first at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, with the Blue Raiders playing at 8:30 p.m.

The second round will take place Friday, with the winner moving on to the Minneapolis Regional.

The Blue Raiders' appearance in the tournament is their fourth consecutive trip and third automatic bid in those four years.

"I am looking forward to it and it's a good match-up," Peck said. "We have been playing well. We lost to Saint Louis Saturday, a top-25 team who also made the tournament, and I think we will play well this weekend. It's the first time we have not been able to bus but that is ok we are used to traveling in our conference."



Photo by Brennan Sparta, staff photographer

The Blue Raiders gather in front of the bench before the Sept. 25 game against Western Kentucky. The team would win 3-2.

Lady Raiders begin crucial road trip

STAFF REPORT

The Lady Raiders begin an important three-game road trip Thursday when the team travels to Cincinnati, Ohio to take on Xavier University.

The 9/10-ranked Lady Musketeers are currently 5-0 and coming off a 76-71 win over No. 14 University of Kansas and will present another tough test early in the season.

The Lady Raiders (3-2) are led by redshirt senior Alysha Clark, who leads the Sun Belt Conference with 25.8 points per game and 13 rebounds per game. She is also ranked fourth in both categories nationally and her 60.7 field goal percentage has her among elite company at the top of women's basketball.

The Lady Raiders are 3-2 against Xavier, winning each of the last three meetings.

The Lady Musketeers are led by redshirt junior forward Amber Harris, averaging 15.6 points per game and 9.6 rebounds per game. The team spreads scoring around, as five other players average double digits in scoring.

Next, the Lady Raiders will travel to Louisville, Ky. to play national runner-up University of Louisville Dec. 9. The No. 26 Cardinals are currently 5-1 with games scheduled against Central Michigan University and the University of Utah before its contest with the Lady Raiders.

The final game of the road trip will be Dec. 13 when the team makes its way to Brookings, S.D. to meet South Dakota State University. The Jackrabbits are led by senior forward Maria Boever, averaging 15.2 points per game to go with with 7.8 rebounds.

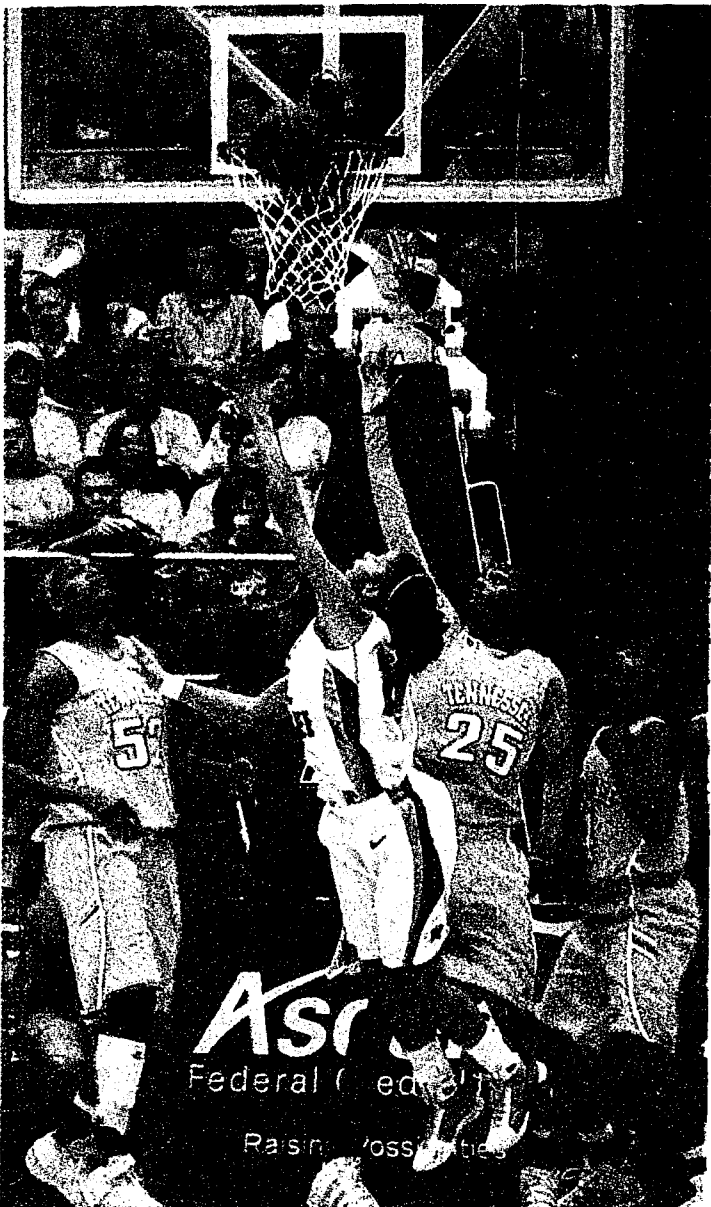


Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor

Senior forward Alysha Clark throws up a shot against Tennessee. Clark would finish with 23 points, but MT would fall 69-52.

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