

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

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COMMUTE

The intersection of Blue Raider Drive and MTSU Boulevard will be closed May 5 through Aug. 20 for construction of a roundabout. The temporary detour by the Honors Building will be active for those who are traveling north on Blue Raider Drive.

There will also be a detour just past the Greenhouse for those who are traveling east on Blue Raider Drive. Detour signs will be posted.

For those who ride the Raider Xpress, please check mtsu.edu, under "Transportation" for the temporary changes to the routes.



Photo Courtesy Lisa Rollins
Members of the Harding House Civil War History Survey use metal detectors to search for hidden artifacts on the battlefield.

Students uncover history

BYRON WILKES
Staff Writer

The Harding House Civil War History Survey began July 12 near Stones River Battlefield, uncovering approximately 300 artifacts including different types of Civil War era bullets and horse shoes from cavalry.

The survey aimed to uncover as many artifacts as possible before the land is developed and the artifacts are lost forever.

"In the past, the liability for developers has usually been too high to allow individuals the time to survey the land in an archaeological manner," said Tom Nolan, professor of archaeology and director of MTSU's Laboratory of Archaeological Technology. "We were able to perform our work really quickly, however, thanks to the work of our volunteers and the usage of GPS."

Nolan was contacted by the Stones River Battlefield National Park when the park learned about the development that was scheduled. He coordinated the efforts made by the university to get involved with the site and try to re-



Photo Courtesy Lisa Rollins
Hugh Berryman and students volunteer to search the area.

cover as much as possible there.

"When I found out that this land was slated to be developed, I called Tom Nolan, professor of archaeology and director of MTSU's Laboratory of Archaeological Technology. "We were able to perform our work really quickly, however, thanks to the work of our volunteers and the usage of GPS."

"It was really a multi-disciplinary effort by the university," said Nolan. "There were anthropology

students as well as history students that came out, and the Middle Tennessee Metal Detectors Club also volunteered and helped out greatly."

By cataloging the coordinates of where each artifact was found, archaeologists will be able to learn more about what went on during the action of the battle at this particular site.

"Forensically speaking, the finds taken from this site will allow us to track the movement of the 7th cavalry during this specific battle in the Civil War," said Hugh Berryman,

MTSU professor of anthropology. "Since we can look at the shell casings microscopically, and we know the precise caliber of rifle of certain troop units, we can identify the movement and location of each unit during the battle."

"By using the GPS points we obtained from the site, we will be able to generate a database and map them in order to classify actions on the battlefield of both sides at the time these artifacts were there," said Nolan.

One of the more exciting finds of the survey was a metal spur, perhaps used by a Union cavalry soldier.

"Where the object is found is just as important as what the object actually is," said Backlund. "This sort of work is extremely crucial to the Park Service. Much of the land surrounding what is now the Stones River Battlefield has been hunted out of artifacts by collectors. If the landowner does decide to donate the finds to the park, the park will be responsible for the measuring, photographing, and curating of these artifacts."

Greek Life coordinator transfers to UT Knoxville

By ANDY HARPER
Editor in Chief

Carrie Youell, coordinator for Greek Life, leaves Friday to join the Greek Affairs staff at the University of Tennessee Knoxville.

"I'm very excited to have a position of culture, but I'm going to truly miss all of the students here," Youell said. "They've taught me so much."

Youell will be assuming the position of Panhellenic Affairs Adviser. Her primary responsibilities will include overseeing the 17 female fraternities and sororities.

With Youell's departure, both positions of director and coordinator become unfilled. According to Youell, she is hopeful that the new associate dean of Student Life, Danny Kelley, will be able to help out during the search to fill the empty jobs.

"Danny's background is actually in Greek Affairs, so he should be able to help out a lot," Youell said. "We also have so many Greek students that I know Greek Life will be in good hands."

Youell received both her bachelors in public relations and masters in education leadership from MTSU.

Greek Life will be throwing Youell a farewell party on Thursday, July 31 at the Fairview Building off of Greenland Drive, beginning at 6 p.m. All students, faculty and staff are welcome to attend.

"We are sad to see Carrie go because she has had such a strong positive impact on our Greek system, but we are happy for her and the wonderful opportunity she has been given," said Becky Phillips, senior advertising major and president of the MTSU National Paphellenic Council. "All of the Greek councils are really strong and excited about this upcoming semester and are prepared for a great recruitment."

MT alumnus works on CNN documentary about race

By BYRON WILKES
Staff Writer

Jeffrey Reid, MTSU alumnus, was recently involved in the production of "Black in America," a CNN documentary concerning what it's like to be a black person in contemporary American society.

Reid served as the executive producer for "Black in America," which includes five hours of primetime programming comprised of two documentaries and a special co-production completed with Essence magazine. Reid has more than 27 years of experience and is an executive producer for CNN Productions, where he's been working since 1996.

"Black in America" is the result of more than a year's work in reporting and docu-

menting the lives of people from all strata of society. CNN's Soledad O'Brien reports on the difficulties and disparities black people face each and every day, including those that would otherwise go unseen.

However, the agenda for "Black in America" is not race specific; the documentary is meant to enlighten people from all walks of life and it offers an intimate glimpse into a side of society many people would not otherwise have the opportunity.

In the series, O'Brien travels the states to hear the stories of those black individuals who are successful and those who are not in order to distinguish some sort of solution to the inequalities that still pervade American society even

more than forty years after the fight for civil rights.

The results are astounding, as black people in on all walks of life weigh in on what they believe are the underlying problems facing black society here.

The first segment, "Black in America: The Black Woman & Family," dissects causal issues in terms of the statistical discrepancies related to items such as HIV/AIDS outbreak in the black community. Nearly half of those people infected by AIDS are black, according to a 2005 study done by Department of Health and Human Services.

The segment also reveals the disproportionate gap of single parent families in black

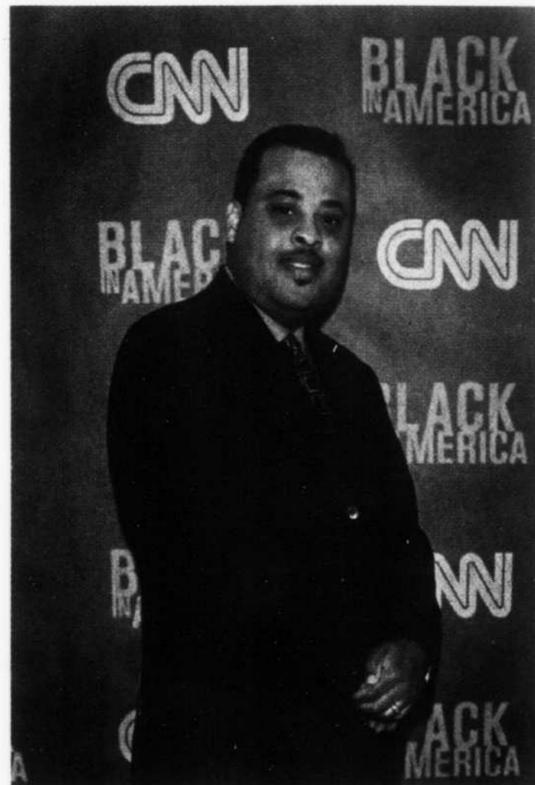


Photo Courtesy Jeffrey Reid
Executive producer, Jeffrey Reid, attends premiere of the film.

OPINIONS

From the Editor in Chief

I'm finally done being editor; let the mass celebration ensue

The time has come for me to bid farewell. Please save your sighs of relief and exuberant cheer of celebration. I'm not going to far - I'll be managing editor in the fall.

Unfortunately, I don't have any amazing tidbits of wisdom to impart on our readers, merely a simple "thank you" for helping me survive my term as editor.

Honestly, every time I start writing editorials like these, it always seems to shift towards the subject of participation and getting involved. But it's true. Because of *Sidelines*, I have found my best friends, two amazing roommates and peers that I will be proud to call my future colleagues.

I never really wanted to come to MTSU in the first place. My college of choice was the University of Missouri at Columbia. I remember being in high school and having to resign to the fact that actually attending Mizzou would be an impossible task. \$20,000 a year is a pretty hefty price tag for a bachelor's degree.

So it seemed like settling on the "cheap" instate school was the best option. I didn't have to live in a dorm and I

already knew a few friends from high school that already attended. Plus, the newspaper didn't look too terrible. It wasn't *The Maneater*, but it was decent.

I remember going to CUSTOMS and meeting the summer 2005 managing editor. After filling out an application, I waited patiently for my first assignment.

The news editor at the time called to tell me that she needed me to do a story about a horse show at the Miller Colosseum.

I hate horses - they smell. But I did the story anyway, making a ton of AP errors and producing a mediocre article, unfit for any publication. But the news editor fixed my story and ran it in the summer issue anyway.

I continued to write and eventually improved my style. But I never forgot the valuable lesson I learned from doing my first story.

Just because you think something is going to be crappy, doesn't mean you're right. How's that for a fortune cookie ending?

Sidelines will resume publication Aug. 25 under new and excellent management - Sarah Lavery. Look for us in the stands and Online.

Obama promises constant 'change' to keep voters happy

What started out as a strong campaign built on the basis of change has now become a weak unsuccessful one due to Barack Obama "flip flopping" his position on several important issues.

When Obama first began advocating change in his campaign Americans had heard it all before, but something about the former senator drew audiences in to hear his views and proposals.

Because of his popularity with a large audiences, John McCain's followers began to worry about their conservative votes being overshadowed in the 2008 election.

McCain began to endorse certain issues such as assisting homeowners, which he had originally opposed but now supports as an attempt to receive more votes. By doing this McCain reveals a reversal of his own, but lately Obama has become too indecisive when taking a stance.

He has changed his position on several issues such as abortion rights, federal aid to faith-based programs, gun control, wiretapping and capital punishment.

By reversing his stance on several of these issues he has lost voters in an attempt to gain more. For example, when he said that he wanted to look into the faith-based programs many conservative Christians were upset by this because there was a chance he would discontinue the programs.

McCain was clear on his



Open Mouth, Insert Foot

Tiffany Gibson

position when it came to endorsing these programs; therefore, Christians were more likely to vote for McCain. Obama knew he would be losing votes to McCain if he did not give Christians satisfaction.

Shortly after saying he would look into the programs to make sure they were not a violation of the separation of the church and state doctrine, Obama said that he would not only approve the programs, but he would also expand them.

Not only are these programs illegal according to the church and state doctrine, but they purposefully deny individuals who do not accept Christianity as a religion, and for Obama to support programs such as these says a great deal about his leadership.

However, he does not appear to be endorsing these programs because he wants more people to convert to Christianity. Instead, he wants the people who run the programs, as well as those who

support them to vote for him.

This is called a lose-win situation because he will lose the support of those who are strongly against these programs but will gain those who practice Christianity. If he is going to lose one side no matter what his stance is then why should he care so much about making everyone happy?

Let's face it, he wants more votes so he is changing his views, but by doing so he is destroying his reputation as a strong leader and losing those who supported him in the beginning.

In addition to his expansion of faith-based programs, Obama said in the first week of July 2008 that he did not think that mental distress was a good enough reason to have a late-term abortion.

This is not exactly a complete reversal because Obama's original stance on later-term abortion is that states have the right to restrict late-term abortions. However, this statement angered the president of the National Organization for Women because her interpretation of his statement was that women have abortions because they are having a bad-hair day.

Even though Obama did not "flip flop" on this position, he did anger people in the process because his original stance explains that the restrictions should be left up to the states.

Basically by making this

comment, Obama let his personal opinion of late-term abortion overtake his political stance, which is something a presidential candidate should try to avoid.

However, I recognize that presidential candidates always interject their personal opinions and practices into their work. One example of this is President George Bush, who started up the faith-based programs to convert people to Christianity because he is a Christian.

Nonetheless, Obama has preached change for America from the beginning of his campaign - not change for himself. He should stop worrying about changing his views in order to get more people to agree with him and do what he believes is best for our country.

If he truly believes that late-term abortion should be illegal then he should have said that in April of 2008, and if he thinks that these faith-based programs are worth millions of dollars then he should own up to it.

By playing peacekeeper, Obama is not portraying himself as a courageous leader that is willing to stand up for his beliefs.

Overall, it is a shame that this brilliant man has become more interested in a ridiculous popularity battle with McCain, rather than urging a new kind of "change" within the economy, War in Iraq and our country.

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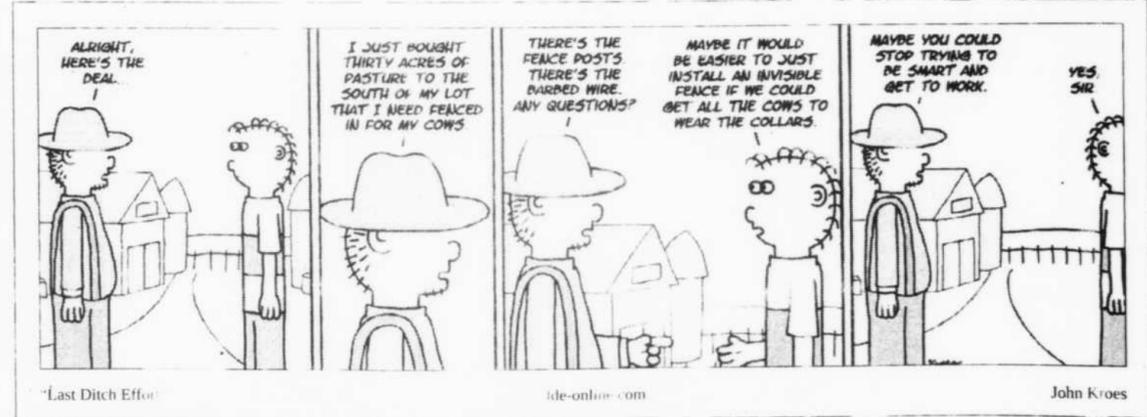
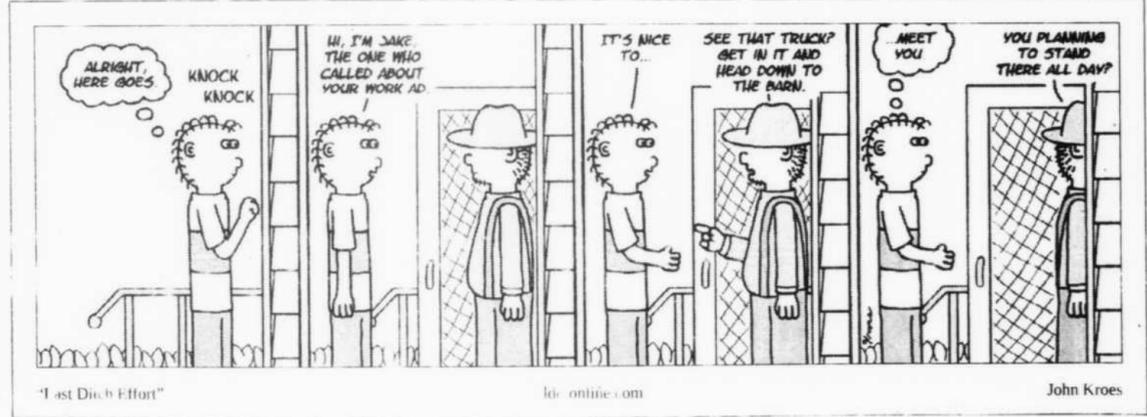
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COMICS



FACES IN THE CROWD

Is racism still prevalent in our society?



Robles
"Yes. There's been some good strides made, but, in short, there's a lot left to be done."



Sugock
"It exists, but in a very small world. It's not as bad as it was way back."



Carland
"Yes because if someone walks into an interview, the first thing the employer is going to notice is their race."

J.R. Robless, English graduate

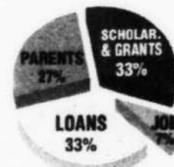
William Sugock, sophomore

Person's Name, class major

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FEATURES



HOW DO YOU PAY FOR YOUR EDUCATION?

BASED ON VOTES FROM MTSUSIDELINES.COM.

The musical brotherhood of Evervigilant

One Middle Tennessee band puts their hearts and heads together to produce a unique sound

By MEGAN BRIDGES
Contributing Writer

Mixed with tantalizing lyrics, mesmerizing musical talent and unmatched stage presence, Evervigilant is one band that deserves to be worked into any music lover's agenda as a show to see.

This trio — made up of guitarist and vocalist Brad Hays, bassist Chad Hays and drummer Nate Harrison — has been tearing up stages across Tennessee for 11 years.

"We've all been best friends since the 2nd grade," Harrison remembers. "Chad and Brad's mom use to baby sit me, so we were always together."

By the time the three got to their middle school days, their musical ability began to develop.

"Brad started to play guitar and write songs," Harrison recalls. "He pretty much told his brother to learn bass. Then he told my older brother who use to be in the band to start playing guitar."

Harrison says he didn't want to be left out of his best friends' musical endeavor.

"The only thing left was drums, so I taught myself how to play pretty quick to catch up," Harrison says.

With those formation days being behind the band, Evervigilant has since wowed many spectators, having played at numerous venues including Exit/In, Buzzfest 4 at the Starwood Amphitheater and the Midtown Music Hall in Chattanooga, along with many others. However, the band's members are humble enough to play local shows in Murfreesboro, including Chef Raymond's and The Boro.

The band's favorite venue, though, The Ear Plug in Spring City, has went out of business since the band members played there when they were 13 and 14.



Photo Courtesy: Evervigilant

The guys from Evervigilant play their instruments while keeping their high energy state presence flowing.

Evervigilant's influences span from Lynyrd Skynyrd, Johnny Cash and Led Zeppelin, to Red Hot Chili Peppers, Willie Nelson, Guns 'n' Roses and 311.

These influences have led the band to write songs like the band's overwhelming fa-

vorite one, "This One's For You."

"I don't play drums and Chad doesn't play bass on the song, but we still love it," Harrison says. "The song is about Brad telling his wife how important and wonderful she is. It's not one of those lame

love songs. He uses great imagery."

Brad has written about two-thirds of the band's songs, while Nate, the drummer, has shown that percussionists can write too. He has written about one-third of the band's songs.

The way they go about making some of their songs is quite different from stereotypical recordings.

"I remember on our song 'Two Minute Warning' I just played a really cool drum beat and we just free-styled some lyrics and some guitars over

it," Harrison remembers. "We just kept doing that and taking the parts out that we really liked."

Harrison says that he was astounded when the song turned out to be one of the band's best.

The band released its first album, "The Party's Here," in 1999 and its fourth full-length, self-produced CD is now in production.

Reflecting on the band's success and inspiration, Harrison says he credits God for all the band's accomplishments and musical talent. He also says the act's name came from a trip the band took to Washington, D.C. in the 8th grade where "Evervigilant" printed on a soldier's helmet at the Vietnam War Memorial.

An MTSU alum, Harrison — aside from his own band — also is a producer for Money Tree, which produces rap beat recordings. The side project gives Harrison the opportunity to fulfill all of his passions and musical tastes, as well as utilize his training in music production, he says.

"I have dedicated my life to this," Harrison says, referring to a career in music. "And only God knows how far this can go or when it will go."

The length the band hopes to achieve is to continue to record albums and entertain crowds around the world as a headliner act.

And will the band break up if this distance isn't reached?

"I don't really see us ever quitting this," Harrison says. "We're more of a brotherhood than a band."

If you think their story is cool, you should check out the band's music at www.myspace.com/evervigilant. CD purchases and booking may also be enacted through the act's MySpace page.

Small-town star

By MEREDITH PULEO
Contributing Writer

Beth Tucker, hailing from the small town of Milford, Ohio, is quite possibly the next best thing to hit the stage.

Tucker, 22, the middle child of sisters Laura, 25 and Hannah, 13, is trying to make the big time, and Tucker's mom Eileen is giving her the boost she needs.

"My mom is one of biggest inspirations," Tucker says. "She's been the most supportive."

That could become very important when trying to make it in the music business where unexpected obstacles seem to pop up and moral support is needed.

"The one thing that is keeping me back is college algebra," Tucker says giggling.

"I'm dyslexic, but I have a lot of people that believe in me."

Going into something that seems much like a dream is not always easiest thing to try to do, but Tucker says she doesn't let obstacles hold her back.

"Since I was little I dreamed of being a singer," Tucker says. "At ten I was playing guitar to accompany my songwriting."

It might sound like something off American Idol, but being judged by Simon Cowell is not part of her direct plan.

"I only watch when they are doing the tryouts," Tucker says. "I'm scared to be one of those people who think they are good but really everyone is laughing at them."

People most likely aren't laughing behind Tucker's back, for she has performed at numerous songwriter nights in Cincinnati and has had even had her music put into a short film.

It doesn't hurt that Tucker's dad, Scott, also has music running through his veins. He is a member of the band Cross-Eyed Henry.

"My dad and I would record together," Tucker says. "We have a crappy studio in our basement."

She has not had the chance to perform in Tennessee yet, but has managed to meet some of the more influential people in the business.

"When I was serving at Carrabbas, we had to serve a banquet for Amy Grant," Tucker says. "I told her what an inspiration she was to me and she was so humble."

Another one of the perks during Tucker's serving career was an unplanned meeting with "Big" Al Anderson.

"He's kind of a big deal," Tucker says.

That he is, for the Web site www.bigalAnderson.com says that he is one of the most prolific songwriters today.

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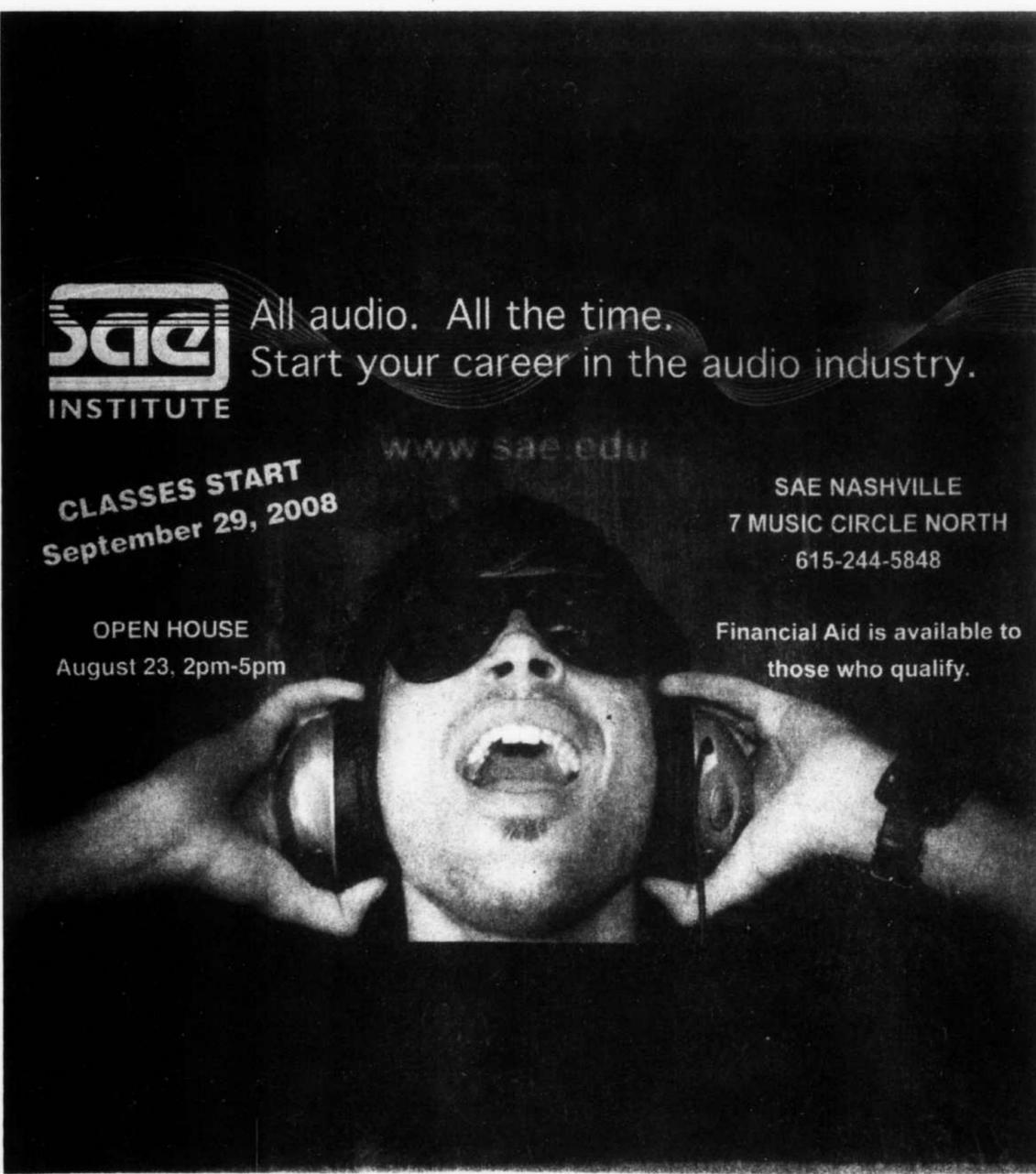
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MTSU prof. dies of unknown health problems

By **TIFFANY GIBSON**
News Editor

Thaddeus Smith, MTSU history professor, died July 22 in Nashville due to unknown health problems.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday at 1 p.m. in the Broadway Christian Church in Winchester. Visitation will begin at 11 a.m.

and will continue until the hour of the service.

Smith, 56, had been complaining of chest congestion on Monday morning, but seemed to be in good health; however, he was taken to the emergency room Tuesday night where he collapsed. Doctors were unable to revive him.

Janice Leone, MTSU histo-

ry professor, said that Smith had been sick for a couple of weeks prior to his death.

Smith is survived by his twin sister, Theresa, his grandmother, Elsie Lary; three aunts, one uncle, niece, Melba, nephew, Eric; great nieces and nephews and his cousins.

Since 1988, Smith has been teaching in the MTSU histo-

ry department, and held the department chair from 1996 to 2007. He also served as a former director of African American studies from 1992 to 1996.

A Winchester, KY native, Smith graduated from George Rogers Clark High School and received his Artium Baccalaureatus and Master's in education from Eastern Ken-

tucky University. He received his Master of Arts and his Doctor of Philosophy degree from Brown University in Providence, RI in 1987.

In addition to education, Smith was a member of Omicron Alpha Kappa, XI Theta Chapter, the Circle K Club and Phi Beta Kappa.

Before committing his dedication and teaching ca-

reer to MTSU, Smith taught at Model Lab School in Richmond, KY.

Smith was currently teaching a summer class of "Historian's Craft," which will now be taught by Amy Sayward, history department chairwoman.

"We are going to miss him terribly, both students and faculty," Leone said.

WNBA's Shock/Sparks rivalry crosses the line

In the 12 years that the Women's National Basketball Association has been in existence, there has never been a brawl including multiple players from both teams and benches until July 22 when a scuffle broke out between the Los Angeles Sparks and the Detroit Shock.

Last Tuesday, The Sparks won the Shock, and in the final seconds of the game a scuffle broke out between several players.

Throughout the game, fouls from both teams were physical and continued throughout the game, and when fouls were broken officials would turn and look the other way.

Another factor contributing to the ongoing battle between these teams is the fact that their coaches despise each other. Michael Cooper, Sparks head coach, and Bill Laimbeer, Shock head coach, have been rivals ever since they played in the NBA.

In an interview, Laimbeer said that Cooper tries to create "flashy and hyper-Showtime garbage" with the Sparks, while his team is more physical and defensive.

Having these coaches at each other's throats did not help last Tuesday's game because when it came to breaking up the fight, even Cooper and Laimbeer had an arm tangle at one point while trying to break up their players scuffling on mid court.

The altercation that started when Sparks' forward, Candace Parker grabbed a rebound that was jerked out of her hands by Shock forward, Cheryl Ford after a whistle was blown.



Open Mouth, Insert Foot
Tiffany Gibson

Parker was heated and began to walk towards Ford when Spark veteran and center, Lisa Leslie grabbed Parker's arm to calm her down.

Following this incident, a ball possession was reversed when clearly the video displayed an Sparks player knocking out of bounds. The officials saw this and ruled that the ball be given back to the Shock, but then changed their minds once again and rewarded the possession to L.A.

The Shock players on the bench and court felt cheated because clearly the officials noticed that a Sparks player had knocked the ball out of bounds, or they would have not rewarded the Shock the possession in the first place.

Despite these minor misjudgments of officials and physical play by the athletes, the straw that broke the camel's back was when Parker and Shock forward center, Plenette Pierson were boxing out during a foul shot and became tangled up.

After the ball went into the hoop, players headed back down the court but Pierson continued to push Parker, so in an attempt to ignore Pierson, Parker twisted and Pier-

son hit the hard wood floor.

When Pierson fell she still had a grip on Parker's arm and caused her to fall a few feet away. Pierson immediately got up and walked into Parker who was trying to get up.

Parker grabbed Pierson and threw her down on the court and was quickly tackled by Shock guard, Deanna Nolan.

The entire situation got out of control as coaches tried to intervene along with officials, but in the process Leslie was pushed, Ford fell to the floor while trying to restrain Pierson and tore her anterior cruciate ligament in her right knee and Nolan tried to start another fight with Murriel Page.

Overall, women's basketball has come so far and for something like this to happen only gives the league a bad name.

Shock forward, Katie Smith told reporters after the brawl that any publicity is good publicity.

I strongly disagree with Smith because the WNBA is about passion and dedication to a game that these athletes love to play. They should not let their emotions get the best of them, nor should they focus on the rivalry between their coaches; they should play the game to the best of their ability.

As of July 24, the WNBA suspended five Sparks' players and five Shock players including Mahorn.

"Rivalry is one thing but unsportsmanlike like conduct is a completely different thing," said Pam Ward, WNBA announcer.

STAR FROM PAGE 4

Anderson is responsible for upbeat country hits that artists like Tanya Tucker, Billy Ray Cyrus and Joe Diffie have used.

Tucker doesn't have to go far to hear good music. One of her favorite spots is Dan McGinnis on Demonbruen Street in Nashville.

"I don't know the band that plays there," Tucker admits. "But they're good."

Tucker believes she is good too, but the biggest hurdle she must overcome is her stage-

fright.

"My mom gave me the best advice," Tucker says. "She said, 'it's okay to be scared, but you can't let it paralyze you.'"

And that is what Tucker is trying to do. With her long, brown hair and flawless smile, she always looks ready to rock the stage. However, rock isn't exactly Tucker's style.

"I'm such a mixture of everything," Tucker says. "Different types of music inspire me, but I would say I'm pop, acoustic and folk."

With that combination, people should be able to find a song that would appeal to

them, especially if they're a little emotional.

"I'm good at writing sad songs," Tucker says with a grin. "I have a really good intuition about what people are feeling."

Tucker isn't relying solely on her songwriting abilities to help her make it. She works at an after-school program at Percy Priest Elementary School when she isn't at MTSU.

"My mom always told me that the only people who make it are the ones who go for it, so that is what I'm doing," Tucker says.

CRIME BRIEFS

July 22, 2008 at 9:03 p.m.
Traffic
Rutherford Boulevard
Amador Castillo was issued a state citation for driving without a license.

July 22, 2008 at 11:37 p.m.
Miscellaneous
Soccer and Track Field
A fire alarm went off in the elevator shaft. Dust is suspected to have set off the smoke detector because a fire was not found around the area.

July 24, 2008 at 8:37 p.m.
Traffic
Off Campus
Kevin Brooks was issued a state citation for his seventh offense for driving on a suspended license and failure to obey a traffic control signal.

July 25, 2008 at 3 a.m.
Burglary
Greek Row
Someone broke into one of the houses and stole items from it.

July 25, 2008 at 6:03 p.m.
Assistance
Recreation Center
A female called and said she had fallen down the steps of Monohan Hall because they were slippery. She complained of shoulder and left side pain before being transported out of the building.

July 25, 2008 at 8:08 p.m.
Traffic
Unknown
Kendria McCullough was issued a state citation for speeding.

July 25, 2008 at 9:14 p.m.
Traffic
Gentleman Jim's on 1325 Greenland
Ricky Lester was arrested for his eighth offense for driving on a revoked license.

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AUCTIONEERS: SHELLEY LUPKIN and JOHN HIGGINS

DIRECTIONS: Memorial Blvd. to left on Clark Blvd., left on Maymont, home on left.

SPECIAL NOTE: Homes built prior to 1978 are subject to have lead base paint. In accordance with federal law, all potential buyers will be allowed 10 days prior to sale to have the home inspected at their expense.

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communities and between white and black students in schools.

The second segment, "Black in America: The Black Man" explores aspects of black society from the point of view of the opposite gender. O'Brien takes into account major inconsistencies within incarceration rates for black males — one in three black men will be incarcerated at some point in their life — as she discusses the contributing factors with prominent names in entertainment, such as Rus-

sell Simmons, Malcolm Gilliam, Lupe Fiasco, Whoopi Goldberg and D.L. Hughley.

Among other issues discussed are disparities in academic and occupational accomplishments between black and white men, as well as the notion that success in the class or in the office is equated with "acting white."

O'Brien also hosted the 90-minute forum co-produced with Essence magazine concerning what lies ahead for black society. The panel was comprised of many distinguished black individuals, including Princeton University professor Cornell West, Harvard University

economist Roland Fryer, Ed Gordon of NPR, economist and Bennett College President Julianne Malyeaux, and Chicago Urban League President Cheryle Jackson.

The forum discussed what the solutions to problems facing black society are, including the steps to improving the standard of living for average black families and the next generation of leadership in black communities.

"Black in America" offers a rare glimpse into the sometimes inspirational, sometimes harsh stories of black life and culture in modern American society.

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