

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

SIDELINES

WED., SEPT. 28 - OCT. 4, 2011

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

VOL. 90 NO. 5



MOOGFEST



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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

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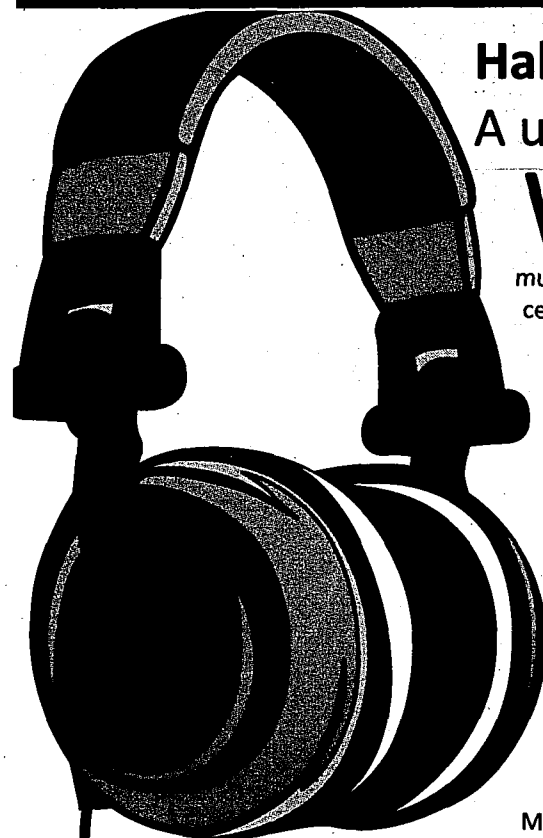
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Halloween weekend getaway to Asheville: Moogfest 2011

A unique blend of music and tourism

By Sarah Sharp
Staff Writer



With haunted houses and zombie walks sprouting their existence, everyone must come to a decision. Halloween: To celebrate or not to celebrate?

We practically work ourselves into a zombie-like state with a continual cycle of school, work, sleep and eat—we could all use a getaway. Why not a Halloween weekend escape to Asheville, N.C., for music festival Moogfest 2011?

It's a reason to dress up in Halloween garb not one, but three nights in downtown Asheville with a lively mixture of locals and out-of-towners dressed and ready to bust a move.

Moogfest, named after electronic synthesizer pioneer Bob Moog, is one of the best-kept secrets in the Southeast. It's a combination of music and tourism, dispersed between venues throughout downtown Asheville, surrounded by lively specialty brewpubs and locally-owned restaurants.

Last year's lineup was an eclectic one: Big Boi opening up the festival with an on-stage booty-shakin party, moving performances from Massive Attack, Jonsi, Thievery Corporation and the odd Shpongtronathon—Moogfest hit the bullseye. Paired with intimate shows at The Orange Peel, not to mention underground after-parties, Asheville and Moogfest proved themselves to be two peas in a pod.

This year's festival shouts loud and proud with some rare and big name acts, an incredible art exhibit, artist panel discussions, and a special blend of colorfully and ridiculously-dressed people from all over the country.

Among the 66 bands performing over the weekend are Moby, Tangerine Dream, The Flaming Lips and Amon Tobin. Fierce new flavor from Sweden's Little Dragon, SBTRKT and Childish Gambino are also on the lineup, as well as some jam with Umphreys McGee and STS9.

THE FESTIVAL

Moogfest began in New York City as a one-day event bringing the biggest fish of Moog-inspired electronic music. When the event was expanded into a weekend festival in the hands of AC Entertainment, it relocated to Bob Moog's hometown of Asheville, N.C.

Rather than bringing only the biggest names in electronic music, there was an initiative to include the underground scene following the Moog spirit of innovation and creativity, says Jeff Cuellar, AC Entertainment Director of Connectivity. Even though the lineup is primarily electronic, it's not about limiting the festival to a particular genre, but rather to cherish the daring vision of an artist pushing the boundaries of music.

AMON TOBIN'S ISAM

To electronic music enthusiasts, Brazilian-born Amon Tobin is the cream of the crop. He arranges highly mechanical digitized sounds into an ambient journey while merging the sonic and the visual.

For his ISAM 2011 tour, he sought out a group of engineers to create a system of pixilated cubes stacked atop each other, which resemble a cityscape in shape, but move as texturized and transforming optical illusions. Shapes come to life and dissipate into new images entirely, making for some exceptionally trippy eye-candy.

"You talk about Amon Tobin pushing the limits," Cuellar says. "He is creating new limits, blending different art forms, creating an immersive experience which is going to blow minds."

LITTLE DRAGON

Since Swedish electronic pop group Little Dragon emerged with their debut album in 2007, they've been breaking boundaries and merging genres to create a magnetic sound unlike anything out right now. Their influences come from a number of places, but their musical identity is all their own.

Other artists have caught on to the creative genius of Little Dragon and the unforgettable voice of its leading lady, Swedish-Japanese Yukimi Nagano.

It seems as if everyone wants a piece of her visceral, airy whines and catchy rhythmic constructions. She's featured on two tracks from the latest Gorillaz album, Plastic Beach, and on the very recent SBTRKT's "Wildfire."

SBTRKT

SBTRKT, UK writer/producer/DJ turned recording artist, released his self-titled debut this year — a unique mixture of house, r&b and dubstep, birthing a new kind of pop. Like Little Dragon, his sound is a breath of fresh air, a unique sonic journey translating his versatile vision.

As for a potential live collaboration between the two, nothing has been confirmed, but seeing as "Wildfire" has been one the most popular tracks — more than one million YouTube hits — and neither of them has conflicting schedules, the potential is high.

SPECIAL DISCO VERSION WITH JAMES MURPHY AND PAT MAHONEY

The former front man and drummer from the Grammy-nominated dance rock band LCD Soundsystem will be giving Asheville a special treat, considering LCD fans thought the glory days were over after they announced their split in 2010. Since we can no longer see the full LCD outfit, the chance to experience this duo live is a true rarity, and it will undoubtedly be one of the funkier dance parties you will ever have the pleasure of being part of.

COVER STORY

According to the AC Entertainment director, as a result of last year's complaints about access to venues due to maximum capacity issues, the festival will add new venues: the elegant Diana Wortham Theatre, the newly-renovated Asheville Music Hall and a still-unnamed outdoor venue.

North side of downtown
Asheville Civic Center (6,000 capacity)
Thomas Wolfe Auditorium (2,400 seats)

Recognized by Rolling Stone as one of the best national rock venues

1,100 capacity
Perfect DJ spot

500 seats, including orchestra and balcony levels
Old-fashioned red velvet curtain stage

Approximately 600 standing room capacity

Still not much word for official name yet
Pro: the Blue Ridge Mountains is the backdrop

FESTIVAL FEATURES

BRIAN ENO

An exhibit and conversation with Brian Eno, musician and producer, will pay homage to the essence of Moogfest—celebrating the creator and artist in any form.

After Cuellar explained that AC Entertainment has been trying to find the right festival setting for Eno for a couple years now, he said that Moogfest was the perfect fit.

Eno's first exhibit, 77 Million Paintings, which he refers to as 'visual music', is an evolution of sound/image-scape from his use of light and generative software. He created this hybrid medium as a way to bring art to the numerous flat screens that sit darkened and unused.

Within time, this exhibition became a larger production with multiple-monitor configurations.

This will be the first showing seen in the U.S., outside of Los Angeles and San Francisco, and in the heart of downtown Asheville, N.C. For the weekend of Oct. 28-30, 77 Million Paintings will only be open to Moogfest pass holders until November.

ARTIST PANEL/ WORKSHOPS

Moogfest offers artist panel discussions, Q&A sessions, and workshops. Cuellar anticipates a very positive turn-out as they were such a hit last year among both patrons and artists.

WEEKEND IN ASHEVILLE

Asheville offers fresh local food and specialty brewed beer, java houses and music clubs, to the beautiful scenery outdoors, it's got about anything you could want in a weekend. Paired with a downtown music festival, there's time to explore the tight-knit mountain city.

HIGHLAND BREWING CO.

Started in 1994, Asheville's own can brew up to 20,000 barrels of beer annually. The Highland Tasting Room is open through the weekend from 4-8 p.m., perfect timing before heading to a Moogfest show.

TUPELO HONEY CAFÉ

This fresh ingredient restaurant offers Southern-style fusion food with a little extra flair. Aside from its charming atmosphere that features local artists' work, they also have an exceptional brunch. Known for their sweet potato pancakes, they mesh taste with health.

DOUBLE D'S COFFEE & DESSERTS

This candy-apple red double-decker bus may be straight out of the 60s, but its spiral staircase lined with teal floral wallpaper excites the senses. Up the staircase is an old diner, featuring vintage curtains and all. Sit down, relax a bit, have a hot coffee. You might just forget you're in a bus.

MOOGSEUM

Asheville houses the Bob Moog Museum. It is equipped with a history space to Bob Moog's legacy, vintage Moog instrument gallery, a 200-seat performance area, Sonic Exploratorium, and a hands-on music lab for kids

OUTDOORS

In the Blue Ridge Mountains, Asheville is one of the top outdoor adventure destinations in the Southeast, if not the U.S. It's the prime time to see breathtaking sunsets glittering through the plentiful forests in the fall. ■

TICKET INFO

Moogfest.com

Tickets 1st tier: SOLD OUT

2nd tier price: \$184.50

3rd tier price: \$199.50

Slut Walk to help victims of sex crimes

By Taylor Hixson
Staff Writer

Nashville's first Slut Walk will take place in Centennial Park on Sunday at 4 p.m. to raise awareness on the issue of stigmatizing sexual assault victims.

One of the notions of Slut Walk is to start teaching people "don't rape" instead of "don't get raped," said Kim Rippere, who runs the Facebook group for Slut Walk organizers.

"If you get robbed, we don't say it was your fault," Rippere said. "If you're murdered, we don't say it was your fault. But this is one instance where we say, as a society, how rape is really the victim's fault. But this conversation needs to be changed."

The walk will go from the Centennial Park pavilion, located behind the McDonald's on West End Avenue, to the Tennessee U.S. Senators' offices on Murphy Road and will end at the Parthenon for a candlelight vigil at dusk.

From the first planning session to the upcoming Nashville event, the Slut Walk movement has been active for seven months, and it has already become a global phenomenon. It has taken place in over 150 cities on six different continents, said Heather Jarvis, co-founder of Slut Walk.

The movement started in January after a Toronto police officer made the comment, "women should avoid dressing like sluts," according to the Nashville Slut Walk website. The comment sparked numerous protests in reaction to his statement that women are to-blame for any unwanted sexual attention.

Abuse and assault often go unreported for fear of comments like "you were asking for it" or being called a slut, which is where the event gets its name—a rejection of the victimization attached to the meaning, organizers said.

"These are pervasive ideas that

place blame upon the victim, that they did something wrong to attract this horrible incident, which is not true," Jarvis said. "There is no statistic or study or research that you wear less clothing, and you are more likely to be assaulted, and therefore you wear more clothing and you suddenly protect yourself."

Sexual violence and assault are common problems that anyone can face either through personal experience or someone they know. According to the Tennessee Sexual Assault Center website, one in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually abused by the age of 18.

Sexual assault is defined as any unwanted sexual encounter where one person does not consent, according to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.

In the United States someone is sexually assaulted every two minutes, and one out of three women and one out of every six men will be victims of

sexual assault, abuse or unwanted sexual activity in their lifetime, according to the Nashville Slut Walk website.

However, abuse is often hidden because of the stigma attached to being a victim of any sort of sexual crime. Ninety percent of sexual abuse victims never talk about being attacked, according to the Nashville Slut Walk website.

"What I took away from all of my research is that it is making people talk about issues that they would not necessarily talk about," said Lori Stephens, one of the Nashville Slut Walk organizers and an instructor for MTSU's Speech and Theatre Department. "It has also brought up other victim rights, such as the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender community and disabled victims rights. It is making people talk about these issues and speak out."

Slut Walk is for everyone, regardless of age, race, gender or sexual orientation,

continued...on page 7

Local entrepreneur launches website for students

By Mikey Fuller
Contributing Writer

MTSUList.com is a new website designed specifically for MTSU students to buy, sell and trade textbooks and other course materials.

Bewar Haji, 25, said he created the website to cut out the headache of overpriced textbooks and the hassle of bargain hunting at every bookstore in Murfreesboro.

Haji is an MTSU alumnus with a degree in business administration. His main purpose for creating the website, he said, was not to become a millionaire but to make lives easier for students who have to deal with thousands of dollars for books each semester.

Phillip's Bookstore on campus and Textbook Brokers are the two bookstores where Haji said he bought his books while in school, and they have now become his competition along with Blue Raider Bookstore and Beat the Bookstore.

"The website is able to bring all students to one place at the tip of your fingertips," Haji said.

Students can look through any area of study offered at MTSU to see if books are posted for sale.

Austin Leavell, 20, a junior majoring in biochemistry, said he thinks the site is a great idea.

"I'm all for it," Leavell said. "We have too many students at this school to not have our own personal network like this."

The site is not limited to textbooks, and Haji said anyone can post almost anything for sale. Housing, services and community events can also be found here.

"I went to the site to check it out, so I thought I would put my motorcycle up to see if I get any bites," said Nathan Lux, an alumnus.

Haji said he came up with the idea a

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2011-2012**

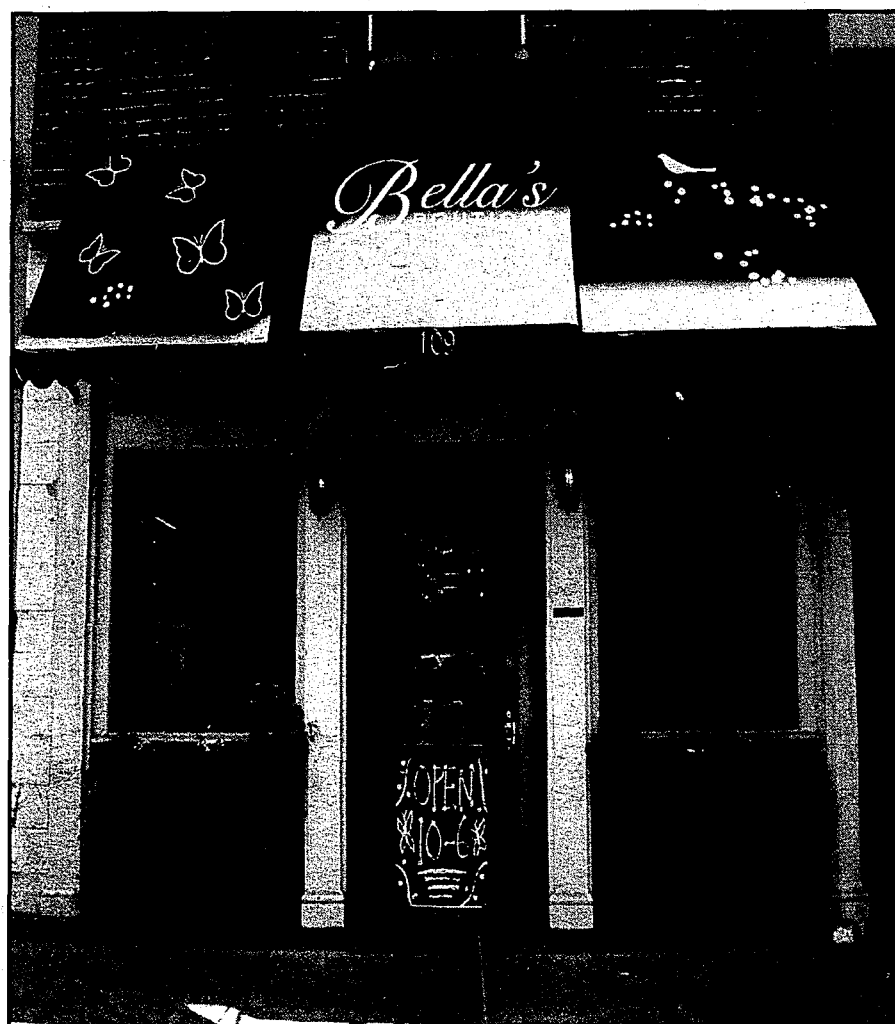
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Dec. 20, 2011 - Jan. 27, 2012

Cost for Winter Session courses
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Local businesses excited school is in session

By Abigail Tackett
Contributing Writer

Local business owners welcome returning students after a summer without their business. Students are a big part of the economy in a college town.

"We don't like it when the students leave," said Tim Brown, franchise owner and managing partner of Marco's Pizza. "It definitely affects our business in a negative way."

Marco's Pizza, located on 1208 E. Northfield Blvd., opened in Murfreesboro in February 2010.

The business took a big hit that summer losing about 30 to 40 percent of sales, Brown said. This year its sales decreased again when students left, although not as much.

Even though Marco's Pizza is a fast growing nationwide business, it is still fairly new to the campus scene. The Murfreesboro location is the first Marco's franchise to expand in a college market, Brown said.

"Obviously when students are there it makes a huge difference," Brown said.

Marco's Pizza is not the only local business that feels a difference when fall semester starts.

"There's definitely change," said Jessica Seitz, an employee of Phazer Kraze.

Phazer Kraze is a laser tag and arcade arena, located on 252 River Rock Blvd. in Murfreesboro, and it has been in business since 2008.

Its demographic is mostly young kids and high school students, Seitz said, but when college students return in the fall, Phazer Kraze starts seeing much business on Friday and Saturday nights.

Restaurants and laser tag businesses are not the only ones who appreciate the business that a new school year brings.

"We feel the presence of students here," said Judy Goldie, who has been a small business owner in Rutherford County for 23 years.

Goldie is the sole proprietor of Trendy Pieces, Bella's Boutique and part owner of The Greenery. All three stores are located side by side on the square on South Church Street.

"We almost jump up and down when it's time for the students to come back," Goldie said, "because we really know that they're grand supporters."

Trendy Pieces has brands of contemporary clothing for men and women along with accessories, candles and gift items. Bella's Boutique predominantly offers women's clothing, and The Greenery offers organic groceries, freshly made sandwiches and salads, art, flowers, coffee and more.

"We're so proud to live in a town that's a college town," Goldie said. "The college is the heartbeat. What's going on with MTSU is what makes us want to be here." ■

Zombies to attack Nashville

By Cecilia Sinkala
Contributing Writer

Participants will run for their lives at the Zombie Buffet 5k at Riverfront Park in Nashville on Saturday Oct. 29, a fun run where participants are split into two groups: runners and zombies.

"It came out of my own avoidance of running," said Brandon May, creator of the Zombie Buffet 5k. "I always said I would only run if I was being chased."

Players that choose to be runners

slow moving kind made popular by the original Dawn of the Dead, or the swift moving kind that has gained popularity in recent years.

Runners and zombies will not start the race at the same time. Runners will be released first and after a certain amount of time the zombies are released.

Zombie players can use any strategy to get flags from runners except for any form of physical violence.

Runners can also use strategies to avoid zombies but cannot do anything to the flag to hide it or make it difficult for zombies to remove, such as taping or tying it to the runner.

Some university students have already decided which side of the

"war" they're on.

"Running in marathons is kind of a hobby of mine and they can get pretty boring at times," said Monica Copciac, as senior recording industry major. "So this definitely shakes things up a bit, and it gives you great motivation to run as fast as you can when others are chasing you."

Senior film major Tala Hoballah, on the other hand, is firmly on the side of the undead.

"Zombie films are my favorite genre of horror," Hoballah said. "I've actually made a short film with them as the subject. It's unbelievably awesome to get a chance to play a zombie in real life."

The Zombie Buffet 5k will start and end at the Wildhorse Saloon. Participants will begin registering at 11 a.m. and the

first wave of the race begins at 1 p.m.

There are four waves rated from easy to very hard in difficulty. Each wave has a limit of 500 participants to avoid overcrowding.

Each wave is estimated to last between 30 and 45 minutes. The entire run is estimated to last approximately four hours.

There are two different ticket options. It costs \$44 to register as a

runner,
and
\$39

to
register

to enter the
zombie draft. Twenty

percent discounts are available for students and companies.

Prizes will be awarded to three runners per wave, but only one zombie per wave since there are less zombie participants. The prizes have yet to be announced.

"The ultimate goal is to make this zombie run a new Halloween tradition for Nashville," May said. "We want to do something for people who are a bit too old for trick or treating."

Participants must be 18 years or older.

Proceeds from registering for the Zombie Buffet 5K go to the Nashville Rescue Mission. The organization dedicates itself to helping homeless citizens in the Middle Tennessee area. ■

Storm sirens to sound less often Staff Report

MTSU's tornado-alert system has been redesigned to sound alarm only when campus and the surrounding community are thought to be endangered, according to a press release.

This is a change from the previous model, as formally the tornado sirens were activated whenever the National Weather Service issued a warning for Rutherford County, according to the report.

Now the alarm will be sounded when the administration receives an alert that the university and the area around it may be affected by a tornado or similar storm, according to the report. These warnings will come from AccuWeather, an international organization of meteorologists that specializes in tracking local weather.

"AccuWeather will alert MTSU when the university is in the path or in close proximity to tornado activity—when a tornado may be

This new program is scheduled to be put in effect

will be
traversing the

entire five-kilometer distance. They will be given two health flags and the goal is to cross the finish line with one of them.

If both of the flags are taken then the runner is taken to a "transformation station" and will become a zombie as well.

Unlike some five-kilometer runs, organizers said the Zombie Buffet 5k will not be about maintaining a steady pace, as much as being able to adapt to many different speeds while getting away from zombie hordes.

Players that choose to be zombies are to show up in full costume. Their goal is not about crossing the finish line, as much as getting health flags from runners.

Zombie players can be any type of zombie they want, whether it be the

5k walk to confront abuse and assault...from page 5

because victim blaming is an issue that is pervasive throughout all societies and cultures, participants said.

"It is one more step toward gender equality," said Tyler Burke, a junior majoring in public relations. Burke is passionate about the cause.

"When I read about the comment spoken by the police officer I got really fired up about the event taking place," Burke said. "I didn't even think people still felt that way about how modestly or provocatively a woman dresses affects her."

Slut Walk not only talks about the

injustice of blaming victims for something out of their control, but it also attempts to prove that anyone wearing anything could be a victim of a sexual crime.

"There is no dress code, there is no gender, there is no age, this is the reality because it affects everyone," Jarvis said. ■

A wiry addict bent on imagination

By Todd Barnes
Managing Editor

As the summer heat fizzles into fall's forgiving breeze, an old, deep-seated magic re-emerges out of the woodwork of Cannon County.

Craftspeople of all ages and backgrounds dressed in overalls and T-shirts, come across the rolling hills of Tennessee to pop up their modest, dingy white tents and transform them into elaborate art galleries and shops for selling their handmade treasures—baskets, “canjos,” jewelry, paintings—at the 22nd White Oak Craft Fair held annually at the Woodbury Center for the Arts.

The fair is arranged like a racetrack where patrons casually walk on soft hay as they cruise the mini arts-and-crafts tents and talk to each artist about various subjects – art, life, religion, politics – as if they had known one another for years.

The artists and craftspeople, who are the heart of the fair, pride themselves on their handmade works and willingly show and explain to patrons the whats, the hows, but most importantly, the whys of their talents.

Located in a large tent housing several booths is a strawberry blonde-haired woman in Booth 33. She is dressed in a white apron and optimistically smiling behind a small table covered with silver bracelets, dainty rings on smoothly rounded wooden spikes and necklaces on collared black suede displays.

A wooden spinning wheel traced with a line of twine ending on a half-wrapped spool sits behind her vacant in the background.

Her name is Mae Carkuff, a junior majoring in geology who is taking a day away from her normal student life to showcase her artistic passions and perhaps make enough money to feed her addiction.

“I’m basically like a junkie,” she declares. “I’m going to buy the wire. I’m going to buy the beads, and I’m going to make the jewelry. This way I can feed the habit – cause I’m going to make it anyway.”

Mae’s addiction stems from her 2007 experience in Afghanistan during her service in the military.

“I came back with a lot of beads

that I had gotten over there – lapis, jade, obsidian, jasper – a bunch of different beads,” she says. “I got home, and I realized that I had all these beads. And I had to figure out something to do with them. So, I went online and bought some silver wire, and I started making jewelry. It’s become a little bit of an obsession since then.”

Mae twists jewelry with nothing but a pair of 2.5 inch needle-nose pliers, malleable copper and silver wire and her trusty hands. She says a little bit of “stupid TV” like Law & Order helps.

“It’s just mindless background noise, but I’ll sit there and make my jewelry,” she says.

Although Mae boasts that she can draw, she says she works completely without a blueprint and preaches that her imagination is her guide. She says typically she begins using a copper wire to bend out her initial thoughts about a design.

Suddenly, she grabs a piece of her jewelry that is a greenish-white stone that has a silver wire tight swirl flowing around and encasing it with a line of four translucent purple beads aligned on top. She points out that the stone does not have holes to slide wire through.

“I’ll take my copper wire and do my swirls to see how I’m going to set it and see if it works,” she reveals. “If it doesn’t, I grab some more copper and start over, which is much more less frustrating than doing it in silver and having to chuck it.”

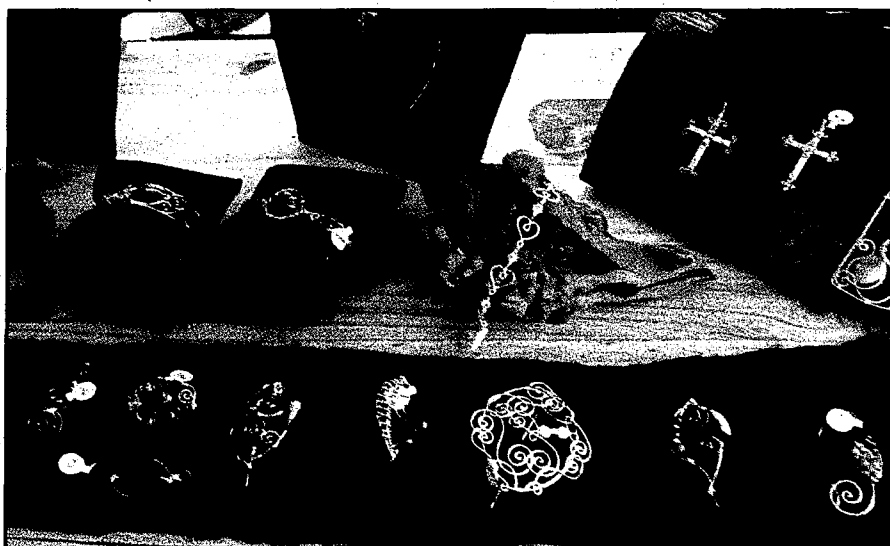
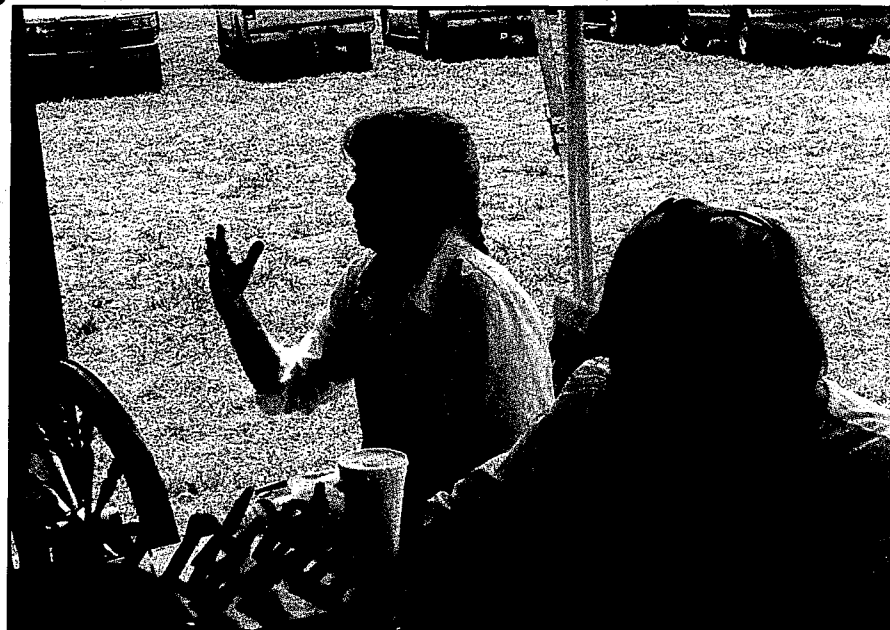
The end result is a unique, one-of-a-kind piece of jewelry, which serves more of a therapeutic purpose she says, even though it has its moments.

“It is very soothing to me – as much as I curse at it sometimes,” she explains, like a frustrated mother justifying her love for her annoying child. “It is wire - it doesn’t always do what I want.”

Mae says that the fair is an epicenter of inspiration and admits to perusing other artists’ work to spark a new way of creating and evolving her jewelry.

“I’m never going to be able to copy anyone else’s work,” she says. “But it will give me an idea – ‘Oh, hey, I can turn the copper that way.’”

This is Mae’s second year to work



(Top) Student Mae Carkuff and her mother, Ann Pierce, work their jewelry and weaving booth Sept. 11 during the 22nd White Oak Crafts Fair held in Woodbury, Tenn.

(Bottom) Hand-made bracelets, earrings and necklaces are displayed Sept. 11 at the 22nd White Oak Crafts Fair held in Woodbury, Tenn. (Photos by Todd Barnes)

at the fair, and she says money is only a secondary perk, whereas all profits go to buying more supplies to make jewelry.

“If I was trying to make all the money I could, I wouldn’t be selling it here,” she says. “I’d be selling in Manhattan or in Sedona, Ariz., or Aspen, Colo.”

Additionally, Mae says that her pieces are priced to the local market for one reason.

“I want people here to be able to enjoy what I make,” she says wholeheartedly. “I love seeing my art on somebody.”

Although as Mae looks around, she notices not many people are at the bazaar today compared to yesterday. However, regardless of prospective buyers, she reminds herself of one thing that is certain for a junkie like her.

“I’m going to make it,” she says. “Whether I sell it or not.” ■

RANTS & RAVES

Thursday, September 29, 2011

Centennial Homecoming Week:

Back to the Future
8 p.m., KUC Theater
Admission: \$2

To coincide with the Centennial Homecoming Theme, "Look to the Future, Remember the Past," the KUC Theater will be showing the 1980s classic "Back to the Future." Shelling out 2 bucks is well worth it to see teen heartthrob Michael J. Fox as Marty McFly and Christopher Lloyd as the eccentric Dr. Emmett Brown. I believe it is your destiny...I mean...it is your destiny to go watch this movie.



2011 HOMECOMING SPECIAL EVENT

Wavorly

10 p.m., The Rutledge
401 4th Ave South, Nashville
Admission: \$5

The alt-rock Christian group hails from Tupelo, Miss., and is a must-see show. Don't let the label "Christian" turn you off of this-----the quintet EP, Conquering the Fear of Flight, was released through Sony back in 2007, and is a solid start to what promises to become a full-fledged music career. Check it out the track "A Summer's Song" on Grooveshark for a tasty tidbit before trekking to Nashville.

Friday, September 30, 2011

The Dirty Truth with Thief and The Smoking Flowers ft. Langoliers
8:30 p.m., The Walnut House
116 N. Walnut St, Murfreesboro
Admission: \$5

The Dirty Truth is fairly new to the local music scene, founded back in January. Thief is a foursome that has been performing in clubs around Middle Tennessee for the past 5 years. Since the debut of their self-titled album in August, their fan base has been kicked into overdrive. The Smoking Flowers is a husband-and-wife duo known for their original folk sound. Combine them with the Langoliers (the band, not the Stephen King novel-turned-movie) and you have something truly unique. Overall, each band is coming together for a smorgasbord of sound that will leave your ears satisfied.



The Rocky Horror Show Live at the Boiler Room Theatre
8 p.m., The Boiler Room Theatre
230 Franklin Road, Franklin
Admission: \$20

"Great Scott!" Come watch a Nashville-area cast put its own spin on this popular musical and transport you to Transsexual Transylvania. As a person who often attends show there, I can tell you The Boiler Room never disappoints with stellar casts that include some of the best in show biz. "Give yourself over to pleasure" and go see The Rocky Horror Show. But if you're broke college kid—first, know you're not alone. Second, you can always save the \$20 plus gas and rent the 1975 version from Netflix. Saving money is sweet, isn't it?



Saturday, October 1, 2011

Celebrate Nashville Cultural Festival
10 a.m., Centennial Park
Admission: FREE

If football isn't your scene, head to Nashville for an event that's well worth the gas. Over 50 cultures present in Nashville are showcased and celebrated in this festival through dance, music and food. The festival helps attendees to understand and appreciate one another's cultures, while also promoting cultural awareness. So, have a Falafel plate as you dance to the beat of Caribbean drums, all while a Chinese vendor translates your name into Chinese calligraphy, or go for a different cultural combo. At this event, the possibilities are endless.

Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders vs. Memphis Tigers
6 p.m., Floyd Stadium
Admission: FREE

Come out and celebrate MTSU's Centennial Homecoming! The day will be filled with back-to-back festivities, starting with the tailgating tradition in Walnut Grove at 11 a.m. A pregame at the Grove begins at 2 p.m. and will feature an obstacle course, climbing wall and caricature art (just to name a few), followed by the Raider Walk at 3:45 p.m. Finally, at 6 p.m., cheer on our team from the stands as the Raiders battle the Tigers. The first 8,000 people get free thundersticks! Even if you're not a football fanatic, the day's festivities and pregame traditions will not disappoint. So pull on your best blue outfit, grab some friends and some food and show some spirit!

HOMECOMING

1911 VS 2011

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2011

PREGAME AT THE GROVE

(North Field House)

2:00 PM
Pregame at the Grove Begins

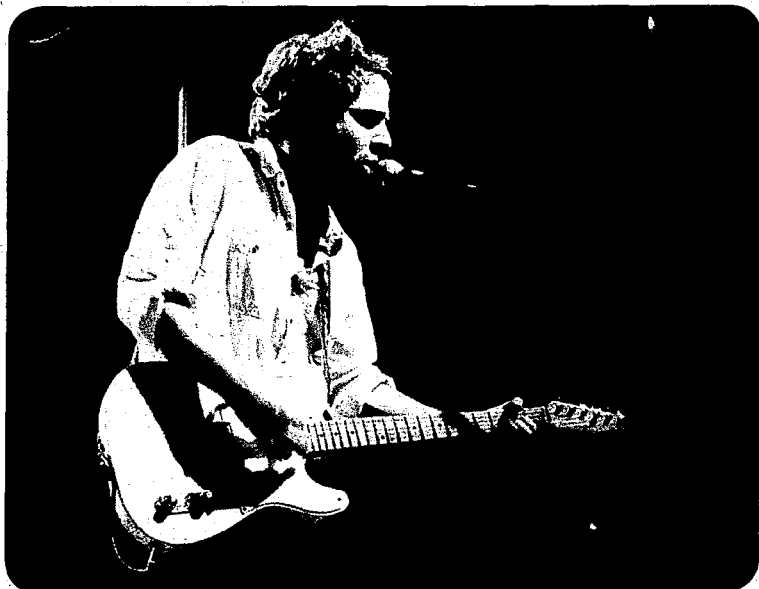
3:45 PM
Raider Walk

6:00 PM
Kickoff

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

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(Left) Taylor Goldsmith of American roots band, Dawes, opened for M. Ward during the first night of SoundLand festivities. The band warmed up the packed crowd and later joined M. Ward on stage for a final encore.

(Right) Mark Foster of indie pop band, Foster the People, pumped up a loud crowd at the 12th Avenue Block Party Stage Thursday night.

Photos by Bailey Ingram, photography editor

The Sound of Music City: SoundLand showcases the best of Nashville

By Emma Egli
and Becca Andrews
Editorial Staff

Next Big Nashville was reborn this year under the moniker of SoundLand. With a new image and a stellar lineup, the festival is sure to become a staple in the Nashville year of music. Editors Emma Egli and Becca Andrews were certainly impressed.

WEDNESDAY

SoundLand festivities kicked off Wednesday night in the small but spacious War Memorial Auditorium with Jonny Corndawg and Dawes opening for popular crooner M. Ward.

Jonny Corndawg was every bit as twangy and country as the name suggests, served with extra cheese. Jonny himself is of the self-described "70s gay country" brand, and sports a wide cowboy hat and a handlebar moustache. While the backup band was decent for the kind of music that it was, Corndawg himself was more insulting than pleasurable to the taste buds. His over-the-top Southern drawl made our eardrums scream in protest.

Dawes was a solid improvement on Corndawg. The bluesy folk rock outfit was accepted well by the good

ole boys in the audience, hollering in appreciation to references of chicken wings, mashed potatoes and beans. The group also played a little ditty called "Million Dollar Bill," a song about revenge against a girl who left him for a richer man.

All was running smoothly until Dawes made their fatal mistake... twice. Not just once, but twice, front man Taylor Goldsmith called Corndawg up on stage for a collaboration (if you could call it that). With a grin that was a country mile wide, Corndawg managed to simultaneously stagger and scramble next to Goldsmith. His swaying, drunken performance would have made even the biggest redneck ashamed.

Finally, M. Ward wordlessly took the stage, opening his hourlong set with an instrumental piece that said everything we needed to know. With his intricate guitar licks and swaying harmonica melodies, we were hooked. His soft voice had a slight rasp to it, and his performance was all about the music. He spoke very little during the

set, letting his talents as a musician take over. Ward utilized guitars, a harmonica, a piano and his own vocals to create a splendidly artistic performance. He was joined by Dawes on the closing numbers, creating an exquisite fusion of sound.

He made the intoxicated antics of Corndawg worth it.

THURSDAY

SoundLand's second night began for us at a stage outside local party bar 12th & Porter. The grounds were crowded, cluttered with food trucks, merch tables and mini-bars. Plastic cups littered the ground and background music pulsed through the air as we waited for Cults to go on.

The Manhattan indie-pop outfit did not fail to impress. Cults front woman Madeline Follin swayed to the beat with moves reminiscent of Sleeper Agent's Alex Kandel, and her vocals were an East Coast brand of dreamy. The beats were driving, commanding even the most stoic festival goer to move in the same jerky, robotic fashion of Follin.

The end of Cults' all-too-short set brought on SoundLand headliners Foster the People, who pumped up the crowd with their catchy hooks and electronic-motivated sound. Frontman Mark Foster moved across the stage with a vigor and sexuality that could be compared to those of Mick Jagger. The three California boys had an infectious energy that could not be contained. Our only complaint with this act is of a technical nature—the performance was not mixed well at all. Next time Foster visits Music City, we demand a better sound crew and a more acoustic-friendly venue.

From 12th & Porter, we made the trek through downtown to Cannery Ballroom, and boy, was that an experience. We were greeted by an electronica sound and the heady voice of ex-MTSUer Jason Huber. The dance music sounds like MGMT, and the band expects to release their full-length this week, according to Huber. The lights and the funk influences would have made for an incredible show, were it not for the bro-infested crowd.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

It seemed as though every frat guy in Middle Tennessee decided to show up, beer in one hand, tiny blonde in the other. However, we found ourselves wishing that each of them had come with a girl, because it wasn't long before we felt them closing in on us. Claustrophobic and in desperate need of air, we made our way to the entrance, just in time to see one of the members of the pack be wrestled to the ground by two burly security guards. Spewing expletives with middle fingers extended, he was ushered out for attempted mischief.

After the WWE-esque entertainment, we headed back inside the darkness for the glowing light show with sound, Ghostland. Although the dance beats here were also irresistible, our disgust with the beer being spilt on our skinnies eventually won out, and we went home to shower.

FRIDAY

Friday's Soundland lineup offered some of the most diverse artists and acts in a wide arrange of venues across Nashville. The more eclectic included rapper Yelawolf at the 12th Avenue Block Party Stage. Those looking for something a bit more tame – we use the word tame lightly – could venture to the Cannery Ballroom and see the somewhat peculiar, but never disappointing, Justin Townes Earle. It's hard not to compare him to his legendary father, Steve Earle – however, Justin is carving his own unique path. Flanked by only a fiddler and upright bassist, Justin delivered his raw, down-home tunes to an audience that reveled in his smart lyrics and quick humor.

The Station Inn – arguably one of the most famous Bluegrass and Roots music venues in Nashville – showcased some of the festival's best singer/songwriters, including one of our personal favorites, Natalie Prass. The songbird whose voice we can only describe as being a cross between melting butter and fresh-out-of-the-oven apple pie, looked angelic in her

all-white attire. Natalie showcased her dainty voice with a set of mostly new songs that included early Rilo Kiley-esque "Sand Dune" and the more upbeat, poppy "Goodbye, Goodbye."

"I tried to go for a mixed set," Natalie explained. "I've been going through a lot of changes recently. Being out of school is a different way of life. I feel like I've been in this new place – kind of breaking myself down and really getting inside myself to rebuild it. A lot of my songs that I chose to play reflected that."

Natalie was beyond giddy to play to a sold-out crowd in her favorite venue and the crowd was more than pleased to hear what she had to offer. The MTSU alumna told us we can expect an EP out in the next few weeks, and a full-length by November.

SATURDAY

While Saturday signaled the end of a fantastic music-filled week, the fun and festivities still weren't over. The Neuhoff Factory Party Stage, a new venue near Germantown, provided a chill backdrop for acts like Jessica Lea Mayfield and The Apache Relay. Sister act Those Darlins hit the stage at dusk – their attempt at edgy and raw sex appeal just a bit too intimidating. But that didn't stop the crowd from shouting along with lead vocalist, Jessi Darlin, who shimmied across the stage in her glittering gold leotard (startling a few in the front row with her death stare).

Over at the Mercy Lounge, one of Nashville's favorites, Paper Route, played to a packed crowd who were happy to welcome the group back from a mini-tour – if you can call it that – of Europe and a few U.S. cities. J.T. Daly, lead singer and keyboardist, expressed his approval of the SoundLand name change and was pleased to see a more broad range of artists gracing the lineup.

While J.T. claims that Paper Route isn't really one of Nashville's darlings (the crowd begged to differ), this humble attitude seems to be a key element of the band's success. That, and of course their overwhelming stage

presence. Fans were overzealous to hear old favorites like "Gutter" and "Are We All Forgotten," and J.T. seemed in his element as he delivered.

"It's been great to start playing again and testing out new songs to see if people like them," J.T. said. "We've gone through a lot of transitions, and I'm really excited for what the new album will bring."

Fans can expect the first single, "Better Life," to be released next month

on vinyl. J.T. says the new album, *The Peace of Wild Things*, will come out in January. While he didn't divulge too much on this long-awaited second full-length, he said we can expect some original album artwork that incorporates a picture from his favorite writer, David Dark. Sounds mysterious, but one can only expect great things from a guy who claims to have broken his arm on tour while "defending a lady's honor." ■



(Top) M. Ward took the stage Wednesday night, his distinctive voice leaving the packed War Memorial Auditorium in utter silence. Ward played a wide range of material, including songs from side project, *Monster of Folk*. (Photo by Bailey Ingram, photography editor)

(Bottom) Genre-crossing artist, Evan P. Donohue playing Saturday night at the Mercy Lounge, accompanied by songstress, Natalie Prass. Prass played a sold-out show at the Station Inn on Friday night. (Photo by Emma Egli)

FOR OUR FULL SOUNDLAND SLIDESHOW, VISIT WWW.MTSUSIDELINES.COM

The new Groovebug vs. the old Pandora

By Jackie Rippee
Staff Writer

For all the music lovers out there, it looks like there may finally be an application that solves the head-ache of searching high and low all over the World Wide Web for new artists, band schedules and the latest information on artists. The mother load is the new Groovebug application, made for the iPad 2.

Groovebug is a program designed to scan through music in a user's iTunes library, giving the program the information it needs to create an "interactive magazine."

However, in a world chock full of different music mediums like Pandora, Spotify and Grooveshark, what makes Groovebug worth looking at?

Imagine not having to visit a particular website to pull up a band's schedule and anxiously scan it for the name of your hometown. Imagine not having to search through numerous websites for information on a particular artist. Groovebug eliminates this step from the equation and puts all the necessities into one place: a feature purely unique.

The most limited of the music streaming programs today is Pandora. Pandora is great for streaming free music while valiantly attempting to filter through music a user does not like. The program works to achieve this through the skip option, or the user can employ the shameful thumbs down symbol.

However, the listener is still subject to much undesired music. Pandora is limited to only six skips per hour on each station, and the user cannot choose a particular song, no matter how much they crave to move to the beat of that one Beyoncé song. In addition to these limitations, Pandora is funded by pesky ads between every few songs. It's plain and simple what holds Pandora back from greatness—it's nothing more than a fancy Internet radio.

With Groovebug, lack of song choice and haunting ads are not a

problem, since the program already taps into your iTunes library to create a user's interactive magazine with different information such as band bios, high quality images, music, band schedules, the latest news on an artist, blog updates and much more. It's like an extensive, reliable encyclopedia for your iTunes.

The only real competition for Groovebug is the latest music player to hit the scene with a resounding bang—Spotify.

Spotify is a live music player that streams more than 15 million songs for a user. The user also has the power to listen to a particular song. Spotify may sound like any other free music player, but Spotify has extra features that causes it stand out from other music streaming programs.

Spotify is set apart because it allows a user to connect to social networks to share music through Facebook and Twitter. This ability allows a user to make playlists of their favorite songs and share it with friends and followers who also sing the praises of Spotify.

In order to receive the free Spotify program, a user must be invited by a friend who already has it. This connects with the social networking concept and creates an air of exclusivity about it.

The dark side to Spotify is the ad interruptions and the limited availability of certain artists. For example, a user can only listen to a few select Red Hot Chili Peppers' songs and not the entire discography.

Spotify offers a solution to these annoyances, but it requires the very thing college kids are short on—money. The two upgraded packages are priced at \$4.99 per month and \$9.99 per month.

Groovebug is a new application produced by people who love music, including musicians and DJs recognize the need to make streaming music simpler and more efficient. The program is also a four-letter word that does not come by very often—free. ■



By Montee Lopez
Contributing Writer

Open mic night brings students together

It's 10 p.m. Most students are safely locked in for the night, preparing to wind down from a long day of classes. All seems still on the campus—except for the raucous beats resounding in the quad.

People begin to gather steadily. Students begin setting up small lights and audio equipment. Musicians are setting up their instruments, warming up and doing sound checks as people are still mingling. Then—all of a sudden—a big, bold sound comes up and the show begins.

The scene being described happens every Wednesday night between the Business and Aerospace Building and the James E. Walker Library called "Word Up," which is an open mic hip-hop and poetry club for students, by students.

Several people performed in front of the crowd that night, including Martinie Collins, a sophomore majoring in Liberal Arts.

"This is real hip-hop," says Collins, after the first few minutes of the show. "It's peaceful, and something you can relate to. Hip-hop isn't alive to me anymore, and Word Up is bringing it back."

Word Up was born out of a small jam session in a parking lot between close friends in Nashville. Its main founder, Dean Andrews, was a political science major who graduated in 2009. Since his departure, the group unanimously agrees his successor has risen to the standard that Andrews left behind.

Jay Pierson, a bold senior majoring in recording industry production technology, leads the group fearlessly, meticulously growing the organization.

"This group would be nothing if it was not for the people who come out [to the event]," Pierson says.

Word Up was created on the principle of the First Amendment's freedom of assembly. Pierson believes in this right and students' need to be aware of and exercise it. Pierson said he feels it tends to be forgotten and overlooked.

The group is not just dedicated to performing and building a sense of community around campus. Members of Word Up have also done a great service to those in the area involved with performing arts. Pierson says although they do not act as a sponsor, they help where they can.

This past academic school year, Word Up helped produce the first African-American play on campus, Reckless Intentions, directed by Samuel Houston.

Word Up has attracted spectators across campus who promote by word of mouth, in turn drawing prospective members. One such person is McCall Brister, a sophomore majoring in audio production. Brister was looking for an organization to perform with when she moved to Murfreesboro and jumped at the opportunity to be part of the group.

"I have always been rapping," Brister says, adding that at her first meeting with

Give our children the education they deserve, not the one they were dealt

By Josh Fields
Multimedia Manager

The biggest government failures have not been limited to its market interventions; in fact, if you want to see the most impactful failure of government simply go to your local public school.

It has long been known that there is a growing income gap in the U.S., and it has long been argued that your destiny is determined by where you grew up. While the causes are up for debate, the trends are undeniable.

There is however one correlating element that is virtually unmistakable in the poverty stricken regions of the U.S., the education is beyond poor. The most overlooked part of this failure is that unlike the minor inconvenience when the postal service misplaces your mail, the displacement of a child has profound implications for their

neighborhood and all of society.

Studies suggest that the difference between a good teacher and a bad teacher can displace students from their peers by as much as two years. Compounded throughout their school careers, it is no wonder that we have high school graduates that lack some of the basic skills needed to obtain admission to college, and worse we have a dropout rates that continue to plague our public school system.

There have been various solutions offered, but only one addresses the dismal future the government has for the children of low income neighborhoods. That solution is school choice.

School choice allows parents to move their children away from bad neighborhood schools into performing schools, regardless of their race, creed or

income. Along with a more formidable education, these children are removed from the dreadful temptations and peer pressure associated with the culture of crime instilled in many of these communities.

Criticism of this system comes from various angles, but almost all of the criticisms stem from the interests of the adults rather than the children. If we are to strive to be a competitive nation, we should now say that a child's future isn't determined by their zip code. The biggest beneficiaries of such a system are the poor, but it's important to note that school choice isn't limited based on your income.

If you don't want your child going to a crime ridden school or a school with a failing record, then it should be no right of yours to force that upon someone else. Unfortunately, under our

current system that is exactly the case.

School choice isn't an end-all solution. The schools that are currently failing could be helped by various other educational reforms, such as merit pay and the encouragements of alternative learning methods to name a few.

These ideas aren't new. This is not an experiment. This is the future of our children and of America. We won't be around forever, and it is our obligation as parents, teachers, and citizens to lead our children to a better future though a better education. Let's give our children the education they deserve instead of the one they were dealt.



Josh Fields is a senior majoring in economics, he can be reached at josh@virtualblend.com

Online communities can have a real impact

By Michael Finch
Social Media Manager

If someone were to ask you "What do you use the internet for?" you might come up with any number of answers. Research, communication, watching videos of kittens - its uses run the gamut from serious to silly.

With the rise in popularity of social networking sites like Facebook, Twitter and Tumblr, and the growth of the community-based aspects of sites like YouTube, more eyes are being opened every day to the potential positive power of online communities.

An annual project on YouTube, started by video-blogging (or "vlogging") brothers John and Hank Green, raised more than \$100,000 for charity this year. The project, called simply "the Project for Awesome," is carried out by the tens of thousands of members of the Green brothers' online fan community, who refer to themselves as "Nerdfighters."

The project began in 2007, and

its effectiveness surprised everyone, eventually leading the higher-ups at YouTube to officially sanction the event. 2010's project had a live show streaming on YouTube, featuring appearances from all sorts of YouTube celebrities, from rising star Meghan Tonjes, who began her singing career on YouTube, to Tay Zonday, the vlogger of "Chocolate Rain" fame.

A recurring theme throughout the show was how surprised and pleased these vloggers were about their ability to use fame gained from creating silly internet videos to cause real change. But they also acknowledge that their fans are capable of doing just as much, if not more.

For many people who join these sorts of communities, whether based around Internet celebrities, IRL ("in real life") stars or simply a shared hobby or interest, this is the first time they truly feel they belong. And an increasing number of these communities are

starting to realize they can harness the power of these feelings of kinship to do great things.

Social networking site users raise money and awareness for causes, get vital information out to the masses in record time, and in some cases, may even contribute to saving lives.

A molecular puzzle that may hold the key to unlocking the mysteries of an AIDS-like virus in rhesus monkeys - hopefully leading to a cure for HIV/AIDS - was solved by online gamers in 10 days, using a game called FoldIt.

FoldIt, a program with the tag line "Solve Puzzles for Science," facilitated a crowd-sourced solution to a stumbling block that had hindered AIDS research for years.

FoldIt holds a similar appeal to other online communities - the players are able to work together to solve puzzles, using a program that expresses a simple

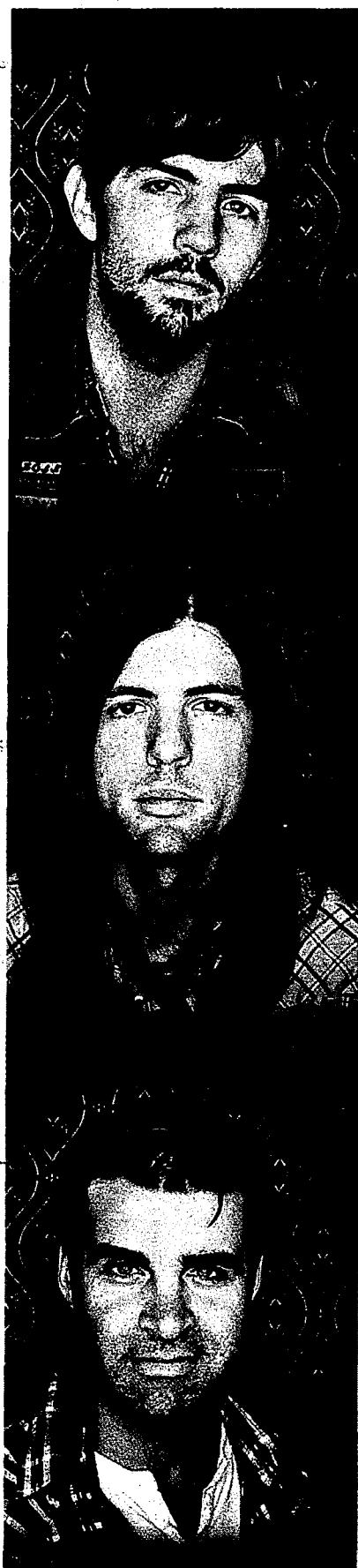
central idea - that science puzzles can be fun. Being able to interact with other users who believe this is often a new experience for FoldIt users, and one that likely encouraged the sort of camaraderie and teamwork that was necessary to solve this puzzle.

So the next time you're online looking at videos of dogs riding skateboards, just remember: the Internet is capable of so much more.



Michael Finch is a senior majoring in Political Science. He can be reached at mfinch13@gmail.com

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.



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EVENTS

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Nashville Art Galleries Expo
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Acoustic Afternoon
ft. Americana Music Association
Sept. 28, 12 p.m. – 2 p.m.
Keathley University Center Grill
FREE

"Back to the Future"
Sept. 28 – 30, 8 p.m.
Keathley University Center Theater
FREE

Graduate Program Fair
Sept. 29, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Keathley University Center 1st and 2nd floor lobbies
FREE

June Anderson Center: Free Legal Clinic
Sept. 29, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Keathley University Center, Room 320
By appointment only. Call 615-898-5989.
FREE

NPHC Step Show
Sept. 30, 7 p.m. (doors at 6 p.m.)
Murphy Center
Tickets: Now through Sept. 29
\$12 general admission; \$17 for floor seats;
Sept. 30, \$15 general admission

Let the Paint Fly: Paint Fight and Mural Creation
Sept. 30, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Monohan Front Yard
FREE

Homecoming Parade
Oct. 1, 12 p.m.
Parade starts at Maney Avenue
FREE

Homecoming Game: MTSU vs. Memphis
Oct. 1, pregame activities at 2 p.m., Raider
Walk at 3:45 p.m., kickoff at 6 p.m.
Pregame activities at Walnut Grove, game at
Floyd Stadium
FREE

**"Song of Silk": A Chinese Concert of Songs,
Instruments, Dance and Beijing Opera**
Oct. 2, 7:30 p.m.
Wright Music Building
T. Earl Hinton Music Hall
FREE

Bleed Blue, Beat WKU! Blood Drive
Oct. 3, 12 p.m. – 6 p.m.; Oct. 4, 10 a.m. – 4
p.m.; Oct. 5, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Recreation Center
FREE

"The Legend of Sleepy Hollow"
Oct. 5 – 8, 7:30 p.m.
Boutwell Dramatic Arts, Tucker Theatre
FREE

off campus

Buckethead with Lynx
Sept. 28, 8 p.m.
Exit/In
Tickets: \$18 in advance
\$20 at the door

Bone Crusher
Sept. 28, 9 p.m.
Gilligans
Tickets: \$8 for ages 21+
\$10 for ages 18 – 20

Hanson
Sept. 29, 6 p.m.
Wildhorse Saloon
Tickets: \$30 – \$60

Open Blues Jam
Sept. 29, 8 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Bluesboro
FREE

Murfreesboro's Got Talent
Sept. 30, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
3 Brothers
FREE

Nappy Roots with Sky Hi and DEE-1
Sept. 30, 9 p.m.
Gilligans
Tickets: \$12, \$9 with MTSU ID

First Saturday Art Crawl
Oct. 1, 6 p.m.
The Arcade and surrounding galleries
(downtown Nashville)
FREE

Celebrate Nashville Cultural Festival
Oct. 1, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Centennial Park
FREE

Movies at the Town: "Ghostbusters"
Oct. 3, 7 p.m.
Rockettown
FREE

k.d. lang and the Siss Boom Bang
Oct. 3, 7:30 p.m.
Ryman Auditorium
Tickets: \$24.50 – \$64.50

Mates of State
Oct. 4, 8 p.m.
Exit/In
Tickets: \$12 in advance
\$15 at the door

Stephen Malkmus and the Jicks
Oct. 4, 9 p.m.
Mercy Lounge
Tickets: \$17 in advance, \$20 at the door

Suzanne Westenhoefer
Oct. 5, 7:30 p.m.
Zanies
Tickets: \$20

Conference realignment headed south

Will MT be the next name called?

By Mark Mize
Staff Writer

Conference realignment talk has college football action on Saturdays taking a back seat to midweek emergency board meetings and university president press conferences as the college athletics landscape braces for change.

In 2010, the state of college athletics was shaken when Nebraska, Colorado, Utah, Boise State and Brigham Young University left their respective conferences for a change of scenery. The moves allowed the Pac-12 and Big Ten conferences to expand to include a conference championship game; BYU chose not to join a new conference in football, going independent.

This year, the SEC made the first major move when it voted to approve a move to add a 13th team to the league in Texas A&M.

Many have speculated that the SEC will continue to expand to 14 or 16 teams, and the other conferences may follow suit. The possibility of these new "super conferences" could mean the salvaging of smaller conferences, such as the Sun Belt.

MT has been a member of the Sun Belt conference since 2000 when they made the switch from the Ohio Valley Conference. In its 11 years since joining Division I, the Blue Raiders have experienced success in several sports.

Men's basketball, women's basketball and baseball have all won at least a share of a Sun Belt Conference title in the past three years. The football team set the school record in wins since

joining Division I with 10 in 2009 and has now been to back to back bowl games for the first time in school history.

MT student-athletes have also excelled in the classroom.

Sixteen single-sport classes have posted 100 percent graduation rates in the last five years, since single

field each received renovations in the last five years, seating more than 3,000 and more than 1,000 respectively.

Should the automatic-qualifying conferences scavenge conferences, such as Conference-USA or the Mid American Conference, as some have suggested, MT might be among the top

has never branched as far south as Murfreesboro, Floyd Stadium and the Murphy Center would currently rank in the top three in seating capacity among conference members, making them an intriguing draw.

Conference realignment talk is still rampant as the college football season nears its midway point, and with rampant speculation about further movement among automatic qualifiers, conferences are scrambling to find the next sleeping giant program to add to their ranks.

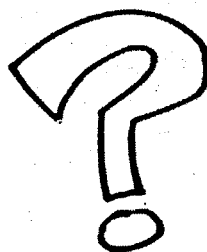
Louisville made a move to the Big East in 2005 and made a men's basketball Final Four appearance in its first year with its new conference. The next season their football team won the conference and went on to win a BCS bowl game.

Virginia Tech

switched to the Atlantic Coastal Conference in 2004. Since the move, its football program has won four division championships in seven years and three conference championships. Its basketball team has also had recent success with five National Invitational Tournament appearances and their first NCAA Tournament appearance in over a decade.

With a conference change, there is always an inherent chance a program will be unable to continue its success, but Blue Raiders athletics have continued to improve throughout the last decade and appear to be ready to take the main stage in college sports should conference realignment come to Murfreesboro. ■

EUUSA



sport statistics have been kept at the university. Women's volleyball and men's tennis tied for the highest mean with 80 percent, including three perfect graduation classes each.

The Blue Raiders' facilities may help encourage a more prestigious conference to come calling, as well.

Charles M. Murphy Center seats more than 11,000 for MT basketball games. Johnny "Red" Floyd Stadium seats more than 30,000 and recently set a school record in the football game between MT and Georgia Tech with 30,502 attendees while celebrating the Blue Raiders' centennial anniversary. Reese Smith Jr. Field and the softball

candidates to fill the vacant positions.

Conference-USA is a 12-team conference based mainly in the Southeast that stretches all the way from Texas to the Atlantic coast. They play in two, six-team divisions with the regular season divisional champions heading to a conference championship game. The location of the conference and its athletic and academic prestige would make it appear to be a good fit for the Blue Raiders.

The MAC is another 12-team conference based primarily in the Ohio Valley. They play in the same six-team division and championship format as Conference-USA. Although, the MAC

CONTINUED...

New classifieds for students...from page 5

long time ago but was only able to finish the site during his final year at MTSU.

Haji said he looked at other university towns that had similar websites, such as Los Angeles, Calif., and Lansing, Mich.

One thing Haji said he tries to avoid is the business aspect of it and dealing with investors. He said some investors have shown interest in splitting profits but is afraid somebody will get their hands on it and take it in a different direction.

"I'm not in it to make money, but if it does, cool," Haji said. "I want to keep it as simple as possible."

The hardest part right now, Haji said, is getting the word out about the website, but he thinks once it gets around and more students know about it, it will be a great hit.

The only thing Haji doesn't welcome on his site is personal ads. People can get hurt and get into trouble, Haji said. ■

Students overcome stage-fright by showing "respect"...from page 12

the group, she freestyled most of the night without any fear keeping her art hidden behind her lips. "I was actually wanting to do something like this on campus, but I didn't know this existed."

Brister, who also raps outside of Word Up, proudly holds the stage name of "AbstreK Genius." Her inception into the group transformed her persona, and she undertook the role of emcee and was soon dubbed "Mistress of Ceremonies." Brister's passion for Word Up is inspiring her, and she says she's bursting with ideas to present to the group, such as having a featured artist every month.

Older members admire the organization for its longevity and productivity on campus. Idara Edohoeket, a senior majoring in electronic media management, has been a member of the group since her junior year and has had the pleasure of taking the stage once.

"It's a really good thing that's happening on campus," Edohoeket said. "We need more camaraderie like this around here."

Although the group is open to anyone, sometimes fear inhibits performers and discourages them. Word Up combats butterflies with encouragement when performers approach the microphone, complimenting both the experienced and the novices.

Nadia Bowers, a freshman majoring in Liberal Arts and a newcomer, is interested in being a part of the group but has qualms about performing.

"I want to perform, but I'm afraid I'll have a dead crowd after I go," she said.

With Word Up, that is never the case. After each performance, a roar of applause accompanies encouragement to continue. For Edohoeket's advice to newcomers is to sit back, relax and take it all in. She says that Pierson is good at

pushing nervous attendees to fight their stage fright.

The repeated phrase and mantra for Word Up is "respect."

"It's used to calm down a crowd and show respect to the performers who are trying to express their feelings," says Tiffany Carr, a sophomore majoring in elementary education. "Word Up is here to promote anyone who needs it, whether it be dancing, singing, poetry or freestyle rapping."

Word Up is a prominent, budding group on campus and it provides extensive opportunities for students to express themselves. They have made a recording for the centennial time capsule, which will be opened in celebration of the university's bicentennial anniversary, making their legacy immortal.

Recordings and time capsules aside, Word Up is sure to be an important arts organization for ages to come. ■

Homecoming Game

Saturday, October 1
6 pm

Come Celebrate MTSU's Centennial Homecoming As They Battle Their Rival Mountain Home

BLACKOUT GAME

Thursday, October 6
6:30pm

CATCH THE ENERGY

For more information call 1-888-YES-MTSU or visit www.GoBlueRaiders.com/GameDay

\$2.00 plus tax
THREE BEEF TACOS

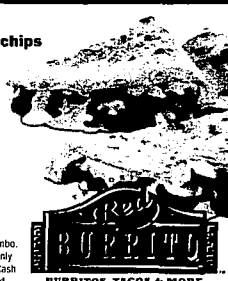
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2 FOR \$3.00 plus tax
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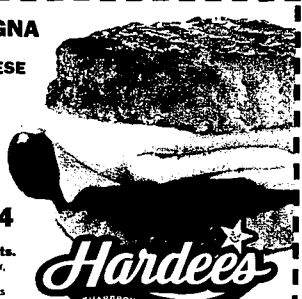
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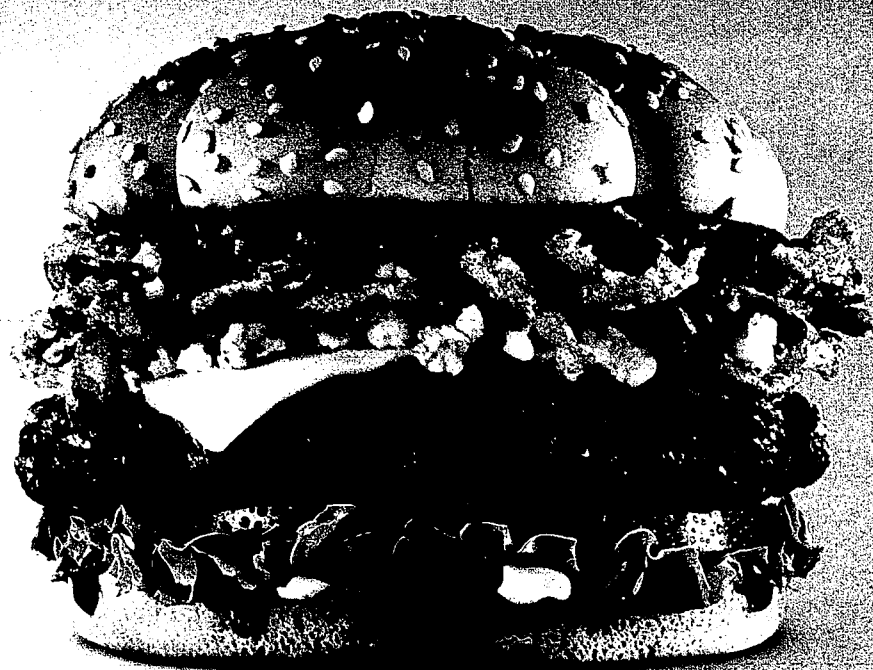
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