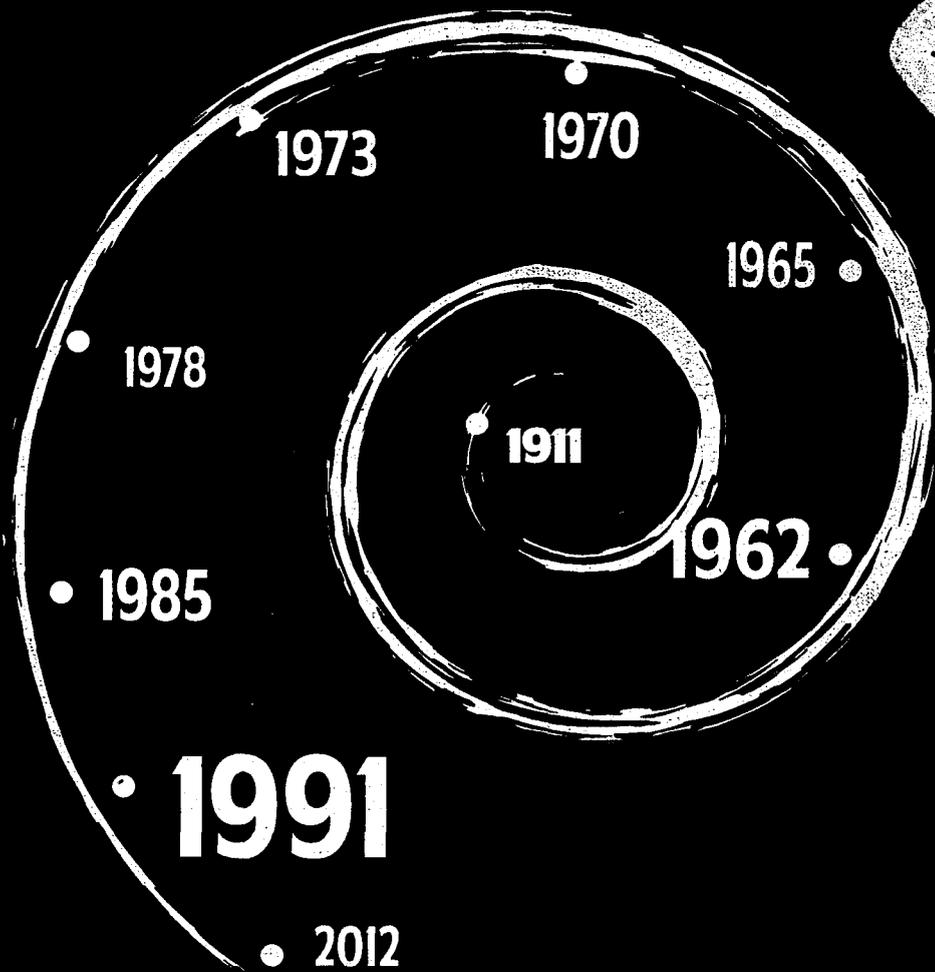


MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY  
**SIDELINES**

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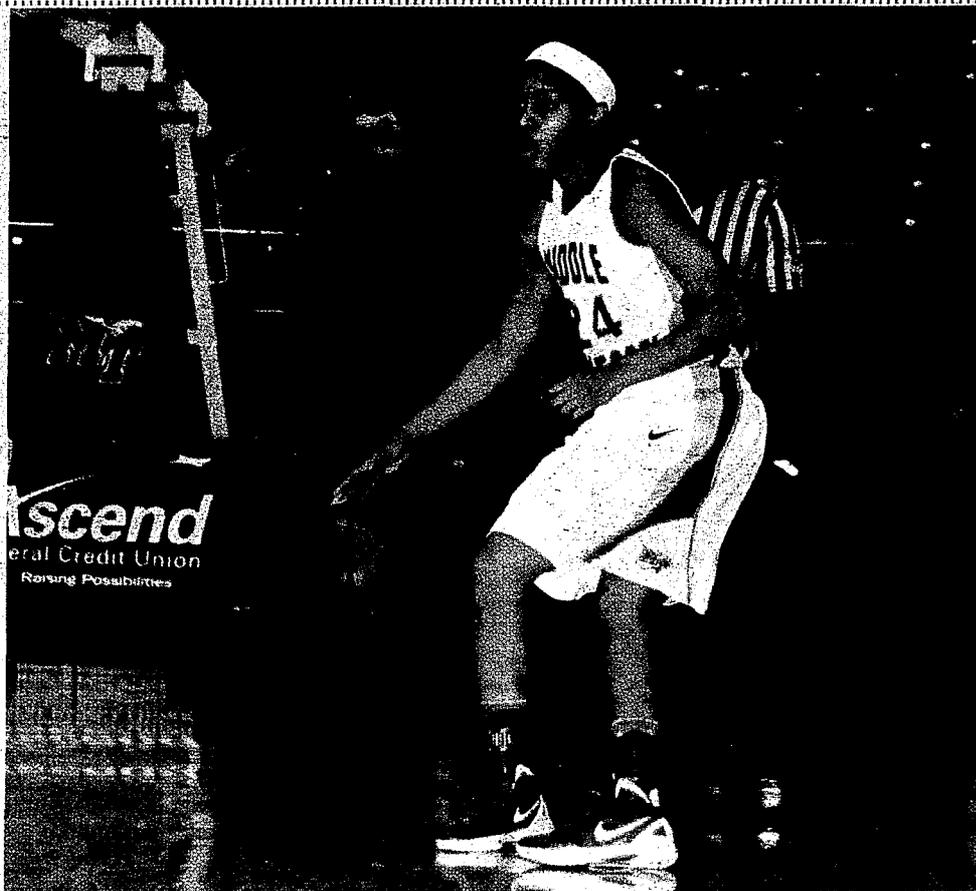


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# SIDELINES LENS



The Lady Raiders (20-5, 12-0 Sun Belt) fought to the wire to preserve a 67-64 victory over rival Western Kentucky (6-17, 3-8 Sun Belt) to run the team's winning streak to 14.

LaTeira Owens led WKU with 18 points, while Kortni Jones, 24, paced MT with 23.

The savior for MT came from outside, where Jones hit 6-12 from three-point range in route to setting a single-season record for made three-pointers with her 85th, and MT finished the night 10-26.

"We're big on shooting threes," Jones said. "If they shut down inside, which they did, we know that it's time for the perimeter to step up." (Alex Hubbard)

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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY  
**SIDELINES**

1301 East Main Street P.O. Box 8, Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Editor-in-Chief  
Amanda Haggard  
[sleditor@mtsu.edu](mailto:sleditor@mtsu.edu)

Editorial: 615-904-8357  
Fax: 615-494-7648

[www.mtsusidelines.com](http://www.mtsusidelines.com)

Managing Editor  
Becca Andrews  
[smanage@mtsu.edu](mailto:smanage@mtsu.edu)

Online Editor  
Todd Barnes  
[slcampus@mtsu.edu](mailto:slcampus@mtsu.edu)

News Editor  
Richel Albright  
[slnews@mtsu.edu](mailto:slnews@mtsu.edu)

Associate News Editor  
Emily West  
[slassociate@mtsu.edu](mailto:slassociate@mtsu.edu)

A&E Editor  
Daniel Kreipe  
[sflash@mtsu.edu](mailto:sflash@mtsu.edu)

Features Editor  
Emily Kubis  
[sfeatur@mtsu.edu](mailto:sfeatur@mtsu.edu)

Opinions Editor  
Brandon Thomas  
[slopinio@mtsu.edu](mailto:slopinio@mtsu.edu)

Design Manager  
Virginia Erinozova  
[slproduction@mtsu.edu](mailto:slproduction@mtsu.edu)

Photo Editor  
Kelsey Klingemeyer  
[email@mtsu.edu](mailto:email@mtsu.edu)

Sports Editor  
Alex Hubbard  
[slsports@mtsu.edu](mailto:slsports@mtsu.edu)

Multimedia Manager  
Asher Hudson  
[slonline@mtsu.edu](mailto:slonline@mtsu.edu)

Adviser  
Leon Alligood  
[Leon.Alligood@mtsu.edu](mailto:Leon.Alligood@mtsu.edu)

Business Manager  
Eveon Corl  
[ecorl@mtsu.edu](mailto:ecorl@mtsu.edu)

Interested in  
writing for  
Sidelines?  
Contact Amanda  
Haggard at  
[sleditor@mtsu.edu](mailto:sleditor@mtsu.edu)

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# 'In the Middle' wakes MTSU up

by Richel Albright  
News Editor

The newest program added to MT10 HD, "In the Middle," premiered Feb. 15, with its first 30-minute variety morning broadcast. The first broadcast featured various guests- including university President Sidney McPhee- as well as news segments.

The idea to bring a community-focused morning show back to the university's TV station came to "In the Middle" executive producer Alex Gibson on Halloween night, when a technical difficulty occurred prior to the 6:30 p.m. newscast for the station formerly known as MTTV.

"It's actually a fun story," Gibson said. "Last semester, I got real involved doing the news. On Halloween night our news system, Easy News, crashed and it was getting close to time, and we were trying to figure out what to do. Since it was Halloween, we decided to carve a pumpkin, and I came on as a 'pumpkin specialist,' and carved a pumpkin on live

TV. It was a hit."

After that night Gibson, a junior majoring in electronic media production, mentioned in a meeting his idea for the morning variety show and several others working at the station showed interest.

"You begin to paint the picture for the day," said Jonathan Radford, a sophomore majoring in electronic media communications. "We're going to seek to start your day with a positive spin. We're going to have some fun and still inform our viewers."

Radford is one of four anchors on the "In the Middle" team. He co-anchors with Katie Myers, a sophomore majoring in electronic media journalism. The two will deliver news, do live interviews and various other segments.

"We'll have different segments, like cooking segments," Myers said. "I'll be learning how to cook, and I'm not a very good cook, so we'll see how that works."

Also working alongside Radford and Myers is Emily Kleinecke, handling entertainment news. There is also Steven



Some of the In the Middle staff working in the control room on pre-production, during a run-thru of the morning show.



Co-hosts Katie Myers and Jonathan Radford during a run-thru before the Feb. 15 debut.

Hayes, a senior majoring in electronic media journalism, working as the show's weather forecaster and community reporter.

"I'm going to Climb the Rock to rock climb, and cross-fit for a segment, which is going to be funny because I don't work out," Hayes said. "It's just supposed to be lighthearted and fun. I'll be an Al Roker of sorts"

Along with a new morning show and a new robotics station, there were several major changes to the university TV station at the beginning of the semester.

Perhaps the most noticeable of the changes the campus television station has made is one to the name of the station. With confusion surrounding the last name, members of MT10 decided to go forward with the change.

"We wanted to rebrand ourselves," said Jeremy Ball, station manager. "MTTV sounded so much like MTV and many professors already called it Channel 10, so we came up with MT10 HD."

The morning show is filmed in Studio C in the John Bragg Mass Communications building. The crew of 20-plus people is waiting for the old Sidelines' office to be converted into a new multi-camera studio.

"In the Middle" will air every Wednesday on MT10 HD at 8 a.m.

"I hope that we can make a name for ourselves," Myers said. "I also hope people will respect us, and not only get students to watch, but people in the community too." ■

# O'Connor leads campus conversation

by Emily West  
Associate News Editor

**I**n a conversation—not a lecture—retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor frankly discussed her passion for politics and education with the university community Wednesday.

O'Connor packed the Wright Music Building as people from the community, school and two state Senators came to hear

her lecture. The main hall and an overflow room had seats filled, and some people were turned away.

"I didn't expect to be in the overflow room," said Patrick Breedlove, a sophomore majoring in political science. "I am very lucky though, because some people didn't even get to make into the overflow room."

O'Connor informed her audience from the beginning that this was not the average lecture they might have anticipated.

"I hate to disappoint any of you," O'Connor said. "But, this is not going to be lecture. It's going to be more of a conversation."

Connor proceeded into her "conversation" as she gave background information about her life, and explained how she acquired the role of Supreme Court Justice in 1981 under President Reagan.

"Now, I had a surprising time being placed on the U.S. Supreme Court," O'Connor said. "It took 194 years to have a woman on the court, and that is a long wait. I am still astonished that I was that woman, and it amazes me that it happened at all."

O'Connor went on to share her insider's perspective of how the Supreme Court works and the interaction process with the other justices, drawing on her 25 years of experience.

During her years on the court, she was the deciding factor in several monumental decisions. When asked by the moderator Mark Byrnes, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, if there was any particular decision that stood out in her mind; O'Connor answered quickly: a "nope" that hushed the crowd into silence.

Students submitted other questions for O'Connor to answer, one of which about what O'Connor is doing currently.

Now 82, O'Connor works diligently as an advocate for education. She is trying to implement a new requirement for schools that causes students to learn more about civil education.

"More than half of the states in our country have dropped their requirements for civil education," O'Connor said. "The reason why we even have public schools is because our leaders said they needed every citizen to know and understand our government."

To set her ideas in motion, O'Connor started the iCivics Inc. The online education program is a website that provides material for teachers to teach

civil education.

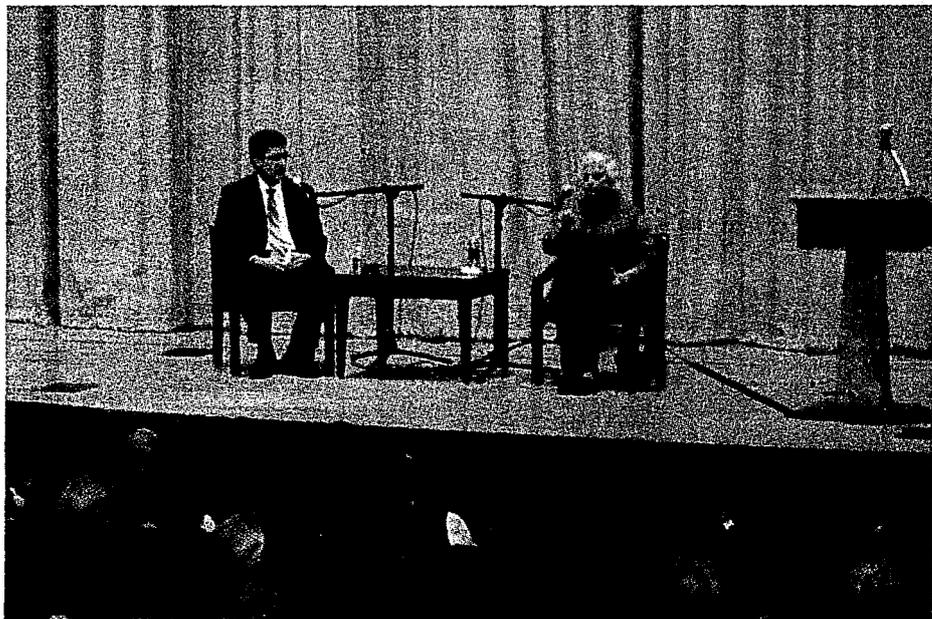
Since the corporation's beginning in 2009, O'Connor's intentions have influenced states such as Florida, which are working on the Sandra Day O'Connor law.

The lecture that hosted O'Connor was presented by the College of Liberal Arts, the Paul W. Martin Honors College, the American Democracy Project, the Sociology and Anthropology Departments and the MTSU Centennial Committee.

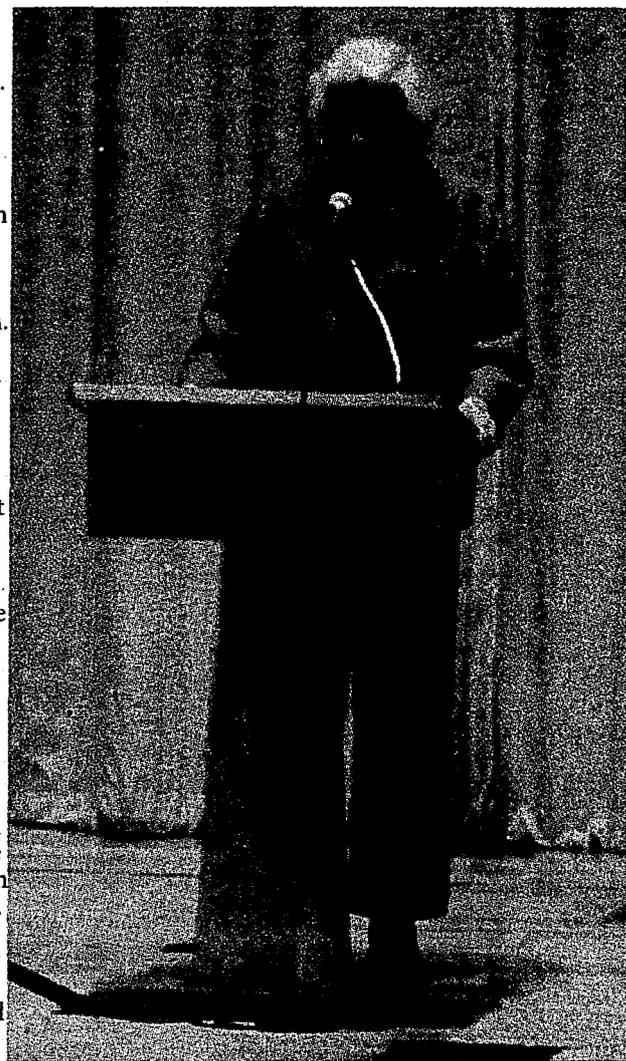
The Windham Lecture Series was founded Dr. William Windham who was a member of the History Department. The lecture started in 1990 and has hosted a variety of speakers for the past 21 years. ■



Students, faculty and community members attended the Sandra Day O'Connor lecture Feb. 8 in the Wright Music Hall. The lecture is part of the Windham Lecture Series, which is sponsored by different groups on campus.



Sandra Day O'Connor spoke Feb. 8 at Wright Music Hall for the Windham Lecture Series. O'Connor was the first woman to become a Supreme Court Justice.



Sandra Day O'Connor spoke Feb. 8 at Wright Music Hall for the Windham Lecture Series. O'Connor was the first woman to become a Supreme Court Justice.

# Pulitzer winner comes to MT

by Richel Albright  
News Editor

Pulitzer Prize winning writer Leonard Pitts Jr. will speak to students and faculty Feb. 15 in the Business and Aerospace Building as part of the Seigenthaler Speaker Series.

While Pitts' career has spanned 35 years with a variety of jobs in writing, radio and teaching, he won't hesitate to let people know who he really is.

"I am a writer first, last, always," Pitts said.

Pitts said he always knew he was a writer; beginning at the age of 5, writing stories about superheroes who resembled himself, then was published

at the age of 14 in The Los Angeles Sentinel. Eventually entering the University of Southern California at the age of 15 to major in English, he juggled schoolwork and interviews with artist like Gladys Knight and The Temptations while writing for *SOUL* magazine.

"The social aspect was very difficult," Pitts said. "But it forced me to grow up at a very early age."

In 1992, Pitts was a finalist for the Pulitzer and finally won the award in 2004 for commentary.



Leonard Pitts Jr.

"It was great," Pitts said. "I had been told for years by friends and family, 'Next year is your year,' so I felt like this was finally getting a monkey off my back."

Pitts has been a guest professor teaching classes on pop culture, journalism and column writing at Hampton University, Ohio University, Virginia Commonwealth University, the University of Maryland and recently finished teaching at Princeton University in December.

Pitts is currently a columnist for *The Miami*

*Herald* where he writes about pop culture and current affairs, but his most recognized work may be an article that was published on Sept. 12, 2001, in which he conveyed the shock and anger of Americans after the 2001 terrorist attacks.

The article, "We'll Go Forward From This Moment," generated almost 30,000 emails, has been set to music, read by Regis Philbin and quoted by Congressman Richard Gephardt.

This is first Seigenthaler Speaker Series lecture of 2012, and is presented by the John Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies College of Mass Communications. ■

## Campus & Community Crime Briefs

### Vagrancy

Scarlett Commons Apt. 3

Feb. 3, 2:29 p.m.

Authorities arrested Tenese Scott for criminal trespassing.

### Alcohol

Lascassas Pike

Feb. 5, 12:39 a.m.

Authorities arrested Christian Park, 34, for public intoxication and criminal impersonation.

### Alcohol

Rutherford Boulevard

Feb. 5, 2:58 a.m.

Authorities charged Darius Coffey, 19, with DUI, under age consumption, under age possession, theft of property and implied consent.

### Harassment

Cummings Hall

Feb. 6, 11:29 a.m.

A victim reported that she had been receiving harassing phone calls.

### Theft

College of Education

Feb. 6 12:13 p.m.

A complainant reported that memory had been stolen from his computer.

### Harassment

Scarlett Commons Apt. 3

Feb. 6, 3:45 p.m.

A complainant reported that she had gotten threats over the Internet.

### Vandalism

Greenland Drive

Feb. 8, 4:01

A complainant reported damage to his silver Ford Mustang parked in the Greenland Lot.

### Vandalism

Scarlett Commons Apt. 2

Feb. 9, 8:21 p.m.

A complainant reported his iPod had been vandalized. The victim was advised of the warrant process should he elect to pursue charges against the suspect.

### Assault

Voorhies Industrial Studies

Feb. 9, 5:23

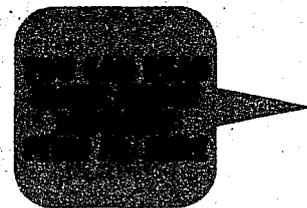
A complainant reported that he was struck by a vehicle mirror in the Coaches Lot. The victim was then approached by the vehicle occupants and verbally threatened. The victim then went to class and afterward was approached by another individual who made threatening statements. It is not known if the second incident is related to the first.

### Drugs

Schardt Hall

Feb. 9, 9:53 p.m.

Residential Life requested assistance with a resident suspected of having drugs in this room. Officers confiscated a small amount of the suspected marijuana, and the matter will be referred to Judicial Affairs.



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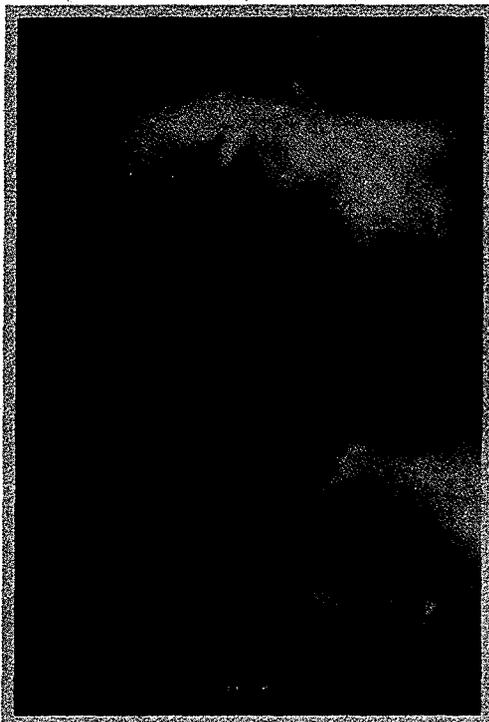
## Thursday, Feb. 16

**"We Need to Talk About Kevin"**  
4:40, 7 and 9:20 p.m., The Belcourt  
2102 Belcourt Ave, Nashville  
Admission: \$6.75 (student matinee),  
\$7.25 (student)

We've all heard the theory of nature vs. nurture. "We Need to Talk About Kevin" takes that theory and brings it to a level that will shake you up and make your favorite psychological thriller seem like a Disney movie.

Tilda Swinton and John C. Reilly play Kevin's (Ezra Miller) parents, who deal with his odd, distant behavior as a child. After battling with the thought of whether or not she could have done something to ensure a better outcome for Kevin, Eva (Swinton) has to deal with his most violent act yet.

This may not have been the most publicized movie of the year, but it is definitely a gem among independent films. Swinton and Reilly give some of their best performances, and Miller made me think twice about liking the cute, silent boy who keeps to himself in class. It's a definite must see for anyone who finds the on-the-edge-of-your-seat type film appealing. (Nataly Morales)



**Steven Curtis Chapman with Andrew Peterson and Josh Wilson**  
7 p.m., World Outreach Church  
1921 New Salem Rd, Murfreesboro  
Admission: \$45 advance, \$50 doors  
(Gold Circle), \$25 advance, \$30 doors  
(Regular Reserve)

Steven Curtis Chapman is no stranger to the contemporary Christian music genre. In fact, after 25 years in the music business, he's kind of like a CCM Phil Collins: timeless. He even looks a bit like him, too. Chapman began his career

as a singer/songwriter during the '80s—bad hair and all—and has since become quite an activist and advocate for adoption. His hits reach both young and old, and thanks to his ability to touch all sorts of music fans, his concerts almost always bring out large crowds.

This show will be satisfying for both old and new Chapman fans—he's known to play a variety of songs from his 16 studio albums. So, grab your favorite concert outfit and head over to World Outreach Church for a night of great music. (Nataly Morales)

**The Cleverlys**  
9 p.m., Station Inn  
402 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. South, Nashville  
Admission: \$15

Ever wonder what Beyonce's "Single Ladies" or The Black Eyed Peas' "I Gotta Feelin'" would sound like if there were banjos instead of synthesizers, and a cello kept the beat instead of the song's bass? Yeah, me either. But if the thought has crossed your mind, you're in luck.

The Cleverlys are a five-piece bluegrass



band that covers the popular hits you'd expect to hear at a club while taking shots of tequila, minus the dive bar atmosphere.

This may sound like a recipe for disaster, but The Cleverlys are surprisingly hilarious and talented. Who doesn't love music with a nice banjo accompaniment? While you get to experience one of the best known staples in the Nashville bar scene, The Cleverlys will help make today's pop songs a little more bearable. (Nataly Morales)

## Friday, Feb. 17

# Up 'til Dawn

Unite to Fight Childhood Cancer



**MTSU After Dark: Up 'Til Dawn - Benefit for St. Jude Children's Hospital**  
7 p.m., Rec Center

Admission: \$5 with student ID, \$10 public

What could be better than a night of inflatables, free food and live music? How about having all of these things at your disposal, while benefiting St. Jude's Children Research hospital? Sponsored by MTSU Student Programming and MTSU Leadership and Service, this event will not only raise awareness of St. Jude's research, but it will also give you the chance to put the \$5 you would have used at the bar to better use. Think about it—come Saturday morning, you will have given your beer money to a good cause, and the best part is you won't have

a hangover!

Go ahead; stay up all night and join the MTSU and Murfreesboro community in helping fund research for the children of St. Jude. (Nataly Morales)

**"The Princess Bride"**

7 p.m., KUC  
Admission: Free

This cult classic has become a necessity for any DVD collection, and it would be surprising if most people haven't already seen it. However, if you're one of the unfortunate few who have yet to see this amazing film, here's the chance you've been waiting for. Even if you haven't been waiting for it, I recommend you take it anyway.

The film has just the right amount of humor, action and love. Robin Wright (better known for her role as Forest Gump's life-long love, Jenny) plays Princess Buttercup. Her knight-in-shining-armor, Westley, goes on an adventure to save her from her evil husband-to-be, and along the way he encounters and befriends some odd characters.

You'll have a great time watching this movie, if you haven't already. If you have, I know you'll agree when I say it's one of those films that you can't get enough of. (Nataly Morales)



## Saturday, Feb. 18

**Blue Raiders Baseball vs. St. Louis**  
2 p.m., Reese Smith Jr. Field  
Admission: Free with student ID

Football season is over and basketball season is nearly over, so you know what that means, right? Yep, it's time to break out the peanuts and Cracker Jacks—MTSU's baseball team is ready for the new season.

The team will be playing their second



## RANTS & RAVES



game against St. Louis Saturday, which will make for an exciting game and a nice transition between watching beefy linebackers and sitting in the cold cheering for a home run.

Come out and help support our Raiders this baseball season!

**Blue Raiders Men's Tennis vs. ETSU**  
2 p.m., Nashboro Village  
730 Nashboro Blvd., Nashville  
Admission: Free with student ID

If baseball isn't really your thing, consider attending a Blue Raiders tennis match instead.

The men will take on ETSU's Buccaneers in what will surely be a great match. Sure, you may have to drive to Nashville to see the match, but wouldn't it be worth it to see if our team possibly has the next Roger Federer or Rafael Nadal? The possibility that there might be a player who looks like either of the two would definitely get me to a game.

So dust off your best sun visor cap, and head over to Nashboro Village to support our Raider men.

*Sunday, Feb. 19*

**Xanadu**  
2 p.m., Boiler Room Theatre  
230 Franklin Rd, Building Six, Franklin

**Admission: \$25 (adult), \$23 (seniors and students), \$19 (children under 12)**

Who needs a time machine when you have the Boiler Room? Based on the classic film, this musical takes everything there is to love about the '80s and illustrates it one glide down the roller rink and neon light at a time.

For those of you who have seen the film, you'll be happy to know that the songs that made you want to dance with Olivia Newton-John and break out your best '80s-glam dress are in the musical as well.

Ladies, tease that hair, throw on some glitter and put on your best Xanadu-esque frock, and gentlemen...just humor us, please. Go sing along and enjoy the best example of it's-so-bad-that-it's-good '80s pop culture. (Nataly Morales)

**Karaoke Night**  
10 p.m., Cyber Café  
Admission: Free

Thursday - Saturday nights are usually when Murfreesboro comes to life. Students are ready to let their hair down after a week of studying. Once Sunday rolls around, you're either curing a hangover or bored out of your mind. I have the solution to your Sunday night boredom, and the good news is you don't have to go very far.

Cyber Café will host a night of embarrassing karaoke singing from fellow students. Why not come out and show off your pipes and have a good time? Anything with a microphone, bored students and music sounds like a much better night than most Sunday nights to me. (Nataly Morales)



MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

# STUDENT AMBASSADORS 2012-2013

We are now accepting applications for our newest group of Student Ambassadors, the official hosts of the University.

The Student Ambassador program, sponsored by the MTSU Alumni Association, is an elite group of students that serve as representatives and hosts for MTSU. The Student Ambassador program is looking for enthusiastic, motivated students who want to use their talents and experience to serve their University.

Applications are available at the MTSU Alumni House, the KUC information desk and at [www.mtalumni.com](http://www.mtalumni.com).

Applications and references must be delivered to the MTSU Alumni House no later than 4 p.m., Feb. 24th.

To apply to be a Student Ambassador, students must:

- Have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5
- Have completed at least one semester at MTSU
- Be able to serve from May 1, 2012 to April 30, 2013
- Attend one information meeting at the Alumni House



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT MOLLY COCHRAN AT [MOLLY.COCHRAN@MTSU.EDU](mailto:MOLLY.COCHRAN@MTSU.EDU) OR GO TO [WWW.MTALUMNI.COM](http://WWW.MTALUMNI.COM).

## COVER STORY

# MTSU celebrates past, future with Black History Month

by Emily West  
Associate News Editor

To celebrate the life and culture of black students and faculty, MTSU is memorializing the lives of people and events that occurred at the university.

MTSU participated heavily in the Civil Rights movement during the 1960s as different protests and other forms of expression were held on campus to promote equality.

According to President Sidney McPhee, the second president of color at the university, the campus fully integrated in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

"I have spoken to a lot of folks who lived during that time, such as the first black faculty member, Mary Scales," McPhee said. "Our community struggled with the

acceptance of people of color in the system. However, that is just a part of our history."

Suma Clark, author of the centennial book *Traditions of Excellence*, studied at MTSU during the time the campus was integrating.

"I was an older student at the time," Clark said. "I do remember football games especially had to be hard on black students. 'Dixie' was the fight song, and we had Nathan Bedford Forest representing the Blue Raider at the time. I think as a student body, we were probably very insensitive how this came across and how threatening it seemed."

Clark watched a lot of the "firsts" happen at the university during the 1970s and 1980s and witnessed an uglier side of integration.

More firsts followed in the late 1980s into the early 1990s, as James E. Walker became the first black president at the university.

A monumental campus event was the taking down of the Nathan Bedford Forest seal on the Keathley University Center. Forest is known for being a main leader of the Klu Klux Klan, an extremist white-supremacy group. Forest was used as a promotional figure for the university in the 1950s and appeared on pamphlets and promotional materials.

Vincent Windrow, the first president of the campus NAACP chapter, said he remembers speaking at the rally hosted in campus in protest of the Forest seal on the KUC. He spoke with the Sam Ingram, who was university president at the time, about removing the seal from campus.

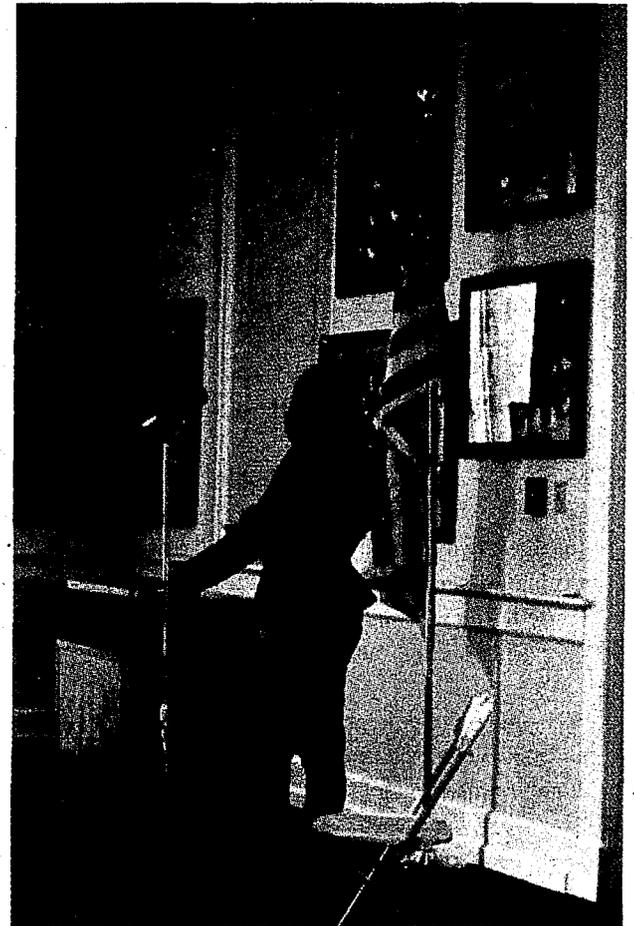
"We had a huge crowd the night that we had the rally in protest of the seal," Windrow said. "I wrote an opinion column in *Sidelines* protesting the seal in the fall semester of 1990, and the spring semester of 1991 the seal was taken down."

Windrow is currently the director of Intercultural and Diversity Affairs on campus, and is helping with some of the Black History Month events.

Among some of the events this month on campus are the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Unity Luncheon and the Ladies' Night Out with attorney Phillis Rambsy.

Both events were sponsored by the Black History Month Committee along with the Intercultural and Diversity Affairs Center and the Scholars Academy.

One of the other upcoming events is the "Sista, You Rock!" event that takes place Feb. 20 in the Tom Jackson Building at 7:00 p.m.



Speaker Rambsy has worked several career fields over her lifetime as she has been a university administrator, attorney and zumba instructor. Her presentation was sponsored by the Black History Month Committee and the Scholars Academy.

"Sista, You Rock!" is styled as an award show to honor and celebrate students and administrators of color who have made strides to better the university.

"We present awards to different students," said Jessica Hampton, a senior majoring in marketing. "We also offer a scholarship worth \$1,000. We have done several promotions inside the KUC. All you have to do is say why you rock and describe all the activities and organizations you are involved in and how you are an asset to this campus."

Applications are available in the KUC, and a panel of judges reviews the admissions. The event is a spin-off from Black Girls Rock, an empowerment organization for women of color.

In addition to the "Sista, You Rock!," "Uniquely You with Dr. Ravi Perry" will be held Feb. 23 in the State Farm



Speaker Phyllis Rambsy spoke Feb. 10 in the Tom Jackson Building. Rambsy's presentation is apart of celebrating Black History month at MTSU.

# TIMELINE

**1911**—Black people worked on campus in positions such as custodians, farmhands and cafeteria workers. These were only jobs on campus available to people of color.

**1962**—MTSU student body became racially integrated. Olivia Woods became the first black student.

**1965**—Wilbert Bonds became the first student of color to obtain his graduate degree. Robert Mallard became the first MTSU black athlete. Mallard was on the relay team, and won all three of events in his first collegiate meet. Jerry Singleton became the first black varsity athlete on scholarship. He was also a part of the track team.

**1970**—The Black Student Association hosted the "Get Hep Whitey Week," an informational lecture series. In reaction to the week, two cross burnings occurred on campus. The cross burnings were taken seriously by the university president M.G. Scarlett, who sent out a campus-wide message on WMOT-FM about the incidents.

**1973**—Mary Scales became the first African-American faculty member. She taught in the Education Department and would later become the associate dean of continuing education. The first fraternity of color, Kappa Alpha Psi, was introduced to MTSU Greek life.

**1978**—Mick McDonald was the first elected black student body president.

**1979**—Willie Brown became the first black student to be inducted into the Blue Raider Hall of Fame.

**1985**—Rosemary Wade Owens and Otis Floyd were the first two men of color to serve as dean and vice president of the university.

**1990**—The first NAACP chapter was created on campus.

**1991**—James E. Walker, namesake of the campus library, became the first black president of the university.

**1996**—Randy Weil became the first person of color to be hired as head of a major sports team.

Room in the Business and Aerospace Building.

At the end of February, the Centennial Celebration Pioneer Summit is being held in the Tom Jackson Building at 6 p.m. The event encompasses some of the first black faculty and students on campus and how they reacted to the struggles and pushed through social barriers.

Potential speakers for this event include Mary Scales, the first faculty member, and Mike McDonald, the first student body president of color.

"The speakers to this special event are going to people that were trailblazers for the African-American community at this school," Windrow said. "The honoree list for the presentation has not been verified yet."

To conclude the monthlong celebration of black history, speaker Jesse Jackson Jr. will visit April 6 in the BAS State Farm Room. Jackson is a politician, author and social justice advocate.

"The trend is to spread out our program throughout the year," Windrow said. "However, we concentrate most of our events in the month of February."

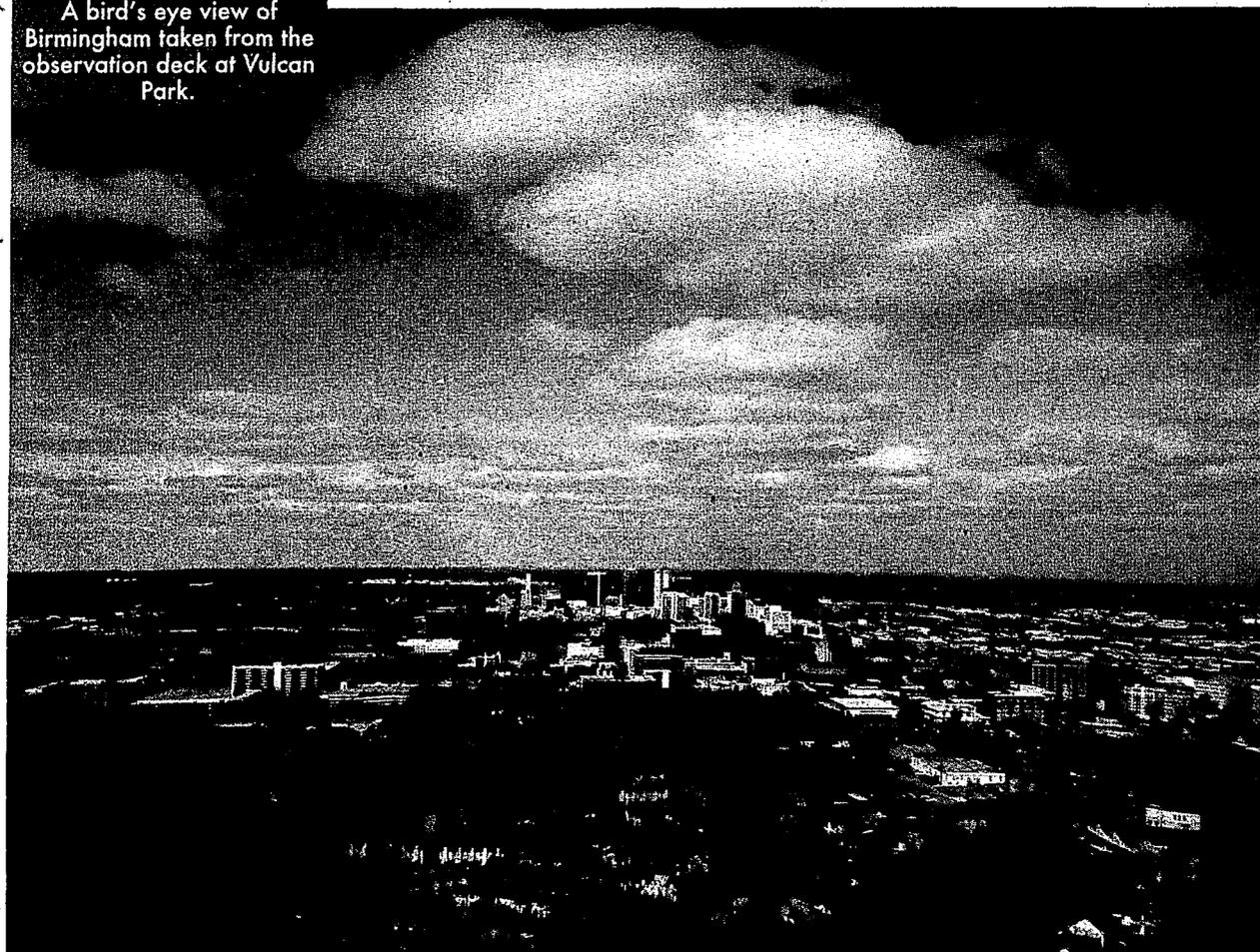
As the campus has grown over the past century, the university has gained more black students to the enrollment. According to McPhee, black students make up 12 percent of the 26,000 students. McPhee said he hoped to see greater integration and diversity among social settings on campus in the future.

"We need to teach people to cross boundaries to open up the circle because that is how you learn other people's culture and better appreciate and understand," McPhee said. "It's more of what a person has in his or heart that matters. You don't have to be black or white to understand or appreciate and be sensitive of a person's struggle."



Four influential women of the MTSU community were honored at the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Unity Luncheon in the James Union Building. From left to right is Dr. Phyllis Qualls-Brooks, Olivia Woods, Thenatris Ellis and Mary Scales. Dr. Phyllis Qualls-Brooks was the keynote speaker for the event, and she is the executive director of the Tennessee Women's Council. Olivia Woods is the first woman of color to attend MTSU. Woods graduated in 1965 with her degree in education. Ellis, however, was the first African American hired to work as secretary in the departmental office. She worked for 36 years at MTSU. Scales, though, was the first African American hired as faculty, and she continued working in the education realm as she was elected to the Murfreesboro City School Board.

A bird's eye view of Birmingham taken from the observation deck at Vulcan Park.



## 24 hours in Birmingham:

John Medeski on keyboards, Billy Martin on drums and Chris Wood on bass are a pleasure to watch.

If ever in Birmingham, I strongly recommend trying to catch a show at the Alys Robison Stephens Performing Arts Center. Their ticket prices are very reasonable, and they always have student discounts. Some upcoming shows include The Pink Floyd Experience on March 10 and comedian Margaret Cho on April 20.

The next day, Thomas and I set out to see the sights of Birmingham, and our first stop was the Vulcan Park and Museum. "Vulcan," the symbol of Birmingham, is a 56 feet tall, 750-ton cast iron statue of the Roman god of fire and metal and the physical embodiment of Birmingham's industrial history of railroads and mines. Tuscan sculptor Giuseppe Moretti built the statue for the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904.

Now the statue sits atop a hill overlooking the city, and an elevator takes visitors up to an observation deck so they can see the city as Vulcan does.

The trip up to the observation deck was a short one, as Birmingham was experiencing a wind advisory that Saturday. It was pretty chilly standing more than 56 feet in the air, so we moved on to the Civil Rights Institute. Birmingham was a cornerstone of the civil rights movement, and the institute's website says "The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute signifies that Birmingham does not hide from its past. It acknowledges that where once the city housed two people, Black and White, unknown to one another except through the painful

by Emily Kubis  
Features Editor

**W**hen land barons built railroads crossing through the small farming community of Elyton, Ala. in 1871, the little hamlet was forever changed. The area was renamed after England's industrial center, Birmingham, and according to the Great Birmingham Convention & Visitors Bureau, the community sprang up so quickly in the wake of the railroads that observers said it happened "like magic." Thus the town has been nicknamed "the Magic City" ever since.

I had the pleasure of visiting the Magic City for the first time last weekend when my boyfriend Thomas and I decided, rather spontaneously, to catch the Feb. 10 Medeski Martin & Wood show on the University of Alabama at Birmingham campus.

Birmingham is a mild 3-hour drive from Murfreesboro, which makes it the perfect destination for an overnight odyssey or a dedicated day trip. Since neither Thomas nor I had ever been there before, we decided that, instead of driving back to the 'Boro after the show, we would stay another day in the city and explore some of Birmingham's sights and attractions.

Our first mission upon arriving was to find the Alys Robison Stephens Performing Arts Center where the show was to be held. This beautiful facility

was built in 1996 and calls itself "the center for arts and education in Birmingham." The Center has high, lofted ceilings and a U-shaped stadium seating arrangement around the front of the stage, which makes every seat the perfect seat.

And you can take my word on that, because though my seat was in what some might call "the nosebleeds," I had a great view and enjoyed the performance immensely.

Medeski Martin & Wood are a jazz-fusion group based out of New York City. Their website describes their sound as an "amalgam of jazz, funk, 'avant-noise' and a million other musical currents and impulses (that is) nearly impossible to classify, which is just how they like it."

Indeed, describing this band is a lesson in futility, as they never cease to surprise you. Bouncing from complicated compositional pieces to danceable grooves, and a consistently seamless mastery of their instruments,

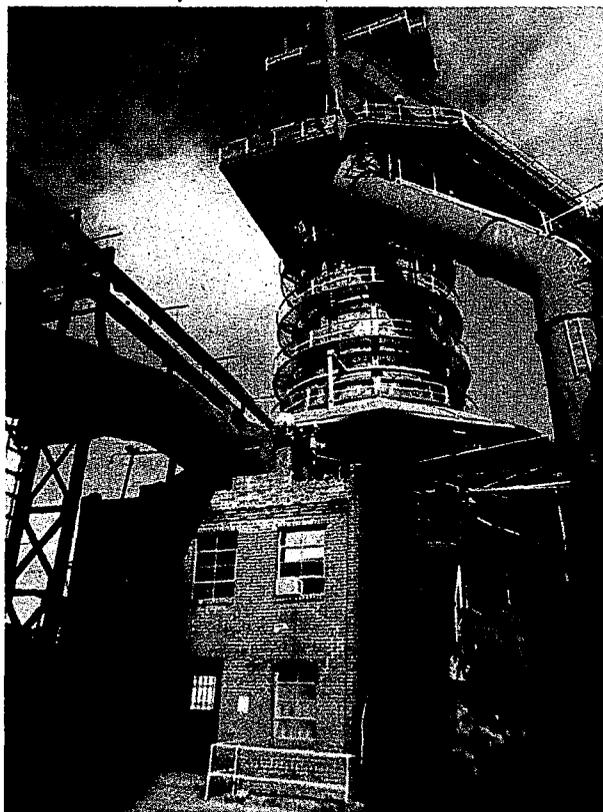
The 16<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church was the site of the 1963 bombing that killed four young black girls during the civil rights movement.



# What to see and, where to go in the Magic City

thread of segregation, Birmingham now embraces its past, neither forgetting nor dwelling on it, but using it to foster understanding."

The museum begins by replicating a segregated Birmingham. There are models of black and white classrooms circa 1953, as well as pictures and artifacts such as "Whites Only" signs that exemplify the divided city.



The Sloss Furnace Park features an abandoned iron-production facility

The second half of the museum centers on the civil rights movement. Pictures and footage document the long battle towards equality, beginning with the bus boycotts in Montgomery and the sit-ins in North Carolina.

There is a strong emphasis on Birmingham's role in the movement. It was the footage of police, under the direction of Chief Eugene "Bull" Connor, turning fire hoses and dogs on protestors in Birmingham that helped foster a national dialogue about the issues of segregation in the South. This footage, along with the bombing at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church that killed four young girls, had some citizens calling the Magic City "Tragic City." That church sits directly across from the institute.

It was in Birmingham that Martin Luther King Jr. was arrested and penned his famous "Letters From a Birmingham Jail." This essay had a great impact on the movement and remains an important piece of civil rights literature. The museum ends with footage of Richard Arrington Jr., the first black

mayor of the city, and other examples of human rights protests around the world.

The museum is interesting and sad. It's a testament to a different time, when racism was blatant, legal and fatal. Several photographs speak of the intimidation tactics racists used to keep black citizens from doing things they were legally allowed to do, such as vote or attend school. A Ku Klux Klan robe sits in a glass case in front of a charred cross. These are things we must never forget.

Perhaps the greatest testament to Birmingham's industrial past is the city's park, Sloss Furnace. You won't find any ponds or wooded trails at this park- only an abandoned iron production facility where visitors can walk past the rusted stock trestle, boilers and stoves. It's strange and dystopian, but intriguing. The best part about getting lost in the Sloss Furnace is the clandestine feeling you

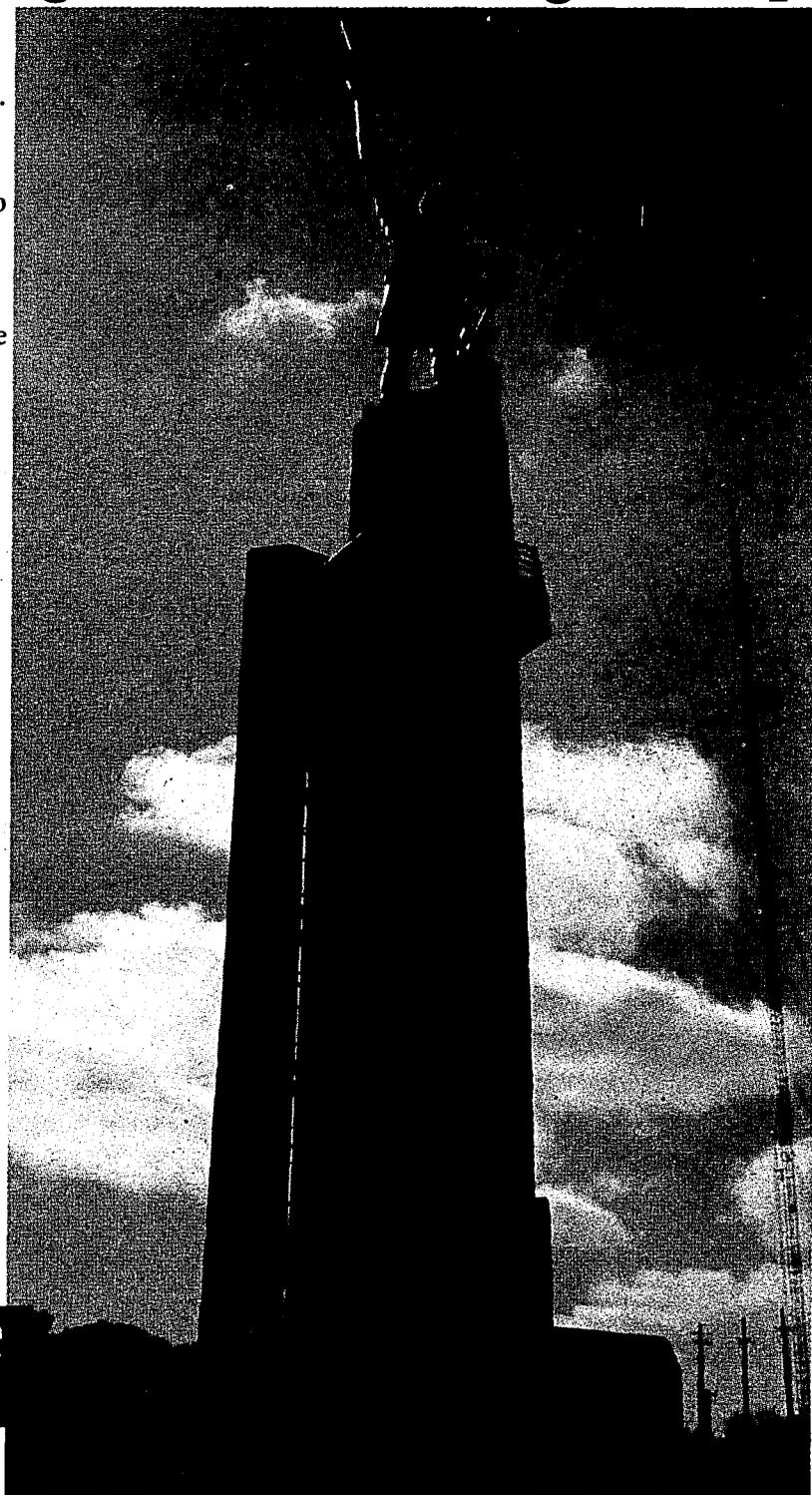
get, as if you're trespassing somewhere you clearly should not be.

Of course, you are allowed to be there, and all the dangerous areas are gated or locked, so it's simply a glimpse into industry past.

Another place to check out if you find yourself in Birmingham is Five Points South, very similar to Five Points in East Nashville. Five roads intersect at one point, and the surrounding area is filled with shops, boutiques and restaurants. One particularly interesting shop is Charlemagne Records, a second-story new and used record store. The shop features an excellent jazz section, as well as a very thorough '60s and '70s rock, pop and folk selection- the Stones, Bob Dylan, Elton John, Frank Zappa, Led Zeppelin, and Joni Mitchell, to name a few with several volumes available.

Birmingham is rich with history, culture and a distinctly Southern flavor. Perhaps the best thing about Birmingham is how its people embrace their city's past- from the Civil Rights Institute to the Sloss Furnace Park, the Magic City loves to commemorate

what it once was and build upon it for the future. The remnants of old Birmingham are everywhere, and the city's attention to days past makes it a beautiful place to experience.



This statue of the Roman god Vulcan is the tallest cast-iron statue in the world.

# 'Twelfth Night' brings new theater appreciation

By Daniel Kreipe  
Arts & Entertainment Editor



## Theater.

The word conjures different feelings in each person that hears it. Some recall fond memories of escape into another world, uninhibited by a two-dimensional movie screen. Others recall mothers who dragged them to see "The Sound of Music" 12 times and would rather die than set foot in a theater again.

But for those that appreciate the word for what it truly is, the spirit was alive and well in Tucker Theater Thursday night. True, there were plenty of smart phone users who just couldn't hold off on that game of Fruit Ninja (and to the young lady that had the nerve to actually answer her phone, feel free to be ashamed), but a packed house of eager arts lovers left them in the vast minority.

The entertainment for the evening was Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night," presented by, amusingly enough, a quintet of actors from the London stage. The amusement in their numbers lies in the fact that "Twelfth Night" contains a minimum of roughly 12 parts, and thus the actors were forced to—quite literally—wear many hats for the performance.

At first, this appeared it would become confusing, but subtle changes in costume, accent and a fantastic understanding of the characters made the switches apparent and easy to understand. Many times the actors would go as far as to play on the obviousness of the changes to get a laugh out of the audience.

Shakespeare productions that are true to the roots of the play are generally minimalistic; very few props, costumes and almost no sets. However, this particular troupe achieved a whole new level of minimalism that most audience members had probably never seen before.

The stage was simply adorned with a semi-circle of chairs that the actors would sit on when they were off stage. A series of minor props littered the ground around the chairs, and that was all that there was in sight. No flashes, no frills and not even a full cast to speak of. This group of actors from London understood that the text paints its own picture without the help of scenery and excessive props.

Everything was brought to life magnificently. Even the songs within the text sprang forward with melody, harmony and ukulele accompaniment. Who really knows what Shakespeare had in mind to complement his lyrics, but what this talented group of actors brought to the stage was more than adequate.

To the Shakespeare naysayers: It is true that the comedy that runs rampant through "Twelfth Night" is easy to miss if you don't understand the language, but it is important to note that this small troupe showed mastery over the text that was capable of easing newcomers into the world of Shakespeare with relative ease. Every emotional nuance, development of character, and every dirty joke (yes, Shakespearian text does contain dirty jokes) was delivered with the skill of seasoned veterans.

It was a wonderful evening of culture, and though many in the audience were forced to attend by theater professors, there was little to take for granted. Laughs filled the theater, as well as the inevitable "awww" when the love story reached its conclusion. Let's hope that the university's visitors from the London Stage enjoyed their time on our stage, and visit again very soon. ■

ACTORS FROM THE LONDON STAGE SPRING TOUR 2012



By William Shakespeare

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Friday, February 10, 2012

All performances at 7:30 p.m. Tucker Theatre  
General Admission \$10 K-12 Students \$5 MTSU Students FREE with ID



ACTORS FROM THE  
LONDON STAGE

**MTSU** Arts  
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FANCY



# TheFancy spruces up social media world

By Asher Hudson  
Multimedia Manager



If you keep up with social media, then you have undoubtedly heard of Pinterest. However, if you have ever visited Pinterest, then you will have undoubtedly noticed that it has a feminine feel. From its cuddly photos of baby platypuses, to its photos of a shirtless Ryan Reynolds, it appears to me that Pinterest has targeted the fairer sex, and threatens to alienate the average male.

Enter TheFancy.com.

TheFancy is more or less a unisex Pinterest. TheFancy is shown in less of a pin board style format and more of a show reel. Whereas Pinterest focuses on food, cute photos of baby animals, male models and positive messages, TheFancy focuses on design, art, scenery, places, architecture, gadgets and fashion for both sexes. Not that Pinterest doesn't also include

some of those things.

Users post images that they find around the Web using a browser plugin (available on Google Chrome) or by using a simple "Fancy It" bookmark. Many of the images feature a "Buy It" link on their page, which sends you to the location of the original image which is often a store selling the product.

A user can login to TheFancy using their Twitter or Facebook account, making it easy to sign up without having to create a new account or login. Like most social networking sites, users can follow friends or complete strangers with good taste. Each user has a rank, and this rank is a real-time popularity score of the things they've added to Fancy—the more popular your postings, the higher your rank.

An up-and-coming trend among social media

sites is the earning of achievements and/or badges, and TheFancy utilizes the latter. Some posts are run by businesses, but it isn't an "in-your-face" advertisement. Every once in a while you will "fancy" a post, and a badge will appear in your profile— it may be for \$100 off the purchase of The Football, or from Fancy to promote you to marketing assistant for inviting 15 people.

Fancy also has a set of predefined lists such as art, gadgets, food, media, etc. However, you can make your own lists for the various cornucopias of fancies out there. And like everywhere else on the Web, you can comment on posts whether you have fancied it.

TheFancy is a wonderful new face in the socialmedia world that is not aimed at single gender but toward anyone that enjoys the finer things in life. ■

# Sexism and corporate rule dangerous to America

By Lizzy Sharp  
Contributing Columnist

**C**orporations purposefully exploit the labor division between women and men. When has one ever witnessed a cleaning commercial where the man is happily cleaning with poisonous cleaning products and cooking meals that are often just as toxic for their families, all with a smile?

Never.

That is probably because corporations have an interest in maintaining the second shift, when an individual works all day and is then required to care for the family and home. Typically, this pertains to women who come home to do the housework and family care after their jobs—with no help from the significant other.

Furthermore, corporations wish to lead the American public to believe that men are not caretakers inside the home, which does a disservice to all of the men that do believe in an equal relationship, especially in a society in which sexist gender norms maintain a division of power.

Answer me this: who, ultimately, aside from the profit-driven bottom line, decides what the American, and those affected by American cultural imperialism choose to construct as their identity?

It is primarily men. But alas, there are also female chauvinists that prescribe to the ultimate domination of women by men and therefore advance the patriarchal agenda.

Gone is the era where the media and advertisement industry reflected society. They now dictate how society views itself. This permits them to attempt to create their own society through the manipulation of culture.

This, folks, is the American dream — more realistically, the corporate dream — the advancement of a patriotic nation

that believes wholeheartedly in the “power” of the assigned, consumer-at-birth “individual.”

The individual is only an individual in that they are granted the power to choose which brand or flavor of toothpaste they purchase. Take, for example, the consumer philanthropist. Consumers are taught early on that within our system, you can bring about change within society with the ever-revered promise of consumer power.

There are so many choices in the toothpaste aisle the consumer may select from that, when the consumer goes home after examining so many choices, they are too exhausted when they get home to effectively care about issues that otherwise are pertinent to the functioning of their lives.

Nowadays, you can use the might of your consumer power to purchase cleaning products that are less toxic to the Earth.

If corporate rule is so detrimental to the goal of gender equality in America, then what is one to do? There are plenty of things, but one must first recognize that the personal is political. You might think to yourself that the few examples provided above are trivial, but should you prescribe to that mindset, then you are likely a privileged human being and you can brush off the plights of others.

Also, you ought to tell the corporations that do exploit gender inequality that it is no longer permissible. Next, do not purchase their products. Finally, start contributing to the Occupy Movement. There are several ways to contribute — one need not sleep in a tent to help. Don't agree with Occupy? Do me a favor and at least stay informed on the gender inequality that continues to affect all genders alike.

Lizzy Sharp is a sophomore majoring in sociology. She can be reached at [els3q@mtmail.mtsu.edu](mailto:els3q@mtmail.mtsu.edu)



## TOP 10 WHITNEY HOUSTON

SONGS EDITORS' PICKS

1. "I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU"
2. "I WANNA DANCE WITH SOMEBODY"
3. "HOW WILL I KNOW"
4. "I HAVE NOTHING"
5. "SO EMOTIONAL"
6. "I'M EVERY WOMAN"
7. "MY LOVE IS YOUR LOVE"
8. "WHEN YOU BELIEVE"
9. "STEP BY STEP"
10. "QUEEN OF THE NIGHT"



# Blue Raiders baseball looks to rebound

by Alex Hubbard  
Sports Editor

**C**oming off a Sun Belt Conference-worst record in 2011—18-37—Blue Raiders baseball coach Steve Peterson admits the expectations for his team are not high. MT finished eighth in the preseason poll of Sun Belt coaches.

"I'm surprised they didn't pick us last, to be honest with you," Peterson said.

Although that may be a salute to Peterson's realistic notion of what others think of his team, he said his team is in a better place than it was a year ago.

"There was a lot of unknown because we had so many new players, had lost so many guys to the draft, and it was a totally different team," Peterson said. "The good thing right now is, we're not 100 percent healthy, but everybody that was hurt last year is going to be back, and that's predominately on our pitching staff."

Perhaps the standout of the returning players, Nick Montgomery, will take the mound after missing the entire 2011 campaign due to injury. Montgomery, a redshirt senior, is one of the few players left who won a Sun Belt championship in 2009.

Montgomery leads a host of pitchers, many of them freshmen or transfers, who Peterson expects will pressure his returning starters and challenge them for a place in the rotation.

"The idea that you've been here, you're an upper classman, works both ways because some of those guys haven't had much success since they've been here," Peterson said. "They've had experience. They're a year older. What I've got to find

out is, are they a year better?"

Two mainstays of the 2011 weekend rotation, Hunter Adkins and Daniel Palo, combined for a 4-17 record.

But it isn't all up to the starters, said reliever Paul Mittura.

"Coming in and seeing one of my buddies coming out of the game, he's counting on me to pick him up, and that's something that we work on all the time," Mittura said. "Everybody that's in the

him, Mittura said he is confident that the team is also another year wiser.

"That first year of getting experience, you don't really know what to expect," Mittura said. "You can tell when a guy comes back for his second year or his third year. Just stuff that you pick up on, stuff that you learn, and the confidence level is a lot higher."

MT's greatest loss from a year ago came at the plate with the graduation of Will

home runs."

Guidry and LaRue were named to the conference preseason team, the only two Blue Raiders to receive the honor.

Guidry, a senior, led the team in hits last season with 81 and batting average .349, while scoring 39 runs and batting in 32. He returns on a mission after the major-league draft passed him over last summer.

"After last year, having such a bad season, I didn't really want to leave on a bad note," Guidry said. "I'm glad that I was able to come back, learn a lot more from this team and have a better season this year."

LaRue finished third on the team in batting average at .306 with 63 hits, and Thomas hit at the top of the order, registering 59 hits and scoring 27 runs.

A key part of MT's batting order may come from sophomore and Murfreesboro native Ryan Stephens.

As a freshman, Stephens showed good defensive poise, but his occasional offensive struggle led to Peterson taking him out of the lineup for a time. His calm reaction to the adversity earned him much praise from Peterson, and this season Stephens will have the chance to work his way back up the order.

"I see him in the lower part of the batting order right now, but before it's all over with he could find himself climbing up

there, especially if he's driving in runs," Peterson said. "I feel very good about him defensively, and offensively he'll be better than he was last year."

For a team that posted a respectable .968 fielding percentage and turned a conference-best 64 double plays, perhaps Peterson's hopes for Stephens's continued good defense and improved offense should hold for the entire team. ■



Pitcher Daniel Palo launches a fastball against Jacksonville State last year during the Feb. 26 game at the Reese Smith Jr. Field. MTSU lost 9-6, adding to the 16-loss season. (Photo by Erica Springer, staff photographer)

bullpen hopes that they get the chance to come in, and we're always one pitch away from getting somebody out of an inning."

As a freshman in 2011, Mittura was a bright spot for MT's pitching. In 29 appearances, two of them starts, Mittura posted a 1-1 record, but racked up six saves, good for third in the conference, and posted a team-low 4.53 ERA.

With his freshman campaign behind

Skinner to the professional circuit.

Skinner was the true power hitter for the Raiders and led the Sun Belt with 16 homeruns in 2011.

"I don't see us having one guy who can hit 15, 16, 17 home runs," Peterson said. "I think we can make up for Will's graduation by having [Justin] Guidry, Hank LaRue, Johnny Thomas, Ryan Stephens contribute with four, five or six

# SIDELINES

AND THE SEARCH FOR NEW CONTRIBUTING STAFF

# A

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