

The Features' Brit-pop sound is overtaking the local scene.

Features, page 5

THURS 81°/60°

FRI 76°/60°

SAT 73°/58°

Women's soccer prepares for weekend matchup.

Sports, page 6

# MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

VOL. 86, NO. 2

## President addresses year ahead

By BEN UNDERWOOD  
Staff Writer

The current MTSU budget crisis provided the foundation for this year's State of the University address.

The address, which commences President Sidney McPhee's ninth year at the university, focused on how the university can cope with the current budget crisis and continue to move forward into the future.

"Regardless of the challenges, your institution is poised to move ahead," McPhee said. "We will pursue nothing less than success."

The president said that along with his staff, his administration plans to continue working on budget cuts in order to better use the resources available to the university. McPhee said the year ahead could bring MTSU some of the most serious challenges ever.

Wayne Rollins, a professor in the Jennings A. Jones College of Business, said the speech was informative.

"I think he did a good job, considering what we know now and what we

don't know," Rollins said. "I thought the president was very frank about how we still need to cut our budget in two years."

McPhee said the State of Tennessee permanently cut the university budget by \$19.3 million on July 1. He said the money from the stimulus package, \$17.6 million, will be able to sustain most university programs until it runs out in 2011. However, the emergency funding should only be considered as temporary relief.

"We should not get lulled into complacency by this one-time funding," McPhee said. "The issue [at hand] is real."

Rollins said the gift of the stimulus money should be used wisely and not taken for granted.

"It almost kind of lulls you into the false idea that everything is okay when it's not," Rollins said. "We are not done with the operation, we still have to do surgery."



Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor  
MTSU President Sidney McPhee addressed faculty in his State of the University address last week where he informed the crowd of the future of MTSU.

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



Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor  
Greek members sold Greek Week shirts to participants at Monday's Greek Fest to increase recruitment.

## Greek Fest kicks off fraternity, sorority Fall recruitment

By EMMA EGLI  
Assistant Campus News Editor

MTSU Greek Affairs hosted Greek Fest, a free event open to all students interested in joining one of the Greek-letter organizations, Tuesday evening on the Keathley University Center Knoll.

Greek Fest has been held for the past three years in an attempt to help raise recruitment for sororities and fraterni-

ties before their actual recruitment weeks.

"Greek Fest is a very informal and comfortable way for potential new members to come out and meet various representatives from the fraternities and sororities," said Brandon McNary, vice-president for the Interfraternity Council and member of Sigma Nu.

Twenty eight sororities and fraternities set up tables for their individual organizations, giving po-

tential new members an opportunity to see what each group has to offer.

"This is the first time this fall semester that all the organizations have been gathered together," said Danny Kelley, Dean of Student Life. "It's a really great time for students to get a feel for what fraternity or sorority they will best fit in."

GREEKFEST, PAGE 3

## Family charged with running underage prostitution ring

By DUSTIN EVANS  
Assistant Comm. News Editor

Middle Tennessee Family charged with running an underage prostitution ring.

The Specialized Investigations Division of the Metro Nashville Police department is investigating a Middle Tennessee family accused of operating a prostitution ring with local minors from a Middle Tennessee high school.

Theresa West and her two children, Diana and Casey, were federally charged with using a minor for commercial sex. Theresa West has been charged with trafficking for sexual servitude and promoting prostitution in Tennessee.

"Minors are children, and they are not old enough to make decisions about sexuality or anything adult," said Christy Espinosa, a senior education major. "I can't believe someone would take advantage of a child."

Metro Police said the SID detectives received information about the West's and began routine surveillance. The detectives observed Theresa checking into the Motel 6 in Murfreesboro, leaving the room key on a wall in the parking lot and departing.



Photo Illustration by Shelley Vernon, managing editor  
The family below was arrested after being accused of promoting prostitution.



Casey West



Theresa West



Diana West

The West family is being charged with running an underage prostitution ring. The family is being federally charged for promoting sex in Middle Tennessee and trafficking for sexual servitude.

Metro Police said the detectives, along with FBI agents entered the room and conducted an interview with a 16-year-old who obtained the key card and entered the room. Metro police said the teenager admitted that she had engaged in approximately 20 to 30 sexual encounters for Theresa West during the summer.

Peter Wesson, a sopho-

more pre-nursing major said while he was surprised to hear that a family was encouraging such activity from children, he is not surprised to hear about the prostitution ring itself.

"People pay for sex anywhere and everywhere, especially with this economy," Wesson said.

PROSTITUTION PAGE 3

# Stones River lantern tours begin

STAFF REPORT

Stuart Johnson, superintendent of the Stones River National Battlefield announced that the park will offer three more presentations of "Hallowed Ground: A Lantern Tour of Stones River National Cemetery."

The tours will be offered on Sept. 5 at 6:45 p.m., Oct. 5 at 6:15 p.m. and Nov. 7 at 4:30 p.m.

"Each evening, groups of up to thirty-five people will tour the cemetery by lantern light and listen to the stories of the soldiers who are buried there and their families," said Jim Lewis, who handles cultural resource management and law enforcement for the battlefield, in a recent press release.

Reservations for the event will not be taken in the visitor center or by e-mail. There is a limit of four tickets per caller and reservations are not transferable to another program date.

"Visitors who will require a sign language interpreter will be exempted from the requirement to make reservations starting the Monday prior to each program," Johnson said. "We will need at least two weeks to ensure that an interpreter is on hand so people needing this service may make reservations for any program at any time."

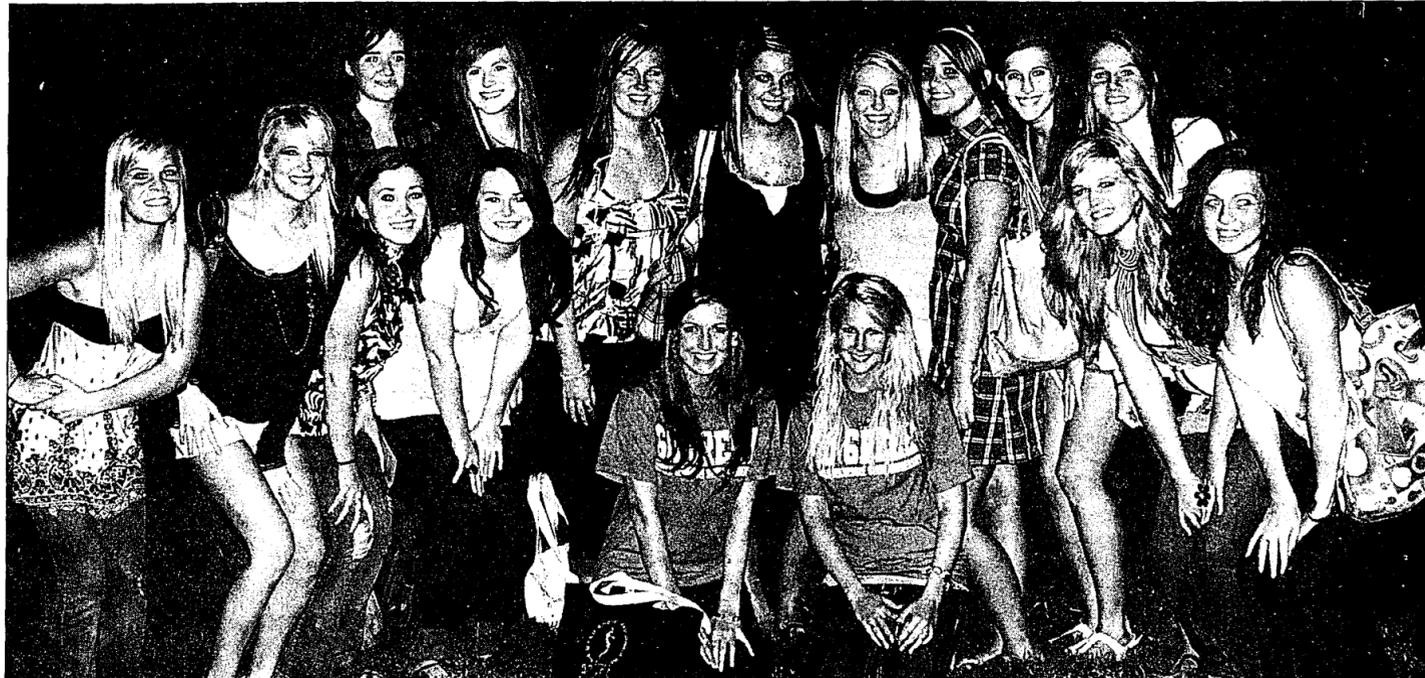


Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor

Sorority recruitment officers introduce students interested in joining a Greek organization to different sororities in an effort to increase recruitment for the Fall.

## Greeks prepare for Fall recruitment

By EMMA EGLI  
Assistant Campus News Editor

Fall recruitment for Greek sororities and fraternities begins next week with hopes of attracting new students to join the organizations and raise recruitment numbers.

Recruitment for the fall semester brings the largest number of new members to all fraternities and sororities in the 28 Greek social organizations represented on campus.

"We should see a definite increase, especially when enrollment at MTSU has grown almost six percent," said Brandon McNary, vice-president for the Interfraternity Council and member of Sigma Nu. "All the councils have been working hard to increase their involvement, so now it's up to the individual chapters."

This year, the Interfraternity Council received help from Phired Up, a company that specializes in helping organizations grow their

membership base. "Our organization came out in the spring to do a training program and IFC asked me to come back this year and implement it," said Josh Orendi, CEO of Phired Up. "This fall will be a testament to see how well the training was and how well everybody used it."

Orendi said he hopes to see an increase in the percentage of people who are Greek and see the statistical evidence that the quality of membership is increasing.

"This will include higher GPA averages, more community service hours and more students holding leadership positions around campus," Orendi said.

Danny Kelley, Associate Dean of Student Involvement and Leadership and Director of Student Affairs Research, said while the fraternities and sororities will host the events they normally do every year, each organization wants to get to know potential members personally be-

fore they extend bids. "It's not so much hosting events as it is making individual connections and recruiting members that way," Kelley said. "The events are something of a byproduct of recruitment."

This year, the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority, which became an inactive colony last year, will return to recruit new members.

"They are revamping their sorority this year and getting back on track," said Jessica Turri, president of the Panhellenic Council. "They will start their recruitment after the other sororities have their Bid days."

Recruitment for sororities starts next Wednesday, Sep. 9 and will continue through Sept. 14. Recruitment week for fraternities will begin on Sept. 14 and continue through Sep. 19. During these weeks, potential members will have opportunities to tour the houses and meet members until finally accepting bids.



Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor

Clifton McDugle (left) and Dakota Jones play games at Greek Fest.

Kelley said students should go Greek is because Greek life provides students with an opportunity to join one organization that meets multiple interests and needs instead of joining multiple organizations.

"You have leadership opportunities, opportunities to participate in philanthropic events, social activities, and plenty of networking," Kelley said. "It's literally a one-stop shop that provides you with

multiple opportunities to grow and develop." McNary said he believes going Greek is a great benefit not only to students, but for the MTSU campus and community as well.

"We have numerous community service events, leadership opportunities and seminars for career development," McNary said. "The best thing of all however, has to be the lifelong friendships with brothers and sisters."

## H1N1 virus affects Rutherford County schools



Photo Illustration by Jay Bailey, photography editor. Students begin to take precautions with the threat of the H1N1 virus getting more common in MT.

By CALLIE DURHAM  
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee Medical Center has confirmed over 5 cases of H1N1 - or swine flu - since the virus came to Tennessee.

"We encourage everyone to continuously wash their hands and stay clean in an effort to prevent spreading germs," said Angie Boyd Chambers, public relations director for MTMC.

As a result, H1N1 virus has caused the Murfreesboro community to become more health conscientious. Chambers said anyone that has flu-like symptoms should stay at home and rest. If the condition does not improve, a physician should be consulted.

"If you are diagnosed with the flu, you should stay at home for 24 hours after the fever has broken before going out and participating in day to day activities," Chambers said.

Becky Jones, attendance specialist at Barfield Elementary School, said she has experienced a considerable number of absences due to the swine flu.

"I've actually been out with the swine flu myself, but I would estimate that around 25 to 35 children have been absent due to swine flu suspicion," Jones said.

"Our school has been keeping a close eye on the subject and we have a great nurse here who calls any student's parent immediately after they have begun

cases," Davis said. "There has been a definite increase in sanitizer sales."

The university's Student Health Services Web site shows a convenient list of the common signs and symptoms of the swine flu, like "difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen, sudden dizziness, confusion, severe or

**“If you are diagnosed with the flu, you should stay at home for 24 hours after the fever has broken.”**

ANGIE BOYD CHAMBERS  
PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR FOR MTMC

showing any signs of the swine flu."

Melissa Davis, a manager of Bath and Body Works at Stones River Mall, said the swine flu is not only playing a role in local schools and hospitals, but also with local vendors. Davis said she has seen an increase in her sales due to the H1N1 virus.

"Many of the local schools have begun requiring or urging their students to carry sanitizers [on their person] due to swine flu

persistent vomiting, and flu-like symptoms that improve but then return with fever and a worsening cough."

The site also provides information about how the virus is spread and shows steps to avoid contracting swine flu.

For more information, log on to the Health Services Web site at [mtsu.edu/healthservices](http://mtsu.edu/healthservices).

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY  
**SIDELINES**

Middle Tennessee State University  
1301 East Main Street P.O. Box 8  
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Editorial: 615-904-8357 Fax: 615-494-7648  
Advertising: 615-898-5240 Fax: 615-904-8193

www.mtsusidelines.com

Editor in Chief  
Byron Wilkes\*  
sleditor@mtsu.edu

Sports  
Chris Welch  
slsports@mtsu.edu

Production Manager  
Shelley Vernon  
slsdesign@mtsu.edu

Managing Editor  
Andy Harper\*  
smanage@mtsu.edu

Assist. Cam. News  
Emma Egli  
slcopy@mtsu.edu

Photography  
Jay Bailey  
slphoto@mtsu.edu

Campus News  
Alex Moorman\*  
slnews@mtsu.edu

Assist. Features  
Faith Franklin  
slflash@mtsu.edu

Advertiser  
Steven Chappell  
schappell@mtsu.edu

Asst. Com. News  
Dustin Evans\*  
slstate@mtsu.edu

Assist. Sports  
Richard Lowe  
sports02@mtsu.edu

Advertising  
Jeri Lamb  
jlamb@mtsu.edu

Opinions  
Evan Barker\*  
slopinio@mtsu.edu

Copy Editor  
Allison Roberts  
slcopy@mtsu.edu

Business  
Eveon Corl  
ecorl@mtsu.edu

Features  
Katy Coil  
slfeatur@mtsu.edu

Online  
Bryan Law  
slonline@mtsu.edu

\* denotes member  
of editorial board

**Prostitution**  
FROM PAGE 1

The 16-year-old told Metro Police that a typical client paid \$110, and that Teresa West would receive a payment of \$40. Metro Police also said the teenager had also given Casey West a payment of \$20 to drive her to the locations. Wesson said the chilling aspect of this case is that minors are not only involved, but allegedly coerced by a family operation. "It is not an individual making a choice," Wesson said. "It's a considerable effort by adults to encourage children

to have sex for money."

Terri Johnson, director of the June Anderson Women's Center at MTSU, said that the center is a place that could assist youths who have become involved in such issues. "There are a lot of things going on that people are not aware of," Johnson said. "It's bigger than what people think."

Johnson said the first step in tackling these types of issues is to talk to someone like the JAWC. "We will try to give a person as much information as possible," Johnson said. "If we don't have the information, we can find out where a

person needs to go.

Federal and state trials have not been scheduled for the West family.

Metro Police said that parents of teenagers, particularly in the Robertson County area or who are friends of the Wests, should talk to their children and inquire if they have any information about the prostitution ring.

Metro Police said the underage persons involved with the business are considered victims, and anyone with information should contact SID Detective Chad Holman at 615-782-3301.

**GREEKFEST**  
FROM PAGE 1

Hundreds of Greek and non-Greek students mingled and played games while a DJ provided music. Members of the North American Interfraternity Council, the Panhellenic Council and the National Pan-Hellenic Council set up separate tables to talk to students.

Jessica Turri, president of the Panhellenic Council, said going Greek was one of the best decisions she ever made.

"It's a great way to jump into school and get started on the right track," Turri said. "I feel like this fall is going to be very successful and our new members are going to be great."

Brandon Lucas, a senior marketing major and member of NPHC fraternity, Phi Beta Sigma, said he and his brothers really enjoy coming to the Greek Fest because it was a perfect opportunity to bring all the organizations together.

"It just makes the ties between the entire Greek community so much stronger," Lucas said.

Cara Pulliam, a freshman nursing major, said she is interested in joining a sorority because it will give her plen-



Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor  
Hollye Bynum (Left), Krystal Owens and Taylor Gregory, members of Kappa Delta sorority help boost recruitment at Greek Fest Monday.

ty of opportunities to meet new people and get involved on campus.

"I knew I wanted to be Greek before I even started school," Pulliam said. "The Greek Fest is definitely a great way to visit every sorority and figure out where I will fit in the best."

Erin Redmond, a senior marketing major and presi-

dent of Chi Omega, said that because the recruitment process is so short, it can be hard for potential members to really get enough interaction before making their decision.

"Greek Fest is so great because the more opportunities all the organizations can get together and meet new members before recruitment week, the better," Erin said.

**CRIME BRIEFS**

**Aug. 24, 3:18 a.m. Vandalism**

Ellington Human Science Building  
Complainant reported that a rock had been thrown through a window.

**Aug. 26, 2:25 a.m. False Fire Alarm**

Floyd Stadium  
Possible faulty heat detector.

**Aug. 27, 3:39 p.m. Harassment**

Scarlett Commons  
Subject called wanting to report on someone harassing her.

**Aug. 29, 1:23 a.m. Weapon Possession**

Alumni Drive

Logan Wardlow was issued a state citation for Possession of a Prohibited Weapon.

**Aug. 30, 12:01 a.m. Drug Possession**

Greek Row  
Mitchell Rankhorn was issued a state citation for possession of drug paraphernalia.

**Aug. 30, 9:11 a.m. Theft**

Miller Horse Coliseum  
A cowgirl hat was stolen from the building.

**Aug. 31, 9:16 a.m. Theft**

Todd Building  
A faculty member called wanting to report a CD player that has

been stolen.

**Aug. 31, 10:52 a.m. Theft**

Alumni Memorial Gym  
Subject called and requested an officer to come and talk to him in reference to stolen computer monitors.

**Aug. 31, 3:23 p.m. Theft**

Jim Cummings Hall  
Subject called wanting to report his wallet being stolen.

**Aug. 31, 4:52 p.m. Theft**

Scarlett Commons  
Subject called reporting a stolen saxophone from Wright Music.

**CURRENT EVENTS**

**Week of Welcome: MTSU Department Fair**

Sept. 3, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Location: Keathley University Center Knoll  
Admission: Free

**Week of Welcome: Blue Raider Bash**

Sept. 3, 5:30 p.m.  
Location: Keathley University Center Knoll  
Admission: Free

**Little Shop of Horrors**

Sept. 4-6  
Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m.  
Sunday at 2 p.m.  
Location: Murfreesboro Little Theatre  
Admission: \$10 adult, \$5 seniors and students

**Chuck Close Prints: Process and Collaboration**

Now through Sept. 13  
Location: Frist Center for the Visual Arts  
Admission: Thursday and Friday 5 - 9 p.m. - Free with college ID  
Adults: \$8.50, Seniors and Military: \$7.50, Students: \$6.50

**Shakespeare in the Park: The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged**

Now through Sept. 13  
Thursday - Sunday, and Labor Day Monday at 7:30 p.m.  
Location: Centennial Park Bandshell  
Admission: Donations accepted

**Wicked**

Now - Sept. 20, Select dates and times  
Location: TPAC's Andrew Jackson Hall  
Admission: \$35 - 135

**First Friday Star Party: Black Holes and Warped Space**

Sept. 4, 6:30 p.m.  
Location: Wiser-Patten Science Hall and Observatory  
Admission: Free

**Hallowed Ground: Lantern Tour of Stones River National Cemetery**

Sept. 5, 6:45 p.m.  
Location: Stones River National Battlefield  
Reservations Required  
For more information, contact: 615-893-9501

**Week of Welcome: Volunteer Fair**

Sept. 8, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Location: Keathley University Center Knoll

NBC PRESENTS A SPECIAL FREE ADVANCE SCREENING

# COMMUNITY

NBC

...and get a sneak peek at the season premieres of NBC's Thursday night comedy lineup!

DATE: Wednesday, September 9, 2009

TIME: 4:00 pm

LOCATION: KUC Theater

PASSES AVAILABLE AT: Student Programming Office, KUC room 308

Download all of your favorite NBC shows on the PlayStation® Network. Arrive early! Seating is first come, first served!

JACK IN THE BOX AND SUMMIT ENTERTAINMENT PRESENT A VERY SPECIAL ADVANCE SCREENING

SISTERS FOR LIFE... AND DEATH

# SORORITY ROW

SEPTEMBER 11

DATE: Friday, September 4, 2009

TIME: 10:00 pm

LOCATION: Premiere 6

PASSES AVAIL. AT: Student Programming Office, KUC room 308

ARRIVE EARLY! SEATING IS FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED! JACKSBIGRIPOFF.COM

**Letters Policy**

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopinio@mtsu.edu and include your name and phone number for verification. Sidelines will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit grammar, length and content.

# OPINIONS

Sidelines is the editorially independent, non-profit student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. Sidelines publishes Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and Wednesday during June and July. The opinions expressed herein are those of individual writers and not necessarily Sidelines or MTSU.

**FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD**

## Swine flu: Be afraid, but not too afraid

MTSU deserves a pat on the back. As difficult as it must be to fire up a brand new school year, the added complication of swine flu can't be helpful.

On the first day of classes, professors typically read the syllabus. This year, professors read the syllabus, and added numerous warnings and admonitions concerning swine flu.

Students report possible leniency in attendance policies, but only if you get sick. This is welcome progress.

Food service counters have large hand sanitizer dispensers newly added. Students are encouraged to bring sterile wipes to clean off desks and keyboards, wash hands and not touch doorknobs. In short, common sense has broken out.

We hope that the alarm regarding swine flu is overstated, but given reports, it may not be.

Hopefully, these important precautions will help keep illness from causing unnecessary absences. Of course, if you get the swine flu, please stay home. That message cannot be overstated. If we obey the warnings, and we certainly should, the effects of this particularly nasty bug should be minimized.

Statistically speaking, your chances of catching swine flu are actually pretty good, since it afflicts the 18 to 24 demographic most severely.

On the bright side, however, your chances of dying of swine flu are less than the odds of dying in traffic, so keep it in perspective.

You wouldn't want to just skip class, would you?

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I read the Sidelines editorial ("Engage like never before," Aug. 29, 2009), which encouraged students to become involved in campus debate. In my four years at MTSU, I was actively involved in generating several campus-wide debates. From acceptance of Southern history to issues of campus safety and wasteful spending, I spent plenty of my time outside the classroom trying to make students, professors, and administrators think. After graduation, I moved to Washington, D.C. where I now work for a political non-profit. When friends ask me what I do, I simply explain that everything I did outside the classroom at MTSU I now do on a much larger scale with a much bigger budget. Conservative students will soon have an excellent resource to help spread the message of conservatism on university campuses. On Sept. 15, the Leadership Institute will launch Campus-Reform.org - a place where conservative students can organize student groups, flag leftist abuses by professors on campus, and wrest control of universities from leftist student groups. Interested students should visit campus-reform.org today in order to start making positive change on the campus of MTSU.

Matthew Hurtt  
Arlington, VA

# Inclusive language necessary here

In a previous issue of Sidelines I explained why adding gender identity and expression into the Student Government Association's non-discrimination policy was necessary not only for transgender students, but for students as a whole.

With a vote of 13 for, seven against, and five sustaining the amendment to add gender identity and expression to the SGA's non-discrimination policy failed (it needed a two-third majority to pass). This is truly disheartening for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community, because this affects them and their supporters. This defeat, no matter what the true reasons are, makes the SGA seem like they are embracing heterosexism, homophobia, and transphobia - fear of the transgendered, all in the same breath, especially in the eyes of the students that this affects the most. However this defeat may be perceived, I am here to say that is not the case. The problem has to do with two things: timing and education.

I attribute some of the failure due to my miscalculation in timing. This amendment was presented during the SGA's yearly retreat where



## Gender Identity theft

Brandon Thomas

only senators were allowed to attend. I was hoping it would pass the SGA twice and be on the ballot for students to vote for during homecoming.

The second contribution to the failure of this bill was the lack of education in knowing what gender identity is and how it affects real people.

The perfect example of discrimination right now due to gender variance can be found in the realm of sports. The South African runner Caster Semenya is being forced to undergo gender tests to prove that she is in fact a female. This type of discrimination should never be allowed, especially when there are people who are intersex.

Trying to fit every individ-

ual into a gender binary system, where one is either traditionally male or traditionally female is wrong and has no place in the 21st century, the SGA or MTSU as a whole. We have to be proactive and not reactive here on campus when it comes to discrimination. LGBT students, in general, are less likely to report discrimination many fear that this may "out" them or they will be subjected to re-victimization. Simply put, gender variant students need to be protected.

So what do we do now? First, we re-strategize, then keep fighting. No one gives

crimination policy, and even recommends that the SGA support such a measure. It should be noted, however, that such a policy does not exist at a campus-wide level.

Many organizations across the country have endorsed the addition of gender identity and expression to be installed in the SGA and MTSU non-discrimination policy. The Trevor Project, Murfreesboro Community Organizers, Tennessee Transgender Political Coalition and the Tennessee Equality Project have all supported an encompassing policy. Even the American Civil Liberties

campus, and many have supported the idea of installing such a measure. SGA President, Brandon McNary came out in personal support of the gender identity and expression bill announcing his position in front of all the student leaders. This courageous stance from our student government president shows that this issue just doesn't affect the minority, but also reflects the integrity and mentality of the majority.

So with that we must fight on. We must encourage the people that sustained to change their vote to a "yes," explain to the individuals that voted "no" why this amendment is needed and how saying "no" translates into "You are inferior."

In a few short days, a rally will be held to support the addition of gender identity and expression. I encourage students to come to SGA meetings and support an encompassing policy. We must stop discrimination and hate before either has time to start.

Brandon Thomas is a sophomore political science major and can be reached at bran\_thom@yahoo.com

**“No one gives civil liberties out of convenience; they must be fought for and taken out of the hands of the unrepentant regressive minds that seek to keep inequality.”**

civil liberties out of convenience; they must be fought for and taken out of the hands of the unrepentant regressive minds that seek to keep inequality. President Sidney McPhee's legal council is receptive to the idea of adding gender identity and expression to the non-dis-

crimination policy. The issue even made it all the way to Presidium, an annual meeting of all the student organization leaders on

# Many college rankings arbitrary

## Guest Column

Mallory Boyd

The Princeton Review has come out with its new edition of "The 371 Best Colleges." Within it is the subsection Gay Friendly Colleges. The idea that this section is even necessary amazes me, being that it is 2009.

However, living in a state that has recently passed a constitutional amendment discriminating against 10 percent of its population (whether or not it wants to believe it), one can see where a list like that would be helpful. At least, it would be were it handled in a more precise manner.

The Princeton Review, with its Ivy League overtones, has had much success in publishing books that help students in their quest for the perfect

standardized test score. Perhaps they should have just stuck with that. Let us hope that the research that goes into a volume of test preparation is much more precise than the single question used to determine whether or not a school is accepting of an LGBT student.

Yes, the Princeton Review uses only one criterion to determine whether or not a college or university is "gay friendly." Survey subjects are asked to agree or disagree with the following statement: "Students, faculty, and administrators treat all persons equally regardless of their sexual orientation and gender identity/expression."

Let us not be fooled here. There is a huge difference between tolerance and acceptance, and those LGBT students that are checking into colleges for the first time and using this list as a tool are

looking for acceptance

As a person who identifies as LGBT, this concerns me. For most students, choosing a college is the first major decision of their lives. They have enough to deal with concerning course load, campus navigation, and extracurricular activities without the needless worry of whether or not they are going to be hassled or worse for something as insignificant as sexual orientation.

I would hope that an organization like the Princeton Review would take something like student safety more seriously. The name Princeton Review carries weight, and with that comes responsibility.

Though our society is brazenly money based, student safety on a college campus needs to take precedence. All colleges have had their share of incidents and bad



Photo illustration by Jay Bailey, photography editor

A student ponders the Princeton Review's "371 Best Colleges." press covering a wide array of issues. They want to minimize their negative publicity, and the best way to do so is for these incidents never to occur.

Companies like the Princeton Review should examine whether or not they want to

be the ones that are placing profit margin over student well-being in our colleges and universities.

Mallory Boyd is a sophomore history major and can be reached at mmv2b@mtsu.edu

## FACES IN THE CROWD

### Do you think out-of-pocket costs for students are rising?



McCann

"I'm having to buy a lot more supplies for school and buying things in the bookstore, I'm having to pay

Meagan McCann, senior



Cole

"I'm a returning student after three years and prices have definitely gone up across the board."

Timothy Cole, freshman



Hutto

"I'm taking my classes online but I can definitely tell that supplies have gone up in the bookstore."

Ben Hutto, freshman



Wipperman

"No, for me they seem about the same. I haven't had to pay extra because of the classes I'm taking"

Thomas Wipperman, freshman

**Sidelines is looking for writers, photographers, columnists and designers.**  
Come to John Bragg Mass Communication Room 269 and fill out an application.  
E-mail sleditor@mtsu.edu if interested.

HOW WAS YOUR FIRST WEEK OF CLASSES?

online TELL US ONLINE AT MTSUSIDELINES.COM

FEATURES

Nashville's The Features on rise Opening for Kings of Leon boosts local band to prominence

By JESSICA PACE Staff Writer On a warm August night, showgoers welcomed back The Features to their home state after an extensive tour opening for Kings of Leon. It is difficult to refrain from tacking labels onto a band like The Features, straddled between a fair bit of fame and a nameless, "big-little" band. They can have an encore for their performance, and yet one can be admitted to the show for a mere \$7.

With a sound that bears all the exuberance of Brit-pop and simultaneously maintains the warm-fuzzy indie appeal - sans the often overbearing sopppiness of the genre - it is rare for the Nashville fan base to let a band spread its wings and tour other cities.

This is especially true in an area where bands that can pass for rock are decreasing while over-produced pop and diluted girl-country music are overflowing in the area.

After arguably the longest sound check in small-venue history, Milktooth opened the show Aug. 28 at Club 527. For four twee, hipster-looking guys, they have a sound that's bigger than their slight, indie/rockabilly appearance might suggest.

With the sort of appeal in the same boat as Kings of Leon, Milktooth pulled from its debut EP with a lot of clashing drums and twisting bass. Frontman David Condos also pulls off otherwise maddening, incessant hammering on the keys in "If No One Ever Stops Me."

The Ascent of Everest took the stage next, producing an almost uninterupt-

ed flow of ethereal jamming, making it difficult to discern between songs. Some would say it sounded like merely the byproduct of residue built-up from a thousand acid trips, while others could appreciate a lot of shimmering texture and winding symphonics.

By the time The Features went on, 527 was packed and the crowd was inching zombie-like closer and closer to the stage, as they tend to do when the show heats up.

imation of the band members and the keyboardist who looks suspiciously like Ben Gibbard.

But The Features haven't slacked in paving a path to success, paying dues like any other band to breakout of Nashville. And true, a certain grandeur follows the Sparta, Tenn. natives with a sound that seems destined to break through the confines of small venues, whether one worships or loathes the band.

The Features' frame of mind. They brought back the same rusty, thrown-together-rock fused with lyrical sophistication and wit, landing gig openings for bigger bands.

Then in 2008, the long-anticipated, full-length follow-up to "Exhibit A" was released digitally and on vinyl, titled "Some Kind of Salvation." The album, produced by Brian Carter and Jacquire King (Sea Wolf, Kings of Leon) in Murfreesboro, branches out further, deviating somewhat from the consistently up-tempo "Exhibit A" by mellowing down and turning more to the bizarre.

"Whatever Gets You By" keeps pace with eerie, foreign-sounding keys, and tracks like the light, whispering melody of "Baby's Hammer" soften things down. Then this past July, "Some Kind of Salvation" was finally released in physical form - and in a much grander sense.

In June, renowned independent music publisher Bug Music collaborated with Nashville rockers Kings of Leon to create a record label, a project that has been in the making since fall of last year. The label hunts for the new, the diligent and the innovative. The Features, fitting the description, was the first band to land a spot.

Now The Features are touring extensively into December throughout the states, and maybe their break with Bug Music will let them drop the label of one of the greatest bands you've never heard and set them on the path of just one of the greatest.

BAND OF THE WEEK

The band's set lasted about 20 songs, including the two-song encore wildly insisted upon by the crowd. The set list delved into favorites from "Exhibit A" and "Some Kind of Salvation," and the band pushed the evident playfulness in the albums even more so live. Opening with the brassy "The Drawing Board," from the get-go, The Features show their knack for fluctuating melodies and ironic, bemused-sounding vocals reminiscent of The Kinks.

Almost like an eastern Death Cab for Cutie, The Features somehow breed offbeat appeal through a conflicting brainy but slacker style - determined with just one look at the an-

The Features' EP "The Beginning" marked the beginning, released in 2004. The band debuted with bleating vocals and an abundance of upbeat, poppy percussion. Even the slower, acoustic-feel of "Bumble Bee" sounds sunshiny.

Later that year, they churned out "Exhibit A," the critically acclaimed full-length album that featured the return of frontman Matt Pelham's wavering, British-sounding voice, calling again on a distinct English influence, particularly from The Kinks and The Clash.

From the melodic caress of "The Idea of Growing Old" to the ridiculously catchy "Blow It Out," "Exhibit A" summed up



Photo courtesy of The Features The Features open the show for fellow Nashville band Kings of Leon during their tours. The Features are scheduled to play with the Kings of Leon during their upcoming U.S. tour.



Photo courtesy of The Features From left to right: Mark Bond (keyboardist), Matthew Pelham (vocalist and guitarist), Rollum Haas (drums) and Roger Dabbs (bassist) perform together at a show in Chattanooga.

WELCOME BACK 2 CAMPUS GET \$20 OFF SUN TAN CITY advertisement with address: 2904 S. Church Street - (Next to Starbucks), 235 W. Northfield Blvd. - (Next to Hollywood Video), 2706 Old Fort Pkwy - (Across the street from Kohl's)

GradJobzone.com advertisement for engineering and science graduates, featuring a logo and text about job opportunities and application information.

# SPORTS

## Volleyball garners national votes

STAFF REPORT

The Middle Tennessee volleyball team received votes in the AVCA poll after going 3-0 to open the 2009 campaign.

The Blue Raiders defeated Kansas, Murray State and Xavier opening weekend with junior Izabela Kozon being named Most Valuable Player of the Middle Tennessee Invitational.

Kozon had 15 kills and seven digs against Xavier. Teammate Stacy Oladinni recorded 14 kills for a .407 hitting percentage. Both athletes were named to the All-Tournament team

last weekend.

"We needed a match like this and to play a team more like this," head coach Matt Peck said.

MT cruised past Murray State to a 3-0 win on Saturday. The Blue Raiders maintained that prowess in their 3-0 defeat of Xavier later that same day, making MT undefeated on the season.

As a team, MT had 50 kills and seven team blocks against Xavier, while holding the Musketeers to just 31 kills and three blocks.

"Four matches in a weekend is tough but I think we will handle it fine. We will get the

biggest match of the weekend out of the way first in Georgia Tech, which will be good."

Monique Mead, sister of MT senior Ashley Mead, is a freshman rightside hitter for Georgia Tech, and a recent recipient of the ACC Volleyball Player of the Week award.

Middle Tennessee will host the Blue Raider Bash on Friday, Sept. 4 through Sunday, Sept. 6, and will go up against Georgia Tech, Northern Illinois, northern Iowa and Ohio. The Blue Raiders open the weekend with Georgia Tech at 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 4 in Alumni Memorial Gym.



Photo by Jay Bailey, Photography Editor

Janay Yancey spikes the ball over the net during gameplay. The Middle Tennessee volleyball team played itself in the Blue-and-White game Aug. 27.



File Photo  
Middle Tennessee women's soccer team members fight for the ball.

## Ladies soccer falls to Dayton

STAFF REPORT

The MT women's soccer team gave up an early goal and another pair before the first half ended to allow Dayton's 4-0 win Saturday afternoon.

"We knew they were going to be a good team," MT head coach Aston Rhoden said. "We had a couple of good opportunities, but going three goals down to a good team, it makes it harder to recover in the second half and catch up to even the score."

Dayton maintained the offensive hold throughout the first half of the match. Dayton's Mandi Bäck got behind the Blue Raider defense with about 15 minutes left in the half, but her shot hit the

right post before bouncing back to sophomore goal keep Rebecca Cushing.

Freshman midfielder Paige Goeglein had the best MT attempt in the second half. Following a Blue Raider corner kick, Goeglein sent the loose ball just over the Flyer's goal at 65:12.

The final score of the match came from Dayton freshman Jerica DeWolfe on a header at 77:43. Kelsey Owen sent a corner kick just inside of the 18-yard box, which found DeWolfe's head for her second goal of the contest.

MT returns to the Dean A. Hayes Track and Soccer Stadium for its next pair of matches, starting at 7 p.m. Friday against Oklahoma.

## "College color" comes to MT

By SARAH FRYAR  
MT Athletic Communications

When was the last time your Blue Raider football jersey saw the light of day? Well if you haven't sported your Middle Tennessee duds since the wrap up of the 2008 season, now is the time to shake the dust off.

The Collegiate Licensing Company (CLC) has declared September 4th, the day before the MTSU opener against Clemson, College Colors Day. For the past four years, this day has been recognized by NCAA football fans all across the nation.

Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen, Murfreesboro Mayor Tommy Bragg, Middle Tennessee President Sidney McPhee, and Director of Athletics Chris Masaro all signed decrees proclaiming Sept. 4 as College Colors Day.

College Colors Day was designed to keep traditions alive and passions ablaze as fans, students, and alumni are encouraged to show their love and support for their favorite team through their apparel. This day was also created to promote and recognize the importance of higher education in the United States.

Whether you paint your face blue and white before you head to class, slide in your MT earrings before you take the kids to school, or attach your Lightning mascot pin on your power-tie, make sure you celebrate your school spirit. Many local retailers including Lightning's Locker Room, Blue Raider Bookstore, and Phillips Bookstore have all the MTSU gear imaginable.

So on Friday, September 4th, 2009, let the world know that Middle Tennessee fans bleed blue!

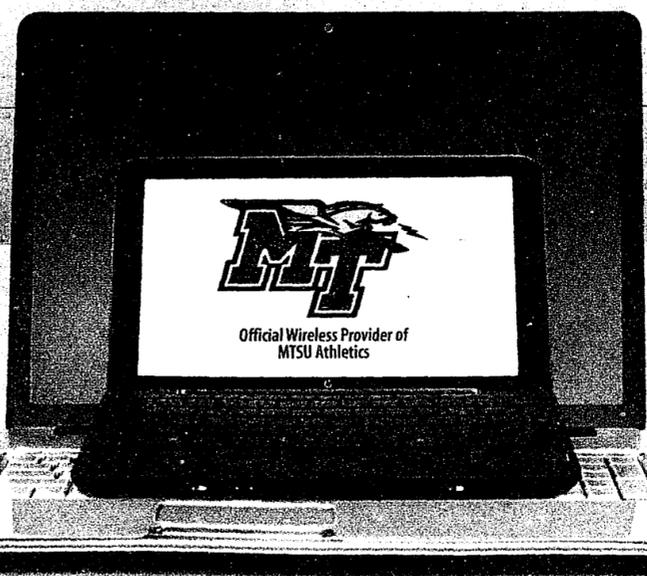


## Take the Internet. Leave the bulk.

**The HP Mini netbook. Connected. Portable. Affordable.**

Introducing the ultra portable HP Mini netbook with America's Largest and Most Reliable 3G Network built-in. Loaded with an 80GB hard drive, webcam, and Windows® XP, it's anything but small.

**Plus, get a 19% faculty and staff discount.**  
On calling plans \$39.99 or higher with a 1- or 2-yr. agreement.



**HP® Mini netbook**  
**NOW \$199<sup>99</sup>**  
**ONLY**

\$299.99 2-yr. price, less \$100 mail-in rebate debit card with 2-yr. activation on a Mobile Broadband plan from \$39.99 monthly access. Activation fees, taxes & other charges apply.




Switch to America's Largest and Most Reliable Wireless Network

Call 1.888.VZW.4BIZ (899.4249) Click [verizonwireless.com/getdiscount](http://verizonwireless.com/getdiscount) Visit any store

<b>VERIZON WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS STORES</b> Open 7 days a week.		
<b>COLUMBIA</b> 375 S. James Campbell Blvd. 931-381-0898 <b>DICKSON</b> 100 Lowe's Dr. 615-446-2355 <b>FRANKLIN</b> 420 Cool Springs Blvd. 615-771-6448 <small>Cool Springs Galleria 615-771-7971</small> <b>GALLATIN</b> 1152 Nashville Pike 615-452-7800	<b>HENDERSONVILLE</b> 223 Indian Lake Rd. 615-822-1128 <b>LEBANON</b> 1424 W. Main St. 615-443-2355 <b>MADISON</b> 1915 Gallatin Pike 615-859-2355 <b>MT. JULIET</b> 401 S. Mt. Juliet Rd. 615-773-1900	<b>MURFREESBORO</b> 580 N. Thompson Ln. 615-896-2355 <b>NASHVILLE</b> 4044 Hillsboro Pike 615-385-1910 <small>6800 Charlotte Pike 615-353-2112</small> <b>SMYRNA</b> 480 Sam Ridley Pkwy. W. 615-355-6560

**BUSINESS CUSTOMERS**  
1-800-899-4249

\*Our Surcharges (incl. Fed. Univ. Svc. of 12.9% of interstate & int'l telecom charges (varies quarterly), 7¢ Regulatory & 92¢ Administrative/line/mo., & others by area) are not taxes (details: 1-888-684-1888); gov't taxes & our surcharges could add 7% - 27% to your bill. Activation fee/line: \$35.  
**IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION:** Subject to Customer Agmt, Data Plan, credit approval & rebate form. Up to \$175 early termination fee, up to \$10/MB after allowance. Mobile Broadband is available to more than 280 million people in the U.S. in 259 major metros. Offers & coverage not available everywhere. Rebate debit card takes up to 6 wks. & exp. in 12 mos. Network details & coverage maps at [verizonwireless.com](http://verizonwireless.com). ©2009 Verizon Wireless.