

Monday

HI: 40°
LO: 22°

Tuesday

HI: 51°
LO: 28°Roode's garden
provides more
than food

page 5

MTSU wins
second straight

page 8

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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

SIDELINES

Monday, Dec. 4, 2006

Editorially independent

Caffeinated
vodka comes
to TennesseeBy Josh Daughtery
Staff Writer

Vicious Vodka, a new caffeine-infused vodka, is being marketed to the Nashville area by MTSU student Tim Grace, a senior public relations major and Tennessee distribution manager of the California-based company Vicious Ventures.

Grace began marketing the vodka in Tennessee after Seth Rendes, a friend in the pharmaceutical industry, approached him with the offer.

"So far it has been easy to market," Grace said. "The sales have been phenomenal in California."

The company is targeting Nashville's young, single, contemporary crowd from ages 21 to 35, Grace said. First it will be marketed in the Nashville area, then eventually to the rest of Tennessee.

Vicious Vodka is also being marketed to the extreme sports crowd such as snowboarders, wake boarders and skate boarders.

Grace said he hopes to have Vicious Vodka on the shelves in Tennessee around January. The company is currently marketing the vodka in New York and Hawaii with promotions and special events.

Rendes has not disclosed how much caffeine is in the vodka, Grace said. However, per volume it is the same as coffee.

"The biggest concern I have is mixing a stimulant, the caffeine, with the sedative of

the alcohol," said Pat Spangler, medical director of Student Health Services. "You're trying to offset the side effects of one product with the other."

Spangler said the caffeine could possibly cover the signs of being intoxicated.

"This could be dangerous," Spangler said. "The alcohol's effects may not be as apparent to the person and you may be more intoxicated than you think you are."

Though Vicious Ventures is the first to infuse vodka with caffeine, it enters a market already flooded with energy drinks, Grace said.

"We've done complete research," Grace said. "Everything is at a safe level."

The vodka is not flavored and the caffeine does not have an effect on the taste of the product according to Vicious Vodka's Web site. The vodka is made in the United States and the grains are distilled in California.

"I'm not much of a vodka person but I'd probably try it," said Michael Paxson, a junior entrepreneur major.

Some, like junior Jill Todd, have mixed reactions about the caffeinated alcoholic beverage.

"I would try it, but the caffeine wouldn't have anything to do with it," said Todd. "I would try it because it's a new vodka."

The vodka will be sold in any liquor store or bar that chooses to carry the product, Grace said. The vodka is 80 proof and will cost around \$28 a bottle.

Legislation voided,
Forrest controversy
back to square oneSGA rescinds resolution
amid concerns that
decision was too hasty

By Wesley Murchison

Campus Administration News Editor

The Student Government Association voted to rescind, or make void, last meeting's resolution 19-06-F to remove the name of Nathan Bedford Forrest from the ROTC Building.

"I think that we should move to rescind the resolution 19-06-F and basically just start over so we have a clean slate and [can] get dialogue going on this campus with the university—have survey and polls, have forums where we can talk and let everybody know what is going on," said Jessica Reeves, senator for Mass Communication.

"We need more student voices in this," Reeves added.

This decision comes after the submission of a new resolution 26-06-F that called to "repeal" resolution 19-06-F because "the historical information regarding Nathan Bedford Forrest was wrongly presented during discussion of the resolution," according to Gretchen Jenkins, senator for College of Liberal Arts and sole sponsor of the resolution.

Students to Save Forrest Hall raised a petition of

some 900 student signatures with another 400 names from the online petition in response to a petition of 205 signatures raised by Students Against Forrest Hall, according to sophomore history major Matthew Hurtt, spokesman for Students to Save Forrest Hall and columnist at Sidelines.

"It is certainly a larger representation of the community," Hurtt said of the size and scope of signatures on the petition. "It is not, 'My list is bigger than your list.'"

There is some discrepancy over the online petition at www.ipetitions.com/petition/Forrest_Hall that, when looked at, shows repeating names and questionable entries.

The online petition isn't part of the main petition that represents the local community.

The online petition is a way of including those who wanted to lend their support but were not from Murfreesboro. Hurtt said that the validity of his petition resides with the 900 signatures collected during MTSU's game against Troy State University Nov. 25.

There was little debate among senators about either petition. Most conversations focused on the opinion that the prior resolution held historical inaccuracies and a majority feeling among senators that the resolution passed under the condition of insufficient knowledge.

"Several of our nation's founders were also slave traders at the time," said Brandon McNary, senator

See Forrest, 3

Student Home Builders
complete Habitat house

By Andy Harper

Campus Life Editor

This past Saturday, the Student Home Builders organization helped build a house in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity.

The organization, based on the concrete management and technology major, had 18 people assist at the building site of their first Habitat project.

"It went really well. We were out at 8 a.m. and helped put up wall sheeting and the roof," said Ray Savoy, senior CMT major and public relations representative for Student Home Builders.

"We spent all day there, and left around 4," Savoy said.

The organization, which is relatively new, since the establishment of the CMT major, plans on participating with Habitat at least once per semester.

"We are going to try to do at least one project for Habitat for Humanity a semester to start," Savoy said. "Some of the members go out on free time to help lower the cost of labor. Habitat

is a great way for the Student Builders to help the community and families, and also working with Habitat helps the CMT kids with their field experience. It's a win-win situation for everyone."

The family that the house was built for is slated to move into the finished structure in February, said Chad Alexander, junior CMT major and president of the Student Home Builders.

"The mom, Faye, was out working with us on Saturday," Alexander said. "She was so happy and appreciated all the work we were doing. She said she was also excited because her daughter's birthday is in February and it will be a great present."

According to Alexander, Habitat usually has houses completed much sooner, but with the holiday season the organization is very stretched with projects.

"Habitat tries to do about 10 houses a year, depending on applicants," Savoy said.

The Student Home Builders

are done with the house and Habitat will contract the final touches, Alexander said.

"We didn't really have a chance to do a lot with this house," Alexander said. "The next one we are going to get a lot more involved in."

Student Home Builders is working on a variety of different events for next semester, Alexander said.

"We will do a lot more with Habitat and do some fundraisers," Alexander said. "Our enrollment has gone up a lot and since we have a lot more members, we are now able to do a lot more than in the past. We are also definitely looking for more community-service type stuff."

The organization also tailgates at football games and does other small fundraisers to help keep the program financially stable, Savoy said.

"We are also wanting to host a golf-course fundraiser," Savoy said. "We are looking to do as much as we can and right now [and], Habitat is the best and biggest thing we know of to do."



Photo submitted

Students from the organization Student Home Builders worked most of the day Saturday on a home for a local mother. The home is now completed, but Student Home Builders say they plan to continue working with Habitat for Humanity in the future.

MT to recruit students from all over Tenn., report says

By Wesley Murchison
Campus Administration News Editor

Would you like fries with that diploma? According to a study, a majority of students chose MTSU based on qualities often associated with fast food restaurants – it's close and cheap.

This is according to an integrated marketing communication report released by Stamats, a company that specializes in helping universities with their marketing, that came out in September.

"MTSU has typically gotten the majority of its students within a 70-mile radius of the university. Those attributes like location and cost were usually given as reasons why students enroll," the audit stated.

Commissioned during spring of last year, the decision for the study came after the recent academic growth and enrollment MTSU has experienced in recent years.

The study was to help administrators see what areas MTSU was most successful in and what areas could use improvement to help in marketing MTSU to new students, according to Joe Bales, vice president of development and university relations and who handles marketing for MTSU.

"We haven't done a comprehensive study on

student perception in many, many years," Bales said. "So as we've grown and the institution has changed we felt it was important to get a clearer understanding what students and their parents and the community felt about the university."

The study makes 48 recommendations on how to improve can MTSU's image to new students. One of the most emphasized recommendations (those that received three asterisks) was the creation of a new position, along with the suggestion that MTSU should have an academic audit to determine the quality of education the school is providing.

The position, or "persistence champion" as the study calls it, is to improve the MTSU's retention and enrollment that is created by word of mouth, alumni relations and school pride.

"It is highly unlikely that MTSU will experience a substantial increase in retention if no single individual is charged with moving that needle in a positive direction," according to the study. "... without a champion to lead the charge, crunch the numbers, develop strategy and associated tactics, and keep a constant finger on the retention pulse, success will not be realized."

The academic audit will help administrators see where MTSU's strengths are and what

areas need improvement.

"We recommend the university conduct a marketability audit of its curriculum, and look at all the pieces that go into enrolling (proper student mix), educating (retaining) and preparing students for success (graduation)," according to the study.

One the most difficult suggestions the report makes is for MTSU to try and recruit students from outside the 70-mile radius.

The difference in the student who is within the 70-mile radius to those that came from either East or West Tennessee shows a reflection in general opinions of college.

"But students in the survey from either end of the state also apply to three and four universities, where more from Middle Tennessee apply to only one school," according to the study.

The study recommends that MTSU improve the word of mouth image of the college in the by appealing to students who see college as a "value-based life shaping decision."

What this means for marketing, according Bales, is that MTSU must try and serve the "totality" of Tennessee.

But the question remains, how are MTSU administrators going to super size the deal for top student candidates?

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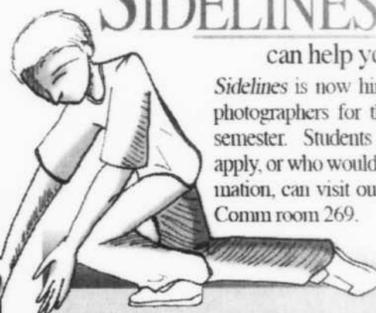
"We asked everyone we spoke to what the greatest attributes were...bragging points that they generally tell others about. Here are some of the bragging points we heard." Source: Stamats report

Bragging Rights

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Students spread Silver Wings to support nation's armed forces

By Josh Daughtery
Staff Writer

Interested civilian students who support the military and promote civic leadership are attempting to create a chapter of the organization Silver Wings at MTSU.

Silver Wings is a national co-educational professional organization, which encourages personal and professional development, as well as civic awareness, said Amy Lynn Larwig, senior child development and family studies major. Silver Wings is a sister organization to the Arnold Air Society.

"Arnold Air Society is a professional honorary service organization advocating the support of Aerospace power," said Mark Brown, junior public relations major at MTSU and cadet in Tennessee State University's Air Force ROTC. "It is affiliated with the Air Force Association and Air Force ROTC."

Silver Wings and Arnold Air Society are separate organizations that work together to accomplish each other's goals, according to

the Silver Wings Web site.

Student coordinators are currently working with the ROTC and Arnold Air Society at TSU in order to start a chapter of Silver Wings at MTSU, said Niki Tchouros, junior accounting major.

"If we can't start one at MTSU then TSU would be the base," Tchouros said. "But we are trying to make MTSU the main base."

The organization has to have eight active members and five have to be non-military to start a chapter, Larwig said. At this time they have nine members.

"We want mostly non-military members," Larwig said. "We have to have 50 percent plus one [non-military members]."

Once Silver Wings is established the organization must fulfill their three objectives and complete one fundraiser, Larwig said. The three main objectives of Silver Wings are civic awareness, personal development and professional development. The members will choose a fundraiser at a later date, she said.

"Fulfilling our objectives is geared toward

supporting our troops," Larwig said.

Silver Wings is an Air Force association but they support all branches of the military, Tchouros said.

By accomplishing their objectives Silver Wings will create student involvement from other organizations on campus, Larwig said.

"I personally have not heard of a group [on campus] that non-military people can join to support the military," Tchouros said.

Once the MTSU chapter of Silver Wings is established they plan on engaging in social events, activities, community service and having career and military workshops.

"We want to do things like care packages for the troops," Larwig said.

For students interested, there will be a meeting on Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. in the lobby on the south side of the Business Aerospace Building.

"Anyone that is looking for an organization that is above and beyond your average school organization, this would be an excellent one for them," Brown said.

Forrest: Controversy anew

Continued from 1

for the College of Basic and Applied Sciences.

Members of Students Against Forrest Hall feel that the nascent debate over historical facts misidentifies their grievance that the name of Forrest is predominantly a symbol of racism in the minds of most MTSU students.

"Nathan Bedford Forrest may or may not have technically been the first grand wizard of the KKK," according to a written statement by Katy Palmer, junior sociology and anthropology major and member of SAHFH. "We do know, however, that he is honored on the current KKK 'wall of wizards.'"

"Immediately after the proposal to rename the building last week in the SGA, blogs were posted on white supremacist Web sites such as overthrow.com using violent, blatantly racist monikers to describe students involved in the effort," Palmer wrote in her statement.

The Students Against Forrest said that they believe the debate over history is a deliberate attempt to shift the argument away from the issue of racism and "legacy of racism" that Forrest's name signifies.

"We are talking about a symbolism that is alive and well today," Palmer added. "The symbolism is that of divisiveness. We are trying to create a community where people... are not going to worry about walking by the ROTC Building and thinking, 'This is pretty alienating.'"

Aside from questions about history, the Senate voiced worry that the passage of the new resolution to repeal an old resolution would tarnish their appearance of representing the student body, and therefore compromise their ability to influence change on campus.

"You know, there is an argument that it is not going to reflect well on the SGA if we contradict ourselves," SGA President Jay Cash said.

Throughout the discussion senators repeated words like "haste" and "emotional" to describe the atmosphere during the passage of the resolution to remove Forrest's name from the ROTC Building.

Even Senator Steven Disser, sponsor for the resolution to remove Forrest's Hall, spoke with reservations about the nature of his resolution's passage and asked his vote absent to any foreign influences.

"We did jump the gun last time - there is no denying that," Disser said. "I would just tell you [to] think about what you would do on this issue if nobody was watching."

Gene Fitch, dean of Student Life and associate vice president for Student Affairs and faculty adviser to SGA, reminded the senators that they could table the new resolution and rescind 19-06-F.

By rescinding, the Senate has placed the issue of Forrest's name back on the table for discussion. There is a meeting today between students, SGA and MTSU administrators with the intent to develop a campus-wide forum for debate. The last Senate meeting for the semester is tomorrow in the Keathley University Center Room 322 at 4:30.

Students Against Forrest Hall said they have yet to decide what they will do next in light of SGA's decision.

Other resolutions passed during the meeting included 18-06-F that would make teacher evaluations more accessible to students by placing them on Pipeline.

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Officials hope new dean will expand MT's research reputation

Candidate: MTSU needs research starlets to parade

By Daniel Potter
Staff Writer

Representatives of MTSU met on campus Wednesday with the second of four candidates for the position of Vice Provost for Research and Dean of the College of Graduate Studies.

Dr. William R. Trumble, Dean of the College of Life Sciences and Agriculture at the University of New Hampshire, met with key MTSU administrators and councils throughout the day, among them President Sidney McPhee and members of the Faculty Senate, as well as Van West, chair of the search committee for suitable candidates.

"The position is a crucial one to the growth of the university," said West, who said he views the combination of graduate studies and research as "natural."

"Good research will attract students who would want to come here for graduate studies," West said, adding that increasing both research and enrollment is an important goal for MTSU administration.

To do this, the university is looking for someone to function as chief administrator of the graduate programs on campus, holding the rank of vice president, with a primary responsibility "to coordinate the research activities of not only

the different colleges, but also to create new research opportunities for faculty members," West said.

University officials have high expectations for whomever they ultimately select for the position, West said. His committee has been searching for a candidate "with energy and vision, someone who looked upon the dual roles of the job as a great opportunity, and also accepted the fact that MTSU is in this sort of transition period from being a mostly undergraduate university to a research university."

Answering questions in an open forum Wednesday afternoon, Trumble said although the two responsibilities of overseeing all research and assisting in initiation of new research is manageable now, he expects the workload to grow over the next few years.

"Probably in about five years one might want to revisit whether one person should be doing both of these jobs, but right now I think it's very doable," he said. "I think it's very exciting."

"The reason this is so exciting here is it offers growth. For the last three years I've been managing decline and that's tough," Trumble said.

Trumble said he has learned much about balancing the teaching loads of faculty with the demand for research, a problem at MTSU he described as an "800 pound gorilla" and one that he is prepared to take on.

"In '99, the college did 2.4 million dollars worth of external research. This year we're doing over 30 million. That's just our college," Trumble said.

Trumble also said he believes it is important for MTSU to

improve its visibility in order to attract more graduate students.

"We were the best kept secret that there was," he said of his college in New Hampshire. "So how do you get recognition? You have people recognized. You have to do that proactively."

Another key issue Trumble anticipates for the university's graduate program is interdisciplinary study, which receives growing amounts of federal funding, he said. "We can learn to do that or we can be left behind."

Trumble is the second among four final candidates selected by the university's search committee, which was appointed at the beginning of the semester by Kaylene Gebert, Executive Vice President, and Provost for MTSU.

MTSU interviewed the first candidate, Carole L. Seyfrit, Dean of the College of Graduate and Extended Education at Radford University, Nov. 27.

The remaining candidates are scheduled to visit the university this week. Michael D. Allen (associate vice president for Research at Texas Tech) will answer questions today and the following Wednesday MTSU will host Keith Haddock (vice chair of the department of bioinformatics and personalized medicine at the University of Missouri, Kansas City).

All four candidates' vitae are available online at <http://www.mtsu.edu/~provost>.

"I think all four are highly qualified," West said. "They come from different parts of the country, they're different backgrounds."

The diversity of the four candidates reflects the search committee's goal of providing Gebert with a wide range from which to select, West said.

HOUSING REAPPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR FALL 2007 / SPRING 2008

The Housing and Residential Life Office is now accepting housing reapplication forms from returning students for the Fall 2007/Spring 2008 academic year. Students are encouraged to reapply for housing as early as possible, particularly if they are requesting to move to a different location on campus next year, as new assignments are made by application date.

Students requesting to remain in their same location on campus next year will be given first priority to do so as long as their reapplication and \$300 prepaid rent deposit are received by the deadline. The reapplication deadline with priority for the 2007/2008 academic year is **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2007 at 4:00 PM.**

Students need to complete a reapplication form available in the Housing and Residential Life Office, pay the \$300 prepaid rent at the business office cashier windows in the Cope Administration Building, 1st floor, and return the reapplication form stamped "paid" to the Housing and Residential Life office in the Keathley University Center, Room 300, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Students also have the option of reapplying for housing with priority online at www.mtsu.edu. The \$300 prepaid rent is paid by using a credit card, MasterCard or Visa, or by completing an online check. There is an additional \$19 nonrefundable service fee charged by the third party for processing the payment online. Please note that the amount of the prepaid rent deposit has increased to \$300 for the Fall 2007/Spring 2008 academic year.

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FEATURES

Roode's garden provides more than food

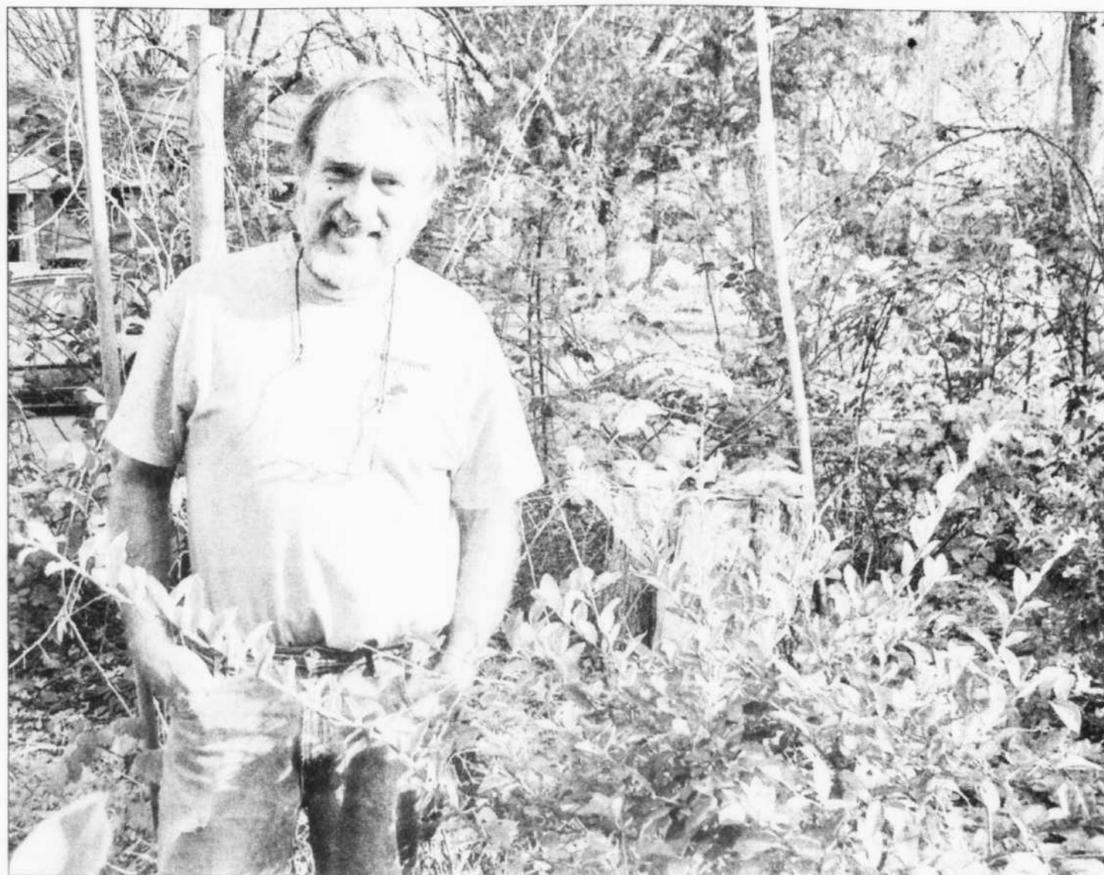


Photo by Colby Sledge | Features Editor

History professor Pete Roode stands by one of his blackberry bushes in his front yard as vines sprawl behind him. Roode grows nearly a dozen different crops year-round.

By Nate Cougill

Contributing Writer

One of Murfreesboro's more interesting residents is Pete Roode, part-time history professor, full-time gardener and philosopher.

His home, located on Ragland Street three blocks off Main Street, is an impressive, functional work of art. The house itself would not stand apart from the others on the street if not for its odd front and back yard.

Every inch of the property that is not occupied by the simple one-story cottage is mulched and planted with vines stretching across the yard on hand-built trellises that span across the entire property, creating a green canopy of fruit- and vegetable-bearing foliage.

Walking along the sidewalk up to his door is an experience. From overhead, vines and trellises cast their shadows onto the walk. There's a hot tub that's been converted into a planter off to the side. Old milk jugs with their tops cut off serve as flower planters. He also has up in beautiful begonias this season.

Pete grew up in western Massachusetts, where his aunt fostered his love for gardening and the outdoors from the age of seven by including him in the home's gardening activities. A couple of years after this first introduction, the family packed up and moved to New York.

"I was scared we were moving to New York City. I was going to have to stop chasing chickens around and start wearing shoes," Pete says with a dry laugh. "Dad kept it a secret until we actually got there. We ended up parking on a 100-acre dairy farm."

Pete earned extra money by selling eggs and raising chickens. He would go walking over to the neighbor's farms to steal a little corn to roast. On the dairy farm he was able to learn more about agriculture and continue to develop his green thumb.

He moved to Chicago in the early to mid '60s to do social work and teach high school.

"I was teaching in a Chicago public school in one of the roughest neighborhoods," he remembers. "One day I heard a thumping on the floor and it was a gang recruiter banging one of my student's head against the tile floor."

The memory still seemed painful to Roode as he relates the story.

"There were two of them in there, so I moved to pin one against the wall while I was hitting the panic button. I decided then that I was moving out to the country. I'd had enough."

Organic farming runs in the family. Roode's brother runs six greenhouses in northern Wisconsin, where he raises organic vegetables to transport to the Twin Cities' booming restaurant market.

"I tried raising organic produce here in Woodbury, but on a smaller scale," he says. "It's harder to make a living by farming here, because they subsidize it in Wisconsin."

In the mid-1990s, Roode began studying for his Master's in history at MTSU. His education came at a price.

"Those were pretty lean years," he remembers. "I survived by selling plasma and eating pecans off the trees on campus one semester."

On better financial footing and eager to plant his roots in Murfreesboro soil, Roode bought his current house by campus two years ago.

"I started planting crops then, because I remembered how nice it was that semester to walk outside and pick food and have a free lunch in a sense," he says.

Now, he grows nearly a dozen different crops year-round: Figs, raspberries, beans, tomatoes, green peppers, red peppers, grapes, turnip greens, spinach, snow peas, blackberries, fruit and some other veggies.

Roode's garden serves the dual purpose of filling his freezer and cooling the house during the summer.

"I realized the driveway was a giant heat sink, so I hung berry, grape, and kiwi vines over the whole thing and also on the west side of the house that really gets the sun," he explains. "I cut my cooling bill significantly like that. I covered my windows and really managed to keep it cool in here with a breeze through the windows."

The vines even provide privacy and solitude, which Roode uses to relax in his library and prepare his lectures for his history classes at the university. Still, when he's feeling sociable, the garden allows him to meet his neighbors and build community.

"I give green tomatoes to the mailman," Roode says, pecking at a bowl of okra and stewed tomatoes on the stove. "I found out he liked green tomatoes. It's really the only way I meet people. The people two doors down wander over every now and then to pick berries."

"Also, it's nice to go play in the dirt."

It's Roode's pastime, playing in his garden and tending the vegetables.

"It's good for you to get sweaty and tired on a regular basis," he says. "It's what we're designed for." Roode's greatest asset is that he's always thinking. "Maybe I'll put a few chickens out back," he ponders. "They eat the veggies that fall, and it would be nice to have some real eggs again. If you ever tried fresh eggs, you'd never buy that store-bought crap again. Have you ever had a fresh egg?"

Pete Roode is a magician whose green thumb grows tangibles and intangibles. With a little manure, some seed, and some care and attention, Roode has managed to grow his meals, his leisure and his community.

"And I wouldn't have it any other way," Roode says with a full grin, relaxing in his easy chair picking raspberry seeds out of his teeth. "Here, have some berries. They're a little tart. They were sweeter when I picked them. Maybe there's an enzyme in here that breaks down the sugar..."



Photo by Colby Sledge | Features Editor
Although winter is nearly upon us, part-time history professor Pete Roode still has some fresh spinach growing in his driveway.

Entertainer overcomes disease to inspire others

By Samantha Meeks

Contributing Writer

Laura Dodd has tirelessly worked to become a performer since she saw the musical "Grease" while sitting on her mother's lap at age 5.

Dreaming of one day singing for the Grand Ole Opry, she has stayed true to her motto: "Anything worth having, you have to work hard for it."

And now, Dodd said, it's not a question of if, but when she will one day sing for the Opry.

At 26, Dodd has traveled a road full of bumps. Inflammation, demyelinating polyneuropathy, or CIDP, which is a neuromuscular disease similar to Multiple Sclerosis. Since then, she has battled against being in a wheelchair.

"I have overcome this illness, and hopefully it will inspire and motivate others," said Dodd, a native of Gadsden, Ala. "I want to have a positive slant in people's lives. ... I have beat it every time, and I intend to continue."

While her love began early as she ran around the house making up songs and dressing as an opera singer, Dodd said her illness made her realize she had to work a little harder to accomplish her dream.

"I made the living room my stage. I would dance around the house," Dodd said, with a tone of reminiscence in her voice. "I would pretend cameras were following me. And I even pretended I was an ice skater one time."

Dodd began performing publicly at the age of 10 when she portrayed a singing reporter in a play rendition of "Charlotte's Web." Her love for performing grew from there, Dodd said, and she was soon featured in leading and supporting roles in live performances of "Annie," "Oliver," "Oklahoma," "Leader of the Pack" and

"Little Shop of Horrors," among other shows.

Music was her first love, however, and she declared that she aspired to be as great as the late Patsy Cline, a legendary country artist whom Dodd said she admires for her tone, pitch and the ease with which she sang.

Dodd's first single, "WOW," charted at No. 54 in the MusicRow Magazine Country Breakout Chart. Additionally, she has opened for known stars such as Maynard Ferguson, Sandi Patti, Patty Loveless, Josh Rager and Rascal Flatts, to name but a few.

Active with VSA Arts of Tennessee, an international organization that supports artists with disabilities, Dodd has toured the country for various shows and performances. In particular, she recalled a June 2004 performance with Ben Vereen and Robin Tynan in Washington, D.C., for the VSA International Festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, where all the actors, actresses, artists and dancers had disabilities.

"It was inspiring for me to be a part of that production because it really motivated me to say, 'I have a problem, but it's not that great. ... I can overcome this,'" Dodd said.

On July 12, 2004, Dodd said she took yet another large step toward securing her music dream when she sang the National Anthem at the White House for the opening of a Little League game held on the White House lawn.

This year, Dodd co-produced a debut album with Tom Walker, founder of The Digital Cafe Tour Entertainment and the man behind Friday's Child, an independent music group.

Aptly titled "Songbird," the newly released compact disc, which explores country, blues, pop and folk genres while showcasing Dodd's smooth vocals, is "very near and dear to my heart," Dodd said.

On the musical offering, "I have been able to

tell the story ... about my life, give little excerpts of what I have been through," explained Dodd, who penned 60 percent of its contents. "And, hopefully, I am reaching out to others that have been through the same thing."

In October, Dodd visited MTSU for Arts Talk, a statewide two-day conference and career forum for artists with disabilities, where filmmaker Darla Rae premiered her award-winning film titled "The Goal," a work that stars Dodd. Based on a true story, "The Goal" is a dramatic feature film about two quadriplegic who must rebuild their lives by overcoming obstacles on the Quad Rugby court. During the movie, Dodd said she was afforded the chance to sing the first song she had ever written — a number that she co-wrote with Keith Perry of Nashville.

In spite of her musical talent, not everyone has always wanted to hear Dodd sing. In fact, as a child, Dodd's brother, Jamey, complained about sharing a bedroom with her, because she hummed in her sleep.

"She would stand on my feet and we would dance," recalled Dodd's mother, Paula. "And for Halloween, when she was 5 in kindergarten, she wanted to dress up like Madonna."

A born entertainer, Dodd is no stranger to life's ups and downs, yet she said she is determined to achieve the success she's working hard to secure.

"Anything worth having, you have to work hard for it," Dodd proclaimed. "I am going to be on the Grand Ole Opry."

Copies of Dodd's "Songbird" CD may be purchased at www.CDBaby.com or downloaded from Apple iTunes and Verizon Wireless Ringtones.

"The Goal" is available for rental in DVD format at the Murfreesboro Blockbuster location at 124 W. Northfield Blvd.



Photo courtesy of Mark Mosley

Singer and entertainer Laura Dodd has overcome a debilitating illness to perform throughout the state, star in a film and cut her new album, "Songbird."

OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board

Caffeine, alcohol dangerous mix for students – even extreme ones

If you snowboard, you're radical. If you sky dive, you're intense. Combine the two, and you're extreme. So why not apply this concept to your drinking? Caffeine gives you energy and vodka gives you a buzz, but when you mix them, the effects are extreme.

At least, that's what the creators of the new Vicious Vodka would like you to think. In reality, the combination of a depressant such as vodka with a stimulant like caffeine can produce unwanted and potentially dangerous results.

According to Health Services Medical Director Pat Spangler, the caffeine could actually mask the affects of the alcohol, further impairing your judgment ability. Even a person who is typically a responsible drinker could misjudge their state of mind and get behind the wheel.

Anyway, isn't the whole point of drinking alcohol to feel its inebriating effects? Not that people do not already mix uppers and downers when they drink – recall the beloved Jager Bomb – but Vicious Vodka is simply encouraging the detrimental mix.

Granted, this product does come at a particularly energy drink-friendly time. The market is virtually flooded with products touting vitamins and natural substances in addition to the key ingredient – caffeine. Just looking around campus one can see the new Rockstar Energy Drink vending machines. Caffeine has become the new staple to a college student's diet, rivaling only alcohol and perhaps Chick-fil-A.

The marketers of the new vodka drink just made the next logical step of combining the ingredients. The problem is, they did it with a disregard to health. Though the drink will undoubtedly become a party-night companion, it is important to first consider the effects of the drink and then regulate yourself accordingly.

Unless of course, you're just that extreme.

Fashion rules world, even political arena

The popular notion is that fashion equals silly and mindless, while rebellion from "trends" equals individualistic and intelligent. It is hard to be taken seriously on an academic level while still clinging to a love of the aesthetic.

It's understood that fashion and brains just do not mix.

However, President Bill Clinton had a personal stylist. President John F. Kennedy had a personal stylist, or an impeccably styled wife. President George W. Bush – though not the most shining example of intellectualism – has his suits, his casual wear, his ties and shoes carefully coordinated to appeal to the public.

Nancy Pelosi, the most powerful woman in the short political history of the United States, dresses immaculately. Her Armani suits and perfectly coiffed hair are pervasively analyzed by the media, somehow finding its way to infiltrate even the most straightforward of news stories. Hillary Clinton, too, is repeatedly put under the sartorial microscope.

We take for granted the choices of the men appearing on our television sets day in and day out, with all of the subtle variations of navy blue and black shades of their suits.

When it became public that Al Gore, during his bid for the 2004 election, was paying a consultant to help him appeal to women and appear as an "alpha-male," he became the laughing stock of the media. Nobody congratulated Gore's attempt to play into the zeitgeist of social-cultural trends in the country – something that every politician, whether made publicly or not, undeniably does.

Instead, his new three-buttoned, earth-toned look was hilarious in the eyes of the media and of Gore-skeptics.

And still, amidst the undeniable fact that fashion plays an essential role in the approval of politicians, in the understanding of each other, the word "fashion" alone is enough to ensure a guffaw from most academics.

Political revolution is, for the most part, driven by fashion. From the eradication of corsets to the bellbottoms of the '60s, men and women have articulated the will for historical change in their chosen aesthetic. On the other hand, fashion itself represents its changes as revolutionary advance-



Kvetch A Break

Sarah Lavery
Staff Columnist

ment, liberations, experiments in shocking forms of life that challenge the ideals of the past.

Right alongside this exchange between fashion and politics is a deep hatred of fashion, a heretical desire for a rebellion that will eradicate the masks, the costumes and "fakery."

The first thing Adam and Eve supposedly did after eating the forbidden fruit was to adorn themselves with fig leaves. Most attribute this to shame, but, who knows – maybe the green of the leaves really brought out the hazel in Adam's eyes. The aesthetic of humans isn't inherently that vibrant – we don't have loose skin we can puff up or feathers we can stick out. Instead, we use clothing.

Take a look at your shoes. If you're on campus and wearing a pair of stilettos – first of all, you're insane – but you've chosen the image you want to send. You're sexy. You're fierce. You don't care if you're in agonizing pain on your way to class; looking hot takes higher priority. If you're wearing a sleek pair of flats, however, you're telling the world that you want to look good, but you have work to do. If you've chosen worn-in, well-loved, holes-in-the-soles sneakers, you're making a definite statement that you don't care – comfort matters more than anything else, which is, essentially, just as much of a fashion choice as over-the-knee pleather boots.

I love fashion. I love it almost as much as intellectual pursuit and politics. This sad thing is, though, this makes me somehow less credible among academia.

The pervasiveness of fashion is undeniable. Just because you're too cool to pay attention to trends or too unique to shop at mainstream stores – the fashion industry has you by the neck and is rippling its way through your closely guarded closet and those of every major politician and public figure.

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Right loses sight of real traditions

People, especially people here in the United States, love ceremonies. We threw out all of the pomp and pageantry that came tied to monarchy when we declared our independence over 200 years ago, so we use ceremonial gestures and events wherever we can to make ourselves feel more like the nations of the Old World, with their thousand-year-old traditions.

There's no place we like to put on a good show more than in Congress, and the biggest of those ceremonies is the swearing in of new members at the start of each new Congress.

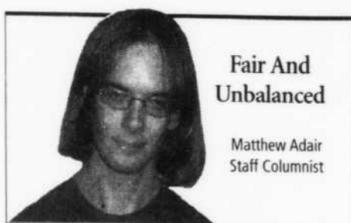
Some conservatives, however, want to rain on one new congressman's parade.

Keith Ellison, D-Minn., recently caused an uproar on the right when he announced that he will use the Quran during his ceremonial swearing-in, as opposed to the traditionally used item, the Christian Bible.

Columnist Dennis Prager of Townhall.com complained that Ellison's decision "undermines American civilization" and that the first Muslim to serve on Capitol Hill should take his oath on the "Bible of this country."

Now, the twist in this is that Prager is Jewish, and that he feels that a Jewish lawmaker should have to take an oath on a Bible that contained both Old and New Testaments, even though Judaism doesn't acknowledge Jesus of Nazareth as the messiah. Tradition is more important than a congressman's faith, and this country is only interested in Prager's one true book, or so he tells it.

However, despite what Prager would like us to believe about the Islamization of the country, and his terror that this could eventually lead to members of Congress taking their



Fair And Unbalanced

Matthew Adair
Staff Columnist

oath on the works of Voltaire, L. Ron Hubbard's "Dianetics" or Adolf Hitler's "Mien Kampf," he seems to be clueless about our nation's most important traditions.

The most obvious of these, and the one no one will hesitate to point out, is the freedom of worship and belief set into the Constitution by the First Amendment. We refuse to recognize any one religion as the one religion of our country, and we refuse to deny anyone the right to practice their belief in the religion of their choosing. Ellison is a Muslim, and as an American citizen, he should be allowed to swear an oath on the holy book of his faith.

Secondly, Prager seems to fail to recognize the seriousness of an oath. When you swear an oath, you pledge to a higher power – presumably, God – that you will speak the truth, and act honestly.

While Christians, Muslims and Jews all believe in the same god, each of us see the supreme being in a different light. The Bible has been used in this country for Congressional oaths not because of some inalterable, sacred tradition, but because it contains the essential traditions of faith held by those who've governed this country in the past.

The traditions and beliefs of Islam, however, are their own distinct branch of this same religious family tree, just as Judaism and Christianity are separate from one another. The Quran is believed to be the true distillation of the revelations passed down through Jews and Christians, as well as revelations made to Mohammed. Why would any person take an oath on a book whose content they didn't whole-heartedly believe in, one belonging to a faith that is not their own?

What is most important here, though, is not the tradition of religion, or any of the questions that surround it. Congress' most important tradition, the one that defines the very nature of our country and its government, doesn't rely on a holy book at all.

Ellison, as well as everyone elected to office last November, will stand and take their oath of office together, because our most valued national belief is that, from the many that live within our borders, with all their differences, comes one country.

This isn't about some fantasized-about threat of the 'Islamization of America,' nor should it be about some conservatives' fear and loathing of diversity and a multicultural society. This is about what it means to be an American: To be an individual, with one's own values and thoughts, while still supporting the greater good of all. That's a tradition that everyone can agree to.

Matthew Adair is a senior art education major and can be reached at matt.adair@gmail.com.

GOP still has time to govern nation

Maybe I am an idealistic graduating senior, but I expect more from my Republicans in Congress. Because I made that mistake, I was caught off guard by the GOP leadership's willingness to fast-track the Democratic takeover of Congress.

First of all, the Republican leadership has decided not to complete its work before the first Monday in January. That is when the Democratic majorities will be sworn in officially.

Instead, Republican conservatives are going to leave roughly nine spending bills for the incoming Democrats to ear-mark. Members of Congress need to realize that they have a job to do; servers at restaurants don't give up on their customers and let the next server in the morning close out the night shifts.

One article I read said that under Rep. Hastert's leadership, the 109th Congress worked about 94 legislative days – and the mem-



The T.P.S. Report

Tim Hill
Staff Columnist

bers still had the time to vote for a pay raise. Things like this aren't necessarily bad so long as Congress actually gets stuff done.

In the Senate, our esteemed Sen. Bill Frist has his head on cloud nine while his legislative chamber ignores the nine spending bills, too. Technically, that body can only vote on these spending bills. However, Frist isn't volunteering to help, even though he's the chairman of the Volunteer Political Action Committee. Its non-updated Web site last week had a funny quote of our senator. "I have absolutely no doubt that we will be victorious in

November," has no credibility in the eyes of mindful conservatives.

On the site and in interviews, Frist believes that his attempt to use the "nuclear option" in order to get some of President George W. Bush's judicial nominees confirmed was a success. Nothing could be further from the truth. When he had the votes to change the rules, Frist scheduled four days of debate on one of the stalled nominees, which allowed maverick John McCain to betray him behind closed doors.

If I was Speaker of the House, I'd like to think things would be run better. I would understand that my job was being a member of Congress, and as such, I'd do my job. If I started to get lazy, I'd just look at my last paycheck stub of \$15,000 – without any Social Security being withheld. I'd have the attitude that even Congress can be a five day a week job if it needed to be. Members could always catch the Greyhound back

to their districts, or maybe even a red-eye flight out of Washington's many airports.

I would set a goal of getting spending bills done ahead of time. This would be difficult, however, if we had a tax-and-spend president awaiting our work with his veto pen. I'd be open to compromise. Legislative business would be scheduled around Rush Limbaugh's show, and if we ran late into the night, my staff would TIVO "The Office" for me.

The bottom line is that in these final days of the 109th Congress, the majority party should be willing to violate any parliamentary procedures necessary to get their work done. And the Senate should apply that same attitude to confirming United Nations Ambassador John Bolton, too.

Tim Hill is a senior liberal arts major and can be reached at govnorhill@gmail.com.

Don't be so quick to gage homophobia

Talk show host, Kelly Ripa is well known for her bubbly personality, happy-go-lucky attitude and sometimes-dirty comments, though recently on "Live! With Regis and Kelly," Ripa became irritated with her guest co-host, Clay Aiken.

It all began during an interview with "Dancing with the Stars" winners, Emmitt Smith and dancing partner, Cheryl Smith that Aiken thought it would be appropriate to place his hand over Ripa's mouth.

Maybe Aiken was just trying to be funny because Ripa was doing the majority of the talking, but let's keep in mind that it is her show; Aiken was only the guest co-host. After covering her mouth, Ripa said to him while smiling, "That's a no, no."

Ripa's making the comment, "That's a no, no," now automatically labels her a "homophobic," in fellow talk show host, Rosie O'Donnell's opinion. Aiken has never confirmed or denied his sexual preference.

O'Donnell, new co-host of ABC's "The View" gave her two cents about the incident, "Now listen, to me that was a homophobic remark. If that was a straight man, if that was a cute man, if that was a guy that she didn't question his sexuality, she would have said a different thing."

I do not believe that O'Donnell really has any reason to assume that Ripa is "homopho-



Lucy One

DeAnn Currey
Staff Columnist

bic." It just seems that she was trying to stir up more trouble than anything.

Ripa is a respectable talk show host, while O'Donnell is trying to take over "The View" with her loud mouth and obnoxious comments. If someone does not agree with her, they are the one who is automatically at fault.

O'Donnell never backs down from her opinion, which can be a good thing, though in her case it has proven to be a bad thing. O'Donnell is constantly pushing off her opinions, which has gotten to be very annoying. I am sure if the same thing happened to O'Donnell or any of the other hosts of "The View" they would be just as upset as Ripa.

Ripa has every right to be upset about Aiken's actions. Whether he was just joking around with her or not, it was disrespectful and unprofessional of him to place his hand over her mouth while conducting an interview. That is just something that any reasonable person knows not to do.

I would be offended to if some person that I barely knew thought they would be funny and put their hand over my mouth when trying to speak. I do not know where your hands have been; therefore, I do not want you to touch me.

Aiken's fans, often referred to as "Claymates," are on the fence about their "American Idol's" behavior.

On Aiken's official message board, one fan, whose user name is VJHZY, writes, "Clay did a great job hosting with Kelly... And the matter of 'hand over mouth,' please, she wears enough make-up over her face... get over it Ms. Soap opera actress... I hope Clay returns to co-host, now wouldn't that be awesome..."

Though other "Claymates" found his humor unprofessional, such as user DALHERLEYGIRL, who wrote, "I have loved Clay since Idol and have never seen him act that way before, he was not his usual sweet self, I thought through the whole show he was a little over the top... but I think he should apologize, sorry!"

I stand behind Ripa. As for O'Donnell and Aiken they should think about what they are doing instead of saying and doing things to get attention from the media.

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"And Friends" Frank Hasenmueller

Represent diversity with new third party

Federal elections often reveal to the American people just how polarized we are as a nation. Mention Nancy Pelosi to conservatives or Bill Frist to liberals and see what happens. But where do most people lie on the political spectrum? Most people would consider themselves moderate.



Increasingly, the two major political parties are abandoning their political base — those moderates who time and time again elect gradually more polarized candidates. Middle America is losing representation, and there is nothing they can do about it.

Many columnists write opinions on the necessity of third parties, but none of them explain why third parties can not exist. The answer is actually quite simple.

The American political system operates under 'single member, district plurality,' which means that whichever candidate gets the most votes in a race, wins that race. That political system forces two parties — with very little chance of a significant third party.

How, then, do we change that system? Most Western European nations operate under proportional representation, allowing for the survival of third parties.

Instead of the top vote-getter taking every seat in the legislative body, the percentage gained by each party in an election would be represented in that body.

Instead of having a Congress made up of Democrats and Republicans, some states would elect Libertarians, Socialists, or even someone from the American Nazi Party. This would allow for true representation of the American population. It could even be done at the state level.

This would destroy the power system that has built up in both the Republican and Democrat Parties. With the recent Senate

Ed Bryant could have run as an American Conservative. John Jay Hooker might have thrown in his hat as the Perennial Loser Party candidate.

The point is, the allowance of third parties would make campaigns more about issues and less about which candidate is going to kick the other candidate's dog. These third parties have platforms that cover every issue — and most of them are very different. And once enough third party candidates were elected, the major parties would actually have to work with them in government to get anything passed.

Instead of Democrats getting union support, the Socialist party would be viable enough to garner it. Likewise, the evangelical Christians might vote for an Evangelical Party candidate.

Yes, Pat Robertson does still have a chance.

Call, write or e-mail your representatives. Tell them you want to see true freedom of choice in the American political system. Democrats and Republicans have failed us time and again on many issues, and it is time that we truly take the United States in a new direction.

Matthew Hurtt is a sophomore liberal arts major and can be reached at mch2x@mtsu.edu.

Denying history hurts race relations

By Rhea Dabney

Guest Columnist

Slavery was wrong, but slavery was. It existed. It is part of history. Not just part of the history of the United States or of the South, but part of the history of man.

For schoolteachers, liberal historians and Yankees to cast the Southern white male as the villain in this play may be politically correct but it is historically incorrect.

For civil rights activists to encourage and endorse this historical corruption leads to futile and misguided efforts to deny the South its Confederate heritage. Do these "leaders" expend their time and effort tilting against this particular windmill in order to justify their continued employment, or do they simply feel impotent against the real problems which plague the black community; crime, drugs, broken homes, welfare slavery, teen pregnancy and unemployment?

Whatever their reasons, they risk alienating many of the very people who could help them. Slavery has been in existence for thousands of years, in fact in ancient times it was actually an improvement over the previous practice of slaughtering prisoners captured in battle.

The laws of Moses addressed slavery, stating that Hebrew slaves must be released after six years of service and that foreign slaves must be set free twice in every hundred years. African tribes and American Indians had been enslaving their captives for centuries before Columbus discovered America.

In 1516, the Spanish began bringing slaves to America. As slave trade became profitable many nations took part. Half the slaves

brought by the time of the Revolutionary War were transported in British ships. Almost all American ships involved in the slave trade were owned by northerners. Even the Puritans of Massachusetts captured their Pequot Indian neighbors and sold them in the West Indies.

Between 1755 and 1766, more than 23,000 African slaves were imported into Massachusetts alone. Rhode Island had the dubious honor of being the top importer of slaves in 1787, followed shortly thereafter by New York. Due to its unique agricultural economy and practices, the South became a purchaser of slaves, but it was the Northerners who imported and sold them.

The War for Southern Independence, the name of which in itself states the main reason for the war, was it fought over slavery?

President Abraham Lincoln, in a letter to Congressman Alexander Stephens of Georgia, written on Dec. 22, 1860, stated, "Do the people of the South really entertain fears that a Republican administration would, directly or indirectly, interfere with their slaves, or with them about their slaves? If they do, I wish to assure you ... there is no cause for such fears."

In his inaugural address, on March 4, 1861, Lincoln stated, "I declare that I have no intention, directly or indirectly, to interfere with slavery in the states where it exists."

Was Lincoln a habitual liar like President Bill Clinton? I don't think so. Lincoln was personally opposed to slavery, but he knew that it would soon cease to exist without the necessity of a tragic and bloody war, as more and more Southerners began to oppose it.

No, Lincoln was goaded into war by the big business interests of the North who knew that if they lost the South as a market and as a sup-

plier of raw materials, they would be ruined.

He never intended to free the slaves and in fact never did. His much-lauded Emancipation Proclamation was not even issued until the war had been going on for almost two years. A careful reading of the entire Emancipation Proclamation, only the politically correct parts of which are found in most textbooks, will reveal that it was an act of war not of compassion.

It specifically excluded from its slave-freeing provisions all the Northern states and all Southern states and parts of states then occupied by Union invaders, and it stated: "...which excepted parts are for the present left precisely as if this proclamation were not issued."

Viscount Palmerston, then Prime Minister of England, hit the nail on the head when he said that Lincoln had undertaken to abolish slavery where he was without power to do so, while protecting it where he had the power to destroy it. In fact, slavery was not legally abolished in the United States until Dec. 18, 1865, nearly three years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued, when the 13th Amendment to the Constitution became law.

None of the above is meant to excuse the institution of slavery or the participation of Americans, North or South, in it. In hindsight, it was clearly wrong, but it is also wrong, and dangerous, to judge people of the past by the standards of the present; for even Honest Abe would be considered a racist by today's definition. To maliciously revise history for the purpose of castigating the South and Southerners is certainly counter productive to improved race relations.

Rhea Dabney

Letters to the Editor

Revising history benefits no one in end

To the Editor:

As an MTSU graduate and current doctoral candidate, I feel obligated to express my strong disapproval of the efforts currently afoot to rename Forrest Hall. Too many people spend too much time trying to rewrite or revise history; efforts to improve themselves or their communities are abandoned in pursuit of emotionally or politically charged issues that, ultimately, benefit nobody and further erode our sense of civility, culture, mutual respect, and public pride.

Besides, the building in question is the ROTC building; shouldn't it be named in tribute to Tennessee's most significant military figure? Leave Forrest Hall alone!

Jonathan Malcolm Lampley
Alumnus, '92, '97

Forrest's name recalls historical horrors

To the Editor:

The building at MTSU that bears the name of Nathan Bedford Forrest, a slave trader, head of the Ku Klux Klan from 1867 to 1869, and leader of the "Massacre at Fort Pillow," is extremely insulting to the black students on campus, as well as blacks throughout Murfreesboro and Rutherford County.

However, the idea that whites in this area think that blacks of the campus and community should listen to and follow the lead of my poor and pathetic black brother, H.K. Edgerton, is even for more insulting. It was clearly a waste of their time and money spent to bring him to Murfreesboro, or keep mentioning his name in the press. Yet, a white adult called, sounding as if to be a kindergarten graduate, wanting to try and get me to seriously listen to and heed the words and "history lessons" of Edgerton.

It is clear that this is also the task of Todd Gober of the local chapter of the Sons of the Confederate Veterans. In the past few days, I have spoken with Edgerton, who is still my black brother despite the fact that he has been seriously "brainwashed" by a Ku Klux Klan group in Black Mountain, NC, near Asheville, which he is affiliated with, according to several black leaders in Asheville.

This is also the same assessment of a couple of whites right here in Murfreesboro, whom I have spoken with, including one with *The Daily News Journal*. So, while I am opposed to Edgerton's words and actions, I have come to pity him. I am, in fact, making attempts to offer him some religious assistance, and true black history, in hopes of undoing whatever even small amount that can be undone of which he has been "filled up" with. He has been "seriously damaged," and taken advantage of by racist whites, and is in need of immense understanding and help by we of the black community. I hope that other black leaders will offer assistance to him as well.

Meanwhile, these whites that have taken advantage of Edgerton need not think for even a fleeting moment that his "whitewashed" thoughts will be passed on to any of us in this black community. They especially will not have any bearing whatsoever on the intellectual minds of our young blacks on campus at MTSU, who raised this issue in the first place, because of the inhuman acts of Forrest. These took place prior to the Civil War, during and afterwards, which included "atrocities" that took place at Fort Pillow that should give any human being of Christianity some serious thoughts about this man whose name in on the university's military science building, as well as statues and anything else that honors him. In fact, several black soldiers, on surrendering, were shot in the head at close range; some were tied to tent frames and others nailed to logs and burned alive; and some injured, being either burned or buried alive, along with others that were already dead. One found lying injured in a tent was simply burned up, tent and all. Far more such acts were conducted as well, with some left alive to be used to carry the artillery and supplies of the Confederates in their travels, who, according to one soldier's account told later at an official hearing, were "whipped like horses" to get them to move faster.

Rev. George Brooks
Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Combating ethnocentrism begins at home

To the Editor:

I have a hard time tolerating people who are intolerant of different cultures. As I sit listening to my elderly relatives relive the glory days and talk of any minority group as dirt, I find that I am the one who quickly becomes intolerant of such behavior. As an adult, Caucasian female who looks 'exotic,' Indian, Hispanic, Italian, choose your flavor, I have had my fair share of conversations about my ethnicity approached with the utmost delicacy by individuals trying to maintain political correctness.

What's sad is that we live in a world where my answer to that tiny question can completely change how I am perceived.

Call me a dreamer, but I would love to live in a world where I could have a Sunday afternoon lunch that consisted of talk about how fascinating it is that a group of people is so different and in a world where my looks neither aided nor hindered me in the competitive job market. This ethnocentrism I encounter within my family and with those I meet is far too common and sadly destructive to all parties involved. We have so much to gain from other cultures in a broader view of our world and the way we perceive it that judging other cultures against our own is denying us the gifts of diversity that the world so graciously has to offer.

While there are those who would disagree with me, consciously or not, namely those sitting at my own dining room table, I would have to contest the argument that American culture, and Southern American culture at that, is the only way life can or should be viewed. Yes, the way we live our day to day lives works. However, so does the way a Costa Rican fam-

ily approaches social interaction and providing for their own. After continually hitting on the point that open-mindedness towards other cultures is not only beneficial it is crucial, I am left with the same problem I started with. Looming overhead is the need to stop ethnocentrism at its core.

Thankfully, it is a conscious choice we individually have to make to see the beauty in diversity rather than chastise it around the comfort of own Southern kitchen tables.

Ginger Warf
Junior, College of Mass Communication

SGA represents idleness, not students

To the Editor:

I myself wrote an opinion about the effort to change the name of Forrest Hall in the Nov. 29 issue of *Sidelines*. While I focused my piece on the embarrassment that this entire venture is and how certain college students are attacking long dead members of history because they are relatively sure that their names will never appear on a building, something bigger is bothering me.

How is it that so quickly after receiving a petition with 205 names out of a student body of almost 23,000, does the Student Government Association vote 19-5 in favor of changing the name of a campus building? I will no longer say that government works slowly. I can understand the SGA launching a query into the matter. I can also understand the possibility of voting to create a temporary committee to try and understand the issue further.

However, the idea that a group of 205 students can waltz up to the SGA with a petition and effect change so quickly and with so little debate before the vote is unimaginable. I will tell you now that I am not up to date with the schedule and procedures of our SGA, but this seems a little odd. Perhaps this is the way to get things done. If only we could convince 200 MTSU students that the lack of parking is a real problem on campus. If only we could drum up a few dozen students to sign a petition concerning the spiking cost of tuition.

I know I am peddling meaningless causes here, but there must be a few of you out there who could support them. In the Nov. 30 issue of *Sidelines* there was an article about how the SGA struggles to implement change through lack of communication and research. ["SGA struggles to implement changes on MT campus"] Dare I say that the Forrest Hall decision was an issue that the SGA failed to communicate and research? Believe me, I would much rather be writing about a much more worthwhile cause than the name of the ROTC building.

With all of the outcry that has come up about Forrest Hall, is it possible that our SGA is less concerned with representing the student body and more concerned with playing senate?

Burch Glover
Sophomore, College of Liberal Arts

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SPORTS

MT picks up their second straight win



Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer

Sophomore Nigel Johnson scored four points and got one steal against Indiana State as Middle Tennessee beat ISU 65-58 on Thursday, Nov. 30. Middle Tennessee got their second straight win to improve to 3-4.

By Wesley Mize
Staff Writer

The Blue Raiders basketball team continued their winning ways inside Murphy Center on Thursday, picking up a 65-58 victory over Indiana State. Sophomore point guard Kevin Kanaskie led the Blue Raiders in scoring with 17 points while also dishing out five assists.

The Blue Raiders (3-4) came out of the gates strong on Thursday, something they failed to do the previous game against Belmont. Kanaskie knew it would be important for MT to start off strong and match the opposition's early scoring attack.

"In the two days we had to prepare for Indiana State, we talked about coming fast," Kanaskie said. Indiana State was a good team and we knew if we came out flat, they would put us away. We knew we had to play hard from the beginning."

MT was able to get the ball down low to senior Kyle

Young and he produced in a big way, scoring 10 first half points. While Young was able to score in the post for MT, Indiana State's big men were being physical and producing points around the basket as well. Blue Raider head coach Kermit Davis wasn't pleased with ISU's ability to score around the basket so easily. Young commented on Davis' orders in a timeout.

"Coach challenged the big guys and guards to play more physical because they were getting too many easy buckets around the paint," Young said. With MT trailing by three with under a minute remaining in the first half, Kanaskie found Young on a slam-dunk to bring the deficit to only one at halftime.

Kyle Davis seemed pleased with Young's play. "Coach continues to play really well," Davis said. "He is playing with a lot of maturity and giving us some great leadership," Davis said. The ISU defense adjusted to Young's dominance at halftime, holding him scoreless in the second half. However, the Blue Raider offense found another big weapon in the post in Tim Blue.

Blue scored 12 of his 14 total points in the second half and also added seven second-half rebounds to his first half total of four, registering a double-double for the game. Blue attributed his second half spark to Davis' halftime remarks.

"Coach preached to me at halftime that when I got to the hole I was falling back," Blue said. "In the second half, he wanted me to be strong with my drive to the basket and not fall back."

The Blue Raiders were able to put together a 9-1 run the lasted over three minutes early in the second half to gain some separation from the Sycamores. Indiana State never could get the game back within five points after this run, due to the Blue Raider defense holding the Sycamores to 37 percent shooting in the second half.

ISU tried to rally late by pressuring the Blue Raiders full court, but MT was able to fend off the pressure and force the Sycamores into a fouling situation. Kanaskie and freshman Desmond Yates were able to hit their free throws to put the game away late

and help the Blue Raiders seal the victory. Kanaskie attributed the victory to the Blue Raiders' team defense in the second half.

"This is where we won the game," he said. "We got huge stops when we needed it and rebounded well. I think is why we won."

Coach Davis is happy to get a win by any means. "When you play Indiana State, baskets are hard to come by because they play really solid position defense," Davis said. "They don't beat themselves and don't make silly turnovers that turn into your baskets — you have to earn them. I felt really good about this win; that was a quality win."

The Blue Raiders shot 50 percent for the game and over 45 percent from the three-point line against ISU. This was the 125th game the Blue Raiders have played under Kermit Davis. Davis now has the second most wins for a Blue Raider head coach after the first 125 games with 71. The Blue Raiders will play game number 126 under Davis when they host Tennessee State tonight at 7:30.



Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer

Freshman Brandi Brown scored four points and two steals as MT beat Tenn. Tech.

Lady Raiders down familiar foe

By Cody Gibson
Staff Writer

Chrissy Givens again led the way for Lady Raiders as they improved to 4-3 on the season with a victory over Tennessee Tech last Wednesday.

Middle Tennessee shot only 41 percent from the field, but they were aided by strong free throw shooting and 20 forced turnovers.

The first half was not kind to the Lady Raiders. It took a late 13-2 run for the team to take the lead going into the intermission, 32-23. Coach Insell believed that the bad first half was a result of a lack of executing, and in the second half the team really improved their play.

"We missed some shots early, but I knew [Tech] would play better and shoot the ball better at home and they did," Insell told MT Media Relations. "It's easier to execute and play better defense at home."

The second half belonged to Givens, who scored 14 points. Givens' impressive play netted her the second double-double of this young season. It was the fifth time in a row Givens has tallied. Three other Lady Raiders hit double figures including Starr Orr, Brandi Brown and Amber Holt.

Orr was perfect from three-point land with two of two shooting. Brown had yet another impressive performance off the bench, providing a lot of crunch time minutes. Holt struggled

from the field but still got to the free throw line and converted four of her six attempts.

Overall, coach Insell said he was pleased with his team's effort, but said he realizes that there is a lot to improve on before entering conference play. Insell said he thinks that his team will be ready when it counts.

"Both teams played hard and it was a good game," Insell told MT Media Relations. "We hit a spurt defensively in the first half and got some easy lay-ups. We quit settling for the jump shot and took the ball to the glass and used our athleticism."

Middle Tennessee tips off tonight against Austin Peay at 5 p.m. as part of a double header with the men.

Volleyball team beats Louisville, loses in second round of NCAA Tournament

By Clarence Plank
Sports Editor

The Middle Tennessee volleyball team fell to No. 18 Ohio State in the second round of the NCAA Tournament, after beating Louisville the day before. The Blue Raiders lost 3-1 (30-23, 19-30, 17-30, 22-30) at the Kentucky International Convention Center.

MT ended their season with a record of 27-8, the third best single-season record in school history. Ohio State improves to 25-7 and advances to face Washington in the Seattle Regional.

Against Ohio, sophomore Ashley Adams led both schools with 20 kills and freshman Savannah Pegg got her chance to start for the Blue Raiders in the final match. Pegg had six kills and Jessica Robinson finished with 10 kills. Alicia Lemau'u finished with 21 digs.

MT was down by five in the first game, but they rallied to tie the game at 17 points with a kill by Robinson. Leslie Clark and Quanshell Scott helped MT take the lead after a block and went on a 9-3 run to close out the game. Adams was hitting .500 with eight kills and one error.

In game two, the Blue Raiders struggled offensively and committed eight errors, while hitting .152. Ohio States came out with a vengeance hitting .424, with only four errors. MT continued to struggle in game three after starting out strong hitting .049 percent with 11 kills and 13 errors. Ohio State hit .324, with only four errors.

Before facing Ohio in the second round of the tournament, Middle Tennessee broke Louisville's two-game winning streak against the Blue Raiders, a winning 3-2 (24-30, 30-19, 12-30,

I am very proud of my team to fight back after having such a poor showing in game three. We put together two really nice games to win the match

Matt Peck
MT Volleyball head coach

put together two really nice games to win the match," Middle Tennessee head coach Matt Peck told MT Media Relations. "At one time, we had three freshmen and two sophomores on the court. I think we were very aggressive and I told the team if we want to get anywhere in the tournament we have to swing. I think the players really put it together when we needed it."

Adams and Robinson finished with 25 kills. Clark finished with a double-double with 55 assists and 11 digs. MT hit .179 percent in the first game with seven errors and five service errors to lose 30-24. Louisville hit .429, with four errors.

Lemau'u hit three service aces, but the Cardinals kept plugging away. Pegg had nine kills. MT then had a couple of serving steaks to take game two 30-19 and hit .281 percent. The Blue Raiders were helpless as Louisville won game three 30-12 off an offensive romp on MT. The Cardinals shot .536 percent after the break. MT committed four errors and had .000 attacking percentage in the game.

"I really feel Savannah Pegg rose to the occasion today. Before today she hadn't played in a match since October," Peck told MT Media Relations. "We have had a saying all year that it is dumb freshman luck. No, she has had some amazing practices this week and I just felt like she could bring something different to the team in the match tonight."

The Blue Raiders fought back in game four hitting .350, with 20 kills and six errors as MT went up 22-15. After back-to-back kills by Robinson to run the score 28-24, Adams manages to get a couple of kills and a block by Asberry to finish the game.

30-25, 16-14) in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

Louisville failed to reach the second round of the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2000. With the win, MT snapped the Cardinals' 17-match winning streak and ended their season at 25-7.

MT was down 9-3 in game five and started to rally back to tie the match at 11 after a service ace by Clark. The Blue Raiders took the lead 12-11. Ashley Asberry and Robinson got two kills, and Adams had two final kills to give MT their first match win.

"We are very excited to have won the match. We feel very fortunate. I think one thing we thought about before the match was that Louisville may overlook us a little bit and focus on Ohio State. I think we had a good game plan. I am very proud of my team to fight back after having such a poor showing in game three. We

An open letter, or an appeal for a free ride to a bowl game



I am Sportacus
J. Owen Shipley
Staff Columnist

In the oddball world of bowl bids I can officially say that as of Sunday, December 3, 2006 MT is the officially unofficial recipient of an invitation to the Motor City Bowl in Detroit. The world of bowl-protocol is such an awkward and mysterious one that the Sun Belt could officially declare MT as being accepted before the university could.

Luckily, that was just a formality. The Blue Raiders will meet Central Michigan at Ford field in Detroit for their first ever bowl of the I-A era. The Chippewa's are the champions of the MAC conference while the Raiders are co-champions of the Sun Belt.

Sadly, the location and date of this game will make it a bit unfair to MT fans. Taking place a mere two-and-a-half hours from the Mt. Pleasant campus of CMU, this will practically be a home game for Central Michigan. Making the nine-and-a-half hour drive even more improbable for MT fans is that the game will be held the

day after Christmas. The 7:30 p.m. kick off time makes the drive possible if MT fans were to leave some time before 8 a.m. (allowing for traffic and parking).

MT fans got a chance to see how easily CMU could fill the stands at Ford Field on Thursday when they convincingly won the MAC championship game against Ohio. Though the site was supposed to be neutral, the crowd was definitely filled with Chippewa's fans.

While I don't foresee this being much of a problem for a Blue Raiders team that has been excellent on the road in key games, it is more than a small problem for me. Sportacus is broke-acus.

My beloved Cadillac is more than up to the drive but my wallet is not. Six dollars an article means I would have to write 30 articles to fill my tank the three times needed just to GET to Detroit. Sadly, this will be my next-to-last column of the year since *Sidelines* has only two remaining editions. Once again, my fate is in the hands of AD Chris Massaro. I am not above using a public forum to beg for a ride to this game, and I fully intend to do so.

As a student my perspective of the biggest game in the history of MT football will be a valu-

able one. I have followed this team faithfully, campaigned for them in both public and private forums, and worked my tail off to learn on the job how best to cover their historic year. I intend to write a several page, gonzo-style, first-hand account of the entire week of the game. But how will I get there?

I understand there are only so many seats on the plane, and that as a the biggest game in MT history, every booster, administrator and friend of the university possible will want to be there. But I want to stress that I was born to cover this game, this is the moment I have been talking about all year. This is the moment when MT can win over the students once and for all, and what better way to exploit that opportunity than to exploit us here at *Sidelines* by making sure we are actually there to cover the game in person?

I have attempted to make my appeal a brief one, and I wish only that it be considered. As a fan and as a writer I would also like to say, above all, congratulations seniors. You've got one more chance to suit up and make history.

J. Owen Shipley is a junior English major who would very much like to attend this game. He can be reached at Myspace.com/Iamsportacus

TSSAA BlueCross Bowl results

Class 5A

Smyrna 35, Ravenwood 14

Defending champs fall to the Bulldogs in their first appearance in the BCB this weekend. Smyrna set a school record with 13 wins this season.

Class 4A

Maryville 30, Hillsboro 10

Maryville goes 14-0 for the first undefeated three-peat team in the TSSAA bowl.

Class 3A

Knoxville Fulton 24, David Lipscomb 14

A fumble return for a touchdown breaks Lipscomb, along with 13-game winning streak.

Class 2A

Alcoa 31, Goodpasture 3

Alcoa won their eighth straight football state title and second in a row over the Goodpasture on Friday night.

Class 1A

Jackson Christian 19, Friendship Christian 13

This was both schools' first championships appearance and Jackson Christian's first state title.

Troy beats FIU; ULL fails to ULM

By Greg Hohwald

Staff Writer

Troy 26, Florida International 13

Troy clinched its first Sun Belt Conference title and also got a birth in the R+L Carriers New Orleans bowl as they defeated FIU on Saturday night in Miami. Omar Haugabook threw two touchdown passes and also rushed for 107 yards as the Trojans were just too much for the Golden Panthers to handle. Special teams highlighted most of the first half scoring, as Troy's Leodis McKelvin's 48-yard punt return for a touchdown gave Troy a 6-0 lead in the first quarter, but Cory Fleming returned a blocked Dustin Rivest punt for a touchdown. Haugabook's first touchdown pass to Andrew Davis gave the Trojans a 13-7 lead going into the half, and it was a lead they would never relinquish. Greg Whibbs chipped in with two field goals and Haugabook added another touchdown pass. Even though FIU scored a touchdown late, it was not enough for the Panthers, who finished the year winless and will be searching for a new head coach this winter. Troy will

take on Rice in the New Orleans bowl on December 22nd, looking for its first ever bowl victory.

Louisiana-Monroe 39, Louisiana-Lafayette 20

Calvin Dawson rushed for two touchdowns and ended the year as the Sun Belt's leading rusher as ULM ended their season on a high note in Louisiana on Saturday. ULL had their two-game win streak snapped and finished their season at 6-6, fifth place in the Sun Belt. It was a frustrating end to a disappointing season, as many experts had predicted the Rajin' Cajuns to win the Sun Belt. ULM opened the scoring with a 24-yard Kinsmon Lancaster touchdown pass, but trailed at the end of the first quarter 14-13. However, 20 unanswered Warhawk points in the second quarter gave ULM a 33-14 halftime lead, and they wouldn't look back from there. ULL quarterback Jerry Babb picked a bad time to have his worst game of the year, as he threw three interceptions, all of which led to ULM points. Both of these teams have something to look forward to next year, as the conference's top 2 leading rushers, Tyrell Fenroy and Calvin Dawson, both return to their respective teams to battle it out again.

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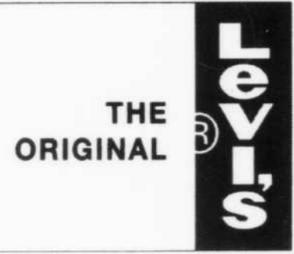
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