

## Gun violence sparks multiple inquiries



## Suspect awaiting March court date

By TODD BARNES  
News Editor

A March 2 court date has been scheduled for the suspect arrested on suspicion of shooting another man in the thumb Monday, according to officials with the Murfreesboro Police Department.

Justin J. Macklin, 20, bailed out of jail on a \$18,500 bond Tuesday morning, after being apprehended shortly after 2 p.m. outside of the Business and Aerospace Building on Monday.

Macklin is facing felony charges for possession of a firearm on campus grounds, aggravated assault, reckless endangerment, and he could also face additional charges for possession of marijuana.

MTSU Police Chief Buddy Peaster held a press conference concerning the details about the incident Monday at 4 p.m.

"A shooting on campus is something of a serious incident," Peaster said.

Peaster gave a play-by-play of how police strategically found

SHOOTING, PAGE 3

## McPhee responds: 'a president's worst nightmare'

By TODD BARNES  
News Editor

The campus shooting Monday was a "president's worst nightmare," President Sidney McPhee said, during an interview Wednesday.

"I would say on the stress level from one to 10, it was perhaps a 12," McPhee said. "In the sense - not in a panic way - clearly the number one priority is educating students in a safe environment."



McPhee

University officials sent out five MTSU Alerts through a 30-40 minute time intervals during the incident, which 11,500 texts per alert were received by students and faculty.

More than 30,000 e-mails and more than 10,300 phone calls were received by students and faculty during the 30-40 minute ordeal.

"Our first responsibility when we have confirmation of an incident like this is to get out as quickly as possible information to the campus through the texts," McPhee said.

McPhee said when sending out alerts through texts that it is important to be concise and straight to the point, as well as not causing a panic.

"There's a balancing act because you want to give

RESPONSE, PAGE 3

## Recap

11:25 a.m.

Shooting occurred outside of Keathley University Center; suspect fled to Business and Aerospace Building

12:04 p.m.

Police set up caution tape around Quad area



12:22 p.m.

Students in Business and Aerospace building evacuated by police to McCallie Dining Hall



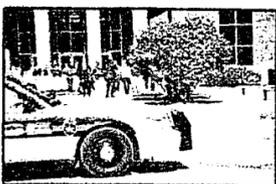
1:01 p.m.

Third MTSU Alert sent: Police report that the shooting suspect has been apprehended. The weapon has been confiscated. Please use caution as you resume your normal activity.



2:26 p.m. Business and Aerospace Building opens and resumes normal schedule

11:53 a.m.



First MTSU Alert sent: Shooting reported at Business Aerospace Building. Stay in your buildings as secured as possible until further notice. More information to follow.

12:19 p.m.

Second MTSU Alert sent: Please lock down in your buildings and rooms. Clear the hallways and shelter in place. When updates are available, they will be posted at [www.mtsu.edu/alertupdates](http://www.mtsu.edu/alertupdates). Thank you.

12:54 p.m.



Police apprehend Justin J. Macklin; Search for weapon continues

1:13 p.m.

Fourth and final MTSU Alert sent: All clear. The campus is no longer on lockdown. You may resume all activities and classes at 1:30 p.m., with the exception of the Business and Aerospace Building, which will remain closed until further notice.

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## IN TODAY'S ISSUE



Find out what drug has become incredibly popular in recent years, due to its legality and potent high.  
PAGE 4

## EXCLUSIVELY ONLINE



View more scenes and watch our video coverage of Monday's shooting.

NEWS

## WEATHER



THURSDAY  
69/53

# AP NEWS UPDATES

## Immigration enforcement bill brings lawsuit threat

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Rep. Joe Carr has introduced a bill empowering local law enforcement officers to question suspects on whether they are legally in the country. A similar measure in Arizona's toughest-in-the-nation immigration law that passed last year is currently the subject of a federal lawsuit. Carr, a Lascassas Republican, and Senate sponsor Bill Ketron, a Republican representing the Murfreesboro area, said in a Wednesday news conference introducing the bill that they believed their legislation would survive a court challenge. That may be put to the test. American Civil Liberties Union of Tennessee executive director Hedy Weinberg said the group would pursue litigation if the bill passes unchanged.

## Sewanee cutting tuition and fees by 10 percent

SEWANEE, Tenn. (AP)—The University of the South in Sewanee, Tenn., has approved a 10 percent reduction in tuition and fees. The board of regents at the private, liberal arts school authorized the cut Wednesday. It's a \$4,600 reduction from the current figure. John M. McCardell Jr., the university's vice chancellor and president, said in a news release that higher education is on the verge of pricing itself beyond the reach of increasingly more families. The school, commonly called Sewanee, has 1,500 undergraduates and approximately 130 graduate students and seminarians in its School of Theology.

## Bill targets teacher collective bargaining rights

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Tennessee school districts would no longer have to engage in negotiations with teachers' unions under a bill advancing in the Senate. The measure sponsored by Republican Sen. Jack Johnson of Brentwood is headed for a full Senate vote after passing the Senate Education Committee 6-3 along party lines on Wednesday. Johnson says collective bargaining actually stifles teacher input. He says with education reforms proposed across the state and nation, "it is more important than ever that all teachers have a seat at the table" and not be filtered by a union. Hundreds of teachers came to the Legislative Plaza across the street from the Capitol to oppose the legislation. Tennessee Education Association lobbyist Jerry Winters testified before the committee that the legislation would create "chaos." He says "people need a collective voice to express their concern."

## Judge upholds state plan for executions

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—A Nashville judge has ruled that the state's revised plan to execute inmates is constitutional. Chancellor Claudia Bonnyman ruled Wednesday that a check of an inmate before a lethal dose of drugs is administered appears to address the issue of whether the inmate loses consciousness. In November, the Tennessee Supreme Court halted the executions of four prisoners so the judge in the lower court could determine the constitutionality of the new method. The updated procedure requires that a prison warden check to make sure the inmate is unconscious before the lethal dose is given. Attorneys opposed to the new procedure said they would appeal to the state's high court.

## Campus police at TSU wrestle down gunman

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) Co Campus police at Tennessee State University have arrested a suspect after a student was threatened with a gun. A TSU officer confronted a suspect Tuesday evening and wrestled him to the ground when he produced a handgun, reported WSMV-TV. Backup officers arrived to find Lt. Phillip Beene and the suspect wrestling for control of the gun. No shots were fired. Police arrested 20-year-old Steven Sheppard of Nashville. Police said the weapon Sheppard had was stolen. John Cross, director of strategic communications at TSU, said Wednesday police were still investigating what Sheppard was doing on campus and said he was not a student. Beene was treated for bumps and bruises.

# Women's curriculum acquires course funds

## Extra money provides opportunities for expanded educational experiences

By AMANDA HAGGARD Associate News Editor

The President's Commission on the Status of Women will grant three \$1,800 summer grants to professors to revise or create a new course or minor in hopes of integrating various perspectives of women into university curriculum. The grants are planned for use this summer by tenured or tenure-track faculty. In the past, submissions with inventive techniques that incorporated women's issues with those of race, class and sexual orientation were chosen for the three grants.

The deadline for professors to submit proposals is Feb. 28. Priority will be given to grants that would take less than two years to implement into undergraduate curriculum. The winners of the 2010 PCSW grant were William Leggett, an assistant professor of sociology and anthropology; Leah Tolbert Lyons, an associate professor of foreign languages and English; and Jennifer Woodard, an assistant professor of electronic media communication. Woodard produced a proposal for a new course titled "Black Feminisms/Womanism: Mediated Theories, Representations and Lives." Woodard teaches classes like Race and Gender in the Mass Media and Women in the Media. The focus of the course is global images of marginalized women and in particular mediated images of African-American women.

"This is really a class on media literacy, and we will practice being literate citizens in our analysis of images of women," Woodard said. "Application of cultural theory and appreciation of media activism as we examine how women of color combat negative images and promote a more positive idea of who they are and who they can be through the media."

Lyons' entry was for the revision of a course rather than the creation of a new one. Her course, titled Topics in 20th Century French Literature, is an existing course. The course has traditionally been taught with emphasis on "approved male authors" from France, Lyons said. "My aim is to design a topic that shifts the focus of French-language texts written by women who represent a broader [view] of the French-speaking world," Lyons said.

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The revisions were necessary so students can experience a diverse body of literature that is often overlooked in the established curricula, and authors from Guadeloupe, Haiti, Iran and Senegal are included in the revised material, Lyons said. The new course will be titled Femmes au Carrefour, which means "Women at the Crossroads." Leggett received his grant for a proposal to alter a course titled Immigration and Globalization in the American South. Leggett said the new adaptation of the class studies, from an anthropological angle, the definite effects of globalizing forces on the southern United States. "My goal is to more fully address gender issues as they relate to immigration, particularly immigration to the southern United States," Leggett said. Applicants considering applying for 2011 should send seven completed grant proposals to Samantha Cantrell in the MTSU Office of Research Services. Selected members serving on the Academic Issues Subcommittee of the PCSW will evaluate proposals. Professors must include in their proposals why the course is academically relevant, how the course will be an asset to the curriculum in any given department, and how the course will contribute to the universities teaching and learning. The preparation and objectives for the summer attempt professors will use to develop or revise the course must also be included in their plan. Submissions will also require a timeline for achievement and implementation of the project, including the schedule of the development stage. This phase will be completed this summer, and professors will be required to indicate when a new course will be offered or when a new or revised course will be available. Professors must also prepare a bibliography of materials pertinent to the development and implementation of the course or minor. Grant recipients will be required to present the completed project development at the fall commission meeting that will held at the beginning of the fall semester. The fall meeting will mark the deadline for recipients to provide the committee with a copy of the finished syllabus, course or minor proposal. The 2010 grant winners have not yet put their developments in the classroom.

**"My aim is to design a topic that shifts the focus of French-language texts written by women who represent a broader [view] of the French-speaking world."**

LEAH TOLBERT LYONS  
ASSOCIATE PROF. OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND ENGLISH

**"Application of cultural theory and appreciation of media activism as we examine how women of color combat negative images and promote a more positive idea of who they are and who they can be through the media."**

JENNIFER WOODARD  
ASSISTANT PROF. OF ELECTRONIC MEDIA COMMUNICATION

# LOCAL EVENTS

## On Campus

## Off Campus

- Events: Brown Bag Tenure Lecture with Dr. H. Richard Milner**  
Feb. 22, 9 a.m.  
Faculty Senate Room  
FREE
- Up 'Til Dawn Finale Event**  
Feb. 18, 7 p.m.  
Recreation Center  
FREE
- MTSU Jazz Ensemble I**  
Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m.  
Wright Music Building  
FREE
- Chinese Music Night**  
Feb. 20, 7:00 p.m.  
Wright Music Building  
FREE
- Chih-Long Hu guest piano recital**  
Feb. 23, 8:00 p.m.  
Wright Music Building  
FREE
- Black History 101 Mobile Museum**  
Feb. 23, 9 a.m.  
Keathley University Center Knoll  
FREE
- Black Girls Rock! Empowerment Forum**  
Feb. 24, 6:00 p.m.  
Tom Jackson Building  
FREE
- Internship and Summer Job Fair**  
Feb. 11, 11:00 a.m.  
James Union Building, Tennesse Room  
FREE

- Concerts: Save WRVU Benefit**  
Feb. 17, 8:00 p.m.  
Exit/In  
Tickets: \$5
- 8th of 8th**  
Feb. 21, 9:00 p.m.  
Mercy Lounge  
FREE (21+)
- Sesac Presents: Rock the Block**  
Feb. 22, 8:00 p.m.  
Exit/In  
FREE
- Thrill of a Gunfight with Shall Be Conquered**  
Feb. 23, 7:00 p.m.  
The Muse  
Tickets: \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door
- Hinder with Savind Able and Kopek**  
Feb. 23, 9:00 p.m.  
Mercy Lounge  
Tickets: \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door
- Photography Meetup**  
Feb. 19, 10:45 a.m.  
Christ Church Cathedral (Broadway and 9th)  
FREE
- "A Midsummer Night's Dream"**  
Feb. 20, 4:30 p.m.  
Lampighter's Theatre  
Tickets: \$8 for students
- Events Policy**  
Sidelines welcomes current campus and community events submitted by all readers. Please e-mail events to slcampus@mts.edu or slnews@mts.edu, and include the name, date, time and location of the event, as well as your name and a phone number for verification. We reserve the right to refuse events at our discretion as our space is limited.
- Sidelines is the editorially independent, nonprofit student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. Sidelines publishes Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and online during June and July. The events listed are not necessarily associated with Sidelines or MTSU.

# CRIME BRIEFS

- Feb. 12, 11:45 p.m. D.U.I.**  
Rutherford Blvd.  
Debra Lynn Heeth, 20, was arrested for underage D.U.I. and charged with implied consent.
- Feb. 13, 2:34 a.m. D.U.I.**  
Off-Campus  
Mark Dalton Bobo, 18, was arrested for D.U.I. and charged with open container.
- Feb. 13, 7:35 p.m. Vandalism**  
MTSU Blvd.  
Victim reported that his vehicle had been vandalized.
- Feb. 14, 11:20 p.m. Assault**  
Keathley University Center  
Justin Macklin, 20, was arrested for aggravated assault, possession of a weapon on school property and reckless endangerment. Suspect is alleged to have fired a handgun at another individual. Victim identified suspect and the suspect was taken into custody.
- Feb. 14, 7:55 p.m. Drunkenness**  
James E. Walker Library parking lot  
Clint S. Jones, 39, was arrested for public intoxication.
- Feb. 15, 2:08 a.m. D.U.I.**  
Rutherford Blvd.  
Allyssa Paige Douglas, 21, was arrested for D.U.I.
- Feb. 15, 7:37 a.m. Vandalism**  
Founders Lane  
Construction supervisor reported that students were jumping over construction area fences and damaging them.
- Feb. 15, 9:20 a.m. Vandalism**  
Scarlett Commons Apt. 8  
Female student reported her vehicle vandalized.
- Feb. 15, 1:05 p.m. Traffic**  
McFarland Health Services parking lot  
Victim reported that her vehicle had been struck while parked in the McFarland lot.
- Feb. 15, 5:16 p.m. Disorderly Conduct**  
Bell Street parking lot  
John Purnell, 41, was arrested for disorderly conduct, D.U.I., implied consent and possession of drug paraphernalia.

# CRIME STOPPERS

- Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information that leads to the arrest of the person or persons who unlawfully removed and stole the driver's side rear wheel from a red Chevy Cobalt that was parked in Greenland Drive Lot B. This felony was committed sometime between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. on Tuesday, February 1st.
- Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information that leads to the arrest of the person or persons who stole an indigo L.L. Bean backpack from an unlocked locker in front of the Phillips Bookstore. This crime was committed between 11:30 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. on Tuesday, February 1st.

# Officials to assess shooting incident

## Macklin bailed out of jail

### SHOOTING FROM PAGE 1

the suspect during the 41 minutes campus was on lockdown.

Police blocked off the Business and Aerospace Building with police tape, after witness reported seeing Macklin flee into the building, Peaster said.

"At that point, we began going into the building looking for first our suspect, [and] also to make sure people in the building were able to come out safely," Peaster said.

Peaster said police were unsure of Macklin's motives.

"So because of that, our notification to the university had been to take shelter in place and stay where you were," Peaster said.

The university was placed on lockdown leaving students to wait out the ordeal in their classrooms, while other students could be seen quickly gathering near the police tape.

Peaster said law enforcement started to evacuate the BAS, but he said campus police officers controlled where students and faculty were moved.

"They were able to get all the people in the building out," Peaster

said. "We moved them to a building nearby, McCallie Dining Hall."

Police then used the victim's and eyewitness accounts to find the suspect, he said.

Joanna Branson and Heidi O'Brien sat on a bench outside the Keathley University Center, and they said they saw the argument between the two males taking place right in front of them.

"We were 10 feet away from them," Branson said. "We heard the guys yelling - they were just cursing a lot."

The argument escalated and the suspect pulled out a handgun and fired at the victim hitting a thumb, Branson said.

"Somehow, he shot him on the tip of his thumb," Branson said.

Bethany Carlson, a student who saw the weapon, said she was sitting on the outside of the Quad and heard the victim shouting at the suspect after he was shot.

"Come on, you want to shoot me, I'm here," Carlson said, quoting Morrow.

The gun used looked like a child's toy, Carlson said.

"It looked like a toy gun," Carlson said. "It was a shiny little revolver."

Natalie Lewis, a student eyewitness, said she

saw the suspect flee the scene while concealing the weapon.

"I heard the pop, but nobody knew what was going on because they all just stood there," Lewis said. "I saw the gleam of the gun as [the suspect] put it in his bag."

Lewis said she saw the suspect casually walk toward the BAS, into the building, and out of sight.

"So he went into the BAS with a loaded gun," Branson said.

Branson and O'Brien said they are stunned that they saw the shooting.

"I'm kind of shocked he got shot in front of us," O'Brien said.

However, it was Morrow who primarily helped in pinpointing Macklin.

"Our victim - we actually had him still at the scene because he was



Photo by Taylor Hixson, staff photographer

Police surround the the Business and Aerospace Building on Feb. 14, in order to find the suspect involved in a shooting outside of the Keathley University Center.

**"I heard the pop, but nobody knew what was going on because they all just stood there... I saw the gleam of the gun as [the suspect] put it in his bag."**

NATALIE LEWIS  
EYEWITNESS

not seriously injured at all and was able to help us identify the suspect that came out of the building," Peaster said.

the building."

Peaster said officers then checked the BAS for the weapon, which they found in a classroom

wrapped up in a T-shirt that investigators believe he took off, along with two small bags of marijuana.

Police are researching the relationship between Macklin and Morrow to conclude why this happened.

"We believe there was some initial type of altercation in which started this chain of events," said Kyle Evans, deputy spokesperson for the Murfreesboro Police Department.

"We're going to look into exactly what kind of relationship did exist and what led up to the shooting."

During an interview

Wednesday, President Sidney McPhee said that both Macklin and Morrow have since been barred from campus grounds until the investigation and judicial process has been completed.

Peaster said that the students and faculty members are the true people to thank for the successful capture of the suspect.

"The true first eyes and ears weren't the police," Peaster said. "They were students, faculty [and] staff on campus that saw this happen. They didn't panic. They contacted us or contacted city police and did the right thing."

## Students' safety top priority

### RESPONSE FROM PAGE 1

information to keep folks anxiety at a reasonably decent level, but you don't want to be too quick giving out wrong information," McPhee said.

After the suspect was apprehended, McPhee said he gathered with law enforcement officials in his office to be briefed on the incident and moments immediately following the shooting, and propose solutions for future situations.

"We did a debriefing of the events and began to talk about what we could improve," McPhee said. "What are the kinds of challenges, and we will continue that process."

He said the there are two challenges: a delay in the MTSU website and defining terms like "lockdown" accurately.

McPheesaid during the subsequent lockdown, the MTSU website had an overwhelming amount of traffic causing a delay that impeded concerned parents and students from receiving information.

"We've already taken action to deal with that and improve and add more capability for our Web system to deal with that kind of traffic," McPhee said.

The second issue is defining what "lockdown" and "going

to a safe place" means, which is something McPhee said the university has never had to deal with before.

"We are going to be working on finding ways to better describe [these terms] and in training and information telling folks more clearly what these mean," McPhee said.

**"When you look at the big picture, yes we are a safe campus"**

SIDNEY MCPHEE  
MTSU PRESIDENT

McPhee said students should use good judgment and discretion when finding safety during these situations, but he continued to stress that incidents like this one are rare.

"When you look at the big picture, yes we are a safe campus," McPhee said. "Does that mean we are crime free? No. Does it mean that in the future anything like this could not happen again? We cannot guarantee that."

McPhee said that both Macklin and Morrow have since been barred from campus grounds until the investigation and judicial process has been completed.

## THROUGH THE SIDELINES LENS

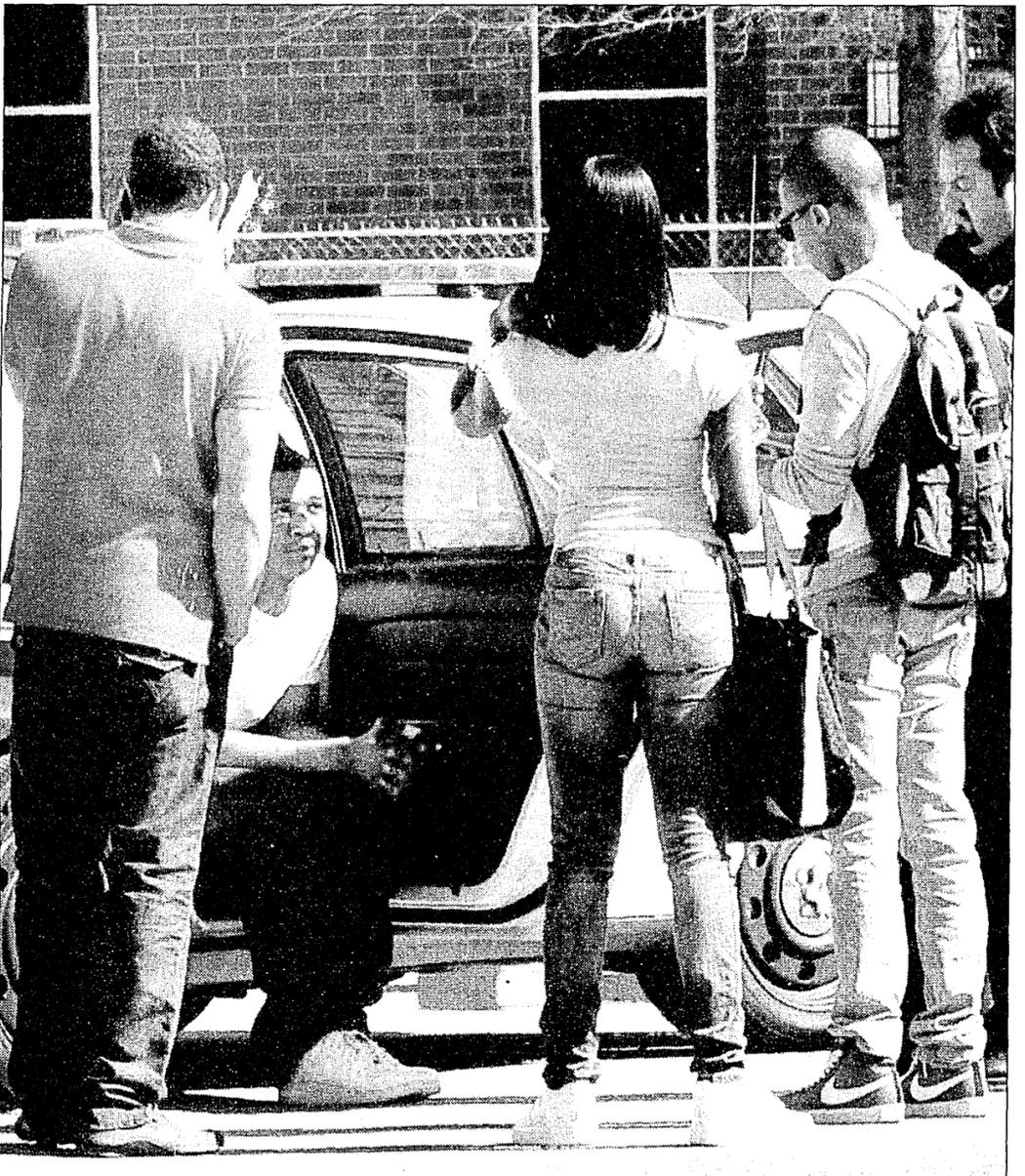


Photo by Taylor Hixson, staff photographer

The victim, Austin Morrow, sits in a police car surrounded by friends, after he identified Justin J. Maklin as the man who shot him.

# SIDELINES

AND THE SEARCH FOR NEW CONTRIBUTING STAFF

# A

## AWESOMENESS

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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY presents a *SIDELINES* production  
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# FEATURES



## NOT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

"Plant food" leaves some students searching for a dream

By CARTER ROUTH  
Contributing Writer

The illegal world of drug use and trafficking has a history of making headlines, but legal highs sold by legitimate businesses have been stealing the limelight recently.

Last year, Murfreesboro was introduced to products like K2 and Vampire Blood – products that affect the user in a way similar to cannabis but don't show up on drug tests.

If you use any of these synthetic cannabinoids, chances are you don't buy them from a drug dealer. You probably purchase them legally from a gas station, convenience store or head shop where they are marketed as incense.

But, the next time you buy your legal high, the clerk can tell you that sales of "incense" are being overshadowed by sales of something called plant food.

Don't assume plant food to be similar to marijuana. This high is more like a legal version of MDMA, a psychoactive drug commonly referred to as Ecstasy or Molly.

"Daily, we sell anywhere from 200 to 300 packages of plant food," says the cashier at a beer and tobacco store on Lascassass Highway.

Beyond commenting on plant food's sudden popularity, another cashier was able to give insight on the best way to ingest it, even though the words "not for human consumption" are clearly printed on the package.

"Don't swallow the capsule whole," he instructs. "Just break it open and dump the powder on your tongue. Have something ready to wash it down with."

While both cashiers had a lot to say about plant food, neither could say what are in the 300mg capsules they were

selling. Not because they are obligated to keep plant food's ingredients secret – they simply don't know.

"The people who sell this stuff won't even tell retailers what's in it," says the cashier at Beverage Mart. "That's one reason we haven't started selling it and are reluctant to."

Most people who ingest plant food will have no idea what they're putting in their bodies.

"If they end up in the emergency room, the hospital may not know either," says Dr. Saralyn Williams of the Tennessee Poison Center. "That's what makes this so dangerous and that's when we get a phone call."

To the best of the center's knowledge, capsules of plant food contain mephedrone, a synthetic stimulant and psychoactive substance, but may contain other substances as well.

Dr. Williams says poison centers in Louisiana, Mississippi and Missouri were the first to receive hospital calls, and hospital personnel soon informed surrounding poison centers.

The Tennessee Poison Center started getting calls from hospitals in West and then Middle Tennessee. Most recently, calls have been coming from the eastern



Photo by Bailey Ingram, photography editor  
There are various brands of "plant food" that consumers use to chase their high.

Companies selling plant food are able to circumvent U.S. law because their product is marketed for plant – not human – consumption.

Saem de Burnaga Sanchez first synthesized Mephedrone in 1929,

He started feeling the effects within 30 minutes of breaking a capsule open and washing the contents down with water.

"You don't know how pure the MDMA is you're buying, so it's very likely plant food is going to be more intense," he adds. "I wouldn't be surprised if dealers don't start selling this to kids that don't know any better, saying it's MDMA."

For him, the initial rush was "like doing a whole bunch of cocaine" but with a "warm, ecstatic, fuzzy buzz" replacing coke's usual jitteriness. Although he says the duration of the high may only be three to four hours, the intensity surprised him.

"You don't feel as drained the next day after taking plant food," he says. "Not the same way you feel after a night on MDMA."

Another MTSU alumnus says the first time he tried it, he stayed up longer than he wanted to. He mixed a single capsule into a glass of water, drinking slowly throughout the night.

"I was also drinking beer," he admits. "Even though I know you're not supposed to mix your uppers with your downers."

When he had to get up for work the next morning, he was surprised at how clear-headed he felt.

A local DJ has noticed a change in attendance at his shows, attributing this to plant food's growing popularity.

"It feels like there's a whole new group of people trying this stuff that would have never tried real drugs," he notes. "It seems like there are more people and a totally different crowd attending DJ shows."

He originally had misgivings about trying plant food.

"I wasn't quite sure what it was I was taking," he says. "But, then I figured I never really know what's in any illegal drug I've ever taken either."

**"Someone I know called it sort of a party enhancer. It makes me more talkative, and I feel really good."**

ANONYMOUS  
SENIOR, EDUCATION MAJOR

side of the state.

"The number of calls we get doesn't accurately represent the number of cases that end up in the emergency room," Williams clarifies. "Hospitals call poison centers to find out what substance they are dealing with. They rarely have to make that call more than once."

Williams explains that the negative health effects of mephedrone are similar to other stimulants. An increased heart rate, chest pain, loss of appetite, dizziness, dehydration, and if snorted, nosebleeds are common.

The drug has already been banned in the state of Louisiana where it now illegal to make, sell or possess it. Only time will tell if Tennessee legislature will push to do the same.

Mephedrone is a stimulant and a synthetic variant of cathinone, according to Dr. Mark Ryan of Louisiana's Poison Control Center. Cathinone comes from an African plant called "khat."

Cathinone is classified as a Schedule I drug in the United States. Because mephedrone is a synthetic version of this substance, it too is illegal under the Federal Analog Act.

according to the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction.

A company called Neorganics sold mephedrone until 2008 when it was outlawed in Israel, where the company is based. By then, mephedrone use had spread throughout Europe and the Middle East.

"I sell this stuff to police officers almost every day," says one cashier. "Everyone's trying it – people you wouldn't expect."

Another person you might not expect is a senior majoring in education.

"I buy plant food maybe once every three weeks," she says. "Someone I know called it sort of a party enhancer. It makes me more talkative, and I feel really good."

She cannot compare the drug to MDMA since she's never tried it. She says she probably would not have tried plant food if it were illegal.

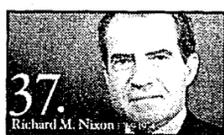
"I think if you try plant food before MDMA, you might be disappointed by MDMA," a junior, majoring in recording industry management, pointed out.

"Plant food doesn't keep you rolling as long as ecstasy or Molly," he says. "But, when it hits, it hits you like a train. Not like MDMA where you ease into the euphoria and body buzz for a bit."



Photo by Diego Baseggio

## An evolution of highs



1971: President Richard Nixon declares a "war on drugs"



1985: Crack cocaine first appears in large cities like Miami and New York



2011: Tennessee seeks to pass legislation to help fight Meth labs

1999: 19.1 percent of Tennessee high school students admit to huffing, which was second highest in the nation

1971

1991

2011



1982: U.S. cocaine use peaks, with 10.4 million users



1994: Tobacco industry denies nicotine is addictive

1999: Marijuana becomes Tennessee's number one cash crop

2007: Mephedrone (plant food) starts selling on the Internet

**Letters Policy**

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to [stopinions@mtsu.edu](mailto:stopinions@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, student-produced newspaper affiliated with Middle Tennessee State University and the College of Mass Communication. Sidelines publishes Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and online during June and July. The opinions expressed herein are those of individual writers and not necessarily Sidelines or the university.

**FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD**

## Campus shooting not a laughing matter

The Valentine's Day shooting needs to be re-examined by the student population. While many may find the humor in it, we must take a look at how things may have played out, regardless of only one individual having a bullet graze their thumb.

On Monday there could have easily been more individuals hurt, or the victim's injuries could have been more severe. We are fortunate the event did not escalate. We are fortunate no one is dead.

Today, if given the opportunity to find humor in a serious situation, people choose to isolate certain aspects without analyzing the systemic causes of these events.

Instead of starting a debate on whether students should be able to carry a gun on

campus to protect themselves, students have taken to Facebook to characterize this event as humorous and non-threatening.

There is a group on Facebook called "I survived the MTSU Valentine's Day Thumb Massacre of 2011" which has, as of Wednesday night, more than 2,000 fans.

The satirical groups and jokes that are thrown around in the public sphere may be our generation's way of avoiding our own mortality. People would rather make insensitive jokes when someone gets shot rather than confronting the fact that everyone dies.

Individuals have also belittled this issue by stating that the shooter happened to be from Memphis, Tenn. People are acting like the problem isn't necessarily

a Murfreesboro issue, but a problem that comes from a different part of the state and we, the city's residents, have to bear the costs from these "others."

Using this mindset ignores the potential problems in Murfreesboro that may have contributed to this event. This event could have been caused by factors that fall outside the sphere of Memphis. It may well have been due to circumstances that were of a personal nature or a result of the economic climate.

The victim allegedly chased down the alleged shooter even after being wounded. This course of action indicates the mindset that many in our society hold. It's this type of dogmatic attitude that may contribute to the social problems that we face even in the

harshes climates we find ourselves in.

These points are not made to give an excuse for what the alleged shooter did, but they give a different take on what could drive an individual to feel like solving their problems with a gun.

We must be cognizant of how we look at this issue and others like it going forward. While individuals may be amused at the fact the alleged shooter was a bad shot and that only the victim's thumb was hurt during this incident, we must not forget that this incident could have been a lot worse.

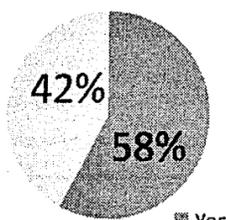
Now that this event is in the national spotlight, all eyes are on the MTSU community. We must be careful about the part we play in the national discourse and show we take this issue seriously.



TELL US ONLINE AT [MTSUSIDELINES.COM](http://MTSUSIDELINES.COM)

**DO YOU FEEL THE UNIVERSITY HANDLED THE ON CAMPUS SHOOTING WELL?**

BASED ON VOTES FROM MTSUSIDELINES.COM. RESULTS: DID YOU HAVE A VALENTINE THIS YEAR?



## U.S. should re-evaluate relationship with Israel

It's finally time for the United States to re-evaluate its treaty with Israel. It has long been the stance of the U.S. to protect Israel against basically the entire Middle East, which has caused many problems with foreign relations between those countries.

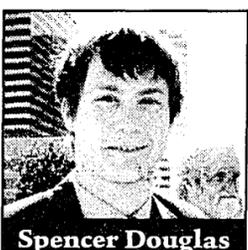
In fact, because of our stance on Israel, some Islamic radicals like Osama Bin Laden see Christianity as an immediate threat to peace in the Middle East. In truth, religion has never been the issue in the Middle East, because to say that the Middle East would be better off if everyone there was Christian instead of Muslim is not necessarily true.

The region itself is violent and will always be that way if it feels that beliefs of foreign nations are pressed upon it. For an extreme example, let's say that Saudi Arabia forced all non-Muslims to leave Tennessee because that was their holy land, according to the Quran.

This is a loose analogy that is nowhere close to the anger that Palestinians feel, but maybe people can grasp the concept easier. It has also been the stance to protect Israel because it is a democracy, and therefore is a bastion of hope among the region in turmoil from the many tyrants, even though many were installed by the U.S. to "keep radicals under control."

With Tunisia, Egypt and Yemen all attempting to rebuild and install democracies without the help and influence of the U.S. it is a signal that the Middle East may have finally gotten to the point where it is sick of totalitarian regimes.

FOX News and Rush Limbaugh would have people believe that as soon as the Egyptian people overthrew President Hosni Mubarak, they would install



**Spencer Douglas**  
Columnist

the Muslim Brotherhood, a terrorist group, to power.

Let us evaluate this statement logically and see if it works.

On one hand, Egyptians overthrew a tyrant that was seen as a terrorist to the people. There is hardly a logical reason that Egypt would overthrow a tyrannical regime and replace it with a tyrannical regime.

Imagine Limbaugh is right and that Egypt does replace this regime with a group of radicals. What does this mean? It means that if the U.S. stays out of the way and the Muslim Brotherhood do well, then we come out looking good for letting the people elect a competent leader and democracy has been successful in another Middle Eastern country.

Additionally, let us assume that the Muslim Brotherhood becomes radicalized and begins oppressing the Egyptian people and threatening its neighbors. Do you really think the people who so recently overthrew a tyrant will let this stand?

What I am concluding from this situation is that the U.S. does not need to spoon-feed democracy to the Middle East. When the countries there want democracy, they will take it.

Spencer Douglas is a senior majoring in political science. He can be reached at [spencerlee23@aol.com](mailto:spencerlee23@aol.com).

## Misinformation caused unnecessary fear

"There was a shooting and the guy was shot and killed! I saw the whole thing and even have a picture on my phone. The shooter is still on the loose," the student said with declaration.

It was no ordinary Valentine's Day, mostly because it was just above 60 degrees outside. I had hit the day running and couldn't wait to enjoy the drive to campus with the windows down. I parked, as I always do, at the Rutherford Boulevard parking lot and caught the bus. There is usually little talking on the bus, so I was surprised to hear someone speaking, but more than that, he was in a panic.

Students on the bus began to ask questions to the apparent eyewitness because he would know. After all - he was there. I found myself among those asking questions. My first one being, "Why are you coming back to campus?" I couldn't stop myself from pulling up Twitter on my smart phone to tweet what I had heard, and I



**April Camp**  
Guest Columnist

arrived at my stop, the library - only a couple of hundred feet from the incident. As I was getting off of the bus, something strange happened.

The bus driver never responded to the student delivering the shocking news, opened the door, and continued to listen to the classic rock station. I thought to myself, this is unbelievable! How was the bus driver not concerned? Why had the school continued to pick up and drop off

students as if nothing had happened?

It was at this moment I realized that perhaps I had been misinformed. As I walked toward the Quad, I began to hear all kinds of different stories about what happened, and it wasn't until I reached a computer to check the school website that it all began to make sense.

The bus driver was not dropping students off into a war zone, and no one had been killed, thank goodness. The matter was certainly a serious one and cause for concern, but misinformation led to a great amount of fear and confusion. This week's shooting incident reinforced my belief: It is important for us to get our facts straight before we stir panic, and as Monday proved, an eyewitness is not always the best source.

April Camp is a senior in the College of Mass Communication. She can be reached at [adk2d@mtmail.mtsu.edu](mailto:adk2d@mtmail.mtsu.edu).



## Feminism not just for progressives

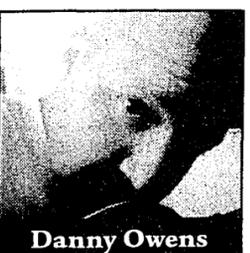
I am only a humble political science, pre-law senior who has more questions than answers. In the world of politics, there exist a number of questions that seem to go unanswered. So, I assume I am not alone when it comes to unanswered questions.

One question that I have yet to answer is this: Why is it that the Left, which is supposed to be the bastion of feminism and equal opportunity, is so threatened by the emergence of charismatic, influential women in the Republican Party?

When former Gov. Sarah Palin was announced in 2008 as Sen. John McCain's vice president selection, Vanity Fair quickly followed with attacks that began with where she should rightfully be, at home raising her children, shopping, and even that crazy conspiracy theory, thought only Republicans had those, of whose Trig's real mother happened to be. The attacks don't just stop with Palin either, why do they have to go after her daughters as well?

Please Kathy Griffin, pick on someone your own age.

In 2009, with the emergence of Rep. Michelle Bachmann, the attacks moved immediately to include her as well. Bachmann received a reception that could best be described as "The Palin Treatment."



**Danny Owens**  
Guest Columnist

Paul Harris released a scathing introduction to Bachman in the Nov. 15, 2009, edition of *The Observer*. He immediately ties her to Palin by saying, "To many critics, this new breed of conservatism, people such as Bachmann and Palin are putting an attractive female face to a very ugly brand of politics."

He further uses such negative quotations to destroy her credibility when he quotes blogger Aaron Landry, saying, "It is hard to think that people take her seriously. But, on a national level it is happening. It scares me."

And he concludes with re-emphasizing the Palin connection by including Landry's closing statement: "Most people don't think she can have presidential ambitions. She's too crazy, but a lot of people in Alaska thought that about Sarah Palin."

It is difficult for me to understand the Left's attack on these women. It is one thing to attack political opponents on policy, but these attacks go well beyond policy. One would think that there would be certain recognition for the level of accomplishment that these women have attained.

They have become powerful figures within their own party. No longer is the Grand Old Party considered the party of grumpy, old white men. Instead, there is a venomous hatred of no constraint spewed upon them.

Is this hatred a result of jealousy? Both of these women enjoy much higher approval ratings than the Democratic Party's most prominent woman - former U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi. Is it strictly policy driven? If so why attack Palin's daughters?

Is it anger that these women dare have the audacity to adhere to conservative beliefs, which are apparently off limits to women? Or is it that the Democratic Party recognizes the ability that these women have to energize a party that just two years ago was supposed to be dead?

Perhaps, it's all of the above.

Danny Owens is a senior majoring in pre-law. He can be reached at [dannyowensgop@gmail.com](mailto:dannyowensgop@gmail.com).

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## No Reservations as of yet

By AIMEE SCHMITTENDORF  
Staff Writer

For some students, it'll be chain restaurants. And for others, fine dining will draw you in with promise of better food, better pay and better clientele.

Let this article be an educational warning to you: "A former colleague passed along a story that the chef told the staff. If you want to understand commitment, he explained, all you have to do is look at the American breakfast of bacon and eggs. The chicken was involved, but the pig was committed."

"Service Included" by Phoebe Damrosch fell into my lap at a White Elephant party. The book is sub-titled: *Four-Star Secrets of an Eavesdropping Waiter*.

Between the parchment-colored pages of this novel is a tale of one server's journey to serve in one of New York's top restaurants, Per Se. Beginning with a book cover showing the back of a waitress properly balancing dirty dishes in her starched apron, years of memories of serving tables came rushing back to my mind like I wish all the jokes would that I've heard in my life.

Most students will have to learn "the art of the day job," before they find a job making six figures, and may probably already have one while balancing their school schedule.

"I suppose I could have found a job in publishing like a good English major, but as far as I was concerned, offices were dusty, stagnant, and badly lit. Kitchens, on the other hand, had a pulse," says Damrosch.

How does one share a bit of wisdom without sounding degrading to my own profession?

When you matriculate from MTSU, memories of wishing you could find a parking space are as trite as some obvious rules of working in the restaurant industry.

According to [www.edinformatics.com](http://www.edinformatics.com), food and beverage serving and related workers held 6.8 million jobs in 2004 and is expected to be among the fastest of

growing job professions through 2014.

Damrosch attended Barnard College and an Master's of Fine Arts from Sarah Lawrence College. She worked as a nanny/role model, walked dogs, fed cats, helped organize a documentary film tour of women's prisons, and wrote the web content for a Filipino dating agency.

The beginning of the book depicts her job as a busboy at a cafe in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, which led to a position at a posh little place in midtown Manhattan. Eventually, she became one of the opening servers of the highly anticipated Per Se in the Time Warner Center.

A few lessons Damrosch certainly took with her post-matriculation were her tendency to do her homework and listen and find a story in her journey.

The book often flits in and out of her few romantic relationships during the rigorous process of demystifying the great Thomas Keller's menu and waiting style. If one intends on reading this book as an easy segue into and from serving tables to entertainment, enjoy. However, there were strong and weak points in the story as there are in any career serving tables.

Damrosch does give some excellent tips on sitting at the table as well from her learned perspective, which are quite charming, direct and worthy of sharing:

- Consider storing your handbag under your chair where we won't step on it
- We are happy to split your check, but it helps when you tell us up front. You'd be surprised at how complicated it can be to make changes on some computers.
- "Give me..." is a very unattractive way to begin a sentence.
- Please don't ask us for cigarettes.
- Never get up and take something from a waiter's station. That includes water pitchers, coffee pitchers, silverware, napkins and pens. Please do not steal our pens. Usually, we have to provide our own.
- Do not touch your waiter.

All in all, I'd give this book three stars out of five. It was amusing and brought back memories - some good and some I still have stressful dreams of, but this book didn't change my life either way.

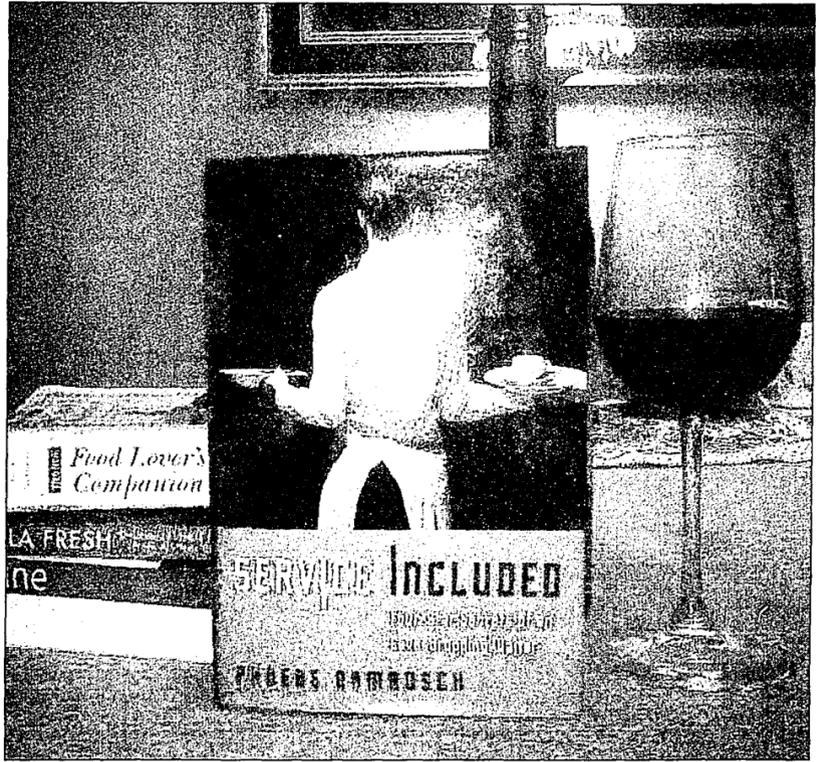


Photo by Aimee Schmittendorf, staff writer

The book *Service Included* can be enjoyed as you yourself are served.

### SUDOKU

7	8	4	1	9	5	6	2	3
6	1	3	4	8	2	5	9	7
5	9	2	7	3	6	4	1	8
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4	7	5	3	2	8	9	6	1
2	6	8	5	1	9	3	7	4
9	4	7	2	5	1	8	3	6
8	5	1	9	6	3	7	4	2
3	2	6	8	4	7	1	5	9

Daily SuDoku: Wed 9-Feb-2011

very hard

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