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Jalen Glass poses with fellow ralliers at TriPride parade. Photo by Jalen Glass.

Students and Staff React to TriPride Rally

Erin Donovan, News Editor

The Tri-Cities had their first ever gay pride rally on Sept. 15, attended by what organizers estimated to be 7,000 to 10,000, including several Milligan students and employees. The Stampede sat down with students and employees to talk about the event and the topic of gay rights and Christianity.

The parade and rally was put on by TriPride, a nonprofit whose mission is to “build a stronger and more inclusive community” in the area, according to their website. TriPride was formed in 2017 after a group of locals decided it was time for Northeast Tennessee to have its own Pride event to celebrate “inclusion, equality, community,

and self-empowerment” and provide a place for community participation.

There were multiple reasons that Milligan students and employees decided to attend. Junior political science and humanities major Patrick Lines said, “I thought it would be a fascinating social event and I wanted to take pictures for photography. The other reason is I have a number of friends who struggle to connect their sexuality and their faith, and I think it’s important to be there for them during that.”

Technical Theatre Director Tess Evans-Shell said she went “because the LGBTQIA (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex and asexual or allied) community have been unserved and unloved in this region, both by our city and

by our churches. I went to see, learn and share the love that the church has been denying the LGBTQIA community.”

Lines said his Christian beliefs also influenced his decision to attend.

“I’d say (Christianity) informs most of my decisions, and I think as Christians we’re called to be welcoming neighbors to anybody and everybody,” he said. “I think that crosses over that to LGBTQ community as well.”

Senior business and accounting major Chris Aldmon, who chose to not attend the rally, said that in his case, his Christianity influenced his decision not to attend, though he advocated showing support towards the LGBT community.

See TriPride on pg 3

White Supremacist Group to Rally at Sycamore Shoals; Students Speak Out

Brianna Snyder, Staff Reporter

On Sept. 29 the League of the South, a Southern Nationalist organization, is scheduled to hold a rally at Sycamore Shoals State Park in Elizabethton, Tennessee. The LOS has sixteen state chapters according to its website. The sixteen chapters represent each of the 11 former Confederate States of America as well as Oklahoma, which did not become a state until after the Civil War, Kentucky, West Virginia, Maryland and Missouri who each played a role in both the Confederacy and the Union at different points. Named a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center, the LOS website describes their main goals as “political independence” and “a return to a more traditional conservative Christian-oriented Southern culture.” They declare their opposition to be, “an unholy crusade of leftist agitators and foreign religions.”

The LOS embodies this internal belief that mainstream society is involved in a conspiracy to destroy southern culture and southern people, a belief that Emmanuel Christian Seminary student and adjunct humanities professor, Nathan Cachiaras, attributes to “a false narrative of history.”

“It grieves me that there are people that feel they are under attack,” Cachiaras said, followed by, “I resist the terms under which they feel they are being attacked.” Cachiaras isn’t the only local resident unhappy with the LOS hosting their rally at Sycamore Shoals. A Facebook event called the “Pro-Love-Anti-Hate Rally,” created to counter the LOS rally, has caught the interest of more than 1,500 people.

“I do not wish to see the same wound inflicted on my ‘adopted’ hometown of three years inflicted on the town of my childhood and roots,” organizer of the counter-rally Thom Gray wrote, referencing last year’s violence in Charlottesville, in a Facebook comment under the event. One might know Gray from his Facebook profile as “The Overmountain Man.” Gray has long time ties to Sycamore Shoals as his grandparents were heavily involved in its early days, and he does not want his grandparents’ legacy and the history they worked to preserve to be associated with the ideology of the LOS. Gray’s rally is set to occur at Sycamore Shoals at the same time as the LOS rally.

“I cannot sit back and watch as this hate group attempts to claim their superiority over people who are different than they are,” said Emmanuel

student Rebecca Miller. She discussed the LOS’s claim to Christian values saying that she feels the group’s beliefs contradict everything Christ stood for. Miller touched on another question brought up in the interview with Cachiaras. “While I do not agree that ‘Southern culture’ is threatened, it is important to ask, what exactly is the ‘southern way of life’ that the league wishes to protect?” The LOS website answers this question as, “European, mainly Anglo-Celtic and Christian, folkways that are peculiar to our region and are rooted in a firm belief in a kith & kin nation.”

Cachiaras says that the South’s identity shouldn’t come from the Civil War and that the LOS is “missing a clearly informed history of what it means to live in the South.” He says, “There is so much to appreciate here,” calling the slow way of life “so beautiful,” but he says the LOS does not portray a positive example of their culture.

The Stampede contacted the Tom Pierce, Tennessee State chairman of the LOS, in attempt to get a response to the quotes above. Pierce was willing to answer questions, but unfortunately time did not allow for an interview. Stay tuned for Stampede’s coverage of the rally, and counter-rally, online.

Personal Finance 4U Average College Student

Andrew Sheppard, Contributor

Just seeing the word savings, most of you will half-chuckle and blow right by this section because you have either exhausted your savings to attend college, or you don’t have the capacity to plan for the future at the moment. Either way, savings seem both impossible and unimportant at this stage of life. Let me tell you why you should save and give you some good ways to put aside a few bucks for the impending purchases and expenses that come with post-grad life.

First, the best time to start saving is yesterday. The earlier that you get the ball rolling, the higher your earnings capacity will be. This is because of a concept called compound interest.

We know that when we put money into savings or investments they earn varying degrees of interest. Interest is simply a percentage of the amount you invested (called the principal) that is paid back to you by the bank or company that the investment is in.

The cool thing about interest is that it often compounds, meaning that you earn interest on the principal (amount originally invested) AND on all interest earned up to that point. After a few easy calculations, you can see that the longer you have money put away, the more it will generate in income in the future! (Look into the Personal Finance course offered at Milligan for a further explanation.) If you start saving now, you are putting yourself in a better place during your retirement years.

This is hardly a compelling argument for someone in their college years, in which every dollar is stretched to the last penny, and a Cookout tray looks a lot better than a few extra bucks 50 years down the road. However, ignoring savings now will have more immediate consequences than you might think.

Think about what your situation might look like post-grad. Some of you will be beginning entry-level jobs in your field, others of you will be trying to pay your way through grad school. This stage of life will inevitably come with expenses beyond those you have now. You may need to dip into savings to pay for loans, pay rent, etc. Even if you make it without touching savings, you will likely not have the ability to save much in these first few years, further diminishing the gift of compounding interest.

So maybe you’re convinced now to start saving and investing to help yourself out in the future, but you realize you need to have/make money to save money. If you’re not already in one, and are eligible for one, look into a work-study position. The hours are usually flexible and some even allow you to catch up on other things while you’re working. Even a 5-hour work-study can add up over time. A part time job can also give you a little financial boost during the school year.

See Finance on pg 4

Editor's Note

Jordyn Morel, Editor in Chief

It's no secret, especially on a campus as small as this one, that we are all different. We come from different backgrounds, we study different things, we have different values and hold different beliefs—and yet, here we all are. Thrown together in what we hope looks like community, but perhaps more often looks like closed ears and eyes to each other's diversity in background and belief, especially when this diversity leads us to question our own identities.

Maybe it's just me— but I think that most often, it's fear that keeps us from doing the one thing that would revolutionize our dream of community: listening.

Simply listening to each others stories, each others struggles and beliefs, just for the sake of loving our neighbor. This is uncomfortable, and it's often messy because it requires us to hold less tightly to everything we think we know for certain about the world. But it is good work —holy work— and work that I think the faith that many of us claim, calls us to. It's not enough to simply tolerate each other. We must seek out opportunities to listen and learn to be alright with a bit of discomfort. It's only then that we will grow; we will allow the people around us the space to grow, and in this way, a true community will grow.

In our corner of this campus, Stampede seeks to provide a way to bridge the gaps between us — students, employees, administration and alumni alike — and facilitate a place where listening can happen. We cannot do this alone though. It takes many different people sharing their mind to accurately reflect our campus.



Milligan College Men's Soccer Team huddle. Photo by Sara Farmer



Goal celebration with senior Jonathan Russell. Photo by Sara Farmer

Men's Soccer Team Asks for 'Enthusiasm and Patience'

Alyssa Boyer, Staff Reporter

With all the new coaches and players on our teams this year, it's easy for us Milligan sports fans to ask ourselves, "What will these new people add to the team?", "What will their seasons be like?" and maybe, "What can we expect from the team as a whole?"

But have we ever stopped to think about how WE as a school can support them better? Or how what we do can indirectly affect how they perform?

The seniors on the men's soccer team have seen it all in their four years at Milligan. They have experienced the team highs, when their team was in a good spot collectively and was working great together, and they've seen the team lows, where the team seemed as if it just couldn't get out of their slump. But this season is different.

With the introduction of Coach Lilly to their coaching staff at the end of last season, the entire team noticed a shift

in attitude. It seemed as if the team was finally ready to dedicate all of their time and energy into a new process that they had faith in.

Unfortunately, with Coach Lilly having to remain in Scotland for this season, the team was faced with a turn of events. However, their interim head coach, Kyle Findlay, was immediately ready to take over the program and keep the team morale at an all-time high.

Coach Findlay told the Stampede in a recent interview that in regard to their training "nothing has changed between now and when Lilly was here," which attests to the positive team-spirit that continues to come from the soccer team.

When asked what WE as a school can do for the men's soccer team, senior and mid-fielder Bradley Hammond said, "We need two things from

the fans: we need enthusiasm and we need patience."

"You guys have all been great at bringing enthusiasm to our games. Every game so far has felt like we have two extra guys on the field because of how present our fans are, and we can't thank you guys enough for that. But the second thing that is equally important that we need from you all, is patience. We as a team have made a lot of changes very quickly, and we are facing a lot of difficult tests. We are looking to establish this program as successful in the long term, and that takes time. So, if you guys are patient with us and keep that enthusiasm up, then I think we can truly do something special."

So today I'm asking you, reader, what can our teams expect from YOU this season?

New Programs at Milligan

Brianna Snyder, Staff Reporter

Milligan introduces three new academic programs to campus this fall. The Ministry Leadership Program and Musical Theater major both seek to build on similar pre-existing degrees, while the Physician Assistant Program is brand new this year.

The Ministry Leadership program will be directed by Milligan alum Dr. Ron Kastens, who has almost thirty years of experience and a passion for preparing students for practical ministry.

In this update on the general 36 hour major Bible major previously offered, the Bible major concentrations are now roughly 48 hour individual majors including church leadership, student ministry, children's ministry, worship arts and intercultural studies (missions). According to Kastens, the increase in hours required has been in the "practical ministry side of things."

These changes seek to address the fact that the previous program, though theologically sound, did not provide for the development of practical skills

for students going into ministry. Kastens spoke about one such piece to the Ministry Leadership program that is being called "leadership seminars."

"We're going to have as many of those as possible taught by actual pastors who are neck deep in ministry every week, but also who specialize in specific areas of ministry," Kastens said. "We're not just talking about theory out of a book, but rather having someone who can say, 'Here are the challenges we're wrestling with in our church right now, and here's how we're trying to solve those issues,' instead of just 'Here's a book that someone wrote on this issue five years ago.' We're hoping that this will help what students are learning to be more relevant and, hopefully, more in real time."

Kastens hopes to add increased internship opportunities and hands-on learning to the already strong classroom education, as well. He says these adjustments will "reflect the needs of a changing world."

The program is being funded by



Photo by Milligan College

a million-dollar donation from First Christian Church in Johnson City, according to a Milligan press release.

In addition to these changes, the new Ministry Leadership Program has teamed up with Emmanuel Christian Seminary to offer a six-year program which includes a bachelor's degree and a Master of Divinity. According to Kastens, these degrees could take 7 years or longer if acquired separately.

Milligan also offers a new musical theater program this year, offering courses in a variety of disciplines such as theatre arts, dance, and music performance, according to a Milligan press release. In response to the creation of this program, Dr. Carrie Klofach was welcomed to Milligan as assistant professor of musical theatre in February.

Milligan's first Physician Assistant class of the new program also began this fall. One of the most important steps in creating this new program was achieving Accreditation-Provisional status, granted to Milligan's PA program by the ARC-PA. According to a Milligan press release, this accreditation demonstrates an expectation that this new program has the ability to meet ARC-PA standards.

This status is limited to the next five years after which the program will need to be reevaluated to ensure that standards are being upheld. In an interview with paeaonline.org, PA program director Andrew Hull said the class size of only 26 students helps promote stronger mentoring relationships between professors and students.



Jalen (right) poses for a photo with rally participant, Ronnie (left). Photo by Jalen Glass

TriPride, from front page

"I think the personal support for people who are struggling with their sexuality is great, that they open their arms and accept," he said. "I think churches should accept gay and trans people in their church. Personally, I don't think it's right, but I think the church needs to show support towards them."

There were many individual organizations that showed up, including affirming Christian organizations, such as Free Mom/Dad Hugs.

"I had considered being one of the Free Mom Huggers," Research and Instruction Librarian Mary Jackson said.

Evans-Shell said she thinks organizations like Free Mom/Dad Hugs is a "beautiful, healthy, and respectful" way to interact with the LGBTQ community in a personal and loving way.

"The people in the LGBTQIA community are children of God," she said. "I'd like to think that if Jesus attended TriPride, that hugs would have been his posture for the day."

Senior social work major Jalen Glass, who attended the rally, called organizations like Free Mom/Dad Hugs "great," saying they seemed "loving and kind" during the parade.

"I think the bigger next step would be to get churches to show love to the people," he said. "Churches are the staple of the south, and if they show love to LGBT people, the cycle of hate would diminish further."

Along with affirming organizations, protesters showed up to the parade as well, including members of the League of the South, a white supremacist group whose mission is to oppose

"leftist agitators and foreign religions," and more subdued groups alike.

Evans-Shell said that some of the protester groups that showed up were "very hateful, crass, and threatening," while others were more "diplomatic," preaching about "God's judgement" without crude or violent gestures.

"The group that I was most impressed with were the ministers that came just to be in community," Evans-Shell said. "These folks were harder to spot. They were sitting off to the side having calm conversations with one to three individuals at a time. They were answering questions, listening to personal experiences and praying with LGBT folks when appropriate."

Aldmon had a similar view, saying that though he "may believe homosexuality is a sin," he believes that "no sin outweighs another" and "politically, (the LGBTQ community) should have the right to do as they please."

"Any church that is not willing to embrace someone just because they're different is not showing what is God's love," he said. "I think you need to embrace people and have support regardless."

The parade gathered a significant police presence, and Glass and Jackson spoke about the security at the event.

"I thought this (the security) was interesting in light of all the police brutality that has occurred in America, and I think its a topic that should be talked about," Glass said. "While they were keeping us safe, for queer POC and supporters, I can say it was very uncomfortable."

Jackson also commented on the security there, saying that the police presence and security measures taken were quite significant.

"It was a little disconcerting," she said. "I hope we can get to a place where it doesn't have to be like that."

Donate Plasma, Save a Life, Earn Some Cash

AJ Trabold, Social Media Manager

As a college student, you may not have work study on or a job off campus. You might get money from your parents, but outside of that, you you might not have anything else. However, there is hope.

The Plasma Biological Center in downtown Johnson City is a quick and easy way to earn extra cash while also possibly saving someone's life. To become a new plasma donor, you need to bring a valid photo ID (drivers license), social security card, and proof of address (or student ID) when you first go in. You will then be given a brief physical by one of the on-hand doctors.

If you pass the physical, they will have you go out to the lobby and answer questions on a kiosk; you will do this part every time that you come in. Once finished, you will sign in on the clipboard at the front desk and wait for your name to be called for processing.

David Simonsen, a junior at Milligan, has been going to PBS for a year and two months total; it is safe to say that he has the whole process memorized. "Processing starts with you confirming your name, birthday, and social security number. They will then check your blood pressure and temperature; if these are good,

then they will proceed to prick your finger and take a blood sample to read your plasma levels."

You will then be asked which arm you want to use and be led to one of several donation beds, where they will ready the plasma-drawing machine. They will find your vein and swab the area with iodine to clean it. They will then stick your arm with a needle and tape it to your arm. At this point, you will continuously squeeze your hand in order to pump blood into the machine.

The machine is designed to separate your red blood cells and your plasma. In intervals, it will take your blood and separate it, and then it will give your red blood cells back with a blood thinner so that you don't get clots. Once you are done, you will be given a bag of saline solution so that you do not get dehydrated. You will then be given a card that your money will be deposited onto, and you are good to go.

Now some people have concerns about donating plasma: whether it is safe or not, where the plasma goes after we donate it. Dr. Ashley Stiltner is the Assistant Professor of Anatomy at Milligan, and she has some answers:

"Plasma is the liquid portion of the blood. It provides the medium in which oxygen, nutrients, waste, antibodies, hormones, and other materials travel



David Simonsen, Milligan's current longest active plasma donor. Photo by AJ Trabold

through the circulatory system. In the medical field, plasma donations are often used for research or development of pharmaceuticals."

She adds that "given that the donor is healthy, there should be no concerns. Blood plasma is replaced rather quickly (12-24 hours)."

If you are short on cash, or want to help make other's lives better, you should consider donating plasma. The knowledgeable and kind staff are there to make sure that everything goes well, you get some cash and you are potentially helping researchers find new medicines to make humanity more healthy.

THE STAMPEDE

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OPINION

Why Millennials Aren't Voting But Should

Shaun Whitson, Webmaster

If you are a millennial who lives in Tennessee, you fit into the least likely demographic in the country to vote this November. According to an analysis by PEW Charitable Trust on the previous midterm election in 2014, voter turnout in Tennessee is the lowest in the country, at just 28.5 percent. Their analysis also found that voter registration in Tennessee was ranked at 40th overall with 74 percent of the state's population registered. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the voter turnout for ages 18-34 in 2014 was 23.1 percent. Their data also shows that the 18-34 age group has been the least likely age group to vote since they began collecting data in 1978.

In July of this year, at least 31 voters were killed and over 40 more were injured in an attack in Pakistan on their election day. Even with the threat of being killed while voting, their turnout was 55.8 percent. This figure is almost 20 percent higher than the U.S. 2014 midterms and is comparable to the turnout during presidential elections. This speaks volumes to

how we as Americans take our right to vote for granted.

Pew Research Center data shows that the top two reasons that voters didn't vote in 2016 were: (1) they didn't like the candidate/campaigning issues; and (2) they were not interested/felt their vote wouldn't make a difference. These are both issues of voter confidence with the latter largely being an issue of voter suppression.

In order to combat voter suppression in regards to hacking, Tennessee is spending \$8 million in order to update voting machines and other security measures.

In regards to the first aforementioned reason, this will never be resolved until we learn to see past our differences. Former President Barack Obama put it this way during a recent speech at the University of Illinois: "To make democracy work, we have to be able to get inside the reality of people who are different... we have to engage them even when it is frustrating, we have to listen to them even when we don't like what they have to say, we have to hope that we can change their minds and be open to them changing ours."

According to CNN, millennials have surpassed Baby Boomers as the largest voter-eligible group.

A CIVIQS poll of over 130,000 people found that millennials prefer Democrats to Republicans, 53 to 31 percent, with the rest identifying as independent. Despite low voter turnout among millennials, we have already seen the effect they have had in recent years.

In the 2012 presidential election, millennials flipped their traditionally red states into blue ones in Florida, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. For the presidential election of 2016, a survey of 30,000 people provided to Mic by SurveyMonkey, showed that if all eligible millennials had voted, then Donald Trump would have only won in five states: Idaho, Wyoming, North Dakota, Kentucky, and West Virginia.

Whoever you decide to vote for, make sure it is an informed decision and to vote for the candidate, not the party they represent. The last day to register is October 9 and the election is on November 6. You can register and find your polling location on the GoVoteTN app or online.

Finance, from front page

It's no secret that we're all busy, but sacrificing a little free time or prioritizing a part time job will pay off greatly when the paycheck comes.

Maybe your schedule is completely packed without a work-study or job, but you can see where you can cut back in just one area of your spending. If we all take a closer look, there are likely some ways you can think of to save a few bucks. Once you have freed up a few bucks, you can take that to your bank right now, put it in a savings account, CD (another type of savings account), or even try out the stock trading market. (There are a number of online services for this, such as STASH, Acorns, and Robinhood. Please research each to see which would fit your situation best.)

I would never suggest stopping outings to do fun things with your friends or eat out, but understand that with every choice comes a trade-off of financial benefit. If you can teach yourself to delay gratification, you will likely see those choices paying off in big ways down the line.

Philosophy and Religion in Animation: Miyazaki's Films Convey the Need for Protecting Nature

Gloria Vazquez, Graphic Design

Hayao Miyazaki is a Japanese animation director known for his films with Studio Ghibli. He started his career in the early 1960s and became involved with many classics of Japanese animations. His two most famous films, Princess Mononoke (1997)

and Spirited Away (2001), have attracted many audiences to their stunning individual world and given a message to those who have pushed nature away from their daily lives.

See the rest of the story online at www.milliganstampede.com/

Film Review: The Predator is Unbalanced, Poorly Written, and a Constant Barrage of Misplaced Humor

Brandon Smith, Staff Reporter

The Predator is a mess. Joke after joke, dull set piece after dull set piece, stock character after stock character – the main one horribly miscast – all amounting to what is undoubtedly a mess. Not a disaster, mind you, but it comes awfully close. The Predator is the fourth installment in what has become an inconsistent series of films. In 1987, audiences were introduced to the titular alien in Predator, as Arnold Schwarzenegger was matched up against the headhunter in the middle of the unforgiving jungle. It wasn't the most sophisticated science fiction movie, but it delivered the action, scares, and memorable one-liners well enough. Its formidable sequel, 1990's Predator 2, has become a staple of bad 1990s action films among cinephiles.

It should be noted that securing the

attention of moviegoers these days can be a curious task. Many of them want to see the latest sequel, prequel, or remake. However, if that particular series has an inconsistent track record, then audiences will have no idea what to expect. For instance, this reviewer went into the film expecting a mixed bag: it was probably going to be a disappointment, but nothing too unshakable. While mostly correct, it was worse than anticipated. Comic relief in films these days is notably more present than in the past.

See the rest of the story online at www.milliganstampede.com/

Students' Safety Questions, Answered

Erin Donovan, News Editor

If you have watched the news lately, chances are you have seen at least one story about a school shooting. Even just a few weeks ago, on Aug. 27, there was an active shooter situation just 15 minutes away from us at Eastern Tennessee State University. The Stampede wanted to know what questions Milligan students have about their safety here

at Milligan and answer them to keep our students informed and safe. Brent Nipper, Director of Property and Risk Management, answered questions that Milligan students are asking.

See the rest of the story online at www.milliganstampede.com/

The Stampede is the **student operated news source** of Milligan College and a designated public forum. It is the mission of the Stampede to **report news, provide information and serve as a forum** for members of the Milligan College community and the greater Tri-Cities area.

Unless otherwise indicated, views expressed in the Stampede do not represent the views of Milligan College, its administrators, or the student body as a whole.

Letters to the editor are strongly encouraged. We accept letters by email and surface mail. You may write to: mcstampede@my.milligan.edu or address letters to: **Letters to the Editor, The Stampede, Milligan College, TN 37682**

All letters should include first and last names, and students should include their majors. However, you are limited to two letters to the editor per semester. Please keep letters fewer than 500 words in length. **We look forward to hearing from you!**