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## Sidelines Lens



Student-run radio station, 88.3 WMTS, celebrated College Radio Day outside the KUC by selling tie-dye shirts and offering CDs in exchange for donations.  
Photo by Matt Masters

### Corrections for 10/3

The story 'Professor releases books inspired by youth media interactions' was incorrectly attributed to Emily West. The story was written by Jordan Brien, staff writer.  
The photo for "The Great Barrier Reefs bring jazz fusion to the area" was incorrectly attributed. The photo is by Riley Hammond.

Cover design by Andrew Williams

Visit us at [www.mtsusidelines.com](http://www.mtsusidelines.com)

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# Statewide enrollment decreases affect retention rates

By Quint Qualls  
Staff writer

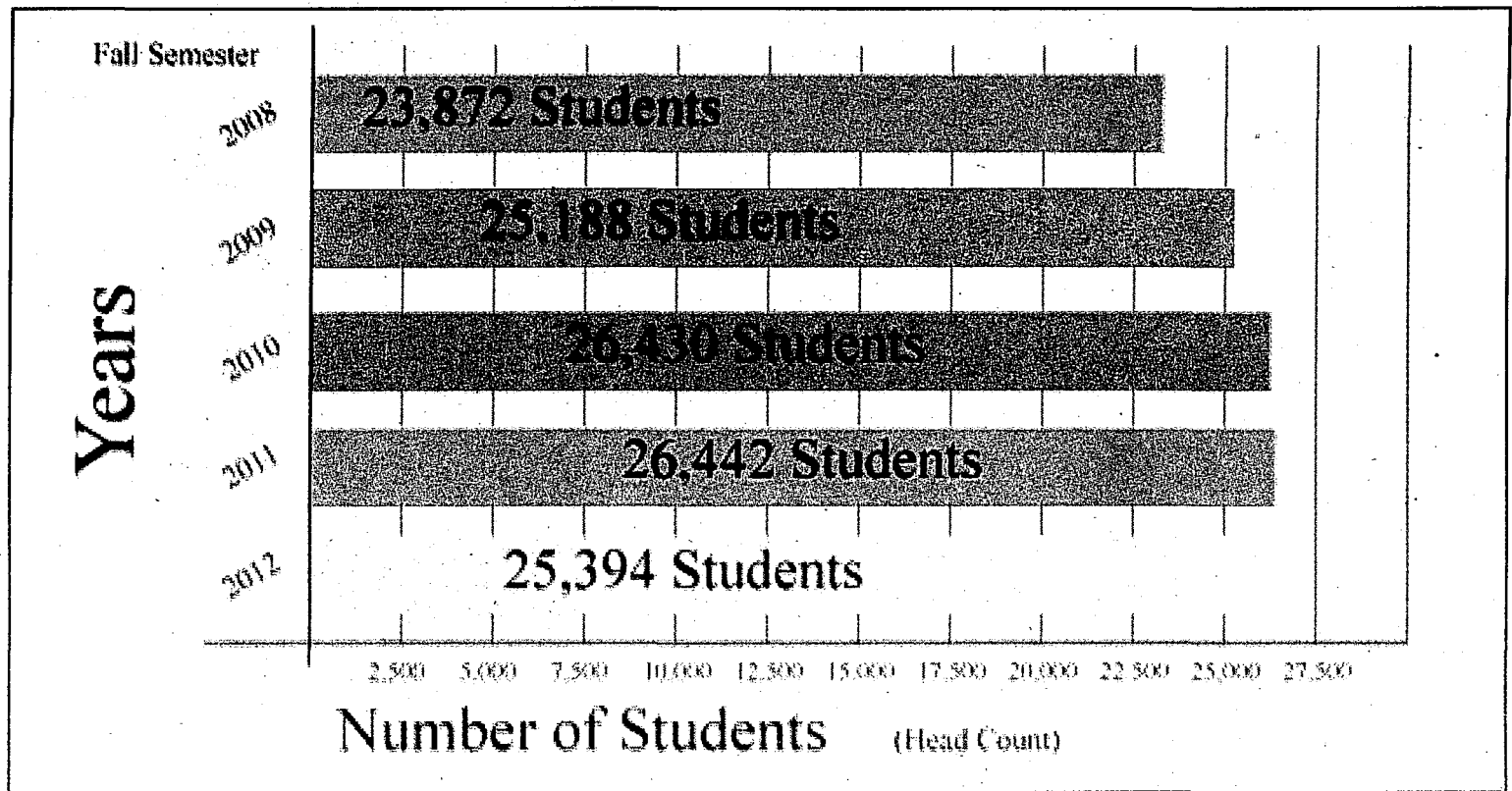
After seeing its smallest freshman class since 2002, the university continues to handle a decrease in enrollment numbers and returning students this fall. Across the board, the number of students enrolling and returning has declined by approximately 4 percent, and the number of incoming freshmen has fallen by nearly 10 percent this semester.

However, MTSU is not alone in its falling enrollment figures. A report by one of the state's two supervisory boards for higher education, the Tennessee Board of Regents, concludes that all of its state universities have seen drops in enrollment with an average of nearly 3.5 percent.

According to Debra Sells, vice president for student affairs, the drop in enrollment could be due to a variety of reasons, primarily tuition hikes and a diminishing number of high school graduates:

"Nationally, the production of high school graduates is projected as slowing between 2008 and 2015. Growth is projected to resume at a slower pace in 2015," Sells said. "In addition, many states, including the state of Tennessee, have responded to tough economic times by shifting more of the costs of a college education from the state to the individual student."

The impact is that a decline in enrollment and retention makes it more difficult for a



The graphic shows a rise and fall of incoming MTSU students over the past five years. Infographic created by Christopher Do.

university to receive state money due to the new funding formula, Sells said.

The model for the funding formula, which can be found on the Tennessee Higher Education Commission's website, details

evaluation, the rate of retention is now taken into consideration, according to Monica Greppin-Watts, TBR communications director.

"The Complete College Tennessee Act passed by the state legislature in 2010 called

creating the numbers of degrees, diplomas and certificates awarded. Included in that formula is recognition of increased retention rates."

Among the factors taken into account are the number of degrees earned, the graduation rate and the accumula-

interview with WMOT, Middle Tennessee Public Radio.

"First and foremost, what we're keenly aware of is the need to understand every student that is not returning as a university student and why that is," Oppmann said.

tary lapse where they need to regroup their finances, or perhaps their life situations. We make sure that we can get them all the information they need to continue their education and assisting them with financial resources if they are eligible."

A report by the American College Testing organization suggests other helpful strategies for improving retention rates, including University 1010 courses, tutoring and emphasis on academic advising.

However, according to Oppmann, even with the drop in enrollment figures, the university still has the largest freshman class of any TBR school. ■

**In addition, many states, including the state of Tennessee, have responded to tough economic times by shifting more of the costs of a college education from the state to the individual student."**

the process by which state schools are judged for allocation of state money.

While the number of enrolled students plays a pivotal role in the

for the creation of a new funding formula," Greppin-Watts said. "State funding is now allocated to public higher education based on outcomes like in-

tion of hours by university students.

The university is well aware of these issues and their solutions, said university spokesman Andrew Oppmann in an

"We've been reaching out to any students not returning, trying to understand their circumstances. Many times it's a temporary or momen-

# Drought puts damper on Rutherford County crops

By Emily West  
Community news  
editor

Looking out at his combined cornfield, Rutherford County farmer Glenn Hutchinson said this was the worst corn crop he has ever had in 30 years of farming.

The nationwide drought that plagued the Midwest, along with Tennessee, last summer forced farmers to harvest their crops earlier than planned, producing a dismal crop.

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, Tennessee anticipates much lower numbers than 2011 with 87 bushels per acre. Last year, Tennessee produced 131 bushels per acre.

"Farming is a pretty big gamble," Hutchinson said. "We don't have to go Vegas; we can go to the farm to gamble. Some years go good, and some don't. It all depends on how the good Lord blesses us with rain. We got all the crops planted in a timely manner, and then it just quit raining."

Farming in two counties, Hutchinson's Rutherford County corn crop produced 14 to 15 bushels an acre of the 600 acres planted. His Coffee County crop ranged from 30 to 80 bushels an acre, still coming in under the projected average.

The United States as a whole planted the most corn on record, using more than 96 million acres of land, harvesting the crop faster than before. Tennessee farmers started

harvesting their corn crops around Aug. 20 and finished before Labor Day weekend, two weeks earlier than normal, said Warren Gill, director of the school of agriscience.

"The drought is a cumulative thing," Gill said. "This isn't a one year deal. We have not recovered, and people think because the grass is growing that we have. I have a bulldozer, and when the dozer moves dirt around, it's still dusty nine or ten inches deep. The moisture hasn't gotten in there very deep. We haven't had the kind of rain that gets into the subsoil. We have lost trees from this as well. It's still not enough moisture for our soil."

In addition to the lack of rain, the drought will impact other factors in Tennessee, such as food prices, which will affect everyday consumers and feeding farmers' livestock.

"Every USDA projection says that we are going to be paying considerably more for food," Gill said. "I've seen numbers range for a 8 or 9 or 10 percent. Food has already been adjusted up. I suspect milk prices will go up further. If food prices in the store don't go up because of the costs of input and production capacity, they will have to see additional income somehow. If we lose enough farmers due to this drought, food prices will go up even more."

However, some farmers will experience a harder time trying to feed their livestock

while getting ready for next spring, according to Kyle Hickerson, department manager of the Murfreesboro Co-Op.

"Feed sales are going to go up," Hickerson said. "What you take off and what you put back affects sales. Most farmers fertilized for 140 bushels per acre of corn and some got nine to 10 bushels an acre. It will definitely affect how they plan to go about next year."

However, crop insurance saved some farmers like Hutchinson, along with the soybean crop, which is more salvageable than corn. The NASS projects the soybean crop to be less than last year, with 21 percent drop harvested in August and September.

"The crop insurance will cover a lot of the out-of-pocket money, but it still allows me not to have a train wreck on cash flow basis," Hutchinson said. "We bush hogged 150 acres of the corn, and I could have a lot of it. We planted that right back in soybeans. Whether they will make it still up in the air."

Hutchinson planted his late soybean crop July 15, almost a week and a half later than normal. If any kind of frost hits in October, his late soybean crop will be lost, he said.

"I have never done that and I could have done a lot of it," Hutchinson said. "Plus, it's hard to take a bush hog into a field to cut down corn. That's just wrong." ■



Farmer Glenn Hutchinson examines some of uncombined corn in the field beside his Rutherford County home. Photo by Emily West

## CRIME BRIEFS

### ASSAULT Nicks Hall

Oct. 2, 3:13 a.m.

Authorities responded to a call regarding a fight at Nicks Hall. All parties had been separated by the time officers had arrived. The officers spoke to all parties involved, and no one wanted to press charges at this time. Residential life provided alternative housing for the involved parties for that evening. University administration will handle the discipline in this matter.

### TRAFFIC Vocational Agricultural Lot

Oct. 2, 4:09 p.m.

A complainant reported that her vehicle had been struck while parked on campus.

### THEFT Recreation Center

Oct. 3, 11:23 a.m.

A complainant reported that his cell phone was stolen.

### THEFT Greenland Drive Lot B

Oct. 3, 5:23 p.m.

A complainant reported that his vehicle had been broken into.

### THEFT John Bragg Mass Communication Building

Oct. 3, 7:36 p.m.

A complainant reported a theft of a library book from the restroom.

### HARASSMENT Corlew Hall

Oct. 4, 8:15 a.m.

A complainant reported she was receiving harassing phone calls.

### THEFT Alma Mater Drive

Oct. 4, 4:52 p.m.

A complainant reported that her vehicle had been broken into.

### TRAFFIC Alumni Drive

Oct. 5, 2:26 a.m.

Authorities issued Rico McClinton, 21, a citation for driving without a license.



## MTSU in talks to purchase former MTMC property

By Jordan Powell  
Staff writer

MTSU received the green light from the Tennessee Building Commission to begin negotiations with Middle Tennessee Medical Center to purchase the former hospital site east of downtown Murfreesboro.

"As a growing campus, space is always an issue," said university President Sidney A. McPhee. "It continues to be a major issue on campus. Even after we've added ... the science building we're constructing ... the student union and ... the new education building, we still have the least square-footage per student in ... the state."

The university said in a press release that the 17.4-acre site on North Highland Avenue will be used by the university for unspecified academic purposes if acquired. The site includes a 115,000-square-foot building and a 143,000-square-foot parking garage with 407 parking spaces and 188 surface parking spaces.

The university received approval from the state building commission's executive subcommittee to obtain the title work for the former hospital site, as well as an appraisal, survey and a phase one environmental assessment in late June.

"We are in negotiation at this stage with the hospital in purchasing their property," McPhee said. "The proposal has not been



The new property could help create much needed office space for many faculty. Photo by Zach Hampton.

finalized, so we are at a very sensitive stage. [This] is a pretty big step for us, but it'll take another 30 to 60 days to ... come to a conclusion [on the price]."

Gordon B. Ferguson, MTMC president and CEO, stressed the neighborhood that the hospital once called home is a top priority. "MTMC is committed to the old hospital grounds blending well with the neighborhood," Ferguson said. "We are encouraged by our discussions with the university for the potential purchase of the land and the Bell Street building. I think it's consistent with the university's master plan, and ... would be received well by the community, which has been our desire all along."

Located less than a mile from the campus's western edge, the building acquisition could potentially save the university some money.

Many MTSU programs rent space around the city, McPhee said.

With the addition of

the property, the university could "leverage" the old hospital space and reduce spending on outsourced teaching space.

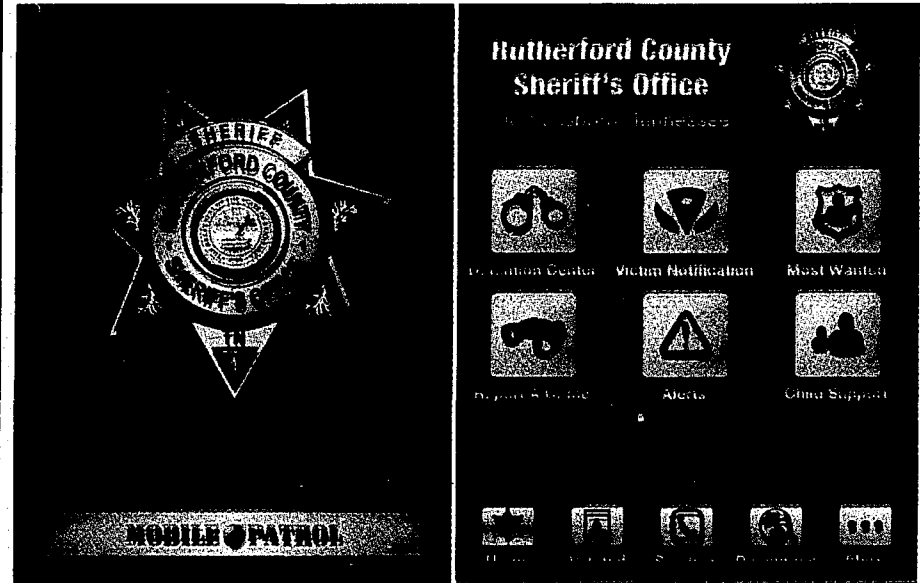
The decision of which departments will utilize the space is still under discussion; however, McPhee named one department with an upper hand.

"One college that will have premier space in that area will be the College of Business," McPhee said. "We know that one of the departments in the College of Business, and maybe more than one, will have a major space in that facility."

McPhee said the facility is in "relatively good shape."

However, in order to make the facility ready for academic use, renovations will have to be made — though McPhee declined specifics and said, "There are no plans for that property right now." ■

## App provides Rutherford Co. with crime information



The new app helps connect citizens of Rutherford County with their local law enforcement and provide information regarding criminal activity. Screenshot by Richel Albright.

By Alex Reeves  
Contributing writer

According to Rutherford County Sheriff's Department, the county was the second in the United States to release a new smartphone application during September that was designed to connect residents to law enforcement.

TNRutherfordSO is a free app that uses "push notifications," which display information on the users' home screen to provide current information of incidents throughout the county. The application is available for iPhone and Android users.

The application features information for citizens in jail, accounts of criminals, victim notification, county alerts, the ability to report a crime, arrest warrants, available attorneys, bail bonds, facility location, police directory and the capacity to see who has

skipped child support payments.

"Imagine a child is abducted by a purple van," said Tim Lee, director of Appriss Inc. "We send out an Amber Alert, notifying the population that the child is missing. We also attach a description of the van and child. Now, imagine that you're filling up your gas tank at a gas station and you happen to see a suspicious purple van. You notify us using the app, and within minutes, the abductor can be caught."

Law enforcement members are finding the application useful, too.

"Some police officers have started using the app," said Lisa Marchesoni, public information officer of Rutherford County. "It's a good way to keep track of who is incarcerated, and who isn't."

The idea for the app started with Lt. Larry Pace and Appriss Inc.,

who worked together.

"The idea came about a year ago, and it was handed off to Appriss who handled the Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE), and things took off from there," Pace said.

VINE, which is also incorporated into the application, is responsible for notifying victims when offenders or other threats are released. From there, version one of this application was started in Washington County, Ark., and was successful.

"Of the 200,000 people in the county, 60,000 currently use the application," Lee said. "Version two of the application, which is what Rutherford County has been outfitted with, has been downloaded over 2,000 times within the past two weeks across 44 states and 10 different countries." ■

## COVER STORY

## Tennessee photo ID takes spotlight in early voting drive

By Alex Hubbard  
Campus news editor

A Nashville-based group of activists and students concerned about new voter-identification requirements plan for a massive early-voting push, but different rules and concerns led to a divergent MTSU effort.

Operation "Wake Up and Vote early," known as W.A.V.E, plans for Nashville area college students to vote in mass on Oct. 20.

The movement is the result of meetings held at Nashville's Spruce Street Baptist Church, headed up by Tennessee Citizen Action, an advocacy group, and includes students from several Nashville campuses, such as Vanderbilt and Fisk universities. The group has plans to reach out to other colleges.

"It's to get [students] to vote early and to get them to stand in solidarity with students as well as others who are affected by this new photo ID to vote law," said Mary Mancini, Tennessee Citizen Action's executive director. "It's also a way in which students can vote, and we can make a record of them voting, and we can show that, yes, students are absolutely allowed to vote in Tennessee without anything encumbering them, just like every other person who is a resident of Tennessee."

Mancini said that students with out-of-state identification who may be challenged on



Many people believe the new voter ID laws discriminate against minorities, elderly and college-aged voters. Photo by Taylor Humphrey.

their eligibility should be able to present their voter-registration card as proof they can vote.

State law requires a government-issued photo identification be presented at the polls to vote, such as a driver's license or other state or federally-issued ID, including a passport or military ID.

In response to this, the Tennessee State Department of Safety and Homeland Security is offering free voter photo identification.

These can be obtained at any Driver Service Center during normal business hours or at selected centers on Saturday, Nov. 3.

For a list of locations, visit [news.tn.gov/node/9523](http://news.tn.gov/node/9523).

Proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate, and two proofs of address are required to receive the identification.

At the heart of W.A.V.E's activism is apprehension toward the law's condition that student identification from state universities cannot be presented to vote.

"That's the only part of the law that is specific about what you cannot use," Mancini said, explaining that MTSU employees could use their university ID. "So it's very clear in the law that students are being singled out."

Out-of-state students at one local university were encouraged not to vote in Tennessee at all.

Vanderbilt strongly encouraged out-of-state students to vote absentee in their home state this year, citing residency requirements in the photo ID law and financial aid considerations.

"It is possible that students using an out-of-state driver's license

continued on page 7

continued from page 6

or a passport with an out-of-state address may have their residency challenged at the polls," an email to university students stated. "A change of residency status may jeopardize eligibility for financial assistance that is based upon residence in another state. Students receiving such assistance should review the residency requirements under their out-of-state financial aid or scholarship and grant programs before registering to vote in Tennessee."

Blake Fontenay, communications director for Tennessee Department of State, said that properly registered students should be able to vote even with an out-of-state ID.

"If there is a student from Illinois, and they are properly registered in Rutherford County, all they have to do is show their Illinois driver's license, and they should be able to vote with no problem," Fontenay said.

Fontenay said he could not speak to residential requirements but did say that voting in Tennessee could be interpreted as a residency claim.

"They shouldn't be registered to vote in two states," Fontenay said. "So you are in effect saying you are a Tennessee resident. I am not sure how that would affect consideration as an in-state versus out-of-state student."

Though several MTSU faculty members have attended W.A.V.E meetings, the Oct. 4 meeting marked the first time that there was student representation of the campus.



Volunteers from the League of Women Voters work with the American Democracy Project to register students to vote in Peck Hall. Volunteers estimated that more than 100 students had been registered that day. Photo by Matt Masters.

"This is a great initiative they're taking," said Joshua Moore, 21, a senior philosophy major who attended. "The more campuses you get involved, absolutely the better impact you are going to have."

Moore is a member of MTSU's American Democracy Project.

ADP director Mary Evins said she would be open to coordinating an event similar to or in conjunction with W.A.V.E. but said the difference between the two counties' early-voting hours on Oct. 20 complicates efforts.

Davidson early voting runs all day that Saturday, while Rutherford is only in the morning, from 8 a.m. to noon. W.A.V.E chose to go vote collectively specifically that day.

Evins also said her focus is more on regis-

tration and turnout than voter identification.

"The majority of our students drive," Evins said. "And if they did not bring a car here to campus, the majority of them have a driver's license for when they go home to stay with Mom and Dad, and I just don't think it's going to be a real hardship."

Although Evins said she did not plan to have bus transportation to voting locations, which MTSU has done in the past and W.A.V.E plans to do, MTSU students could be turned out with cooperation of other campus organizations like SGA.

"We could do it here," Evins said. "If we have several campus organizations that want to partner with us to make it happen."



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# Sherlock, student body president, example of perseverance

**By Amanda Gary**  
Contributing writer

The white board on the right side of Coby Sherlock's office will tell you much of what you need to know about him. It's full of messages from other students written in dry-erase markers of all colors.

"You are the man!"

"The future is bright!"

"I love you!"

His phone rings. "Coby Sherlock," he proudly says.

This is the office of MTSU's student body president.

In the eyes of his friends and fellow peers, Sherlock makes persevering look easy, but when he tells his story, you realize that determination and hard work pay off.

Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans on Aug. 29, 2005. The day before, Sherlock, his mother, Tiffany, and his brother, Gage, evacuated their home of 14 years. He and his family never returned to live there. This was the rapid start to his new life in Greenbrier, Tenn.

His family lost everything they owned and moved two states over to live with a hodgepodge of relatives, which included his biological mom and brother, her former husband and his new wife, and his step-grandmother.

"My family made me the way I am. We are all very young, and we each face our own individual challenges. Even with the divorces



A younger Coby (second from the left) is pictured with his cousins, Spencer Poche and Ernie Day, his uncles, Nicolas and Matthew Sherlock, and his father John Sherlock. Photo courtesy of Sherlock family.

and trials, we all still have that connection," he said.

For two months they all lived in a double-wide trailer. His first Sunday in Greenbrier, four families took him

shopping for new clothes. The next day, he began 9th grade at Greenbrier High School.

At his apartment, Sherlock rummaged through a KSwiss

shoebox that holds all his belongings he saved from Katrina. He pulled out his speech to his junior high school class and began reading his promises he would fulfill if he was elected

class president. "Wow, I've gotten a lot better at writing speeches," he said, with a laugh that shook his whole body.

Each piece of paper, photo or drawing brings a new memory to the

surface – all the way back to his 5th grade year at Lacoste Elementary School, where he won "student of the month." In the picture, he has a shiner on his left eye because he had





At campus reception with (left to right) Rachel Mitchell, Tiffany Cochran (mother), Coby Sherlock, Jamie Sherlock (stepmother) and John Sherlock (father). Photo courtesy of the Sherlock family.

recently gotten into a fight outside of school. Talking to him, you realize this picture is not surprising. In fact, one should expect nothing else. Outside school, he is the life of the party, always a part of the social buzz. But when it comes to school, encouraging his peers and making good grades, he is always on what he calls "his A-game."

Jim Sorrells is a name Sherlock likes to bring up. Sorrells, the son of Sherlock's high school principal, showed him around the town of Greenbrier and offered him friendship when he knew no one.

"Jim was one of the most influential people

in my life," Sherlock said. "Jim is the reason I decided to keep moving forward."

In August 2009, Sherlock enrolled at MTSU.

to be a Student Orientation Assistant.

"I realized it was important to meet people outside my fraternity. Who I allowed in my life

"Involvement is so important to me because I am a standing witness. If you can stay involved and find your niche, you can be successful," Sher-

lock said. The day is finally over. After a long day of classes, sending budget emails and talking to students and faculty, it's time for Coby to punch his

time card. As he walked through the lobby of the Student Union building, his name was shouted from all directions. Once again, his peers are eager

future looks bright with dreams of being a sports agent, a husband, a father and someday a Supreme Court judge. Coby Sherlock is a

“My family made me the way I am. We are all very young, and we each face our own individual challenges. Even with the divorces and trials, we all still have that connection.”

During his first semester in college, his GPA was a 1.8.

He knew he needed a change in environment, so he decided to join Beta Theta Pi and apply

was important," he said. Sherlock was the kid who would try anything in high school. If it wasn't football, it was drumline, bowling or debate team.

lock said. The day is finally over. After a long day of classes, sending budget emails and talking to students and faculty, it's time for Coby to punch his

to shake his hand, tell him hello or simply catch his attention. And they do. Sherlock stops and takes time with each person calling his name. Just like his past, his

president who can't stop smiling even when he's upset and a president who chooses to lead his peers by his example. ■

## RANTS AND RAVES

**October 10-14**

The Amazing Spider-Man

Wed.-Thurs. at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.;

Fri.-Sun. at 7 p.m.  
Student Union Theater

Admission: \$2



Looking for a cheap night of entertainment this week? Go see the classic Marvel Comics' character, Peter Parker, in "The Amazing Spider-Man" at the Student Union Theater. Andrew Garfield ("The Social Network," "Never Let Me Go") and Emma

Stone ("Superbad," "The Help") star in the highly anticipated superhero film, released this past summer. The story follows an outcast, high-school teen (Garfield) who is bitten by a radioactive spider, fights off villains and tries to win his dream girl's heart.

Parker discovers his deceased father's secrets stashed away in a briefcase and begins a journey to understand his parents' disappearance. He then bumps into Dr. Curt Connors, his father's former partner, whose alter-ego becomes Spider-Man's nightmare.

**October 11**

The Langoliers with Tennessee Scum, Roman Polanski's Baby and Chrome Pony  
9 p.m., 3 Brothers Deli & Brewhouse  
223 W. Main St.  
Admission: FREE  
Age: ALL



Get ready for a night of punk rock and rock 'n' roll at 3 Brothers on Thursday. Some of Murfreesboro's finest bands will be performing for your entertainment — The Langoliers, Tennessee Scum and Roman Polanski's Baby. The Langoliers, headliner

of the show, posted their latest music video "Body and Soul" on their Facebook page.

Nashville-based Chrome Pony will kick off the evening. Enjoying four bands in one night for free is hard to pass up. If you are new to the area and have not had the

chance to explore downtown Murfreesboro or check out the local music scene, this is a perfect opportunity to try something new.

Go support local music, people!

**October 11**

Crystal Castles with HEALTH and Kontravoid

Doors open at 8 p.m.; Show starts at 9 p.m.  
Marathon Music Works  
1402 Clinton St., Nashville

Admission: \$26+  
Age: 18+



The Canadian electronica duo Crystal Castles will be in Nashville on Thursday. If you haven't heard their music yet, you are in for a surprise. It is a unique style that is an acquired taste. It is almost demented and thrilling at the same time. Joining the duo will

be HEALTH and Kontravoid, who are also not your typical electronica performers. There is eerie feeling to these performers' music, which is why many people are attracted to them. It will be an interesting event, that's for sure. Although the sound is different and catchy,

spending over \$20 may not be worth it unless you are a big fan. Have fun trying to ask the person standing next to you what the vocalist of CC, Alice Glass, is saying, because no one knows. Go to Marathon Music Works' website to purchase tickets.

**October 12**

Who's Bad: The Ultimate Michael Jackson Tribute Band with 80s DJ set by Coach

8:30 p.m.  
Marathon Music Works  
1402 Clinton St., Nashville

Admission: \$15+  
Age: 18+



Sometimes tribute bands can be corny and boring. However, this tribute band has it all: the legendary voice, the famous choreography and the iconic clothing. Who's Bad is the longest running Michael Jackson tribute band, mesmerizing audiences since

2004. The group will be performing numerous hits from Jackson's repertoire, including a few Jackson 5 tunes. This high-energy show will have you on your feet in no time, singing along to the pop classics. Adored by many around the world, this band will please even

the most die-hard MJ fans. Experience what is arguably the closest rendition of the late King of Pop. Go to Marathon Music Works' website for tickets and more information about this incredible tribute band.

**October 12-13**

Grace Potter & The Nocturnals with Natalie Prass

8 p.m., Ryman Auditorium

116 Fifth Ave. N., Nashville

Admission: \$30+



Grace Potter & The Nocturnals is coming back to Nashville for two nights in a row. The rock beauty and her band are touring to promote their new album, *The Lion The Beast The Beat*, which has received mixed reviews from critics. The album is said to be a mix

of hard-hitting rock with a '70s vibe. There is no doubt that this Vermont-based singer-songwriter and her band have talent. The group plays up to 200 shows a year.

Opening the event will be Nashville-native Natalie Prass. This edgy indie-rock performer is

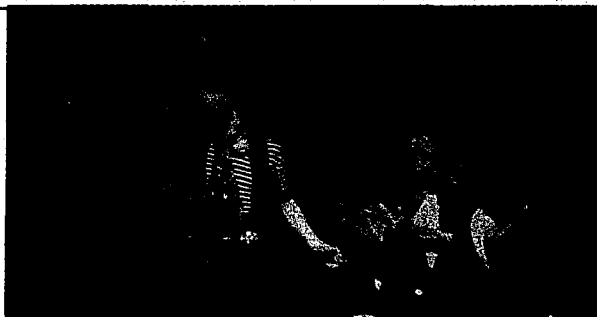
an up-and-coming songwriter to look out for. She can sing her heart out, too.

To purchase tickets, go to the Ryman Auditorium's website.

## RANTS AND RAVES

### October 12

Fable Cry with Scott Fernandez, The Dapper Dan Man Band, Tomato Face Bass and Jose and Mary 8:30 p.m., 3 Brothers Deli & Brewhouse 223 W. Main St. Admission: \$5



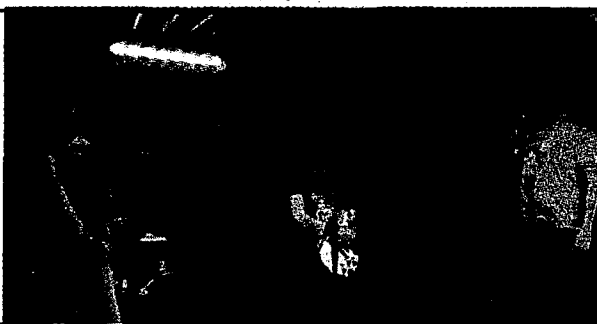
The gypsy rock duo, Fable Cry, will be at 3 Brothers on Friday. The Nashville-based brother and sister band will put on a wild show that will keep you entertained. They are performers who draw their musical inspiration from all things creative and imaginary. Join-

ing the duo will be bass player, Scott Fernandez; the party folk group, The Dapper Dan Man Band; the experimental funk Tomato Face; and the alternative soul duo Jose and Mary. All of these performers are different from each other, which some think makes for the

best live shows. All have their own style that will keep you dancing as you make your multiple trips to the bar. Music lovers, keep this event in mind while making your weekend plans.

### October 13

Young Wolves with Ace of Coins and Vortices 10 p.m., Wall Street 121 N. Maple St. Admission: \$5 Age: 21+



It's a night full of rock music on Saturday at Wall Street. Young Wolves will be performing along with Ace of Coins and Vortices. You may have heard of the lead singer of Young Wolves, Greg Stephens, in his other band, The Thank You Ma'ams, at

a few cramped house shows. If you are a fan of his, then go see Stephens and his sludge rock band, which will provide you with needed breakdowns and guitar shredding toward the end of the show. Nashville's own Ace of Coins will open the show, and it is described as a

high-energy rock/alternative band.

Go down to Wall Street with some friends and have a good time.

Don't forget to give the big bouncer your \$5.

### October 13

2nd Annual Brewsboro Festival 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., The Avenue 2615 Medical Center Parkway Admission: \$25+ Age: 21+



It's back, ladies and gents. The Brewsboro Festival will be here on Saturday at The Avenue. Enjoy brews from local, regional, national and imported breweries while devouring food from some of Murfreesboro's best restaurants. Attendees will have an opportu-

nity to become educated about the brews as well as learn how to make their own at home. Live music will be provided while you sip your way through the festival. This would be a fun outing for everyone, including friends, family and couples who are the legal

drinking age. This event sold out last year, so hurry up and get your tickets while you still can.

You can find your tickets online at brewsborofest.com.

Drink responsibly, folks.

### October 13

Zombie Walk Register at 3 p.m., Walk at 4 p.m. Riverfront Park and Fort Nashboro 170 1st Ave. N., Nashville Admission: FREE



Have a bloody good time at the Nashville Zombie Walk on Saturday. It's a free event held on World Zombie Day. Attendees will gather to dress up as gruesome man-eaters while supporting a cause. Participants are asked to bring non-perishable goods for

Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee. You do not need to be an actor to participate in this unique event. Just dress up, look dead and limp down the street. If you do not plan to dress up or drench yourself in fake blood on Saturday, it would be best if you did

not attend.

This should be a monstrously fun day in Nashville.

All ages are allowed to attend so be prepared to hear some little monsters scream.

### October 14

Nashville Chili Festival 12 p.m. to 3 p.m., Yazoo Brewing Company 910 Division St., Nashville Admission: \$10/\$20; FREE for children 6 and under Ages: ALL



Since the weather is starting to get a bit nippy, how about attending a chili festival to warm up? The Nashville Chili Festival benefits Community Shares, an organization that works to provide Tennesseans with a clean environment, affordable health care, jobs, freedom

from violence and more. Other than chili tastings there will be music, activities and a pepper-eating contest for you dare devils. Since the event is being held at the Yazoo Brewing Company, you can bet that there will be beer to put out the fire in your mouth. For all the

food lovers, you may even find a new spin on chili that you haven't experienced before. For more information about Community Shares and to purchase tickets, go to the Nashville Chili Festival's website.

# 'New Girl' season two matures from 'adorkable' to established

By Amanda Gambill  
Contributing critic

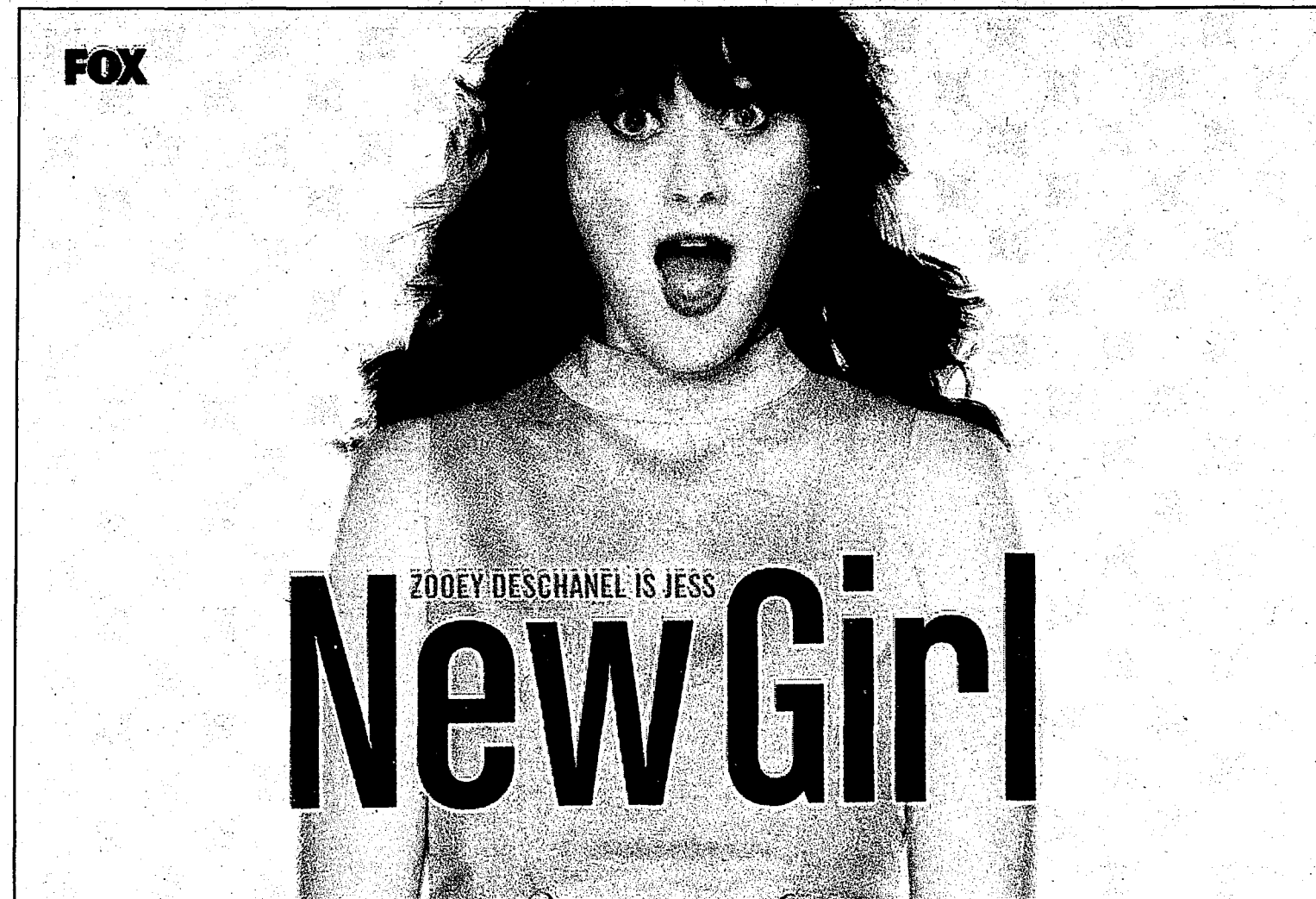
When the leaves turn brown and the air becomes crisp, people shake out their blankets, wrap up in scarves and order anything pumpkin-flavored. Along with these fall activities, people turn on their televisions to tune into new seasons of old favorites. One of these new fan-favorites is Zooey Deschanel's "New Girl."

Last season, viewers saw Deschanel's character, Jess, come from a one-note "adorkable" character to a fully-formed, interesting character who didn't just sing everything.

The first season also ended with Jess and Nick (Jake Johnson) not getting together — despite undeniable chemistry — Schmidt (Max Greenfield) and Cece (Hannah Simone) breaking up and Winston (Lamorne Morris) not really having any storyline to carry over into season two.

Season two has hit the ground running with three episodes ("Re-Launch," "Katie," "Fluffer") under its belt, and it has many viewers slightly surprised and slightly nodding their heads with the predictable moments.

First, it is obvious the writers want to keep tugging the audience's heartstrings by teasing the Nick-and-Jess romance. "Fluffer" touched on this the strongest, during which both characters actually admitted they had thought about being in a relationship before



Deschanel's 'adorkable' character, Jess Day, grows up a little in the second season of the Fox-hit 'New Girl' which airs Tuesdays at 8 p.m. Photo courtesy of Fox.

— but the great thing about Jess and Nick's relationship is their crazy dynamic of being together while not being together.

I truly hope the writers of "New Girl" continue to tease, but never please the viewers. Having two main characters fall into a relationship is the easy, quick way to go, but eventually they either have to break up or become boring.

This is seen in the first season with Schmidt and Cece's relationship. While it was a great dynamic at first — the tough, beautiful

girl falling for the dorky guy is a great story — it may quickly fall off track. This season hints that rather than make things messy, the writers will focus on Schmidt and Cece's personal growth.

Schmidt's character has been inconsistent so far. He is struggling because of his obvious lingering feelings for Cece, which makes the viewers wonder why they broke up. One moment they were smiling at each other in an old folks' home, and the next they were over. I predict they will get

back together, but it will be slower and more emotional than it was in season one.

Did I forget Winston? It's OK because so did the writers of "New Girl." His storylines have consisted of a love of fruity drinks and imagining other women than his girlfriend. "Fluffer" offered the chance for Winston to have an actual storyline with his girlfriend about their cooling relationship, but it went nowhere. His family was even in an episode, and, somehow, Schmidt became the main focus.

If the writers don't do something with Winston, he may go the way of Coach. Remember him? Thought so.

Despite the inconsistencies, the writers are amazing at one-liners, quick wit, zany scenarios and friendship dynamics — but I don't believe they have figured out how to write about something that can stick other than friendship. Maybe that's the point. Maybe this season's overall theme will be about how all things change, except friendship, but that seems too cheesy

for these witty writers.

The second season has started off strong — Jess's character in particular has done a complete 180 — and I hope it will end even stronger. No longer can we call "New Girl" "adorkable;" it has evolved past that. "New Girl" is now an established TV show with established characters. All the writers have to do is establish a clear storyline, add that quick humor we all love, and don't disappoint. ■



# Looper proves to be more than the average action film

By Claire Osburn  
Contributing critic

While moviegoers in today's society have grown far too accustomed to the over-used theme of high action and a low plot that exists in a majority of present-day action films, "Looper" will pleasantly surprise viewers.

Presenting a fresh perspective to the psychological/science-fiction/action genre, "Looper" boasts an impressive cast and original storyline, written and directed by Rian Johnson ("Brick," "Brother's Bloom"). Yet, it relies on its audience's intelligence as it unfolds details at its own pace rather than wasting time by over-explaining every minute detail.

The year is 2044, and the United States is almost unrecognizable in the aftermath of an economic demise. Vagrants now roam the streets, and 10 percent of the population possess kinetic abilities. Organized crime now runs Kansas City at the hands of mob-appointed boss from the future, Abe (Jeff Daniels, "The Newsroom").

Enter Joseph Gordon-Levitt ("The Dark Knight," "Inception") as Joe, one of Abe's minions, a paid assassin tasked with executing the future's trash. Blunderbuss in one hand, pocket watch in the other, the hit men, or loopers, repeatedly blow away those hooded and bound who have been deemed not



Joseph Gordon-Levitt stars in the action film 'Looper' where he is assigned to kill an older version of himself played by Bruce Willis. Photo courtesy of manilovefilm.org

worthy of existing in the future society of 2074.

In that world, time travel has been invented but remains illegal, causing it to be utilized only at the discretion of the Rainmaker – a corrupt, futuristic dictator.

Once the hired guns have served their purpose, they too are sent from the future to be finished off by the younger version of themselves, which means a large, final payday for the loopers and a timer of 30 years set on the remainder of their lives.

When Gordon-Levitt's older counterpart, played by Bruce Willis ("Moonrise Kingdom," "Pulp Fiction") – who's clearly in his niche – inevitably shows up, he is able to escape his younger self in pursuit of his own personal vendetta and halts the mandatory process of

closing one's loop.

A race to right the blunder ensues, but the real highlights are the leading men themselves, with the acting chops of a rapidly-rising young star equally matching that of the seasoned action veteran.

However, if you find yourself puzzled at the absence of the baby-face that has come to be known and loved as that of Gordon-Levitt's, be forewarned that he is wearing prosthetics, in an effort to increase his resemblance to Willis. This measure proves a tad excessive, as Gordon-Levitt clearly mastered the dangerously cool Willis scowl.

But alas, where would we be without our leading ladies? Piper Perabo ("Covert Affairs," "Coyote Ugly") impresses as sexy lady of the night Suzie, who piques the interest of

a young Joe. The real female standout, however, comes in the form of Emily Blunt ("The Devil Wears Prada," "The Five-Year Engagement"), exchanging her British accent for a Southern one as Sara, a saucy, fiercely protective mother of Cid (the excellently cute, creepy Pierce Gagnon), who provides a safe haven at her farm to the younger

Joe.

"Looper" does more to ensure its audience won't leave disappointed – other than stacking its cast – by finishing with as much grit as it began with and implementing plot twists and turns throughout until the bitter end. It cleverly succeeds in dodging the usual inevitable fate of major productions; a predictable ending to an


equally predictable film.

Let's just hope this film serves a greater purpose by changing the norm that has come to be known as the typical action film, so no more overly hyped, under-acted, plot-less, waste-of-two-hours-of-my-life's have to be endured.

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# OPINIONS

## War on drugs costly to society, government

By Alex Harris  
Opinions editor

Common knowledge says drugs are generally bad: they'll ruin your life, damage the community and contribute to crime.

But what if common knowledge is wrong? What if the most damaging aspect of drugs is the war against them?

A quick look at headlines from across the nation over the last few years shows a significant number of articles that detail botched drug raids, raids on legitimate businesses in medicinal marijuana states, rising prison populations and criminal violence to protect drug revenues.

A majority of Americans agree that the drug war has failed and something new needs to be done, according to almost every poll on the subject.

Our prison population has boomed over the last 40 years, rising from 300,000 in 1972 to 2.3 million in the beginning of 2011, according to a Global Commission on Drug Policies paper. This makes America the No. 1 nation in the world for incarcerating citizens, topping even China and Russia. The same paper identifies that we spend around \$68 billion annually on incarcerations.

That doesn't include the cost of increased police forces and more operations and equipment. Yet, even with an increase in enforcement, the percentage of our population that uses drugs has increased, and the drugs have gotten more dangerous.

When the drug war



Alex Harris

first began in the 1970s, the hardest drugs commonly available were heroin and LSD. And then crack came into existence in the mid-80s. The mid-90s saw a surge in meth production and use, and the 2000s saw a wave of prescription drug abuse.

The most recent evolution of this problem is the creation of synthetic marijuana and bath-salts: drugs created as a way around drug prohibition that are clearly guilty of causing freak-outs, hospitalizations, murders and suicides.

Additionally, it can be argued that we could avoid a lot of the violence that results from the drug trade if it weren't illegal. A lot of "drug-dealing" is done by organized crime, such as cartels and gangs. And much of the violence can be attributed to territorial issues related to income for their organization and themselves, fighting law enforcement's disruption of their trade and protecting their business from other criminals.

If the drug trade were legal and regulated, then the dealers wouldn't use violence to fight the law or each other. They

would be able to call the police in cases of theft, rather than having to take retribution into their own hands.

Prohibition of alcohol – the socially acceptable drug of choice for America – in the 1920s offers a prime example of the ineffectiveness of a drug prohibition policy.

During the almost 14 years of prohibition, crime and violence related to booze increased dramatically. Eventually, society agreed that the costs were much worse with prohibition than they were

and deaths of innocent people and an occasional dog-shooting. If police raid your home for drugs, whether they have the right residence or not, it seems to be standard operating procedure to shoot household dogs, considering how often it occurs.

Additionally, an innocent person raided by the police, who, as a law-abiding citizen, attempts to challenge the perceived intruder with a firearm, will most likely wind up a casualty on an incident report. A 61-year-old man from Lebanon, Tenn., found

has reported a number of incidents around Tennessee involving police departments confiscating large amounts of money from travelers with no evidence of a drug connection, as well as other policing for profit incidents.

With this sort of damage to communities, carried out in the name of law enforcement, it should be clear that we need a change in our national drug policy.

"But don't drugs damage the community? Won't legalization or decriminalization

deal with this societal problem.

Portugal decriminalized drugs across the board in 2000, when about 1 percent of their population was addicted to drugs. Under a decriminalization policy, drugs are still illegal, but offenders get counseling and treatment instead of jail-time.

As a result of this policy, the number of people who tried drugs rose, but the number of those addicted to drugs fell, lowering the societal costs of drug use. Additionally, the street value for many drugs fell, making them less profitable for dealers.

The lesson it took our country 14 years to learn with alcohol has taken 40 years to still not learn with the other drugs. Prohibition of a vice leads to more crime and continuous government spending in a vain attempt to stop people from enjoying themselves in a fashion some see as immoral.

Whether you think drugs are society's scourge or just a by-product of it, it should be acknowledged that fresh ideas and open debate are necessary steps to a better solution.

“Prohibition of alcohol (the socially-acceptable drug of choice for America) in the 1920s offers a prime example of the ineffectiveness of a drug prohibition policy.”

with alcohol as a legal, regulated business, and prohibition was repealed in 1933.

The Mexican Cartels, which have caused so much violence and terror that entire police forces in Mexico have resigned, are a byproduct of the 40-year-long drug war. Through its actions, our government has ensured them a healthy revenue flow, actually sold them weapons (Google Fast & Furious Scandal), and by waging war on them, encouraged the creation of military wings for the Cartels.

We also can't forget the violence and disorder attributable to the police.

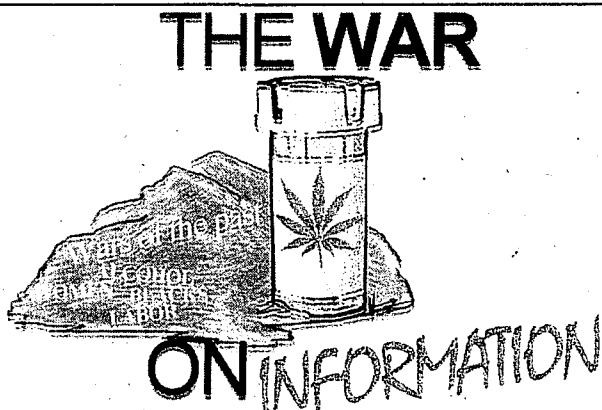
Police departments across the country are guilty of conducting wrong-door drug raids, resulting in the abuse

this out the hard way a month ago when police raided his home on faulty information and gunned him down.

And if they aren't violating the sanctity of your home, they're committing highway robbery under the guise of "asset forfeiture." Phil Williams of News Channel 5 in Nashville

turn our kids into drug fiends and mean that junkies will be shooting up in the streets?"

This argument is irrational fear-mongering that prevents a real discussion on the merits and consequences of our nation's drug policy. It prevents us from making any positive changes to how we



The 21st Century Target.

Comic created by Matt Masters

# Rethink Possible: Tailback unseats Smith for POTW honors

By Mark Mize  
Sports editor

MT running back Benny Cunningham's career day versus Georgia Tech on Sept. 30 made waves across the college football landscape, but it was not apparent until late that week just how many had taken notice of the senior's accomplishment.

The Nashville native, who hails from Goodpasture High School, was voted the AT&T All-American Player of the Week, a national award given to the Football Bowl Subdivision player with the most outstanding performance, according to the college football fans across the nation.

Cunningham ran through, over and around the Georgia Tech defense last Saturday, accounting for 217 rushing yards on 27 carries and five touchdowns, only one shy of the school record held by current Dallas Cowboys running back Phillip Tanner. The talented tailback also caught one pass out of the backfield for 12 yards, pacing the Blue Raiders to a 49-28 victory over their ACC opponent and a third-straight victory after dropping the season opener to McNeese State.

MT Head Coach Rick Stockstill said he was not surprised by his star running back's effort against the Yellow Jackets.

"Benny is one of the hardest workers that I have ever been around, whether we are in shorts



Running back Benny Cunningham dodges tackles during the homecoming University Louisiana-Monroe game Sat., Oct. 6. Photo by Drew Gardonia

or full pads, whether it's January at 5 a.m., or in the weight room," Stockstill said. "He's got a tremendous work ethic, and that is a credit to his family and how he has been raised."

Cunningham has suffered more than his fair share of injuries during his time in Murfreesboro, missing time in 2011 with a broken foot and being sidelined earlier this season with a shoulder injury that Stockstill said that still has him short of 100 percent. The coaching staff was not sure if he

would be able to play until two days before the Georgia Tech game.

However, the shoulder injury did little to slow him down in Atlanta in front of a crowd of 39,270.

His performance goes down as one of the top-10 single game rushing efforts in Blue Raider history and the 60-yard touchdown run that he ripped off in the second quarter of the Georgia Tech game is the longest run by an MT player since 2010, a 24-game stretch. The 200-yard effort also earned him

Sun Belt Conference Offensive Player of the Week from by a pair of outlets and the College Football Performance Football Awards National Running Back of the Week.

The AT&T All-America honor has sparked a bit of controversy among some college football fans, though. Four finalists are selected each week for the award by ESPN analysts, with the fan vote deciding the winner. Among those finalists was one Geno Smith, quarterback of

renowned offensive mastermind Dana Holgerson's West Virginia Mountaineers squad.

Smith, an early favorite for this year's Heisman Trophy, put together one of the most vaunted single-game passing performances in Football Bowl Subdivision history when he completed 45 of 51 passes for an astounding 656 yards and eight touchdowns in a shoot-out victory over Baylor. The game gave Smith a single-game passer rating of 248 for the performance and led many

to believe he would be named national player of the week hands down.

Upon hearing Cunningham had taken home the award over Smith, some fans took to Twitter to voice their displeasure at the MT product's selection.

The nation's fans had already spoken, though, selecting Cunningham as the AT&T All-America Player of the Week for the first time, but not necessarily the last, if the MT letterman has anything to say about it. ■

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