

Alert system success examined post shooting

By JORDAN BRIEN
Staff Writer

Campus officials said the MTSU emergency notification system was successful in sending and receiving alerts of Monday's shooting, considering the circumstances.

RAVE Mobility is the system used to connect messages with all cell phone carriers, e-mail and voice alerts, said Tom Tozer, the director of News and Public Affairs. "I receive word from the MTSU police that something has occurred

and prepare to send out the notifications," Tozer said. "But, I wait until I hear from the police to get confirmation that, in fact, an incident has happened." That does not always mean all of the information in the first alerts are 100 percent correct. The first

text reported a shooting at the Business and Aerospace Building, when it actually happened in front of the Keathley University Center. Tozer said that when an incident first occurs, no one knows all of the facts and witnesses tend to have slightly different versions of

the same incident. "Our job is to get a message out as soon as possible and as accurately as possible to let people know something has occurred," Tozer said. The initial text is to be short and to the point, Tozer said, and then is to be

followed up with additional messages that provide more details as the facts become more apparent. According to Tozer, the police must investigate the incident and establish credibility that something

SHOOTING, PAGE 3

Disbandment denied SGA votes to keep itself intact

The Student Government Association defended itself Thursday against student-submitted legislation that would disband the body by overwhelmingly voting down the bill - much to the surprise of no one.

Fifty students signed a petition to "dissolve" the SGA, citing that it has no university power. Eric Bisby, a senior majoring in pre-law, sponsored the bill.

"This bill is a warning," Bisby said, who admitted he has never been involved with the SGA until now. "We all have things to say, and all I ask is for [the SGA] to listen to us." Executive Vice President Samantha Cobb said she was confused as to why this happened.

"When I asked them why, the sponsors responded that if [the] SGA was not going to eliminate our own 'perks' that they were going to eliminate them for us," Cobb said.

Cobb said she believes it was important to bring the bill to the floor as soon as possible because if "students care enough about an issue to go through the trouble to write legislation and sign a petition, it is our duty to address their concerns."

Bisby said he believes SGA members are treated differently than other students, and accused officers of not being "accountable to anyone."

"They act like they are accountable to students, but the truth is, they act as a rubber stamp for the university's policies," Bisby said.

However, At-Large Sen. Gavin Mosley asked the petitioning students, "Could you possibly be kidding?"

Bisby said he believes the SGA should show student support instead of backing up university officials.

"I know that SGA doesn't have a lot of

By TODD BARNES
News Editor

power to dictate policy, but when the student body stands up and says, 'No, we don't want this done,' they can at least give us support instead of rubber-stamping the university's policies," Bisby said, citing the approval of the parking garage.

Although Bisby said he realized the Division of Student Affairs and the Tennessee Board of Regents govern the SGA, he said many students feel as though members have not fought against unpopular pieces of legislation enough.

SGA members should not receive Aramark food "perks," nor should they receive scholarships, Bisby said.

"Bisby was seeking to make a statement and the only statement that he made effectively is that he didn't base his legislation on the facts," Cobb said.

Bisby said the required grade point average standard is too low. Senators must maintain a 2.3 GPA and executive officers must have at least a 2.5 GPA, adding that the SGA receives scholarships that other "hardworking students deserve."

"We have students with 3.2 GPAs without scholarships," Bisby said. "Why should we give them to people with GPAs that low?"

However, executive officers are the only members who receive scholarships, and overall, the average GPA is 2.1 when accounting for the entire student population.

"I'm still confused because you want me to ignore students with low GPAs," said Sen. Sarah Hoover of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences.

Bisby's bill also accused Aramark of offering SGA members "free freshman

"They act like they are accountable to students, but the truth is, they act as a rubber stamp for the university's policies."

Eric Bisby
Senior, pre-law major

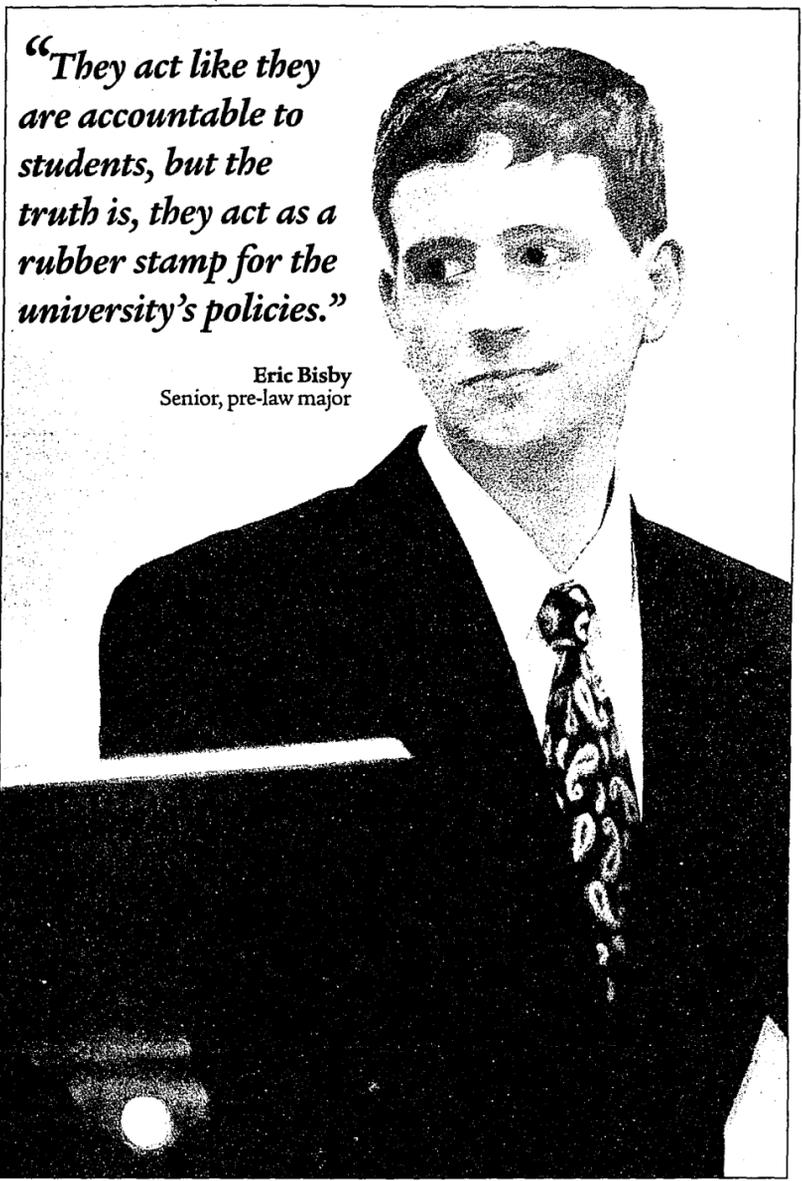


Photo by Drew Gardonia, staff photographer
Eric Bisby, a senior majoring in pre-law, prepares to present legislation Feb. 17 to the Student Government Association that would essentially disband the governing body.

SGA, PAGE 3



Photo by Drew Gardonia, staff photographer
(Left to right) At-Large Sen. Gavin Mosley addresses Eric Bisby's bill Feb. 17 during the Student Government Association meeting.



Sen. Scott Slater of the College of Liberal Arts, debates with fellow senators about alleged "perks" afforded to the SGA. In an almost unanimous vote, senators cast down Bisby's student proposed legislation.



At-Large Sen. Christopher Burks was the only SGA member to vote in support of the bill.

Up 'Til Dawn sponsors fundraiser for St. Jude

By JACKIE RIPPEE
Contributing Writer

Students and community members are close to reaching their \$35,000 goal for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, as of Friday's 12th annual Up 'Til Dawn event.

St. Jude is a pediatric treatment and cancer research center.

"I think it is a great cause," said Jordan Hall, a sophomore majoring in electronic media communication. "Students support this event because they get to come out for six hours and have fun while raising money for kids who needs it."

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity member

Fred Copeland presented a \$1,500 donation, collected from admission to the Feb. 5 step show.

The charity event featured a salsa-dancing lesson for students and community members, a rock band, singers and a hypnotist Barb Gambriell. Marko Campodonic, a sophomore majoring in biology, gave a speech about his experiences as a St. Jude patient and the "miracles" they worked to get him well.

Campodonic said he was born in Venezuela and was first diagnosed with Epithelioid Sarcoma Cancer when he was 13 months old.



Photo by Zach Wright, contributing photographer
Attendees participate in Up 'Til Dawn on Feb. 18 in the Health, Wellness and Recreation Center to raise money for St. Jude Children's Hospital.

UP 'TIL DAWN, PAGE 3

Progressive groups join political forces

By ALEX HARRIS
Staff Writer

Progressives in the Murfreesboro area said they now have an easier way to network and communicate with each other, as well as educate each other about their individual goals and movements.

"The purpose of the Progressive Community Alliance of Middle Tennessee to facilitate better networking and information sharing," said Jase Short, one of the group's organizers, who is a

member of MT Solidarity. The Progressive Community Alliance held its first meeting Thursday at Patterson Park.

"We live in a society in which we are divided against one another," Short said. "So, it is hard for us to stand together, and whenever we do, the circumstances are exceptional, but they begin to teach us something our ability to transform our society with deliberate collective activity."

The organizers of this

ALLIANCE, PAGE 3

INDEX

FEATURES
PAGE 4

OPINIONS
PAGE 5

SPORTS
PAGE 6

IN TODAY'S ISSUE



Find out what author Bart Ehrman believes are the faults in the New Testament.

PAGE 4

EXCLUSIVELY ONLINE



Learn about the life of Anne Bradstreet, an early-American poet who combated sexism.

NEWS

WEATHER



MONDAY
64/36

NATIONAL AP NEWS

Wisconsin's governor calls for Democrats to return

MADISON, Wis. (AP) Wisconsin's Republican governor says the Senate Democrats who fled the state to delay voting on a sweeping anti-union bill need to come back to the state and do their jobs.

Gov. Scott Walker tells "Fox News Sunday" that if Democrats want to participate in democracy they need to be in the arena, not hiding out.

Walker's bill would require government workers to contribute more to their health care and pension costs. It would also largely eliminate collective bargaining rights.

Walker says unions have too much power, which limits the ability of state and local governments to control spending. He says his bill will prevent layoffs.

Advanced energy grant money runs out for Ohio

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) - An increase in demand for grants to fund solar panels and advanced energy projects in Ohio prompted the state to stop taking requests and has left many applicants without thousands of dollars they hoped or expected to get.

The Columbus Dispatch reports the Department of Development stopped taking grant requests for the Advanced Energy Fund in November as money ran out. The program awarded \$15.6 million in grants for 161 solar-panel and wind-turbine projects from July to November.

THROUGH THE SIDELINES LENS



Photo courtesy of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity
Members of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity collected more than 350 articles of clothing Tuesday when they sponsored a Goodwill clothes drive outside of the Keathley University Center. Alex Mussleman, vice president of communications for the Sigma Phi Epsilon, said he and fellow members were impressed by how much students donated, noting one male student donated the shoes he had on his own feet before proceeding to class barefoot.

LOCAL AP NEWS

Director resigns from local community college

COOKEVILLE (AP) - The director of Nashville State Community College's Cookeville campus has resigned, setting off a search for her replacement.

Michelle Aheron resigned last week and served her last day Friday. Eileen Crane, executive assistant to the president of Nashville State Community College, told the Cookeville Herald-Citizen she'll be on campus Monday to get input from faculty and staff for a replacement.

Appeals Court upholds suit against La Vergne

LA VERGNE (AP) - The Tennessee Court of Appeals has ruled in favor of two La Vergne employees who filed a racial discrimination complaint against the city.

Anthony Corder, who is black, and Eric Boone, who is white, worked together in the Sewer Department.

Court testimony showed that Corder was exposed to racial slurs and jokes on a daily basis. When Corder and Boone complained, they were retaliated against in various ways.

The workers sued in June 2008 and a Rutherford County Chancery Court awarded \$300,000 to each plaintiff for retaliation and \$50,000 to Corder for the hostile work environment. The city appealed but the court Wednesday upheld the award.

Chief investment officer on administrative leave

NASHVILLE (AP) - The head of Nashville's \$2 billion pension investment fund has been placed on administrative leave after a newspaper reported his personal financial history wasn't so clean.

Metro Nashville Treasurer Lannie Holland told The Tennessean he investigated the matter and Chief Investment Officer Fadi BouSamra is on leave, but the time off isn't related to BouSamra's job performance or any allegations of impropriety.

BouSamra went on paid administrative leave Friday after a report The Tennessean raised issues surrounding his job application and personal finances.

Holland stressed that BouSamra has performed his job as expected. BouSamra did not return requests for comment.

CRIME BRIEFS

Feb. 16, 12:22 p.m.
Traffic
Greenland Drive, Lot C
Female student called to report her vehicle was hit in the Greenland Drive parking lot.

Feb. 16, 2:57 p.m.
Theft
Wright Music Building
A complainant reported that her saxophone had been stolen.

Feb. 16, 7:04 p.m.
Drugs
Corlew Hall
Sebastian A. Mills, 19, was issued a state citation for possession of marijuana and minor in possession of alcohol.

Feb. 16, 8:25 p.m.
Traffic
MTSU Boulevard
Ryan Hasuladen, 24, was issued a state citation for traveling on a closed road.

Feb. 16, 11:24 p.m.
Drugs
Rutledge Hall
Robbie Stewart, 18, was issued a state citation for drug paraphernalia and Talyn Powell, 18, was issued state citation for simple possession of marijuana.

Feb. 17, 8:05 a.m.
Traffic
MTSU Boulevard
Thomas Gacki, 26, was issued a state citation for driving on a closed road.

Feb. 17, 12:19 p.m.
Theft
Keathley University Center
A complainant reported that his backpack and books were stolen from the lockers near Phillips Bookstore.

Feb. 17, 1:50 p.m.
Theft
James E. Walker Library
A complainant reported that his backpack was stolen from the library.

Feb. 18, 1:49 a.m.
Alcohol
Greek Row
Joshua Harper, 20, was issued a citation for reckless driving and underage consumption and Bryan Brumit, 20, was issued a state citation for underage consumption.

Feb. 18, 3:00 a.m.
Alcohol
Alumni Drive
Lidya A. Aregai, 22, was arrested and charged with a D.U.I.

CRIME STOPPERS

A cash reward of up to \$300 is being offered for information that leads to the arrest of the person or persons who backed into a green Toyota Prius that was parked in the Fairview Building parking lot and drove off on Feb. 1, causing over \$200 worth of damage.

Anyone with information should contact the MTSU Office of Public Safety at 615-898-2424. All callers will remain anonymous.

LOCAL EVENTS ON CAMPUS

Brown Bag Tenure Lecture with Dr. H. Richard Milner IV
Feb. 22, 9 a.m.
Senate Faculty Room
FREE

QUESday
Feb. 22, 11 a.m.
Keathley University Center
Second Floor
FREE

Black History Mobile Museum
Feb. 23, 9 a.m.
KUC Knoll
FREE

Sesac Presents: Rock the Block
Feb. 22, 8 p.m.
Exit/In
Tickets: FREE

Music in the Lobby: Jazz vocalist Sylvia Thompson
Feb. 24, 6 p.m.
Frist Center for the Visual Arts
Tickets: FREE

Bangtango and Lionheart
Feb. 24, 7 p.m.
The Muse
Tickets: \$12 - \$15

Dr. Quito Swan's "Black Power in Bermuda" and Beyond
Feb. 23, 3 p.m.
KUC Theater
FREE

Black Girls Rock! Empowerment Forum
Feb. 24, 6 p.m.
Tom Jackson Building
FREE

Summer Jobs and Internships Fair
Feb. 23, 10 a.m.
Murphy Center Track
FREE

Heypenny: A Jillion Kicks CD Release Show
Feb. 26, 9 p.m.
Mercy Lounge
Tickets: \$7 - \$12

DJ Hashbrown
Feb. 27, 8 p.m.
Belmont Mansion
Tickets: FREE

Belmont Camarata: The Romantic Impulse
Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m.
Belmont Mansion
Tickets: FREE

EVENTS POLICY
Sidelines welcomes current campus and community events submitted by all readers. Please e-mail events@snews@mtsu.edu. Include the name, date, time and location of the event, as well as your name and contact information. We reserve the right to refuse events at our discretion as our space is limited.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

STUDENT AMBASSADORS 2011-2012

We are now accepting applications for our newest group of Student Ambassadors, the official hosts of the University.

The Student Ambassador program, sponsored by the MTSU Alumni Association, is an elite group of students that serve as representatives and hosts for MTSU. The Student Ambassador program is looking for enthusiastic, motivated students who want to use their talents and experience to serve their University.

Applications are available at the MTSU Alumni House, the KUC information desk and at www.mtalumni.com.

To apply to be a Student Ambassador, students must:

- Have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5
- Have completed at least one semester at MTSU
- Be able to serve from May 1, 2011 to April 30, 2012
- Attend one information meeting at the Alumni House



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT MOLLY COCHRAN AT mcochrana@mtsu.edu OR GO TO WWW.MTALUMNI.COM.



Photo by Zack Wright, contributing photographer
Student volunteers learn a line dance during Up 'Til Dawn's finale celebration Feb. 18 in the Health, Wellness and Recreation Center.

Students raise thousands for children's hospital

UP 'TIL DAWN FROM PAGE 1

Epithelioid Sarcoma Cancer is a rare tumor that usually grows on the extremities of young adults.

"It was actually a solid tumor that was growing on my spinal cord behind my lung," Campodonico said.

The doctors removed the tumor, fixed his lung and sent him home, but Campodonico said this is when things took a turn for the worse.

"A few weeks later, just when we thought that we were out of the woods," Campodonico said, "disaster struck again and one morning I just stopped walking."

Campodonico said his mom took him back to the hospital to find the source of the problem – the tumor.

"The doctors saw that the tumor grew back twice as hard, and it broke my spinal cord, which is why I'm in a wheelchair now," Campodonico said.

With the tumor growing back, Campodonico said he had two weeks to live.

"Just when we thought all hope was gone," Campodonico said, "my aunt who is a nurse in my country had heard of [St. Jude] in Memphis, Tenn., that could perform miracles."

Campodonico and his family were

on the first plane to St. Jude.

St. Jude doctors gave Campodonico two weeks to live, but they started using chemotherapy and radiation treatments, and he said he was cured in a matter of weeks.

"Thanks to St. Jude, these have been the longest two weeks of my life," Campodonico said.

Other activities included the annual cakewalk, bouncy boxing, speed pitch, lagoon of doom, kraken slide, a make your own music video, caricatures and raffle prizes.

Slick Pig, Blue Coast Burrito, Goodness Gracious, Pizza Hut and Domino's Pizza sponsored the event.

Some of Up 'Til Dawn's other major corporate sponsors include Aramark, Vineyard Vines, Southern Tide, Coast Apparel and Chums.

Students said they left with a favorite activity and a shared experience of helping to raise money for St. Jude.

"I love the caricatures," said Lindsey Austin, a senior majoring in public relations. "They are pretty awesome."

As a member of the Alpha Chi Omega Sorority, Austin said, "I think it's great for our campus to do such an amazing philanthropic activity."

Rachel Galliban, a freshman majoring in nursing and a member of Chi Omega Sorority, said, "The picture making was fun, and overall I'm having

a good time."

Almost 350 students attended the event and many of them said it was the first time they went to a charity event.

"I didn't know about it last year, and when they talked about it in our [sorority] meetings I thought it would be really fun," said Brittany Kitts, a junior majoring in nursing and a member of the Chi Omega Sorority.

Friday night was the finale for Up 'Til Dawn, said Jackie Victory, the faculty advisor for the event. There was also Cookin' For the Cure and the Great Lick-A-Thon.

"Cookin' For the Cure happened in the fall and is what we call a side event to help raise money and raise awareness," Victory said.

The Great Lick-A-Thon is a letter writing party where students write letters to family and people that they know to raise money since most college students do not have money to donate themselves, Victory said.

She said she has been involved with the event for 12 years and that she always looks forward to it.

"I think it's great, and I think it's a lot of fun," Victory said, "A lot of times students think that they can't have fun without being at a party, but this is a great way to show everybody that there are good, fun, clean things that you can do on campus to have a good time."

Legislation scrutinizes SGA 'perks'

SGA FROM PAGE 1

meal plans."

SGA members were visibly outraged by the accusations while Bisby read from his bill.

"What benefits do senators supposedly get?" asked Sen. Scott Slater of the College of Liberal Arts. "Have you done your research to see how many of us get meal plans?"

Sara E. Wallace, the marketing director for Aramark, said President Brandon Batts does receive a free freshman meal plan that is paid for out of Food Director "John Tate's pocket."

"We are a business," Wallace said. "We cannot give every student a free meal plan."

SGA presidents also receive a white parking pass, a meal plan and scholarship. Half of the vice president's tuition is also paid for through student activity fees.

Cobb said without the

SGA, students would not have a study day before finals, 24-hour library service during exams, express printing stations, numerous recycling bins, the Cyber Cafe would not accept meal plans, and campus eateries would not take debit or credit cards.

"We wouldn't have Middle Tennessee Boulevard as a road, gender identity and expression would not be protected in the SGA constitution, and African-American studies would not be offered as a replacement for other history courses," Cobb said.

To Cobb's knowledge, this is the first time a bill like this has been presented in MTSU's history, and she said she believes students should address their concerns through different means.

"Depending on the issue I had, I would start by going to the SGA portion of the MTSU website to gain information about my issue and contact my senators," Cobb said. "I

would attend a senate meeting – which are open – and voice my concerns or visit the SGA office and talk to someone."

Cobb said she believes that the petitioning students made a "spectacle" of themselves, and Bisby admitted he intended to cause a raucous because "shock sells."

Bisby said he does not believe the SGA will disband, nor does he want them to.

"I wanted to [present the bill] because I wanted to make an impression that 'if you guys aren't going to act as a democratic body, this is what we'll do,'" Bisby said.

After the vote, the Bisby left the meeting.

"I find it hard to believe that students who are genuinely concerned about the senate and what we are voting on would not stay for the next three pieces of legislation," Cobb said.

This article has been condensed for print. The full length version is available online at www.mtsusidelines.com.

Multiple organizations join together for support

ALLIANCE FROM PAGE 1

event said they met last summer while they worked to organize the Middle Tennesseans for Religious Freedom, and they realized if they had a competent community of progressives they could more easily organized responses to help defend the ideals of other likeminded groups.

"Here in Murfreesboro, we stood together," Short said. "Under the banner of religious freedom, we stood shoulder to shoulder."

Speakers from the Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition, the United Campus Workers, MT Solidarity, Mountain Justice, the Peace Coalition, Nashville Peace and Justice Center, and Feminism Is Not Dead attended the meeting.

"I know the word is 'feminism,' but it's about equality for all," said Elizabeth Sharp, a freshman majoring in history, who is a member of the feminist organization.

Sharp said the group is looking to take feminism global, while still respecting the fact that feminism is going to mean different things to different cultures.

Amelia Post organized the meeting on behalf of TIRCC, an immigration reform activist group well known for its support the DREAM Act, which would give illegal immigrants access to in-state tuition while working toward citizenship.

"If you look like you're illegal, the police must stop and ask you for papers, but what does it mean to look illegal?" Post asked, in reference to a new bill that state Sen. Bill Ketron, R-Murfreesboro, as introduced, which is modeled after the Arizona immigration law passed last year.

"I think that part of the problem is that Ketron is right in that there are a lot of people in our district who

do agree with him, and who do support those positions," said Pat Blankenship, a Murfreesboro resident. "There's a lot of education that needs to be done for the general populace."

Local resident Jake Burkhalter said Tennesseans could change their mind in due time.

"Public opinion seems like a solid thing, but it's actually not," Short said. "Events can really change people's opinion on things."

The United Campus Workers, a statewide union of university faculty and staff, announced it would be holding a rally on March 15 at the state Capitol.

"We're [want] to raise awareness about cuts to public services and public education," said Karly Safar, who works as a community organizer.

The groups said they felt the newly formed alliance would help create an environment where community leaders can grow and teach those around them to take action in their region.

"It's really empowering to meet all of these other individuals," said Charles White, a senior majoring in anthropology, who also helped organize the event. "It creates a vibrant community for things to happen outside of it."

This article has been condensed for print. The full length version is available online at www.mtsusidelines.com.

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I Nominate _____
(Please Print Full Name of Instructor)

from _____
(Department of Nominee)

for a

2010-2011 Outstanding Teacher Award

(Nominees must be full-time faculty members to be eligible)
(Please type or print clearly)

Printed name of Nominator _____

Signature of Nominator _____

Please return this ballot to:

Office of University Provost,
111 Cope Administration Building
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Deadline

Monday, March 7, 2011

Tozer: RAVE consistently successful

SHOOTING FROM PAGE 1

has occurred. Tozer said he constructed the messages after communicating with the MTSU Police Chief Buddy Peaster and President Sydney McPhee, who said he learned of the incident from an off-campus source before anyone on campus had contacted him.

"I was in a conference call with my Senior Vice President John Cothorn, and I got a call from my wife, who is a teacher at Reeves Rogers Discovery School," McPhee said, during an interview Wednesday. "She called to check on the university and to check on me to see if everything was OK, and she said they were in lockdown."

Later, McPhee said he learned that 911 calls do

not go to MTSU police first. Instead, they go to the Murfreesboro Police Department.

Once a call is received by MPD, schools that are located in the area notified to placed on lockdown.

Officials said students who did not take shelter when prompted Monday, should re-evaluate the decisions they made during the shooting.

"Personal safety is the responsibility of each individual," McPhee said, in campus e-mail Friday. "It requires everyone to use their best judgment when addressing situations like we experienced."

The success rates, according to the figures calculated and filed by RAVE, were very high.

There were 11,428 text messages sent, with a 98 percent delivery success

rate, 30,238 e-mails sent out with a 97 percent delivery rate, and 10,325 voice alerts sent out with a 95 percent successful delivery rate.

The average time until a person received a text message was 98 seconds. The send and receive time for an e-mail averaged 7.5 minutes, and voice alerts averaged 10 minutes.

Tozer said, in all, 99 percent of RAVE users were notified by either text, e-mail or voice alerts.

Tozer said he feels the emergency alert system at MTSU is an excellent process and has been consistently successful.

"Is it perfect?" Tozer said. "No system is perfect. But, after every incident like Monday's, certain people gather to review the situation and work to improve and refine the process."

FEATURES



Is Jesus' intent shrouded in mystery?

Author reveals mistakes in ancient texts

By MIKEY FULLER
Contributing Writer

There were mistakes in ancient texts, and reviewing copies is the only way to find real answers, said Bart Ehrman, author of *Misquoting Jesus*, during a lecture Friday in the Business and Aerospace Building.

Ehrman, a professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is also the author of more than 20 books, with three appearing on *The New York Times* best-seller list.

"It deals with the fact that we don't have the original copies of the New Testament book, but only later, hand written copies from centuries later."

BART EHRLMAN
AUTHOR

His work has been featured in *The New Yorker*, the *Washington Post*, and he has appeared on NBC's "Dateline," "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart," CNN, The History Channel, National Geographic, the Discovery Channel and BBC.

The title of his lecture, "Misquoting Jesus: Scribes Who Changed the Bible and the Readers Who May Never Know," is also the title of his most successful book to date.

The department of philosophy sponsored the lecture as part of the Annual Applied Philosophy Lyceum.

"It deals with the fact that we don't have the original copies of the New Testament books, but only later, hand-written copies

from centuries later," Ehrman said.

It is very possible that there are mistakes in the copies of texts after centuries of rewriting, Ehrman said, adding that the surviving copies of the texts indicate that there are a large number of mistakes that have shown up in texts copied throughout the years.

Many of the books in the Bible were not written by Jesus' inner circle, Ehrman said.

"So how do we know what the authors originally wrote?" Ehrman said. "That is the question."

Ehrman also answered audience questions concerning his books and religion.

Stefan Johansson, a junior in the College of Liberal Arts, said he received *Misquoting Jesus* about three years ago from his dad and has read it twice. He said the lecture was a good way to introduce religious literature to those who have read Ehrman's book – and even to those who have not.

"I think it's really insightful, and it's important stuff for anyone to know if they're interested in studying the Bible or the New Testament, in general, whether they think it's faith-inspired or not," Johansson said. "It's important stuff to look at."

Brandi Robinson, a junior in the College of Liberal Arts, said Ehrman's lecture is beneficial for students who are studying religion.

Robinson said she did not read the book, but that she loved the lecture and wished he had gone further with the subject. He gave a good explanation of his book, she said.

"There are too many teachings of it being taught wrong," Robinson said. "I think books like that and professors like him are wonderful assets to have within the religious world."

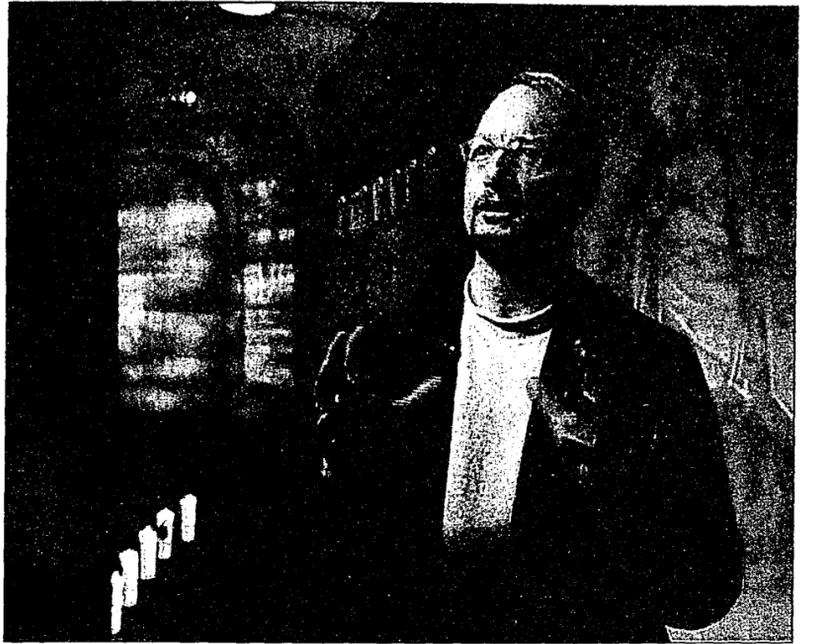


Photo courtesy of Bart Ehrman
Bart Ehrman, a self-described former Christian fundamentalist, speaks on "CNN Presents: After Jesus, The First Christians," which aired Dec. 20, about what he claims are mistakes in New Testament scripture.

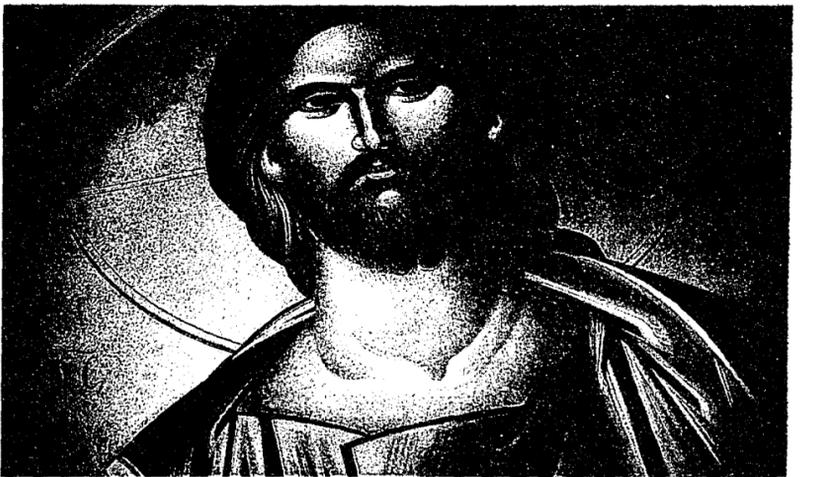


Photo by Dimitri Castrique, sxc.hu



- ! Flu Shots
- ! Upper Respiratory problems
- ! Cough and Colds
- ! Sinus/Allergies
- ! Nausea/Vomiting/Diarrhea
- ! Fever (less than 72 Hours)
- ! Headache
- ! Ear Infections
- ! Ear Wash/Wax Removal
- ! Rash (Poison Oak, Poison Ivy)
- ! Skin Infections
- ! Urinary Tract or Bladder Infections
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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.

SGA deficit spending unacceptable

One current debate in the U.S. Congress is over how to reduce the national debt. Reducing our deficit will ensure that the United States is secure financially. This, in turn, would allow the U.S. to better negotiate with countries like China who hold a large portion of our debt.



Brandon Thomas
Opinions Editor

Many Americans would be upset if vital services were cut or outright eliminated, and this is understandable. It is also understandable that a nation as large and diverse as the U.S. would accumulate large amounts of debt in order to maintain government function.

By the way some SGA members talk about their work, one would think it was comparable to that of the federal government. If this were the case, then the SGA's accumulated deficit of \$10,230 for Spring 2011 would not be a shock to anyone here at the university.

In federal politics, there are groups across the political spectrum that want to reduce our national deficit. It should be no surprise that many students were outraged when they found out what our student government was spending its money on. This, along with other SGA problems, caused a group of ambitious students to band together in hope of finding an answer.

Could our student government

be able to live without the \$25,000 expense for a Georgia Tech Road Rally or a \$14,000 expense for the annual Fight Song, which is a 40 percent increase since last year? Along with other budgetary expenses, the student government has consumed \$91,224 of the student activity fees that we pay.

Student organizations have to have an itemized budget for every expense that a particular event may require. The SGA, on the other hand, does not.

If the current way the SGA budget is set up was sent to the student organization office by a different organization, it would undoubtedly be rejected. Is this really how the student activity fees we pay should be managed?

I am more than certain that the student government will write off

the reform advocates that entered their chamber last Thursday. Instead of dealing with some of the actual issues that were addressed, it is safe to assume that SGA officials will characterize these agents of change as unorganized and ill-prepared.

Indeed, there might be some truth to this statement. These organizers didn't get the adequate five-day preparation time that the SGA constitution requires when submitting a petition to the student government. They were also met by an administrative army. Given the circumstances, being unorganized and ill-prepared is an understatement.

Instead of listening to the grievances of these students and trying to understand where they were coming from, senators, and even at times the speaker, were not acting in the most mature manner. No matter how hostile the message they face is, maturity is expected from elected officials.

It is time to see reform. If the way they handled these visitors to their chamber is any indication, they are truly not the voice of the students.

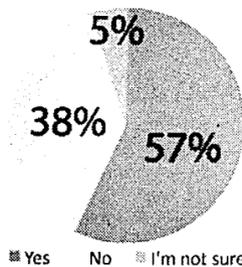
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Has the need for public radio, television come to pass?

Keeping NPR only for elite's enjoyment

Publicly funded media national asset

The budget battle over government programs has left many open to debates ranging from the public airwaves of National Public Radio and Public Broadcasting Service to collective bargaining in the public sector. While I think there are many issues that cut more deeply into the budget of the U.S. than these, it does begin an interesting discussion on the merits of public broadcasting.



Josh Fields
Columnist

I find it interesting how many progressives support taxpayer funding of PBS and NPR when evidence is overwhelming that their viewership and listeners are well above the median incomes, making the tax support a regressive distribution from the relatively poor to the relatively rich.

To put it more bluntly, PBS and NPR entertain the rich much more than they help to inform the poor, and according to the progressive mantra of taxation of the wealthy, this merely serves to soak the poor and empower the rich.

The news that both the entities push out isn't necessarily unbiased. That makes the moral dilemma of news broadcasting more troubling as the question of taxpayer funding "opinion" highly questionable.

Granted, I very much enjoy listening to NPR, and PBS runs very interesting documentaries. In fact, during the 1980s and early 1990s PBS ran "Free to Choose," a documentary by famed libertarian economist Milton Friedman. So I can't positively juxtapose between the left and right paradigm within its broadcasts outside of its recent news.

However, that isn't necessarily my quarrel. In a time and age when news is circulated through the Internet and the access that the public has to various opinion and news spans infinity, is a public network a viable solution?

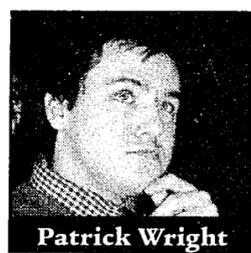
I would argue that this is not necessary, and that the structure that holds public broadcasting's head above the water will remain in place even if public funding is eliminated, PBS and NPR would live on. The network LinkTV, a very progressive network, has often criticized PBS for their taking in of corporate money, which they believe distorts the network's ability to criticize large corporate partners.

Can the same not be said about the government sponsorship? If the sole purpose of PBS were to prevent corporate censorship of news, it would stand to reason that it not have corporate sponsors, but this is not the case. Furthermore, if the press is supposed to hold the government accountable, then PBS and NPR also fail the test of a monetary inclination to not do so.

If the rich are the largest demographic of viewers and listeners, the very premise that public broadcasting advocates hold to be its importance is a logical fallacy even according to those on the left, and the news is more democratic because of the internet, then what argument can be used to sustain its public funding?

Josh Fields is a senior majoring in economics. He can be reached at josh@virtuallblend.com.

The news story hitting the airwaves is about Republicans potentially defunding the Public Broadcasting Service and National Public Radio. This proposal is in President Barack Obama's budget currently being debated in Congress.



Patrick Wright
Columnist

Tea Party members hear how the new members of Congress want to defund these "socialist" institutions, as they are perceived, and they rejoice.

Sadly most of these people know little of PBS - other than the show that Big Bird built. PBS is more than just kid shows. Up until recently, Nashville Public Television would screen back-to-back episodes of "Monty Python's Flying Circus" every Saturday night.

Other shows like "Austin City Limits" and "Antique Road Show" are geared toward a more diverse audience. My favorite program on NPR is "Says You!"

None of these programs have anything to do with politics.

The new reason being laid out by conservatives in Congress focuses on the perceived liberal slant of these public institutions.

Ever since NPR commentator Juan Williams was fired in October of 2010 for remarks made on FOX News about Muslims, conservatives have called to cut all federal funds to public broadcasting institutions.

Conservatives have considered the firing to be due to politics. It was Juan Williams, who at the time was a federal employee, meaning he was required by contract to be politically neutral on any subject regardless

of media outlet.

What many people fail to realize is that these two institutions team up with educational institutions and fledgling scientific endeavors all the time. In doing so, they shed public light helping generate much needed outside revenue for these endeavors and educational institutions.

PBS especially helps to fund many documentaries that shed light on issues the public rarely hears in today's mainstream media. Its purpose is much deeper than entertainment.

Three decades ago, PBS show "Frontline" focused the attention of its program on abortion, one of the first programs about the topic to ever air in the United States.

As students we have all been affected by PBS. Rather than spend a class period lecturing students, a professor will bring in a PBS special about the subject being discussed.

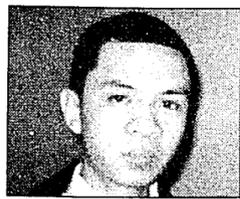
I beg anyone who wants to defund these programs to stop and spend a week just watching and listening to these two mediums.

By the end of the week, you will realize how the two have affected this country for the better. If conservatives really cared about the deficit, they would quit trying to change the definition of rape and stop trying to cut funding for Social Security. They should, however, take a scalpel to the bloated military budget.

Patrick Wright is a senior majoring in political science and can be reached at phw2b@mtmsil.mtsu.edu.

FACES IN THE CROWD

**Do you think
NPR and
PBS should
remain
publicly
funded?**



Tumpag

"NPR and PBS are very vital networks to the American audience because they present an unbiased account of world news. That's relevant to our society today."

*Laurence Tumpag
Senior, social work*



Zoerb

"I think they should be publicly funded. I feel because they're publicly funded, they're open to opinions, and it doesn't have to be dictated by commercials as much. I think that's really important."

*Katie Zoerb
Junior, anthropology*



Anderson

"No, because I don't like a one-sided debate for anything. When you show only one side of a viewpoint with my money... I don't think so."

*Andrew Anderson
Freshman, math*



Jackson

"I think that they should keep PBS public because it has shows that deal with intelligence and morals as opposed to supporting a brand like Disney."

*Lauren Jackson
Senior, nursing*



Trabue

"I listen to NPR all the time. I live in Louisville, and NPR has a broad perception, and I always listen to that. I don't watch PBS anymore because I'm not 5, but if I was I probably would."

*Jordan Trabue
Junior, recording industry management*

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SPORTS



MT hangs tough but falls short

Raiders stumble in season opener

By MARK MIZE
Contributing Writer

The Blue Raiders failed to add a tally to the win column in their opening weekend series versus the Portland Pilots; however, MT was tied or in the lead in the seventh inning or later in all three games.

Portland won the first two games by a single run, 6-5 and 2-1 respectively, before taking Sunday's game in an 11-8 decision.

In Friday's opener, MT fell behind early, 1-0, in the first inning on an errant throw by catcher Tyler Acker.

With two outs in the fourth, things continued to go south as MT's starting pitcher Eric Gilley was hit in the shin by a line drive off the bat of All-WCC second baseman Riley Henricks that resulted in a Portland score.

However, after receiving a visit from the trainers, Gilley stayed in the game to get the final out of the inning.

In the fifth, the Blue Raiders staged their comeback.

Down 4-1, left fielder Justin Guidry tripled to deep right, and after a walk and a hit to load the bases, Tyler Acker singled home two runs on a line drive over the second baseman's head to bring the score to 4-3.

Three innings later, designated hitter Matthew Drake would then tie the game at 4-4 on a single that scored Guidry.

In the top of the ninth, Portland retook the lead 6-4, with a pair of runs off MT freshman relief pitcher Keaton Baker. But right fielder Will Skinner hadn't had his final say yet.

Skinner led off the bottom of the ninth with a towering home run that, according to Coach Peterson, "would have left Yellowstone."

However, All-WCC closer Chris Dennis would retire the rest of the side in order, with Portland taking the first game 6-5.

Coach Peterson attributed the loss to too many opportunities left at the plate. The Blue Raiders stranded eleven men on base during the game.

Game two of the series proved to be a pitcher's duel, with MT's Hunter Adkins and Portland's Kyle Kraus locking horns to the tune of a 1-1 tie at the end of the seventh.

The lone run Adkins gave up came off the bat of Portland designated hitter Turner Gill in the second. Skinner's clutch RBI single to center off Kraus in the bottom of the seventh scored third baseman Hank Larue and tied the game up.

Guidry stepped onto the mound to relieve Adkins in the top of the eighth and surrendered a run on a double by third baseman Matt Mardesch, giving Portland a one run lead.

Portland's Dennis closed the deal on the mound, and MT fell 2-1. The Blue Raiders' offense struggled to plate runs for the second straight game, as they ended up leaving 13 men on base in the contest.

Sunday's game initially looked like the Blue Raiders would avoid the sweep, as they took an early lead thanks to a three-run bomb off the center field scoreboard by Guidry. First baseman Jay Morris' two-run shot in the fourth gave MT a 6-0 lead.

However, after starting pitcher Daniel Palo was forced out of the game, Portland started their comeback.

After tying the game at 6-6, MT gave up a mammoth three-run home run to deep left to fall behind 9-6.

Dennis came in for his third save in three days and MT fell 11-8.

"There's going to be bad games that you win, and there's going to be good games that you lose," said head coach Steve Peterson. "That's just baseball, and this is only one of 56 games this year."

Middle Tennessee was picked to finish seventh in the Sun Belt after posting a 35-23 record last season and sending six of last year's Blue Raiders to minor league organizations. Despite the opening losses, fans saw the wealth of young talent that will pose a challenge to all of their opponents.

The Blue Raiders will look for their first win at Tennessee Tech on Feb. 23 before hosting Peterson's alma mater, Jacksonville State, this weekend for a three-game series starting Feb. 25. They'll kick off the Sun Belt schedule with a road series against Western Kentucky starting March 18.



Photo by Erica Springer, staff photographer
Justin Guidry (15) waits for the signal to run toward home Feb. 18, during the Raiders' season opener.



Photos by Parker Maness, contributing photographer
(Bottom) Hank LaRue (5) throws from third base Feb. 20 during a game at the Reese Smith Jr. Field.

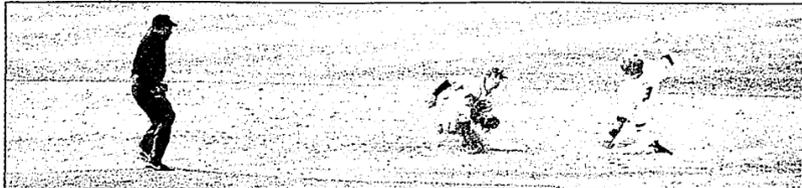


Photo by Erica Springer, staff photographer
(Top) Senior Will Skinner (12) hits the first home run of the season Feb. 18 in the bottom of the ninth inning. The Murfreesboro native was 4-11 at the plate over the weekend. (Bottom) Johnny Thomas (3) slides into second base.

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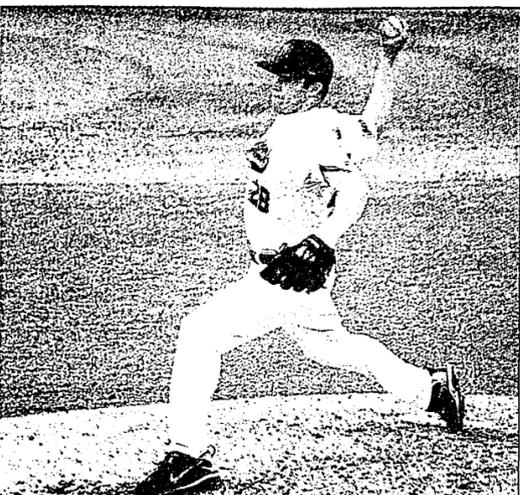


Photo by Erica Springer, staff photographer
Eric Gilley (28) throws a pitch against Portland in the season opener on Feb. 18 at Reese Smith Jr. Field.