



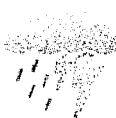
Westboro Baptist Church fuels free speech debate.

Opinions, page 4

THUR
82°/67°



FRI
82°/68°



SAT
75°/62°



Kicker Alan Gendreau talks sports with *Sidelines*.

Sports, page 7



MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

VOL. 86, NO. 7

Greeks spare paddle

Photo Illustration by:
Jay Bailey, Photography Editor

By EMMA EGLI
Assist. Campus News Editor

Over the next few days, social Greek organizations across the country will tackle the formidable issue of hazing during National Hazing Prevention Week.

In the past, MTSU's Greek Affairs has run multiple awareness activities, including their annual "speak outs." This year, however, the Office of Greek Affairs has no scheduled programs.

"Next year, we hope to plan ahead and work with the Greek community to create programs and conversation surrounding Hazing Prevention Week," said Angela King, director of Greek Affairs.

"Not only is it against the law, but it does not foster brotherhood or sisterhood," King said. "Hazing negatively impacts the student and does not support the mission of the university."

In December 2007, Sigma Nu Fraternity lost its charter due to hazing allegations. Almost a year later, the organization regained its charter.

Brandon McNary, former Sigma Nu president and president of the Student Government Association, addressed the allegations and the difficulty of regaining their charter.

"We petitioned to charter in March 2008," McNary said. "All of the older brothers who were found guilty of hazing were removed."

McNary said that the incident affected the Fraternity's member numbers because the chapter remained inactive for a year and could not participate in recruitment.

"Not to mention it gave people the impression that we are a fraternity that hazes," McNary said. "It has definitely made us a lot more cautious of what we do in the future."

"On many campuses, the office of Greek affairs takes the lead in coordinating this event," King said. "However, individual chapters and councils are encouraged to create programming to bring awareness to Hazing Prevention Week."

Typically, Greek Affairs runs a lecture-style "speak out," which cover topics ranging from physical, sexual and alcohol-related hazing. The speak outs also provide an opportunity for pledges to learn more about what constitutes hazing, how to spot it and how to prevent it.

HAZING STATS

◆ 55 percent of college students involved in clubs, teams and organizations experience hazing.

◆ Alcohol consumption, humiliation, isolation, sleep deprivation and sex acts are hazing practices common across types of student groups.

◆ In more than half of the hazing incidents, a member of the offending group posts pictures on a public Web space.

◆ In 95 percent of the cases where students identified their experience as hazing, they did not report the events to campus officials.

◆ Students recognize hazing as part of the campus culture; 69 percent of students who belonged to a student activity reported they were aware of hazing activities occurring in student organizations other than their own.

◆ 47 percent of students come to college having experienced hazing.

◆ Nine out of 10 students who have experienced hazing behavior in college do not consider themselves to have been hazed.

NATIONAL STUDY OF STUDENT HAZING

Hazing is a ritualistic task involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group. Hazing is considered a felony in several U.S. states, including Tennessee.

King said no "meaningful programming" was created because she was only appointed to her position about two months ago.

HAZING, PAGE 2

Agricultural Field Day welcomes new farm

By ALEX MOORMAN
News Editor

The Department of Agribusiness and Agriscience is hosting a free Agriculture Field Day today celebrating the recent purchase of MTSU's new farm in Lascassas.

The field day lasts from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. and includes tours, discussions and questions about the new farm, dinner and a special presentation by Justin Garder, assistant agriculture professor.

The Agriculture Field Day is being held to highlight the new student gardens, nursery and applied research on the new farm. The event is held in attempt to evolve the campus community along with the Murfreesboro community with the recent advances made on the farm.

"The farm is public and we are very proud of what we and our students are doing out there," said Warren Gill, director of the School of Agribusiness and Agriscience. "We are making real progress out there and we'd like to share that with the public."

Along with student made gardens and a nursery, Gill said that the students have been experimenting with a lot of new interesting varieties in technology such as mulching and new watering techniques.

Gill said that students in the agriculture field, as well

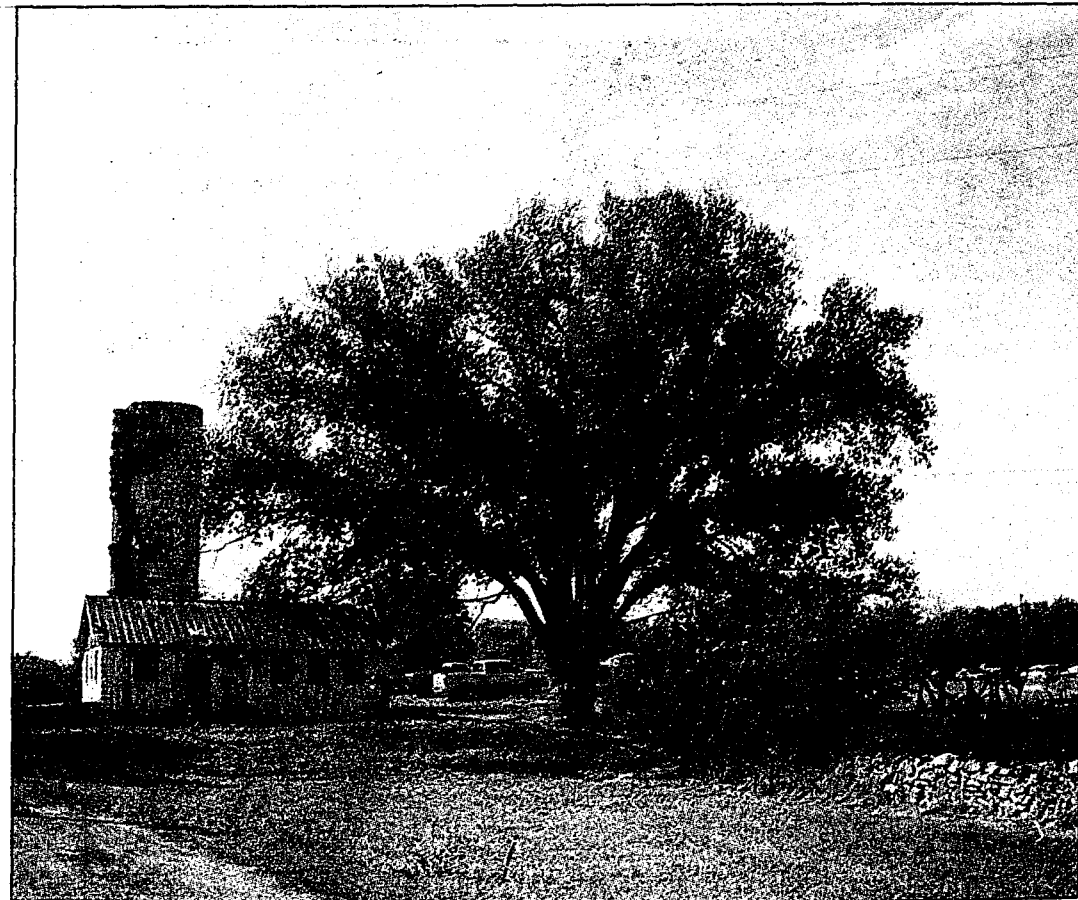


Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor

MTSU's Agriculture Field Day today will feature various techniques and new technology used at the farm.

as everyone else in the community, would find the field day interesting.

"There is a lot of interest in home gardening and this economy has made people more adamant to grow their own food," Gill said.

Gill said that while agriculture students will find the event very interesting, any person who eats will find something at the event to relate to.

"We are all involved in eating,

we are all involved in wearing clothes and we are all involved in agriculture as a whole," Gill said. Important things are happening in the U.S. with food safety issues that we need to be aware of. Our students are the agriculture leaders of the future and our alumni are the agricultural leaders of today."

Gill said this event was very important to Murfreesboro primarily mainly because community money helped fund

the farm.

"There is a lot of public interest in the farm and what MTSU is doing with it and so we decided, starting last year and this year, that we would let the public and the university see what exactly it is we are doing with the farm land," Gill said. "We have made real progress and plan on future progress, including moving our dairy out to the farm."



Photo by Heather Clemons, contributing photographer

Eric Love performs at Tucker Theatre about living through cancer.

The Rambling Nut informs students cancer, survival

By MEGAN MCSWAIN
Staff Writer

Two stools, a hospital gown and a black "nut box" were Eric "Doc" Love's only props for "The Rambling Nut," an autobiographical performance about the performer's testicular cancer on Tuesday.

In his one-man performance, actor Love shared his story of being diagnosed with testicular cancer when he was 21, his treatments, his multiple surgeries and the complications he had with doctors and hospitals. Love said his act is his way of thanking friends and family who helped him through the situation.

"It's a way to say, 'Look at the good that has come from [the suffering],' " Love said. "Before that, the most I could say was, 'I'm still here.'"

Love, who performed barefoot, said his hospital gown and shaved head are part of his performance to cater to the audience's expectations of what a cancer patient looks like. He said when he was sick he wore a robe rather than a gown.

"What's funny is I never really lost my hair; I had really long hair," Love said. "Onstage now, I don't look anything like you would've seen me look in the experience."

Other than his wardrobe, Love said, everything he shared was real to his cancer experience – the letters, the documents, the scars.

SURVIVAL, PAGE 2

US House approves Vehicle Technology Bill

By DUSTIN EVANS
Assistant Community News Editor

The U.S. House of Representatives approved legislation on Sept. 18 to re-engage the Advanced Vehicle Technology Program within the U.S. Department of Energy.

The legislation, which invests in near-term and long-term vehicle technologies to improve fuel efficiency and consumer options of vehicle technologies and fuels, will also provide support to domestic research and manufacturing that could create and strengthen jobs in Middle Tennessee.

"The current economic climate has made it difficult for companies to invest in next-generation vehicle technologies, and DOE programs have played an invaluable role in filling this critical gap," said Rep. Bart Gordon,

D-Tenn. "For instance, DOE recently awarded Nissan with a \$1.6 billion loan to develop and produce all-electric vehicles in Smyrna, Tenn – this loan will create thousands of new jobs throughout Middle Tennessee."

“The current economic climate has made it difficult for companies to invest in next-generation vehicle technologies.”

BART GORDON
U.S. CONGRESSMAN

Nancy Pelosi stated on speaker.gov that the bill authorizes \$550 million per year for the next five years, increasing with inflation, for all DOE vehicle technology programs. The breakdown of the funding puts \$200 million for medium and heavy duty commercial vehicles, \$30

million for user facilities, \$20 million for construction and agricultural vehicles, and \$300 million for diverse passenger and commercial vehicle technologies – hybridization or electric run systems to reduce emissions.

"It will fund projects that are having trouble getting off the ground with the economy," said Kinsey Kiriakos, communications director for Congressman Gordon.

Kiriakos said the legislation was authored by the House Science and Technology Committee,

a committee within the U.S. House of Representatives, and accomplishes its goals through a partnership with industry and a broad coalition including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, National Association of Manufacturers, United Autoworkers and the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers.

"From passenger cars to heavy duty long-haul trucks, it is essential for our country to reduce our dependence on petroleum and develop new energy sources and technologies to power these vehicles," Gordon said. "This legislation will support the research and development of advanced vehicle technologies, which will in turn play a critical role in creating new jobs and decreasing our reliance on foreign oil."

The bill was sent to the U.S. Senate for discussion.

HAZING FROM PAGE 1

"One year we watched a documentary of really awful things that happened because of hazing events in Greek organizations across the country," said Jessica Turri, president of the Panhellenic Council. "I think it scared a lot of people because they may not have been aware that these things actually take place."

Turri said that she thinks hazing won't be prevalent on campus this year and that past incidents have been a wake-up call to fraternity and sorority members of the dangers of hazing.

"Hazing is completely unacceptable and it's really an ineffective tool," Turri said. "I think people who practice hazing think it brings people together, when it's actu-

ally degrading and brings people down."

Mike Johnson, Interfraternity Council president, said that hazing may be seemingly harmless at first, but it can quickly escalate into something dangerous.

"I have heard of incidents at other schools where pledges have been beaten or drank themselves to death," Johnson said. "Chapters have had pledges die in accidents that didn't seem dangerous to them at the time."

Johnson said the reason hazing has been made such a big deal is because you don't know everything about a new member, and they could have a background that would make them highly susceptible to the serious repercussions of being hazed.

"You never know what someone can or can't handle," Johnson said.

SURVIVAL FROM PAGE 1

Love's performance wasn't all seriousness, said theater majors Brandye Kemp and Josh Ginsburg.

"I really liked how he could be light-hearted about [his cancer] and take that awful scenario and make it a comeback," Kemp said. "It was thoroughly enjoyable."

Ginsburg said the play was a nice balance because it was funny in the right places and dramatic in the right places.

"It was invigorating to see someone just completely strip themselves, literally and metaphorically, to tell their story," Ginsburg said.

Ginsburg said Love's interaction with the audience may have made some people uncomfortable but it connected viewers with the performer.

"I think it was necessary because the whole premise of the story was very unsettling," Ginsburg said. "I didn't feel like I was watching a play. I felt like I was having a conversation."

Love's message, if any, he said, is to show the audience what can happen to them in the health care system.

"I don't think most

Americans have ever been in a hospital like I was in," Love said. "And it's an experience the audience needs to know."

Love said this performance was never intended for a public audience. He said he first started while working on his doctorate degree in theater, for a class in which solo performance was a big part. Love said he was going to perform a biographical piece on a Texas playwright instead, until he saw the other students' autobiographical performances.

"Every one of them was brilliant and every one of them changed my life in some little way," Love said. "After witnessing that, I said, 'I've got to do it, because I have stories to tell.'"

Some people who saw his performance for the class said he should do it for the public. He did, but never thought of doing it again. He said what changed his mind was the audiences' positive reactions.

"When somebody comes up to you and they say, 'You changed my life,' you can't turn your back on that," Love said. "So I just felt called to do it, and it's weird, it's almost like [performing] wasn't really a choice."

CRIME BRIEFS

Sep. 16, 5:50 p.m.

Theft

Peck Hall
Complainant reported a stolen bicycle from Peck Hall.

Sep. 17, 8:46 p.m.

Traffic

Alumni Drive
Andre Scales was issued a state citation for failure to obey traffic control sign and failure to provide proof of insurance.

Sep. 18, 1:37 a.m.

DUI

Off Campus

Jeffery Lisea was arrested for DUI 1st offense.

Sep. 18, 2:12 a.m.

Underage Alcohol Consumption

Jim Cummings Hall Lot
Chase Palmer was issued a state citation for consumption of alcohol under 21.

Sep. 18, 3:00 a.m.

Alarm

Mass Communication Building
water flow monitor false alarm.

Sep. 18, 8:24 a.m.

Theft

Alumni Memorial Gym
A Faculty member reported that a VHS player had been stolen from a classroom.

Sep. 18, 11:25 a.m.

Theft

Wiser-Patten Science Hall
Faculty member reported that an electronic scale was stolen from a classroom.

Sep. 18, 12:39 p.m.

Theft

Greenhouse Lot
Two subjects called to advise their

catalytic convertors had been taken from their vehicles. Vehicles were a white Toyota Tacoma and a white Toyota 4runner.

Sep. 18, 1:13 p.m.

Theft

Recreation Center
Victim reported that his bicycle had been stolen.

Sep. 18, 2:27 p.m.

Theft

Corlew Hall
Victim reported that his camera had been stolen in the McCallie Dining Hall.

CURRENT EVENTS

Volunteer Buyout
Program Information Session

Sep. 24, 2-4 p.m.

Location: Ingram Building, room 100

Free Legal Clinic

Sep. 24, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Location: June Anderson Women's

Center

Admission: Free with appointment, contact 898-2193

Twilight Visions: Surrealism, Photography and Paris

Sep. 24, 7 p.m.

Location: Frist Center for the Arts
Admission: contact 244-3340 for

ticketing information

Keith Mohr of Indi-Heaven.com

Sep. 24, 7 p.m.

Location: Business and Aerospace 5307

Admission: free

MTSU Chamber winds and winds ensemble

Sep. 24, 7:30 p.m.

Location: Hinton Music Hall
Contact 898-2469 for more information

The Black Crowes

Sep. 26, 8 p.m.

Location: Ryman Auditorium
Admission: \$36-56

OUTREACH

"Help us, to help others."

STORE

SAT., SEPT. 26 • 9AM-9PM

DO NOT MISS THIS GRAND RE-OPENING EVENT!
NO COUPONS NEEDED!

High Quality Winter Clothing For The Whole Family!

- SHOES • TOYS • BOOKS • COSTUMES
- DECORATIONS • MATERNITY
- SCRUBS • HOUSEHOLD ITEMS
- JEWELRY • LINENS

& OUR FAMOUS 99¢ & 35¢ RACKS!

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

PRIZE DRAWINGS EVERY HOUR!

810 N.W. Broad St., Ste. 212

MURFREESBORO • BEHIND TOOT'S

615.849.8278



GRAND REOPENING!

Puléo's Grille

Dinner • Lunch • Snacks • Sweets

Finally! A Stimulus Package For Everyone!

Check out these specials designed to save you money and truly STIMULATE your taste buds! But hurry in because these offers are for a limited time only!

Build Your Own Burger*
includes fries • every Monday only

\$3.99

Half Off Pasta*

Enjoy a REGULAR size serving of Spaghetti and Meatballs, Pasta Alfredo or Nonna's Lasagna all day
Wednesday for Half Price!

6 Oz. Hickory Grilled Top Sirloin*

Salad & Baked Potato

\$7.99

*dine-in only

730 NW BROAD ST. • MURFREESBORO • (615) 867-3312

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University
1301 East Main Street P.O. Box 8
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Editorial: 615-904-8357 Fax: 615-494-7648
Advertising: 615-898-5240 Fax: 615-904-8193

www.mtsusidelines.com

Editor in Chief
Byron Wilkes*
seditor@mtsu.edu

Sports
Chris Welch
slsports@mtsu.edu

Production Manager
Shelley Vernon
slsdesign@mtsu.edu

Managing Editor
Andy Harper*
slmanage@mtsu.edu

Asst. Cam. News
Emma Egli
slcopy@mtsu.edu

Photography
Jay Bailey
slphoto@mtsu.edu

News Editor
Alex Moorman*
slnews@mtsu.edu

Asst. Features
Faith Franklin
slflash@mtsu.edu

Adviser
Steven Chappell
schappel@mtsu.edu

Asst. Com. News
Dustin Evans*
slstate@mtsu.edu

Asst. Sports
Richard Lowe
sports02@mtsu.edu

Advertising
Jeri Lamb
jlamb@mtsu.edu

Opinions
Evan Barker*
slopinio@mtsu.edu

Copy Editor
Allison Roberts
slcopy@mtsu.edu

Business
Eveon Corl
ecorl@mtsu.edu

Features
Katy Coil
slfeatur@mtsu.edu

Online
Bryan Law
slonline@mtsu.edu

* denotes member
of editorial board

Letters Policy

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopinio@mtsu.edu and include your name and phone number for verification. Sidelines will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit grammar, length and content.

OPINIONS

Sidelines is the editorially independent, non-profit student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. Sidelines publishes Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and Wednesday during June and July. The opinions expressed herein are those of individual writers and not necessarily Sidelines or MTSU.

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Why no hazing awareness activities?

This week is National Hazing Prevention Week, not that you'd know that by hanging around MTSU.

Hazing, as you may or may not know, is the practice of "an initiation process involving harassment," according to Merriam-Webster's dictionary.

Hazing prevention is very important because a wide variety of groups conduct these kinds of activities. The armed services, Greek organizations and sports teams have all been known to haze their members in the past.

Although it ought to go without saying, we really should be more aware of hazing, and MTSU's Office of Greek Affairs should help.

Angela King, the new Director of Greek Affairs, said that while the week is an important one, her lack of time at MTSU caused her to not plan events for it, though she said that she plans to have events next year.

King was named the new director two months ago. It's hard to believe that in two months she couldn't plan one event for this week. Recruitment is still going on and having an event to prepare students about hazing would have been a great idea.

In past years, the Greek community has always had an event to show the effects of hazing, even in years we have not had a full-time Greek Affairs director. It seems sad that after the long hunt for a director, that the Greeks are doing even less than when they didn't have a director in place.

We know that it's not just the Greeks. Any organization has probably hazed someone at one time or another. You'd like to know, though, wouldn't you?

Listen to Editorial Board online at mtsusidelines.com/opinions

Devices change communication

When Garth of "Wayne's World" said "Live in the now" to his best friend, he was just talking about quashing a time-consuming obsession to take part in the partying and rocking that took place around him.

Still, the statement resonates in my mind when I see the people of this school milling around me. Glued to their ears and the tips of their fingers, technological doo-dads chat, yell, beep and bop constantly, and those listening and reading are completely enamored of their little, noisy devices.

Every day, as I journey from building to building, class to class, I see people who are not living in the present.

Everyone is guilty of it. When I was talking to a friend about my concept for this column, her phone went off. If you sit in a cafeteria or computer lab anywhere on campus, you hear a cacophony of ringtones and buzzes.

I confess to texting almost constantly about extremely



Pearl before Swine

Pearl Howell mundane things, and even now I am typing away on a computer. Our culture's fixation on the virtual world has led to the sacrifice of reality.

Sometimes, when I look up from my own frenzied texts, I discover that every single person around me is deeply involved in a conversation with a chunk of metal and plastic. They're talking about meeting up somewhere over the weekend, or seeing an old friend a day or two ago. Some discuss classes that took place a few hours ago, and others are planning a study session for later that day.

What happened to the present? What happened to feeling emotions as they hit, instead of reliving or anticipating them? When did we stop talking to people walking beside us and start texting them, even when they're only a few yards away?

It's so easy to get lost in a world of instant gratification. As Internet speeds get faster and waiting becomes a thing of the past, how are we supposed to learn patience in dealing with real people outside of our computers?

With a world full of updates sent to our phones and constant streams of information, our minds can't help but feel a little overwhelmed. Trying to keep up is dangerous, if not downright impossible.

We have to update our Facebook status, change our mood on Myspace, and post a new Tweet every hour. We've become stressed and overpowered by the sheer mass of everything we have to update and check to keep up

with the lives of our friends. The nature of friendship has changed, too.

While relationships in the past would fall apart because of distance or disinterest on one side, people now can stay in touch with very little effort and access a startling amount of information with the click of a button.

We know where people are, when they are going there, and what they did there. We can arrange to meet within seconds, and cancel other meetings equally quickly. Therefore, we have more friends.

All of this might seem great, but when real life and virtual life collide, the results can often be harsh.

Internet stalkers, online scams and Internet crimes lead innocent people to victimization with a click of the mouse. Identity theft is rising at an alarming rate. It is estimated that as many as 10 million people have had their identity stolen.

Information is served on a silver platter to anyone with

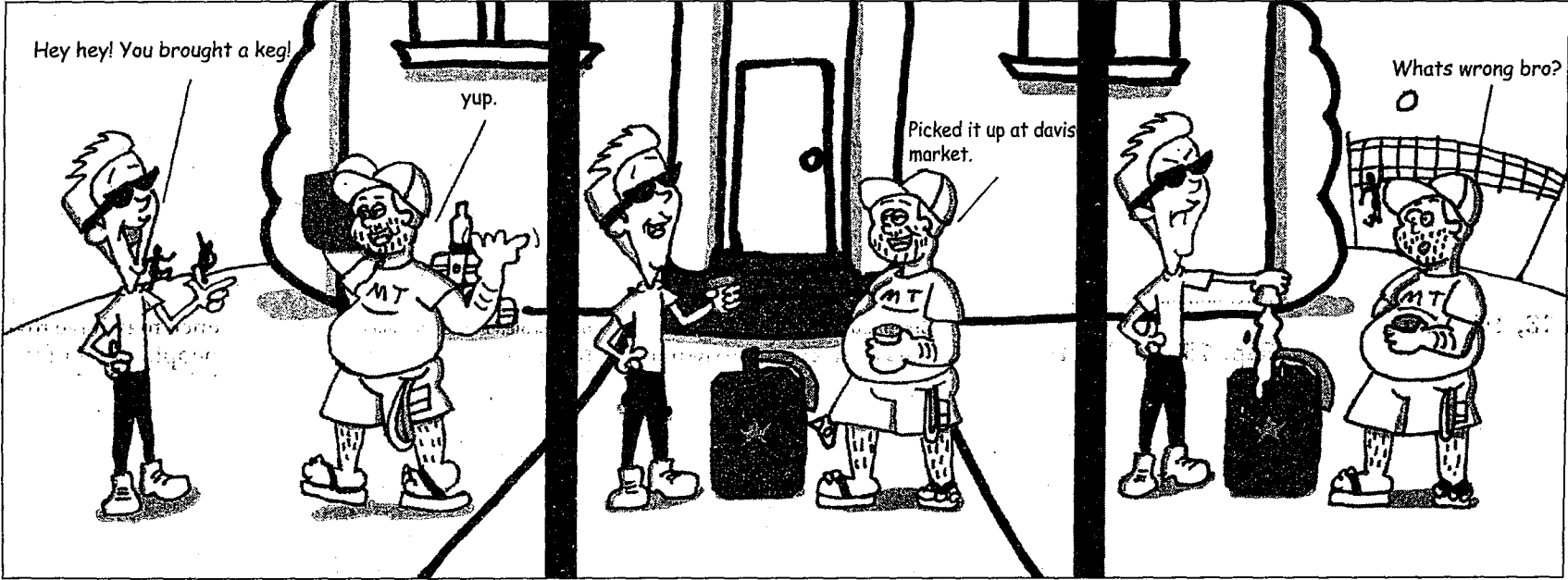
the skills and motivation to take it. Facebook and Myspace deliver personal information in a compact and neatly ordered form. If people don't filter their friends list, anyone—creepy, dangerous or perfectly innocent—could access their information.

Imagine a world where computers are only used for homework or jobs, and cell phones are only used for keeping in touch with people when they are far away. Perhaps when the novelty of video games and texting wears off, we will achieve such a world.

Until then, it is safer to live a modest life with limited technological interruption than a huge life full of computers and cell phones, wires and hardware.

Humans are not creatures of constant reflection and inaction. We are meant to get out and live in the now.

Pearl Howell is a freshman theater major and can be reached at rph2t@mtsu.edu

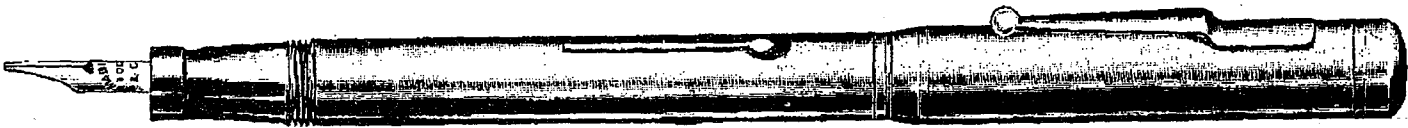


"Seattle Spew"

megapencil5@yahoo.com

Kyle Patterson

Attention: writers, editors, designers and photographers:



Sidelines is always accepting applications. Come see us in Mass Comm 269

Oprah Book Club prescribing thought

Last Friday, the newest choice book for Oprah's book club hit shelves at major bookstores nationwide. Her selection was Say You're One Of Them by Uwem Akpan. As much as I believe that reading benefits one's mind, body and soul, I have concerns about Oprah's book club.

Book clubs in general are supposed to get people on the same page (couldn't resist) and spark conversation to broaden one's horizons and understand other peoples' thought processes.

What a wonderful thing to get a group of people together to discuss literature, or at the very least, get a group of people to discuss something they have read. Oprah's book club fits the idea, but put into practice is just a little past the point.

I work for a significant book retailer, and have noticed that Oprah's book club has gotten so influential that bookstores have strict dates on when they can release books that have already been released.

Because Oprah, or at least someone on her staff, decided that this was the new "Oprah"

title, it becomes something larger than life.

Now, I'm not saying that Oprah does not do good things; she does. It does concern me that a book becomes a big deal simply because she recommends it.

Oprah's book club selections should never be referred to as "Oprah" books; they are the authors' books, and the fact that Oprah is a colossal entity should not entitle her to overshadow someone else's work. Those people put their heart and soul into those works.

Well, if not their heart and soul, than at least a significant amount of time.

In 2003, one of the Oprah's Book Club selections was the John Steinbeck book, East of Eden. This is a classic book, published in 1952.

A friend of mine who worked in a major book retailer at the time was helping people all day long try to find "that new book by Steinbeck." That would have been miraculous, considering the fact that Steinbeck died in 1968.

Oprah does a nice job of



My point, and I do have one

Mallory Boyd

including classic books in her club; "Cry," "The Beloved Country," "One Hundred Years of Solitude," "Anna Karenina," "The Good Earth," and three of William Faulkner's titles have made the cut.

In 2007, she selected "Pillars of the Earth" by Ken Follett. It is the only one thousand page book I have seen fly off the shelf that was not written by J.K. Rowling. Consequently, his follow-up novel also did very well. Then she selected Eckhart Tolle's "A New Earth," as if that guy needed any help selling books.

What is amazing is how many people will go into a bookstore and purchase a book armed with no more information than the fact that Oprah recommended it. Her book club is reading it. She talked about it on her show. The author was there, and Oprah had a great conversation with him or her. Oprah has a show, didn't you know?

They see her book club logo; the selections appear in her magazine, or on the book itself.

It is incredible that a publisher will go back and print thousands of extra copies of a book that is already in print simply to put the Oprah logo on it. A woman actually asked me one time if I had a copy of "One Hundred Years of Solitude" that did not have the Oprah logo on it. I have never been so happy to oblige someone.

In no way am I saying that it is Oprah's fault or that the book club is a horrible thing, but this is what you get when you have a powerful personality prescribing your literature.

People are followers, and it

People should read things because they want to. They should choose. What is so wrong with deciding for oneself?

is rarely more evident than when an Oprah's Book Club selection hits stores. This is one high-powered woman. People listen to what she has to say. It is slightly unnerving how much power she wields, and she has never had to hold any kind of political office to gain it.

If this country believed in a monarchy, Oprah would be queen. Even the "Today Show" book club is a tiny lit match next to the bonfire that is the Oprah empire. I have been asked on countless occasions where the Oprah section is. Why would there ever be an Oprah section when every one of those books has a place already?

I think that, in theory, Oprah is perhaps trying to do a good thing. After all, getting people to read in a society that is completely obsessive compulsive with a horrible case of attention deficit dis-

order is a feat in and of itself. The problem is the incredible number of Oprah disciples that simply read things because Oprah said to.

People should read things because they want to. They should choose. What is so wrong with deciding for oneself? Why is it so bad if people want to walk into a bookstore and choose their own books? It is wonderful that people are reading, but the purpose of it is lost in this epic book club.

Reading is education, and serves a purpose. It was Malcolm Forbes who said, "Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one." It is difficult for literature to function as intended when the choices are already made.

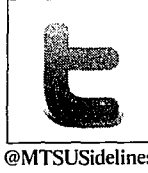
Mallory Boyd is a sophomore history major and can be reached at mnb2v@mtsu.edu



mtsusidelines.com

mtsusidelines.com/
podcasts

MTSUSidelines



@MTSUSidelines

YouTube.com/
mtsusidelines

Managing Editor Blog

sinsofscarlet.blogspot.com

News Blog

alexandria11.wordpress.com

Community News Blog

riffy16.wordpress.com

Sports Blog

mtsusidelines.com/blog-1.109/the-
lowdown

Features Blogs

half-in-your-life.blogspot.com

Opinions Blog

slopinion.blogspot.com

Dropbox provides portability solutions

Twenty minutes before class you arrive on campus and in a mad dash you realize you did not print your assignment.

Fumbling through your backpack, you also realize where your USB flash drive is — connected to the computer at home, or worse still, connected to the computer in the library from the night before. Now you're out of options and your grade is going to reflect it.

This is a typical scenario many of us may have experienced when trying to manage a wealth of important documents on easy to misplace, portable storage devices like USB flash drives. There is a better way and it is called Dropbox, available at getdropbox.com.

USB flash drives have been around since about 2000 and have become popular mostly



Zeros and ones

Chris Miller

over the past five years. Before that, we used CD-R media and even floppy drives.

Remember those days? The benefit of USB flash drives is their size and portability. Another huge advantage is their size. Common sizes now are 8GB and 16GB, which can store thousands of documents!

The problem, however, is that they are easy to lose or forget. Go into any computer

lab and you can usually find a pile of USB flash drives that people have left behind. Although they are relatively inexpensive, the data on these portable storage devices certainly is not.

Dropbox is an online storage service and provides a solution to this problem. Best of all, it's free!

Dropbox works by having you download and install a small application on your computer that runs in the background, monitoring a specific folder of documents. When a file is added or is changed, Dropbox uploads a copy of this file to the its servers on the Internet in the background, always keeping your documents folder synchronized with the Dropbox servers.

You can run Dropbox on more than one computer,

and anytime a file is changed in one place it's automatically replicated on the other computers. This is great for large group projects, or for synchronizing your home and work computers.

Don't install Dropbox on a public computer, however. For security reasons, you don't want your files permanently synchronized onto a computer others may use. Instead, use the Web interface at getdropbox.com to login to your account and view all of your folders and files. You can also upload new files directly from the web site that will then get sent to your computers at home and/or work. When you are done, simply log out and leave no data behind.

The Web interface to Dropbox provides some additional features as well. You can see a revision history of a file.

For example, if you've made 10 changes to a file but want to go back to a past version of the file, you can see all changes and revert to any one of them. Accidentally deleted an important file? No worries, Dropbox saves a copy of your deleted files that you can safely recover.

The Web interface also gives you enhanced sharing features so that you can control what other Dropbox users you have authorized can see of your files. Have a group project? No problem, simply share a folder with your group members and you all can see the files on your own computer.

For iPhone users, Dropbox has a nice iPhone interface for Safari. Simply log into the Web site, and you have access to all of your files directly from your iPhone. Although

you can't modify them, you can view any supported iPhone document type, such as Word, PowerPoint and Excel. Coming soon is a native iPhone application, but very few details have been discussed.

All server communications are encrypted with SSL, so your data remains safe and private. Additionally, data stored on the Dropbox servers is encrypted with 256-bit AES. Your data couldn't be safer.

Dropbox is available at getdropbox.com for free up to 2GB in storage. Additional storage is available starting at \$6.99 per month. Forget carrying around your data; instead, let your data follow you.

Chris Miller is a senior accounting major at MTSU. He can be reached at cmm4w@mtsu.edu and on his blog at ee99ee.com.

Westboro Baptist fuels free speech debate

Whenever it comes to the Westboro Baptist Church, I've found that there are typically two types of responses.

The first response is just a blank stare, perhaps a "what?" or "huh?" Most of the time this response means the person I'm speaking to has never heard of the church or its doings.

The second response can range anywhere from utter revulsion to (yes, really) support of some kind or another.

If you haven't heard of the WBC, you should probably search for it on YouTube, Google or even Wikipedia if you feel like playing the erudite for a time.

The WBC is that group of protestors who scour America for soldiers' funerals to shout what I would classify as obscenities and hold signs that read "God is Your Enemy" and "Thank God For AIDS," though this isn't the church's express purpose.

The WBC is a proactive religious group located in Topoka, Kan. that holds weekly services, but a lot of its efforts go toward the protesting of what it considers the sinful, self-destructive lifestyles/decisions/acts of ignorance. When I say "a lot," let me refer you to its Web site (godhatesfags.com), which claims "the humble servants of God at WBC" have participated in more than 40,000 protests.

For such a conservative group, the WBC has truly embraced the digital age and the site rides the cutting edge of technology like Jesus balling into Jerusalem in a 2010 Escalade. I could probably write an entire essay concerning points where print publications could take a lesson from the WBC's exemplary execution of convergence... proselytizing, but I digress.

The WBC rubs a lot of people the wrong way for a wide variety of reasons. Perhaps it's calling American soldiers who've been killed in action "fags," and the verbal affirmations that it was (and is) an act of God's glory. Maybe it's because the WBC professes that the U.S. is a doomed nation because of its tolerance of gay individuals. Either way, I'm willing to guess that there are soldiers and homosexuals who would question both roadside bombings as the work of God and America's "tolerance" of gay lifestyles with comparable fervor.

Anyone who has been keeping up with the undertakings of the WBC doesn't have to



From the Editor

Byron Wilkes

be told each and every incidence where the church has shown up to make known its perceived notion of what, why and how the Christian God is doing currently; you can simply befriend God on Facebook if you want to know that.

The First Amendment legally allows the WBC to do what it does, and it also protects people approaching the WBC's sign-wielders to voice dissent so long as they don't threaten physical harm or otherwise encroach on the church members' freedoms. This has unveiled a wholly novel approach to counteracting the oft-unwanted message of the WBC.

On March 10, 2008, Sgt. Taylor McDavid was killed by a suicide bomber in Iraq. McDavid and I were both from Starkville, Miss., but aside from his sister Leslie baby-sitting me as a child, I did not really know the man. Upon his death, the WBC announced it would make the grueling drive to backwoods Mississippi, however undesirable the visit was.

Upon hearing this, a group known as the Patriot Guard Riders also announced it would be present at McDavid's service, though on a less technologically adept Web

cently announced it will ride to Murfreesboro for Spc. Corey Kowall who was killed in Afghanistan Sept. 20).

I imagine the two groups have met before, and the result is probably a spectacular clash of First Amendment rights clamoring over one another, one decrying the homosexuality of a deceased U.S. soldier and the other revving engines with angry faces in attempt to render the other aphonic.

Either way, such a battle is absolutely an anomaly made in America.

Seeing two groups with opposing ideas at each other's throats has become pretty common in this country, whether it's pro-choicers and pro-lifers or Republicans and Democrats.

Our First Amendment rights have been the subject of much debate for a long time, and with Constitution Day recently ending, Sidelines has also invited discourse on the topic. Having the right to speak your mind is a powerful thing, and most countries don't ensure it in their constitutions, so having seen, read and heard so much about the WBC and its messages, I decided I had to try and get in touch with someone from the church and ask a few questions.

When I called a number I found on a message board (the point of which was to harass the WBC I must add) declared to be the WBC's own, I was prepared for a let-down. Instead, I received a rather timely call back from Shirley Phelps-Roper, the de facto spokesperson of WBC and daughter of WBC's pastor, Fred Phelps.

Newsflash: there is no fringe. The fringe is relative. By classifying the WBC as on the 'fringe,' one automatically assigns a normalcy to a population's opinion, which often leads to recapitulating groupthink."

site. The Riders comprise motorcyclists from all backgrounds, and their mission in Starkville was, hypothetically, to drown out the utterances of the WBC with the sounds of its engines.

The tiny town of Starkville never did see this showdown of clashing opinions, as the WBC flaked on its appearance. The Riders, however, did make it there to pay their respects (the group has re-

I asked Phelps-Roper what she thought about her First Amendment rights, which she claimed were actually given to her by God, not America, though God had certainly pre-ordained the Constitution's formation (it's important to note Phelps-Roper has a law degree from Washburn University). Although she stopped just short of saying that God's will superseded the edict of the Constitution,

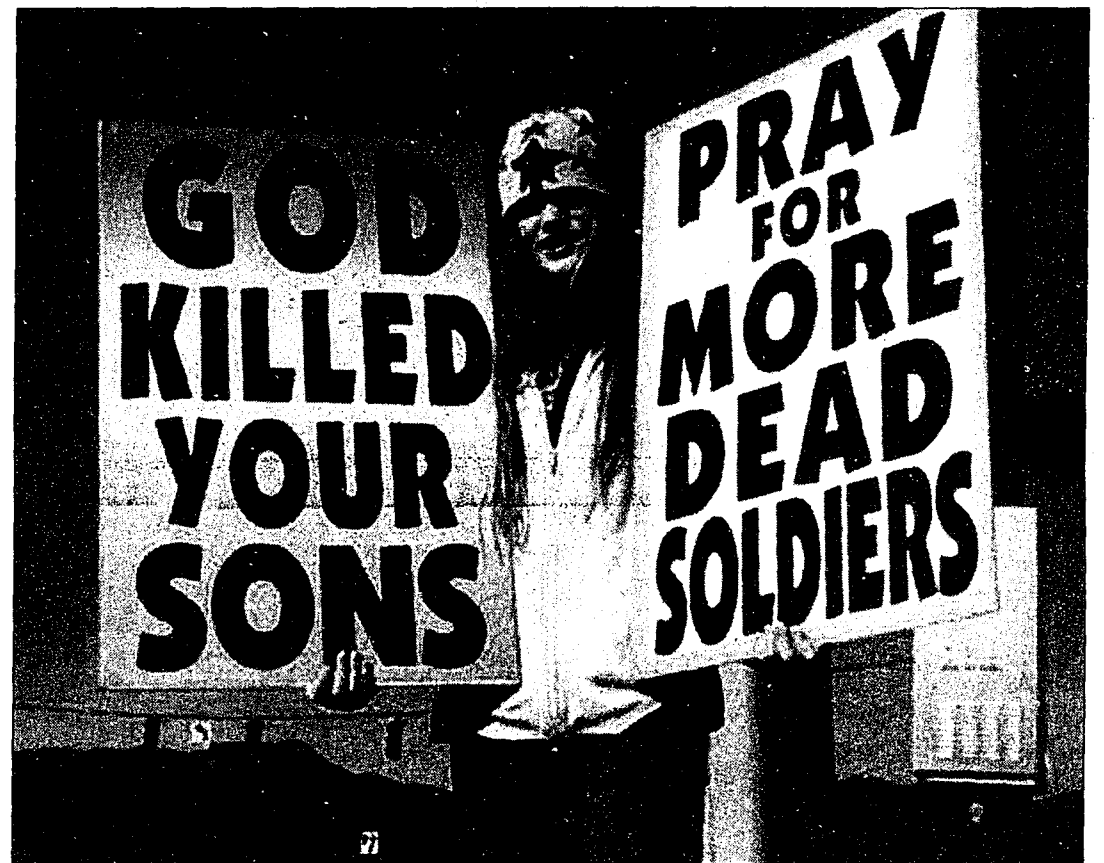


Photo courtesy of the Westboro Baptist Church, godhatesfags.com

An unnamed Westboro Baptist Church member protests. The church members carry a wide variety of signs.

she did affirm that every country in the world begat its laws from the Bible.

Opinion aside, Phelps-Roper brought up some interesting points that made me really reflect on the nature of modern discourse in America, perhaps the most telling of which is as follows: "We're just talking about what you're talking about."

That's when it hit me. Perhaps one of the biggest reasons so many people acknowledge and loathe the "God Hates Fags" people is because of the span of reactions the group has drawn. Are these responses fueling the WBC? Are the Patriot Guard Riders actually giving the WBC more press by trying to check them? Is this column in some way contributing to the WBC and its messages?

I say a resounding "no" to all of these questions. The main reason, and hopefully the most obvious, is the notion of the marketplace of ideas. The very laws that allow the WBC to do what they do and allow the Riders to peaceably reply also put the corresponding messages into perspective.

It's easy to forge a connection between the angered response of an attacked individual or individuals and the relative level of right or wrong of the attacker's message.

When Australia was ravaged by wildfires in February earlier this year, the WBC's own Fred Phelps claimed that "fag-run" Australia was simply reaping the consequences of its sinful ways, even name-

dropping "vile Australian" Heath Ledger. At least one Australian news agency deemed the speech newsworthy, and under the guise of objectivity it revealed the nature of Phelps, adding a quip about how quick the WBC was to call police when it was firebombed earlier last year.

The hate of Phelps is palpable in this speech, but by playing down a full context of the WBC and playing up the Aussie-phobic points of Phelps, the news program did little but possibly polarize Australians on the WBC.

I am of the opinion that no speech can be deemed completely and utterly worthless. Yes, I realize the massive and all-encompassing implications of this statement, and alongside that the intrinsic danger historically symptomatic with humanity; many would say most white supremacist hate speech is utterly without intellectual value.

What I'm suggesting is looking past the message in order to see the messenger, and, vicariously, why and how the messenger is bringing forth such content.

Phelps-Roper claims her existence and motives lie entirely at the behest of God. "It is a necessity," Phelps-Roper said. "I couldn't any more not do this than I could avoid breathing. It's our duty. It's your duty."

For Phelps-Roper, saying the things she and other members of the WBC say is inherent to life, and personally I have no reason to be-

lieve otherwise. This is why it's important to hear out everyone, or at least give him or her the opportunity to voice his or her opinion.

Phelps-Roper also said that the media, and the general populace, "want you to think that we're [the WBC] is myopic, that we're off the radar, that we're on the fringe... It's all they can talk about."

Her point is valid. Most of the content you'll read online about the WBC will make it clear, especially opinion-oriented content, that an apparent majority of folks in American just plain despise the church, and by estranging this organization perhaps people hope to drown it out or end the messages altogether. Yet it is of the utmost important to realize the WBC is not on the fringe, or at least that thinking of it this way is flawed.

Newsflash: there is no fringe. The fringe is relative. By classifying the WBC as on the "fringe," one automatically assigns a normalcy to a population's opinion, which often leads to recapitulating groupthink.

Think of Fred Phelps, the WBC, the Patriot Guard Riders and even yourself as parts of a larger puzzle, not as being right or wrong, or good or evil. By doing so, it makes the process of sifting through what makes ideals worthy (worthy of action, that is) astonishingly easier.

Byron Wilkes is a senior journalism major and editor in chief, and can be reached at sleditor@mtsu.edu.

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN
HAZED?

online

TELL US ONLINE AT
MTSUSIDELINES.COM

FEATURES



WILL YOU ORDER
FOOD FROM THE KUC
ONLINE?

BASED ON VOTES FROM
MTSUSIDELINES.COM.

Paper Route plays with surreal, dark pop

Nashville-based band tries to evolve while still playing the same style of music

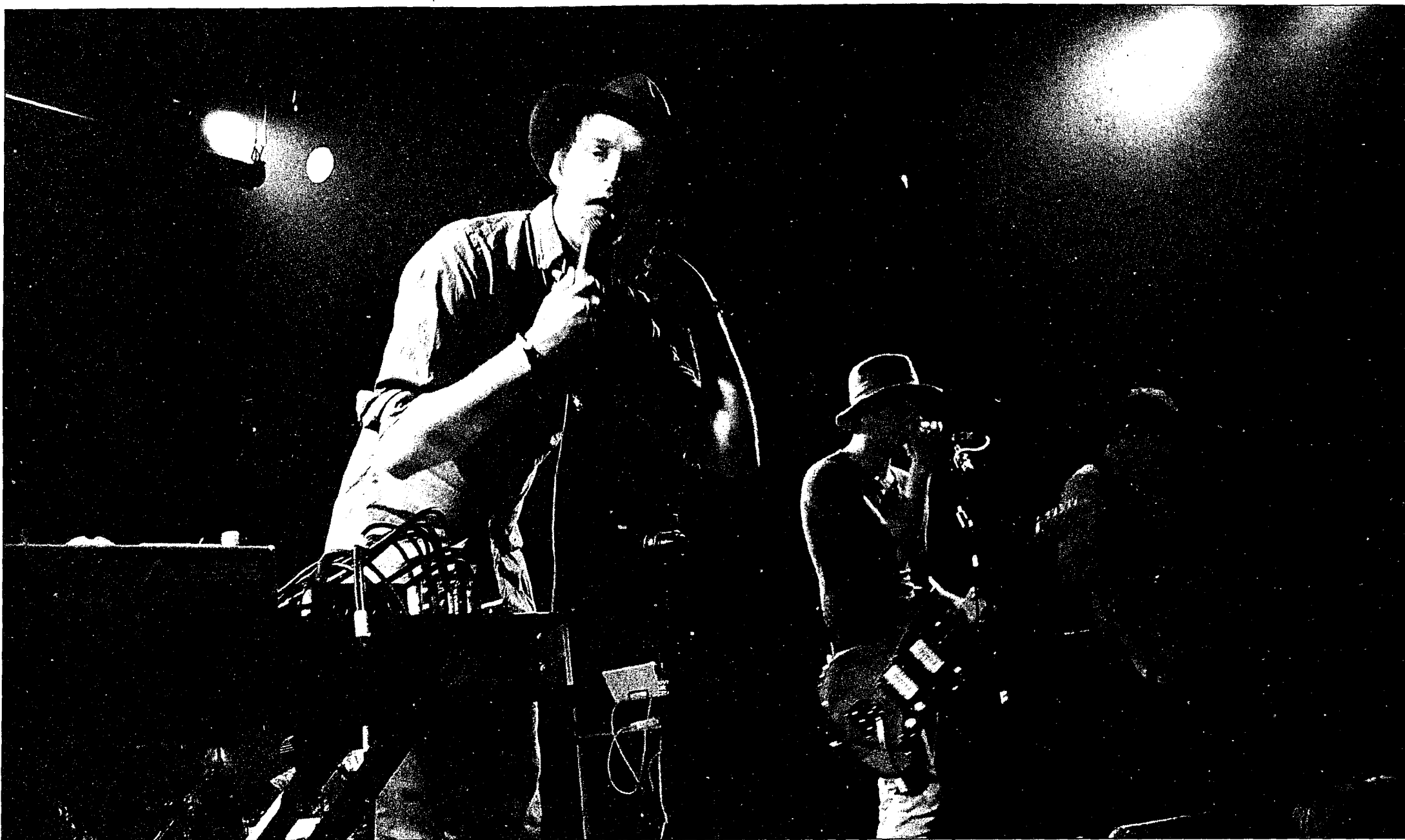


Photo by David Shaw, contributing photographer
JT Daly (left) vocalist, keyboardist and percussionist; Andy Smith (center) vocalist, guitarist and harmonica; and Chad Howat (right), bass, piano and programming, all of Paper Route play at Rocketown in Nashville.

By JESSICA PACE
Staff Writer

Bands tend to form in basements, not under beds, but Chad Howat, founder of Nashville band Paper Route, discovered that sitting beneath his bunkbed in the wee hours with a laptop was conducive to writing music.

Thus Paper Route was born. Notorious for dark, melodic pop and popularized randomly in North America – St. Louis and parts of Canada in particular – Paper Route began as a product of one man's insomnia. The band's music does not depend on sleeplessness and discomfort, but it tends to thrive on those things.

"It's not like we wait around till 11 p.m. and drink really, really dark red wine," laughs JT Daly, the band's vocalist/keyboardist/percussionist. Daly is an affable sort of guy with a faintly Bill Murray look on his face, sitting next to drummer Gavin McDonald after a set at Rocketown.

"I don't think you have to be uncomfortable, but inspiration seems to come at the most inopportune moments," McDonald says.

For Paper Route, it just happens that way. The band is in the habit of taking an alternate route and making it work.

For one thing, they pulled off a successful Rocketown show Sept. 19 before a crowd that included fans of the bands Kill Hannah and She Wants Revenge, two acts entirely different from Paper Route.

Of the four band members, some dressed up in vests and suspenders while some

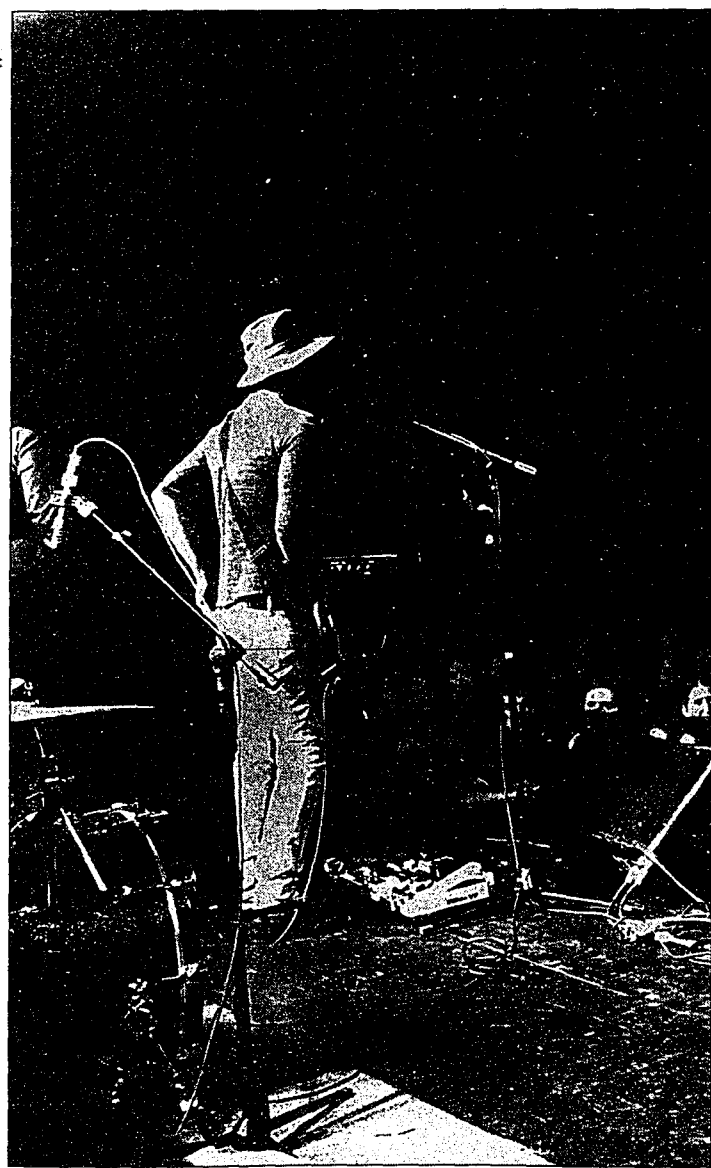


Photo by David Shaw, contributing photographer
A crowd gathers at Rocketown to hear Smith's vocal and guitar skills.



Photo by David Shaw, contributing photographer
Daly's keyboard and vocal skills captivate a Rocketown audience.

"It's louder, a lot more dynamic in some of the song lyrics, a little bit darker, faster and hopefully a little more emotional," Daly says. "And Gavin's energy made for an equal and opposite reaction for the moodier songs."

The dark solemnity of the music is definitely broken by a cracking drum pulse on most of the album's 12 tracks, all achieved through a constantly evolving song-writing process with changes in how much the members contribute. Paper Route is a lot about change, citing the bands that have done so successfully before them.

"When that R.E.M. record 'Monster' came out in 1994, Rolling Stone did a review of it, and part of it was 'evolve or die,'" Daly says. "These guys decided, instead of making 'Automatic for the People II' or another 'Green,' they evolved. They still sounded like R.E.M., just a reinvented R.E.M."

"There's a fine line between changing styles and evolving," he adds.

That is what the members of Paper Route aimed for in "Absence," and not only for themselves, but for their audience as well.

"I guess I was in tenth or eleventh grade when Radiohead put out 'Kid A,' and I remember listening to it and thinking, 'I have no idea what this is,' but you learn that if you like the stuff from before, you go on a journey with that band, and you take it or leave it," says McDonald.

The guys seem like old-fashioned musicians at heart – looking at the artists they appreciate and the gratefulness they expressed at their Rocketown show for all of those who still buy music – and their goals for the future are fairly simple. They want to take people on the same kind of journey through a course of albums, and achieve on the next endeavor what they did with "Absence."

"It changes all the time, but I just want to make another good record, I guess," McDonald says. "This one was good."

REFRESHINGLY INDEPENDENT

MUSIC 25th ANNUAL FESTIVAL

USE IT ALL

GO! SOLD OUT

JOIN THE WAIT LIST

from \$199

Jan 4-9, 2010

www.BigSkiTrip.com

1-888-754-8447

BAND OF THE WEEK

leased its debut full-length "Absence" last April, which was just like "putting together a bigger puzzle," as Daly described it.

Daly also described "Absence" as being a "post-conceptual" work, as the theme of absence was created with no forethought. As the line "You're the first voice that I turned to in the absence of my

own" goes in "Enemy Among Us," a consistent theme of absence runs throughout.

"It's not like we all had the same dream the same night," Daly says, although making the album was surreal in some respects for the band.

Paper Route collaborated with David Campbell – Canadian musician and father to eclectic musician Beck Han-

sen – on "Good Intentions" and "Lover's Anthem."

"You feel like a kid, working with your heroes," McDonald says. "Just kind of wide-eyed."

Rather than try to copy other musicians, Paper Route looks to other art forms when in a musical rut.

In addition to the entire band reading "Jayber Crow," a TV was set up in the recording area as an inspirational outlet when trying to come up with ideas.

"Blade Runner" and Wendell Berry apparently equal moody, synthesized melodia brought down to earth by very humanistic, if tired, themes of friendship and love.

Comparisons could be drawn closely to Coldplay, because the sound is stylistically refined, but lyrically meandering and colorful.

‘Jennifer’s Body’ sucks in more ways than one

Oscar-winning screenwriter Diablo Cody returns to big screen with major disappointment

By JOHNATHON SCHLEICHER
Staff Writer

With a star like Megan Fox and a title like “Jennifer’s Body”, one would think this would be a must-see movie, right? Wrong.

Not only does this film take a beating in the box office, “Jennifer’s Body” is not even worth purchasing a ticket for the experience. Though Megan Fox and Amanda Seyfried look stunning, the plot seems like it has come straight from a 1970s horror film based in high school.

“Jennifer’s Body” was released on Sept. 18, and it is no surprise that the film is rated “R” for sexuality and bloody violence.

Directed by Karyn Kusama and written by Diablo Cody, “Jennifer’s Body” is a twisted combination of “The Exorcist” and “Silence of the Lambs,” with a dark sense of high school humor that makes you feel like you are watching a teen-comedy soap opera.

The setting is in a town appropriately named Devil’s Kettle. The aptly named Needy (Amanda Seyfried) and Jessica (Megan Fox) share a close friendship that borders on the erotic.

Despite the fact that Needy is a reserved wallflower and Jessica is a shallow prep with the gift of seduction, the two girls are almost inseparable.

Everything goes downhill when Jessica decides to take Needy to Melody Lane, the local bar, for a rock performance. Jessica is increasingly bossy and turbulent as the movie progresses, so Needy rarely says “no” to her best friend’s wishes.

In a tragic turn of events, a fire spreads and consumes the bar taking, several lives and causes a massive panic. Jessica and Needy escape, but Jessica acts catatonic while Needy desperately tries to bring her back to reality.

Jessica is pulled away by the lead singer of the band, Nikolai Wolf (Adam Brody) with whom she flirted with earlier. The bar is still ablaze, but all the lead singer cares about is trying to get Jessica in his van. Like in most horror movies, sex sells.

Needy is shaken up and returns back to her home where she seeks comfort from her boyfriend. After her boyfriend Chip (Johnny Simmons) reassures Needy, she hears a knock at the door and feels it is safe to answer it. After seeing no one there, Needy goes back inside only to find the bloodied and demonic Jessica.

After spewing dark fluids all over the kitchen floor, “Emily Rose”-style, Jessica disappears. After this incident, men all over the town are seduced by Jessica’s body, and then mutilated. It is up to Needy to stop the rampage from continuing and save the men of Devil’s Kettle from her best friend.

The pros to this film are few and far between, but Fox is not only physically a goddess, but plays a possessed, conceited succubus pretty well.

Seyfried also gives a riveting performance. She plays her role as the shy girl who next door really well, and her acting really sells “losing her mind” throughout the film. If it wasn’t for Seyfried’s acting, the movie would have been a total lost cause.

The film did have some interesting special effects. The dark lighting and ominous surroundings remind me of the Tim Burton movie “Sleepy Hollow.”



Photo courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox Studios
After becoming possessed, Jennifer (Fox) uses her succubus charms in an attempt to seduce Chip (Simmons), her best friend Needy’s (Seyfried) boyfriend, during a dance.



Photo courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox Studios
Needy (Seyfried) tries to stop Jennifer after she ravages the prom.



Photo courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox Studios
Jennifer (Fox) and Needy (Seyfried) sneak in to a local club to watch a performance by a high-billed band.

Director: Karyn Kusama

Starring: Megan Fox, Amanda Seyfried, Johnny Simmons, Adam Brody

Rating: R for sexuality, bloody violence, language and brief drug use.

Run Time: 102 minutes



While seeing Fox spew black blood from her mouth is pretty cool, it is also enticing to watch the transformation Jessica goes through when she becomes less human while things turn sour. For the many shortcomings “Jennifer’s Body” has, special effects is not one of them.

“Jennifer’s Body” is definitely not worth the hype. It has some good scenery, like brooding buildings and moonlit windows that creep you out, but this movie is as scary as a toned-down version of “Hostel” with all of the elements of high school.

The movie was pretty slow to get to the scary moments, and when it did get to the killing, the action left much to be desired.

This film was supposed to be Cody’s next raging success after her Oscar award-winning screenwriting for the movie “Juno,” but she has certainly disappointed her fans and possibly ruined her screenwriting career.

It is unfortunate to say that Cody dropped the ball on this one.

As harsh as it is to say, Cody is looking like a one-hit wonder director. Perhaps she should stop making movies and go back to being a “stripper journalist.”

Though I would give Fox and Seyfried a much higher rating, I give “Jennifer’s Body” one star out of four.

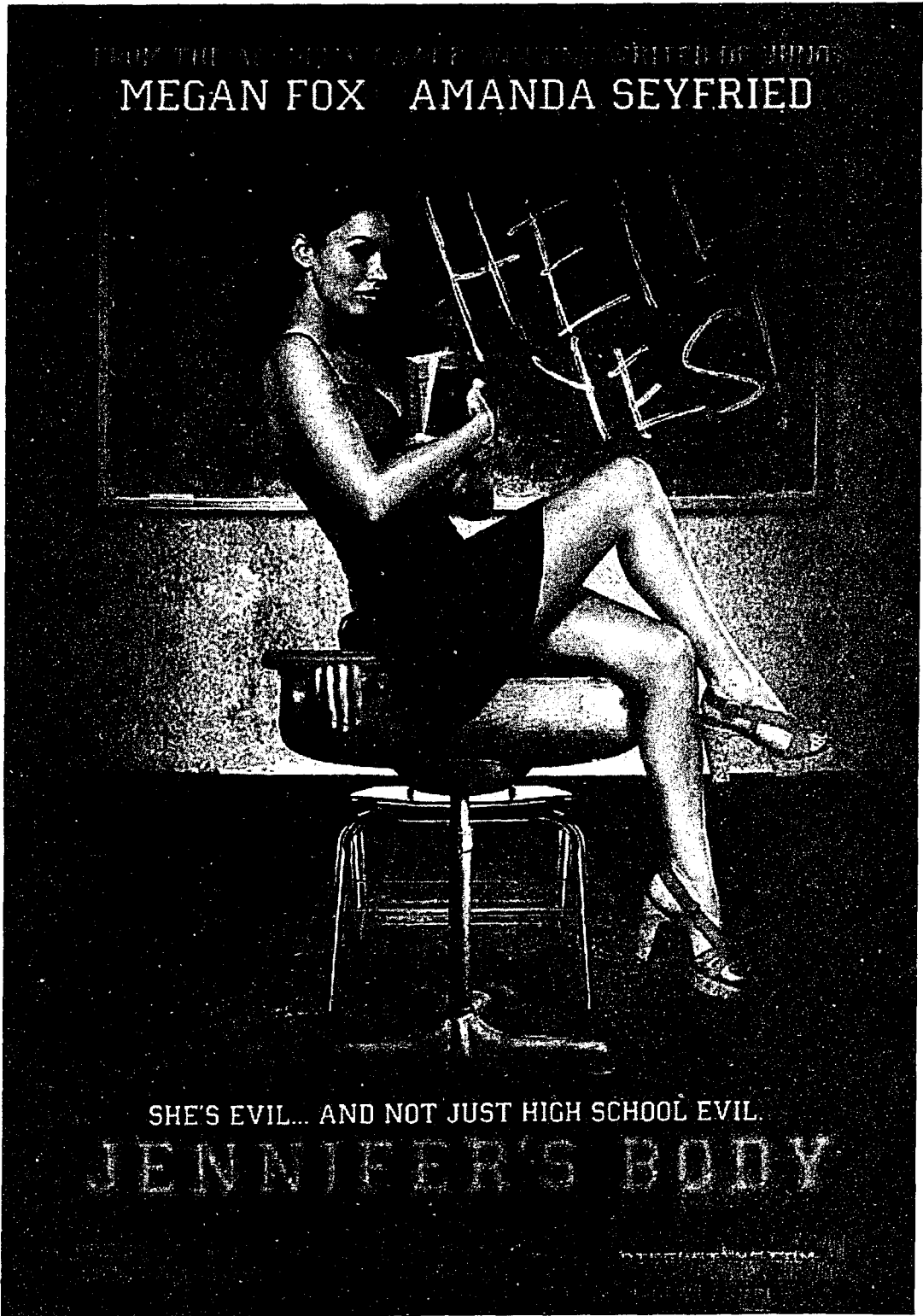


Photo courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox Studios
Despite the sex appeal used to sell it, both critics and viewers widely consider “Jennifer’s Body” as a flop.

SPORTS



Blue Raider

GAMEDAY
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 TIME: 6 P.M. RADIO: 89.5 WMOT



Alan Gendreau kicks back

By STEPHEN CURLEY
Staff Writer

When Alan Gendreau suits up, he knows the entire balance of the game could hinge on his right foot. So far in his young career, the Apopka, Fla. native has delivered on every opportunity.

He already owns the school record for longest made field goal streak (eight) and has kicked the Blue Raiders to two of the biggest wins in the program's still fairly recent venture into Division I football. The most recent display coming on a 19-yard kick as time expired to beat The University of Maryland on the road.

"That's the job of a kicker," Gendreau said. "That's what we live for. It is definitely nerve-racking, but it's what our job is about."

The Maryland scenario was particularly taxing, when the kick was no more than an extra point, but from the left hash mark on the field, putting Gendreau at a slightly more awkward angle. And when you're that close, angles make all the difference in the world.

"It's a tough angle being that close," Gendreau said. "Because usually if it's that close it's an extra point. You just gotta take your steps right and get your hips squared with the goal post."

The interesting thing for Gendreau is that his game-winning extra points (or glorified ones in the Maryland game's case) aren't just limited to college. In fact, the only other game-winning field goal he's ever had was an extra point to win a game in high school.

But that doesn't mean he would love the opportunity at something longer.

"I've yet to kick a very long field goal to win a game," Gendreau said. "That would definitely be a lot more nerve-racking, though it already is when you're that close because if you miss they'll say he's terrible."

Such is the life of a kicker. Send the right kick through the uprights and you're a hero but miss the wrong kick and you're the goat. There's also the coaches that like to mess with you by calling a timeout to make you think about your task for a little while longer.

Gendreau insists, however, that icing has never and will never work on him.

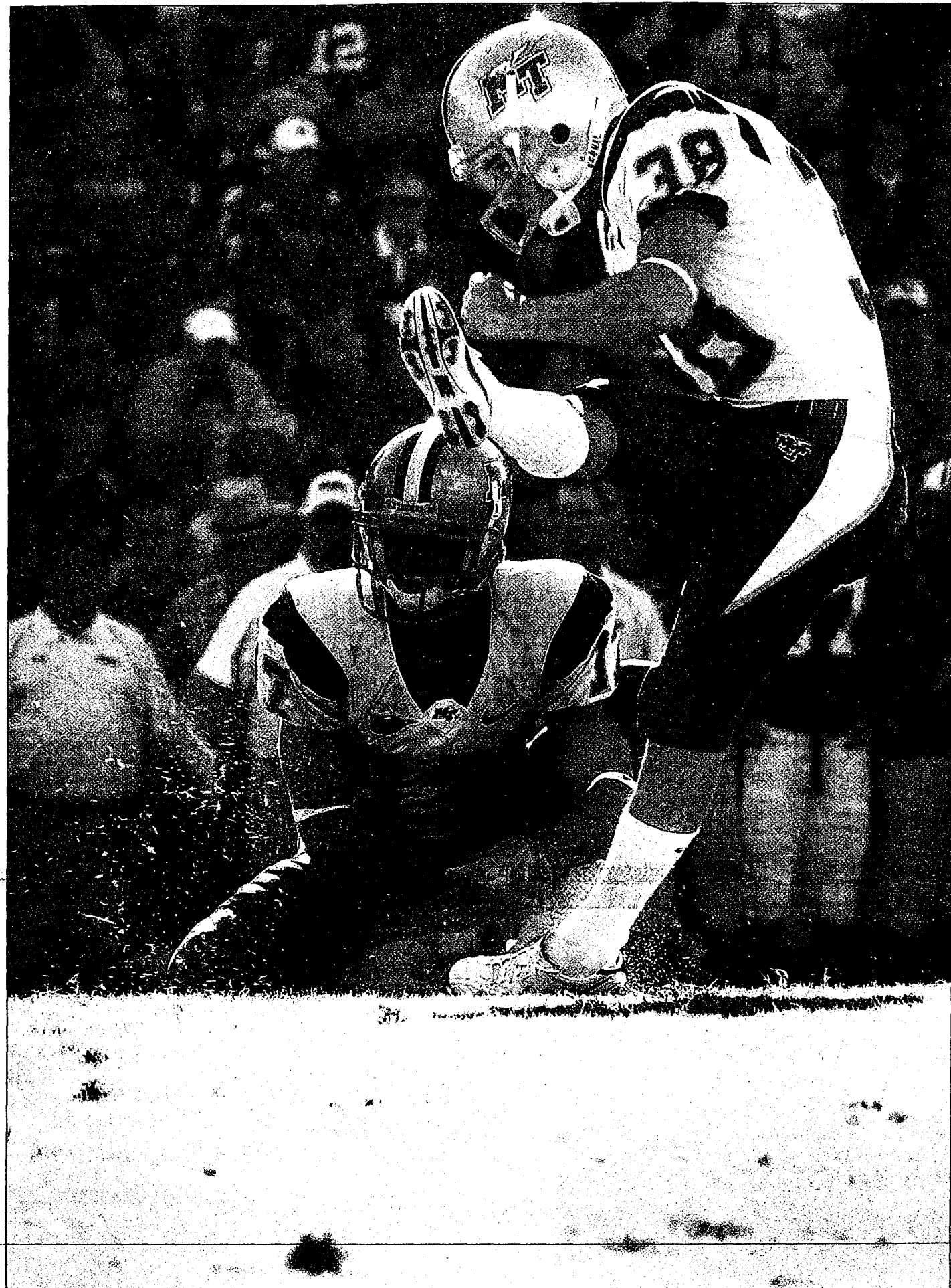


Photo by Brennan Sparta, contributing photographer

Sophomore kicker Alan Gendreau aims for a field goal against Maryland. Gendreau won the game on a 19-yard attempt as time expired.

"I just do my job, and that's to kick," Gendreau said. "The team reacts how they want to react. I'll take it for what it is."

The former three-time Orlando Sentinel Soccer Player of the Year and four-time all-state selection for soccer out of Orangewood Christian near Orlando is actually very new to football.

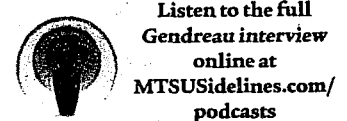
"I mainly played soccer my whole life," said Gendreau. I started playing football my sophomore year so I'm pretty fairly new to the football thing."

Gendreau has racked up quite a few awards and achievements in his football/soccer career. He owns Orangewood's career scoring record (including a 57-

yard field goal somewhere in there) was the first player from that school to sign a Division I scholarship. He has even appeared on the cover of RISE Magazine, the premier printed publication dealing with high school athletes.

Gendreau has proven he has the talent and can handle the pressure that comes

with the position at this level of competition. He'll likely have some more opportunities to shine before the end of his college career, and can hopefully make the most of them.



Listen to the full Gendreau interview online at MTSUSidelines.com/podcasts

Sun Belt opener takes MT to North Texas

By RICHARD LOWE
Assistant Sports Editor

MT moves into conference play this week with a contest against the University of North Texas. The game will take place in Denton, TX.

There were different opinions about each team heading into the season. Many predicted North Texas to finish second to last in the conference after only winning one game last year, but after defeating Ball State University in Week 1 of the season and coming close against Ohio the week after, those predictions are shifting to a more positive outlook.

MT fans and observers didn't know what to expect from a team. They replaced almost half of their defensive starters from a year ago and brought back junior Dwight Dasher as their starting quarterback. However, with victories over

the University of Memphis and the University of Maryland, some fans are starting to think that this could be the year for MT to win the Sun Belt Conference title outright.

The game will feature the match up of arguably the front-runner in the conference offensive player of the year Dasher and arguably the front-runner for conference freshman of the year in North Texas QB Riley Dodge. Dasher has been in Dodge's position of being a freshman start but MT coach Rick Stockstill doesn't view Dodge in that manner.

"He has been in their offensive system since he was a ninth-grader and the learning curve is not as steep as if he was a true freshman coming in," Stockstill said. "He is a good player and knows where to go with their offense. I do not look at him as a first-year starter."

The story of last year's game was the performance of MT running back Phillip Tanner. In that game, Tanner ran for five touchdowns in the first half. If that was not enough, he scored another touchdown on the first play of the second half – a kick off return. There is no chance for an encore because Tanner is still out with an injury that he suffered against Memphis. There is no word on when he will return.

With or without Tanner, Stockstill feels last year's game has no bearing on what will take place this weekend.

"D.D. [Kyles] has not [run against North Texas]," Stockstill said. "Benny [Cunningham] has not done it. Dwight [Dasher] did it but he was hurt. That was last year's team and North Texas is a different team."

"Last year will have no effect on what we can and cannot do this year."



Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor
Dwight Dasher looks to pass during the 52-13 hometown win over North Texas last year.

Can MT replace Phillip Tanner?



The 5th Down

Chris Welch

I'm a little worried about this Saturday's game against North Texas.

Don't get me wrong. I have faith in the Blue Raider football squad. Look at our schedule so far: if there's one thing that the MT opponents are this season, it's surprised.

We lost the season opener at Clemson. Big surprise. Clemson is in the running to be on the AP College Football Top 25 by the end of the season. The fact that a Sun Belt Conference team managed to even get 14 points on the Tigers is, in my opinion, pretty impressive.

At the Blackout Game, Memphis rolled over and let Dwight Dasher and Phillip Tanner run the ball up and down the field for a 31-14 victory.

Last weekend, the Blue Raiders put their faith in kicker Alan Gendreau to clinch the game. Gendreau came through, and Maryland lost the game 32-31 after the clock had expired.

This is all good news for Blue Raider Nation. The last time that the MT football team started out their season 2-1, they took a trip to the Motor City Bowl.

This is entirely possible again. We have a versatile quarterback, a great receiver core, and a powerhouse running back...oh, wait.

My question is simply this: how will we do against North Texas without Tanner?

In last season's explosive 52-13 win over the Mean Green, Tanner scored an impressive six touchdowns. That's 80 percent of the total scoring by MT.

Tanner was also the leading rusher, leading the team with 162 yards for gain. He even caught the ball once or twice. Really, Tanner owned the offense that day.

This is not to doubt the ability of the other running backs, but let's face it: Tanner is good. The other half-backs, namely D.D. Kyles, will surely step up. But will it be enough to make up for the lack of Tanner?

North Texas is sure to see a lot more passing game than any of MT's previous opponents. The lack of Tanner, coupled with the continued growth of QB Dwight Dasher, could mean a lot more receivers will get their hands on the ball.

Coach Franklin preached finding 10 to 12 guys who can play in order to stay fresh," senior WR Gene Delle Donne said. "Having that depth at receiver has helped us over the course of a game."

But will this new offensive style work? It's a wild guess for most, and only time will tell for certain.

Volleyball defeats UAB, faces WKU next

Blue Raiders continue successful schedule, prepare for Sun Belt Conference opener on Friday

By **ETHAN LANNOM**
Staff Writer

MT's volleyball team had a great start to the 2009 season, winning their first five matches comfortably over Kansas University, Murray State, Xavier University, Georgia Tech and Northern Illinois University.

However, the team's recent patch of play has not been so stellar. The Blue Raiders lost the last two games of their opening home stand to Northern Iowa University and the University of Ohio. MT then went on the road to the Florida International Tournament held in Miami. The Blue Raiders lost their first two matches there, falling to Albany University and the University of Miami. The team finished up the tournament losing to No. 22 Florida State.

The Blue Raiders then traveled to Texas for the UT-San Antonio Classic, looking to reclaim their earlier good play. Their first match was not the one to do it in though, facing a tough No. 3 Washington squad. The team lost in straight sets. This brought their losing streak to six, which was MT's longest winless streak since the 2003 season.

The team bounced back though and won its second game in San Antonio over host team UT-San Antonio, 3-0.

On Tuesday night, the Blue Raiders were in Birmingham, Ala., taking on the University of Alabama-Birmingham. Senior Ashley Mead, who has been leading the way for MT so far this season, did so again with 13 kills.

Junior Izabela Kozon was second on the team with nine

kills and also contributed four block assists. Junior Alyssa Wistrick led the Blue Raider defense at net with five block assists. Wistrick and Janay Yancey had six kills each.

For the match, the Blue Raiders had 43 kills for a .279 hitting percentage.

Senior Ashley Waugh had 16 digs in the match and led the MT defense throughout the night. Izabela Kozon also had seven digs.

The first set was a tightly contested one, with UAB pulling ahead 16-13 midway through. With the score tied at 24, MT took advantage of a service error by UAB's Patty Paniagua and Blazer Sam Serley's attacking error to win the set 26-24.

MT found its groove in the second set, taking it easily 25-17. The team used

that momentum to cruise to a straightforward third set, winning it 25-15.

UAB had just 27 kills on the night for a measly 0.50 attack percentage. None of the Blazers recorded double-digit kills.

After the six-game losing streak, MT seems to have found its rhythm again. The team's serving woes during the weak stretch of play have seemed to disappear. This win puts the team back over .500 with a record of 7-6.

The Blue Raiders can use these two wins to build confidence going into the Sun Belt Conference section of their schedule. MT opens up Sun Belt action on Friday, Sept. 25 when the team takes on Western Kentucky at Alumni Memorial Gym at 7 p.m.

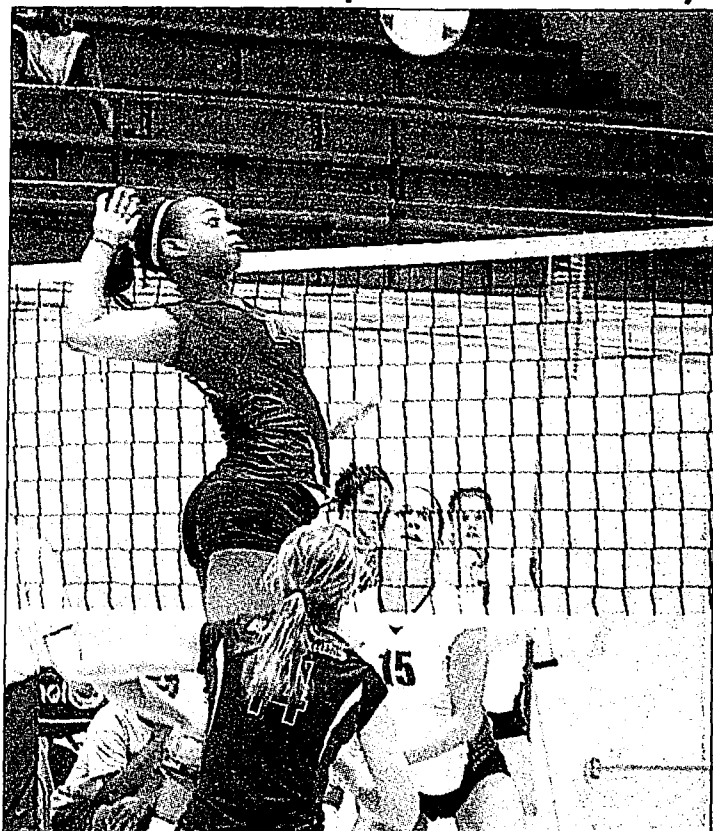


Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor
Junior Sasha McGlothlin aims to spike over the net at the Inter-squad Scrimmage in the Alumni Memorial Gym on Aug. 25.

UWIRE FOOTBALL POLL

1. Florida Gators

NUMBERS: 3-0 (1-0) -- 539 poll points (53 first-place votes)
Last week: No. 1
GAMES: Def. Tennessee, 23-13
Saturday at Kentucky

2. Texas Longhorns

NUMBERS: 3-0 (1-0) -- 474 poll points -- Last week: No. 2
GAMES: Def. Texas Tech, 34-24
Saturday vs. UTEP

3. Alabama Crimson Tide

NUMBERS: 3-0 (0-0) -- 428 poll points (1 first-place vote)
Last week: No. 4
GAMES: Def. North Texas, 53-7 -- Saturday vs. Arkansas

4. Penn State Nittany Lions

NUMBERS: 3-0 (0-0) -- 295 poll points
Last week: No. 5
GAMES: Def. Temple, 31-6 -- Saturday vs. Iowa

5. California Golden Bears

NUMBERS: 3-0 (0-0) -- 294 poll points
Last week: No. 7
GAMES: Def. Minnesota, 35-21 -- Saturday at Oregon

6. Mississippi Rebels

NUMBERS: 2-0 (0-0) -- 289 poll points
Last week: No. 6
GAMES: Def. Southeastern Louisiana, 52-6
Thursday at South Carolina

7. LSU Tigers

NUMBERS: 3-0 (1-0) -- 186 poll points
Last week: No. 9
GAMES: Def. Louisiana-Lafayette, 31-3 -- Saturday at Mississippi State

8. Boise State Broncos

NUMBERS: 3-0 (1-0) -- 155 poll points -- Last week: No. 10
GAMES: Def. Fresno State, 51-34 -- Saturday at Bowling Green

9. Miami Hurricanes

NUMBERS: 2-0 (2-0) -- 128 poll points -- Last week: No Votes
GAMES: Def. Georgia Tech, 33-17 -- Saturday at Virginia Tech

10. Oklahoma Sooners

NUMBERS: 2-1 (0-0) -- 40 poll points -- Last week: Receiving Votes
GAMES: Def. Tulsa, 45-0 -- Oct. 3 at Miami

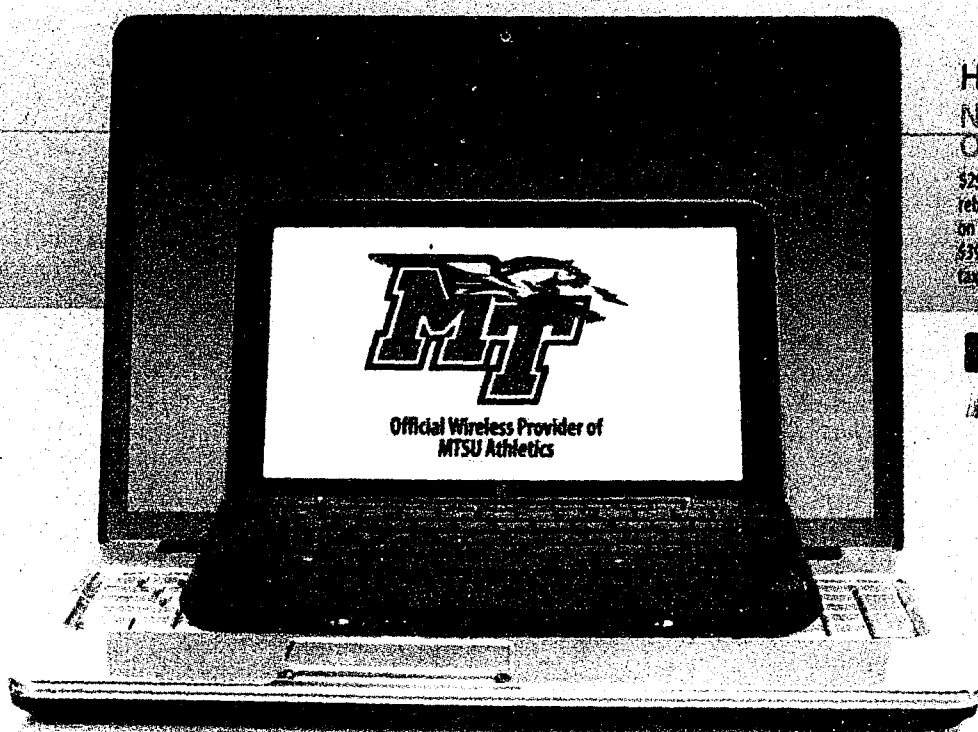
Take the Internet. Leave the bulk.

The HP Mini netbook. Connected. Portable. Affordable.

Introducing the ultra portable HP Mini netbook with America's Largest and Most Reliable 3G Network built-in. Loaded with an 80GB hard drive, webcam, and Windows® XP, it's anything but small.

Plus, get a 19% faculty and staff discount.

On calling plans \$39.99 or higher with a 1- or 2-yr. agreement.



HP® Mini netbook
NOW \$199.99
ONLY

\$299.99 2-yr. price, less \$100 mail-in rebate debit card with 2-yr. activation on a Mobile Broadband plan from \$39.99 monthly access. Activation fees, taxes & other charges apply.*



Windows

Switch to America's Largest and Most Reliable Wireless Network.

Call 1.888.VZW.4BIZ (899.4249) Click verizonwireless.com/getdiscount Visit any store

VERIZON WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS STORES Open 7 days a week.

COLUMBIA 375 S. James Campbell Blvd. 931-381-0898
DICKSON 100 Lowe's Dr. 615-446-2355

FRANKLIN 420 Cool Springs Blvd. 615-771-6448
new: 1959 Mallory Ln. 615-771-6448

GALLATIN 1152 Nashville Pike 615-452-7800

HENDERSONVILLE 223 Indian Lake Rd.
615-822-1128

LEBANON 1424 W. Main St. 615-443-2355
MADISON 1915 Gallatin Pike 615-859-2355

MT. JULIET 401 S. Mt. Juliet Rd. 615-773-1900

MURFREESBORO 580 N. Thompson Ln. 615-896-2355
NASHVILLE 4044 Hillsboro Pike 615-385-1910

6800 Charlotte Pike 615-353-2112
SMYRNA 480 Sam Ridley Pkwy. W. 615-355-6560

BUSINESS CUSTOMERS
1-800-899-4249

In Collaboration with
Alcatel-Lucent

* Our Surcharges (incl. Fed. Univ. Svc. of 12.9% of interstate & int'l telecom charges (varies quarterly), 7% Regulatory & 92% Administrative/line/mo., & others by area) are not taxes (details: 1-888-684-1888); gov't taxes & our surcharges could add 7% - 27% to your bill. Activation fee/line: \$35.
IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION: Subject to Customer Agmt, Data Plan, credit approval & rebate form. Up to \$175 early termination fee, up to \$10/MB after allowance. Mobile Broadband is available to more than 280 million people in the U.S. in 259 major metros. Offers & coverage not available everywhere. Rebate debit card takes up to 6 wks. & exp. in 12 mos. Network details & coverage maps at verizonwireless.com. ©2009 Verizon Wireless.

RYMAN AUDITORIUM

Sunday, September 27
THE DECEMBERISTS
with Laura Veirs and the Hall of Flames

Saturday, October 10
ANDREW BIRD
with St. Vincent

Saturday, October 24
JIM GAFFIGAN

Thursday, November 12
GARY ALLAN
with Jack Ingram and Eli Young Band

ticketmaster (800) 745-8000

RYMAN.COM • TWITTER.COM/THERYMAN
FACEBOOK.COM/THERYMANAUDITORIUM • RLYMAN.COM
Ryman Auditorium is a National Historic Landmark, open daily for tours.