

# MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2010

VOL. 87 NO. 18

## Educators grapple with graduation rates

### Struggle to retain students plagues higher education

By MITCHELL MCCLAIN  
Contributing Writer

With the overall graduation rate low for Tennessee Board of Regents institutions, and the percentage of people graduating from high school not much higher, state educators face an uphill battle to improve the performance of students.

"Tennessee has two critical pressure points in the transition pipeline of ninth

graders to college graduation — critical numbers of high school students that do not complete the degree and critical numbers of high school graduates that matriculate to college but lack academic preparation or fiscal resources for success," according to the TBR website.

The graduation rate at MTSU has hovered at 51.8 percent during the past six years, said Vice Provost Bart Bartel. It is higher than any other TBR institution,

except Tennessee Technological University, and the university boasts the largest enrollment rate in the state at more than 25,000 students. While at the same time, the amount of taxpayer funds appropriated to MTSU during the 2009-2010 fiscal year was almost half that of the University of Tennessee.

The Tennessee Completion of College Act, which was passed by the General Assembly in January, funds higher education based in part on success and outcomes, including higher rates of degree completion. Higher education is no longer going to be funded based on enrollment rates. Instead, schools will receive funding based on graduation rates.

The legislation also includes provisions that create statewide transfer policies, and it requires TBR and UT to establish dual admissions and enrollment policies.

Following its passage, Gov. Phil Bredesen said this legislation is "a landmark opportunity," but some university officials believe the deeper issues affecting the state's rates also need to be addressed in order to improve graduation rates.

For many students, earning a degree within the traditional four-year time frame is no longer a reality. According to the TBR, it takes students roughly six years to graduate from a university.

GRADUATION, PAGE 2



Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor

Jinlan "Jenny" Zhong (Above) washes out teaware with boiling water Friday, Nov. 5, 2010, before steeping tea leaves from her native province Fujian during a tea ceremony hosted by the Baptist Collegiate Ministry in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

## Tea admirers delight in Chinese experience

By BECCA ANDREWS  
Assistant News Editor

An intimate group of members from the MTSU community enjoyed an evening of tea ceremonies practiced in the Fujian Province of China on Friday, during a night of cultural exchange at the Baptist Collegiate Ministry.

Music City Tea, which hosted the event, allowed guests to sample various types of Chinese tea, as well as experience the traditional customs and practices used during tea ceremonies.

Jinlan "Jenny" Zhong, who hails from the Fujian Province, has amassed a small squad of fellow tea-lovers who have become loyal customers to her expanding business. She was raised in the tea business, and her family is involved with every facet of the tea world. All of the tea used in Music City Tea comes from her uncle's farm in China.

Zhong is experienced in the business side of things, as well.

She owned her own teashop in China. Her specialty is in traditional Chinese tea ceremonies and tastings particularly gong fu ceremonies, which are more relaxed than formal traditional ceremonies.

Zhong works as a waitress at Cathay Asian Bistro and simply cannot contain her love for tea.

"It makes me happy, it relaxes me," Zhong said.

Linda Wark is the owner and financial backbone of the business. She said the tea ceremonies and the different types of tea the Chinese use to treat everything from physical ailment to stress relief have always intrigued her curiosity about the custom.

Wark's son introduced Zhong at a Chinese restaurant in Franklin where Zhong was serving after her move from China to America. Wark said that the conversation quickly turned to tea, and Wark was immediately fascinated.

"The educator in me loved



Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor

Jinlan "Jenny" Zhong (Left) and Seth Twomey (Right) demonstrate the proper way to hold a Chinese teacup during a tea ceremony Friday, Nov. 5, 2010, at the Baptist Collegiate Ministry in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

the idea of teaching this subject that I was learning so much about," Wark said. "It opened up a whole new world for me."

Their friendship blossomed, and Wark quickly realized she had a business opportunity on her hands. Wark took classes on tea and ceremonial protocol, and the idea of Music City

Tea was formed.

"I enjoy doing things for the people I love, keeping them healthy and relaxed," Zhong said. "That's what tea does."

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## More research required for SGA proposals

By TODD BARNES  
Staff Writer

Senators should conduct more research before presenting legislation to the rest of the student body during meetings, according to an executive officer from the Student Government Association.

"We need to really be cognizant of the legislation that we're writing, and how it's going to be perceived by the rest of campus," said Samantha Cobb, the executive vice president and speaker of the senate, during Thursday's weekly meeting.

Cobb said in light of the attention surrounding a proposal to change the name of the university, several MTSU officials have voiced their concerns to Danny Kelley, the associate dean of the Student Affairs and current SGA adviser.

As a result, Cobb said she felt it was important to address the matter directly with



senators. The purpose of the governing body is to provide a formal process for student input into the governance of the institution, to control all matters that are delegated to the SGA by the MTSU administration, according to the SGA Constitution.

However, the SGA does not have control over matters that extend beyond campus life and student welfare.

For instance, Resolution 14-10-F, sponsored by Sen. Scott Slater of the College of Liberal Arts, regards making MTSU consistent with federal holidays, such as Veterans Day and Columbus Day. The resolution has been brought before the senate for discussion.

SGA, PAGE 2

## Chinese delegates visit Tennessee

STAFF REPORT

A delegation from one of MTSU's partner institutions in China arrived yesterday to begin its weeklong tour of various educational facilities in Tennessee, according to an MTSU press release.

The representatives of Hangzhou Normal University in Zhejiang, China, wish to "observe K-12 teaching methods in both city and rural settings," according to the press release.

HNU was MTSU's partner sponsor for the recently established Confucius Institute, one of about 80 such locations in the country, said Thomas Tozer, director of News and Public Affairs.

The leader of the delegation, Lin Zhengfan, is a past president of HNU and will present a lecture for students tomorrow entitled, "The development and future perspective of the primary schools teachers in the rural areas in China."

Two graduate students accompanying the delegation have expressed interest in observing how science courses are taught to children in the area, and to that end, the delegation plans to visit the Discover School at Reeves Rogers, Siegel Middle School and Siegel High School in Murfreesboro. The delegation also plans to travel to East Tennessee to observe rural teaching methods.

President Lin has plans to visit Gov. Phil Bredesen at the Capitol to tour the Tennessee State Museum and Frist Center for the Visual Arts.

The delegation's visit will conclude with an observance of the 29th annual Salute to Armed Services and other Veterans Day events scheduled during the football game between MTSU and North Texas on Saturday.

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IN TODAY'S ISSUE



Read a recap of today's NCAA Tournament Selection Show for the Lady Raiders soccer team.

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### MONDAY FORECAST



SUNNY  
NO THREAT OF RAIN  
HIGH 68, LOW 39



Photo by Holland Glover, staff photographer  
(Second from right) Brandon Batts, president of the Student Government Association, discusses legislation with senators during Sept. 30, 2010, weekly meeting held in the Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building.

## Additional scrutiny needed for name-change legislation

**SGA**  
**FROM PAGE 1**

However, upon further research conducted by Slater after presenting the bill, he said he realized that the Tennessee Board of Regents controls this issue, and by changing MTSU's holiday structure it would in turn have to implement those changes to all of the TBR institutions.

"After submitting this bill, I realized that this is a TBR thing," Slater said. "They would have to change all the TBR schools for this to change here. So, I move for the committee who takes this bill to kill it."

The senate has changed from the previous year, and many of the senators are underclassmen who need guidance when writing legislation, Cobb said, adding that she may be at fault on this issue.

"I think that's probably at fault for me," Cobb said. "Because I haven't been giving them, like 'here is exactly how you research it.' This year is kind of a younger, newer senate, and last year, I was on a senate full of people that have been on it for a couple [of] years."

Last week, Cobb highlighted the "Senators of the Week," which consisted of four senators. Three senators were picked because they were doing research for the leg-

islation they are writing, Cobb said. The three senators are Sens. Ashley Turner, Dustin Smith and Kierion Stephens.

"All of them want to write some legislation, and they've all come to me separately and said, 'Hey, I want to write this, I need to research it, I don't know who to contact, and I need your help,'" Cobb said. "I think that's something that everybody needs to start doing. Don't just write some legislation, and send it to the floor without doing some research."

At-Large Sen. Gavin Mosley said he will conduct more research independently regarding the name-change proposal he drafted, Resolution 08-10-F, and SGA President Brandon Batts is supposed to give a report on the status of the bill at this week's meeting.

"President Batts is going to give a report next week on the current status, I guess you could say, of the bill," Mosley said. "I'm going to start just doing some independent research just to see maybe what the next step will be after this, once Brandon [Batts] gives his report."

SGA members also discussed Resolution 19-10-F, sponsored by Sen. Rachel Lee of the College of Liberal Arts, regarding the creation of a "Raider Rewards" program that would award MTSU items to students who attend university sporting events.

## Provost attempts to form bonds

**GRADUATION**  
**FROM PAGE 1**

Many are first-generation students whose parents are not able to financially support them, while many are not acclimated to the cultural aspects of going to college like other students whose parents are college graduates - in other words, students whose parents attended college are able to better guide their children when they enter school as freshmen.

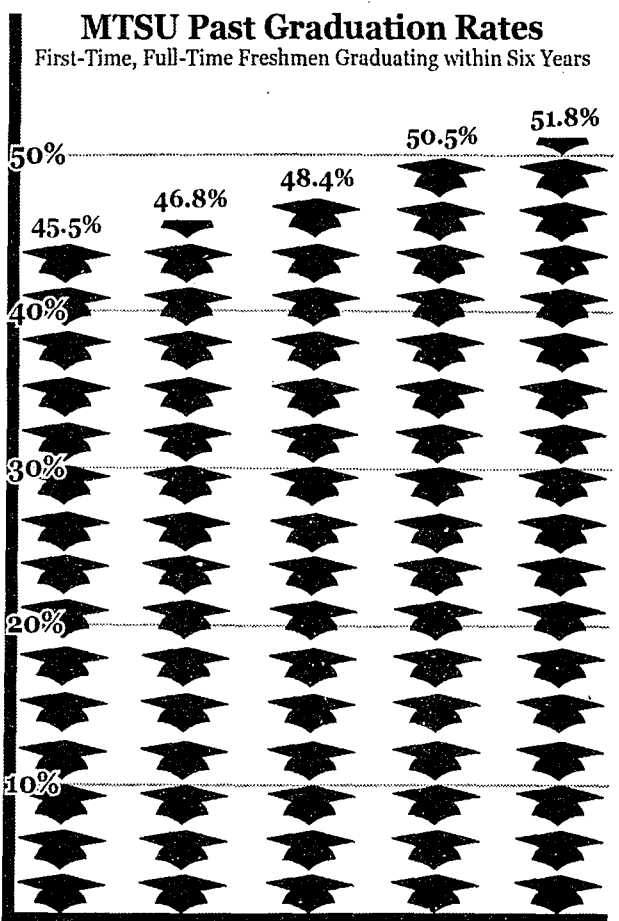
Bartel said MTSU tries to focus on the "freshman experience" for better retention rates, in which officials try to capture the student's interest in higher learning through programs designed to form lasting bonds with faculty and fellow students.

Debra Sells, the vice president of the Division of Student Affairs, agreed with Bartel's sentiments. She said MTSU has a higher proportion of first-generation college students whose parents have not attended school, "so they're first in their families and that provides additional challenges."

Bartel said the number of students who change majors for various reasons is another factor in the longer length of time to graduation, adding that his daughter, who attended the University of North Carolina at Asheville, changed majors and yet graduated in four years.

"People simply get bad advising and the cost of attendance has risen," Bartel said, adding that because of this rise in cost, many students work part-time or full-time jobs, and many take out loans to pay for school.

The graduation rate is cal-



Graphic by Andy Harper, production manager

culated based on the number of incoming full-time freshman students, and transfer students or re-enrollees are not calculated into MTSU's graduation rate.

"The six-year graduation rate is calculated nationally, so they are standard from school to school, and so they'll take the cohort of incoming full-time freshmen and track them for six-years," Sells said.

The number of new transfer students who enrolled at MTSU during the fall of 2009 rose to 2,137, which was a 10.4 percent increase from the fall of 2008, according to the Office of Enrollment Services.

However, the number of re-enrollees rose to 1,630 students, an increase of 4.8 percent overall. Re-enrollees are categorized as students who have attended MTSU

in the past and took time off of school, for whatever reason, and returned for that semester.

Even if those students return to finish their education at MTSU, or for some who have since graduated from a community college with an associate degree and then returned to earn a bachelor's degree, none of those students will be included into the university's graduation rate.

"I think that we continue to struggle with making sure students are properly prepared for college level studies when they come out of high school," Sells said.

Michael Principe, a philosophy professor in the Col-

lege of Liberal Arts, said there are some schools that are going to especially be affected by the new funding formula. Schools like Austin Peay State University is geographically close to Fort Campbell, and many of its students are in the U.S. Army - meaning some are forced to take off a substantial amount of time from school because they are called into action, such as serving in the Iraq or Afghanistan wars.

He said additional factors are causing graduation rates to decline, and he said much of it could be because of students' financial situations.

"Having to work, in some cases full time, often leads to people either deciding that going to school is a bad idea or leads to them flunking out of school," Principe said. "The fight back involves the fact that tuition goes up, class sizes get bigger - basically the

quality of education by every measure seems to get worse, while the cost of it is higher, because of an unwillingness to fund higher education."

He said in times of financial strain, the state's General Assembly should not decrease higher education funding, while at the same time change how schools are funded.

"[The state is] having trouble funding anything," Principe said. "The state legislature in Tennessee refuses to engage in any type of tax reform that would benefit public services. This goes back to the whole 'Tea Party' rhetoric, about how government is bad."

However, Kenneth Sanford, an economics professor in the College of Business, said some of the factors behind graduation rates might not stem from just state funding issues.

"If you have more people enrolled in a university, you will also have more failures," Sanford said.

Sanford said that he tries to get his students to focus on their long-term interests, but sees students with iPhones or nice cars when they should sacrifice short-term gains for long-term financial rewards.

Students should focus on working hard on their studies in college and try to avoid an "easy" path to a four-year degree, Sanford said. He said students should consider choosing majors such as economics, finance or physics, so that they are challenged to improve on critical-thinking skills, which would directly affect how well they apply those skills to complex problems associated with college.

Marie Kempf, news editor, contributed to this report.

**"If you have more people enrolled in a university, you will also have more failures."**

**KENNETH SANFORD**  
MTSU ECONOMICS PROFESSOR

# MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

# SIDELINES

is looking for a Spring 2011 editor-in-chief.

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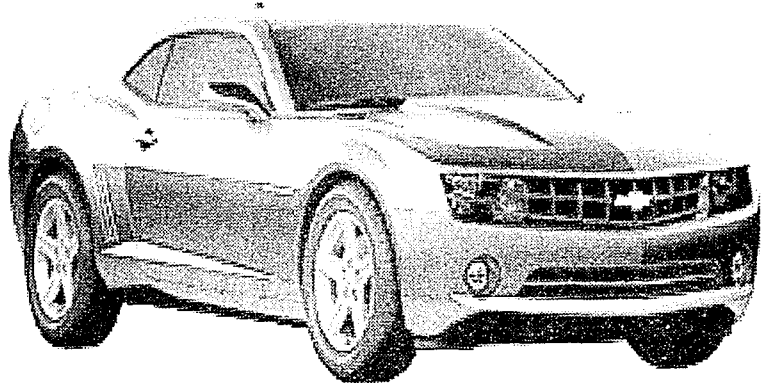
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# Managing business growth topic of discussion in Texas

STAFF REPORT

Business management and growth is slated to be the topics of discussion for an MTSU professor who is planning to speak before the Young President's Organization in Austin, Texas, on Wednesday, according to a university press release.

Douglass Tatum, an associate professor of business communication and entrepreneurship, serves as chair of Wright Travel in Entrepreneurship and is the author of "No Man's Land: What to Do When Your Company is Too Big to Be Small and Too Small to Be Big."

The book is about companies making the transition of a human-scale operation to a financial-scale operation, Tatum said, which is typically encountered when companies go from having fewer than 20 employees to greater than 100.

Tatum, who was a founding partner and chairman emeritus of Tatum, LLC, the largest executive services consulting firm in the United States, said that the speech will use real-life examples to focus on job formation in the U.S. and how companies can avoid problems when expanding.

The Young President's Organization is an international network of more than 17,000 business leaders, according to its website, and these members are predominantly entre-

preneurial startup businesses.

Two executives will join Tatum in a panel discussion about tools for managing the four key hurdles during a company's transitional stages: the transition of market and management, and the transition in model and into money, Tatum said.

One panel member, Nay Sooch is the chairman and co-founder of the Austin-based company Silicon Laboratories. Prior to the founding of Silicon Laboratories in 1996, Sooch worked at Crystal Semiconductor/Cirrus Logic and AT&T Bell Labs. Sooch earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan at Dearborn and a master's degree in electrical engineering from Stanford University.

The other panel member, Craig Malloy is the CEO and co-founder of another Austin-based business LifeSize Communications. Logitech acquired LifeSize, which was founded in 2003, last year. Malloy also co-founded ViaVideo in Austin in 1996. Polycom purchased ViaVideo in 1998, where Malloy served as the general manager for more than four years.

Malloy served as a lieutenant in the United States Navy for five years, earning his bachelor's degree in science from the U.S. Naval Academy and a master's degree in business administration from the University of California, Los Angeles.

## CRIME BRIEFS

**Traffic**  
Nov. 3, 11:27 a.m.  
MTSU Boulevard  
Adonius Simmons, 20, was issued a state citation for driving without a license and operating an unregistered vehicle.

**Alarm**  
Nov. 3, 12:50 p.m.  
Womack Lane  
Apartment 1  
Complainant reported that a fire alarm had gone off. Police officers discovered that the alarm was activated by burnt food.

**Burglary**  
Nov. 3, 1:11 p.m.  
Scarlett Commons  
Apartment 7  
A complainant reported that he believed someone had attempted to break into his apartment after he found damage to his

door frame.  
**Theft**  
Nov. 3, 1:30 p.m.  
Lyon Hall  
A complainant reported that her roommate had stolen some of her food.

**Traffic**  
Nov. 4, 2:54 a.m.  
Rutherford Boulevard  
Brittini Pitts, 24, was issued a state citation for driving on a suspended license.

**DUI**  
Nov. 4, 3:03 a.m.  
Middle Tennessee Boulevard  
Justin Mathis, 21, was arrested for his first DUI offense and for violating implied consent.

**Burglary**  
Nov. 4, 11:55 a.m.  
Beasley Hall  
A complainant reported that some of

his possessions had been stolen from his dorm room, which was not locked.

**Theft**  
Nov. 4, 2:58 p.m.  
Office of Parking and Transportation Services  
The Office of Parking and Transportation Services reported that a parking boot had been stolen. A student agreed to return the parking boot. Parking Services declined to press charges at this time and the student was referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs and Mediation Services for discipline.

**Theft**  
Nov. 4, 3:23 p.m.  
Peck Hall  
A complainant reported that a computer had been stolen from Room 219 of Peck Hall.

## 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 broke the front driver's-side window of a blue 2005 Hyundai sometime between 1 p.m. on Oct. 8 and 8:10 a.m. on Oct. 9. The vehicle was parked in the Womack Lane Apartments parking lot.

A cash reward of up to \$1,000 is being offered for information that leads to the arrest of the person or persons who attempted to forcibly enter Scarlett Commons Apartment 921B on Oct. 11. Someone reportedly tried to pry the door open between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m., causing approximately \$350 in damage.

A cash reward of up to \$1,000 is being offered for information that leads to the arrest of the person or persons who broke three windows on the west side of the Beta Theta Pi Fraternity House on Greek Row. The windows were reportedly broken sometime between 4:30

p.m. on Oct. 11 and 8:20 a.m. on Oct. 12.

A cash reward of up to \$1,000 is being offered for information that leads to the arrest of the person or persons who broke a bedroom window and a garage-door style window on the southeast side of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity House on Greek Row. The windows were reportedly broken sometime between 2:30 p.m. on Oct. 12 and 9 a.m. on Oct. 13.

A cash reward of up to \$1,000 is being offered for information that leads to the arrest of the person or persons who unlawfully entered a 2001 Volkswagen parked in the Rutherford Boulevard gravel parking lot sometime between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Oct. 6 and stole a block 80GB iPod, a USB cord, and a CD case containing about 300 CDs.

Anyone with information about these incidents should contact the MTSU Office of Public Safety at 615-898-2424.

# Jazz it up with swingin' good time

STAFF REPORT

The MTSU jazz faculty and the jazz ensemble will feature a noted improvisational trombonist in its performance of the 12th Annual MTSU Jazz Artist Series on Thursday.

Steve Davis, who has worked with jazz artists such as Art Blakely and Jackie McLean, has appeared in Downbeat Magazine's Readers' and Critics' Polls several times, and won the Rising Star category in 1988.

Davis is described as being "at the forefront of jazz trombone," according to Don Aliquo, a professor of saxophone and jazz coordinator in the School of Music.

Davis has been performing with his own bands in recent years, such as an all-star quintet that featured renowned pianist Larry Willis. He also leads the Outlook Quintet, which features Mike DiRubbio on alto saxophone, David Bryant on piano, Dezron Douglas on bass and Eric McPherson on drums.

"His respect for the tradition while being among the most consistently creative soloists has made him recognizably among the best in the world," said Aliquo,



Photo courtesy Gina Logue, editor of Today's Response  
The MTSU jazz faculty and the jazz ensemble are slated to join highly acclaimed trombonist Steve Davis (Above) during its 12th Annual MTSU Jazz Artist Series on Thursday, Nov. 11, 2010, in Hinton Hall in the Wright Music Building.

who will be performing with the ensemble Thursday.

The group will perform "Say When," "Lament" and "Kenya" by J.J. Johnson, "Silver and Cedar" and "Spirit Waltz" by Steve Davis, "Yardbird Suite" by Charlie Parker, and "Day Dream" by Billy Strayhorn and Duke Ellington.

Davis will perform alongside Al-

liquo, the director of the ensemble, Derrek Phillips on drums and Pat Coil on piano, as well as special guest Jonathan Wires on bass.

The event is free to MTSU students and staff with a valid MTSU ID and \$15 for the general public. The performance is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., in Hinton Hall located in the Wright Music Building.

## LOCAL EVENTS

### On Campus

#### Performing Arts:

**Jazz Ensemble I**  
Nov. 11, 7:30 p.m.  
Wright Music Building, Hinton Hall  
FREE

**MTSU Opera, Mozart: Le nozze di Figaro (The Marriage of Figaro)**  
Nov. 12-13, 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 14, 3 p.m.  
Wright Music Building, Hinton Music Hall  
Tickets: \$10

**Stones River Chamber Players: Happy Anniversary, 2010**  
Nov. 15, 7:30 p.m.  
Wright Music Building, T. Earl Hinton Music Hall  
FREE

**Guest Lectures: Honors Lecture Series: The Effect of China's Ascendancy on U.S. Foreign Policy**  
Nov. 8, 3 p.m.

University Honors College  
Room 106  
FREE

**Be Heard: Talking About Mental Health**  
Nov. 9, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.; 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
James Union Building, Tennessee Room  
FREE

**"New Muslim Cool"**  
Nov. 10, 7 p.m.  
Learning Resource Center  
Room 221  
FREE

**Student Life: Nigerian Cultural Night**  
Nov. 8, 7 p.m.  
Corlew Hall  
FREE

**MTSU Battle of the DJs Tryouts**  
Nov. 10-11, 4 p.m.  
Keathley University Center  
Theater  
FREE

### Off Campus

#### Concerts:

**Sarah McLachlan**  
Nov. 8, 7:30 p.m.  
Ryman Auditorium  
Tickets: \$35-\$85

**The Acacia Strain/ The Red Chord/ Terror/ Gaza/ Con-tortionist**  
Nov. 10, 6 p.m.  
Rockettown  
Tickets: \$15

**Tyler Bryant with Run With Bulls & Eikon**  
Nov. 10, 8 p.m.  
12th & Porter  
Tickets: \$5

**The Rocketboys with Brain Lee, Andy Smith (Paper Route), and Majestic Mercy Lounge/ Cannery Ballroom**  
Nov. 10, 9 p.m.  
Tickets: \$5

**Styx**  
Nov. 11, 7:30 p.m.  
Ryman Auditorium

Tickets: \$39.50-\$65.50

**Jewel with Nashville Symphony**  
Nov. 11, 7 p.m.  
Allen Arena  
Tickets: \$19-\$104

**Liza Minnelli**  
Nov. 13, 8:00 p.m.  
Tennessee Performing Arts Center  
Tickets: \$75

**Event: Snack Attack- Quesadillas**  
Nov. 8, 3:30  
The Discovery Center  
Tickets: \$6

#### Events Policy

Sidelines welcomes current campus and community events submitted by all readers. Please e-mail events to scampus@mtsu.edu or snews@mtsu.edu, and include the name, date, time and location of the event, as well as your name and a phone number for verification. We reserve the right to refuse events at our discretion as our space is limited.

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**Letters Policy**

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

## Superiority complex fuels opposition of Tea Party

As helicopters flew over the Tea Party rallies in 2009, media commentators seemed shocked by the political dissent that had cropped up against their beloved President Barack Obama.

Upon reaching the ground, the anecdotal evidence seemed clear. This was nothing more than the "lost tribe of Americans," something you might find in the wilderness. These were brutal, uncultured, bigoted slack-jaws that had wandered out of the woods. It was like the movie "The Gods Must Be Crazy." A coke bottle had fallen from the sky, except it was old white people finding a progressive U.S. Congress. If correlation equals causation, it was thought, then it must be racism.

Let's disregard of course that the first "Tea Parties" were held prior to the 2008 election. Perhaps, if you want to under-



**Josh Fields**  
**Partially Professional**

stand or reach people, instead of gawking at them like they're a zoo animal or some sort of weird political science or sociological study, you could have a conversation with them.

That's not where it ends or begins though. For years, the media elites and politicians have viewed the habits of the "others," usually the middle class and poor, as something that's unde-

sired and must be changed. From soft drinks, fast food, chain stores or anything market produced - other than their lattes and Macbooks - the public was too stupid to know what was good for them. All the while, the same media heads, celebrities and politicians with these views were doing cocaine off of a stripper's backside as their wife and kids waited at home. The moral superiority was there though; in their thinking, they were "cultured."

The funny thing is, is that those are the same criticisms that are often held against the religious right - I suppose because it claims moral superiority through religion. Except that doesn't follow from the liberal point of view. Especially, as I'm told by liberal MTSU professors, media heads and fellow classmates, libertarianism is racially motivated, and

I must hate poor people. While those continue to be untrue and to the contrary, these individuals' juxtaposition was that I and others like me were inferior.

While I have criticisms of the Tea Party, in most instances, it wants people to stop telling others how to live their lives. And nothing riles Tea Partiers up even more than saying they are ignorant, "tea-bagging" rednecks that are inferior to their liberal counterparts.

I do share that view, after all. Why do I want some asshole telling me not to smoke or eat McDonald's, or even yet, to turn off the air conditioning unit in the summer, while pushing public policy from their comfortably air conditioned congressional office?

If you want to boil down why I'm a libertarian to its sim-

plest form, it's because I hate people who push their views on me, or anyone else - that's from left to right. Why should a pastor from Missouri have a say in what a woman in New York can or can't do? Likewise, why should some drugged up actor from Hollywood tell a good, outstanding, wholesome man in Wyoming who really loves his wife and takes care of his kids how to live his life?

It comes down to people's desire to control - to control the people who they view as children because they think of themselves as the "smart ones" who need to tell the idiots out there how to be.

*Josh Fields is a senior majoring in economics in the College of Business. He can be reached at [josh@virtualblend.com](mailto:josh@virtualblend.com).*

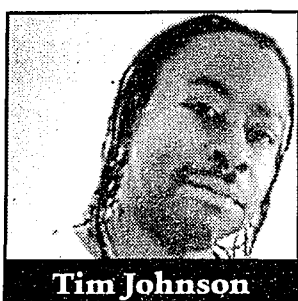
## Pendulum swing about the People Midterm elections prove voters want change

You would have to be in absolute denial if you think that the recent midterm election results were not a signal of a rejection of the current White House administration's policies and procedures from the past two years.

This election is not about a Republican Party victory. It is a second chance - a chance to right the wrongs of misguided, disconnected, out of control and out-of-touch politicians that chose not to listen to the voice of the voters.

The People wanted a common sense approach to balancing the budget. Instead, we got \$14 trillion in national debt. The People wanted fair and transparent debate concerning the major issues. Instead, we got a Democratic Party that spent a year scheming on how to pass a health care bill without support from the minority party.

There is no victory to celebrate, nor are any politicians safe in their position



**Tim Johnson**  
**The Virtual Truth**

until we see real change in terms of reducing the size of government, fair and low income taxes alongside reduced corporate taxes, which would stimulate more spending to boost the economy and enhance job creation.

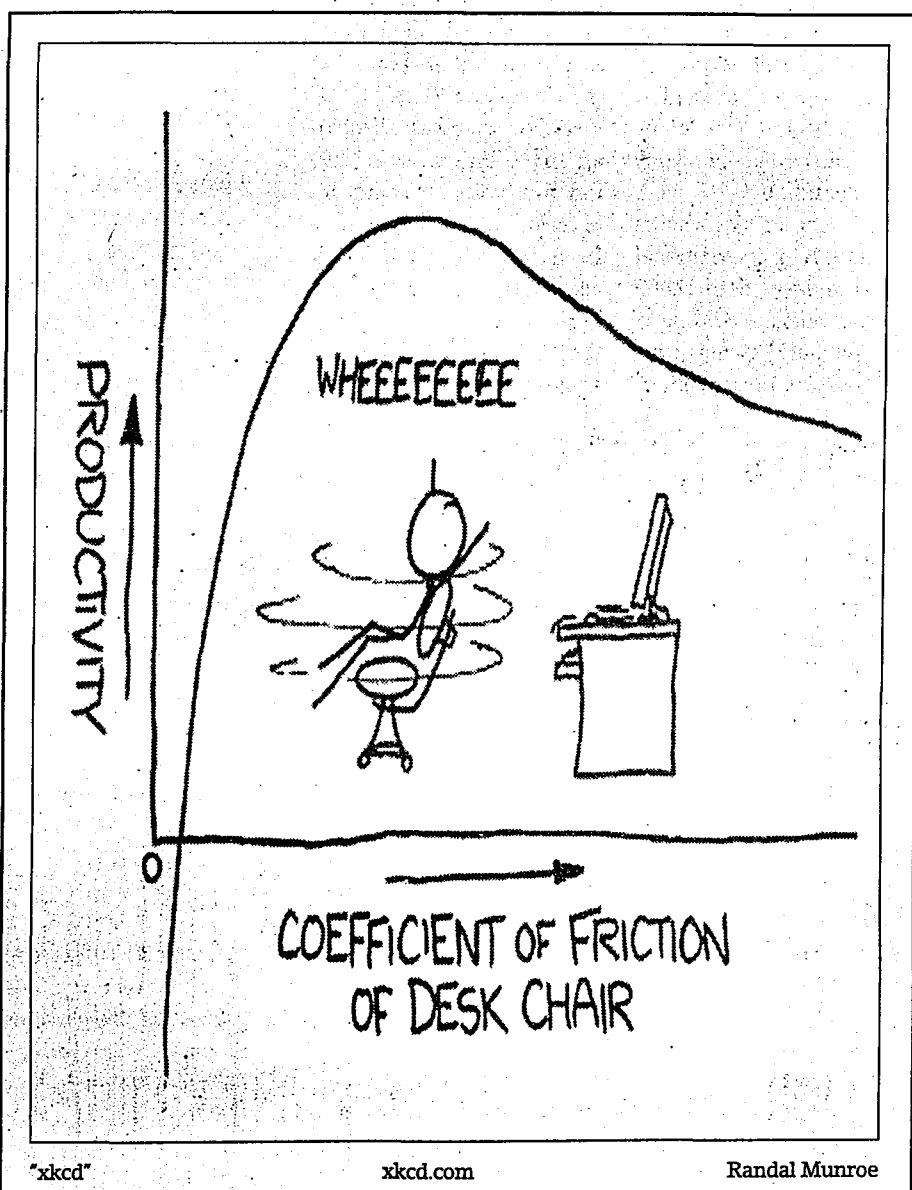
It's not about one side against the other. It's not about playing the game of partisan politics. It's about God, family and the Republic. It's about the vision of our Founding Fathers - a government of the People. It's about both sides learning a lesson in regard to how we move forward together as a nation. The American public has sent a clear message

that it wants checks and balances on the policies of President Barack Obama, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and soon-to-be former Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi. Politicians in both chambers of the U.S. Congress and the Obama administration are now being watched closer than ever on how they plan to resolve issues such as job growth and deficit reduction.

The reality of change begins immediately, due to the fact that the administration has to negotiate with a U.S. House controlled by the new majority - the Republicans. Now that the voters have delivered their verdict for real change, it will be interesting to see how the president and his administration will strategically position themselves to move forward.

*Tim Johnson is a senior majoring in Spanish and political science. He can be reached at [tj2b@mtmail.mtsu.edu](mailto:tj2b@mtmail.mtsu.edu).*

## COMICS



"xkcd"

xkcd.com

Randal Munroe

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I mean no disrespect to Chris Wright, but I feel his column regarding a potential university name change is misleading and uninformed at best and petty and self-serving at worst.

Aside from the fact that he devoted more time to an unrelated tangent on the merits of white parking passes for Student Government Association executives than to the issue he set out to discuss, his arguments are weak and teetering precipitously on the brink of nonexistent.

As a former Sidelines editorial staff member, student ambassador, student orientation assistant, etc., as well as a proud alumnus of the university, I feel that I have a reasonably well-informed perspective on the perception of our school. Quite simply, there is plenty of empirical evidence that sug-

gests a name change would benefit MTSU.

An appropriate comparison is our neighbor to the west, the University of Memphis. In the early 1990s, then Memphis State, the university commissioned a study on the merits and obstacles of a potential change and decided to go through with it. What followed was a dramatic increase in giving along with an indisputable change in perception, both of which had a tangible effect on the quality of the university.

Our Sun Belt Conference foes at the University of North Texas made a similar move and dropped the "State" from its name several years ago. Again, the amount of donated money flowing into that school's coffers increased noticeably. UNT is remarkably similar to MTSU in terms of location, size, histo-

ry, etc., so this is most certainly a valid comparison.

The only remotely plausible argument one could make against a change here is the cost that might be incurred. This line of thinking lacks depth, as well. A simple way to defray costs would be to use the current resources, such as stationery or some signage, until it runs out or is in need of replacement. As for apparel and bookstore merchandise, the same principle applies. The current items could be sold, and future designs could be altered. A majority of merchandise already utilizes "Middle Tennessee" or the MT logo, neither of which would need replacement.

The cost of a change would most certainly not creep into the multimillion dollar range, as some have suggested. Any initial expenditure would be an

investment with a rapid return many times over.

Make no mistake, when it comes to my university, I am a traditionalist and a sentimentalist. That said, I'm glad I didn't attend Middle Tennessee Normal School or Middle Tennessee State College. As someone who bursts with pride when given the chance to talk about my alma mater, I recognize that MTSU is a school in the midst of tremendous growth. Our university boasts academics, athletics and campus life worth the rest of the country's attention. One way to garner such attention is to move on and brand ourselves, rather than allowing others to brand us as a "directional school" or a "suitcase campus."

My diploma will always say Middle Tennessee State University, and I'm proud of that fact. However, I want to be able to tell

my children I attended the University of Middle Tennessee, the best college our great state has to offer.

*Casey Brown is a 2008 graduate of MTSU. He can be reached at [caseybedfordbrown@gmail.com](mailto:caseybedfordbrown@gmail.com).*

### Letters Policy

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

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 online during June and July. The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual writers and not necessarily Sidelines or MTSU.

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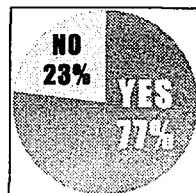
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# FEATURES



**IS IT DIFFICULT TO FIND HEALTHY EATING OPTIONS AT MTSU?**

BASED ON VOTES FROM MTSUSIDELINES.COM.

## Artist reveals originality amid spirituality



Photo courtesy of Julie Lowe

Sculptures and framed art fill James Edward Carlos' art studio, formerly used as a barn, Oct. 3, 2010, in Sewanee, Tenn., which is located about an hour's drive southeast of Murfreesboro.

By **JESSE CLOWER**  
Staff Writer

It is parents' weekend at the University of the South in Sewanee. A few miles from campus, breezing across seven acres of field, forest and lake, a brisk wind catches two yellow sun-bathed flags and whips out gravity's pull. These flags, bejeweled with Christian symbols, are part of a spiritual setting that includes a 20-foot-high wooden passageway standing dominant amid the serenity.

This gate represents a passing between worlds. On one side, the physical world. Due east through the gate, under which a ceremonial cremation once took place, enter the spiritual world – the world of James Edward Carlos.

Continuing east, a massive and modern barn purposefully situated on a perfect north-south, east-west axis is as lovely as it is intimidating. A 100-year-old locust tree stands contestable stage-right of its structured neighbor, peaking at the same height.

Spilling over onto the 11 steps leading up to the barn's veranda are wild plants, 135 Rose of Sharon bushes, dark-purple ironweed still in bloom, privet, two pink dogwoods, ditch daisies, blue and lavender chicory and passion flowers stretching along the ground. Nature's beauty is sweet-scented, open and cleansing.

Glass light fixtures adorn either side of the archways over the steps leading up to the barn. At night they look like giant fireflies perched luminously in the Garden of Eden.

The steps are but one intricacy prevalent amid Carlos' many spiritually conscious creations of Carlos. Symbolic of Jacob's ladder, these steps are akin to the Jewish mystical literature in the Kabbalah and act as a metaphor for divine-consciousness.

"These steps, the porch and the lighting fixtures on the way up are all designed following the ancient Buddhist Torri gates," Carlos explains.

On the verge of turn-

gious or astronomical concept. Oftentimes hard to follow, he helps by reciting authors' names and book titles with the page numbers of good footnotes.

Christian, Jewish and Buddhist motifs are strung together like spiritual Christmas lights leading up to the barn, each one complementing the other as an understanding in all. The most reflective metaphors and imagery of his philosophical understanding of

but taught Aesthetics for the Studio Artist, all three levels of sculpture, drawing, painting, photography, video/film production, principles and practices of art education, and he was involved with the upper levels of a studio creative seminar.

"Truly, the definition of a Renaissance man," says Steven Vroom, the former director of the University Gallery, "his many activities here at Sewanee have included directing the University Gallery, advising FOCUS, a student photography club, and being an active member of the Cinema Guild, [as well as being] faculty adviser to Dionysus and Company, a student theater company."

Carlos received his master's degree in painting and sculpture from the Catholic University of America and earned his doctorate in comparative arts from Ohio University. His undergraduate studies at Indiana University in Pennsylvania garnered him a bachelor's degree in art education with a minor in psychology emphasis in abnormal psychology, and he received his second master's in art therapy from Lesley University.

**"I do appreciate all things ancient and religious – a lot of it [is] reflected in my artwork."**

**JAMES EDWARD CARLOS**  
PROFESSOR OF ART, UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH

ing 73, his mind is as cunning as the young lad he is at heart. Paint splatters, permanent and fresh, look like candy dots on the dark slacks tucked into his brown leather boots.

Carlos sheds more light on the steps to the entrance he has delicately designed.

"The supernal three are at the top – wisdom and understanding, which are the male and female, and the light at the apex, that's the God light," he says. "Then there's an 11th nonstep, [which] to me is the non-being, which philosophically means it's the source from which everything came out of – sort of my own little theory there."

At any given point, Carlos will rattle off the entire known history and somehow the untold stories of most every ancient reli-

everything ancient and religious are in the paintings, drawings, poetry, photography and sculptures hiding inside the barn.

The last asset of the exterior of this anomalous and sacred sight is a 6-foot guardian angel hanging over the entrance with outstretched arms as if cradling the Earth in its embrace. Nude, raw and exulting in its persona, it humbles all who enter.

Carlos taught at the University of the South for 34 years and chaired the fine arts department for 12 years before retiring five years ago. Prior to moving to Sewanee, he taught at the University of Hawaii for one year and the University of Ohio for two years in the arts, comparative arts and theatre departments.

At Sewanee, Carlos introduced Asian art classes

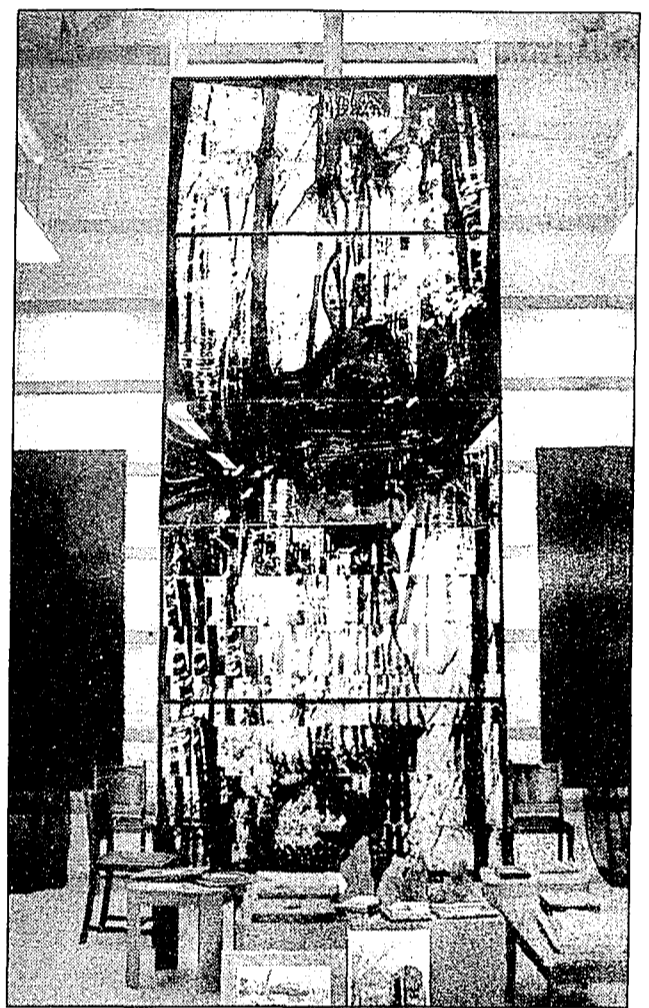


Photo courtesy of Julie Lowe

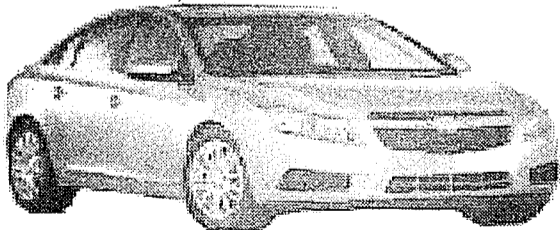
Carlos' studio boasts a variety of pieces, including a two-story panel, on Oct. 3, 2010, in Sewanee, Tenn.

ARTIST, PAGE 6

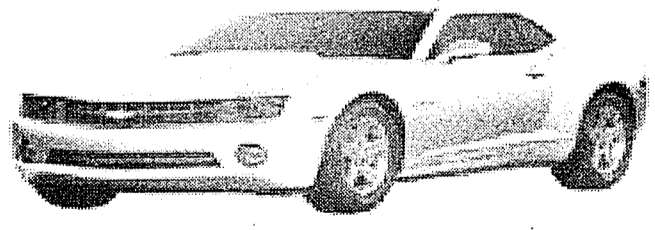
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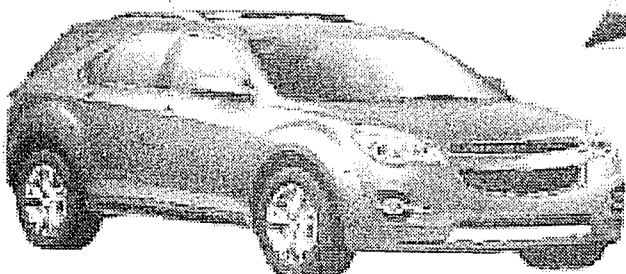
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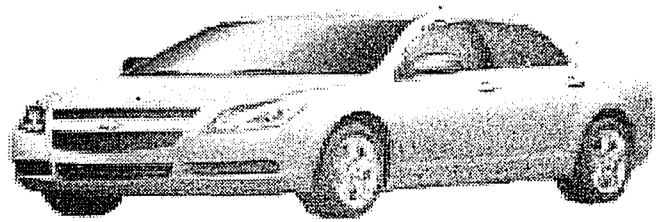
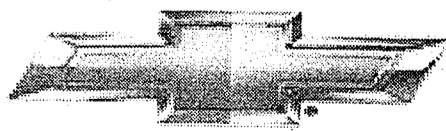
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## Theology inspires students to create

### ARTIST FROM PAGE 5

"He has the distinction of having been awarded three Ford Foundation Grants for summer work both abroad in England and Scotland, and in Arizona," Vroom says. "His other exhibitions include the International Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland [and] the International Conference on the Fantastic in Art and Literature."

Carlos' work has been exhibited in Italy, Sweden and throughout the United States. His art is sold in various galleries in the Southeast and recently eight 60-by-40-inch paintings and drawings have gone up for display in a restaurant just outside Sewanee.

In previous years, hanging above the altar of St. Michael and All Saints Church in Tollcross, Edinburgh was a piece by Carlos titled "Michael's Triumph," a tapestry 28 feet wide by 15 feet deep depicting a succession of life-size male nudes on

various transparent and opaque materials. Rugby and soccer players modeling as fallen angels were shadowed by the glorious and triumphant Michael in golden hue.

It was displayed every year for 20 years before the artwork was stolen.

"I knew who did it," Carlos says calmly. "I was disappointed because it was the pivotal piece of a pilgrimage every year from all over Scotland, [and] it lasted from St. Michael's Day in the fall to All Souls and All Saints Day, Halloween."

It's a Sunday before noon, and although Carlos is verging on his sixth year of retirement, the university has him slated to have his barn open for a few more hours so parents can come view the creations of one of its most innovative professors.

Total number of attendees thus far since Friday: eight.

The word "Iona" rests delicately at the bottom of the entrance to Carlos' barn. Inside, the interior walls form a Celtic cross that jousts a sort of spiritually inclined

medieval décor.

"To me, it's like a church so I call it a sanctuary," Carlos says.

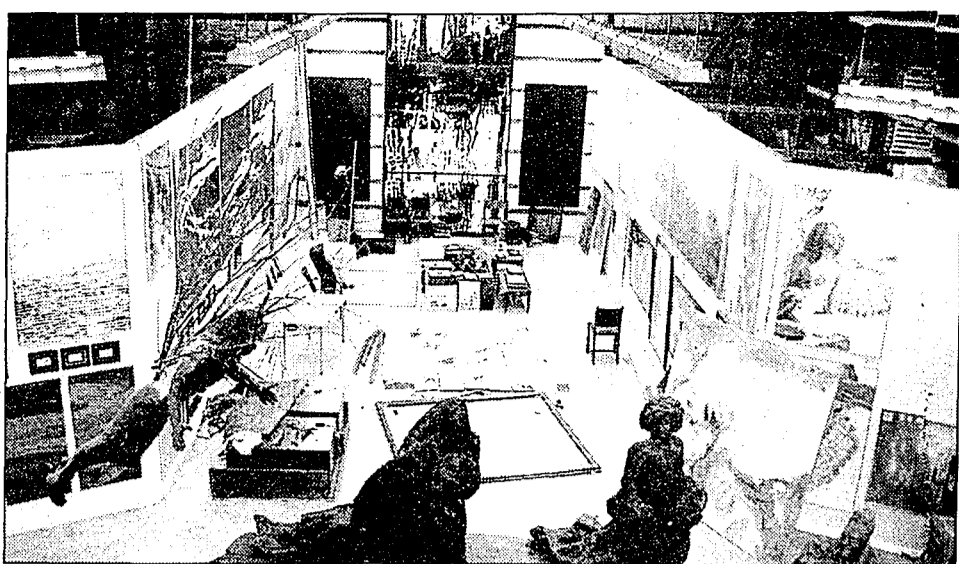
Iona Art Sanctuary is the title he has bestowed upon this elaborate pinnacle. Everything about it and within it illustrates the vast potentials of what an intuitive and creatively gifted mind is capable.

The story of Iona, upon entering, unfolds in art, poetry, photography and sculpture.

"Iona is an island in the Inner Hebrides," Carlos explains. "I've been there four times, and all four times I've had unusual, surreal visionary experiences, but I've had these types of experiences my whole life."

Carlos has been careful about speaking on this subject his entire professional career. He has relied upon his art to manifest the imagery inherent in what he defines as mystical encounters.

To read more, visit us online.



Photos courtesy of Julie Lowe

An angel hangs from the ceiling Oct. 3, 2010, of James Edward Carlos' art studio in Sewanee, Tenn.

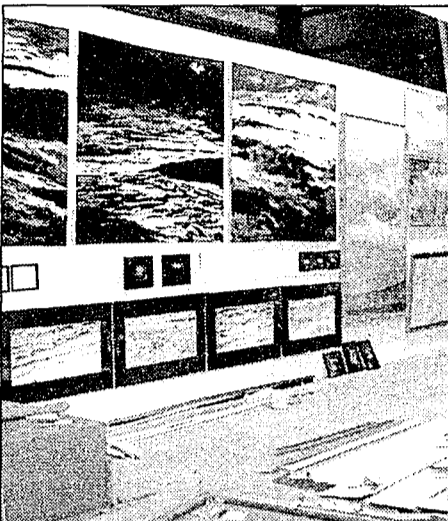
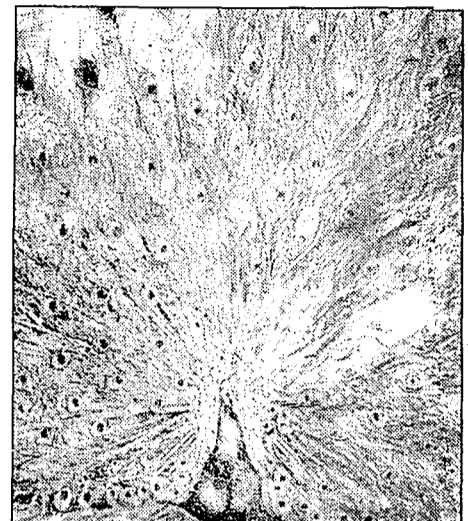


Photo courtesy of Julie Lowe

Landscapes and colorful birds adorn the walls, of Carlos' studio, which contains a variety of artwork influenced by different schools of religious thought, on Oct. 3, 2010, in Sewanee, Tenn.



## Sephra Osburn launches solo music career

By KYLE McCORMICK  
Staff Writer

Sephra Osburn coolly removed headphones and breathed a sigh of relief as she finished a two-hour vocal tracking session. It's a Sunday afternoon, but it's a working day; her nearly 4-foot-long hair is neatly tied behind her head, and her matching purple dress, overcoat and glasses mean business.

She has a half-hour to spare before leaving to sing on a different recording project for yet another audio production student at MTSU.

Calm, composed and still a bit congested from fighting off a cold, she speaks softly about how she manages her life as a full-time student, as well as one of Murfreesboro's rising stars as an independent songwriter, band leader and go-to girl for vocal accompaniment.

"It's a constant struggle to keep my priorities in check, but the music projects I take on are always worth the time," Osburn says. "Music is why I am going to school, and it's so central to everything in my life."

Outside the studio and the milieu of venues in which she regularly performs — ranging from churches to coffee houses to sushi bars — no one would guess that this soft-spoken student packs a colossal singing voice under her humble composure.

Since moving to Murfreesboro from Oklahoma City in 2007 to study audio production, Osburn, 21, has grown accustomed to wearing many hats within the college community's local music scene.

She has established a reputation as a versatile and competent supporting vocalist in the studio, recording for local artists such as Josiah Stevenson and Alexander Skidmore. She also regularly performs her original songs live, both as a solo act and with a new quartet comprised of members of her former band, One Big Owl.

This well-received folk rock group performed locally on a weekly basis, while active. Now, it features Osburn as its bluesy

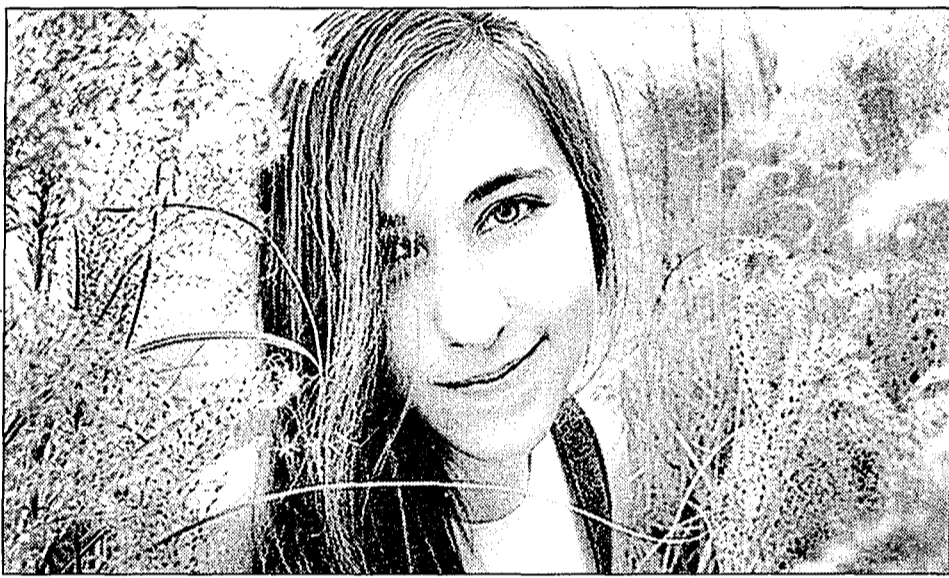


Photo courtesy of Sephra Osburn

Sephra Osburn smiles while standing in a meadow. The budding young star moved from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to Murfreesboro, Tenn., to attend MTSU's recording industry program.

female vocalist. The band took to the road earlier this year on a two-week tour to Austin, Texas, and back.

With the help of some other One Big Owl members, Osburn was able to gain new fans of her own by opening many of the shows on that tour with a short set of her solo material. This motivated her further to recruit her existing band mates to play with her on her own songs.

"I could say it's her knack for writing quirky, yet catchy pop songs ... but the big thing that pulls me in is the hair," jests Chris Hauser, the drummer.

During the time she performed with One Big Owl, Osburn released a three-song EP of solo material recorded at local studio Cuckoo Recordings. Now, she's preparing to make her biggest dive to date with the release of a full-length album that could elevate her solo career to unprecedented heights.

In the fall of 2008 Osburn recorded the "Transparent" EP at Cuckoo Recordings with Steven Palassis and Jeremy Hamilton, two local producers and multitasking musicians who are largely responsible for the launch of

this prolific songwriter's solo career.

The pair recorded Osburn's vocals and piano tracks for the EP, and because she did not have a supporting band at the time, they added their own performance on drums, bass, guitar and auxiliary percussion to bring to life the unique style of each of the three songs.

"Steven and Jeremy brought power to those songs that I never thought they would have — they had a specific vision for each song," Osburn explains. "I came back after recording scratch vocals, and [the songs] sounded amazing with all of the new creative elements."

Several months later, the producers included "Motivate Me," an aggressive pop gem featuring Osburn's soaring vocals on a sampler disc made for their former employer Vince Emmett of Melody Hill Studios in Nashville.

Emmett, a seasoned producer and fixture in Nashville's Christian music scene, has produced work by Rebecca St. James, Jenny Owens, Jason Roy and other nationally-recognized artists. Upon hearing "Motivate Me," he contacted Osburn to express his interest in producing an album for her.

"Working with Vince is great because I know he genuinely has my best interest at heart," Osburn says. "He's giving me the

belief in myself to continue to write and give people something that's worth hearing, and I feel very blessed for that ... plus he has a lot of connections that I need."

Connections that have indeed proven valuable. Osburn attended a musical instrument trade show with Emmett this summer and left with an endorsement from Reason Amplifier Co. in the form of an \$800 amp head. Before that, he helped her build a custom purple Telecaster guitar with her name etched into the headstock.

Emmett also made it possible for Osburn to record with professional musicians on two of the tracks they have worked on so far. Violinists who had just finished recording for a Ben Folds project at Emmett's studio recorded on one song, and Theresa Weyman, member of LA-based psychedelic rock band Warpaint, laid down guitar and vocal tracks on another.

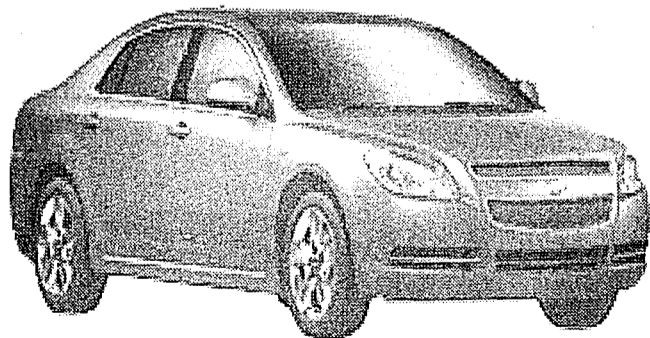
Now, Emmett hopes to jumpstart Osburn's career as a solo artist by up-streaming the full-length album to major labels upon its completion. He plans to use the project as a means of expanding his experience as a producer beyond exclusively Christian music. Tracking for the upcoming album began earlier this year, and will ultimately consist of 10 to 14 original and highly personal songs.

"A lot of the songs on the new album are about my experience in moving from a very conservative home to a community of liberal college students and trying to find truth and integrity in a new environment," Osburn asserts. "A lot of them are about guys, [and] to be honest, [guys] have a lot to do with my personal struggles. I learn a lot about myself from my relationships with others."

Spending time in the studio isn't keeping Osburn away from the stage. Her quartet has brought to life the Cuckoo Recordings songs and continued to develop the songs on the new album with a bevy of random instruments and unconventional sounds ranging from melodic to a quirky effects console called the Kaoss Pad. This new configuration is a catalyst for organized chaos that resurrects the diversity and energy of One Big Owl.

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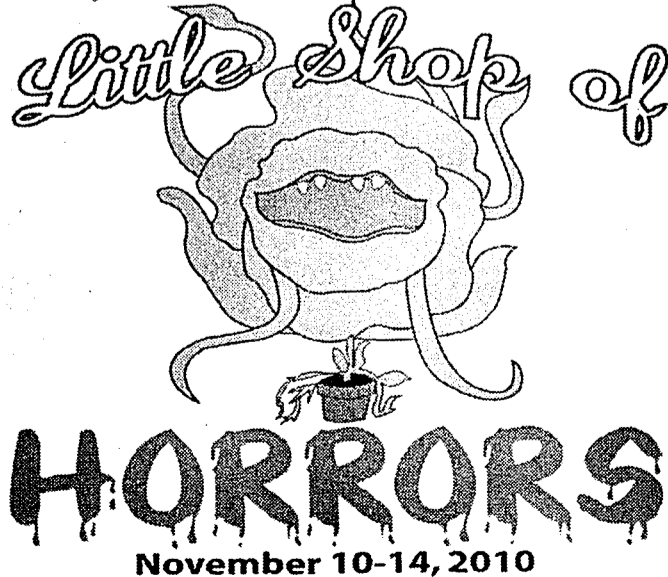
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# SPORTS

## MT kicks title away from Denver

By WILL TRUSLER  
Sports Editor



Photo courtesy MT Athletic Communications  
The Lady Raiders soccer team poses after their Sun Belt Conference championship win against four-time champions University of Denver on Saturday, Nov. 6, 2010.

The Middle Tennessee Lady Raider soccer team won the school's first conference championship and in turn, will make its inaugural appearance in the NCAA women's soccer championships, after a thrilling 3-2 penalty kick shootout over four-time defending Sun Belt Champions, Denver on Saturday.

Junior goalkeeper Rebecca Cushing continued to prove herself in the net as she anchored the defense that held the nationally ranked Pioneers scoreless for 110 minutes through two overtimes.

Cushing was honored as the tournament's Most Valuable Player for her play in the three-game stretch. She allowed just two goals in 310 minutes and extended MT's streak of holding opponents to one goal or fewer to 15 consecutive matches.

She was even more impressive in crunch-time and made numerous key saves in allowing to Blue Raiders to escape host Western Kentucky and 15th ranked Denver in penalty kick situations.

The Lone Tree, Colo. native led five MT players on the 11-member all-tournament team. Previously, only six Blue Raiders have ever been named to the all-tournament team and the most recent was in 2006.

Joining Cushing were Fran Howells, Vanessa Mueggler, Regina Thomas and Whitney Jorgenson.

Ironically, Cushing was the only player of the five not to have been named to the All-Sun Belt teams announced prior to the conference tournament. Howells, Mueggler and Thomas were all named to the first team, while Jorgenson was named to the second team after the Blue Raiders finished second in the league's regular season standings.

Howells, a standout defender, was particularly effective on offense as she scored her only two goals of the season in the tournament. She also connected on both of her penalty shots.

Fellow senior, Meuggler, in contrast, was one of the top offensive players in the country during the regular season but couldn't connect for a score during the tournament. Still, her aggressive nature kept defenses on their heels and provided energy and leadership for MT.

Sophomores Thomas and Jorgenson

were key in the tournament run as both reeked havoc on opposing defenses with their speed and opened the field for the Blue Raider offense.

Thomas scored while sealing a 3-1 victory over Florida Atlantic University in the quarterfinals and Jorgenson was clutch in connecting on both of her penalty kicks.

Fellow sophomore Paige Goeglein, though not named to the all-tournament team, might have had the most to celebrate following both of her game-winning shots. She placed both of her penalty kicks in the goal and stamped the title run.

The championship comes at the tail end of a grueling regular season for MT.

Head Coach Aston Rhoden challenged his team with the toughest schedule in school history, and it paid off in spades.

Though enduring a dismal 3-7 record through the first 10 games of the season, MT regrouped and finished the year with nine wins in their last 10 games entering the tournament.

MT will look to continue their hot streak in their first ever appearance in the NCAA tournament. Their destination and opponent will be revealed live in the selection show Monday at 3:30 p.m. in the Emmett Sports Hall of Fame.

## Anne Marie shoots for success in upcoming Lady Raiders' season

By WILL TRUSLER  
Sports Editor

Anne Marie Lanning knows what it takes to be a leader. The local standout led Riverdale High School to its first state championship her senior year.

MT won the battle for her services in college, as the hiring of Head Coach Rick Insell tipped the scales in their favor.

Now, with three years under her belt and a familiarity with Insell and his expectations, Lanning hopes to recreate the magic she felt in high school and lead the Lady Raiders, consisting of 11 freshmen and sophomores and only one other senior, to more championships.

Lanning returns this season as the team's leading scorer and is expected to play big minutes and multiple roles for Insell's squad, especially while her only classmate, Emily Queen, sits on the bench recovering from knee injuries.

The Murfreesboro native sat down with Sidelines to discuss her experience in the blue and white and her thoughts on the upcoming season.

SL: What are your goals for the season?

AML: Individually I want to lead the team as a senior. I want to help us get to where we've been in the past and actually further than we've been in the past, because we haven't made it past the first round of the NCAA tournament. But as a team, we want to win the Sun Belt again and overall just have a fun year.

SL: How does it feel being one of the only upperclassmen on such a young team?

AML: I actually enjoy it. It's relaxing because I've done this all before, and so I can just be here for my team. There's a bigger fire burning within me this season, and I know it's going to be a challenge. But it's a challenge I'm willing to stand up to.

SL: Are you ready for fellow senior, Emily Queen, to be back?

AML: Yeah, of course. Last year there were four seniors, and they all were there for each other. This year, until Emily comes back, I'm kind of out there by myself. Hopefully, she'll be back soon, and I'm excited to have her out here with me.

### BLUE RAIDER SPOTLIGHT



**Anne Marie Lanning**

**Class:** Senior **Major:** Exercise Science  
**Hometown:** Murfreesboro, Tenn.  
**Role Model:** Dad  
**Favorite Movie:** "Remember the Titans"  
**Favorite Band/Singer:** Casting Crowns  
**Favorite Food:** "My dad's barbecue chicken."  
**Pre-Game Rituals:** "I always come in an extra 30 minutes early to shoot."

SL: How does it feel knowing this is your last season with the team?

AML: It's bittersweet. I've had the opportunity to play in front of my hometown, and it'll be sad to leave. But I'm excited for this season, and I'm excited to make this my best year here. I'm going to try and leave a legacy.

SL: What's been your most memorable experience as a Blue Raider?

AML: I would say last year's Sun Belt championship game. Going into that game, everyone said our teams were even, so we all had a fire to prove we were better. It went into two overtimes, and at the end of the game we had left everything out on the floor. It was a great experience just being able to look at each other and know we had given it our all to win.

SL: How has your time here been different, being that you are from Murfreesboro?

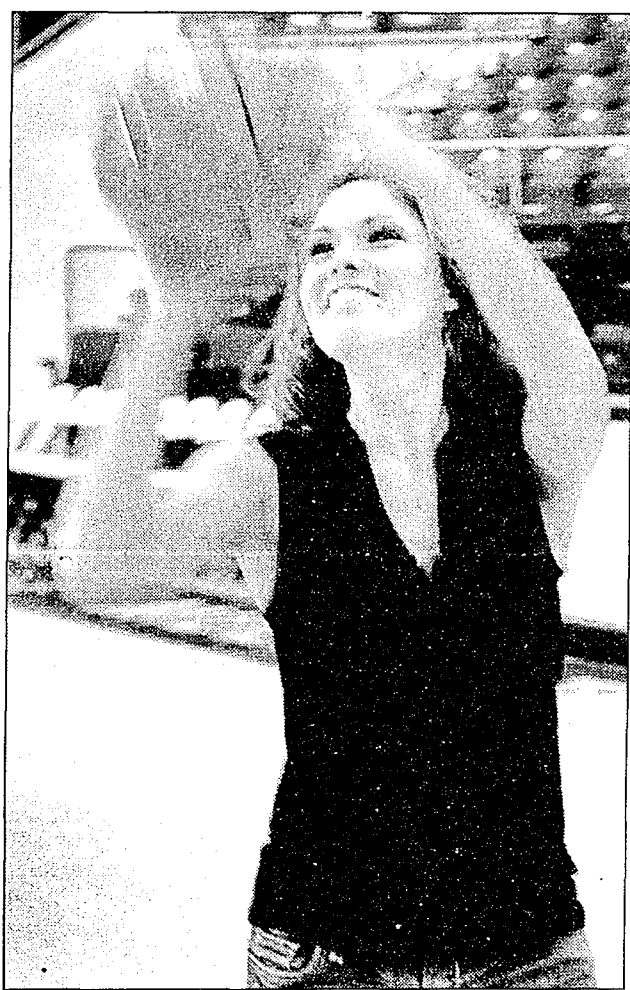


Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor  
Anne Marie Lanning shoots a few practice throws Oct. 6, 2010, at the Murphy Center.

AML: It's been a little bit more pressure but a little bit more relaxing, if that makes sense [laughs]. There's more pressure knowing I've got more people here watching me because I played here in high school, but it's awesome just being able to have my family come see every game. That's something not everyone gets to experience. One of the biggest things I've enjoyed while being here are the fans and support we receive.

SL: What were your overall thoughts from last season?

AML: I expected to go further than we did, but it was a great season. Our team chemistry was awesome, and I definitely miss those girls. I'll never forget last season, but I think this team can be even better.

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## Titans season continues on neutral streak

By ALEX HUBBARD  
Staff Writer

The Tennessee Titans cranked out 10 wins before the season's first loss in 2008 and endured six defeats before tasting victory for the first time in 2009—this season's 5-3 start represents a little of both of those streaks.

Despite inconsistencies on offense and controversy on defense, the Titans have compiled a record that places them second in the AFC's South division and all in the thick of the post-season race. The team made a splash last week, picking up the talented but often troubled receiver, Randy Moss.

The Titans began the year with a dominating 38-

13 home victory over the Oakland Raiders. However, against the Steelers in week two, they would score just 11 points in a 19-11 defeat. The defense emerged on the road in week three, giving up just one touchdown in a 29-10 victory. A loss to Denver at home came in week four, followed by victories at Dallas and Jacksonville and at home against Philadelphia. The Titans' defense appeared to suffer for the first time in week eight, as the Chargers of San Diego used their skilled offense to spot the Titans for 33 points, the greatest amount given up all season, resulting in a 33-25 road defeat.

Statistically, the offense has performed well, putting up 30 points four times this season. Nevertheless, tacti-

cal mistakes, most notably fumbles and drops against Denver and San Diego, have figured prominently in the team's losses. Quarterback Vince Young, who had hopes of getting his career back on track this season, has been in and out of the lineup with a series of injuries. Veteran backup Kerry Collins has filled in nicely, particularly against Philadelphia, when he passed for 276 yards in a thrilling fourth-quarter comeback. The lack of a constant at the position has had its adverse effects, however. Collins had trouble establishing an offensive rhythm in San Diego, after taking over for an injured Young.

In addition to losing Young, second-year receiver Kenny Britt went down in

San Diego with a hamstring injury. Britt was coming off a career performance against Philadelphia, when he made seven grabs for 225 yards and three touchdowns. Head Coach Jeff Fisher indicated Britt could be out for an extended period of time.

The defense has been central to the Titans' play this season. They have not been without controversy, however. After a losing effort against Denver, the Broncos' head coach made statements implying his belief that the Titans' defense played an overly aggressive style meant to goad opposing offenses into taking costly penalties. Particularly in the victories over the Giants and Cowboys, penalties on the opposing

offense were central to Titans' victories, but Fisher denies that forcing penalties on the opponent is part of his game plan.

The loss of Britt, coupled with the struggles of star running back Chris Johnson, who has been held under 100 yards four times this season, rightly have given some concerns on offense. They addressed that with the waver pickup of Randy Moss.

The seven-time pro Bowler has the on-field stats but is known for his controversial actions and statements. Moss appeared to be on the decline when he landed in Oakland after seven solid years with Minnesota, but he got on track with New England, putting up three 1000 receiving yard seasons

from 2007-2009. After a contract disagreement, he was traded back to Minnesota after four games of the 2010 season.

Four games after that, Moss was waived by the Vikings, bringing him to Tennessee. Moss was fined by the NFL for refusing to talk to the media, which led him to a rambling press conference in which he refused to answer any questions, and among other things, declared his love for his old Patriots team. The Vikings announced Moss's release the next day.

If Moss can put up numbers similar to his last three seasons and manage to avoid embarrassing fines, he could be a big help as the Titans make a run at the playoffs.

# Blue Raiders 2010 Season Review

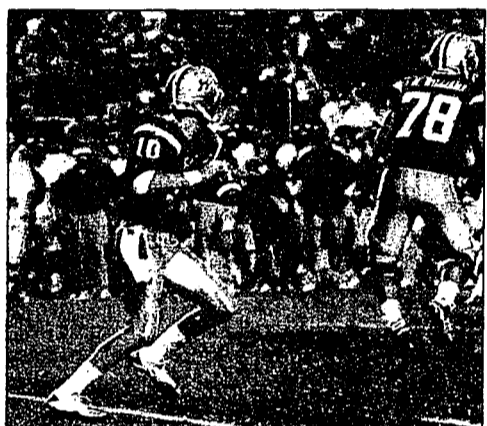
## Recapping the season through the Sidelines Lens

Article by WILL TRUSLER & Photos by JAY BAILEY  
Sports Editor and Photo Editor

With eight of their 12 games in the books, Head Coach Rick Stockstill and his Blue Raiders have not met the expectations many had for them entering this year's football season. MT boasts a 3-5 record and several disappointing losses as they have not been able to control the ball on offense, in part due to the instability at the quarterback position.



Preseason Sun Belt Conference Offensive Player of the Year, Dwight Dasher (9), missed the first four games of the season following a suspension for violation of the NCAA's preferential treatment rules. Since his return, however, MT has only won one-of-four games, and Dasher has thrown 10 interceptions.



Sophomore transfer Logan Kilgore (10) performed admirably in his stint at starting quarterback, completing 63 percent of his passes and throwing for three touchdowns.

Junior Jeff Murphy started against Austin Peay, with Kilgore out with a foot injury. He threw for 301 yards and scored his first collegiate touchdown in the game.



Senior running back Phillip Tanner (21) has been a bright spot for the team offensively. Tanner leads the team with six rushing touchdowns and an average of 61.4 yards per game.

He continues to climb the MT record books, as he now ranks seventh in both career touchdowns and career rushing touchdowns with 28 and 26, respectively. He also ranks seventh in the conference for points per game,



After setting school records for sacks and tackles for loss last season, the Blue Raider defense appears to be regaining its form.

Defensive tackle Gary Tucker (94) is one of many Blue Raiders stepping up the defensive pressure.

MT currently ranks second in the conference and 22nd in the NCAA for sacks per game.



Senior defensive end Jamari Lattimore (11) has been outstanding for the Blue Raiders defensively and builds momentum without the ball with plays like this blocked field goal against Austin Peay.

Lattimore ranks seventh in the country for sacks per game with 1.06.

He currently sits in second in the school record books for career sacks. He needs 6.5 more to break the record.

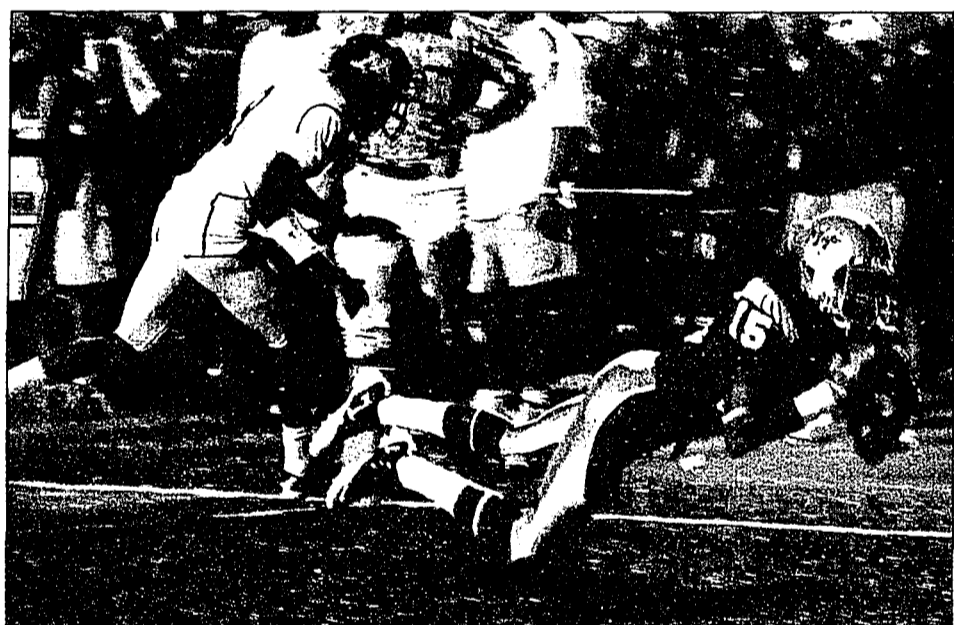


MT has been efficient defending the pass as they rank second in the conference in that category.

Opposing teams have hurt them when they do complete their passes though, as they have been able to convert for 13 passing touchdowns.

The Blue Raiders have also only managed five interceptions on the season.

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Junior wide receiver Sancho McDonald (15) scored his only touchdown of the season in a tough loss to Minnesota in the season opener.

MT currently ranks last in the conference with only six passing touchdowns on the year. The team also ranks last in pass efficiency, having 16 interceptions this the season, five more than any other team.



MT has been successful in the special teams' game. It ranks first in the conference in punting and kickoff returns and second in punt returns.

Freshman Josh Davis has blossomed in his first year and currently is seventh in the NCAA in average yards per punt. He and junior Nathaniel Toulson have combined for 42 punts, 18 of which have been downed inside the opponents' 20-yard line.



Junior wide receiver Malcom Beyah (4) has proven to be a favorite target among the quarterbacks all season long. He currently leads the receiving corps with 22 catches, 305 yards and two touchdowns.

The Chamblee, Ga., native is averaging nearly 14 yards per catch and has doubled-up for special team duties.

He is also averaging 21.5 yards per kickoff return.

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LOVES OUR NEW LADYBUGS!

Blakeley Solomon

Corinne Neal

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Carly McNeal

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Mary Neely

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Quincey Halliburton

Chelsey Elliott

Erika Ose

Shannon Scott

Hayley Edwards

Sheri Vermillion

Jenna Maliot

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Justine Fitzgerald

Victoria Gandarilla

Kacie Walker

Whitney Holley

Kaden Rizzo

Kate Gunter

