

# MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

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## TBR headed to campus

### Board's meetings set to precede state hearings on new chancellor

By MARIE KEMPH  
News Editor

Tennessee Board of Regents officials will consider a proposal to reduce Chancellor-elect John Morgan's salary Friday, only days before the state legislature holds hearings on the controversy surrounding his selection by board members.

TBR officials hired Morgan shortly after the requirement that the next chancellor hold a doctorate degree was removed and approved an \$80,000 raise as well. However, after facing immense criticism from state lawmakers and local media, Morgan voluntarily offered to forfeit the raise.

"In trying to determine the appropriate salary for the chancellor's position, I understand that the board was attempting to adjust the compensation to a level consistent with other higher education systems of similar size and scope across the country," Morgan wrote in an Aug. 18 letter to TBR officials. "However, it is clear to me that the continuing conversation about the chancellor's salary has overshadowed what the conversation needs to be about."

Beginning today, the TBR will be on campus to hold quarterly committee meetings, and the proposal will be addressed during the full board meeting tomorrow, which starts at 9:30 a.m. All of the sessions will be held in Hinton Hall in the Wright Music Building.

"I reluctantly will agree to Chancellor-elect Morgan's request to reduce the salary to \$305,000," wrote Bob Thomas, vice chair of the Board of Regents, in an Aug. 18 statement released to the press.

The Senate Education Commission of the Tennessee General Assembly has scheduled hearings for Tuesday and Wednesday to address concerns about the hiring process of Morgan, who has served as deputy gover-

nor to Gov. Phil Bredesen since 2009. Prior to last year, he served as the state comptroller for 10 years.

Morgan earned a bachelor's degree from Austin Peay State University in 1974, and although he did complete graduate courses at Louisiana State University from 1974-1976, he did not graduate with a master's degree.

The committee met and interviewed Morgan in July, and despite objections on Aug. 5 by state Sen. Delores Gresham, who "requested an expansion of the search," he was appointed to the position the following day, according to minutes from a special session TBR meeting.

Agencia Clark, who served as chair of the Chancellor's Search Committee, "recommended on behalf of the committee that the Board of Regents hire Morgan... effective Sept. 30 at an annual salary of \$385,000," according to the special session minutes.

The TBR will also review tenure recommendations of faculty and staff from across the state. MTSU administrators have requested four employees be approved, all of whom have worked for the university for less than one year, according to TBR records.

Elliot Altman, a professor in the biology department, officially began working for MTSU on Aug. 1 and will serve as director for the doctorate program in molecular biosciences. John Wallin, a professor in the department of physics and astronomy, also began working for the university Aug. 1 and serves as the director of the doctorate program in computational science.

University Provost Brad Bartel, whose contract began in July, has been appointed tenure, and Lana Seivers, a professor of elementary and special education, began working for the university in February and serves as the new dean of the College of Education.

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Have courage for the great sorrows of life and patience for the small ones and when you have laboriously accomplished your daily task, go to sleep in peace."

Victor Hugo

## Kindle spurs DOJ to action

By CHRISTOPHER MERCHANT  
Assistant News Editor

In light of a recent advisory from the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, MTSU officials have re-evaluated their policies for students with disabilities, officials said.

The advisory, which was authored by the DOJ in partnership with the Office for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education, expresses concern that "universities are using electronic book readers that are not accessible to students who are blind or have low vision."

This advisory comes on the heels of several civil rights lawsuits involving the DOJ and universities across the country, such as Princeton University in New Jersey, Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio and Arizona State University.

In the case with Princeton, the university agreed not to "require, purchase or incorporate in its curriculum the Kindle DX," a wireless

reading device, "or any other dedicated electronic reader book," unless the device is fully accessible to students with visual impairments.

Amazon has donated Kindles to a variety of schools, including Princeton, to use as part of their classes last year.

"When we saw [the advisory,] we looked at our own institution," said John Harris, the director of Disabled Student Services. "In our case, we don't think it's a problem."

As far as he knows, Harris said, there aren't any courses that require students to use electronic readers at MTSU, which has the largest population of students with disabilities in the Southeast.

"I don't think any faculty members are using Kindles [in their classes] at MTSU yet," said Amy Burks, the adaptive technology coordinator for DSS. "I've seen students using them, but I don't think they're part of their curriculum."

KINDLE, PAGE 4

Graphic by Alex Moorman, editor-in-chief



Photo by David Cooley, staff photographer  
Nina Totenberg, a reporter for National Public Radio, spoke on campus yesterday and to discuss her time covering the U.S. Supreme Court.

## US Supreme Court reporter provides insight

By BECCA ANDREWS  
Staff Writer

Students who attended Nina Totenberg's lecture Wednesday regarding her experience covering the U.S. Supreme Court were greeted by an extensive list of accomplishments during an introduction by University Provost Brad Bartel.

Totenberg, who has worked as a reporter for National Public Radio since 1975, spoke about "Establishing Justice: The New Supreme Court" inside Tucker Theatre Wednesday afternoon.

She was specifically praised for her coverage of Anita Hill's sexual harassment allegations against U.S. Supreme Court nominee Judge Clarence Thomas in 1991.

TOTENBERG, PAGE 4

## Student arrested for possession of gun on campus

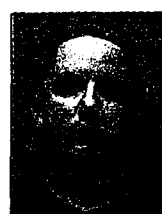
By MARIE KEMPH  
News Editor

MTSU police arrested a student Tuesday night on suspicion of possessing a weapon on campus after receiving a tip that a male subject who was inside of the Cyber Cafe had a gun, according to officials with Office of Public Safety.

Michael Bradshaw, 27, of Murfreesboro, was arrested just before midnight. He was transported and charged with felony possession of a weapon on school property at the Rutherford County Jail, according to the incident report.

Bradshaw, a senior in the College of Liberal Arts, was bailed out on a \$3,000 bond by Grumpy's Bail Bonds within an hour of being booked into jail. He faces up to five years in state custody, and his court date has been set for Nov. 16 in the Rutherford County General Sessions Court.

According to the report, an officer was dispatched to the cafe, which is open 24 hours a day, in reference to a complaint that a white male had a "loaded gun magazine in his pocket." Two other officers also arrived on the scene to assist the responding officer with the call.



Bradshaw

After making contact with Bradshaw, police officers escorted him out of the building

and patted him down "for officer safety, at which point no gun was located." However, one of the officers did notice an empty magazine inside Bradshaw's shirt pocket and retrieved it.

"Upon further questioning of the subject, he admitted that he had the gun in the glove compartment of his vehicle, which was parked in the Davis Science parking lot," according to the report.

Bradshaw gave the keys to his car to officers, and a "search of the vehicle revealed a .22 caliber semiautomatic pistol inside the glove compartment." However, the gun "was not loaded and contained no magazine," according to the report.

Further investigation revealed the subject had emptied the magazine prior to the police officers' arrival and placed the rounds into a wrapper, according to MTSU officials.

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## FEATURES:

MTSU students soar to great heights with six-wheeled

NASA Moonbuggy

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IN TODAY'S ISSUE



New movie  
"The Town" excites audiences with good casting

ONLINE @  
MTSUSIDELINES.COM

## THURSDAY FORECAST

SUNNY  
NO CHANCE OF RAIN  
HIGH 94, LOW 68

# Phi Kappa Phi excels on campus

By JORDAN BRIEN  
Contributing Writer

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi recently recognized the chapter at MTSU as a "Chapter of Excellence," for promoting a strong academic focus and its ability to involve the community.

The chapter received the award in August at the organization's National Biennial Convention in Kansas City, Mo. The award is given to chapters that fulfill the mission statement of the organization, which is "to recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education, and to engage the community of

scholars in service to others."

The award includes a citation from the society's president, a com-

mendation letter sent to chapter officers and campus administration, special recognition on the society's website, and at the National Convention, a specially designed logo for use in chapter communications. The MTSU chapter was also presented with a \$500 award.

"This is really a prestigious honor for MTSU and for its Phi Kappa Phi chapter," said John Vile, dean of the Paul W. Martin, Sr. University Honors College, who serves as an honor society board member. "This is just a number of awards that MTSU organizations, students and faculty have earned over the past year."

Vile, who has served as president of the organization in the past, said MTSU has consistently nominated students who have won scholarships from Phi Kap-

pa Phi, and this recognition signifies their accomplishment.

"Promoting literacy is the theme for service activities encouraged by the national office of Phi Kappa Phi for its chapters," said Karen Case, the chapter coordinator at MTSU.

Case said the chapter will be partnering with Habitat for Humanity and Read to Succeed to provide residents of new homes with young children's bookcases and children books. The society will also hand out children's books on Halloween as trick-or-treat prizes for toddlers apart of Project Help, an organization on campus that helps children with learning disabilities.

Dmitry Terekhov, student vice president of the MTSU chapter, is considering the possibility of compiling opportunities, locally and nationally, to provide volunteer work,

internships and full time positions in an effort to help the student members.

"Those chapters that have earned 'Chapter of Excellence' status are led by committed officers who give generously of their time and talent to honor outstanding students," said Perry A. Snyder, the Society's national executive director.

Vile said Kathy Davis, national chapter coordinator, keeps up with Phi Kappa Phi correspondence and meets all their deadlines, which the society regards as quite important.

"Officers of award-winning chapters live out their personal commitment to honor and excellence through Phi Kappa Phi," Snyder said.

**"This is a really prestigious honor for MTSU and for its Phi Kappa Phi chapter."**

JOHN VILE  
DEAN OF THE UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE



Photo courtesy of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

Karen A. Case, (Left to right) chapter convention delegate, William A. Bloodworth, Jr., national president of Phi Kappa Phi and president of Augusta State University, Dmitry A. Terekhov, student chapter vice president, and Robert B. Rogow, former national president of the honor society and dean of the College of Business and Technology at Eastern Kentucky University, attend the 2010 Society Convention and received the "Chapter of Excellence Award."

The "Chapter of Excellence" distinction recognizes MTSU's chapter as a thriving organization that meets frequently, hold annual initiations, and applies frequently for Phi Kappa Phi's, select scholarships, grants, and fellowships.

The society has also had a number of students apply for the newly established, "Love of Learning" awards this year, but the awards will not be announced until Oct. 15.

Phi Kappa Phi membership is extended by invitation twice a year to juniors who placed in the top 7.5 percent in their colleges, and to seniors and graduate students who are in the top 10 percent of their colleges. The society also seeks to nominate outstanding professors and university supporters.

The next initiation will be held on Dec. 2 for newly identified and invited qualified MTSU students who might want to join the society in October.



Photo courtesy of Lawrence Jackson, photographer for the White House  
President Barack Obama signs the new health care bill on March 23, following more than a year of political wrangling between members of U.S. Congress.

## Gordon touts provisions in health care bill

New rules on insurance access go into effect today

By MARIE KEMPH  
News Editor

Democrats are marking the six-month anniversary of the Affordable Care Act by celebrating several new health care regulations that go into effect today, including U.S. Rep. Bart Gordon.

"These reforms will help American families stay healthy and save money in the long run," Gordon said in a press release Wednesday. "These reforms are more fair, inclusive and humane, and will ensure when the worst happens, families can continue paying for insurance and medical care without falling on financial hardship."

The Office of the Press Secretary for the White House also sent several press releases this week noting that the landmark law signed by President Barack Obama earlier this year "will put into place comprehensive health insurance reforms that will hold insurance companies accountable, lower health care costs, guarantee more health care choices, and enhance the quality of health care for all Americans."

The new regulations ban insurance companies from

denying coverage for children with pre-existing health conditions, dropping customers after they become sick, and excluding coverage for preventative care and screenings.

"A child with diabetes should not be denied coverage," Gordon said.

Before today, insurance companies were legally allowed to deny insurance coverage to children diagnosed as having medical conditions, such as leukemia or diabetes. As a result, many parents have found their chronically ill children are not financially covered by any insurer, forcing the family to pay out of pocket or borrow money for costly treatments, according to a statement by Gordon's office.

The new policies also ban the practice of rescission, or dropping coverage for patients when they are diagnosed with a serious illness, even though they have paid premiums and been reliable customers in the past, according to the Tennessee representative's press release. Customers will also not be required to pay co-payments for preventative services, including routine screenings, consultations and immunizations.

## Faculty make it a trio

### MTSU professors show off their musical skills

STAFF REPORT

A trio of MTSU faculty members will play a free concert of international music in Hinton Hall in the Wright Music Building Monday at 7:30 p.m.

"We're presenting a concert blend of rustic Armenian folk music, Polish dances, French blues and witty Gershwin," said clarinetist Todd Waldecker, associate professor of music. "We have enjoyed putting together this program of chamber and solo section."

The other two members of the group are Andrea Dawson, assistant professor of violin, and Arunesh Nadgir, a new assistant professor of piano. They will be playing their respective instruments in the duo, according to an MTSU press release.

"We are excited to perform with our new faculty colleague," Waldecker said in reference to Nadgir.

The group will play Aram Khachaturian's folk-influenced "Trio for Violin, Clarinet and Piano," Witold Lutoslawski's "Dance Preludes for Clarinet and Piano," Frederic Chopin's "Impromptu No. 2 in F# Major" for solo piano, Maurice Ravel's "Blues from Sonata for Violin and Pia-

no," Peter Schickel's "Serenade for Three" and George Gershwin's "Walking the Dog."

Dawson became a professor of violin in the School of Music in 2007 and became a faculty member of the Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts in 2008, according to the press release. She is a member of the Stones River Chamber Players, MTSU's faculty-in-residence ensemble, and Belle Meade Baroque. She has also been featured on WPLN-Nashville Public Radio



Waldecker

**"We're presenting a concert blend of rustic Armenian folk music, Polish dances, French blues and witty Gershwin."**

TODD WALDECKER  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MUSIC AND CLARINETIST

as a chamber musician.

In addition, Dawson has performed as a soloist and chamber musician throughout the United States and Mexico.

Waldecker is also a faculty member at the Tennessee Governor's School of the Arts and received the

MTSU Foundation Outstanding Teacher Award in 2006, according to the press report. He has been invited to play as a featured soloist at the International Clarinet Association's ClarinetFest in 2008 and 2010, as well as at the University of Oklahoma Clarinet Symposium.

As a member of the Stones River Chamber Players, Waldecker has performed throughout the U.S. and Europe and at conventions of the National Flute Association and the Guitar Federation of America.

Nadgir has performed as a soloist and chamber musician throughout the U.S., Europe and Asia and at many international music festivals, including the Millennium International Piano Festival, the Moulin d'Ande Festival and the Kneisal Hall Summer Music Festival, according to the press release. Prior to teaching at MTSU, Nadgir taught at the Eastman School of Music

in Rochester, NY, New England Conservatory's Preparatory and Continuing Education Departments in Boston, Mass., the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Michigan and the Palisades School of Music in New Jersey.

## Agriculture Day slated for today

### Annual fair expected to bring information to students

STAFF REPORT

The School of Agribusiness and Agriscience will hold its third annual "Ag Field Day" today from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. at the Guy James Farm.

"It's an exciting time in the life of the MTSU agriculture program," said Warren Gill, director of the School of Agribusiness and Agriscience. "We want to share what's happening with as many of our supporters and area farmers as we can."

Tim Redd, farm lab manager, and Gill will provide updates about the new dairy and livestock projects, which will be followed by a report on

what is taking place with student gardens, nurseries, farmers' markets and a new strawberry project, according to an MTSU press release.

The state department's Tennessee Ag Enhancement Program will be featured at the event, Gill said. Tours will begin at 5 p.m. and will include a geothermal vegetable cooler and beehives.

Commissioner Ken Givens of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture plans to attend, Gill said, and John Hood, director of community relations and government for MTSU's Division of Development and University Relations, will serve as master of ceremonies.



Photo courtesy of MorgueFile.com

The School of Agribusiness and Agriscience will showcase its new dairy and livestock projects at the "Ag Field Day" today.

The event is open to the MTSU community and the general public, and a meal will be served at 6 p.m. Reservations are required, and anyone who wishes to attend should call 615-

898-2523 to register or to request more information.

The School of Agribusiness and Agriscience is one of nine College of Basic and Applied Sciences departments.

online

To read more, visit us online.  
www.mtsusidelines.com



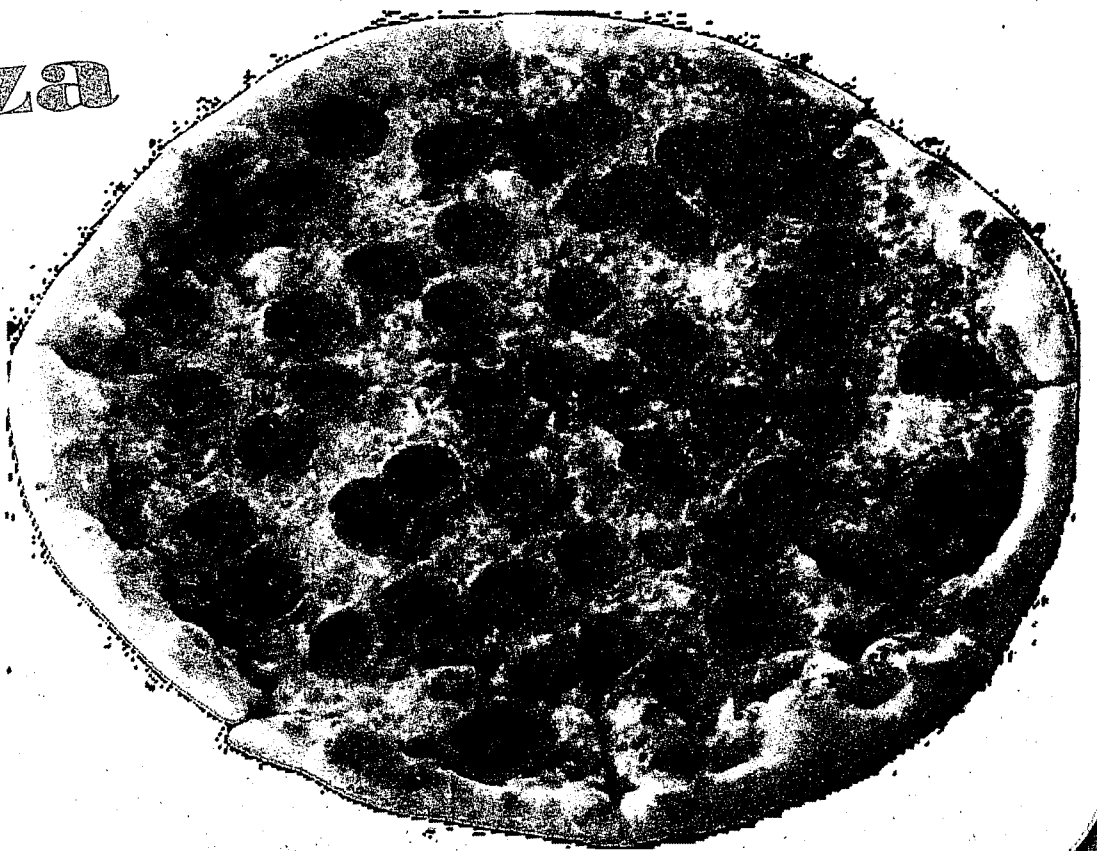
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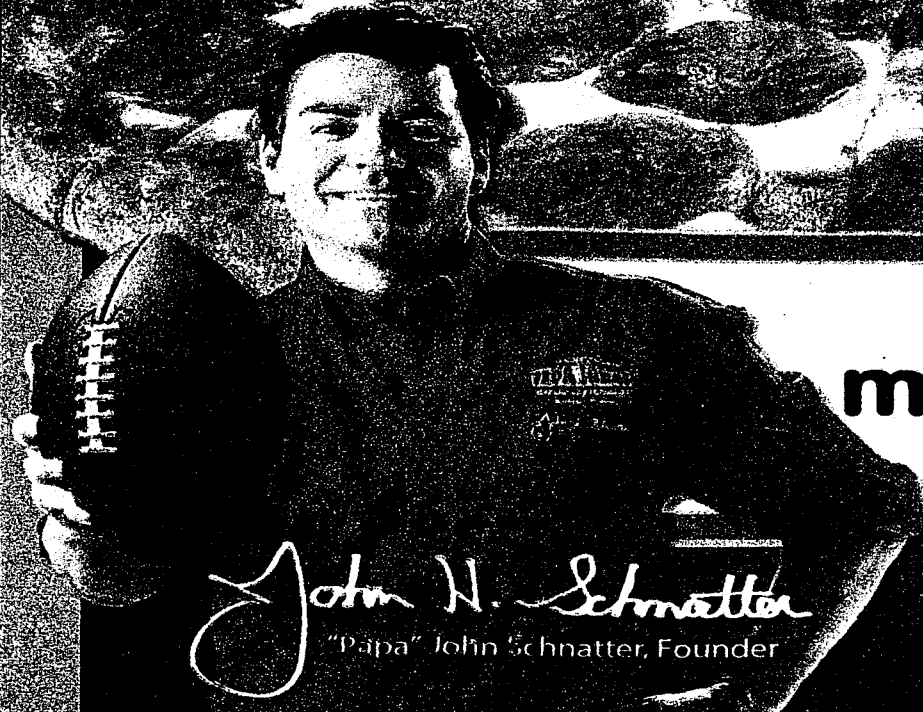
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*John N. Schnatter*  
"Papa" John Schnatter, Founder

# New technology produces obstacles for disabled students

**KINDLE**  
FROM PAGE 1

While some electronic readers have a text-to-voice function, visually impaired and blind individuals likely need a seeing person to navigate the menus of the Kindle DX, according to one visually impaired student.

"I'm hoping that through the current uprising against creating technology that is useful but not accessible, companies will be mindful as they create their next generation of devices," said Jessica Beecham, a visually impaired student who is pursuing her master's degree in exercise sciences. "Some companies are ignoring a potential market that would be willing to pay for their products."

For students who need audio versions of their textbooks and are registered with DSS, the Adaptive Technology Center provides technology that will process their books into a voice file. Students can then access this file on their personal computers, MP3 players or other platforms that they prefer to use.

However, many current electronic readers have menus that are navigated solely by a touch screen or a non-Braille keyboard.

"It's not all companies that aren't considering students with disabilities, but you do have some companies that are behind," Beecham said. "For instance, Apple deserves mention for the functionality of the iPhone... it has a lot of accessible applications."

The Adaptive Technology Center also has a room in the James E. Walker Library where students can bring in a hardcopy of their textbooks and have it scanned into the text-to-voice program. Currently, the center has about 1,000 textbooks in their database, Burks said.

MTSU was the first school in Tennessee to scan books for this purpose, Harris said.

To comply with copyright laws, students must have a hardcopy of the book to prove that they purchased it, Burks said, though that is not the format they will be using the text in.

While Harris was not aware of any classes



Photo by Christopher Merchant, assistant news editor  
Jessica Beecham, a masters candidate in the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, uses a program for vision-impaired students at the Adaptive Technology Center with her guide dog Pippin.

that implemented electronic readers in the curriculum, he said that he expects such devices to be used on campus more in the future, and that officials will have to be reasonable when thinking about how to comply with disability laws.

Currently, when students registered with DSS are unable to fulfill an aspect of their class, DSS will negotiate with professors to find another way for the student to fulfill their assignment.

"Our office would intervene and make a classroom modification," Burks said. "However, they would be expected to do the same amount of work, just with a different game-plan."

Harris re-emphasized that students with disabilities are required to do the same amount of work as their fellow students.

"We don't particularly like students to substitute work if they can avoid it," Harris said.

While MTSU professors do not make use of electronic readers in class, federal attention could lead to changes in the functionality of products on the market, Harris said.

"I think it's a good thing that the federal government is looking into it," Harris said. "It's good to know that our school is doing well in this department."

Marie Kempf, news editor, contributed to this report.

# LOCAL EVENTS

## On Campus

**Student Life:**  
**3rd Annual Lambda Fiesta**  
Thursday  
10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.  
KUC Knoll  
FREE

**Film:**  
**"The Karate Kid"**  
Sunday  
8:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.  
KUC Knoll  
FREE

**Sports:**  
**Men's Rugby**  
Saturday  
3pm - 4pm  
MTSU vs. Nashville RFC & TN Tec.  
FREE

**Film:**  
**"Get Him to the Greek"**  
Friday  
7:00 p.m.  
KUC Theater  
Tickets \$2

**Recital:**  
**David Loucky Sandra Arndt Faculty Recital**  
Sunday  
7:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.  
Wright Music Building

**Social Saturday**  
Saturday  
7pm - 9pm  
Location: Lyon Hall Ground Floor  
FREE

**Greek Affairs:**  
**Interfraternity Council Recruitment**  
Saturday  
1:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.  
James Union Building

**Sports:**  
**Men's Rugby**  
Saturday  
1pm - 2pm  
MTSU vs. Nashville RFC & TN Tech  
FREE

**Sports:**  
**Women's Soccer**  
Sunday  
12pm - 1pm  
UT vs. Vandy, & MTSU vs. UT  
FREE

## Off Campus

**Event:**  
**Ribbon Cutting - 3 Brothers Deli & Brewhouse**  
Friday  
4 p.m.  
223 W. Main St.  
FREE

**Concert:**  
**Music in the Park**  
Sunday  
2 p.m. until 5 p.m.  
The Avenue  
Awake! Awake! will perform  
FREE

**Concert:**  
**Music in the Park**  
Sunday  
2 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
Location: The Avenue

**Event:**  
**3rd Annual Red Kettle Craft Fair.**  
Saturday  
Salvation Army, New Salem Highway  
FREE

**Concert:**  
**Of Montreal with Janelle Monae**  
Sunday  
8 p.m.  
The Cannery  
\$50 General Admission

### Events Policy

Sidelines welcomes current campus and community events submitted by all readers. Please e-mail events to [slcampus@mtsu.edu](mailto:slcampus@mtsu.edu) or [slnews@mtsu.edu](mailto:slnews@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.

**Community:**  
**Main Street Saturday Market**  
Saturday  
8:00 a.m. until noon  
West Side of Murfreesboro Courthouse

**Musical:**  
**The Sound of Music**  
Sept. 24 - Sept. 26 at  
7:30 p.m., Sunday performance at 4:30 p.m.  
Location: Lamplighter's

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 events listed are not necessarily associated with Sidelines or MTSU.

# Totenberg brings court experiences to students

**Totenberg**  
FROM PAGE 1

No concrete evidence was found that provided substantial proof to support Hill's allegations, and Thomas was eventually confirmed by the U.S. Senate by a 52-48 vote in October of that same year.

After all of this, she took the stage, smiled at the audience, and said, "It always sounds better than it is."

Totenberg then launched into a 45-minute lecture about the goings-on of the Court at present, which was followed by a question-and-answer session. She also greeted her listeners in the lobby of the theater after the event.

Totenberg said she has an "enormous amount of respect" for John Seigenthaler, the former editor for The Tennessean and MTSU benefactor. She said she made the effort to speak here in the same week as a celebratory trip to Paris in honor of her 10-year wedding anniversary.

"I had a crazy couple of days this week trying to catch up," Totenberg said.

Totenberg, who started her career in print journalism, said she never saw herself making the leap into broadcast journalism.

"I was recruited by NPR...but never really even considered it before NPR," Totenberg said.

She said she gets frustrated with the ins-and-outs of Washington, D.C., describing her work on Capitol Hill as "sometimes unpleasant."

"Really, what these people need is a mother to teach them to behave better," Totenberg said, rolling her eyes.

"The idea [of journalism] is not to allow yourself to be intimidated," Totenberg said, adding that she has been described as a "very pushy lady" and has had a man "blow his stack" at her.

"These aren't pleasant experiences, but I have a job to do and the idea is not to lose your cool," Totenberg said.

When it comes to the future of journalism, she said that she is "not sure where journalism is going today."

"I'm not sure how people are going to make a living at [journalism]," she said. "I'm not sure how the business is going to find a business model that will succeed, [and] I'm not sure what kind of journalism will remain."

She said it was hard for her to still encourage aspiring journalists to enter the field and recommended people to consider other avenues before entering the



Photo by David Cooley, staff photographer

The MTSU community gathered Wednesday in Tucker Theatre to hear Nina Totenberg, a reporter for National Public Radio, share her experiences cover the U.S. Supreme Court.

world of reporting.

"I love getting a scoop, but what I do is explain complicated issues in a way that is accessible to most people, and I'm proud that I'm good at that," Totenberg said.

Totenberg has been published in New York Magazine, The Harvard Law Re-

view, The Christian Science Monitor, Parade Magazine and The New York Times Magazine. She is a regular panelist on "Inside Washington," a weekly television program on public affairs, and her reports are played regularly on NPR's "All Things Considered," "Morning Edition" and "Weekend Edition."

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- Shop or Eat in the Shopping Center while your clothes are washing and drying.
- It's just a short walk to some of your favorite shopping and eating places.

## CRIME BRIEFS

**Traffic**  
Sept. 18, 4:10 a.m.  
Off Campus  
Nicholas Jermaine Ray, 19, was issued a citation for driving on a revoked license.

**Alarm**  
Sept. 19, 5:58 a.m.  
Scarlett Commons Club House  
A fire alarm went off inside of the building.

**Alarm**  
Sept. 19, 1:22 p.m.  
Floyd Stadium  
A fire alarm went off inside of the building.

**Alarm**  
Sept. 19, 7:52 p.m.  
Scarlett Commons Club House  
A fire alarm went off inside of the building.

**Theft**  
Sept. 19, 10:50 p.m.  
James E. Walker Library

**Traffic**  
Sept. 20, 12:22 p.m.  
Woodfins Parking Lot  
A driver left the scene of an accident after hitting a parked car.

**Theft**  
Sept. 20, 1:55 p.m.  
Greek Row  
Beta Theta Pi House  
A sign was reportedly stolen.

A debit card was reportedly stolen.

## CRIME STOPPERS

If you have any information regarding these crimes, please contact Crime Stoppers at 615-893-7867 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

items and was reportedly taken from Room 221 of the Ned McWherter Learning Resources Center.

A \$1,000 cash reward is being offered for information that leads to the arrest of the person or persons who stole a Dooney and Bourke purse on Sept. 2, sometime between 9:20 and 9:50 a.m. The purse contained an iPod, in addition to other

A \$300 cash reward is being offered for information that leads to the arrest of the person or persons who broke the glass out of the bulletin board located inside of Scarlett Commons, Building 8. The crime was committed sometime between 8 a.m. on Sept. 3 and 7 p.m. on Sept. 6.



## 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, 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 individual writers and not necessarily *Sidelines* or MTSU.

## What I really learned

### Academic learning aside, college gives life experiences

As a junior at MTSU, I have learned many things. I have studied hard, made great friends, and learned a lot these past two years.

This is a list of my top ten things I wish someone would have told me back when I was a scared, little freshman.

1. Be prepared to have an open mind. When I toured this campus back in the summer of 2008, on the Knoll outside of the Keathley University Center was covered in students competing in the "MTSU's Best Dance Crew" competition, and protesters yelling "smoke pot, not Iraqis!"

That day, I realized college was going to introduce me to a lot of new ideas. If I did not commit to keeping an open mind, I wasn't going to make it through.

2. Rain boots are a necessity. The campus is flat and has no drainage system. If it looks like rain, put them on: Rain boots will save shoes, socks and pant legs from getting drenched, and makes for a much drier and enjoyable day.

3. Take a class with Glenda Goodin. She teaches introduction to music and elements of music theory. Not only is she a great teacher, her positive attitude in class is contagious.

4. Eat by yourself in the cafeteria. Sounds strange, but I met a lot of people and made some great friends. Two in particular invited me on a road trip to At-



**Alexis Metko**  
Contributing Columnist

lanta later that year, and that was a blast.

5. If you feel sick, go to the clinic. At the beginning of my sophomore year, I had a viral infection that turned into pneumonia. I was sick from September until allergy season. MTSU has an affordable clinic located inside the Health, Wellness and Recreation Center, don't be afraid to use it.

6. Get to know the teachers that teach your core classes. Most teachers have worked in the field they teach and can be of great assistance in finding a job. One of my teachers even offered to write a recommendation letter for my internship and job search.

7. Learn how to save money living on your own. My freshman year, I lived in a dorm where I had to pay to wash my laundry. I dragged my laundry basket all over Murfreesboro and washed my clothes at

my friends' houses to avoid the cost at the dorm.

Buying groceries and other items in bulk with your roommates can also save money.

8. Make friends with people in your major. Getting to know students with the same major can really help in class and studying, as well as after graduation. People who share the same major often end up in the same job field. Networking with classmates now is very important.

9. Go out and see the local bands. Some of my best memories in college revolve around going to see shows. Whether I knew the bands or not, I always had a great time.

10. Don't hesitate. This is another big one. College is a time when students can experience just about anything. Get involved on campus, take an art class or volunteer with a local charity. If you want to do something, do it!

When I wrote this list, it brought back a lot of memories that I had forgotten about. There are so many things students can do to make college a great four years. Hopefully, this list can help you on your quest to graduation and beyond.

*Alexis Metko is a junior majoring in public relations in the College of Mass Communication. She can be reached at [arm4t@mtmail.mtsu.edu](mailto:arm4t@mtmail.mtsu.edu).*

## Professors in Mass Comm. boast No. 1 credentials

I'm not a cheerleader for the administration. I don't have an agenda to promote or an ax to grind. I have been enrolled at a different college that supposedly teaches "journalism." I have traveled to the other state institution and experienced their J-school, and I am not getting a grade for writing this.

Is MTSU's J-school the best in the state?

Well, if the additions to the staff during the last few years and the \$2.5 million media convergence center are factored in, then the answer is unequivocal: Hell yes!

Roy Moore, dean of the College of Mass Communication, and Dwight Brooks, director of the School of Journalism, have assembled a team of media heavy-hitters.

Let's start at the beginning of the alphabet.

Assistant Professor Leon Alligood, a 29-year veteran of the newspaper industry, is a wealth of information. Alligood teaches reporting, feature writing and immersion journalism, and he helped implement the capstone multimedia convergence class that is on the leading edge of new media.

Alligood was an embedded reporter in Iraq, and he knows what it means to write for a living, and what it takes to be successful.

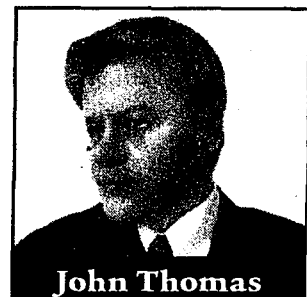
Whether you are in public relations or pre-law, take one of Alligood's classes - you will be better for it! You will learn how to write well. Make sure that you get the name of the dog though.

Deborah Gump, assistant professor, has more than 30 years of experience in the journalism business. Gump, no relation to "Forrest," has been a reporter, editor and instructor.

"Think!" she intones to my lackadaisical editing class.

Teaching students how to think critically is Gump's main focus. She is serious, but she has a heart of gold.

Gump's conviction to her students doesn't stop at the classroom. Often, if you pass by her office late into the night, she is still working with a student, improving a resume, or administering a Dow-Jones



**John Thomas**  
Columnist

Fellowship exam.

Gump is one of those priceless commodities for any university - a teacher who loves to teach. Her editing classes are tough, but you will learn.

Jason Reineke, assistant professor, comes to class on Halloween in his doctoral regalia.

"A professor with a Ph.D. is the scariest thing, I know," Reineke chides his class.

He is affable and fair-minded, and his classes are challenging and thoughtful. He mixes just the right amount of humor with his curriculum. I think that it's two-parts humor to one-part serious work.

He came to MTSU from Ohio State University, but I like him in spite of his choice of institution of higher learning.

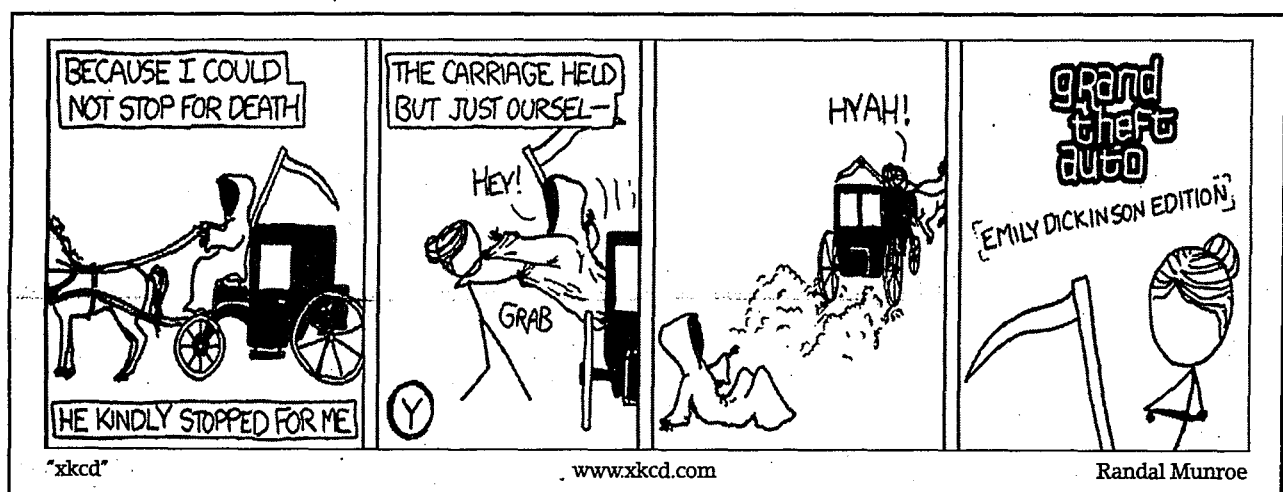
Freedom of expression is being systematically killed off in this country, but not in Reineke's free expression class. Debate is lively and sometimes controversial. Everyone should learn their First Amendment rights and take this class.

Reineke rocks! Education is expensive and time consuming. These professors have given me my money's worth, and then some.

As a nontraditional student, I see things from a different perspective than most 'traditional' students. I am a little older and have more life experience. These professors have made a profound difference in my education and in my life. I am certain that they will make a difference in yours.

*John Thomas is a senior and a nontraditional student in The College of Mass Communication. After 20 years in the insurance business, he decided it was time for a change. He is now completing his degree in journalism. He can be reached at [aflmd@comcast.net](mailto:aflmd@comcast.net).*

## COMICS



## Echoes: heard but never seen

### Listen to others' point of view to learn more information

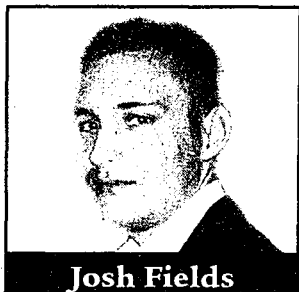
"Speak truth to power" is often the call to arms in the college world. My guess is because people want to feel brave or like they are part of something.

Strangely though, this act of bravery often possesses the same amount of risk as playing Xbox without a helmet. I say this because many people speaking truth to power, often only speak to people they agree with; but you can't speak truth to power if you're talking to a mirror.

This act is why people like Glenn Beck and Keith Olbermann are able to obtain and convince audiences who were already inclined to agree with them. It's an echo chamber that pays quite handsomely.

The issues boil over though, and sometimes the mindless chatter blinds us from seeing the real concerns of the other side.

In more recent and local issues, such as the Murfreesboro mosque controversy, both sides are equally guilty of being so deafened by their own chatter



**Josh Fields**  
Contributing Columnist

that they totally miss the other side's concerns. I suppose it's difficult to have an open dialogue when your counterpart is calling you a "bigot" or a "terrorist sympathizer."

Such words, phrases, ideas, or actions can become anchors that tie down the discussion from becoming anything significant. It's called "anchoring bias" in the psychology world.

It's a perpetual cycle, in many senses, because it doesn't stop with one anchor. Sometimes it's just enough to sink the boat. The ironic thing is that when roles and verbiage are reversed the outcome is the same.

Remember the George W. Bush years? People prided themselves on speaking truth to power. The American people were calling for President Bush to be tried for war crimes, while criticizing his reckless spending and conservative social agendas.

Ironic now that the very people who spoke truth to power are now deadly silent, and the people who were once silent have now found their voices.

Not much has changed since the Bush years. Obama still has the same relative foreign policy and there is still reckless spending. President Obama has the same position on gay marriage as that of Bush.

Somehow, the echoes of our past discretions don't carry over past an election cycle. Protesting becomes un-American or dogmatic, even if the new people are protesting the same thing you were.

When we start taking our ideals too seriously we fall prey to the sheer ig-

norance that is contained within each of us.

I believe Clint Eastwood said it quite well, "Extremism is so easy. You've got your position, and that's it. It doesn't take much thought. And when you go far enough to the right you meet the same idiots coming around from the left."

I do have hope though. Perhaps somewhere at the crossroads where roles are reversed, people will find moral equivalence, and finally have a clear discussion. In a sense, the mindless bickering may be better than silent hate or content. I have my own biases. I'm libertarian and I'm "pro-mosque," but it saddens me to see those I agree with, at least partially, caught up in their perpetual loop that merely serves to make them sound exactly that - loopy.

*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).*

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Interpol releases self-titled album

### New sound mixes macabre themes with sophisticated songs of love

By **JESSE CLOWER**  
Contributing Writer

The band Interpol's latest self-titled album is a celebration of heartbreak, reminiscent of the band's entire repertoire of suit-and-tie, melancholy and macabre fables.

The solemn matrimony of Interpol with a spooky Tim Burton-like love story seems to be working without a prenuptial agreement. So why not let them keep doing what they do best — making great songs for sophisticated who have love issues?

Lyrical, "Interpol" comes off as the nice guy who consecutively finishes last, and yet still has a desperate yearning for closure. The album, like a scalpel penetrating the heart, demands attention, but don't bother yourself with dissecting the songs to look for new parts.

The reasoning behind the band choosing to make its fourth album self-titled may have something to do with this being the first record the boys produced themselves. The gang also returned to its independent label Matador Records, which garnished the band's first two albums.

With this album Interpol put Capitol Records and the high-dollar producer Rich Costey, behind them. Costey worked on Muse's "Black Holes and Revelations," Franz Ferdinand's "You Could Have It So Much Better," and then Interpol's third album, "Our Love to Admire." However, Costey's use of ambient, flow-focused rhythm, so prevalent in Interpol's third album, spilled over into the blender of its latest recordings.

The opening track, "Success," has lead singer Paul Banks teasing listeners with lyrics implying he has something new to reveal.

Let's face it, did fans ever think they were going to find out what abused mechanism was winding Banks' ticker? They never will. The tone of the album and the band has stayed the same, and while many things have changed and evolved with the group, its motif always remains the same.

The rhythm section proves to be tight as ever. It punctuates the act's signature sound while utilizing new tools of the trade

to upgrade the tension building scenarios Banks' lyrics often provide.

This album is a mature recognition of the band's ability to recreate the intricacies of love with musical passion.

Songs like, "Always Malaise" and "All of the Ways" infuse piano and violins as soft as cotton, with echoes and ambient subtleties. Banks' emotionally driven assertiveness creates a musical frenzy that remains solid.

"Memory Serves" and "Lights," both flaunt Interpol's songwriting skills. The second and fourth tracks feature a curious rattlesnake of a southern guitar as both songs begin.

"Lights" rants eerily with unpredictable time signatures, while Banks comes in singing of desire and grace with a voice to match his sincerity. The song's elaborate progression escalates into a rhythmic march over glittering guitars that rain down with a driving force.

"Memory Serves" recalls a scene from everyone's most desperate moment. The rhythm section harmoniously pounds on the back door as the singer begs like an alcoholic on the porch of a past lover.

It's amazing how sincere one can be with an empty bottle in hand, talking to a window.

"You don't have to say that you'd love to, but baby please, that you want to — someday," Banks pleads.

"Barricade," the first single off the album, starts off sounding almost like optimism — something seen seldom at the beginning and end of an Interpol song. It is promising as it starts off like a Red Hot Chili Peppers California-breeze kind of song.

"How much fear can you fabricate?" Banks sings.

Tricked again! This song is about snakes, thieves and politics. With all of the slithering, backstabbing hypocrites — could it be another love story?

Aside from the few songs with peculiar gothic tones lusting to inebriate one's vampiric side with desires, the album is not much different from previous releases.

That may change in subsequent albums though — Interpol is now officially a trio. Original bassist Carlos Dengler left the band



Photo courtesy of Interpolnyc.com



Photo by Interpolnyc.com

The Interpol boys' September-released, self-titled album is the fourth for the band.

shortly after finishing recording its newest album to pursue personal projects. Interpol has recruited a bassist and keyboardist for its next tour to make up for the loss of Dengler.

Only two original members, Paul Banks and guitarist Daniel Kessler, are left, after the band replaced drummer Greg Drudy with Sam Fogarino in 2000. It would be

hard to replace Dengler, as he has been a critical part in creating Interpol's haunting, yet bouncing rhythmic section.

Interpol has meticulously created another album of slow, somber music that still moves the hips. Other bands have only toyed with the intricacies that Interpol's new album excelled in.

## Hip Happenings



Atomic Truck Monkeys

**Jim Elrod**  
Saturday, Sept. 25  
at Aura Lounge

**Atomic Truck Monkeys**  
Saturday, Sept. 25  
at Aura Lounge

**Dave Mathews Tribute**  
Saturday, Sept. 25  
at Blue Rooster

**The Scissors**  
Saturday, Sept. 25  
at The Boro Bar and Grill  
with The 1-10s

**Jeff Miller**  
Thursday, Sept. 23  
at Bonhoeffer's  
with Superfly and  
Twelve South

**Joe Green**  
Friday, Sept. 24  
at Aura Lounge

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**UGG**  
australia

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"BAILEY BUTTON"  
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"CLASSIC TALL"  
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of Stones River Mall  
Murfreesboro, TN  
is your  
**UGG**  
australia  
headquarters.

## SIDEWORDS

The weekly *Sidelines* crossword puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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70					71					72			

Crossword courtesy of bestcrosswords.com

### ACROSS

1- Soup spoons; 7- Cracked; 11- New Deal org.; 14- Glacial epoch; 15- \_\_\_\_ de vivre; 16- Decoration at the top of a chair leg; 17- Youngster; 18- Abrasive; 20- Purchase tax; 22- Marine growth; 23- Suffix with Capri; 24- Skater Babilonia; 25- Trellis; 27- Blackbird; 29- Drudge; 31- Goes out with; 32- Compositions; 35- Dirty Harry's org.; 37- \_\_\_\_ Kapital; 38- Tankard with a knob on the lid; 41- 7th letter of the Greek alphabet; 44- " \_\_\_\_ Rider" starred Clint Eastwood; 45- Comes up; 49- Drinks (as a cat); 51- Coil; 53- Em, e.g.; 54- Uncovers; 56- Tolkien ogre; 59- Greek X; 60- Like some infections; 61- Pertaining to an office; 63- A little cupid; 66- Give in; 67- The last letter of the Hebrew alphabet; 68- Hard, in Havana; 69- Each; 70- Chemical ending; 71- Cut; 72- Required;

### DOWN

1- Supple; 2- Companion of Aeneas; 3- Traders; 4- Wash; 5- Discharge; 6- Simmons rival; 7- Trojan War hero; 8- Piece of work; 9- Atmosphere; 10- Hit back, perhaps; 11- Worn; 12- Cure-all; 13- Without affect; 19- Specks; 21- Direct a gun; 25- Hoist; 26- A, as in Athens; 28- Back muscle, briefly; 30- Bendable twig, usually of a willow tree; 33- Mouth, slangily; 34- Room; 36- \_\_\_\_ Rosenkavalier; 39- In addition to; 40- Actress Peeples; 41- Lift up; 42- London cabbie; 43- Find acceptable; 46- Prosper; 47- Improve; 48- Pompous; 50- Fly; 52- Chat room chuckle; 55- Snow conveyances; 57- Aired again; 58- Classy pancake; 61- Poultry enclosure; 62- Netman Nastase; 64- Large cask; 65- Part of TNT;

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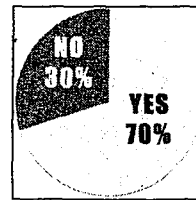
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# FEATURES



**HAS LOGGING ON TO FACEBOOK BECOME AN EVERYDAY ACTIVITY FOR YOU?**  
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## Costly coffee available now

### Relaxing atmosphere worth exorbitant price of hot Joe

By ALEXIS ROBERTSON  
Contributing Writer

Do you know why we spend so much money on Starbucks? Many of us have learned the language of Starbucks after standing in a busy line trying to decode the menu. Why must we taste the mouth-watering pumpkin spice latte? Is it a status thing or the atmosphere? The green, black and white symbol of a woman is an emblem that we all know – not just the caffeine fanatics.

So why do we pay for overpriced coffee? For some, Starbucks brews like Christmas morning in a cup. Many of us have splurged on this simple commodity since Starbucks was established in 1971. Originally, Jerry Baldwin, Zev Siegl and Gordon Bowker sought to create an inviting neighborhood gathering, a coffee house in Seattle.

It became a reality. The inviting atmosphere allows customers to sit and chat over a delectable beverage and pastry. The artsy atmosphere gives Starbucks a comforting vibe.

It's not just the costly coffee that's made to our liking.

"I cannot afford drinking Starbucks coffee every day, but I will sit down for the atmosphere," said Kelly Hogan, a senior majoring in recording industry management.

Fortunately, it draws in more than mere coffee addicts.

"I don't think about how much money I'm spending while ordering a passionate fruit shaken venti iced tea, lightly sweetened," said Sarah Raulerson, a sophomore majoring in recording industry management. "But after I finish the drink I ask myself why I just spent \$6 on a beverage."

Starbucks purchases fresh-roasted, epicure coffee beans that are better for people and the planet, presumably making prices more expensive.

"I didn't think there was a big difference in Starbucks and Folgers, but when I stopped drinking Starbucks and went back

to Folgers, I could tell a big difference," said Mitchell McClain, a senior majoring in psychology. "It tasted like dirt."

Starbucks studies its target client and capitalizes on quenching his or her thirst. It even has an iPhone application called the Starbucks Drink Builder. It goes through a series of questions such as size, temperature and type, until you have customized the perfect drink.

"Get to know us and you'll see: we are so much more than what we brew," according to the Starbucks website.

Sheree Fann, a sophomore majoring in chemistry, says she buys Starbucks coffee since she read "How Starbucks Saved My Life" by Michael Gates Gill.

"Without the great benefits for their employees, Gates wouldn't have ever made a decent living," Fann said. "I feel that I purchase coffee for a good cause."

Most students visiting our campus multiple times a week enjoy the coffee, music and atmosphere Starbucks offers.

"Normally, I spend about \$10 in Flex Bucks at the Starbucks on campus," said Shelby Smith, a junior majoring in organizational communication. "I try to limit how many times I go a week, because it does add up."

Despite costing an arm and a leg, it's safe to say Starbucks has us all craving the frappuccinos and espressos. Starbucks has taken its coffee empire and transformed it into much more than a morning pick-me-up.

"People who like Starbucks but cannot afford going every day should get a coffee maker and brew the Starbucks beans at home," Smith said. "There are tons of flavors and you will get so much more for your money."

Starbucks is the guru of coffee because it maintains an excellent product. We're not only paying for what's in our cup, we're paying for quality.

"I think Starbucks is more expensive because it's not your every day coffee," said Hannah Taylor, a junior majoring in pre-pharmaceutical. "It is a gourmet delight."

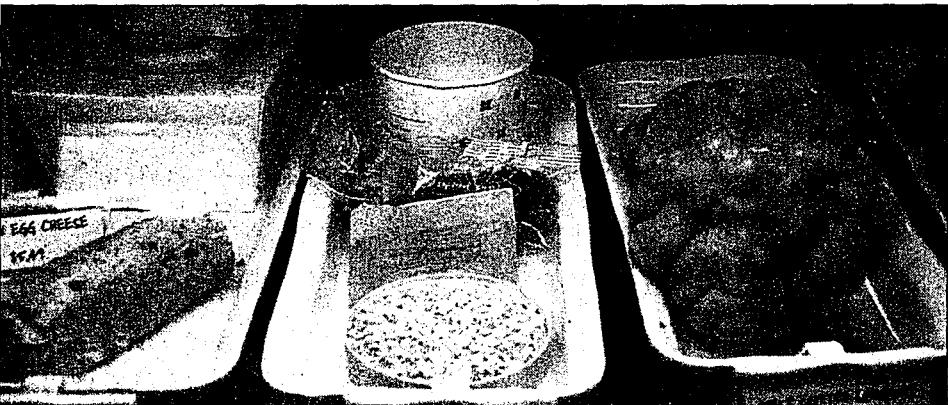


Photo by Anna Houser, contributing photographer

Despite the rising prices of both coffee and food, the Murfreesboro Starbucks on Rutherford still has students finding themselves inexplicably drawn to the euphoric and addictive nature of expensive coffee.



## Students compete on moonlike terrain

### NASA race excites, encourages education

By TODD BARNES  
Contributing Writer

Ready. Set. Go. You're off on a race unlike any other. The terrain is out of this world in fact, it's on the moon. Luckily, you are riding your one-of-a-kind Moonbuggy in this challenging endeavor.

In Huntsville, Ala., NASA sponsors The Great Moonbuggy Race every April, that is made up of high school and college teams all throughout the world. In 2003, MTSU debuted in its first Moonbuggy race, placing first in state and fourth overall.

The Moonbuggy project requires students to build their Moonbuggy from scratch, which must meet the guidelines of an actual NASA lunar rover vehicle. A few important guidelines that the project must follow are: The buggy must fit into a 4-foot cube, be human powered, and a boy and girl from each team are required to operate the Moonbuggy race together.

The course is designed to mimic the moon's surface and is approximately 0.7 of a mile, which is filled with challenging obstacles, steep inclines and moon craters on a gravel terrain. The mooncrater course even has a life-size replica of the moon's Lunar Excursion Module crater to really enhance the feeling of being on the moon.

Besides the opportunity to compete with other schools across the world, this program gives back to the students in more ways than one.

Saeed Forouadastan is an associate dean for the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, and he serves as the faculty advisor for the Experimental Vehicles Project Competitions. He says he believes the benefits of being involved in this project are endless, improving hands-on skills, decision-making and teamwork. If that isn't enough, he adds that projects like this are a great addition to

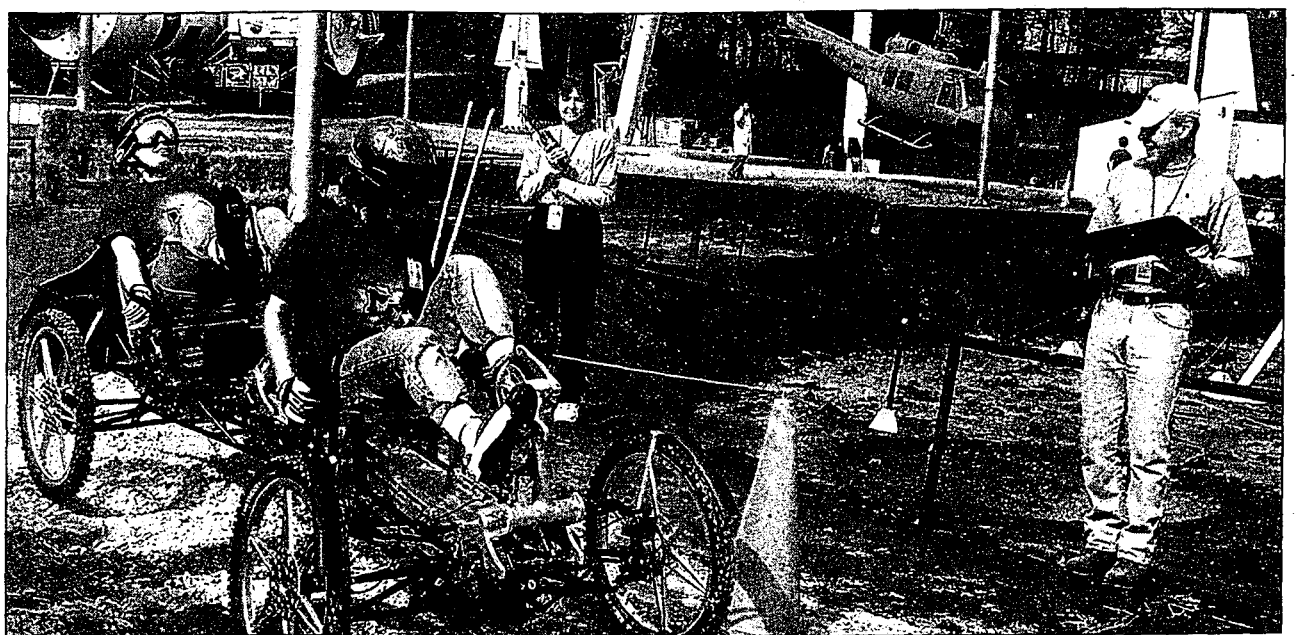


Photo courtesy of Saeed Forouadastan

MTSU students race self-made Moonbuggies around a track designed to simulate the surface of the moon.

any student's resume.

"Employers really love to see people [who] are involved in a project like this," Forouadastan says.

William Harper, a senior majoring in environmental science and technology, is just one of the co-captains of this project and competed in the previous year's race.

"The race is a learning experience," Harper says. "It's fun, it's challenging and it's inspiring."

Every year, NASA donates a space grant to institu-

tions across the nation, like MTSU, and funds students' projects involving geo sciences, physics, astronomy and mathematics. This year, NASA awarded MTSU \$31,665 and the state added another \$24,146. Ultimately, the student body decides which science-based projects to award these funds. The Moonbuggy project was just one of the many projects that were funded with this money.



Photo courtesy of Saeed Forouadastan

Students with the Experimental Vehicles Project Competition stand with their Moonbuggy.

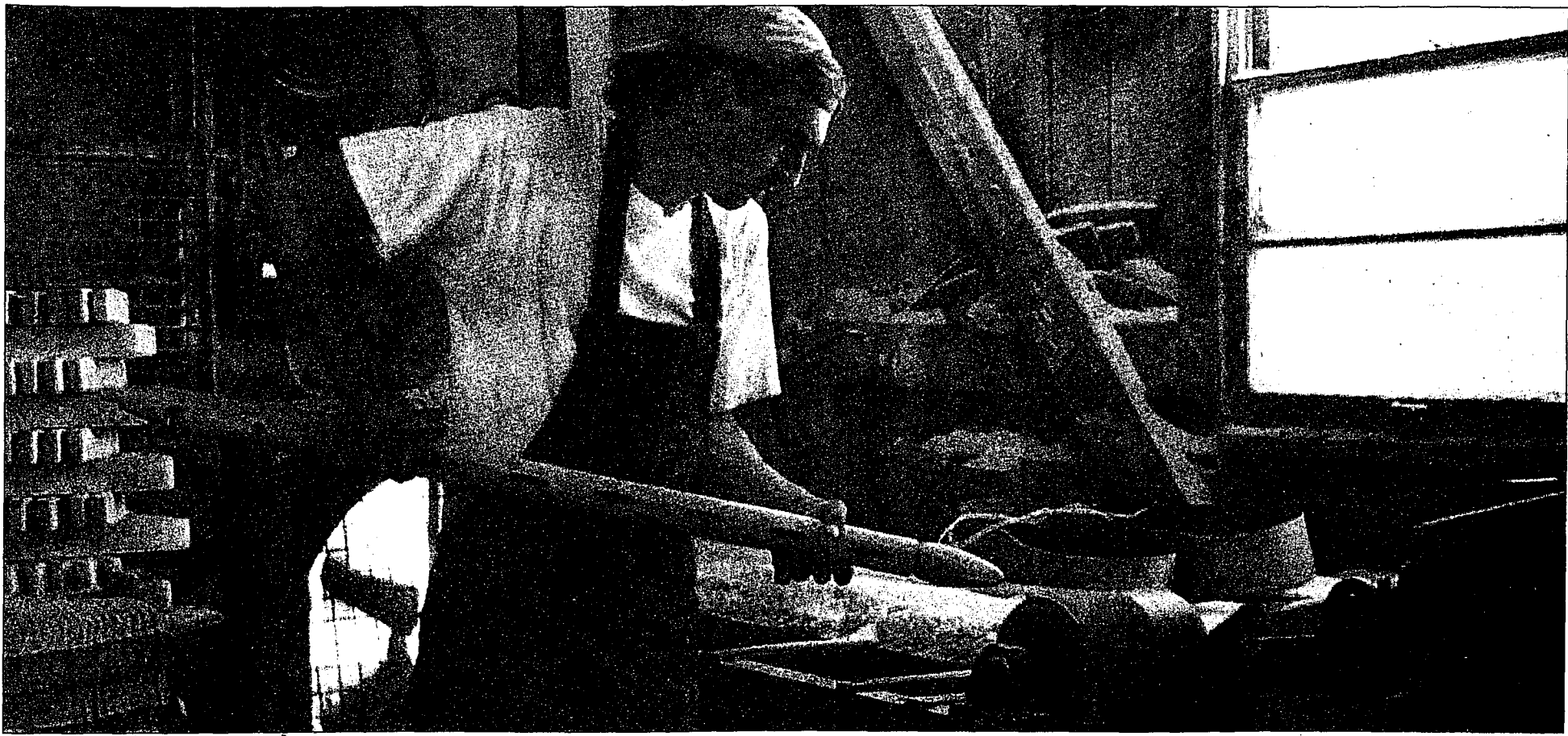
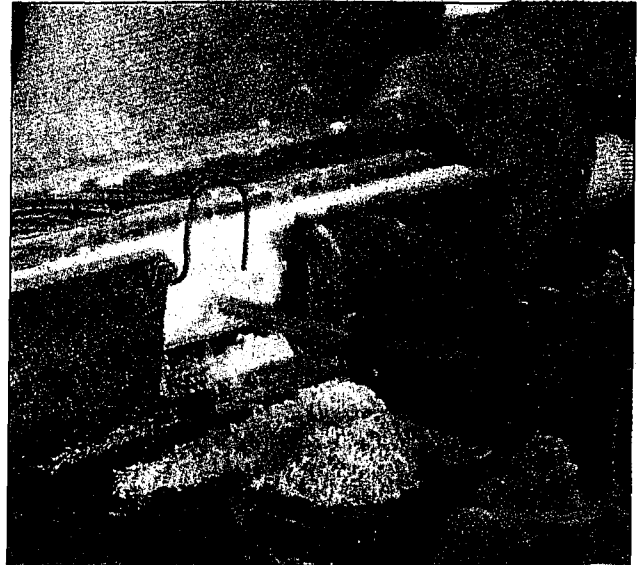


Photo by Nataly Morales, contributing photographer

Patrick Cecil uses a bench sander to shape the top of a chair's back. Cecil, who learned the craft of carpentry at 5 years old, continues to carry on the family tradition and business.

# Keeping crafts in the family



## Chair-making company continues century's old craftsman tradition

By TAYLOR HIXSON  
Staff Writer

The aromatic scent of wood chips wafts throughout the cluttered workshop of cutting, turning, shaving and sanding tools. If it was not for the nail gun and air compressor, someone might think the workshop was left abandoned years ago.

The dusty shop in rural Cannon County is not abandoned though. It operates today, as it has for decades, as a chair-making shop owned by Arlis Thomas, 79, and his grandson Patrick Cecil, 35.

The business has been in the Thomas' family for 100 years – passed down to each generation. Thomas, who speaks in a slow, raspy voice, has been making chairs and porch swings for more than 30 years.

"My dad made [and] I had three or four uncles that

made," Thomas said, patting his dog Blacky on the head with his thick, rough-working hands. "My grandpa made, so it just came natural."

Thomas took up the family business in 1972 because he grew tired of working for other people in factories. Cecil, who started making chairs five years ago, took up chair making for the same reason, but he also did not want to see the business die.

"I didn't want the chairs to die with him, so I wanted him to teach me, and so I could keep it going a little while longer," Cecil said.

Cecil, who wears his graying, curly hair in a youthful ponytail, hopes one of his children, ages 6 and 4, might want to take up the trade one day. For now, Cecil and Thomas are the main two that make the rocking chairs, dining chairs, stools, kid chairs, kid rockers and porch swings, which all come in regular and jumbo sizes.

Cannon County once had more than 20 different chair-making businesses but now, "You can count them on your hand," Thomas said, who is missing a couple fingers and tips of fingers on both hands.

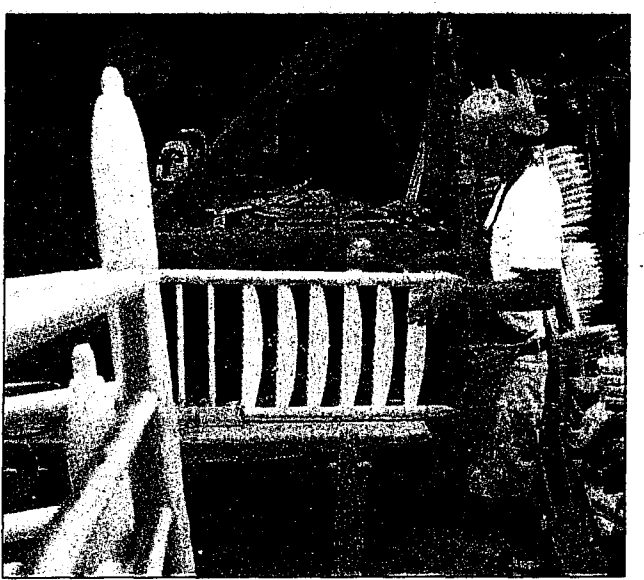
"It's just a dying out," Thomas said. "If someone like [Cecil] don't keep it up, in another 20 years it'll be gone."

He said he is proud of his grandson for wanting to learn the trade and for taking up the family business, carrying on the tradition and name.

Even though handmade chair-makers might be a dying breed, orders are still pouring in for Thomas' Tennessee-made chairs. One customer buys 200 chairs at a time, and this business draws customers from South Carolina, Alabama and Pennsylvania. Thomas does not use modern advertising to promote his business – all by word of mouth.

"You can go anywhere and they can tell you about the Tennessee chairs and baskets and all that," Thomas said.

Not much in the shop has changed throughout the years, which adds to its rustic charm, keeping the customers coming back. Thomas still uses some of the same equipment as when he started, including a sander he built himself. The biggest changes in the shop, and possibly the most helpful, are the nail gun and air compressor.



Photos by Nataly Morales, contributing photographer

The chair shop, owned by Arlis Thomas and grandson Patrick Cecil, has been passed down from one generation to the next. At 100 years old, a century old, the chair shop survives as one of the few businesses of its kind left in the area.

"It saves a lot of time having the nail gun," Cecil said, adding with a smile how thankful he is for not having to hammer in each nail.

Aside from the timesaving nail gun, Thomas and Cecil make the chairs the same way as the generations before them did.

"We just carry one slab of wood into the shop at a time, decide what we want to make out of it, whether it's going to be a post or a rocker or an arm, and go from there: start cutting it up, plan what needs to be planned, mark, saw, rip, turn, bore, drill, sand, slap it all together, get it on a truck and get it out of here," Cecil said.

Stacks of wood are kept piled outside the shop for the next job that comes along. Cecil humorously refers to the wood as a "pile of chairs," and at a rate of 30 chairs each week, the wood will be turned into chairs soon enough.

While Cecil makes the chairs, Thomas is busy making swings. Even though they work on separate projects, Thomas and Cecil still watch out for each other. Thomas keeps a watchful and more experienced eye on Cecil, eager to correct his mistakes, and Cecil watches out for his grandfather, making sure none of the machines take off any more of Thomas' fingers.

# RYMAN

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### MOONBUGGY FROM PAGE 7

MTSU has annually placed in high standing or has been awarded prestigious notoriety. Among those awards are for the Best Engineering Design, Safety, and the Most Unique Award, which MTSU has won twice. This year, the university hopes to push further by building a six-wheeled Moonbuggy, which has never been done before in the history of this race.

Harper says he feels passionately about his involvement in this project yet never realized how important teamwork is until the project arose. He has learned to take this project quite seriously, but sometimes he finds the line between work and fun blurred. He says he hopes to inspire other students with the magic of this



Photo courtesy of Saeed Forouddastan

With previous wins under their belts, MTSU students want a six-wheeled Moonbuggy design.

project in the way this project has inspired him.

As for the future, Forouddastan and Harper would like to see high schools incorporate this experience as a way to combine education with fun. When

asking Forouddastan who benefits from this, he answers with a smile.

"This is something that I see, both male and female can equally benefit from," Forouddastan says. "We're all equal when it comes to science."