

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

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State lawmakers scold TBR

By CHRISTOPHER MERCHANT
Assistant News Editor

The Tennessee Senate Education Committee finished its extensive hearings over the controversy surrounding John Morgan's appointment as the new chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regents on Thursday.

The hearings, which started Wednesday, how Morgan was selected, his salary and qualifications, and the roles and appointments of the other mem-

bers of the TBR.

The committee plans to submit a report on its findings from the inquiry to the full Senate when lawmakers reconvene in January, said state Sen. Dolores Gresham, chair of the committee.

The committee spent a large portion of time discussing Morgan's salary.

"The previous chancellor, with 20 years of experience and an earned doctorate, earned \$305,000 a year," Gresham said. "Morgan was to receive \$385,000,

and he hasn't even done anything yet."

However, the TBR previously considered setting Morgan's salary at \$500,000 "because it should be comparative to heads of like systems in the surrounding states," Gresham said, quoting Bob Thomas, vice chairman of the TBR.

In light of criticism from state



Morgan

politicians and media outlets, Morgan offered to reduce his salary to \$305,000, the same wage as former Chancellor Charles Manning.

With a struggling economy, state-funded organizations have to be mindful about how they spend "public dollars," Gresham said. "Being appointed to the Tennessee Board of Regents is a big deal, given the impact that the system has on Tennessee's citizens," Gresham said.

The TBR oversees six univer-

sities, 13 community colleges, 26 Tennessee Technology Center locations, and it has physical locations in 90 of the state's 95 counties. In total, its jurisdiction encompasses about 200,000 students.

Some officials expressed concern about the selection process for chancellor, but stressed they had no issue with Morgan personally, or with his ability to do the job.

COMMITTEE, PAGE 2

MTSU veteran population surges due to new GI Bill

By DIETRICH STOGNER
Contributing Writer

Not since the years following the Vietnam War have there been so many military veterans attending the university, according to MTSU officials.

Ray Howell, coordinator for the MTSU Department of Veteran Affairs, said the number of veterans attending MTSU has grown to almost 1,000 in the past year, driven by a new version of the Montgomery GI Bill providing for veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Post 9/11 GI Bill, introduced in 2009, provides expanded benefits for veterans who served in the military following the terrorist attacks on 9/11. This bill has resulted in hundreds of new students arriving at MTSU, Howell said.

"We have a grand total of just under 1,000 veterans receiving GI Bill benefits," Howell said. "Of that, 579 are post-9/11 veterans."

The new version of the 66-year-old bill provides much more than ever before. In addition to paying the student's tuition and fees directly to the university, the bill also provides a monthly stipend to cover the cost of living.

The amount of the stipend depends on the location of the school. Here at MTSU, these veterans receive \$1,305 per month for housing and expenses. The bill also provides up to \$1,000 each year for books and supplies.

Howell said that with the

thousands of men and women returning home from Afghanistan, Veterans Affairs felt the existing GI Bill was insufficient to provide education for these veterans.

"The VA realized that [it] needed to adjust to the changing needs of the veterans," Howell said.

The bill was also expanded to include the National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve units that served overseas during the conflicts. The VA is considering increasing these benefits to cover veterans with combat service before 9/11, which would lead to further growth in the student population, Howell said.

In addition, Howell said the Post 9/11 GI Bill allows veterans to transfer their full benefits over to a spouse or child.

"There was no way that I could have gone back to school before this," said Jason Martin, a veteran working for a local retailer who will begin attending MTSU next spring.

"I couldn't go to school and work the number of hours I needed to pay bills," Martin said. "With this, I'll work part time and still be able to go to school."

As word of the new bill spreads, Howell said he expects the number of veterans at MTSU to continue to grow.

"As soon as I heard about the new benefits, I told my wife I was going back to school," said Terry Dewaratanawanich, an Iraq War veteran studying nursing at MTSU. "It was a great opportunity."



Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor

Judges inspect a 15-inch beagle named Mr. Big during the Greater Murfreesboro Kennel Club Show on campus Sunday. Mr. Big, shown by Frank Murphy, won 2nd place in the hounds division.

Campus brings 'best in show'



Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor

Sarah Kargar trots Thunder, an English fox hound, on Sunday. The two traveled from Youngstown, Ohio, to compete in the dog show.

Greater Murfreesboro Kennel Club Show showcases wide variety of dogs

By JOSHUA M. WARD
Assistant News Editor

Dogs of all breeds and sizes crowded the Tennessee Livestock Center at MTSU this weekend for the Greater Murfreesboro Kennel Club Show.

Show chairwoman Kim Boehm said the GMKC has been hosting its annual dog show at MTSU for about 15 years now. Boehm said around 900 dogs were brought to the event with breeds ranging from Great Danes and Dobermans to Pomeranians and Chihuahuas.

"It's a good way of bonding with your animals," said Lisa Hethcox, who came from Alabama to show her Havanese named Sterling. "He got best of winners today, and he only needs two single points to finish his championship."

Hethcox said she travels all over the country with Sterling from show to show, and that it takes a great deal of effort to keep her dog in good form and condition.

SHOW, PAGE 4



Photo by Holland Glover, contributing photographer

Senators gather at the weekly Student Government Association meeting Thursday to discuss, among other things, the possibility of a RedBox on campus, giving student more movie options.

SGA president vetoes required attendance

By TODD BARNES
Contributing Writer

During a meeting Thursday, Brandon Batts, president of the Student Government Association, announced his veto of a bill that was passed by the senate regarding attendance expectations of officers and representatives.

Bill 2-10-F addressed the impeachment of senators who miss three or more events. Batts said he vetoed

a specific line of the bill because SGA members should be held to higher standards, considering the fact that they are required to be the representatives for every MTSU student.

"With SGA being the most known organization on campus, we have to set an example," Batts said.

Victoria Stephens, a junior majoring in vocal performance, said she is proud of Batts's decision.

"I'm glad that he's our

president," Stephens said. "That lets me know he has high expectations of our university."

Heather Hammond, a freshman majoring in chemistry, said she believes SGA is an organization that has no middle ground for involvement.

"If you're going to be involved in [SGA], then you better be involved in it — plain and simple,"

Hammond said.

This bill is not the only bill regarding attendance. Bill 1-10-S requires senators to give at least 24-hour notice when they will not be present for mandatory meetings and events, and absences must have a valid excuse, such as illness or grief.

Failure to provide appropriate notice would result in a reduction of senate hours equal to those the senator volunteered to work.

SGA, PAGE 2

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IN TODAY'S ISSUE



Look for full
Blackout game
coverage on Tuesday

ONLINE @
MTSUSIDELINES.COM

MONDAY FORECAST

MOSTLY SUNNY
NO THREAT OF RAIN
HIGH 66, LOW 40

Batts vetoes bill

SGA FROM PAGE 1

Though Batts vetoed only part of Bill No. 2-10-F, it is rendered powerless with the removal of the vetoed section and will become useless unless the bill is rewritten. The senate may overthrow Batts' veto by a two-thirds majority vote. The issue will be on the table for discussion during the SGA's meeting Thursday.

In other business, the SGA is promoting its annual Road Rally, which will take students to the MTSU vs. Georgia Institute of Technology game in Atlanta, Ga. After the game, students are slated to spend the next day at Six Flags Over Georgia during the weekend of Fall Break.

Sarah Ayache, vice president of Administration and Public Affairs, said the trip will boost school spirit and give students a chance to get to know other MTSU students and staff.

"It's like extreme tailgating," Ayache said. "I'm very excited."

SGA is in final preparations of sending its first newsletter out to all MTSU students. This newsletter will inform the student body on upcoming MTSU events, up-to-date SGA decisions and elections, and other important campus information.

"This is probably one of the biggest accomplishments that we've ever had thus far," Ayache said. "No other student organization has the power to do this - only us."

MTSU's administration has never allowed an organization to do this because of the fear of spam invading student's e-mail accounts. The SGA has found a solution. The first e-mailed newsletter will give an option to students whether they want to continue receiving the newsletter or not.

Resolution 1-10-F is tabled for next week, regarding putting a RedBox outside the doors of the Keathley University Center.

The RedBox would give students the opportunity to watch movies on campus beyond the schedule that the KUC Theater offers because some students' schedules conflict with show times.

The senate agreed to vote on the bill next week because there are questions regarding how much this will cost MTSU, and the bill's sponsor left the meeting early.

The senate also unanimously voted for Gavin Mosley to take Executive Vice President Samantha Cobb's place at SGA meetings when she cannot attend.

Study in Middle East expanding



Photo courtesy of John Vile, dean of the University Honors College

John Vile and his wife, Linda, visited Turkey in July on a trip sponsored by the Society of Universal Dialogue. He said he hopes that his recent trip will help progress toward a study abroad option in the Middle East.



Honors College dean encourages students to study in Turkey, learn about culture, politics, religion

By CHRISTOPHER MERCHANT
Assistant News Editor

The dean of the University Honors College said he hopes his recent trip to the Middle East will open up new opportunities for study abroad and encourage global awareness on campus.

"Even if I take a pleasure trip, I am thinking, 'What might be a suitable university if somebody wanted to get an affiliation here?'" Dean John Vile said. "We have a tremendous interest [at MTSU] in study abroad."

The trip was sponsored by the Society of Universal Dialogue, a Nashville-based nonprofit organization that "endeavors to promote respect and mutual understanding through partnerships with other religious and intercultural organizations," according to the group's website.

Turkey would be a good candidate for students looking for an experience to study abroad because of its political and religious climate, Vile said.

"Turkey is a fascinating country politically," Vile said. "It is probably the most successful [Middle Eastern country] because it is fairly democratic, and they have a large Muslim population."

Vile, who studies American constitutional law and served as chair of the department of political science for 19 years, said American students could learn a

lot about the separation between church and state by observing Turkey's policies.

However, Vile said Turkey's cultural ideology is very different from what some MTSU students might be used to, adding that he was on the lookout for potential culture clashes.

"When you travel abroad, you learn a little bit about the obstacles," Vile said, speaking about issues that American students in Turkey might encounter. He said these obstacles could be anything from religion to foreign cuisine. In addition, Vile said he had his own personal concerns that he said he hoped to explore on his trip.

"The people who sponsored us are part of what is known as the Gulen movement," Vile said of the nonprofit organization.

M'Fethullah Gulen is a "Turkish Muslim scholar," according to his website, who has denounced terrorism and who "promotes the cooperation of civilizations" and interfaith communication through organizations like SUD.

"Just judging by who was on our trip, it looks like [SUD is] primarily looking for educators, and to a large degree, they seem to be interested in people who have some religious ties," said Vile, who is an evangelical Christian.

While he went on the trip by invitation, Vile said the excursion gave him the oppor-

tunity to reflect on a paper he has been working on, entitled "An American Evangelical Perspective of the Modern Islam of Gulen."

"I actually have found a section in Gulen's writing that really troubles me," Vile said. "If I understand him, he seems to say that if you are a Muslim and you convert, the state should be able to punish you for it, and that bothers me a lot."

Some misunderstanding might be due to translation issues in Gulen's writing, Vile said. He said there are also a variety of forms of Shariah law that Muslims may or may not subscribe to.

"I have seen some of his defenders say he doesn't believe [in Shariah law]," Vile said. "Part of what I wanted to do [with my paper] is get it out there so that some of his supporters can say, 'No, that's old,' or, 'you don't understand,' or whatever."

While staying in Turkey, Vile said he and his wife were cared for by "extremely hospitable" hosts, and the young people he encountered were even more versed in some aspects of American popular culture than he was.

For instance, one young man that Vile spoke with "knew more about" the Boston Celtics, the Houston Rockets and "The

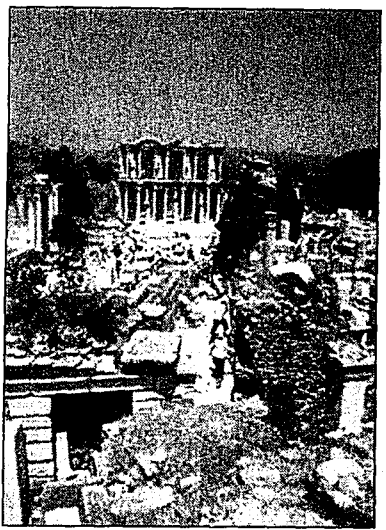


Photo courtesy of John Vile, dean of the University Honors College

John Vile's recent trip to Turkey gave him the opportunity to explore study options for MTSU students looking to study in the Middle East.

Simpsons" than he did.

"They talk about English being a world language, but it's like American culture, in ways that we don't understand, is a world language too," Vile said.

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LOCAL EVENTS

On Campus

Football:
Blue Raiders vs. Troy University
Oct. 5, 7 p.m.

Floyd Stadium
FREE

Play:
"The 25th Annual Putnam
County Spelling Bee"
Oct. 6-9, 13-15 at 7:30 p.m.

Tucker Theatre
FREE

Lecture:
HIV/AIDS Awareness
Oct. 7, 6 p.m.

Keathley University Center, Room 314
FREE

Lecture Series:
"BP's Crude Oil Disaster: Ancient Origins, Uncertain Future"
Oct. 12, 4:20 p.m.

Kirksey Old Main, Room 452
FREE

"Urban Growth near Mobile Bay, Alabama: The 'Other' Threat to Gulf Coast Wetlands"
Oct. 13, 3:30 p.m.

Kirksey Old Main, Room 452
FREE

Off Campus

Concert:
Widespread Panic
Oct. 4-6, 7:30 p.m.

Ryman Auditorium
Tickets: \$45

Concert:
Cannery Ballroom Stars
Oct. 5, 9 p.m.

Tickets: \$18, \$20

Concert:
Rogue Wave with Midlake
Oct. 6, 9 p.m.

Mercy Lounge
Tickets: \$15, \$17

Concert:
Mendmena
Oct. 11, 9 p.m.

Mercy Lounge
Tickets: \$15, \$17

Events Policy

Sidelines welcomes current campus and community events submitted by all readers. Please e-mail events to slcampus@mtsu.edu or 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.

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 events listed are not necessarily associated with Sidelines or MTSU.

MICHAEL DOUGLAS | SHIA LABEOUF
AN OLIVERSTONE FILM
WALL STREET
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Chancellor hearings conclude

COMMITTEE FROM PAGE 1

"I think he will be a fantastic chancellor," said John Farris, a board member of the TBR. "I think he's a good business person. In my opinion, we need a strong business person now running the system, versus an academician."

However, Farris, who was on the search committee that sought out potential chancellors, said he was "disappointed with the results of the search."

"I had hoped that we would have more candidates," Farris said.

State Sen. Jim Tracy, who serves on the Senate Education Committee, said a nine-month search for potential chancellors was run by a firm in Atlanta in Sept. 2008, adding that about six applicants were found. He said a second search was opened at the beginning of June this year and lasted until July 15.

Morgan's qualifications were also a topic of discussion during the meeting.

"The TBR was criticized [by politicians and media] for selecting Gov. Bredesen's deputy because he lacks an advanced degree, and he has no previous experience in higher education management,"

Gresham said.

The TBR amended the requirements for the position of chancellor so that having a doctorate was not a prerequisite. Tracy said most similar institutions in the United States have such a requirement.

"One of the reasons I thought it would be a good idea to take this language about a Ph.D. out is that I thought it would broaden the search," Farris said.

In other business, the committee questioned Bill Mason, director of Community Affairs for the governor's office, about the composition of TBR members and their individual party affiliations. Mason oversees the Boards and Commissions Office, which selects the candidates that the governor considers for seats all across the state.

According to TBR guidelines, three members of the board must be a part of the opposing party.

Because voters in Tennessee are not required to declare their party affiliation, Mason said he did not realize that the composition of the TBR was in violation.

"I have never been asked [by Gov. Bredesen] in all the 3,000 cases that I have handled over the years, with one exception, whether someone was a Republican or Democrat," Mason said. "I was not aware of and did not recommend people based on their party affiliation."

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Nursing students provide assistance during move

By REBECCA BROWN
Staff Writer

MTSU nursing students and faculty assisted with Middle Tennessee Medical Center's move from its Highland Avenue location to its new facility on Medical Center Parkway on Saturday.

The students' duties included sorting and packing various items to be moved and running errands. They also helped provide support to the family members of patients being transported.

"We're just bringing them down [and] explaining what's going on," said Aimie Knight, a senior majoring in nursing.

The students did not work first hand with the patients, but many said they still gained valuable experience through the moving process.

"We get to see how they're organized and what it takes to move a hospital," said Bianca Best, a junior majoring in nursing.

Donna Mueller, the nursing manager in the pediatric ward of MTMC, agreed that although the students weren't able to help with patients directly, it was still a positive learning experience.

"It's a once in a lifetime thing," Mueller said. "They've seen stress [and] they've seen excitement."

Twenty-two ambulances were used to transport 130 patients to the new facility. Some patients weren't moved at all, being deemed well enough to be discharged rather than transferred.

"A little girl had an appendectomy and was going to go [to the new facility], but decided not to," Knight said.

Mueller said the patients' fami-

lies seemed excited about the move and being part of such a significant event. The patients were even given commemorative backpacks with the date printed on them.

The emergency room was the last section of the hospital to be moved. People with medical emergencies were advised to go to the ER at the new MTMC building, but those with chest pain or other life-threatening conditions were admitted to the old facility.

"They're not turning any emergency room visits away," Mueller said.

Both nursing students and hospital employees got to experience the new technologically updated facilities first hand and many said they were impressed with the new hospital.

"It's 10 times better than [the

old] place," Best said. "It's more like a resort than a hospital."

MTMC hired extra staff to help set up equipment at the Medical Center Parkway Building. The set up of reception desks and nursing stations at the new facility is identical on each floor. This is more practical than the set up at the old facility, which varies from floor to floor, often causing confusion for secretaries and nurses.

Many MTSU nursing students hope to work at the new MTMC upon completing their education. Mueller, who worked as a registered nurse in Knoxville before beginning at MTMC two weeks ago, supports student nurse hospital training. She has been a clinical instructor for students in the past and said she would like to do that here.

Nancy Houston, a patient care

technician at MTMC, pointed out that the updated technology at the new facility would benefit student nurses doing clinical training there.

"Students will be learning new technology at the new facility," Houston said. "More than they would learn here."

Melia Jett, an administrative assistant at MTMC and a senior majoring in public relations, said she thinks relocating the hospital on Medical Center Parkway may help clear up traffic around MTSU.

Jett was one of many who helped transport patients Saturday. She said she enjoyed being able to assist with the move, and recognized the significance of being involved in such a momentous occasion.

"It's a once in a lifetime opportunity," Jett said.

CRIME BRIEFS

Sept. 28, 12:08 p.m.
Vandalism

Judd/Sims Hall Parking Lot
A complainant reported that her tire had been cut.

Sept. 28, 12:34 p.m.
Vandalism

John Bragg Mass Communication Building
A complainant reported that a computer cabinet in Room 228 had been vandalized.

Sept. 29, 12:15 a.m.
Theft

Learning Resources Center
A complainant reported that her wallet was stolen.

Sept. 29, 3:46 a.m.
Alcohol

MTSU Boulevard
Samuel Carter, 19, was issued state citations for underage consumption of alcohol and for driving on a suspended license.

Sept. 29, 12:42 p.m.
Traffic

Health, Wellness, and Recreation Center
A complainant reported a hit-and-run accident.

Sept. 29, 1:08 p.m.
Vandalism

Greek Row
A complainant reported vandalism at the Pi Kappa Alpha house.

2010 TACA Biennial displays best of fine crafts

By AMANDA HAGGARD
Staff Writer

A crowd of art enthusiasts gathered inside of the Todd Art Gallery on Saturday for an exhibit of some of Tennessee's finest craft work.

Pieces by 35 Tennessee artists are being showcased in The Tennessee Association of Craft Artists for the exhibit, entitled "2010 TACA Biennial: The Best of Tennessee Fine Craft."

TACA was founded in 1965 and is a statewide, nonprofit organization dedicated to encouraging, developing and promoting crafts and craftsmen in Tennessee.

Fine crafts focus on the design and intellectual processes that go into creating art.

Jim Hoobler, a five-year board member of The Tennessee Association of Craft Artists, said some people think all art is two-dimensional.

"Art is much more than something you hang on a wall," Hoobler said. "You can wear it, touch it, and use it. That's what craft is all about."

Judy Gaston, a weaver, did wear her art to the gallery - a cardigan crafted from old sewing patterns and plastic shopping bags. She also showcased two pieces in the gallery.

One piece was a dress made of old patterns and plastic shopping bags. The other was a piece called "The Shaman," which was made of everything from tea bags filled with horse hair to fortunes from Chinese restaurants.

Gaston said she enjoys making pieces from recycled materials because it adds a certain vintage, nostalgic feel to her crafts.

The Tennessee Association of Craft Artists hosts this biennial exhibit not only to encourage and promote the quality and design among the state's fine craft artists, but also to provide public visibility and recognition for the quality and diversity of craft found in the state.

TACA began producing the biennial exhibition in 1966.



Photo by Duwaine Sterling, staff photographer
Crowds attend the "2010 TACA Biennial: The Best of Tennessee Fine Craft" in the Todd Photographic Gallery on Tuesday to see craftsmen and their original art work. The event lasts until Oct. 15.

"The department of art is pleased to host the 2010 TACA Best of Tennessee Craft Biennial exhibit," said Jean Nagy, who serves as chair of the art department, in an MTSU press release. "This exhibit provides an opportunity for our students to see work that they may not get a chance to see elsewhere."

The work of Tennessee's craft artists will be on display for the public until Oct. 15.

Tennessee's first lady Andrea Conte is scheduled to speak during the exhibit's opening reception tonight at 6 p.m. Eric Snyder, the coordinator for Todd Photographic Gallery, said Conte's speech will discuss her personal collection as well as her use of fine craft in remodeling the

governor's mansion.

The exhibit will feature 48 original pieces of craft artwork, including handmade chairs, a felted quilt, ceramic tea sets, jewelry, sculptures, woodworks and woven works.

Local artist Nancy Wallace, who is a member of TACA, said students need to see the work of artists who have mastered their skills. She also said students would gain a better understanding for the personal experience behind creating and using handmade art that is utilitarian.

"Anything that is touched by your hands that is totally handmade, not stamped out by a machine, is just better to be a part of," Wallace said. "When you use that piece, it becomes a personal experience."

Dog owners find common ground

SHOW
FROM PAGE 1

"We'll go to Atlanta in three weeks, then Marietta, Ga., and he should be finished by then," Hethcox said. "We're constantly working on their coats. They have to be bathed once or twice weekly, and they get a bath right before the show."

Dogs are judged based on breed standards handed down by the American Kennel Club said Charles Olvis, a judge at the GMKC show.

"It's just like an architect, you're trying to match that dog up the best that it fits with that breed standard," Olvis said. "We check the mouth, we get an overall look at the dog for balance, we check the movement, and we look for disqualifying faults."

Olvis said he has been judging dog shows for about 22 years now, and he also makes regular trips around the circuit all across the country.

"I judge about three out of every four weekends," Olvis said. "I live in Bristow, Va., but next week I'm judging in Texas, the week after that I'm judging in Indianapolis, and the week after that I'm judging in Florida."

Susan Booth, a photographer for the show who takes pictures of winners, said that while dog shows are often seen as beauty

contests, the shows serve a higher purpose of showcasing proper breeding and promoting the owners as well as the dogs.

"A lot of people have photo albums of these pictures, and every time we can go back and look at pictures of dogs that we want to breed to and watch them grow and develop," Booth said. "The greater picture is that we are promoting our best breeding stock."

Booth said that beyond promotion, the breeding aspect of the shows gives way to some other interesting ways of viewing the competition as something more than a beauty contest.

"As they breed their dogs, they're also in an odd way engineering art," Booth said. "When they judge these dogs, they're looking at angles and planes and parallels and thickness of coat and bone density. Every dog is a new canvas."

Olvis said the GMKC Show not only celebrates winners and the best of breeds, but also provides dogs and owners with a enjoyable time they can share together.

"I think of this as a family sport - you can come all day, show your dog and hang around, and you can make friends and talk about dogs," Olvis said. "You can get a lot out of it - as long as you keep it in the proper perspective."



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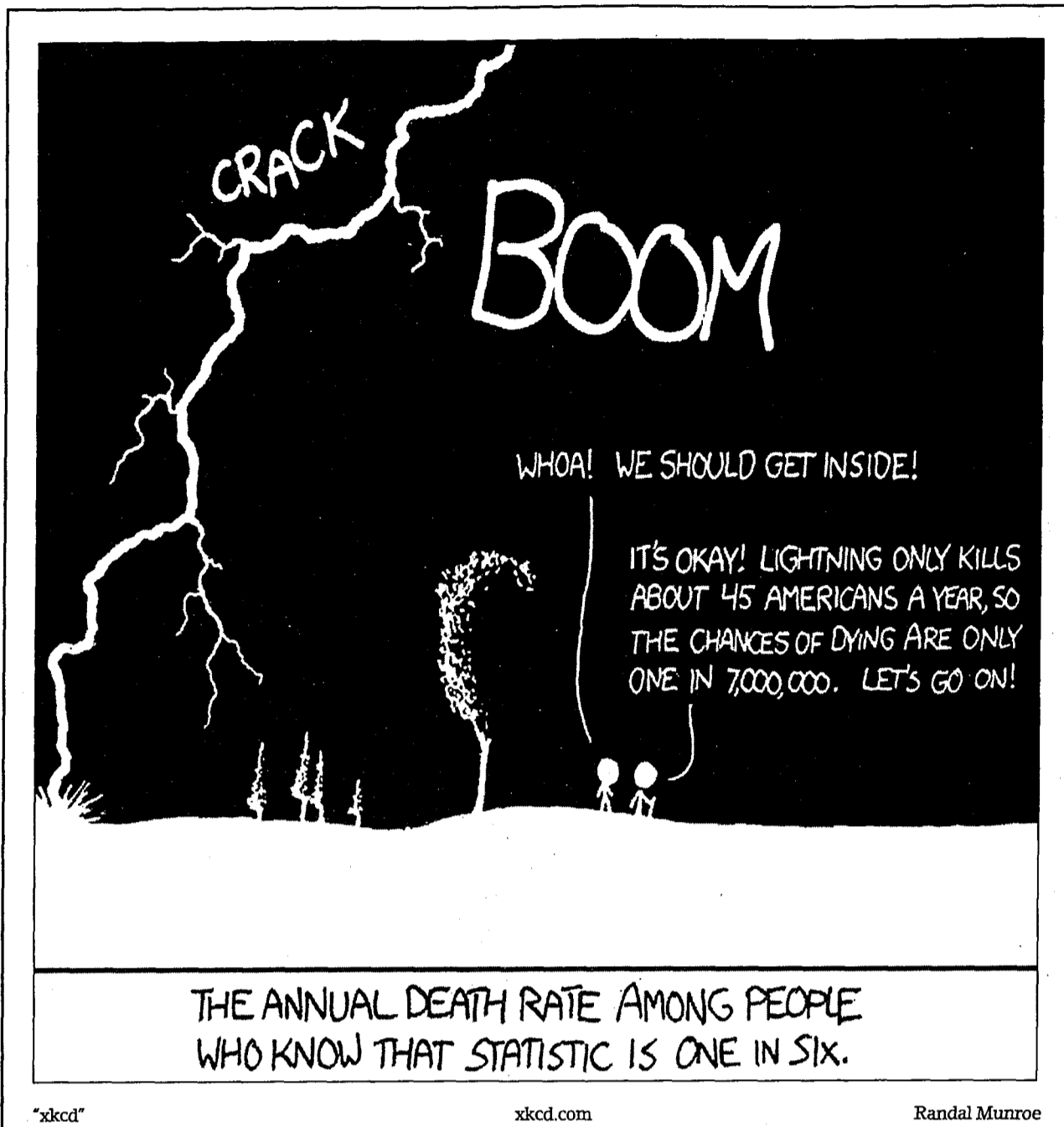
Letters Policy

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

OPINIONS

Sidelines is the editorially independent, 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.

COMIC



"xkcd"

xkcd.com

Randal Munroe

Candidate upsets base

Democratic nominee leaves much to be desired

This year's election season in Tennessee has been a whirlwind, from politicians using religious minorities as a weapon to alienate the general population, to the down-right blood bath that was fought between Republican candidates state Sen. Diane Black and Lou Ann Zelenik. However, my focus of this article isn't on any Republican candidate, it's actually on 6th Congressional District Democratic candidate Brett Carter.

Brett Carter, who was raised in Gallatin and graduated from the University of Tennessee, still hasn't managed to make himself a household name. While anyone in the greater Nashville area knows Diane Black, many average voters are wondering if a Democrat is even running for the 6th District, or have we seceded in a mental defeat? To answer this question: Yes, we have lost the 6th District — we have seceded. What would make a progressive, yet pragmatic person, think or even write such blasphemous things about a candidate within a party he identifies with? Well the devil is in the details.

During the primary season Carter was lethargic at his best and lukewarm at his least. He offered no press releases on where he stood on any issue, unlike his primary counterpart. These issues didn't have to be controversial, although it would be nice to know he supports the mosque in Murfreesboro, unlike Mike McWherter, Democratic candidate for governor. Carter could have spoken out against the oil spill or repealing "don't ask, don't tell" policy during the primary, but somehow he managed to come out on top with virtually not having a plank or platform to stand on.

Adding to Carter's illegitimacy

**Brandon Thomas****Columnist**

as a candidate, he has yet to obtain a real campaign office during the primary or even now during the general election! Having a small space in the Democrat Party's Rutherford County headquarters doesn't count. How does he expect to get voters who don't identify as Democrats to support this campaign without a standalone campaign office?

I just get the creeps walking by the Republican Party's office with its monolithic sign that says, "You're a Republican if you meet all these requirements." It's as if to say, you can't be a Republican if you support gay marriage.

In respect to the primary, the math was simple. Carter relied on his tax-lawyer buddies to bankroll his campaign and bombard voters with a cheesy mailer toward the end of the primary that pictured him with arms crossed and arrows pointing to different parts of his body to signify how he truly stood out. One such arrow pointed to his heart and said, "A heart of a Democrat."

This statement is downright laughable — he sent a letter to Nancy Pelosi asking her to resign as speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. Carter even went on Fox Business News to declare to millions this fact. This was a miscalculation on Carter's part and

downright illogical. This move may get Republicans to like Brett Carter, but it won't get them to vote for Brett Carter. However, it will alienate the little base he has or had, get volunteers to quit the campaign, and ensure a Republican takeover of the 6th District.

Alas, fear not, Carter has the "heart of a Democrat." He wants someone who has done a remarkable job, whether you agree with the legislation or not, at passing a Democratic agenda that most men could not accomplish in more than 50 years. For someone that says he supports a Democratic agenda and has "a heart of a Democrat," this doesn't make any sense. This is just a classic case of institutionalized patriarchy and misogyny rolled into one candidate. There are no logical or ethical reasons for Pelosi to resign. She may have not explicitly answered Carter's letter, but someone in the National Democratic Party thought it wise to cut his funding. It seems to me, Carter has been drinking the Republican 'Kool-Aid,' and I truly wonder where his loyalties lie. Do we have another Alvin Green on our hands, or is this just a year of a bad batch of candidates?

So, this leaves voters like me in a bind. Do I vote for a candidate who oozes patriarchy before he even makes it to Washington, D.C., or do I vote for an actual Republican and not just another Democrat copycat? Either way there are still some very good Democratic candidates who need your vote this November. Don't let one bad candidate ruin the whole bunch.

Brandon Thomas is a junior majoring in political science. He can be reached at blt3a@mtmail.mtsu.edu.

Speak up about racial suffering

It surprises me how many times people have referred to this society we live in as a post-racial society in recent years. Although this notion of post-racial is very idealistic and sounds really great, it's far from the truth.

Racism today is just as prevalent in our society as it was in the Jim Crow era. It has just become more covert and is embedded in today's institutions — schools, political spheres and the judicial system. This, however, is not about racism but about allowing suffering to speak.

In creating a public discourse about racism, I see the uncomfortable nature of white America to openly and honestly speak about it. White privilege, the privilege and opportunities one is afforded just for being white, is most times denied. Often times, it may bring out feelings of shame and guilt, and people do not know how to reconcile these feelings.

Not until after reading only two chapters in Beverly Tatum's "Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?" did I understand a better way to present issues of racism and white privilege. She presented a notion of allowing others to see their benefit of other types of oppression.

Tatum argues most people benefit from a type of oppression. Consequently, we all have some type of privilege that we did not necessarily earn.

For example, I am a young, black, Christian, able-bodied, heterosexual man born into a lower-middle class family. While I do suffer and am oppressed under the sting of racism, I am also advantaged by being young, Christian, able-bodied, heterosexual and financially secure. I benefit from systems of oppression that I did not necessarily ask to benefit from.

Now, this I ask white America: How do I stop the cycles of oppression once the truth of it is in my hands?

Although I have no control over the advantages I gain just by being me, I am not free from responsibility of challenging these systems. I must do every thing in my power to fight the "-isms" of the world, including ageism, racism, religious oppression, heterosexism and classism.

I know those are a lot, and one might think that I could not possibly make a difference in fighting these "-isms." But, I strongly believe in the peace-advocating words of Mahatma Ghandi when he says, "Be the change you want to see in the world."

That is what we must be. Change starts with us. As Beverly Tatum simply stated, "We are the leaders we've been looking for."

Joshua Crutchfield is a senior majoring in psychology in the College of Education and Behavioral Science. He can be reached at jlc7t@mtmail.mtsu.edu.

Avoid conformity: Express yourself through fashion

By JO-JO JACKSON
Staff Columnist

Fashion magazines disseminate fashion to the masses, but not everyone wants to follow the beaten path to style. If you want to start following your own dress direction, here are some ideas for you.

It's hard to break away from the trotted trail of institutionalized fashion. You see the 'hottest styles' and the 'latest fashions' pushed in newspapers and magazines, TV shows and commercials.

If you strive to follow this fashion marketing campaign, you'd have to buy new clothing with every changing seasons. You'd be led to believe that none of your clothing from last year will come back in style until the required 25 years for it to become "vintage" has passed.

But, if you're not wearing what the hottest, latest styles tell you to wear, what are you wearing? Chances are you're not running around naked and you have a great wardrobe, but you just do your own thing. You don't care about what's in style — you might even cringe at the very thought of wearing some of what is in style — and you don't care what people think about how you dress.

Jo-Jo Jackson is a junior in the College of Mass Communication. She can be reached at jjt3a@mtmail.mtsu.edu.



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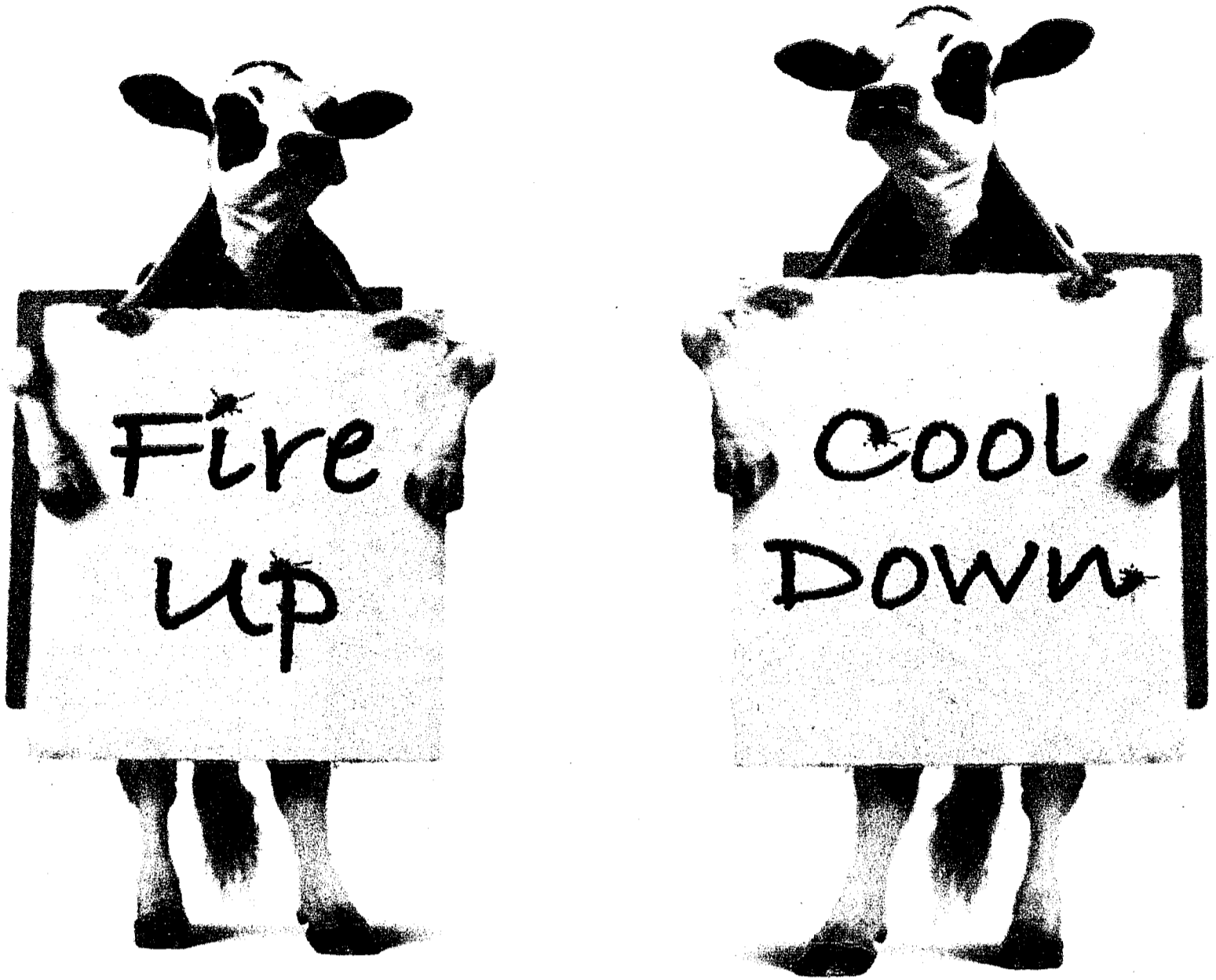


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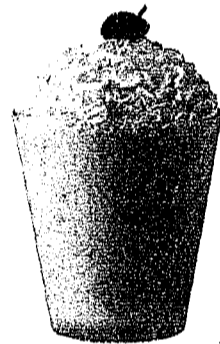
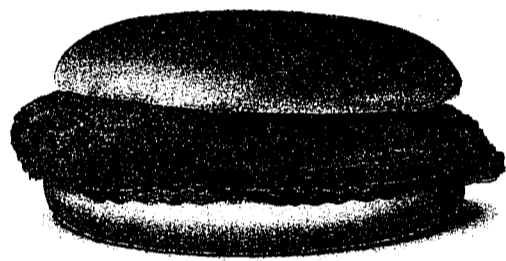


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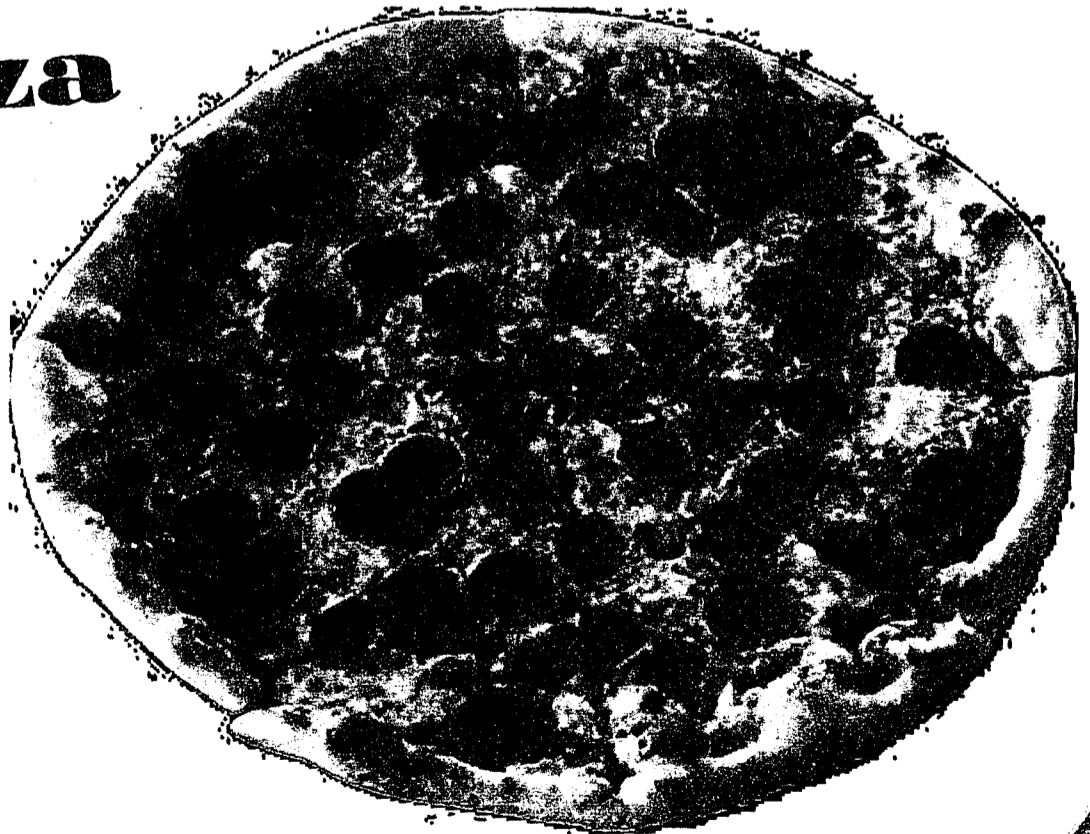
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SPORTS

Blue Raiders ready for showdown

By ALEX HUBBARD
Staff Writer

The Blue Raider football team will return to the bright lights and friendly confines of Floyd Stadium on Tuesday night for the highly anticipated Blackout Game against conference rival Troy University. The game will be carried by ESPN2 and is widely considered to be the premier Sun Belt Conference game between two of the conference's top competitors.

The squad will be shedding the familiar royal blue and white for their exclusive black uniforms, and they hope the change will spark an electric atmosphere for both the fans and the players, resulting in a win for MT.

The Blue Raiders (2-2, 1-0 Sun Belt) will welcome back senior quarterback Dwight Dasher, who sat out the first four games of the season serving a NCAA suspension, while Troy (2-2, 1-0 Sun Belt) will look to improve on a defensive effort that has looked sluggish through the first four games of the regular season.

In the Sun Belt opener last weekend, MT used a steady offensive output and a second-half defensive shutout to wrap up a 34-14 win over Louisiana-Lafayette in Lafayette, La. The performance, which came after a mistake-riddled loss to Memphis, gave Head Coach Rick Stockstill some much needed reassurance and a reason to look forward to the Blackout game against Troy.

"The players performed at a high level, and I thought we played better as a team," Stockstill said. "I'm proud of the effort and looking forward to Tuesday's game against Troy."

Despite a commanding performance from junior quarterback Logan Kilgore, Stockstill believes the return of Dasher will bring



some offensive continuity that the Blue Raiders have prepared for before and during Dasher's suspension.

"It is not like he has not been out there and this is his first time back on the field," Stockstill said. "He has been practicing with us throughout this process. The rest of the team will be glad to get him out there because this is what we were going to start the season with anyway."

Running back Phillip Tanner, who has featured prominently in the MT offense this season and has experience playing with Dasher, noted that Dasher's presence on the field will make a difference, but the approach to winning the game should be the same.

"The team's mentality will be a little different. The way we play will not be different," Tanner said. "Everyone is excited Dwight Dasher is back, but it will take a total team effort to



win the game."

Troy's offense has been clicking all season, as they have not scored less than 30 points in a game. The defense, however, has proven to be shaky. Against Arkansas State last week, the Trojans had to put together a last minute drive to win the game after giving up a two-touchdown lead. They also managed to score 38 points on Oklahoma State, only to give up 41 in a loss.

The focus for MT will be on stopping the high-powered offense sparked by talented senior wide receiver Jerrel Jernigan, who caught 10 passes for 209 yards and a touchdown last week.

"You have to try to limit his catches as much as you can," Stockstill said. "They are going to get him the ball, but you must keep him in front of you. You cannot let him get the big play."

The Blue Raiders' defensive answer may come in the form of senior defensive end Jamari Lattimore, who received conference honors for best defensive player last week as he racked up four quarterback sacks, a school record.

Although the jerseys will provide a change of scenery for fans and players, Tanner doesn't want the different look to change the way the game is played.

"We get fired up to wear the black jerseys, but it does not make you run faster or tackle better," Tanner said. "It gives our fans something to get excited about."

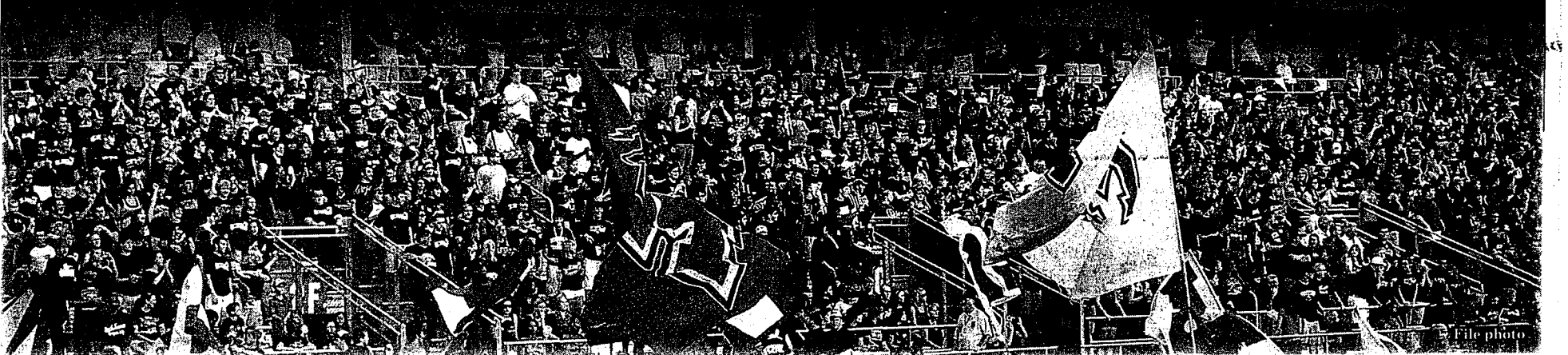
Official Blackout T-shirts are still available to buy. For \$15, both a ticket and a T-shirt can be purchased.

The ticket and T-shirt combination can be purchased at the

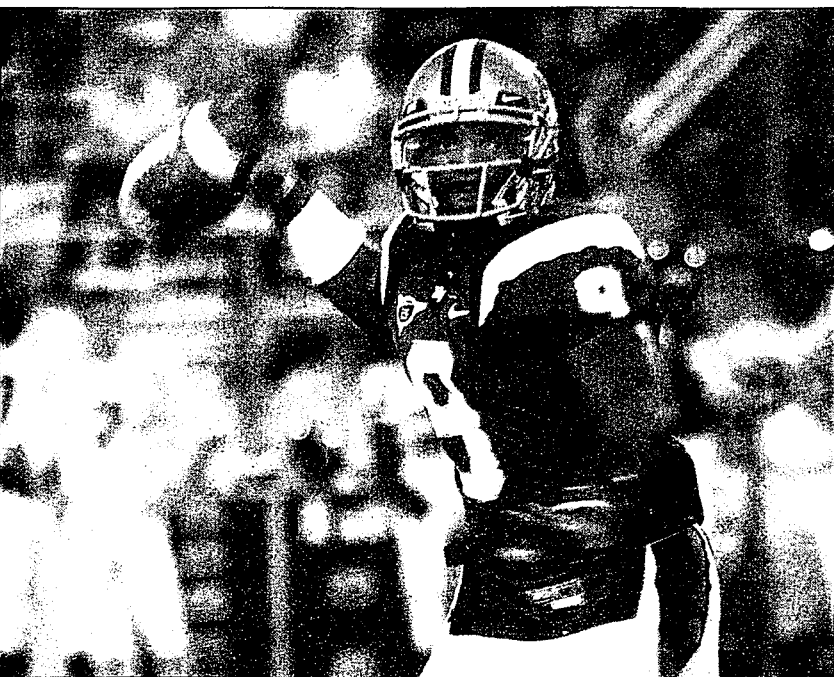
following locations: Ideas Tees/Lightning's Locker Room, 910 Ridgely Road; Embassy Suites, 1200 Conference Center Blvd.; Toots, 860 NW Broad St.; Alumni Hall, located in the Avenue Mall; The Learning Circle, 2992A South Church St.; State Farm Operations Center, 2500 Memorial Blvd.; Kirkenburt's Smokehouse Grill, 517 Cason Lane; Blue Raider Marketing, located in the Kennon Sports Hall of Fame on campus; Middle Tennessee ticket office, Gate 1A Floyd Stadium; Blue Raider Bookstore, 1321 Greenland Drive; and Text Book Brokers, 1403 Greenland Drive.

Kickoff is at 7 p.m., and students get in free with a valid student ID.

The Greenland Drive parking lot will be closed all day for game day parking and tailgating. Students may want to avoid Greenland Drive on Tuesday and enter campus from MTSU Boulevard, Alumni Drive or Main Street.



Dwight Dasher: back in black



File photo
Dwight Dasher drops back to throw a pass against Florida International during the Nov. 7, 2009 game. MT went on to win against FIU 48-21.

BLUE RAIDER SPOTLIGHT



DWIGHT DASHER

Class: Senior **Major:** Liberty Studies
Hometown: Folkston, Ga.
Role Model: Michael Vick
Favorite Movie: "Bad Boys" 1 & 2
Favorite Band/Singer: Rap music
Favorite Food: Soul food
Pre-Game Rituals: "I always say a prayer."

Star quarterback ready for return to field

By WILL TRUSLER
Sports Editor

Fans and players alike have been anxiously awaiting the return of senior quarterback Dwight Dasher.

They have good reason.

The Folkston, Ga., native led MTSU to the Sun Belt Conference's first ever 10-win season last year and was named MVP of the team's New Orleans Bowl Championship.

He entered the season on everyone's radar to repeat his success on the field and was named preseason Sun Belt Conference offensive player of the year as well as being listed on several prestigious national award watch lists.

However, following a violation of the NCAA's preferential treatment rules.

Dasher was suspended for four games.

The Blue Raiders have held tough in Dasher's absence, but there is little doubt the senior's leadership and skillset have been missed with the team opening up the season with a 2-2 record.

With his suspension finally served, Dasher is ready to return to the gridiron and help out his teammates.

Tuesday's contest against defending conference champion Troy will serve as the welcome back party for the quarterback. *Sidelines* sat down with Dasher to talk about his thoughts entering his first game back:

SL: How do you feel the team is doing so far this season?

DD: They've done good. They've been working really hard. Right now we're 2-2.

so we're just going to continue to work hard and hopefully we'll finish up 10-2.

SL: Have you learned anything from watching the games from the sidelines?

DD: I learned a lot from watching. The team always goes out and plays hard. They give it everything they've got no matter what. They never look down on each other and are always there to compliment each other.

SL: What are your goals heading into the rest of the season?

DD: Our goal is to finish the season 10-2 again. I want to just continue to work hard and get better as a player and a person. I want to be a better leader too.

Stockstill says coaching football worth the stress

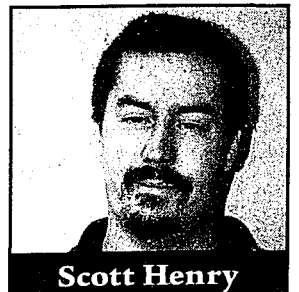
In the 1991 film "Necessary Roughness," crusty veteran football coach Ed Gennero, played by Hector Elizondo, thinks he's stricken by a heart attack in the locker room. He's afraid of the worst, and even asks his doctor, "Is it fatal?" The doctor simply replies, "Indigestion? Only in Mexico."

Fast forward to a couple of weeks ago, and Michigan State Head Coach Mark Dantonio wasn't quite as lucky.

After beating Notre Dame on a gutsy fake field goal in overtime, Dantonio was forced into the hospital with a mild heart attack, not indigestion. This came on the heels of Florida's Urban Meyer nearly stepping down for health reasons and Northern Illinois coach Jerry Kill being hospitalized with dehydration symptoms after rushing back from surgery.

These three cases brought the physical health of Division I college football coaches into focus in recent weeks.

In an interview I conducted for my radio show, "4 Quarters," I spoke with Head Coach Rick Stockstill about the issues college coaches face in dealing with their health. His answers illuminated the possibility that even though coaches know their lifestyles aren't the healthiest, it's simply



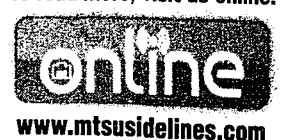
Scott Henry
Overtime

taken as part of the job.

Late hours in the office or frequent road trips to recruits' homes can lead a coach to "either [not] eat or go through the fast-food restaurants at midnight," making a good diet hard to maintain. Carving out 20 to 30 minutes for exercise can be just as difficult between practices, meetings, games, interviews, and community functions among other commitments.

Most of us who've been in conventional 40-hour-per-week jobs know what it's like to count seconds until the day or week is over. For coaches, 100-hour weeks are not uncommon. Stories of Washington Redskins icon Joe Gibbs sleeping in his office for days on end or ex-Tampa Bay coach Jon Gruden getting to the office at 3 a.m. are legendary.

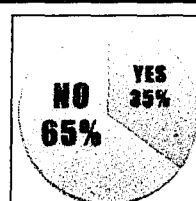
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Organic foods on the horizon

Local business prospers in a tanking economy despite national food chains

By AMANDA HAGGARD
Staff Writer

Each year, more and more national chains replace locally owned shops. During the current economic downturn, when low prices dominate, Sunshine Nutrition Center in Murfreesboro remains worthwhile to a number of loyal consumers.

Local resident Mary Jenkins says she shops at Sunshine Nutrition Center because it is important to feed money into the local community.

"When I grew up, families went to all the local stores, [and] my family just so happened to be farmers, so I know the importance of buying local," Jenkins says. "It keeps the money here, where our neighbors can benefit from it."

Kim Hillsman, the manager of Sunshine Nutrition Center, says the current owners bought the business in 1989, but it originally opened in the early 1960s. Hillsman says it carries a wide range of nutritious products, gluten-free and organic foods, herbs, vitamins, local produce, eggs and your basic consumer items.

Organic food allows consumers to support different agricultural processes as opposed to conventional growing methods. Being organically aware can be a wise choice for a consumer supporting environmentally friendly growing practices, local farmers and sustainable agriculture.

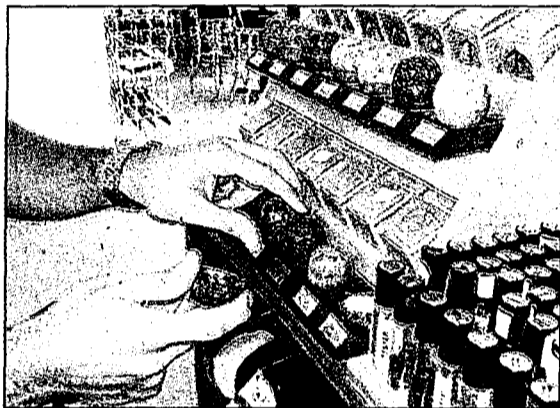
If organic foods and local produce are available in most grocery stores these days, what sets the local stores apart?

Bill Cunningham, a local farmer, says he prefers



Photos by Laura Aiken, features editor

Manager Kim Hillsman helps customers find organic medicine and locally grown produce Saturday afternoon.



Photos by Laura Aiken, features editor

Locally owned Sunshine Nutrition Center carries a selection of organic foods, herbs, vitamins and local produce.



small businesses because they're "owned by people who live in this community, who are less likely to leave and [who] are more invested in Murfreesboro's future."

According to the Better Business Bureau website, small busi-

nesses account for the largest number of employment opportunities in the country. More small businesses mean more jobs in the community.

Hillsman says that six of the nine employees at Sunshine Nutrition Center are members

of the same family.

Darla Mudgett has worked at the Sunshine Nutrition Center for more than five years. She says the best part of her job is working with the customers to meet their needs.

"It's also a joy to work for a

company that is involved in the community," Mudgett says. "Ninety percent of the people who come in here are trying to better themselves in one way or another."

Jenkins says some people might feel like it is an inconvenience to shop at specialty shops because customers can't get everything there. She says she doesn't feel like she is going out of her way to get the special products she wants. She often purchases TVP, a meat substitute, organic foods and green or organic pet products.

"It's just a matter of working it into your routine, and the people that work there are so nice about helping you find what you want," Jenkins says. "I have been going to this store since the late '80s - it used to be the only place in town to buy vegetarian food."

Murfreesboro local Ivan Games says he remembers his mother buying his asthma medicine at Sunshine Nutrition Center more than 15 years ago. He says his mother insisted that "it was important to buy local."

The Facebook group "Bring Whole Foods to Murfreesboro" has 1,621 members, which is a start.

Hillsman says that she hasn't heard of any plans of Whole Foods coming to Murfreesboro, but that when Whole Foods came to Nashville it defeated most of the similar competition.

Jenkins says the Sunshine Nutrition Center has contributed to the community by being in business for more than 30 years.

"Local businesses are the heart of the community," she says.

Pro-Cycling: an interactive experience

Local bike shop offers local appeal, efficient fixes quickly

By KELSEY FRANKLIN
Staff Writer

There is a place in Murfreesboro that embodies two of my favorite things: bikes and cats. Pro-Cycling, a local bike shop, has been around for almost three years now. Shop owner Alex Gomez is as nice and welcoming as his friendly feline, Farrah.

This shop stands out because Alex prides himself on keeping his prices low and having a quick turn around time for the bikes he works on.

Anyone who rides bikes on a daily basis, knows how important timeliness, cost and convenience is when looking for a shop. Here, you can be sure you are getting quality work done on your bike for a great price.

Shane Toombs, a senior in the College of Liberal Arts, rides his bike every day. After crashing his bike and messing up his back wheel, he anticipated having to leave it at a shop for a week and possibly buy a new wheel.

Shane said when he looked

around town for shops he ended up choosing Pro-Cycling because Alex said he could repair his wheel that day, saving him a lot of time and money.

Fifteen minutes and \$5 later, he walked out of the shop with a perfectly functioning bike and tightened brakes.

Olivia Guillotte, a freshman in the University College, also loves going to Pro-Cycling because of Alex's quick repairs, and of course, Farrah.

"In the time it took to play with a litter of kittens, my brakes were fixed," Olivia said jokingly. "But, it's true."

On average, Alex says a bike will stay in the shop for maybe two days, but for minor repairs, it's often repaired within a day. You can also stop by the shop to get your hands dirty and work on your own bike, if you'd like.

Alex will rent out his tools hourly if someone wants to come into the shop and do his or her own work. It costs \$20 an hour to use hundreds of dollars worth of tools that

you may not just have lying around the house.

This is an awesome way to gain knowledge and experience in doing your own repairs, saving time and money in the long run.

"I want other people to enjoy biking or fixing their bikes," he said.

He wants to see his shop grow into an interactive place where people in town can come and enjoy the atmosphere. His next step for the shop is to turn it into a multi-purpose bike shop with an indoor rock-climbing wall, as well as an outfitters store.

If you need anything repaired on your bike, or need to order parts quickly, Pro-Cycling is the place to go. Located on Lascassas Pike, it is convenient and close to campus.

In the mean time, all you bike riders out there looking for a reliable shop to bring your bikes, come to Pro-Cycling, hang out with Farrah and her kittens for a bit, and get your bike worked on by someone who has both passion and experience.



Photo by Robert Player, staff photographer

Pro-Cycling owner Alex Gomez (right) repairs a Ridley mountain bike at his Murfreesboro store. In addition to bike repair, Gomez also teaches customers how to fix their own bikes.

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