



Photo courtesy of Corbyn Payne
Dylan Jackson (right) feeds patrons April 9 during the eighth annual Kappa Delta's Wing Fling, held outside of the Murphy Center.

Kappa Delta hosts Wing Fling

By AMANDA HAGGARD
Associate News Editor

The eighth annual Wing Fling hosted by Kappa Delta Sorority brought in nearly \$12,000 Saturday in a contest held at the Murphy Center to raise money for child-abuse prevention.

"I really enjoyed it," said SGA President Brandon

Batts. "I tried wings from everywhere - business and student groups- it was a lot of fun. There were a lot of people there."

This year, the sorority chose to incorporate live entertainment into the event, rather than using a disc jockey.

"This year, we brought live entertainment to

Wing Fling instead of a DJ," said Brittany Lynn, the president of Kappa Delta Sorority. "Seeing Skies, Sebastian Garcia & Gil Costello, and fellow Kappa Delta sister Mary Katherine Neely's band Jump Start Your Heart."

Lynn said she believes this is why the event made more money than last year.

"I think it helped having the bands this year because they brought in their fan base," Lynn said.

Wing Fling was initiated eight years ago in order to raise money to put toward Prevent Child Abuse America and the Murfreesboro Exchange

WINGS, PAGE 3

Crime on campuses jumps by 20 percent TBI releases statewide report

By KESLEY WELLS
Staff Writer

Although the total crime rate across the state decreased last year, according to a report released last week by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, the number of violent crimes on campuses rose from 102 in 2009 to 120 in 2010, an increase that was echoed on campus.

In 2009, the number of aggravated assaults on campus totaled two, according to the 2009 TBI Crime on Campus report. In 2010, the number jumped to 10, an increase of 400 percent.

TBI defines aggravated assault as a crime in which "the offender uses a weapon or the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated bodily injury."

Increased crime on campus has also increased students' caution on campus, many said last week.

"All this definitely makes me more aware of my surroundings," said Alex Gibson, a sophomore in the College of Mass Communication.

Haley Nelms, a junior majoring in public relations, said the most recent crimes associated with campus have reminded her of why she is careful.

"My parents taught me to always be aware," she said. "This makes me realize why."

Gibson, Nelms and other students spoke largely about the two highly public incidents earlier in the

CRIME, PAGE 4



Photo by Bailey Ingram, photo editor
Onlookers watch a roaring fire on April 10 at a house on the corner of Womack Lane and Alumni Drive. The fire originated from the home's garage.

Fire erupts next to campus

By TODD BARNES
News Editor

The university breathed a sigh of relief last night when a garage fire ignited after gasoline had spilled from an engine that a two students were fixing less than 50 feet from campus.

"Apparently they had a gas leak that they weren't sure they had," said Firefighter Captain Jamie Bigelow. "The [engine's] battery arched, and when it arched to the ground, it ignited the gasoline. It quickly spread up to the garage and went inside."

Five students rent the home, located on the corner of Womack Lane and Alumni Drive, and Captain Jamie Bigelow said there was concern that the fire was on campus.

"We send four fire engines on campus, but if there's just regular residents off of campus, we send two fire engines and two rescues," Bigelow said.

Three of Murfreesboro fire stations were alerted to the fire about 8 p.m., including Vine Street, Mercury and Northfield boulevards. The first fire truck arrived in less than three minutes, and the fire was extinguished in about two minutes, Bigelow said.

One of the students suffered minor burns to

an elbow and hand but has not sought medical attention for the injuries yet, while Matt Moyer, the other student resident who alerted the Murfreesboro Fire Department, said he was unharmed by the blaze.

"My roommate got a slight burn," Moyer said. "It wasn't too bad."

Moyer said he has not assessed the damage caused by the fire, including the condition of a

1986 E 28 BMW that was parked inside the garage and the garage itself.

"The [BMW] was my roommate's," Moyer said. "He was tinkering

with it - completely breaking it down and rebuilding it. So, there wasn't much [on the car] but the frame on it. So, I can't even tell right now."

The owners of the residence arrived shortly after reports of the fire, but were not available to speak about it.

Additionally, traffic was halted on Alumni Drive and Womack Lane. However, the Fire Department only requested for Womack Lane to be blocked, but campus police took safety a step further and blocked off nearly a quarter mile of Alumni Drive.



Photo by Bailey Ingram, photo editor
Fire trucks extinguish a fire April 10 at the corner of Womack Lane and Alumni Drive.

"The [engine's] battery arched, and when it arched to the ground, it ignited the gasoline."

JAMIE BIGELOW
MURFREESBORO FIREFIGHTER CAPTAIN

SGA to hold student referendum

By TODD BARNES
News Editor

In less than two weeks, students will decide whether to replace the freshman and graduate senate positions with a freshman council and add more stringent requirements for executive officer candidates.

Members of the Student

Government Association overwhelmingly passed Bill 17-11-S, establishing a freshman council, and Bill 18-11-S, increasing standards for executive positions, during Thursday's meeting.

However, due to the SGA Constitution, both bills will need to be approved by the student body before the

changes go into effect.

"Students will be notified [as to] when the referendum will be held," said SGA President Brandon Batts, adding he supports passage of both bills.

He said Election Commission Darrin Johnson is in the process of finalizing when the referendum will be held,

and he reiterated the fact that there will be a large publicity campaign to inform students about all of the bills up for a student body vote.

Batts said of the 30 freshman senators who ran for office during the fall semester, only 13 were able

SGA, PAGE 4



Photo by Drew Gardonia, staff photographer
At-Large Sen. Katie Bogle reads legislation April 7 before a vote on its passage in Room 121 of the Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building.

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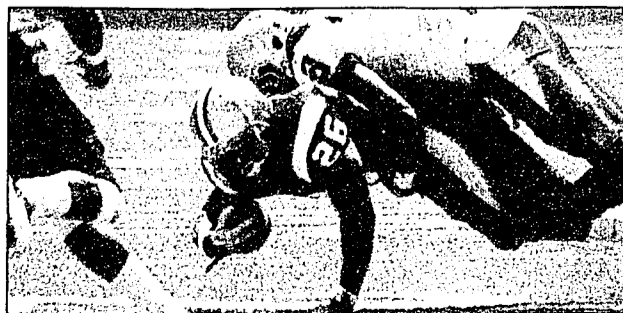
IN TODAY'S ISSUE



Find out why one English professor looks to teaching in a whole new light.

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EXCLUSIVELY ONLINE



View more photos of the Blue vs. White football game.

SPORTS

WEATHER



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NATIONAL AP NEWS

Hot, dry weather stokes raging wildfires in Texas

FORT WORTH, Texas – Firefighters are battling blazes across much of West Texas in what state forest service officials are calling the single worst fire day the state has ever seen.

A fast-moving wildfire had spread to more than 60,000 acres Sunday and destroyed about 20 homes in Fort Davis, about 200 miles southeast of El Paso. Texas Forest Service spokesman Alan Craft says air tankers can't be used because of wind gusts of 40 to 50 mph.

Sunday's hot, windy conditions and low humidity are dangerous with withered shrubs and grasses caused by the drought.

Northern marine industry says taxes will sink them

STONINGTON, Conn. – Owners of businesses that build and service boats worry proposals to tax boaters in Connecticut and Rhode Island could sink their industry.

Faced with big budget deficits, Connecticut Gov. Dannel P. Malloy and Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee have called for new taxes on boats and services like repairs and storage.

Boat builders, repair shops and marina owners in both states are lining up in opposition. They say new taxes could decimate businesses still reeling from the downturn. They worry that boaters will dock their boats in lower-tax states or put off repairs and purchases.

The proposed taxes would be higher in Connecticut. Eileen Morehouse owns Mason's Island Marina in Mystic, Conn. She says one customer has already announced that she'll move her boat to Rhode Island.

Blue Man Group to launch privately funded NY school

NEW YORK – It's been 20 years since the Blue Man Group became a performance art sensation.

But that's only the first act for founders Chris Wink, Matt Goldman and Phil Stanton.

The trio, along with their wives, has founded Blue School. They started the private preschool and elementary school to give their own kids a more creative education.

On Wednesday, the three original Blue Men will appear on stage for the first time in 11 years during a school fundraiser. Ticket prices top out at \$10,000. The opening act is Dave Matthews.

Blue School is moving to a permanent home near South Street Seaport in the fall. Tuition is \$28,500.



THROUGH THE SIDELINES LENS

Photo by Bailey Ingram, photo editor

Kristinia Brown, a freshman majoring in English, and Gabriell Gassaway, a sophomore majoring in athletic training, attend the April 10 show of "Tron" at the Keathley University Center Theatre. Student Programming, which sponsored the event, moved the show inside after windy conditions interfered with setting a screen up on The Knoll.

Professor to discuss creative writing

By APRIL BAILEY
Staff Writer

An associate professor will discuss creativity, storytelling and movies today at 3 p.m. in the University Honors College Amphitheatre as part of the Spring Honors Lecture Series.

Bob Pondillo, an associate professor in the College of Mass Communication, said the lecture, "Creativity, Storytelling and Movies," is a high concept title, meaning the lecture will be about exactly what the title says. He said he was more than

willing to agree to do the lecture when asked last year.

"I know a lot about the topic and love discussing it, so I figured why not," Pondillo said.

Storytelling is a part of almost all creative processes, he said, adding that each venue has different opportunities and limitations. He said he plans to explain how creative methods work.

Pondillo said stories are like real life, not only because they have a beginning, middle and end, but also because they have a certain

rhythm, power and place.

"We are the hero of our own stories," Pondillo said.

Pondillo has been making movies with students for about six years, and many of his films have won various film festival awards.

One of his latest films, "The New, True, Charlie Wu," which he said he will show parts of at the lecture, received both Best Comedy Short at the 2010 Staten Island International Film Festival in Staten Island, N.Y. and Best Comedy Short at the 2010 Fifteen Minutes of Fame Film Festival in

Palm Bay, Fla., according to the Office of News and Public Affairs.

He said the meaning of something is up to the reader or watcher's perception and not so much what the writer wants the meaning to be. However, he said he hopes his lecture will inspire students to follow their dreams despite fear of failure, financial aspects, and other things.

"More than anything I hope students will be inspired to just try – just put aside their excuses, reach inside and just do it," he said.

Campus police expand student alert system

STAFF REPORT

The MTSU Office of Public Safety recently activated two new toll free phone numbers that will allow the campus community to send text and picture messages to alert police.

"We encourage everyone to use the new numbers for text or picture messages," Lt. Jim Fanguy said.

The numbers are 855-898-2424 or 855-687-8911.

The text numbers add

a multimedia component that expands service and increases the resources by which people can call for help or report an incident.

For emergency calls, students and faculty can still reach campus police from any landline on campus.

"If you want to call MTSU police, use the standard 898-2424 number or call 9-1-1 from a campus landline phone," Fanguy said.

Emergency calls can also be directed to the Murfreesboro Police

Department by dialing 9-1-1 from a personal cell phone.

"Remember, if you call 9-1-1 from your cell phone, you'll reach the city police – not the MTSU police," Fanguy said.

Fanguy said that the Clery Act has brought about increasing stipulations regarding the convenience of contacting campus police.

The Clery Act sets federal mandates in place that require universities to make sure students know how to

contact officials.

President Sidney McPhee sent an e-mail message to students and faculty that said the federal Clery Act requires universities to notify campus communities if there is the possibility of danger stemming from incidents on or near campus.

"We want people to be informed so that they can make the best decisions about protecting themselves, remaining vigilant and watching out for one another," McPhee said.

LOCAL AP NEWS

Councilmen fighting to keep historic signs in West End

NASHVILLE – Landmark business signs around Davidson County are in danger of being torn down because of a loophole in the zoning code, but two councilmen are trying to close it.

Two years ago, the Green Hills neighborhood rallied to protect the sign at the longtime Donut Den when the shopping center that housed the sign was being renovated. Owner Norman Fox said he got hundreds of calls to leave the 1950s-era sign up.

Councilman Jason Holleman told *The Tennessean* a quirk in the zoning code would require many of the historic signs to be torn down if a new business moved in.

Holleman and Phil Clairborne are proposing a bill that would allow business owners to register historic signs with the Metro Planning Commission, which would provide protections.

East Tennessee city hires firm to investigate plant failure

GATLINBURG – Gatlinburg officials have hired an independent engineering company to investigate the collapse of a basin wall that killed two workers at the city's sewage treatment plant.

A news release from City Manager Cameron Ogle on Friday stated Construction Engineering Consultants of Knoxville will conduct an independent investigation.

Untreated sewer water and rainwater flowed into the west prong of the Little Pigeon River after the collapse on Tuesday morning.

The bodies of plant workers John Eslinger and Don Storey were found under the collapsed wall. Both were from the Sevierville area.

The city said contractor Veolia Water restored operation of the treatment plant Wednesday night.

Attorney general appoints new state solicitor general

NASHVILLE – Bill Young has been named the new solicitor general for Tennessee.

Attorney General Bob Cooper said in a news release on Thursday that Young's background in both the private and government sectors makes him an exceptional fit for the job. Young previously worked in the attorney general's office for eight years and most recently served as the senior vice president and general counsel of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee.

Young's job entails overseeing appellate litigation in state and federal courts, reviewing written opinions and assisting Cooper.

He will assume his duties in early June.

LOCAL EVENTS

ON CAMPUS

<p>SGA: Free Energy Amp Drinks April 11 to 15, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. KUC Knoll Tickets: FREE</p>	<p>"Teaching Controversial Topics in Undergraduate Science" April 13, 7 p.m. BAS Building State Farm Room Tickets: FREE</p>
<p>"American Drug War: The Last White Hope" April 11, 7 p.m. BAS Building State Farm Room Tickets: FREE</p>	<p>Star Wars Marathon April 15, 5 p.m. - 3 a.m. Womack Lobby Tickets: FREE</p>
<p>Equal Pay Day April 12, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. KUC Knoll Tickets: FREE</p>	<p>Clothesline Project April 18-19, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. KUC Knoll Tickets: FREE</p>

OFF CAMPUS

<p>BMI Presents: 8 Off 8th (21+) April 11, 9 p.m. The Mercy Lounge Tickets: FREE</p>	<p>Ska Is Dead tour: Stuck Lucky, We Are the Union, and The Fortrights April 15, 7 p.m. The Muse Tickets: \$10 at door</p>
<p>Films at the Frist: "Udaan" April 12, 12 p.m. Frist Center for the Visual Arts Tickets: FREE</p>	<p>Jonathan Slocumb April 17, 7 p.m. Zanies Tickets: \$18</p>
<p>"Burn This" April 14 - 17, 7:30 p.m. Out Front on Main Tickets: \$10</p>	<p>Project 615 Benefit Concert for the Nashville homeless April 17, 8 p.m. The Exit/In Tickets: \$10</p>

CRIME BRIEFS

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>Alarm
April 6, 6:25 a.m.
Kirksey Old Main
Officers responded to a fire alarm. The Murfreesboro Fire Department determined that the alarm had been activated by stream from a hot water leak.</p> <p>Theft
April 6, 1:38 p.m.
James E. Walker Library
A complainant reported that his computer had been stolen.</p> <p>Theft
April 6, 2:43 p.m.
James E. Walker Library
A complainant reported her bicycle was stolen from the rack outside of the building.</p> <p>Theft
April 6, 3:42 p.m.
Beasley Hall
A victim reported that his bicycle had been stolen.</p> <p>Theft
April 6, 6 p.m.
Keathley University Center
A complainant reported that his bicycle had been stolen.</p> | <p>Theft
April 6, 7:48 p.m.
Business and Aerospace Building
A complainant reported that his bicycle had been stolen.</p> <p>Theft
April 6, 8:30 p.m.
Shipping and Receiving Lot
Benjamin Boerner, 30, was arrested for theft under \$500 and two outstanding warrants.</p> <p>Vandalism
April 7, 9:11 p.m.
Greek Row
Sigma Nu Fraternity House
A complainant reported that a window had been broken.</p> <p>Theft
April 7, 11:23 a.m.
Corlew Hall
Residential Life reported that several bicycles that had been moved due to construction were now missing.</p> <p>Theft
April 7, 5:38 p.m.
Corlew Hall
A complainant reported that her bicycle had been stolen.</p> |
|---|---|

CORRECTIONS

In the April 7 issue, no one was attributed to the article, "RENT: A musical triumph for students." Christopher Kingsley should have been attributed to the article, and the headline should have read, "RENT: a musical triumph for students."

In the March 3 issue, Todd Barnes, news editor, and Will Trusler, sports editor, should have been credited for contributing to the article, "Campus mourns loss of student," which was about the reaction to Tina Stewart's death.

Sidelines regrets these errors.

EVENTS POLICY

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



Photo by Bailey Ingram, photo editor
Saudi Cultural Day goers enjoy authentic Saudi cuisines April 8 in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building.

Saudi students seek to 'Build Bridges'

By WILL STRICKLAND
Staff Writer

The Saudi Student Association shared culture with students, faculty, and the public Friday at the first annual Saudi Cultural Day in the Tennessee room of the James Union Building.

The event, "Building Bridges" offered Saudi Arabian cuisine, music, dancing and exhibits sharing information about Saudi Arabian culture, economy and the campus Saudi community.

"This is the first initiative for the Saudi Student Association to outreach to the community," said Abdullah Alkobraish, founder and SSA president. "The goal is to develop understanding and enhance special awareness in our community and try to stand by each other."

University Provost Brad Bartel and Patrick Ryan, president of the Tennessee World Affairs Council, gave insight on building bridges with the Saudi Arabian community on campus.

The TNWAC is a group that exists to educate concerning world affairs and improve international understanding and relations,

according to its website.

"The Saudi Arabian student community is our largest community of international students at MTSU," Bartel said. "[The Saudi student community] comprises over 25 percent of the total international student body."

Ryan, who said he has visited Saudi Arabia, gave a brief history of the kingdom, its relationship with the United States.

"I encourage you to expand your knowledge of the Middle East," Ryan said. "It's vitally important to the U.S. It's important to America's future, and it's important that you have an accurate picture."

He said people need to be careful where they get their information about the Middle East.

"If you want to learn about Saudi Arabia, and you're only listening to one or two cable news channels, you're probably not getting it straight," Ryan said.

He said the SSA works for the advancement of Saudi women to shine light on misconceptions of Saudi Arabian women and encourage success in their lives and careers.

"Saudi Arabian culture actually



Photo by Bailey Ingram, photo editor
The United States and Saudi Arabia flags stand together April 8 in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building.

really encourages the woman to go out and study and be part of the business life," said Leema Alsaery, an SSA member representing the advancement of Saudi women exhibit. "One of the common misconceptions about Saudi Arabia is that women are very oppressed, and [we are] trying to prove, 'No we're not.'"

Students performed a Saudi Arabian dance called the Razfaha and served a variety of food s including Arabic coffee, dates, fatosh, minted tabouleh, falafel, chicken bryani, hummus, basbusa, and baklava.

Kappa Delta raises money with wings



Photo courtesy of Corbyn Payne
Brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity distribute samples of their wing recipe April 9 during Kappa Delta's Wing Fling outside of the Murphy Center.

WINGS FROM PAGE 1

Club Family Center. Both are groups dedicated to preventing child abuse, Lynn said.

Lynn said the event comprised 10 different categories including judge's choice, people's choice for restaurant, fraternity, sorority, student organization, and smoked.

Altogether, 20 organizations and eight restaurants participated in the event.

For people's choice, attendees were given tickets to vote and place in the vendors' buckets.

Judge's choice in the restaurant category was Papa's BBQ. Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity

and Zeta Tau Alpha won in the fraternity and sorority division. ROTC won in the student organization category. Slick Pig won the Smoked category.

Lynn said next year she hopes the sorority would be able to get stage equipment donated to cut down on costs for the event, adding that Production Services, the company used for sound equipment, was great to work with.

Wing Fling planning began back in January, Lynn said.

The event has received Rutherford County's Ruthie award for "Best Philanthropic Event" three times since it's opening year.

Todd Barnes, news editor, contributed to this report.

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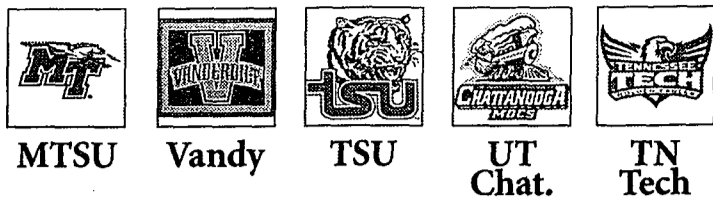
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2010 Campus Crime Stats

Information courtesy of TBI "Crime on Campus 2010"



	MTSU	Vandy	TSU	UT Chat.	TN Tech
Homicide:	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual:	2	9	3	1	2
Abduction:	1	1	0	0	2
Robbery:	1	1	11	1	1
Assault:	58	123	74	24	22
Burglary:	72	35	4	19	25
Larceny:	246	532	143	139	64
Car Theft:	9	2	6	4	0
Fraud:	4	23	6	6	0
Vandalism:	83	80	30	41	37
Weapons:	8	8	9	1	0
POPULATION:	24,160	35,949	8,898	11,098	10,495

Graphic by Andy Harper, design manager

TBI: violent crimes rising, overall rates steadily lower

CRIME FROM PAGE 1

semester – the Valentine's Day shooting near the Business and Aerospace Building and the murder of student and basketball player Tina Stewart in an off-campus apartment in March.

"I don't know what it is, but there has been so much crime already this year," Gibson said.

Reports from the MTSU Department of Public Safety indicate that there have been four reports of assault since the beginning of the calendar year.

"I know that crime is everywhere, and always has been everywhere, and always will be everywhere," Nelms said, "but lately it's hit really close to home."

The 2010 TBI report includes crimes against students within the U.S. borders, on or off campus. Overall crime decreased 4.6 percent from 2009 to 2010.

Prior to a sharp increase between 2008 and 2009, statewide campus crime had decreased every year since 2004, according to the report. In 2010, larceny and theft related crimes comprised nearly 4 percent of total crime.

Violent crime, though it experienced the largest increase, made up only 1.7 percent of total crime across the state in 2010.

A note from the TBI Director Mark Gwyn said the report will hopefully continue to create "awareness that crime exists as a threat in communities."

"You know [crime] is there," Nelms said, "but you don't always pay attention until it's this close."

Students to consider two pieces of legislation soon

SGA FROM PAGE 1

to join the SGA due to seat limitations. Unlike the current system, he said there would be more positions available if Bill 17-11-S is passed through the referendum.

"I like the idea [of the freshman council] because it gives freshmen more opportunities to get involved with the SGA," Batts said.

Both of the bills have survived several legislative hurdles – meaning students are going to be voting on legislation that senators have debated and researched for quite some time.

First, a bill must be voted on twice by the senate and acquire a two-thirds majority to pass. Secondly, the bill must be publicized for two weeks after the vote, and finally the student body answers a referendum concerning the legislation.

The senate has passed both bills twice with the freshman council legislation. The latter passed unanimously, and the executive officer legislation passed by a 35-7-1 vote.

Sen. Jeremy Poynter of the College of Business sponsored the freshman council bill that would remove Article V, Section 2, Subsection C.

The subsection currently reads, "freshman senators and graduate students shall be elected within the first two months of the fall semester. One senate seat shall be allocated for every 750 students enrolled with less than 15 accredited hours, and one senate seat shall be allocated for every 750 students enrolled in graduate programs."

The new system would allot an elected chairman and vice chairman, both of who would have the power to vote on legislation, and the number of freshman council members would vary, depending on the participation rate.

There would no longer be slots available to graduate

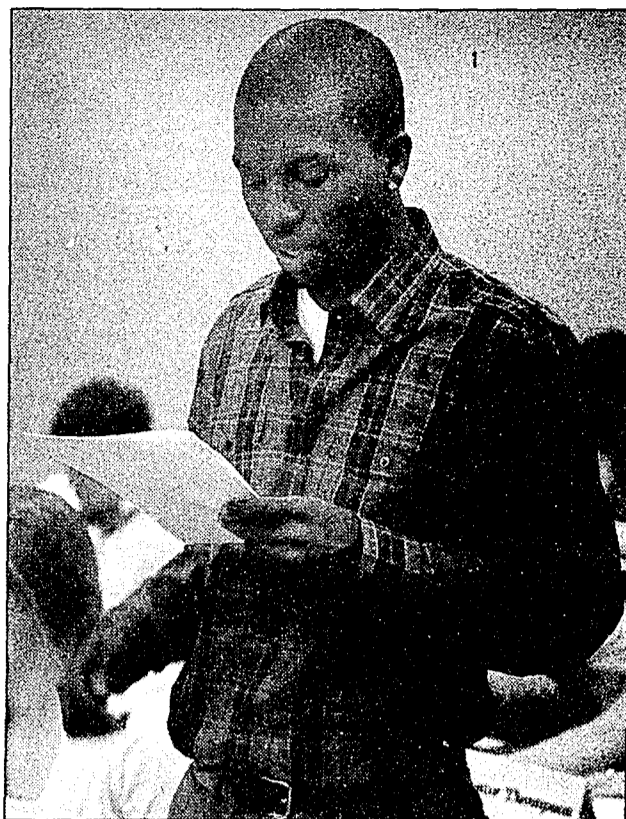


Photo by Drew Gardonia, staff photographer
Sen. Jeremy Poynter of the College of Business reads legislation April 7 to the senate before they vote on its passage in the Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building.

senators. Instead, graduate students would run alongside undergraduate candidates to represent their respective college.

At-Large Sen. Gavin Mosley sponsored legislation that would require those who run for executive officer positions to have had prior student government experience at any "accredited university or community colleges" for one semester.

Mosley said candidates are not limited to only being a senator.

"By saying 'SGA' – it's a very broad term," Mosley said. "It's going to mean that people that serve on any homecoming committee or people that served on election commission, people that served on traffic court – all of these different people will be eligible to [run for executive office]."

Sen. Alex Lewis of the College of Liberal Arts was one of the seven senators who opposed the legislation.

"I understand the intent of the legislation, and I appreciate that," Lewis said. "I don't like limiting people who want to serve in office."

He said although he understands why someone would be concerned about adding additional prerequisites for executive officer positions, he believes the bill would ensure that anyone who is elected as an officer will know about how a college-level SGA operates.

"I agree with the bill because it makes sure that students have qualified people representing them – having experience is important," Batts said.

The senate was also scheduled to vote on a third bill, Bill 15-11, which would have inserted a Code of Ethics into the bylaws. However, the senate tabled the legislation because the Internal Affairs Committee had not reviewed it.

"Some of the senators didn't know enough about the proposal," Batt said. "So, they're in the process of doing the necessary research. Once that is complete, then it will be brought up for further discussion."

Marie Kempf, editor-in-chief, contributed to this report.

Athletes' graduation rates top general student body

By MARK MIZE
Staff Writer

Recent statistics show that Blue Raiders athletes are performing well on the field, as well as in the classroom.

In recent years, MT athletics have reached new heights in terms of on-the-field performance. Men's basketball, women's basketball, and baseball have all won at least a share of a Sun Belt Conference title in the past three years. The football team set the school record in wins since joining Division I with 10 in 2009 and has now been to back-to-back bowl games for the first time in school history.

However, what most people don't know is that Blue Raiders athletes are outperforming the competition in the classroom too.

Each year, the Office of Enrollment Services releases statistics on the graduation rates of the general student body at MTSU and that of its student athletes. These statistics tell the percentage of students who were able to

graduate from the university within six years of full-time enrollment as freshman. In the last seven years, student athletes have posted higher graduation rates than the general student body six times, with the 2003-2004 freshman class being the only exception.

The mean graduation rate for freshman student athletes was just over 53 percent during that time period. The rate for the general population was considerably lower at just over 42 percent.

Sixteen single-sport classes have posted 100 percent graduation in the last five years, since single-sport statistics have been kept. Women's volleyball and men's tennis tied for the highest mean with 80 percent, including three perfect graduation classes each.

The lowest mean percentages were found in basketball and football at around 41 percent and 30 percent respectively. However, it should be noted that due to the relatively low number of athletes allowed scholarships in basketball according to NCAA rules, sporadic rates are to be expected from year to year.

Graduation rates among athletes transferring from other schools have been even higher, with a mean of almost 64 percent.

Student athletes at MTSU have a wealth of educational assistance opportunities at their disposal. The Student Athlete Enhancement Center, located adjacent to Floyd Stadium, "provides

academic support, enhances life skills, and monitors NCAA academic rules compliance," said President Sidney McPhee in his yearly newsletter.

MT Baseball head coach Steve Peterson added, "I give all the credit of the success our athletes have to our Athlete Enhancement Center and [Associate Director] Mrs. Wynnifred Counts. Students come here to get an education and that's the most important thing. There is no good excuse to fail a class."

Student athletes also have Certifying Officer of Athletic Eligibility Donna Victory to thank for their success. Victory is in charge of making sure all NCAA academic rules and regulations are met at the university. She has held that position at MTSU for the last 19 years and says she really enjoys her position.

"I've seen a lot of changes and I have been able to watch our athletic programs grow. A lot of people may not be aware of this but, in addition to MTSU academic requirements that are required of all students, student athletes are required to meet additional NCAA academic requirements each semester as well, in order to be eligible to participate," Victory said via e-mail.

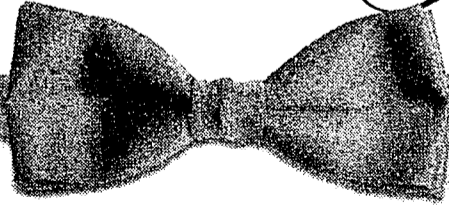
With the 2010-2011 school year almost in the books, MT student athletes continue to strive for success both on the field and off.



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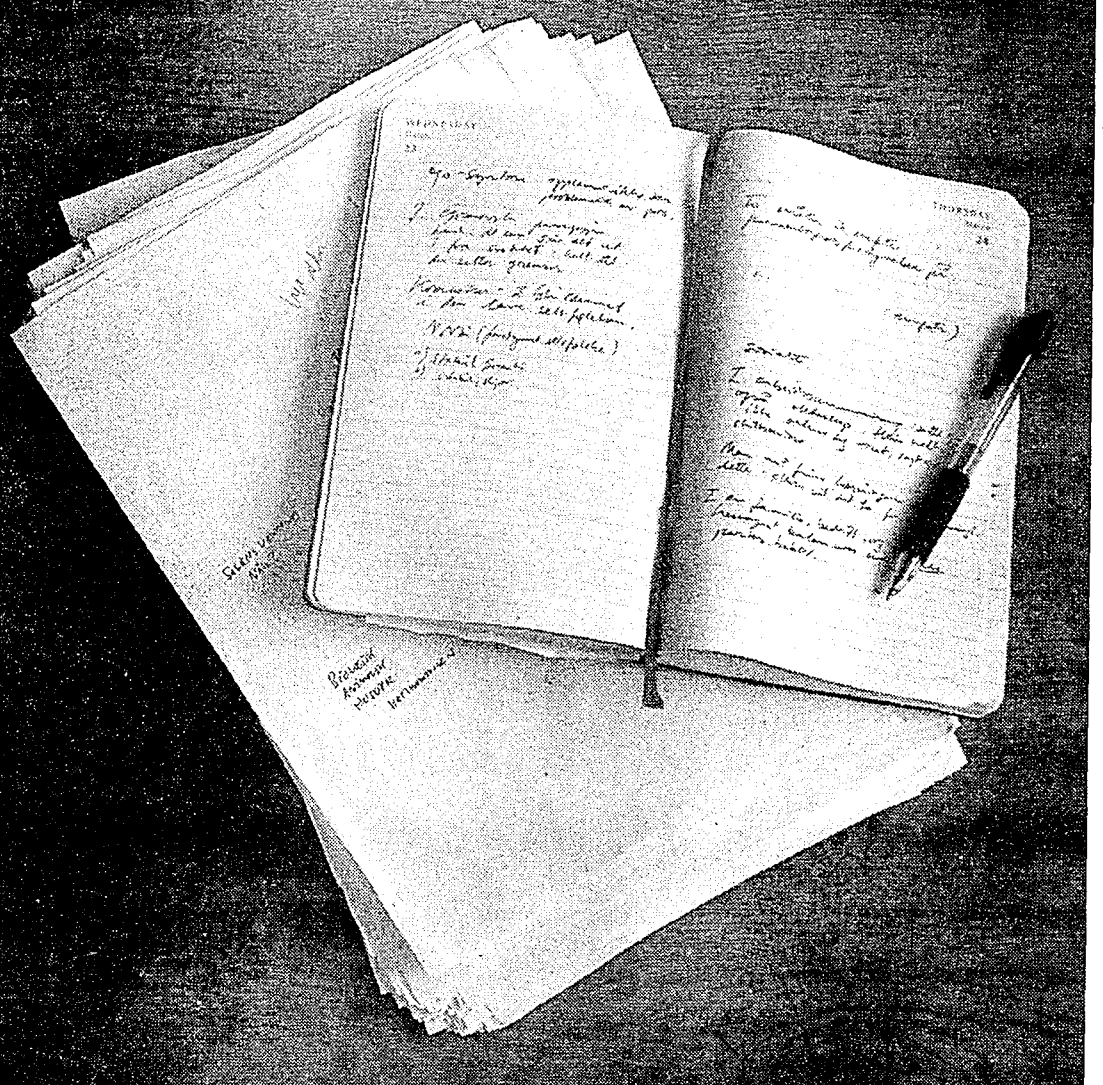
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FEATURES

Breaking the clay



Here's how one man was molded into a professor.



Photos by Garrett Franklyn and Chris Greene
Clayton Brockman's enthusiastic, unconventional style of teaching and ability to connect with students has made him a favorite among people in the department of English.

By GARETT FRANKLYN
Contributing Writer

He stands tall, his hands balled into fists at his waist, feet shoulder-width apart, striking a pose reminiscent of Peter Pan rebuffing Captain Hook. The introduction drips from his lips.

"I'm Clayton Brockman!" he exclaims. But before he was in the English department's office introducing himself and speaking in front of his future boss like a green-donned fictional character, he was in California studying at a small Catholic liberal arts school called St. Thomas Aquinas College.

"I was quite the choir boy," Brockman says. "I was very church-minded."

At St. Thomas Aquinas, where daily mass was read in Latin, it was hard not to be. Brockman recounts a story in which he made cookies as a gesture of appreciation for several people.

"I tried to give them to a girl who had helped me out," he confesses, chuckling. "And she said she couldn't take them on the basis that she didn't want to marry me."

So, while most people recount their undergraduate days as some of their most pivotal and transformational, Brockman's weren't. The years were steeped in a classics education flavored by a Catholic zeal.

"If you weren't Catholic, you got a lot of grief," he says.

Instead, Brockman's most transformational time occurred during graduate studies. But it almost never happened.

"I started applying to different schools," he says, "and I got summarily shot down. By almost all of them, actually."

the differences, Brockman slowly found his beliefs changing during his time at Chicago so that by graduation, he was different from the Brockman who had enrolled. After receiving his Master of Fine Arts, which is currently his highest degree, he went to teach at the University of Dominguez Hills.

"During this time, that's when I visited my best friend out here in Nashville," Brockman relates.

"And he said, 'You should come out and visit and apply to be a teacher.'"

At his friend's behest, Brockman applied to be a teacher. The only school he applied at? Middle Tennessee State University. The department? English, which by now had become his field of study. And how did he go about getting the job?

"I did not prepare a resume," he says. "I did not look professional. I did not make an appointment."

What he did do, though, comprises a shorter list. He searched the Internet, found that MTSU was hiring, and made a visit to the campus. There, Brockman and his friend asked where the English department was located and headed toward Peck Hall.

"On my way out I picked out a pamphlet to see if there were any 'magic words,'" he admits. "Any things that the school prided itself on, so I could talk about it."

After making a short walk to Peck Hall, he found the English department's office, where there sat a secretary and a man in plaid with a very long beard. Erring on the side of bravado, Brockman made his entrance. He recounts this scenario:

"Hello. You don't know me. I would like a teaching job here," Brockman said to the secretary. "I understand you are offering them, please give me one."

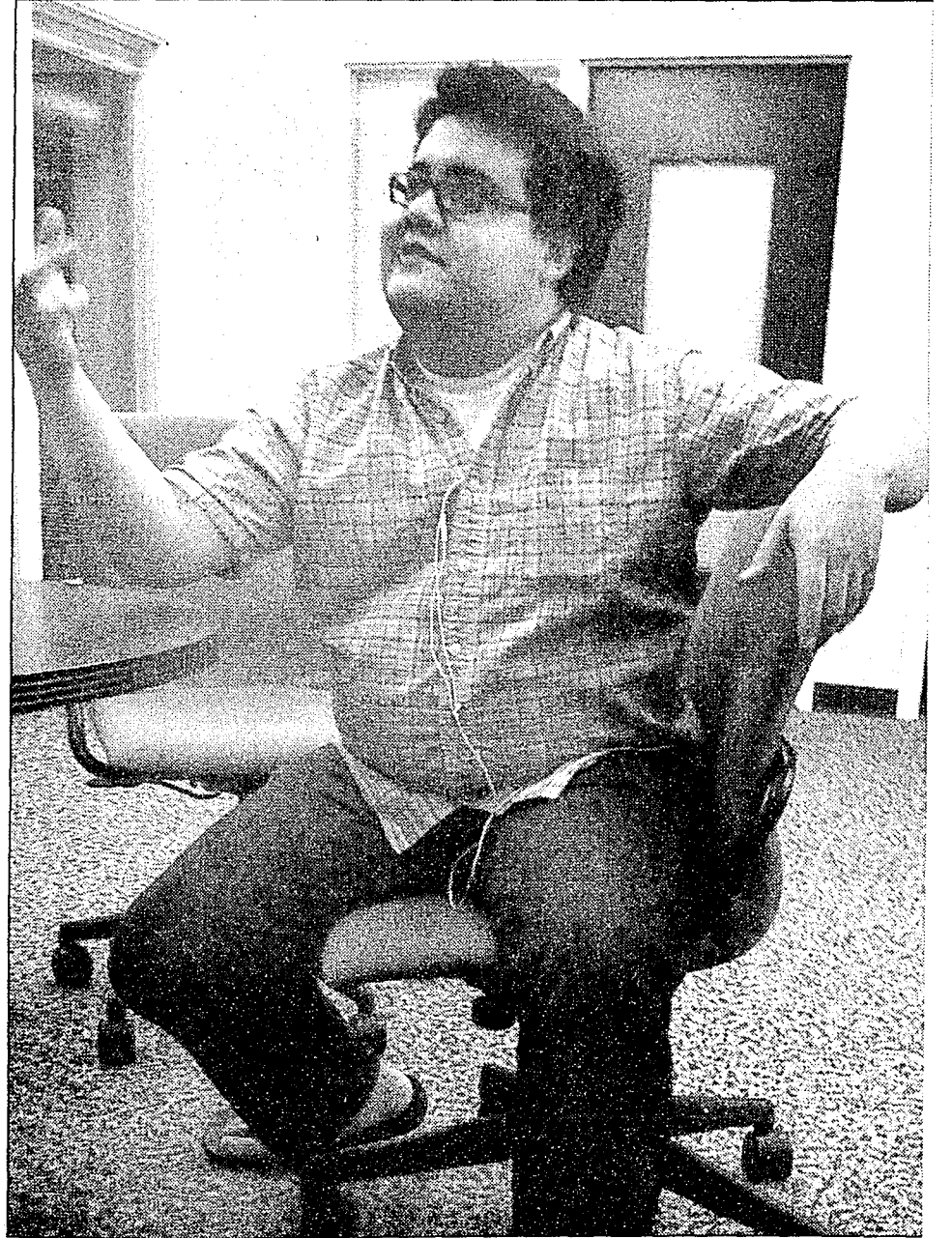


Photo by Garrett Franklyn
Clayton Brockman discusses his success as an English professor April 6 in Peck Hall. Brockman says he believes professors should not only engage students in the subject but also make sure that they realize their full potential as individuals as well.

Farrish, a receptionist at the University Writing Center who works with Brockman. "He always asks me how I am doing and legitimately listens when I speak to him."

However, to his future boss, who watched Brockman strike a dramatic pose and introduce himself, that was not the first impression.

"Yeah, maybe Clay was a little pompous, but he was very enthusiastic, and we like that in our instructors," says Dr. Tom Strawman, chair of the English Department and Clay's future boss.

Strawman liked Brockman's enthusiasm so much that he eventually hired him as an instructor.

Brockman's first classes were introductory English courses – the ones most college freshmen grimace at being forced to take. To add to that, the classes tended to be the one-a-day, three-hour night ones a new college recruit could very easily nod off halfway into.

Falling asleep during class, however, would prove to be hard. Brockman liked to engage his students in conversation and found it to be the cornerstone of his teaching style.

"One of the things I do in terms of reinforcing classroom culture is: You ask people questions," Brockman says. "And then, the other thing a lot of people don't do: Make [the students] ask you questions."

Clay's sophisticated style of teaching may surprise students as first, but it's taken the classroom conversation beyond the walls of Peck Hall.

"People kept wanting to prolong the conversations. We had some very deep,

very thought-provoking conversations," Brockman continues. "We had most of the people from that class. It's a shorter list to tell you who didn't go."

We would meet at the [Keathley University Center] for about an hour, hour-and-a-half, and over coffee we would discuss some of the things going on in the literature or things that were going on in people's lives."

The ability to take the discourse from the academic "Neverland" of Peck Hall to the world outside it is a rare gift, one that hasn't been missed by Strawman. He relates seeing Brockman downstairs at Peck Hall, during one of the 15-minute interims that split the new professor's three-hour English course – always surrounded by his students.

"I figured that what they were talking in class was extending out into other places," Strawman remarks. "If teachers can make their students interested in the subject matter, then I feel that's pretty successful."

For Brockman, it's not only interesting his students in the subject, but also letting them more fully realize themselves both as students and as individuals. During the transformational times of college experience, Brockman seeks to be the professor that guides his students. And now, after having been accepted as a Ph.D candidate, Brockman comes closer to that goal.

"It's not like a Disney movie kind of thing," Brockman says. "I'm not talking about: Let's give you a shot of self-esteem, you can do it. It is all about the self-efficacy. If students don't think they can do it, they won't."



Photo courtesy of Clayton Brockman
(From left) Greg Mortenson, Clayton Brockman and Julia Romano pose for a picture after graduating from St. Thomas Aquinas College in May 2006. Brockman is wearing traditional accoutrement, which was provided by his family, for the occasion.

All of them except for one: the University of Chicago. Even then, the school had already accepted its quota of students for the year.

"They were full. They weren't admitting anyone else," he reminisces. "But Chicago let me in on the strength of my writing and [graduate record examination]. They made it very clear that mine was a special case."

It was at Chicago, while pursuing a Master of Fine Arts in humanities, that Brockman underwrote the transformation he had missed at St. Thomas Aquinas. Having been educated in the classics at Aquinas, Brockman found the postmodern curriculum at Chicago threatening.

"Rather than learn, I took it as an insult," he says. "You know, how dare they contravene me. I'll try to be as stalwart as possible."

Although initially antagonistic toward

The secretary shot Brockman a look that would have melted weaker mettle.

"Well, sir. If you would like, you can fill out an application online," the secretary responded. "You can drop off your resume, and we will call you if we are interested."

It was at that point that the wheat was separated from the chaff. The men from the boys.

"Two scenarios went through my head at that point," Brockman says.

He could either do what the secretary suggested and be like every other teacher that applied. Or...

"And this is verbatim running through my head," he says, smiling. "I could be a total a*****, and they could never forget me."

One might be led to believe that Brockman normally acts like this, but his friends say he's quite genial.

"He's a very nice man," says Sam

SPORTS

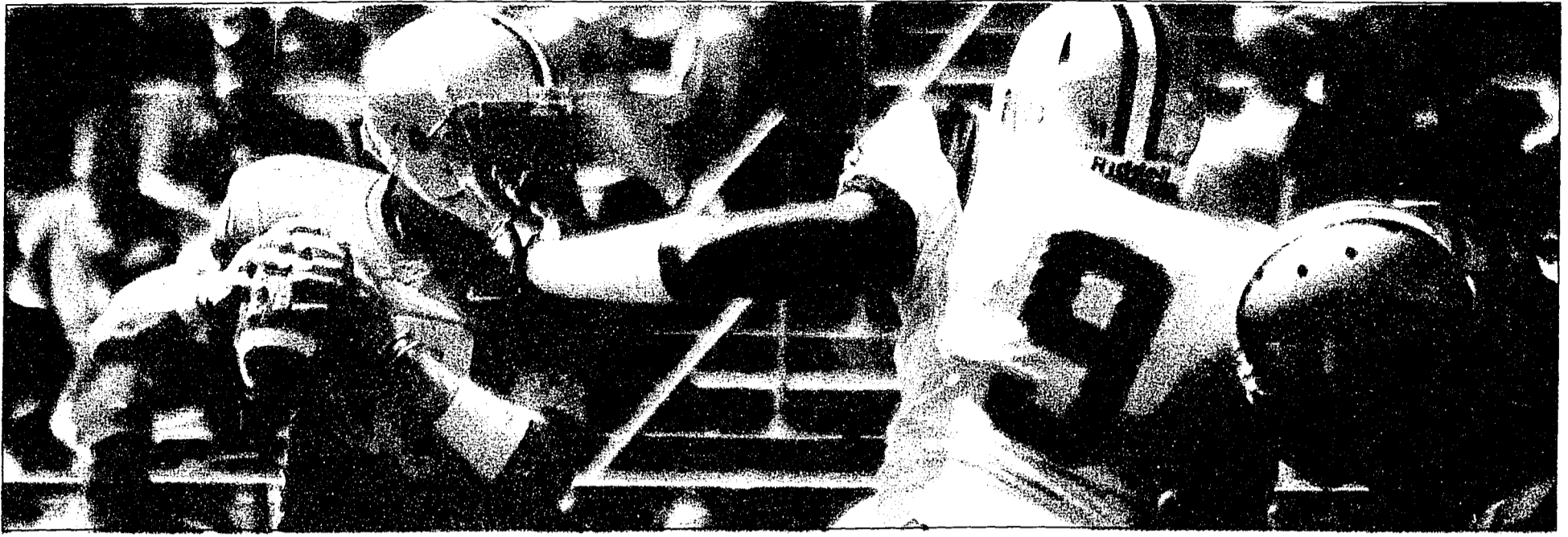


Photo by Erica Springer, staff photographer

First-string quarterback Logan Killgore (10) was one of many bright spots for the Blue Raiders' offense. Killgore connected on 6 of 7 passes and added two touchdowns April 9 at Floyd Stadium.

MT airs it out in annual Blue vs. White football game

By MARK MIZE
Staff Writer

Blue defeated White 67-60 to capture its first win in six tries at the annual MTSU Blue vs. White game in front of a crowd of 3,409 Saturday at Floyd Stadium.

The Blue vs. White football game is held each year at the end of spring practice to give fans a chance to see what next year's team will be working with. MT's offensive units wear the team's blue uniforms, while the defensive units wear white. Special scoring rules are employed that reward points for certain achievements, such as touchdowns, first downs, interceptions and sacks, just to name a few.

There were quite a few new faces on the field for the Blue Raiders this spring. The offense lost four starters to graduation, and the defense lost eight. Some of the biggest names among this group include quarterback Dwight Dasher, running back Phillip Tanner, defensive end Jamari Lattimore, and safety Jeremy Kellum.

Injuries have also kept several players off the field this spring. Three players, who are currently No. 1 on the depth chart at their position, have missed significant time this spring.

The Blue team started with the ball on their own 35 and wasted no time driving it down the field. Quarterback Logan Kilgore went six for seven on the drive, including a four-yard strike to wide receiver Anthony Amos for the touchdown. Kilgore would connect with Amos again on the first-team offense's next possession on a 12-yard throw and catch for the score.

Kilgore was on top of his game all day, completing 18 of 26 passes for 163 yards and two touchdowns, to go with one interception. He led the first-team offense to three touchdowns and a field goal on five possessions.

"I think we definitely have improved," Kilgore said. "It was nice to get out there and get our first Blue victory in six years."

Amos is also quickly emerging as a scoring

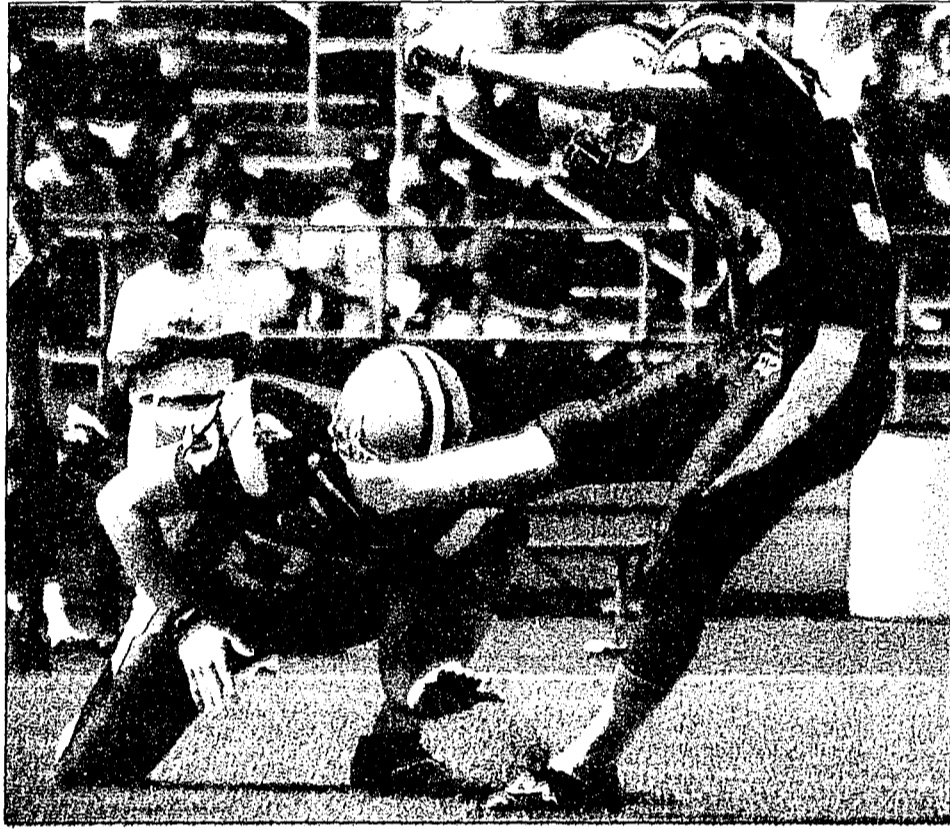


Photo by Erica Springer, staff photographer

Place-kicker Alan Gendreau (38) was awarded the Terry Whiteside Award on April 9 at Floyd Stadium, following the scrimmage, for his excellence in academics, football, strength training, community service, and campus activities.

threat. He has led all players in receiving yards and touchdowns in each of this spring's scrimmages. Amos caught five passes on the day for 65 yards and had two touchdowns from Kilgore. Those two touchdowns bring his scrimmage total to seven this spring.

Quarterbacking the second-team offense was Jeff Murphy, who has had an extremely impressive spring, throwing for 11 touchdowns and no interceptions in two scrimmages this spring prior to today's game.

Murphy was an efficient 11 for 17 on the day with no touchdowns or interceptions. However, the offense seemed to sputter a bit with him at the helm, as the second-

team unit failed to get into the end zone and finished with just one field goal on its five possessions.

Murphy looked to be outperforming Kilgore in the first two spring scrimmages, but today, Kilgore definitely held the advantage in terms of running the offense. Regardless, the passing game had a strong showing all day on its way to 407 yards through the air.

Head coach Rick Stockstill was pleased with the performance of his top two quarterbacks.

"I thought Logan and Jeff both did a good job," Stockstill said. "They didn't force throws. They made plays when they needed to."

The MT running game struggled to get started all day, though. Tony Rowland led the team with 37 yards on the ground and a touchdown. No. 1 on the depth chart at running back is junior Benjamin Cunningham, who had 24 yards on six carries. The only other touchdown on the ground was scored by Kennedy McGruder.

At halftime, Blue had firmly taken control of the game with a 47-23 lead. The defense had struggled to slow down the first-team offense, and the second-team failed to turn the ball over, resulting in few opportunities for the defense to get on the board.

After the break, Kilgore, Murphy and many of the first and second team players left the field and the offense was left to back-up quarterbacks Spencer Wise and Luke Hayes.

That's when the defense made their move. The defense sacked the two backups four times and picked off three passes, including interceptions on back-to-back throws by Wise. White also recovered a Blue fumble on the day.

Defensive end Gorby Loreus led the White team with two sacks, and defensive tackle Patrick McNeil had the most tackles for loss with three and a half. Cornerbacks Jajuan Harley, Robert Hogg and William Carter all had interceptions on the day. Eric Davis added the other interception.

On special teams, place kicker Alan Gendreau was three for six on field goal attempts. All three of his misses were from 47 yards or longer, including two attempts over 60 yards. Josh Davis led all punters on the day with four attempts for 147 yards, giving him a 43.5 yard average distance.

Stockstill was all smiles in his interviews with the media after the game.

"I thought today was the culmination of this spring," he said. "I was very pleased today. I felt we did a good job offensively and defensively. I think it gives the guys a lot of confidence going into the summer."

The Blue Raiders start the 2011 season at Purdue on Sept. 3, before hosting Georgia Tech for the MTSU centennial celebration Sept. 10.

Volleyball team takes MT spring tournament title

STAFF REPORT

The MT volleyball squad notched three wins en route to capturing their home tournament crown at Alumni Memorial Gym on Saturday.

The Blue Raiders defeated Memphis, Georgia Tech and Tennessee State and played a close match with 2010 NCAA Tournament participant Auburn before ultimately falling 2-1.

MT opened the day by sweeping Memphis 2-0 (25-18, 25-16). An 11-0 run in the second set opened up the match after a close first set and brought the score to 24-15. A kill by setter Morgan Peterson sealed the first victory of the day for the Blue Raiders.

Ashley Adams' seven kills led MT in taking the first set against Auburn (29-27), but Auburn responded by winning the next two (26-24, 15-13) in a back-and-forth battle.

Adams continued her strong play by posting 10 kills in a 2-1 decision over ACC foe, Georgia Tech (25-21, 17-25, 15-13). The teams traded set wins before MT survived in the decisive third set. Adams and Maria Szivos had four kills a piece in the third set.

Adams posted another nine kills to lead MT to a 2-0 (25-22, 25-12) win over TSU.

Both MT and Georgia Tech each ended the day with a 3-1 mark, while Auburn and TSU finished 2-2 and Memphis ended up 0-4. MT won the title by means of the head-to-head victory over the Yellow Jackets.

MT will now turn its attention towards their upcoming season in the fall. As the defending Sun Belt regular season and tournament champions, MT will hope to continue its winning ways.

The Blue Raiders will have to replace the play of SBC Player of the Year, Izabella Kozon but will return several key players including Adams, Szivos and two-time All-American Stacy Oladinni, who missed the tournament recovering from surgery.

Head coach Matt Peck will also have the pleasure of adding four freshmen that comprise what Peck has tabbed MT's "best recruiting class by far."

The season is slated to begin in late August, but details on the schedule are being finalized.



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OPINIONS

Sidelines is the editorially independent, student-produced newspaper affiliated with Middle Tennessee State University and the College of Mass Communication. Sidelines publishes Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and online during June and July. The opinions expressed herein are those of individual writers and not necessarily Sidelines or the university.

Severe weather should be taken seriously

A week ago Monday, severe storms ripped through Middle Tennessee leaving downed trees, utility poles, debris and shattered windows throughout the region, leaving more than 58,000 without power.

The powerful storms produced funnels, wall clouds, torrential downpour and hail, which served as a grim reminder to the public that all severe watches and warnings should be taken seriously.

On April 9, 2009, an EF-4 Tornado packing winds in excess of 170 mph, rocked the City of Murfreesboro. More than 800 homes and businesses were damaged or destroyed and two people were killed. If not for the watches and warnings issued by the National Weather Service in Old Hickory, the death toll might have been much higher.

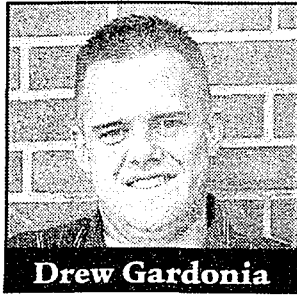
The NWS office in Old Hickory is tasked with giving advanced notice of imminent weather situations to residents in 39 counties throughout Tennessee.

How do they do that? It's not simple. But to them, it's all in a day of fun.

Fun? How can a task of tremendous responsibility be so much fun? That's simple. When a person loves doing what they do for a living, as Warning Coordinator Meteorologist Thomas Johnstone does, there's simply no better job in the world.

Johnstone has been amazed by storms ever since the Super Outbreak on April 3, 1974, when tornadoes destroyed parts of his hometown in Cincinnati, Ohio. Johnstone has been employed with the NWS for 18 years and graduated from Ohio State University in 1991 with a bachelor's degree in geography, and an emphasis on atmospheric science.

Why the public does not seem to take watches and



Drew Gardonia
Guest Columnist

warnings seriously is a concerning issue. "The public has the perception that tornadoes occur in Oklahoma and Kansas, but not in Tennessee," Johnstone said.

Part of Johnstone's duties are aimed at changing that perception. Johnstone heads a collective effort with emergency response officials to hold annual severe weather education programs for the general public. These programs serve as a foundation to educate residents on how to properly identify and report these weather hazards and what to do when they occur.

With 116 deaths since 1999, Tennessee leads the nation in tornado fatalities. A worrisome statistic that Johnstone attributes to nighttime tornadoes, lack of basements, a higher percentage of mobile homes, lack of tornado sirens, and the public's perception of tornadoes.

At the time of the 2009 tornado, Murfreesboro only had one siren located on campus. Now, there are four sirens on campus, and another siren has been installed on the north end of Murfreesboro near the Alvin C. York Veterans Hospital.

"The public needs to heed these warnings and take them very seriously, and each individual has a personal responsibility to formulate a plan of where to go and what to do when these storms hit," Johnstone said.

As far as I'm concerned, students should listen to his advice.

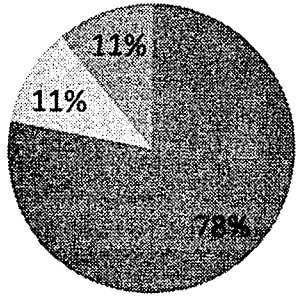
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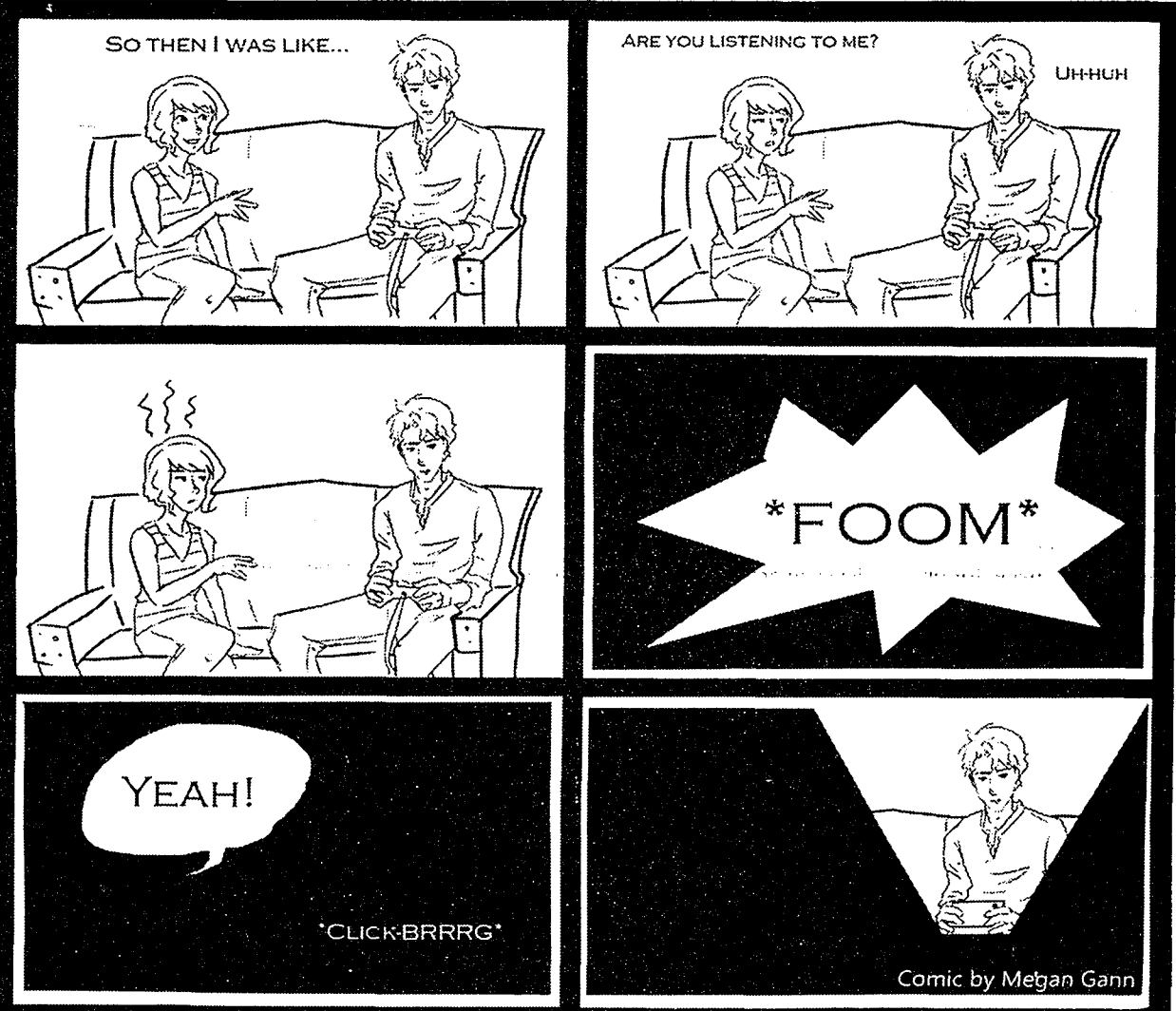
F "People only rush to call this article demonizing because you called him out by name. When you hold a public position, it is your responsibility to portray yourself the right way. Why are we not to call each other out when we act foolishly? Besides, I was less offended by his faces as I was his exit. He couldn't even sit there throughout the entire thing. It was offensive, and it was immature." - Aaron Byrd

GOP-backed bills fuel Southern stereotype

■ "This from the guy who has worked on and lost three separate campaigns. Who's out of step?" - Anonymous

SGA discusses election changes for new officers

■ "This is a stupid proposal. It has died before, and it should die again." - Former SGA Senator



Comic by Megan Gann

Obama doesn't live up to rhetoric

Does President Barack Obama's promise of "Hope and Change" and "Yes We Can" deserve your vote again? What about the promise of "transparency?" Are you better off now than you were since he took office?

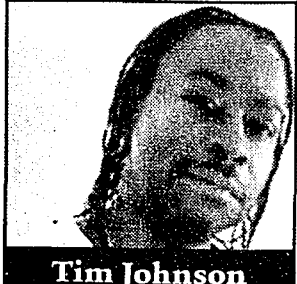
Do you recall Obama ever identifying the enemy in any of the wars we are involved in? Who is the enemy? If the enemy hasn't been identified by the Commander in Chief, then why are we fighting? Who is the opposition in Libya? What's their agenda?

If "Obamacare" is so good and affordable, then why are union-led organizations getting exclusion waivers?

Do not expect Obama to answer those questions because he will not. Do not expect him to identify the enemy. To do so means he will have to call out Islam. Africa and the Middle East are exploding.

Liberal hypocrisy has gone wild. Global uncertainty is cruising in chaos mode as Obama's decisions concerning the economy and foreign policy prove to be harmful and disastrous, at best.

He intervened in Libya and started his own unpopular war. Obama never made an official declaration of war. To



Tim Johnson
Columnist

make matters worse, he made this decision without congressional approval. Not a word of protest from the Left.

Under former President George W. Bush, the national debt doubled from \$5 trillion to \$10 trillion. Democrats and a biased media showed no mercy in their outspoken criticisms. Obama, by comparison, increased the debt to an unsustainable and new historical record of \$14 trillion.

The Obama administration has already acknowledged that the national debt will total almost \$16 trillion by Sept. 30, the end of fiscal year 2011. What this means is that the debt will reach 102 percent of the gross domestic product.

That's 102 percent of the sum total of all economic activity for the entire

nation. Not a word of protest or outrage from the Left.

The Obama administration's policies of purposeful deficit spending have increased the national debt, invoked ridiculous stimulus bills, hostile takeovers of companies, and expanding bureaucracy.

And with that in mind, let's not forget that Obama has shut down domestic oil drilling, increased taxes through a new healthcare plan, and increased tax regulations on businesses at every level.

The failure of his policies has led to massive layoffs, shutdowns, and an elevated national unemployment rate averaging 10 percent. The left remains silent, void of protest.

So, how can Obama claim anything he's done as being a victory for you or me? I'm assuming you are of sound mind and body, and you can make a competent logical voting decision.

My question to you is this: How can the president possibly convince you that what he has done up to this point has been a success? Therefore, does he deserve your vote?

Tim Johnson is a senior majoring in political science and foreign languages. He can be reached at tj2b@mtmail.mtsu.edu.

Corporate breaks unfair to business

Can someone explain to me why not only the Tennessee Code Annotated (see TCA 20-2-221), but also the United States code, states that a corporation is a person? Does this make sense to anyone at all?

According to this logic, Wal-Mart can run for the office of the presidency. It meets all the requirements: be 35 years of age, be born in the U.S., and claim residency here.

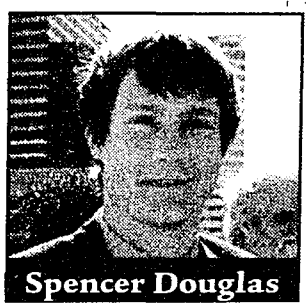
Am I the only one completely terrified of this prospect? It is time the American people set in stone that a corporation is only a large business and not exempt from any laws, as is currently in statute.

One argument made from those in favor of corporations would be that corporations establish such a large number of jobs in the U.S. My response to those individuals would be: So what?

Compare the jobs created with those lost, and businesses shut down, because of the opening of a new Wal-Mart. A good example of the tragedy of Wal-Mart and other corporations is very apparent in Harriman, Tenn.

In this city where my father was raised, kids could go to several stores for candy or to make a living working. This allowed more people to own a business and allowed for more competition among individuals who were responsible for the community they operated in.

When Wal-Mart opened in this city, most businesses could not compete with such a large company and



Spencer Douglas
Columnist

were forced to close. Some would argue that this is the sign of a laissez-faire economy, but I must put my foot down and say that this is not in any way laissez-faire capitalism.

Forcing others to close and making the economy one-dimensional is not a free market economy, especially when one cannot tell where the product came from or how much the product costs to make.

It is simply not fair to those hard working business owners to have to compete with a company that cuts corners with its taxes and forces its associates to park a half-mile from the entrance of the building.

I would argue that if you gave any business in the state of Tennessee the kind of leeway that Wal-Mart, or any other corporation for that matter, has, then they could dominate the U.S. economy as well.

It is time to put our foot down and hold CEOs to the same standard as honest hard-working Americans, because I for one am sick of it.

Spencer Douglas is a senior majoring in political science. He can be reached at spencerlee23@aol.com.

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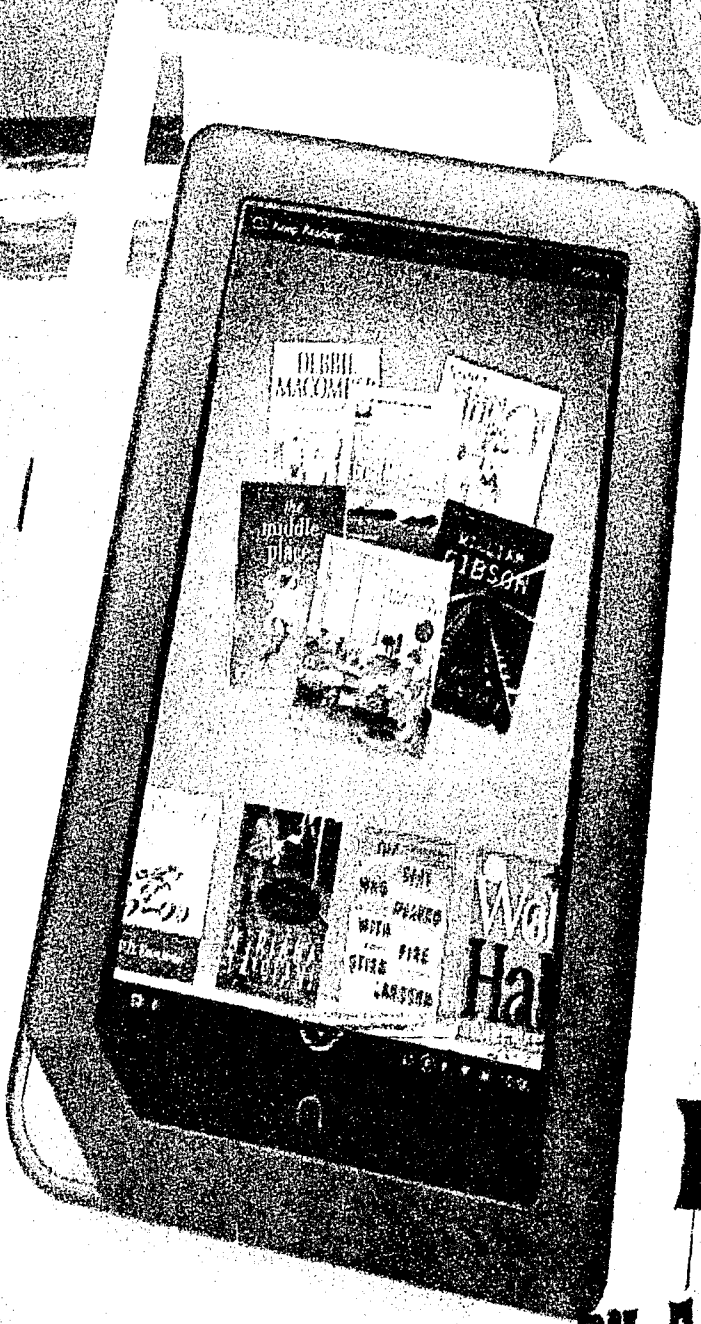
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