

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

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Democratic straw poll sets stage for election

By DUSTIN EVANS
Assistant Community News Editor

The Rutherford County Democratic Party chose Sen. Roy Herron as its favored candidate for the 2010 gubernatorial election of Tennessee in its straw poll Saturday.

The event, held at the Tennessee Ballroom in the James Union Building, featured speeches from all five candidates followed by the first step in the democratic primary.

"I am humbled and thankful, and I am going to work all the harder to try to be worthy of the trust of the people of Rutherford County," Herron said. "It is a great step forward."

Herron received 119 votes to take the lead in Rutherford County. Sen. Jim Kyle received 81, Kim McMillan received 58, Mike McWherter received 32 and Ward Cammack received 13. Twelve votes were undecided.

"After the showing that we have had tonight, I hope that tonight will be the rebirth of the solid south," said Jonathon Fagan, chairman of the Rutherford County Democratic Party. "Before there ever was a solid south, Tennessee was the bastion of the Democratic Party, [which] began in Rutherford County."

Each of the five candidates for governor were given the opportunity to speak to the attendees and explain what their hopes are for Rutherford County and Tennessee.

"My three top priorities are jobs, and jobs," Herron said.

"The top three means for getting those jobs is education, and education."

Sen. Jim Kyle also said his focus is on the reform of higher education to better prepare the residents of the state for the future.

"Whenever a person gets a college degree or a community college degree, everybody in Tennessee benefits," Kyle said. "We take the 30,000 Tennesseans who are within one year of graduation and we offer them a one-time deal to go back [to school] - If we can get just 10,000 in the next two years, we will no longer be 43rd in the nation and this town will have five or six hundred more college graduates."

Kim McMillan said a reform of higher education would keep the talents and skills of Tennessee within its borders.

"My hopes for Tennessee is that we create a Tennessee where we can produce the best educated generation of young people, so that we can create a kind of workforce that are ready for the jobs of the future," McMillan said.

Mike McWherter said his goal is to accommodate the growth in Rutherford County by strengthening the economic infrastructure.

"In many ways I am looking to continue many of the policies that Gov. Bredesen has initiated," McWherter said. "Tennessee ranks as one of the top three states for clean energy jobs and I definitely want to keep the focus on recruiting those kinds of industries into

our state."

Ward Cammack said he wants to strengthen the economy of Tennessee through green jobs and alternative energy sources.

"There is a lot we can do right here, but it is going to take changing the habit of sending our money out of state for energy - and putting our money right here and having other states send us their money because of a solar institute," Cammack said. "We can be a world leader."

The event closed with the keynote speaker of the evening, Congressman Lincoln Davis, who asked the attendees to send him back to the U.S. House of Representatives to fight the GOP.

"Don't let the republicans get away with blaming us for [government spending and borrowing] because [for] 18 years, the U.S. Senate was controlled by the republicans," Davis said. "When the republicans start telling you it is the democrats who have run the debt up, you can look at them and honestly say, 'you lie.'"

Griffin Knight, president of the MTSU College Democrats, who hosted the event, said he is pleased with the results of the straw poll, but he thinks each candidate should still be thoroughly considered.

"I think he [Herron] has a vision and I think he presented it very clearly," Herron said. "But there are also four other candidates and I think we need to make sure that we get the right one that will win in 2010."

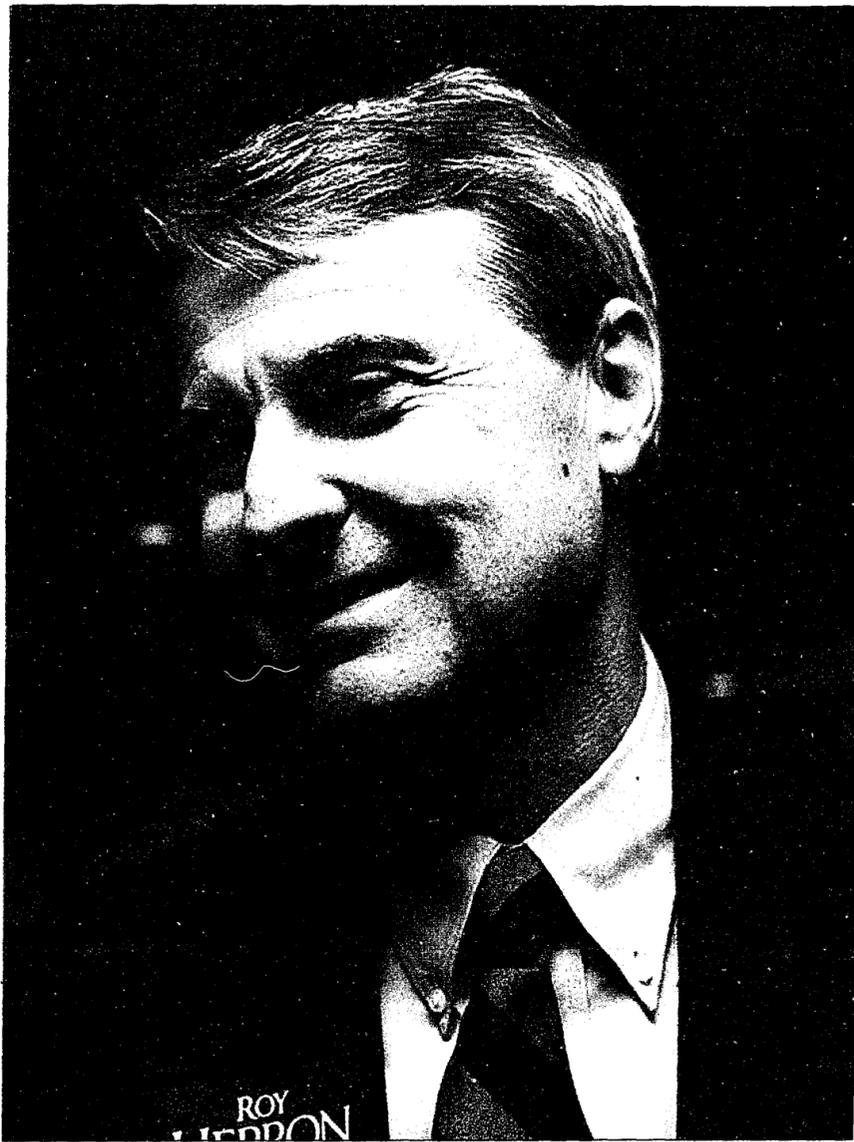


Photo by Sarah Finchum, contributing photographer
At the 2009 Democratic Straw Poll which took place at the JUB Saturday, Roy Herron was the favored candidate for governor.



Photo by Brennan Sparta, staff photographer
Jonell Mosser of "Freedom Sings" performs in Tucker Theatre last Thursday. "Freedom Sings" performed previously banned or protested songs. Mosser has performed with artists such as Ringo Starr and B.B. King.

Freedom sings to students

By SARAH SHARP
Contributing Writer

As MTSU celebrates the 222nd anniversary of the U.S. Constitution, the "Freedom Sings" production captivated the minds of many at Tucker Theater Wednesday.

"Freedom Sings" features Grammy Award-winning musicians playing songs that were banned, censored or of social influence in American history, while following a timeline into the First Amendment.

"We have concerns now

with many more sources of information and expression," said Gene Policinski, executive producer and narrator of the production and vice president and executive director of the First Amendment Center.

Policinski said there are a number of issues being raised in life and it is important to engage people and get them to talk about it.

"Hopefully this is an opportunity to stop for a moment and think about it," Policinski said.

Musicians who performed in the show included: Dave

Coleman; Grammy Award-winning songwriter, Don Henry; singer, Jonell Mosser; Grand Ole Opry regulars, Adam and Shannon Wright; singer/songwriter Jason White; singer/songwriter and keyboard player for the Steve Miller Band, Joseph Wooten; and Grammy Award-winning songwriter and drummer, Craig Krampf.

To read more, visit us online.

online
www.mtsusidelines.com

Guest speaker talks torture during Constitution Week

By BRETT POE
Contributing Writer

Award-winning journalist and author Mark Danner spoke to students about American interrogation policies and torture in a controversial message delivered to students last Thursday in the Learning Resources Center.

The message was a part of MTSU's three-day celebration of the 222nd anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution.

Danner's message, titled "Torture and the Constitution," covered the experiences of detained terrorist suspects as documented in the Red Cross Report of 2004. The report is meant to confirm that the treatment of detainees remains in accordance with the laws established in the Geneva Conventions of 1949, which detail the rights of prisoners.

The Red Cross Report included information from "Black Sites" - secret prisons in Afghanistan, Thailand, Morocco and other countries that hold suspected terrorists.

Interviews of the prisoners were sent to the CIA to determine the legality of the treatment of the prisoners. Memos from the Department of Justice indicated that the actions were eventually deemed to be within legal bounds.

Danner said that when the report came into his hands, he faced an ethical decision regarding its publication.

"At the end of the day, though, it was a no-brainer," he said. "It's a journalist's responsibility to make things public, not secret."

Danner went on to describe the treatment of the first suspects that endured experimental practices of the government's "Enhanced Interrogation Techniques," including suffocation by water, or "water boarding," beatings, confinement, manipulation of temperatures, sleep deprivation, threats to family members, prolonged nudity and more.

Danner pointed out that while the founding fathers may not have been able to imagine the types of terrorist attacks that now occur, they did have thoughts on torture: The Eighth Amendment of the Constitution is clear in its prohibition of cruel and unusual punishment to prisoners.

In addition, the Geneva Conventions specifically prohibit violence, degradation and humiliation of prisoners of war.

With documents now in existence that deem the above actions, Danner explained that since the attacks of Sept. 11,

2001, the use of torture to extract information is no longer "prohibited," but is now a "policy choice."

Reaction to the topic Danner raised was strong and divided among students.

During a time of open questions, some expressed that such violent actions of terrorism required equally drastic response. Others expressed their hope that the country will proceed with policy changes.

Laura Davenport, senior education and behavioral science major, said that she agreed with Danner's position that the use of torture only propagates terrorists' views of America.

"Our stance on torture defines who we are as a nation," Davenport said.

Mike Healy, sophomore mass communications major, said he thought that such techniques were "maybe necessary directly after 9/11," but he felt that it now portrays the U.S. government as inhumane. Healy said that even if the use of torture is effective, the ends do not justify the means.

"The public is generally ambivalent about torture," Danner said. "When planes come out of the bright blue autumn sky, people are willing to trust what their leaders say - necessary to protect them."

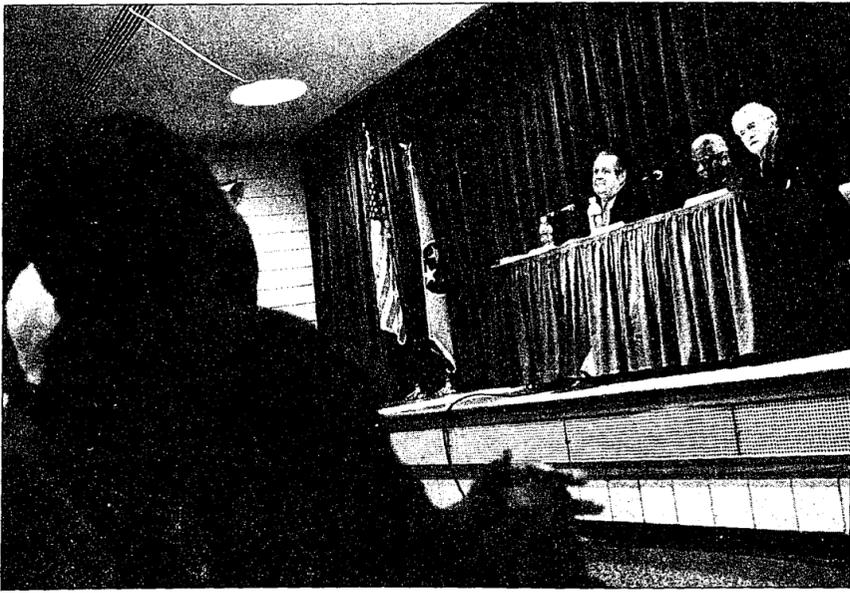


Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer
John Seigenthaler (far right) addresses students and faculty members, including President Sidney McPhee (left), about the five freedoms of the First Amendment and how they are relevant in today's society.

Panel discusses student freedoms

By EMMA EGLI
Assistant Campus News Editor

A panel of prominent figures discussed the state of the First Amendment's five freedoms and what they mean in today's society in the Keathley University Center Theater last Thursday.

John Seigenthaler, Elaine Jones and Richard Land answered questions dealing with the First Amendment in honor of National Constitution Day.

One notable question to the panel included whether or not they thought there should be regulations on the freedom of speech.

"There's nothing more important than our First Amendment freedom," Jones said. "The freedom of speech should be protected."

Jones, a civil rights attorney and former director-counsel and president of NAACP Legal Defense Fund, said that while our freedom of speech should be guarded, Americans should not take advantage of their rights.

"We really need to listen closely to everyone's opinion, even if we dis-

agree," Jones said. "When we shout at one another, we are violating one another's freedoms."

Land, who is president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, said he agrees with Jones that civility should be recognized by all people.

"I think we need to ex-

“It takes energy, effort and somebody stepping out on the line to make sure these freedoms in fact, as well as in law.”

ELAINE JONES
FORMER PRESIDENT & DIRECTOR/COUNSEL OF NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

press our determination to have a robust freedom of speech in this country, but to also demand and model civility," Land said. "The loss of civility is a major step towards violence."

The panel was also asked if they believed limits should be set on the First Amendment and if First Amendment rights were being threatened by the Internet.

"I think the law that Congress now has passed that gives absolute freedom of expression and bars libel and slander suits

was passed quickly and thoughtfully," said Seigenthaler, the founder of the Freedom Forum First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University.

Land said he agreed there should be limits because people can use the Internet to be as damaging and as vicious as they want without any accountability.

"I am opposed to the

Internet being treated differently than other media," Land said. "I think it should have the same restrictions as print media."

All members of the panel said they were thankful to the Founding Fathers for creating a document that had room to grow and be amended.

"This amendment is not entirely self-enforcing," Jones said. "It takes energy, effort and somebody stepping out on the line to make sure these freedoms are freedoms in fact, as well as in law."

Patriot Act raises discussion about basic rights

By MATTHEW JOHNSON
Contributing Writer

MTSU's Constitution Day events came to a conclusion Thursday with a lecture given by Roger Newman, professor of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, entitled "Civil Liberties: Surveillance and Terrorism."

During his speech, Newman highlighted several topics relating to surveil-

Newman said he wants the listeners to take with them, "an appreciation of the indispensable nature of our rights and to try to do whatever they can to protect them regardless of politics."

Newman said that he chose this topic because he felt that it was important.

"I've had a long interest in civil liberties and the Constitution," Newman said, "I've written a book on movie censor-

the First Amendment and how people take them for granted.

"I think that this whole event was important because we as a society are so used to our freedoms," said Lila Tuck, senior mass communications major. "We don't pay attention to how quickly it can be taken away."

Beverly Keel, recording industry professor and the director of the Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies, said that she also believes that this is an important topic for students to learn about.

"The Constitution and the First Amendment are what makes us the United States," Keel said.

Keel said she wants students to stop and reflect on the rights in the country, and how all First Amendment rights are equal, and that the main goal for these Constitution Day events is to, "make students stop and think about the Constitution, the First Amendment and to just think about views other than theirs."

“It concerns our rights as Americans under the Constitution and it goes to the heart of why the Constitution was founded. Civil liberties, as an example, are why this country came into being”

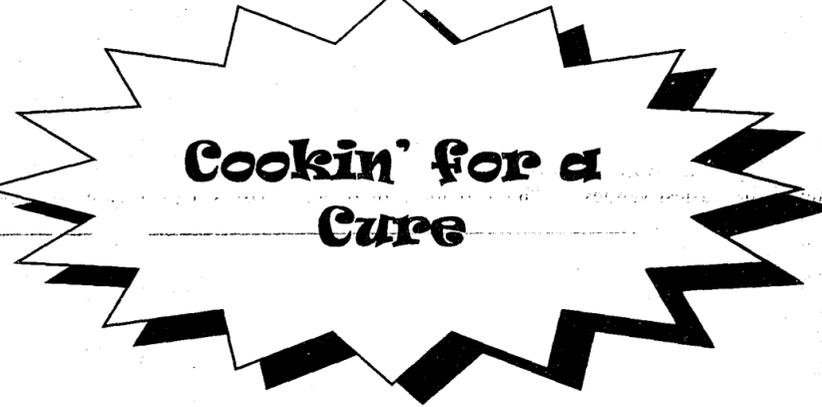
ROGER NEWMAN
PROFESSOR AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM

lance in this country brought on by the war on terror such as the Patriot Act and wiretapping.

"It concerns our rights as Americans under the Constitution and it goes to the heart of why the Constitution was founded," Newman said. "Civil liberties, as an example, are why this country came into being."

ship, a biography on Hugo Black and this is a subject of great importance and sometimes overlooked importance to students as well as the rest of us and I just thought that it would hit home."

Students attending the lecture also voiced their opinions about the freedoms brought to us by



Cookin' for a Cure

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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
SIDELINES
Middle Tennessee State University
1301 East Main Street P.O. Box 8
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
Editorial: 615-904-8357 Fax: 615-494-7648
Advertising: 615-898-5240 Fax: 615-904-8193
www.mtsusidelines.com

Editor in Chief
Byron Wilkes*
sleditor@mtsu.edu

Managing Editor
Andy Harper*
slmanage@mtsu.edu

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

Photography
Jay Bailey
slphoto@mtsu.edu

Sports
Chris Welch
slsports@mtsu.edu

Production Manager
Shelley Vernon*
slsdesign@mtsu.edu

News Editor
Alex Moorman*
slnews@mtsu.edu

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

Opinions
Evan Barker*
slopinio@mtsu.edu

Copy Editor
Allison Roberts
slcopy@mtsu.edu

Business
Eveon Corl
ecorl@mtsu.edu

Features
Katy Coil
slfeature@mtsu.edu

Online
Bryan Law
slonline@mtsu.edu

* denotes member of editorial board

Freedoms, threats of being American

By ROZALIND RUTH
Contributing Writer

Gene Policinski spoke Wednesday in the Keathley University Center about the importance and threats to the freedoms of Americans in the First Amendment of the Constitution.

Policinski's presentation began with a quiz of the attendees on their knowledge of the First Amendment. He discussed the results of the 2009 State of the First Amendment Survey conducted by the First Amendment Center, which found that only four out of 100 Americans can name all five freedoms of the First Amendment.

Policinski used many other statistics from the survey, including: 30 percent of Americans don't believe that the First Amendment was meant to protect extreme faiths and 18 percent think the First Amendment goes too far to protect people's rights.

"Essentially one in five [Americans] thinks we're too free," Policinski said.

Policinski asked the audience questions such as: What is freedom of speech? When is it used? Why is it used? He said many people use it every day, but because of a lack of opposition it is not noticed.

"Frankly we don't teach much about the Bill of

Rights in high schools and universities, and part of our mission is to go out and talk about these issues."

"I'm 82 years old, and everyday I get up and ask myself these questions," said John Seigenthaler, founder of the First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University.

Jeremy Lee, a sophomore mass communications major, said he asks a lot of questions when he meets people, and if they don't answer sufficiently, he asks them again.

"My largest concern in all of this is the controversy over religion in schools," said Tyler Russ, a freshman mass

communications major.

Policinski spoke about the importance of each of the five freedoms included in the First Amendment. He warned of the power that each of them holds and the power they have when is misinterpreted. As Americans, the right and the responsibility to protect and use the Constitution is ours.

Policinski said his objective for the presentation was "the chance to remind students, faculty and visitors while we have this marvelous First Amendment, we must use it. If people were just more exposed to it, they would appreciate it and defend it more."



Photo by Erin O'Leary, staff photographer
Gene Policinski speaks to students about their First Amendment rights.

Aramark launches program allowing students to order online

By BRITTANY KLATT
Contributing Writer

Students hop from line to line trying to find the quickest route to the cashier. People whip out their cell phones in an effort to distract themselves from the long wait they face. From 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the KUC Grille becomes packed with people stuck waiting in line while trying to get a quick bite to eat before class.

This semester Aramark has launched a new program called Web Food to help shorten the lines at food venues on campus. Web Food allows students to order and pay for their food either online or at one of the kiosks located around campus. By having students pay in advance, the program is meant to increase the speed of service at some of the busiest venues

on campus.

Even though the goal of the program is to make sure students spend less time waiting in line, many of them are not using the service. Students passing by the kiosk will pause for a moment to read the direction, then jump in a line to order food.

"I don't know if I'd use that service because the lines haven't been bad," said Tyler Barnes, junior business major. "They've gotten better this year since everyone has gotten their own register."

Lani Henning, an undeclared junior, said students might not use the Web pick-up service because they "are always in a hurry and decide at the last minute to eat on campus."

Other students said the service was not being used because students are unaware of its existence.

"It's a combination of both

unfamiliarity and the fear of the unknown," said Sara Sudak, associate vice president of student services. "Hopefully students will go log in at home and play with it."

"It's a combination of both unfamiliarity and the fear of the unknown. Hopefully students will go log in at home and play with it."

SARA SUDAK
ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT SERVICES

Although the idea of ordering food through the Internet can be frightening, the process is actually simple and quick.

The first step in ordering food online is to access mtsu.webfood.com.

On the Web Food home page, users can choose to either create an account or to start ordering food. Users can create an ac-

count after they have selected their items, but for those who are often short on time, creating an account before trying to order might be quicker.

After creating an account, students need to validate their account using a link sent to their e-mail address. The users are free to order their food from anywhere with Internet access.

To browse the food selections, users need to click on the venue they want to order from and select "view menu" on the right-hand corner. Orders are placed by clicking on an item,

selecting the desired sides or add-ons, and pushing the "add item" button. Once the order is complete, students need to press "checkout." Students are able to pay with credit and debit cards, Raider Funds or Flex Dollars.

After ordering their food, students will have to go to the KUC to pick up their food. A screen located at the venue will display the names of those who have Web orders. Students whose names appear on the screen need only to go to the line that has a "Web Pickup" sign above it to receive their purchase.

One of the benefits of ordering through the web is that students can place an order with Papa John's, which is great for those last minute cram sessions. The Web site also lists the business hours for the different venues and which venues will deliver.

For those who are unable to reach a computer, ordering from one of the kiosks might be a better alternative. The process is the same as ordering from the Web site, but no account is needed, and students are given a receipt to take up to the counter.

Currently there are two kiosks on campus. One is located on the 2nd floor of the KUC across from the Grille and the other is near the main entrance of the BAS.

The only venues with Web pick-up service are Pizza Hut, Quiznos, Chik-Fil-A and Einstein Bros. Bagels. However, Sudak said that the goal is to make all food venues accessible from the Internet.

Sudak said talk about placing a venue in Peck Hall and next summer the RaiderZone will be undergoing renovations so more is coming.

CURRENT EVENTS

Surrealism, Photography and Paris

Frist Center, Nashville Tenn.
Sept. 10, 2009- Jan. 2, 2010

Twilight Visions celebrates Paris as the literal and metaphoric foundation of Surrealism and includes photographs by such artist as Man Ray, Eugene Atget, Brassai and Hans Bellmer.

George Rickey's Three Red Lines

Frist Center, Nashville Tenn.
Through Dec. 2010

Postwar American preeminent sculptor. Sculptures are composed of geometrical metal forms, which swivel on pendulums ball bearings and knife-sharp edges to follow predetermined paths in response to the slightest movement of the wind.

Bruno

Keathley University Center

Theater

Sept. 21-25

Monday through Thursday at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Fridays at 7 p.m. only

Admission: \$2

Merle Haggard

Sept. 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Ryman Auditorium in Nashville

Keith Mohr speaks at MTSU

Sept. 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Business and Aerospace Building
Christian Music Society will be hosting Keith Mohr, president and

founder of IndieHeaven.com. Keith will be speaking on the pros and cons of signing with a label versus staying independent.

When Murphy Center was KING exhibit

Sept. 24

4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Free admission

Held at the Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County, 225 W. College Street, Murfreesboro.

Grand opening of the exhibit featuring history of concert events at MTSU's Murphy Center during the 1970-90s. Contact: The Heritage Center, (615) 217-8013

Predators vs. Carolina Hurricanes

Sept. 26 at 7 p.m.

Sommet Center

Check Predators Web site for prices.

30 Rock Film Concert

Sept. 30 at 7 p.m.

Wright Music Building

Admission: Free

Dick Williams' MTSU Record Label course (RIM 4810) guides students into the music business by giving them hands-on experience in recording, songwriting, music publishing, artist management, business affairs, A&R, Internet marketing, record promotion and music history.



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OPINIONS

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

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Learn your rights and hold yourself accountable

Last week, MTSU hosted "Constitution Week," sponsored by the John Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies.

The Constitution, in its entirety, is the most important document to our country, government and culture.

As journalists, our favorite part is obviously the First Amendment. After all, it does guarantee our jobs.

But after listening to some of the Constitution Day speakers, we're starting to wonder how important the First Amendment is to everyone else, especially students.

Last Thursday's panel of John Seigenthaler, Elaine Jones and Richard Land reminded us that the First Amendment is not "self-enforcing" and "takes energy, effort and somebody stepping out on the line" to protect our five basic rights as citizens of the United States of America.

We're wondering who will be the ones to step into the line of fire for our rights — especially when the average American college student can only name about two of the five rights protected under the First Amendment. The two are usually freedom of speech and religion — guess the press isn't that important.

All are important, but it seems as a country we've made the last two rights — protest and the ability to kick public officials out of office — into trivialities. Long since has passed the days of sit-ins and mass protests committed to policy change. Public officials are more scared of scandals than impeachment.

Freedom of religion, speech and press are important, but without the last two rights, we cannot maintain the first three. If our government is not upholding our first three rights, we can tell them in unison or get rid of them.

This leads to the overall point. It is our job, duty, responsibility — or whatever "patriotic" term you choose — to learn and speak out for our rights guaranteed by the very government that we support.

We as citizens don't answer to the government, they answer to us. We entrust the government to protect us, organize us and keep our country running. But we must remember that the exchange is we have the right to tell them how to do their jobs.

Below we've printed the First Amendment right. It isn't to be snarky or imply that our readers don't know what it is. We are honored to have the right to print this. And it should serve as a reminder, to ourselves as a newspaper and to the community we serve that our rights as Americans are innate and are ours.

First Amendment:
Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Zimbabwe dangerously unstable

The United States isn't the only country suffering through a financial crisis. Zimbabwe has longed toiled with skyscraping inflation, high unemployment rates and rampant corruption in the government.

The Central Bank of Zimbabwe has produced a Z\$100 trillion note. It also will be producing the Z\$50 trillion, Z\$20 trillion and Z\$10 trillion notes as well. One Z\$10 trillion note is equivalent to about \$300 in the U.S.

As if things could get any worse, since July the inflation rate has reached 231 million percent. According to BBC News, the annual core inflation of U.S. is at 2.4 percent for comparison.

“If President Robert Mugabe does not step down so that Zimbabwe can receive help, the country will cease to exist.”

If President Robert Mugabe does not step down so that Zimbabwe can receive help, the country will cease to exist.

Mugabe has been the president of Zimbabwe for several decades. When he was elected, his goal was to rid the country of Anglo-Saxon rule. He was going to lead a revolution that would allow



Perceptions

Jessica Harris

the country to be rid of its unwanted residents, reclaim land and save Zimbabwe.

Not only was his plan ridiculous but it sent one of Africa's most prosperous countries into a downward spiral. Water sanitation, public schools and hospitals are a few critical pieces of

infrastructure that continue to disintegrate. According to The New York Times, Zimbabwe was recently hit by a cholera epidemic due to human waste contaminating a water supply. Mugabe announced that the epidemic was over just after the World Health Organization reported that the plague had a death toll of 780 and was be-

coming gravely dangerous.

Mugabe has outlived his usefulness, holding tight of the country. He won't go down without a fight.

Human rights are another issue that is no concern of the 85-year-old leader. Freedom of assembly, shelter, food and protection of the law are a few things that the remaining people of Zimbabwe go without.

In 1980, Mugabe started out promising, but he recently refused to step down from presidency after losing the election last year. He has become a dictator who won't quit. The game has been over for 30 years. He has had that long to get it right and has proven he is not a suitable leader.

His opponent, Morgan Tsvangirai, agreed to share power only to reduce the violent uprisings that took place. However, Mugabe has not held up his end of the deal.

Tsvangirai claims that Mugabe is guilty of stalling the election and harassing his supporters. His opponents have a history of dying under mysterious circumstances or have fled the country for safety. Tsvangirai's wife died in a suspicious car accident on the way home from the capital. Many believed it was an assassination attempt on



Photo courtesy of Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Lock (USAF) Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, seen in January 2008.

Tsvangirai himself.

Zimbabwe needs to receive aid so it can start rebuilding. Keeping Mugabe in power only prolongs the slow death of this country. Mugabe is ignorant of the people's needs because he only wants to secure his power. Zimbabwe cannot thrive and flourish as a country, let alone make a contribution to its neighbors or the world.

Being president of any country is a service job, and the people's needs are not being met. Mugabe feels that everything will work its self out. "These Anglo-Saxon nations are giving us problems...Leave us alone." He believes that the problems of Zimbabwe are due to the legacy of imperialism

caused by Westerners.

Zimbabwe can be a great country again. It can receive help from the international community, the African Union, G20 and the UN. When the reform happens, Western countries will then release aid.

People will return to Zimbabwe instead of fleeing to overcrowded neighboring countries in search of employment. It is not an overnight fix, but it needs a long-term plan with laws that will prevent this from happening again. It can only begin if Mugabe steps down as president.

Jessica Harris is a junior journalism major and can be reached at jh3y@mtsu.edu

Sound bite politics irresponsible

I'm not one for uncivilized discourse. I have always had the mindset that if two parties involved in an argument cannot see the bigger picture of an issue and what is needed to resolve it, then there is no point in engaging. The word "civility" seems to be a concept that many have thrown out the window. Before the past few months, I was an optimist. I really did believe that shout-fests and name-calling were reserved for young people like ourselves, who sometimes get caught up in the heat of the moment, and for political pundits on television who are just looking to increase their ratings in the end. That all changed for me during and after the presidential election of 2008.

Sound bites and political scare tactics seemed to become the name of the game. Phrases such as "terrorist," "socialism," "Joe the Plumber" and others broke their way through the surface. People around the nation instantly took grasp of all these and ran with them. To me, it seemed like the final line had been drawn.

Where did it go wrong? Where is it headed? To be honest, I really don't know. Many people seem to have taken the route I have chosen: to become a sideline observer. After the election I began to tell myself that if I just watch everything



I'm just sayin'

Sam Ashby

and not get involved with the arguing and name calling, then maybe I could positively benefit from all of it. I thought, if I can keep my head straight and try to find the truth, then maybe I could have a better-informed opinion when I do want to make a case for a certain argument. Many Americans, like myself, feel let down. Not only by the politicians who were elected to serve them, but also by the news media. I believe this is one component in a series of events and attitudes that have changed the way the public views not only public policy, but also world events, entertainment news, etc. With all of this happening, with all the noise coming in from every possible direction, it's easy to say "that's enough" and never engage in any of it.

One problem many recognize is

the seemingly increasing rise of non-objective news. Every night, millions of television viewers turn on their TVs to watch Bill O'Reilly, Glenn Beck, Wolf Blitzer, Lou Dobbs and countless others deliver the "news." Americans are smart; we can see through the slant they present. But unfortunately, it seems now many only want to hear the things that back up their beliefs. Many seem unwilling to listen to opinions that are different from theirs, for fear that

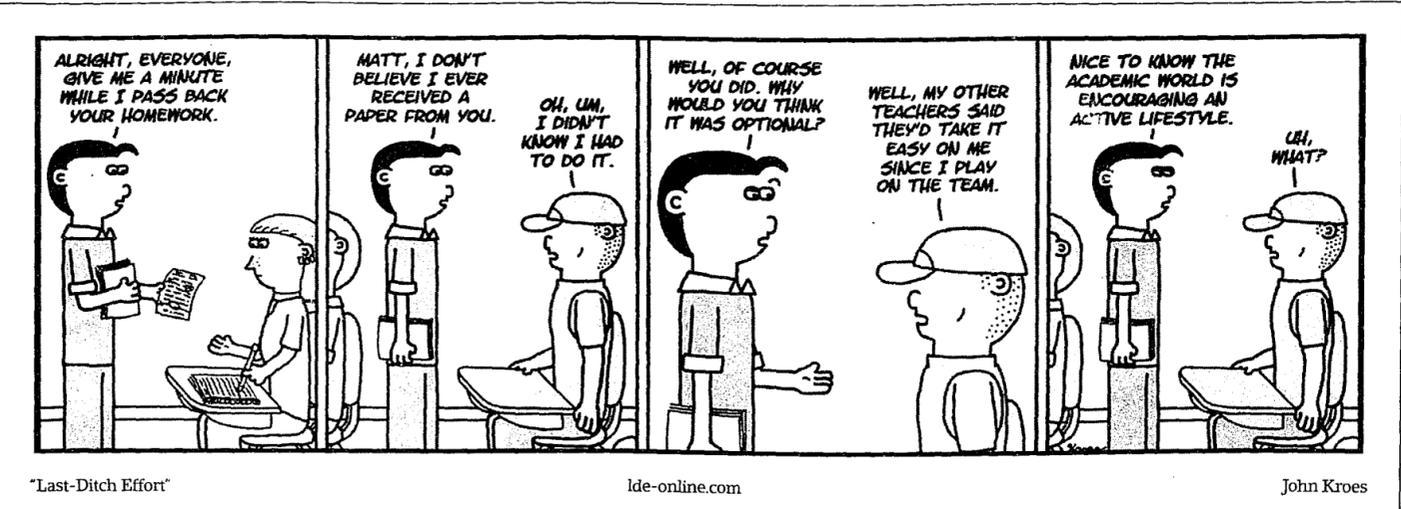
of what is really happening?" There seems to be a silver lining in all of this, though. With the rise of social media, many have taken the responsibility of reporting the news and made it their own. Web sites such as CNN's iReport and YouTube's Citizen Tube channel offer regular, everyday people a chance to tell the story that is actually happening without the influence of spin doctors or big media executives. Additionally, channels such as PBS are

“Unfortunately, it seems now many only want to hear the things that back up their beliefs. Many seem unwilling to listen to opinions that are different from theirs, for fear that their own may change.”

their own may change. In the end this will only have a harmful effect, not only on those who don't want to know the other side, but also on the entire nation. When we are given the freedom to choose the information we listen to and internalize, we are given an awesome power. When choosing information, it might be important to ask a series of questions, such as "Does the information come from a reliable source?" and "Does this give an accurate picture

usually —not all the time— said to have more of a non-biased point of view with news programs such as Frontline. Ultimately, we as consumers have the power to choose in the end. It is up to each of us to decide just what we want to think and, ultimately, contribute to this country and the world.

Sam Ashby is a freshman journalism major and can be reached at sa2s@mtsu.edu



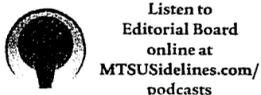
"Last-Ditch Effort"

lde-online.com

John Kroes



Check out the discussion and commentary surrounding recent letters to the editor online at mtsusidelines.com



MTSU students ignoring budget crisis

By BRETT JOHNSON
Guest Columnist

In the spring semester of 2009, MTSU made large budget cuts in an effort to reduce the squeeze caused by the ailing economy. As a result of these budget cuts, a number of programs were cut, a group of professors had their pay reduced and part-time teachers were cut as a larger teaching load was placed on full-time professors. Many students saw this as a great atrocity. In fact, the negativity could be heard from faculty and students alike.

In light of this negativity I would like to shed some light on a problem that I feel has been overlooked for some time—the irresponsibility and neglect of students for their own college education. High school is over, children. It is time to cut ourselves from the herd and act like adults, or at least as persons concerned with our future and the means which gets us there.

One of those means is our university. Granted, there was not much students could do about the cuts. There were rallies, meetings and things of that sort which are, in fact, great ways to exercise our obligations as students.

Yet as I look around, I see a populace of students more concerned with their social regard than they are about what they have to gain from their university, or what their university can gain from them. Only when things became increasingly dire did students become really organized, really involved, really concerned and by then, it was too late.

Too often we see this kind of trend, in which people are only truly concerned when the problem has reached its zenith. In the time it takes to organize and to act, it is too late. Our economy, the entity that brings these arguments to point in the first place, is ailing in large part because those who were in a position to do something did what they could while the rest of us watched and waited. This track of thought simply will not do. We as a student body need to become more aware of the bureaucracy of our university. We as a student body need not be satisfied, but to question, to learn and to educate ourselves in what we can do to build a more focused, more productive and more intuitive university. We need to start now.

Brett Johnson is a sophomore English major and can be reached at baj3d@mtsu.edu

US stands idle in energy race

Germany and China are taking our cookies.

In racing slang, "to take one's cookies" is to beat someone in a race. If racing for pink slips, it means the winner keeps the loser's car. It's what happens when you show up late or unprepared.

In his column Tuesday, Thomas Friedman of the New York Times explains how other countries are seizing golden opportunities whilst the United States is busy with internal squabbles ("Have a Nice Day," New York Times, Sept. 15). The countries with initiative are the ones who are about to take our cookies, and they're not all friends of ours.

Friedman mentions a U.S. company that makes high-tech solar equipment. Almost all of its sales are overseas to the two biggest players in solar power: Germany and China. This is the part where dollars fly and ideologies clash.

As has been made abundantly clear by reactionaries of all kinds, Germany is a socialist country in some ways, and China is a communist country in some ways. It is generally agreed that these countries handle their respective economies in a more hands-on way. Either way, they are anathema to fans of laissez-faire or "free-market" economics. Either way, they're winning the energy arms race.

I use quotation marks because the so-called "free market" is a fallacy. It does not exist. It has not existed in the history of the United States of America, and most other countries on the globe have already admitted the same of their own economies. Clinging to the archaic notion of the free market—as it is currently defined by orthodox laissez-faire economists—will help other countries take our cookies.

To understand why the free market isn't free, one must take subsidies into consideration. For decades, we've subsidized defense contractors, aerospace, big agriculture, heavy manufacturing and most of all, energy. Meddling in the economy is our standard operating procedure. The "free market" is as free as the proverbial free lunch; it isn't. We, the people, through our government, pay companies to have their way on a massive scale.

The only distinction to be made is deciding in what way to meddle, and for Republicans and coal state Democrats, the answer has always been in favor of giving the energy



The Pen is Mightier

Evan Barker

industry a leg up. Cheap energy, if good for business, must therefore be good for everyone, right? Well, no.

In 1992, at the end of the first Bush administration, the coal industry was subsidized to the tune of \$1.1 billion per year, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

A recent study by the Environmental Law Institute examined energy industry subsidies for the fiscal years 2002-2008. The study found that the various forms of fossil fuels received a nauseating \$72 billion in government subsidies in that period. That amounts to more than \$10 billion per year for nonrenewable fossil fuels. Renewable energy, in contrast, received approximately \$29 billion in subsidies during the same period, or just over \$4 billion per year, half of which went to corn-based ethanol, the energy equivalent of premium snake oil. That leaves less than \$15 billion over seven years, or just over \$2 billion a year in subsidies to actual renewable energy.

How's that for a free market?

Keep in mind that for the past several years energy companies have shattered profit records left and right. The fossil fuel industries have enjoyed a direct handout from the government for a long time, from many administrations and from all of us.

There are hidden costs as well. Taxpayers who pay for gasoline and home electricity out-of-pocket, pay for the subsidies through taxes, which are a direct loss of wealth, hitting the lower and middle classes the hardest. In the meantime, the companies that provide the energy make obscene amounts of money as the cost to consumers skyrockets.

If it were on a flow chart, it would look like this: you pay more, the government pays more, the energy companies keep more, the supplies diminish and the prices go up, circling back to the beginning, where

you pay more.

Now, if we accept that our government meddles in the markets, and we should because it is obvious, than this problem has a solution. Philosophically, subsidies are an expression on behalf of the government that some things are too important to wait for the "invisible hand of the free market" to push them along. Think of the Manhattan Project or the Hoover Dam. However, they're supposed to go away when the nascent industry reaches adulthood. It is safe to say that the fossil fuel energy industries are well grown up.

The fact is, Germany can be socialist and China can be communist, and they can both take our cookies in the solar race because we stand idly by and let it happen. It doesn't matter how other countries obtain fully-grown renewable energy; it only matters if they have it and we don't. They are doing the intelligent thing: using their resources to subsidize the development of these technologies, while the U.S. uses its much larger subsidies to squeeze blood from the proverbial fossil fuel turnip.

At this point, critics such as industry lobbyists and oil millionaires cry

junk from China or oil from the Middle East. We need to be the country that sells the rest of the world on renewable energy and becomes massively wealthy again in the process.

In the recent economic turmoil, manufacturing was shredded. There are plenty of factories and workers ready and willing to take up a new torch, if it gets them back to work. In the glory days of American manufacturing, expansion both in and out of the country produced staggering profits, employed armies of workers and fueled the rise of the middle class. Now, we see the opposite. The middle class shrinks, as factory workers are laid off and menial labor is exported overseas. By the way, unemployment is over 10 percent.

The last thing that the U.S. has to offer the global economy is our innovation. We pioneered many of the best technologies in renewable energy, the kind that other countries are seizing. If our government were to subsidize them like it subsidizes the obsolete fossil fuel industry, we would be the manufacturing leaders of the 21st century, selling the world the energy solution that it desperately needs if it is to remain habitable.

“Germany can be socialist and China can be communist and they can win the solar race because we stand idly by and let them. It doesn't matter how others obtain renewable energy; it only matters if they have it and we don't.”

foul that the coal and oil industries are being singled out. This is true, if they refer to their preferential treatment. Much of the subsidies of oil go towards foreign trade, i.e. buying oil from other countries.

As eminent oilman T. Boone Pickens rightly points out, this represents the single largest transfer of wealth in the history of humankind. We pay the oil companies to make profit from shipping our money to Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Kuwait and yes, Iran.

This will be a very serious long-term problem. Think big picture: the U.S. rose to superpower status by manufacturing goods that other countries wanted. Other countries sent us money and we sent them goods. In the past several decades, the converse of this has been true. In a trade deficit situation, we send money out, and receive goods in return. Think of what we're getting, though. From China, we get plastic Wal-Mart knickknacks, electronics, clothing and other consumer goods. From the Middle East, we get oil. We send away the money, then throw out the goods and burn the oil, and are left with nothing.

Renewable energy is the most obvious solution to all of these problems.

China has realized that its environment will simply not sustain its growth to the status of the U.S. If it burned enough coal to make as much energy per capita as we use here, air pollution would be a catastrophic public health problem. Simply put, China needs renewable energy because it cannot survive the use of fossil fuels.

Incidentally, China owns a frightening portion of the U.S. national debt, and is not to be trifled with.

The rest of the intelligent world knows that population growth will make fossil fuels unusable. The countries that get ahead of the curve and meet manufacturing demands for the new technology will be the equivalent of OPEC in the coming years. The U.S. doesn't need cheap

Subsidies are key. Free marketers will complain bitterly, but they've already lost. The "free market" doesn't exist, remember? We've subsidized many giant industries for years, some for our benefit, some to our detriment. Besides, if we don't use our subsidies to build an alternative energy empire, China, Germany and a host of others will do it. They are well on the way to becoming massively wealthy by selling our own technologies back to us.

In this case, a New Deal-type liberal approach is absolutely necessary, and absolutely the only way to quickly re-align our retching national economy. The money is already there; it's being spent to convince people to allow oil drilling off of their favorite coastlines and to allow the tops to be blown off of the Appalachian mountains in search of coal.

This is still the USA, possessing wealth beyond that of other nations, for now. We are in a precarious place, but it is certainly within our power to lead the charge into the age of renewable energy, if we quit listening to the energy companies crying crocodile tears.

We need to end the subsidies to fossil fuel production and redirect the same money to renewable energy. This wouldn't even require spending any more than we currently spend. The effects would be thousands of factory workers going back to work and wealth flowing into our country for the first time in decades.

This, more than healthcare or war, is our most pressing issue. If President Barack Obama accomplishes one thing in his tenure in office, let him accomplish this, and instead of the New Deal, let him call it the Good Deal. It would certainly be better than the deal we have now.

Evan Barker is a senior English major and the Opinions Editor of Sidelines. He can be reached at slopinio@mtsu.edu

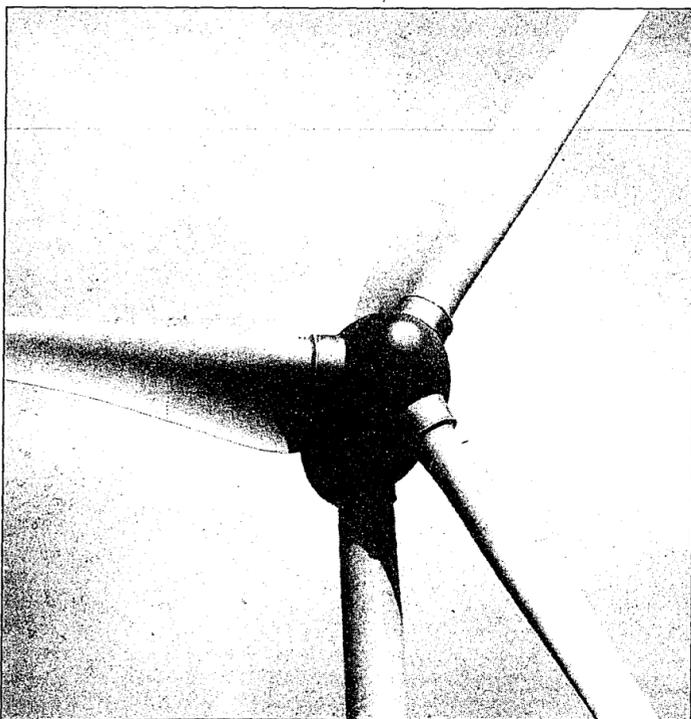
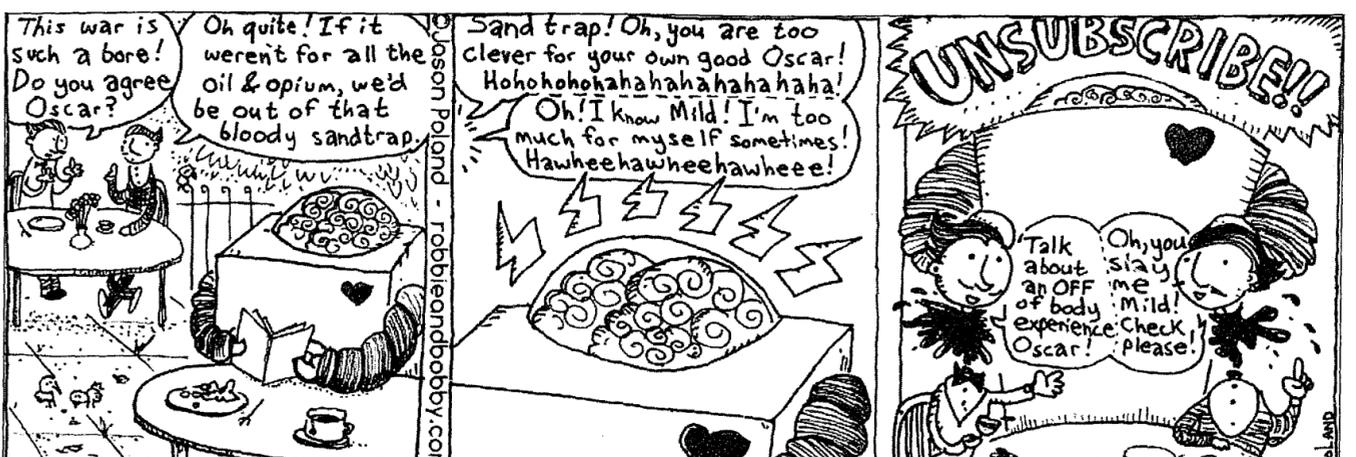


Photo courtesy of morguefile.com



"Robbie and Bobby"

robbieandbobby.com

Jason Poland

Sidelines is still accepting applications and submissions for writers and photographers.

See us in Mass Comm, 269

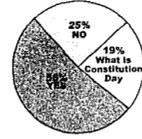
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Photo by Tatiana Johnson, contributing photographer

The above photo depicts the fast-paced energy that can be seen outside of Bryant Park where the runway shows are held for the 2010 Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week in New York during the week of Sept. 13-20.

Student visits New York seeking trends

A student's unique experiences
covering Fashion Week 2010

By TATIANA JOHNSON
Contributing Writer

New York City became the ultimate playground this past week. MTV's Video Music Awards and music mogul Jay-Z's benefit concert were among the events that took place, not to mention the anniversary of the tragic day of Sept. 11.

But if you were a fellow New York native or have a passion for fashion, you know that for a week straight everything revolved around one main event, the Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week Spring 2010.

As an MTSU student and magazine writer, I was fortunate enough to cover the show from a professional and attendee's viewpoint.

From waking up early to catch the train, to walking long blocks to countless interviews with volunteers to designers, work became fun.

If you're not familiar with what New York Fashion Week is, imagine the Super Bowl, but high-fashion attire and celebrities from all industries in the place of football.

The Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week's Spring 2010 collections brought people from all parts of the world to view designers' newest pieces.

Held once a year to display the upcoming spring/summer collections in September, then fall/winter in February, Fashion Week celebrated another exciting season for all to enjoy.

Being among celebrities, flashing lights and the best in fashion gave me such an overwhelming feeling. Covering for my second year, I found this year to be more star-studded, along with brighter fashions.

I was able to attend the Ports 1961 spring 2010 runway presentation.

The Ports 1961 show was very unique. Even the invitation, a small handheld paper fan, matched the symmetrically designed pale pinks and grays of the clothing.

The show drew in numerous attendees, and I was able to interview Ivanka Trump, daughter of multi-millionaire Donald Trump. I even passed super model Chanel Iman.

Along with pictures, there were a lot of perks, such as food, contact information and even place to charge my phone.

It is important to note that while attending shows, the scheduling is very hectic. Usually at this time people are calling to do interviews, sending e-mails and updating their media outlet to report to their readers. Runway shows are back to back, and between that are interviews with the celebrity attendees and designers, which are on a first come, first serve basis.

Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week kicked off with "Fashion's Night Out," which asked everyone to do their part to strengthen the spirit of fashion, get excited about buying new clothes, support the economy, and keep fashion fun and stylish.

Every fashion retailer across the five boroughs remained open until 11 p.m. or later. Retailers included, H&M, Sean John, Victoria's Secret, other mainstream chains, tiny boutiques and massive department stores.

This day definitely showed those who couldn't attend runway shows that there was still plenty to do.

All events during Fashion's Night Out were free to the public and helped to raise money for Sept. 11 victims. Selected retailers had the official Fashion's Night Out T-shirt, all of which went to the victims.

Walking down the street I saw business mogul Russell Simmons in a navy blue Maybach, while Roc Nation recording artist Melanie Fiona hosted a lavish listening party while taking pictures and signing autographs for fans. Not too far down the street the aroma of frozen treats and cookies met my senses at the door.

Grammy Award-winning producer Pharrell Williams held a cocktail party in his own boutique, Ice Cream store, filled with cupcakes, champagne and music. "Sex and the City" star Sarah Jessica Parker made her way to Macy's on 34th street as well.

Imagine, this was only the first two days of New York Fashion Week. It seemed like



Photo by Tatiana Johnson, contributing photographer

Sara Pickett (left) gives Amber Thompkins (right) a manicure. Pickett is the co-creator of Liz & Ginger Manicure station that hosted one of the events during the parties after the runway shows.

yesterday when I sat in Mrs. Robinson's Introduction to Fashion class, just hearing about Fashion Week. Being able to have attended Fashion Week is still shocking after being there.

Being in the city that never sleeps, I found my last day the most successful day ever. I networked my way into an all-out lavish lounge event. I received free beauty products, vouchers and tickets to Broadway plays next time I'm in town.

I ended up staying out until the wee hours of 4 a.m., not to mention, I met the general manager of "The Source Magazine" and music editor of "Fader Magazine."

Although I only was able to spend a total of three days in New York, I got a great deal done. It became clearer to me what I wanted to do in life, while taking what I learned from MTSU with me.

Even though Tennessee is in the South, education can take you far. A mixture of marketing, a pinch of socializing, a sprinkle of navigation and a tablespoon of ambition took me all over New York City.

If you are heavy into fashion, attending Fashion Week is a dream come true.

If you are not into fashion, you may have found it interesting because the clothing that you wear now was displayed two years ago.

I can definitely say it was worth missing a day of class.

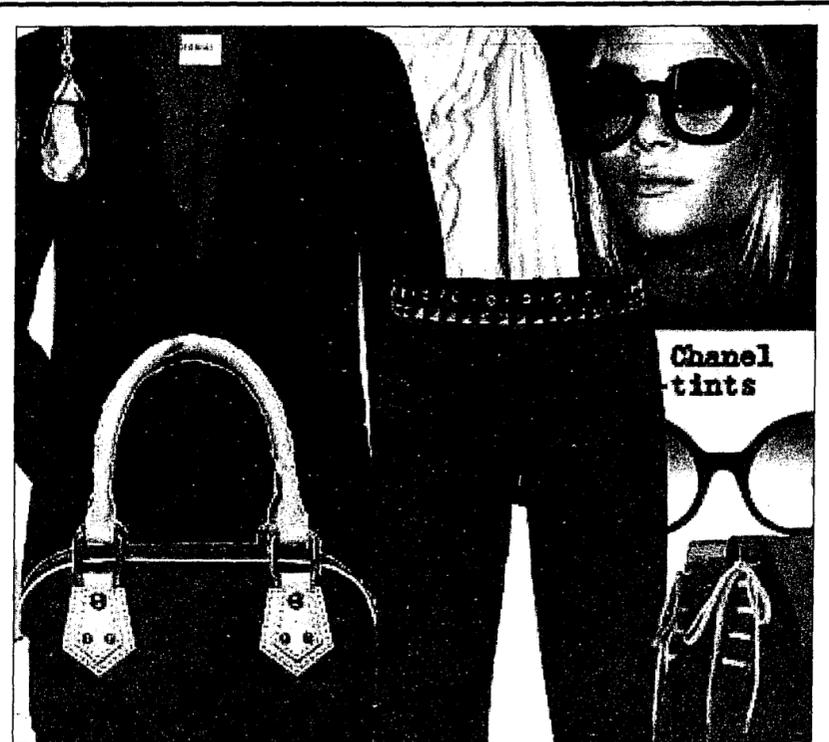


Photo illustration by Tatiana Johnson, contributing photographer

Tatiana's Fashion Forecast

So now that wearing your boyfriend's jeans are the cool thing to do, don't stop there. The official Boyfriend Blazer is the new must have item.

Oversized and rolled up mid-arm gives a simple yet stylish look to a regular T-shirt and jeans.

Don't worry if you're a single lady, thrift stores make it possible for everyone to enjoy fashion.

But if you're in the mood to spend a little more for retailers such as Gap, have them galore.

"The Look"

Boyfriend Blazer

Boyfriend jeans

Oversized sunglasses

Booties (ankle boots)

Ruffled shirt

Hobo bag (large purse)

SPORTS

No revenge for Maryland Terrapins

Last second Gendreau kick drives Blue Raider victory against BCS conference opponent

By STEPHEN CURLEY
Staff Writer

Sophomore kicker Alan Gendreau nailed a 19-yard field goal after a 73-yard drive led by Junior quarterback Dwight Dasher to give the Blue Raiders a 32-21 victory over the University of Maryland in College Park, Md. Saturday.

The eight-play drive took the final 1:30 of the fourth quarter and included a 35-yard pass to senior receiver Chris McClover, who ran the ball all the way to the Maryland ten yard line. Dasher completed three other passes on the drive to finish a perfect 4-4 for 65 yards.

The win is MT's first road win over a BCS-conference team since 2005 when it defeated Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

"That was a great win," head coach Rick Stockstill said. "I would think this is the biggest win ever for our program on the road. To come into an ACC stadium and beat a good team like Maryland is tremendous for our football team."

The Terrapins got things started in the first quarter when running back Da'Rel Scott broke a 48-yard run for the game's first touchdown. Scott would finish as the game's leading rusher, with 117 yards on 13 carries.

After senior punter David Defatta stuck the Terrapins at their own 8-yard line, sophomore safety Derrick Crumpton intercepted a pass from UM's Chris Turner to give the Blue Raiders possession inside the UM 30-yard line. After an offsides penalty on fourth down, Dasher was able to run it in from three yards out. UM would block the extra point, however, making it a 7-6 game.

On the first play of Maryland's ensuing possession, Scott was stripped of the ball by senior linebacker Danny Carmichael, which senior defensive end Chris McCoy



File photo
Juniors safety Kevin Brown and defensive back Rod Isaac scramble to block a punt. Isaac took 15 tackles, 11 alone, in the 32-31 win against Maryland on Saturday night.

promptly fell on to give the Blue Raiders another possession deep in Terrapin territory. The first play was a 27-yard completion by senior receiver Desmond Gee to sophomore receiver Malcolm Beyah to take MT down to the Maryland 2-yard line.

Two plays later Dasher found sophomore receiver Sancho McDonald from seven yards out for the touchdown. The extra point would give the Blue Raiders a 13-7 lead.

MT would force another turnover with 9:44 mark in the second quarter, but could not convert it into points. The Terrapins would drive down the field but be held to a 31-

yard field goal attempt, which was blocked by McCoy.

MT's possession would be short lived, as they recovered a Dasher fumble to take back over at the 19-yard line. Running back Davin Meggett would run it in from the 1-yard line at the 1:19 mark to give the Terrapins a 14-13 lead.

The Blue Raiders finished the first half by putting together a long drive, but ended with Cameron Chism intercepting Dasher's pass in Maryland territory.

Maryland would start the second-half with a long drive capped off by a 37-yard pass by Turner to receiver Torrey

Smith to give the Terrapins a 21-13 lead at the 12:22 mark of the third quarter.

MT would cut the lead back to one at the 6:25 mark with a six-yard run by Gee.

After trading possessions, Carmichael would strip Scott of the ball again, giving the Blue Raiders another possession which they turned into three points to take a 23-21 lead at the end of third quarter.

It didn't take long for the Terrapins to answer in the fourth. At the 13:01 mark Turner hit Smith for a 64-yard touchdown pass to put Maryland back on top, 28-23.

At the 9:04 mark, on a

fourth and inches play, Dasher hit junior receiver Garrett Andrews for a 32-yard touchdown. They would fail the two-point conversion, however, to only come away with a 29-28 lead.

Maryland's final points would come on their next drive, with kicker Nick Ferrarra hit a 42-yard field goal at the 6:14 mark to give the Terrapins a 31-29 lead. Chism would pick off Dasher to set Maryland up at the MT 42-yard line. MT's defense would hold however, forcing a 42-yard field goal attempt by Ferrarra, who couldn't connect this time.

Dasher finished the game

with a career high 324 yards on 27 completions out of 44 attempts. McClover led all MT receivers with seven catches for 110 yards, while sophomore running back D.D. Kyles led the rushing attack with just 34 yards.

For Maryland, Turner would finish 19-30 for 288 yards and two touchdowns, with Scott leading the rush with 117 yards. Smith finished with 165 receiving yards.

The Blue Raiders begin their Sun Belt Conference schedule Saturday when they travel to Denton, Texas to play the University of North Texas.

Sangau runs for second at WKU Old Timers'

Junior distance runner paces Blue Raider track team for third straight runner-up placement

Player of the Week

Zamzam Signau



Class: Junior

Position: Distance

Height: 5-6

Previous School:

Kyambog University

Hometown:

Kampala, Uganda

MTSU Track

By CHRIS WELCH
Sports Editor

Junior Zamzam Sangau was the runner up at the Western Kentucky University Old Timers meet in Bowling Green, Ky., on Saturday.

Sangau led all Blue Raider runners and finished as runner up for the third straight week. The Kampala, Uganda native placed second last week at the UTC Opener and second

two weeks ago at the Belmont Opener.

Sangau ran the first 5,000 meter race of the Blue Raiders' 2009 schedule and proved herself among the top runners in the full championship distance after having shown success in the shorter races she ran earlier in the season.

In addition to Sangau, Marla Bailey and Jackie Serem had strong races and continued their Spring 2009 success.

“All and all, the teams ran well. We got a chance to see that we can compete against Western Kentucky, who will be one of our biggest challenges at the Sun Belt Championships. Our teams had some hard workouts this week and they are continuing to get better each week.”

DEAN HAYES
HEAD COACH, MIDDLE TENNESSEE TRACK AND FIELD

Amber Kassuba led the Blue Raider freshman squad for the second straight week.

Freshmen Stephanie Smith and Kristen Tithof did not compete because of injuries.

"The top three ran well and we had some injuries," head coach Dean Hayes said. "We need to sure up our fourth and fifth spot on the roster, but should be ready when it is time for the Sun Belt championships."

Festus Chemaoui led the Blue Raider men's team for the third straight week after he placed third overall in the men's 8,000-meter race. Fellow runners William Songock and Chris Mason rounded out the top three MT finishes. Isaac Biwott and David Emery also continued to improve in the fourth and fifth spots.

"All and all, the teams ran well," Hayes said. "We got a chance to see that we can compete against Western Kentucky who will be one

of our biggest challenges at the Sun Belt Championships. Our teams had some hard workouts this week and they are continuing to get better each week."

Both teams travelled to Bowling Green ranked in the top 10 by the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA). This is the first time in the program's history that both teams have been ranked at the same time, and the first time the women's team has been ranked in the USTFCCCA South Region.

"I am proud of both teams," Hayes said. "This is the first time this season the women's team has earned a ranking. They have worked really hard and run well. This gives them something early in the season."

The track teams will return to action when they travel back to Kentucky to participate in the Greater Louisville Classic. Results will be available at mtsusidelines.com.

MT volleyball ends downward slide

Kozon, Blue Raiders take road trip to UT-San Antonio to take on Huskies, Roadrunners in tournament

By ETHAN LANNOM
Contributing Writer

Middle Tennessee volleyball traveled to the UT-San Antonio Classic this weekend. The Blue Raiders were in the midst of a five-game losing streak over the last two weekends.

MTSU began the tournament on Friday with a

led the team with eight kills, while Stacy Oladinni and Ashley Mead each posted seven.

Although Middle Tennessee did not experience the serving woes they had in the previous weekend, they could not find a way to pull out a victory against the Huskies.

Washington took the first

This was Middle Tennessee's sixth consecutive loss and second straight to a top-25 opponent. This is the team's longest losing streak since 2003 when the Blue Raiders lost seven in a row from September 20 to October 8.

On Saturday, Middle Tennessee played UT-San Antonio to end play at the tournament.

The Blue Raiders played well at the net, with senior Ashley Mead and junior Izabela Kozon each having 11 kills to lead the team. Stacy Oladinni also had eight kills to support the effort.

Mead ended the first set with six kills as the team posted 13. UTSA ended the first set with just seven kills.

Mead would continue to lead the team at the end of the second set with eight kills. Kozon and Oladinni added six and five kills, respectively, at the end of the

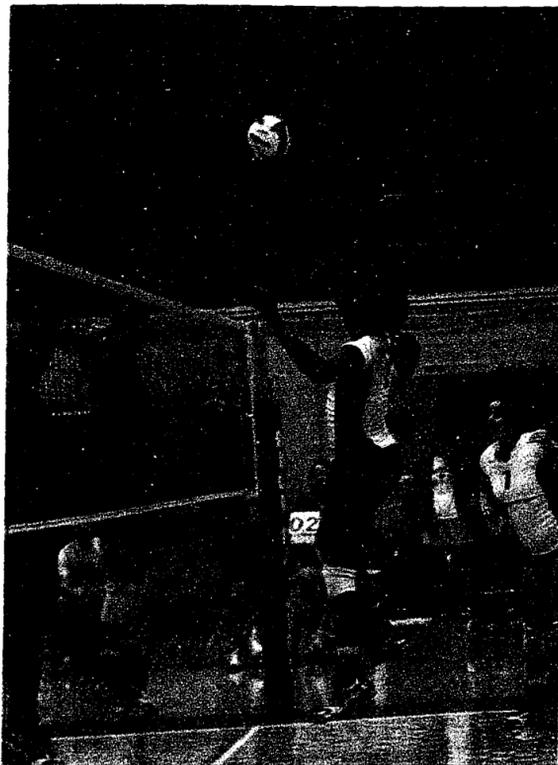
second set.

The two teams battled it out in the third set, with MT staying close to UTSA. An Oladinni kill clenched the match for the Blue Raiders.

"In spite of our six match losing streak, we came out and played a good team very well today," stated head coach Matt Peck. "As we approach our conference season, I feel we have turned the corner, and I think playing a strong schedule like we have will help us in the end."

MT played well to win in straight sets over the Roadrunners, 25-12, 25-14, and 25-21. Their record is now at an even 6-6.

The Blue Raiders' next match will be against UAB in Birmingham on September 22. The team will then return home to Alumni Memorial Gym to open Sun Belt Conference play against Western Kentucky on September 25.



File photo
Sophomore hitter Lindsay Cheatham sets up to block the spike.

“As we approach our conference season, I feel we have turned the corner, and I think playing a strong schedule, like [the one] we have, will help us in the end.”

MATT PECK
HEAD COACH, MIDDLE TENNESSEE VOLLEYBALL

tough test, taking on No. 3 ranked Washington. No Blue Raider recorded double-digit kills in the match.

Junior Izabela Kozon

set easily 25-15. The Blue Raiders fought hard in the second set to keep it close but fell 25-22. The Huskies rolled in the third set, taking it 25-7.

Women's soccer takes weekend win at Austin Peay

By CHRIS WELCH
Sports Editor

The Blue Raiders scored twice early on and never looked back to dominate in a 5-0 victory at Austin Peay in soccer action Friday evening in Clarksville, Tenn. The game was the final non-conference match for the Blue Raiders' campaign.

"It was a good game for the entire team, especially having the chance to get everyone minutes, which is a positive as we head into conference play," head coach Aston Rhoden said. "To enter the conference season with not only a win, but a dominating win, gives us an edge and some confidence."

Sophomore Hope Suominen got the scoring started for MT with her first goal of the season on an assist with the help of sophomore Regina Thomas at 5:46. Thomas was then credited with her second helper of the match, at 15:36, when she assisted junior teammate Vanessa Mueggler.

Aside from the two early goals, the Blue Raider offense controlled much of the action during the opening 45 minutes, outshooting the Lady Goves 9-3 during the period.

MT tacked on one more mark before the half ended, at 39:30, as Elisabeth Sikes found conference-leading scorer sophomore Shan Jones. The score is Jones' third in the last three games and her seventh overall in the 2009 season.

After the half, the Blue Raiders continued their offensive push by holding a 14-to-8 margin on shot at-

“It was a good game for the entire team, especially having the chance to get everyone minutes, which is a positive as we head into conference play.”

ASTON RHODEN
HEAD COACH OF MTSU WOMEN'S SOCCER

tempts over Austin Peay.

Freshman Whitney Jorgenson closed the scoring with two unassisted goals, her fourth and fifth tallies of the season, at the 60:26 and 64:30 marks, respectively.

Each MT player who was on the trip got minutes, including all three goalkeepers, who split the shutout for the second team blanking their season. Sophomore Rebecca Cushing received her eighth career start and played the first 63:10 before giving way to freshman Jes-

sica Gilchrist for 19:41. Senior Erynn Murray then took over in between the pipes and was on the field for the final 7:09.

Of the 23 attempted MT shots, 19 were on goal, forcing the APSU pair of goalies to register 14 saves. Jorgenson paced the squad with six shots while Mueggler added four for MT.

Jazzmine Chandler and Mary Beth Burchett led

the Lady Goves with two shots apiece.

The Blue Raiders continue their strong start to the season by increasing their record to 6-1-1, the second best start in school history. Only the 2006 squad had a better record through eight games in the 14-year history of the program.

MT will open its Sun Belt portion of the schedule at 7 p.m. this Friday when it plays host to FIU at Dean A. Hayes Track and Soccer Stadium.

SPORTS CALENDAR	Sunday	Men's Tennis, Southern Intercollegiate
	Monday	Men's Tennis, Southern Intercollegiate
	Tuesday	Volleyball at UAB (7PM)
	Wednesday	Head Coach Rick Stockstill on 560am @ 11:20PM
	Thursday	
	Friday	Women's Soccer vs. FIU (7PM) Volleyball vs. WKU (6PM)

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