

Arm yourselves for comedic gore, the zombies are invading, *page 6*

# MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2009

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

VOL. 86, NO. 11

## INSIDE

### MT drops epic loss



The annual Battle of the Palladium saw MT fumble 31-7 on Tuesday night.

SPORTS, 7

## OPINIONS

### Check out this week's comics

OPINIONS, 3 & 4

### Dog-fighting videos

Columnist Mallory Boyd argues that dog fighting videos deserve the same legal status as child porn.

OPINIONS, 4

## FEATURES

### YouTube starlet's album already getting buzz

Priscilla Renea's debut album is scheduled to be released later this year.

FEATURES, 6

## WEATHER

THURSDAY  
Oct. 8, 2009

81°/70°

FRIDAY  
Oct. 9, 2009

80°/55°

SATURDAY  
Oct. 10, 2009

64°/47°

## College changes considered

By ALEX MOORMAN  
News Editor

A proposed restructuring of colleges will tentatively save \$250,000 a year in expenditures for MTSU, though the Office of Executive Vice President and Provost said it will not eliminate faculty or degree programs.

The proposed restructuring involves the deletion of some colleges and the creation of others, with various departments being reclassified in the new colleges.

Interim Executive Vice President and Provost Diane Miller, who drafted the proposal, said that these changes would not only save MTSU money, but will also position each department for the future.

"Proposing a restructuring of our colleges was nev-

er just about saving money," Miller said. "What we are attempting to do is look at where we as a university want to head in the future and get prepared to provide the best programs possible for our students."

The six proposed colleges include: the College of Arts and Sciences; the College of Communication and Fine Arts; the College of Applied and Professional Studies; the College of Education; the College of Business; and the University College.

If the proposal is approved, the College of Basic and Applied Sciences will be split and partially comprise two different colleges, the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Applied and Professional Studies.

Wayne Dornan, chair of

the aerospace department, said the splitting of the two colleges should not directly affect the students or their majors, and that thus far, he thinks the proposal is a good one, but he is still not sure how it will save the university money.

29. Miller said the only staff who will be directly affected by this restructuring would be clerical personnel, who may be relocated to other vacant positions.

Miller said that the final "Positioning the University for the Future" report from

Continuing Education and Distance Learning would be eliminated, and the College of Liberal Arts would be redistributed into the two new colleges: Arts and Sciences, and Communication and Fine Arts.

Roy Moore, dean of the College of Mass Communication, said that he felt the addition of the school of fine arts, which will include art, music and theatre and dance, would be a good fit with the College of Mass Communication, but that no decisions would be made until all faculty, staff and students have voiced their opinions.

To read more, visit us online.

online

www.mtsusidelines.com

**“Proposing a restructuring of our colleges was never just about saving money.”**

DIANE MILLER

INTERIM EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

"The staff at some of the colleges would be reallocated in other departments, so I am not sure where the savings are going to come from," Dornan said.

The proposed restructuring of colleges will reduce the number of departments/schools from 36 to

President Sidney McPhee recommended she submit a proposal for the restructuring of MTSU's colleges. She said the proposal required submission on Dec. 1 with implementation scheduled for Aug. 1, 2010.

If the proposal is implemented, the College of

## Student veterans receive funding

By DUSTIN EVANS  
Assistant Community News Editor

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs began issuing emergency checks to student veterans approved under the Chapter 33 Post-9/11 GI Bill, though many have yet to receive a single payment.

The VA regional offices began distributing the checks of up to \$3,000 Oct. 2 to student veterans previously approved for the Chapter 33 program, which covers those veterans who were involved in post 9/11 wars.

"I was approved for the GI Bill in June, but I haven't seen a single payment yet," said James Baker, a student veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. "I got the [emergency] check on Friday—it was a really quick and easy deal."

Baker said he was physically handed a check at the VA Regional Office after showing the appropriate documentation and identification.

Ray Howell, the VA representative for MTSU, said student veterans can visit va.gov to apply for the check online, or they can find the closest regional office to them and see what documentation and identification is required in order to procure an emergency check.

Howell said the problem with Chapter 33 is the physical processing of the applications, which has proved to be time consuming. He said there are 680 student veterans at MTSU that receive payments from the bill, and of those, 320 are Chapter 33 veterans of post-Sept. 11 wars.

"Once the veteran students complete the application, the VA has to go through a certain amount of steps," Howell said. "With the Montgomery GI Bill, they could process each set of paperwork in about 30 minutes—with the Chapter 33 bill, it could take over an hour and 15 minutes to process

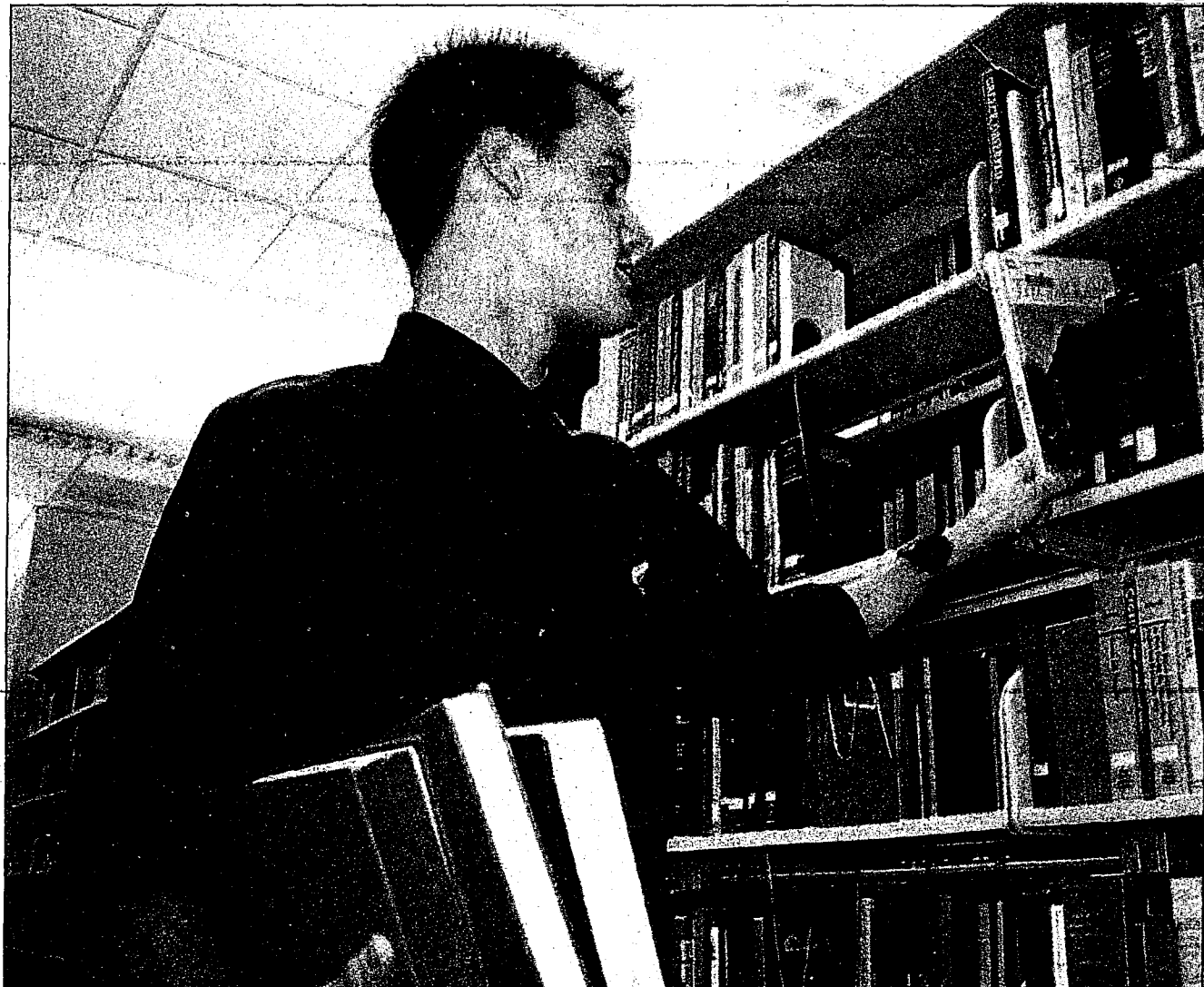


Photo by Andy Harper, managing editor

James Baker, a student veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, came back to school on his GI Bill.

one application."

Howell said the Chapter 33 program, which started on Aug. 1, appeared to be a routine task for the VA, but has become overwhelming due to the high number of applicants.

"I don't think they realized the scope of what they had to deal with," Howell said. "As each day goes by, they are getting farther and farther behind."

Baker said the university is also helping him with the Chapter 33 problem by deferring his tuition, books and

school fees until the end of the semester. He said he expects to see the Chapter 33 payment by November, and that the MTSU deferment has been extremely helpful.

"The business office is aware of the problem," Howell said. "They will go out of their way to make sure our students get assistance."

Howell said the emergency checks are due to congressional inquiries that came after a high number of veterans contacted their

Congressional representatives.

"No veteran should have to dip into their saving or postpone buying books for class because of outdated technology and backed-up claims," said Congressman Bart Gordon, D-Tenn. 6th district, in a recent press release. "These veterans and the other members of our Armed Forces who defended our country abroad deserve the full, four-year college education promised to them when we passed the new GI Bill."

## Mass Comm prepares for accreditation

By EMMA EGLI  
Assistant Campus News Editor

The College of Mass Communication has spent the past five months preparing for its fall 2010 accreditation with \$150,000 in renovations to the John Bragg Mass Communication Building.

Funds for renovations in the building came

from the Office of Executive Vice President and Provost.

"The overall renovation costs were an estimated \$150,000," said Diane Miller, interim executive vice president and provost. "Construction of dean and department's offices was around \$120,000, with \$30,000 of that spent on the new furniture."

Wheelchair accessibility was given particular consideration in the renovations. Miller said that when the building was constructed in 1991, and it was not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

"It's important that we accommodate all students, faculty and staff," said Roy Moore, dean of the College

of Mass Communication. "It's been a problem almost since the beginning, and the reason it hasn't been fixed sooner has a lot to do with resources."

Miller echoed Moore's sentiments on accessible design in the building: "We are very sensitive because we want to meet the needs of students who have disabilities."

Moore said they were able to get support from the provost's office because it usually provides funding to try to update and repair buildings for the site team visits.

To read more, visit us online.

online

www.mtsusidelines.com

# Students put on production in 29 days

By DUSTIN EVANS  
Assistant Community News Editor

Members of Alpha Psi Omega, the dramatic art honors fraternity, along with students in the Department of Speech and Theatre, are opening "The Diviners" tonight at 7:30 at the studio theatre in the Boutwell Dramatic Arts building.

"The Diviners" runs through Saturday with each performance starting at 7:30 p.m.

The entire process will have taken a total of 29 days from auditions to final curtain call, a process that usually involves five to six weeks of rehearsals alone, said student director Buddy Jones.

"With this [production], they had four nights off in the 29

days [and] every night is a four-hour rehearsal—we have to stay here until it's right," Jones said. "You have to challenge yourself, and get used to working with other individuals."

Shawn Cornelius, who plays the leading character, Buddy Layman, said the shortened schedule provided him with some unique challenges as an actor.

"We had a month to put it up, and this is one of the most challenging roles I have ever done," Cornelius said. "I think that in the small time period that we had, it was difficult to find a fine line between comedic relief and having the audience take this character seriously, as troubled."

Cornelius said the show centers around Buddy, a mentally

handicapped child with aquaphobia, who has the mysterious talent of water divination.

Jones said the production was selected because of a relationship between the MTSU theater department and the playwright, Jim Leonard. Deborah Anderson, the advisor for the production and an MTSU faculty member in the theater department, has a close friendship with Leonard, and was able to introduce him to many of the theater students at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival last year.

To read more, visit us online.



Photo by Robert Player, staff photographer

Members of Alpha Psi Omega rehearse on Monday for their 29-day production of "The Diviners," which opens tonight.

# Phone books inspire students to recycle

By ROZALIND RUTH  
Contributing Writer

Local conservation organization Recycle Rutherford is collecting telephone books this fall as part of its "Throw the Book at Us" initiative, a campaign to reduce the number of un-recycled books.

Recycle Rutherford is using cash as an incentive to get Ru-

therford County classrooms behind the Sept. 18 through Nov. 9 campaign, offering prizes of \$200 each to the 10 classes that collect the most telephone books—for every 10 books a classroom collects, Recycle Rutherford will enter it into a drawing for one of the prizes. The drawing for the prizes will take place Nov. 16 at the Rutherford County Courthouse in the

commissioner's chambers.

Collection efforts for "Throw the Book at Us" are being made possible with support from AT&T Real Yellow Pages Project Redirectory, alongside Recycle Rutherford.

Rutherford County residents who wish to participate in the "Throw the Book at Us" campaign can drop off old telephone books at the

following locations: Smyrna's City Hall parking lot, Sam's Club on John Rice Boulevard in Murfreesboro and the Haley Road Recycling Center off Middle Tennessee Boulevard. All locations will accept the books 24 hours a day, until Nov. 9.

Linda Stevens, coordinator of "Throw the Book at Us," sent out a press release that stated the purpose of

the initiative was "not only reducing the amount of waste disposed of in Rutherford County, but also teaching students to care for the environment."

Recycle Rutherford is hosting the annual "Throw the Book at Us" collection with support from AT&T Real Yellow Pages Project Redirectory. Recycle Rutherford encour-

aged all members of the county to donate old telephone books to schools with the incentive of helping classrooms.

To read more, visit us online.



## GRADUATING?

### ~ Not Returning to MTSU?

The Housing and Residential Life Office is currently accepting housing **CANCELLATIONS** for the Spring 2010 semester from students who are graduating from MTSU and will be taking no additional classes and from students who are not returning to school at MTSU after the Fall 2009 semester. The deadline for submitting **CANCELLATIONS** for pre-waived housing is **Thursday, October 15, 2009**. Requests for cancellations must be submitted in writing to the Housing Office in the Keathley University Center Room 300 or mailed to Box 10000 MTSU, faxed to the Housing Office (615-898-5459) or e-mailed to [housing@mtsu.edu](mailto:housing@mtsu.edu) by the deadline.

**MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY**

For additional information contact Housing and Residential Life 615-898-2971

# JAY-Z

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

## NATION

11/13/09 MEMORIAL GYM VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

Tickets on sale NOW

BUY TICKETS AT [LIVENATION.com](http://LIVENATION.com)

Sponsored by: VPB Music Group and Vanderbilt Athletics

<b>MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY</b> <b>SIDELINES</b> 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 <a href="http://www.mtsusidelines.com">www.mtsusidelines.com</a>	<b>Editor in Chief</b> Byron Wilkes* <a href="mailto:sleditor@mtsu.edu">sleditor@mtsu.edu</a>	<b>Managing Editor</b> Andy Harper* <a href="mailto:smanage@mtsu.edu">smanage@mtsu.edu</a>	<b>News Editor</b> Alex Moorman* <a href="mailto:slnews@mtsu.edu">slnews@mtsu.edu</a>	<b>Asst. Com. News</b> Dustin Evans <a href="mailto:slstate@mtsu.edu">slstate@mtsu.edu</a>	<b>Opinions</b> Evan Barker* <a href="mailto:slopinio@mtsu.edu">slopinio@mtsu.edu</a>	<b>Features</b> Katy Coil <a href="mailto:sifeatur@mtsu.edu">sifeatur@mtsu.edu</a>
	<b>Sports</b> Chris Welch* <a href="mailto:slsports@mtsu.edu">slsports@mtsu.edu</a>	<b>Asst. Cam. News</b> Emma Egli <a href="mailto:slcampus@mtsu.edu">slcampus@mtsu.edu</a>	<b>Asst. Features</b> Faith Franklin <a href="mailto:sflash@mtsu.edu">sflash@mtsu.edu</a>	<b>Asst. Sports</b> Richard Lowe <a href="mailto:sports02@mtsu.edu">sports02@mtsu.edu</a>	<b>Copy Editor</b> Allison Roberts <a href="mailto:slcopy@mtsu.edu">slcopy@mtsu.edu</a>	<b>Online</b> Bryan Law <a href="mailto:slonline@mtsu.edu">slonline@mtsu.edu</a>
	<b>Production Manager</b> Shelley Vernon <a href="mailto:sldesign@mtsu.edu">sldesign@mtsu.edu</a>	<b>Photography</b> Jay Bailey <a href="mailto:sphoto@mtsu.edu">sphoto@mtsu.edu</a>	<b>Adviser</b> Steven Chappell <a href="mailto:schappel@mtsu.edu">schappel@mtsu.edu</a>	<b>Advertising</b> Jeri Lamb <a href="mailto:jlamb@mtsu.edu">jlamb@mtsu.edu</a>	<b>Business</b> Eveon Corl <a href="mailto:ecorl@mtsu.edu">ecorl@mtsu.edu</a>	<i>* denotes member of editorial board</i>



Letters Policy

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

OPINIONS

Sidelines is the editorially independent, 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.

Dogfight vids not free speech



My point, and I do have one

Mallory Boyd

On Oct. 6, 2009, the U.S. Supreme Court took on the issue of banning images of animal cruelty. The argument was whether or not it fell under the umbrella of the First Amendment.

For anyone who is confused on what that means exactly, it goes like this: "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."

How viewing or posting images or videos of animals killing each other equals freedom of speech is beyond me.

There is already a law against dog fighting in every state, which would lead one to believe that images or videos would fall under that same statute, making a separate law unnecessary. However, it continues to be an incredible problem, and if it is not stopped now, then when?

All 50 states have laws on the books banning dog fighting, cockfighting and hog-dog fighting (a fight between a dog, usually a pit bull, and a hog); the only differences in the laws are how harsh the punishments are. Regardless of the state in which one resides, this crime needs to be considered a felony. No one should be able to get away with committing a crime against an animal when it does not have the ability to defend itself, even NFL players.

In the case of dog fighting, those dogs are trained to

do exactly what their owners teach them. That fact is not limited simply to those that fight their dogs, either; everyone expects their dog to obey. So then take that animal that has been trained to obey you, starve him, rile him up, get him angry and then throw him in a ring with an equally agitated dog of around the same size and stature to watch them fight to the death. Somehow, somewhere, in someone's warped mind, this is considered a form of entertainment.

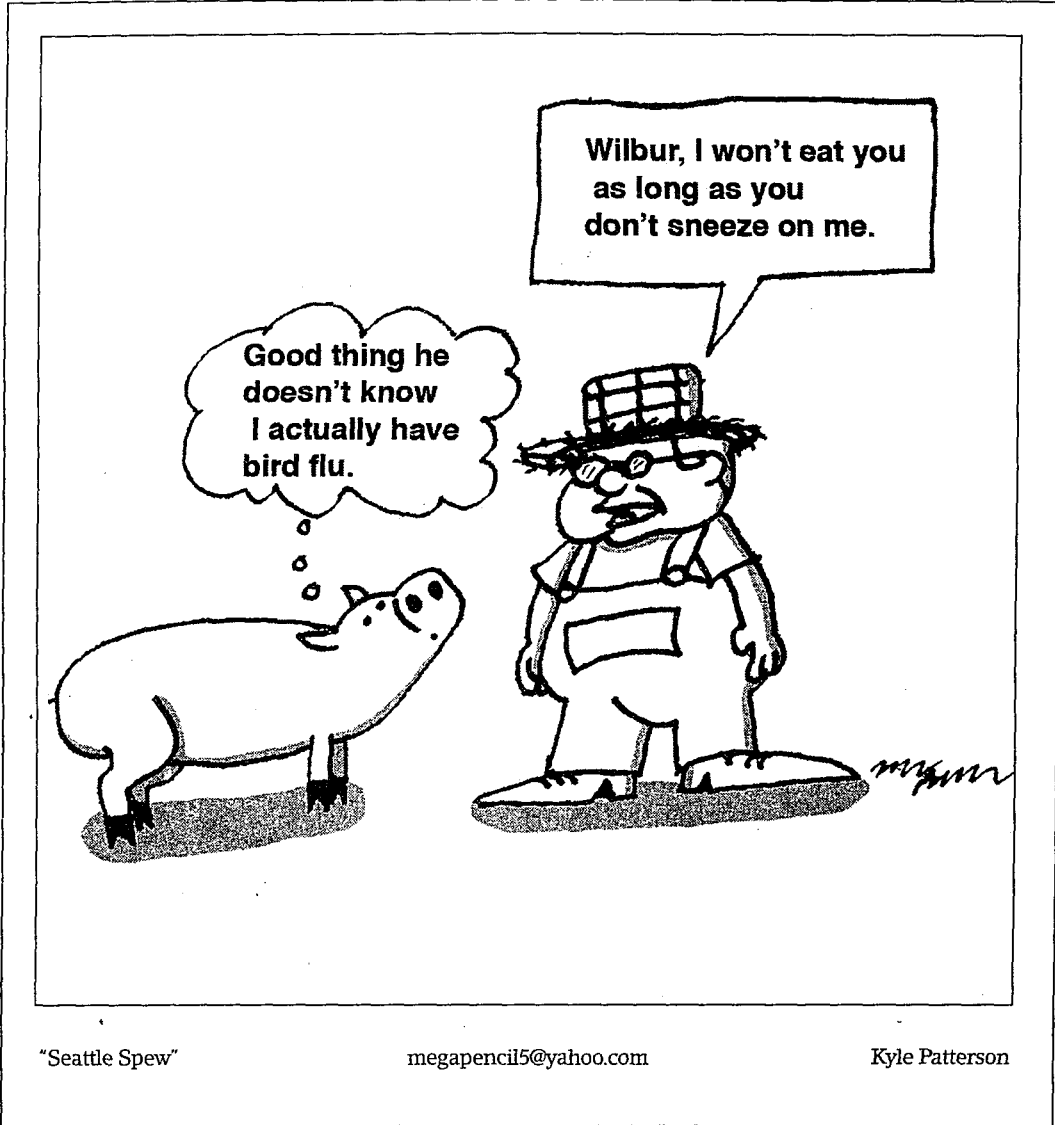
The measures that handlers will go to are amazing. They will go so far as to lace their dog's coat with poison to weaken the other dog. If that is not one of the cruelest acts against an otherwise docile creature, than what is?

The resistance to passing a law against it comes when the line has to be drawn. When people are arguing for this law, they are comparing it to child pornography and saying that it should be outlawed for the same reasons. Now, there is no way that anyone would ever say that there does not need to be an extra law to protect our children from being exploited in one of the most heinous ways possible, so why is there such a fight against protecting other innocent creatures?

Most animals that have been abused never get the chance to recover; most of them are considered past the point of rehabilitation and are euthanized. Viewing this as entertainment, even via video or photograph, is barbaric.

Those in opposition to the law are saying that it is too broad a spectrum. How can images of dog fighting be banned but bullfighting remains? Can we keep our instructional hunting videos?

Enough credit should be given to the citizens of this country and the judges that we elect to sit on the benches to be able to discern what would and would not qualify. Rational people understand that hunting season exists to prevent animals from starving due to lack of food and overpopulation. Granted, this



"Seattle Spew"

megapencil5@yahoo.com

Kyle Patterson

§ 39-14-203. Fighting or baiting exhibitions

(a) It is unlawful for any person to:

- (1) Own, possess, keep, use or train any bull, bear, dog, cock, swine or other animal, for the purpose of fighting, baiting or injuring another such animal, for amusement, sport or gain;
  - (2) Cause, for amusement, sport or gain, any animal referenced in subdivision (a)(1) to fight, bait or injure another animal, or each other;
  - (3) Permit any acts stated in subdivisions (a)(1) and (2) to be done on any premises under the person's charge or control, or aid or abet those acts; or
  - (4) Be knowingly present, as a spectator, at any place or building where preparations are being made for an exhibition for the fighting, baiting or injuring of any animal, with the intent to be present at the exhibition, fighting, baiting or injuring.
- (b) It is the legislative intent that the provisions of this section shall not apply to the training or use of hunting dogs for sport or to the training or use of dogs for law enforcement purposes.

is mostly our fault in the first place, but at least it exists for a reason. People are not out in the woods starving the deer and then putting them in a ring to fight it out.

The fact that we view most animals as inferior to us and see no reason to protect them by law is astounding. How arrogant we are to think that

we are so superior a species that the safety and well-being of any other is trivial and may step on our "right" to torture them.

No matter what laws are made, animal cruelty will continue to exist. We cannot eliminate it.

However, a message does need to be sent. Animals have

lives, and their merciless killing so that little boys can feel like men is unacceptable, as is the video and photographic evidence of this torture.

Mallory Boyd is a sophomore history major and can be reached at mnb2v@mtsu.edu

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Restructuring plan deserves close scrutiny, vigilance

MTSU's Proposed Restructuring of Colleges is like any other sweeping change. So far, it has caused more questions than answers, and the gut reaction of many people is to be distrustful and fight the change, no matter its substance.

However, a healthy skepticism is always in order, especially when the issue in question is the very composition of our fair university. Since when have music and theatre been communications disciplines? Since when have chemistry and English coexisted in the same college? These are all important questions, because they refer to changes in the proposed plan.

The fears are legitimate, if somewhat nebulous. The frightening thing about this is that we don't know exactly what to be afraid of.

One of the new departments in the plan would be the College of Applied and Professional Studies.

Is this a manifestation of the nasty trend in higher education to turn out employees, rather than educated citizens? In the days of for-profit diploma mills where one may purchase a Degree in Secretarial Sciences, MTSU needs not to stoop to the level of selling imaginary qualifications for menial jobs.

The job of the university is to teach students to teach themselves and expand their minds, not to provide a slip of paper so that the graduate may someday achieve the coveted position of Meat Rotation Technician at a local eatery that they saw on a late-night ad for the University of Phoenix.

Listen to Editorial Board online at mtsusidelines.com/opinions

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Aramark's pricing appropriate, fair according to laws of economics

To the Editor:

I'm writing in regards to the Oct. 5th story about Aramark's pricing. ("Aramark confronts students' complaints of exorbitant pricing"). Such complaints of "exorbitant pricing" are ridiculous and without sound economic merit.

To debunk the common misconception of "price gouging," one needs an understanding of supply, demand and opportunity cost. The market price of a good is determined by where the supply curve crosses the demand curve (where supply equals demand).

Supply is a graph or schedule depicting the number of said goods that a producer is willing and able to sell at given prices; demand is a graph or schedule depicting the number of said goods that a purchaser is willing and able to buy at given prices.

The key word here is willing; by purchasing food on campus, the purchaser must be willing and able to buy said food.

Assuming that the purchaser is rational, buying food on campus shows that the marginal benefit of doing so outweighs the marginal cost of purchasing food off campus.

Since many students are willing

and able to pay a higher price for foodstuffs on campus, the marginal benefit for a food supplier to sell at a higher price than off-campus food suppliers outweighs the marginal cost of not doing so. There is a higher profit to be made by selling food at a higher price.

If a food supplier sold food on campus at a cheaper price, then the food supplier would have to forego the opportunity to sell said food at a higher price, which means that the food supplier would forego the chance to make higher profits.

This is called "opportunity cost," whereby committing an action one forgoes the opportunity to commit the next best alternative to the chosen action.

Opportunity cost is also the same reason that a retail store chooses to sell clearance merchandise because the marginal benefit of doing so outweighs the marginal cost, but for some reason I don't hear consumers clamoring about unfair "price cutting."

Christopher S. Burks  
Senior, College of Business

Golf cart use irresponsible, dangerous to pedestrians

To the Editor:

Today I witnessed an MTSU golf cart being used by a student employee to drop his friend off at class. The employee said he would "be back later" to pick his friend up.

I overheard the conversation in its entirety, and confirmed what I heard with the student. He said that he was an employee of a particular office (which he named), and glibly described his drop-off arrangement as "sweet."

I might not have thought much else about this incident, but in the past few weeks I have noticed that the golf carts are increasingly conspicuous on campus as I walk back and forth to and from my classes. Within the past two weeks I have seen all of the following incidents, in some cases more than once:

- 1) an MTSU golf cart driving on the sidewalk failing to yield to a pedestrian, who had to step onto the grass so the cart could pass by;
- 2) an MTSU golf cart in the street ignoring traffic signals and disregarding car traffic;
- 3) an MTSU golf cart winding through a busy area with many pedestrians in a manner that can only be described as showing off.

Having golf carts at all on campus is an example of an idea that is only great until it isn't. You can bet that a single collision with a student (never mind an injury or a fatality) would trigger a lengthy campus-wide inquiry on whether or not we should have golf carts, and you can also bet that most would say no.

At a time when programs are being cut and funds are scarce for anything but the barest of nuts and bolts, I would think that golf cart use (not to mention golf cart joyriding) would be kept to a painstakingly discreet minimum. Instead, it seems that foolhardy and rude behavior on the part of golf cart drivers is the norm. And now unofficial shuttle service?

I urge each department that uses golf carts to revisit its procedures and consider adopting the following policies to ensure that golf cart use is responsible, ethical, and public-friendly.

- 1) Golf carts should be marked with a unique number on the back (just like any motorized vehicle), so that misuse can be reported and drivers can be identified, if necessary.
- 2) Departments should ensure that the carts are used minimally, perhaps only before 8 a.m. and

after 2 p.m. each day. Any business that simply must be accomplished using golf carts during peak workday hours can be accomplished on foot.

3) Departments should make plain to their employees that unofficial use of golf carts is unethical.

4) Departments should screen drivers to ensure that they really know how to drive a golf cart on sidewalks and streets on a busy college campus. Anyone who seems particularly eager to be out driving across campus in a golf cart, especially with a buddy in tow, should probably be walking with the rest of us.

4) And please don't forget: most of us walk and do just fine, so the use of golf carts - even for the most well-reasoned of purposes - comes over as a very dispensable frill.

Richard E. Morris  
Associate Professor  
Dept. of Foreign Languages

To comment on this and other stories:

online  
www.mtsusidelines.com

## Time for MT, Greeks to step up recycling on campus



### We Hij people get it

William Harper

I love nature. I want to keep as much of it around as I can.

Over the years, I've found myself actively participating in two campus organizations focused on the environment – Students for Environmental Action and Alpha Gamma Rho.

The major goal of SEA is to encourage people to think about how they affect the environment. We do this by sponsoring events like last Friday's Sustainable Campus Convention and this spring's Earth Week celebration.

AGR is a social-professional fraternity based in agriculture. Yes, we're the farm boys and no, we don't all own cowboy hats. Actually, our majors span from concrete industry management to environmental engineering, which is mine.

We have alumni who own farms, work in farm bureaus and run agriculture supply stores. Not all of us till around in dirt all day, but we try not to forget our connection to the Earth and our environment.

Thursday, we're hosting an event to raise money for our philanthropy, Chasing Victory. The basic gist is members of sororities will race tractors around the MTSU Livestock Center.

I love my fraternity and the Greek community, but I'm still surprised when events are organized that seem to disregard the environment.

What would the tractor race be like if instead of tractors, the sororities raced bikes? It'd probably not be as entertaining but definitely more environmentally conscious.

Then we hold events like homecoming, where it is tradition to build floats for the parade. This involves paper-ball and chicken wire decorations that will never be recycled. Add to this our tailgating events minus recycling, and we have to ask, what is this world coming to?

We need to start focusing on conservation. Rather than using thousands upon thousands of scrunched-up pieces of tissue paper, we could try to use recycled materials. We could ban "pumping" (tissue paper float construction) and try a green homecoming.

On a less idealistic note, the support for more recycling on campus is growing and hopefully, one day, this program will expand to Greek Row.

Homecoming events, like floats and fight song, result in many long hours over a number of weeks. The result: numerous energy drinks, soda cans and mason jars will be thrown directly into a dumpster.

Go straight to the landfill. Do not recycle; do not collect 50 cents a pound.

William Harper is a junior environmental engineering major and can be reached at [wehij@gmail.com](mailto:wehij@gmail.com)

## FACES IN THE CROWD

Have you heard about Provost Diane Miller's plan to restructure various colleges within the university? How would you feel about restructuring colleges?



Castleman  
"I haven't heard about it, but I feel negatively towards the idea and think it could negatively affect the professors and the students' experience."  
Brittany Castleman  
freshman undeclared major



Gambrel  
"I've heard a little about it, and I'm interested how it's going to impact which professors teach under which college."  
Cliff Gambrel  
senior social work major



Scott  
"I've heard about it. I think it's a bad idea because you could lose a lot of very good teachers."  
Clarence Scott  
sophomore electronic media



Kinser  
"I haven't heard about it, but I don't think it's the best idea spending time and resources fixing a system that may not end up being better."  
Sydney Kinser  
freshman undeclared major

## College restructuring ominous

Alas! Dear friends, what form of tyranny has breached these noble walls of academic scholarship? What dastardly gang of butchers and thieves has so surreptitiously plotted to snatch from our starving mouths the honor of our very academic pursuits? The answer lies at the apex of administration, that of El Presidenté.

Indeed, President Sidney McPhee and Provost Diane Miller's intentions for the restructuring of our colleges may be born of the means for progress, but the proposals offered are nothing short of corporate backslapping.

The ideas proposed rearrange the colleges themselves so that the liberal



The winter of our discontent  
Aaron Cammarn  
arts become a shadow to the sciences. By combining such humanities as English, history, and philosophy with hard-sciences like chemistry, physics, and astronomy, the result will be a complete degradation in the former.  
Furthermore, the human-

ities may find funding even more elusive when sharing with the sciences, whose appetite for outside corporate funding is far greater.

Additionally, the fine arts of art, music, and dance could be shuffled into the School of Communication, thereby demeaning their importance in the school. It seems ill-suited to render the creative arts a technical pursuit such as communications.

Why has this been a common theme for McPhee and his yes-men? Why this unceasing effort to streamline the budget at the expense of diminishing the liberal arts? Why the bombastic effort to alter MTSU into a for-profit institution whose sole purpose is to pump out

diplomas while disregarding the point of an education: to enrich one's life.

Students have already gathered at various rallies to protest the unchecked degradation of our education. Was this all to no avail? Do students have no say in the validity of their education? It seems not. Perhaps we haven't been loud enough.

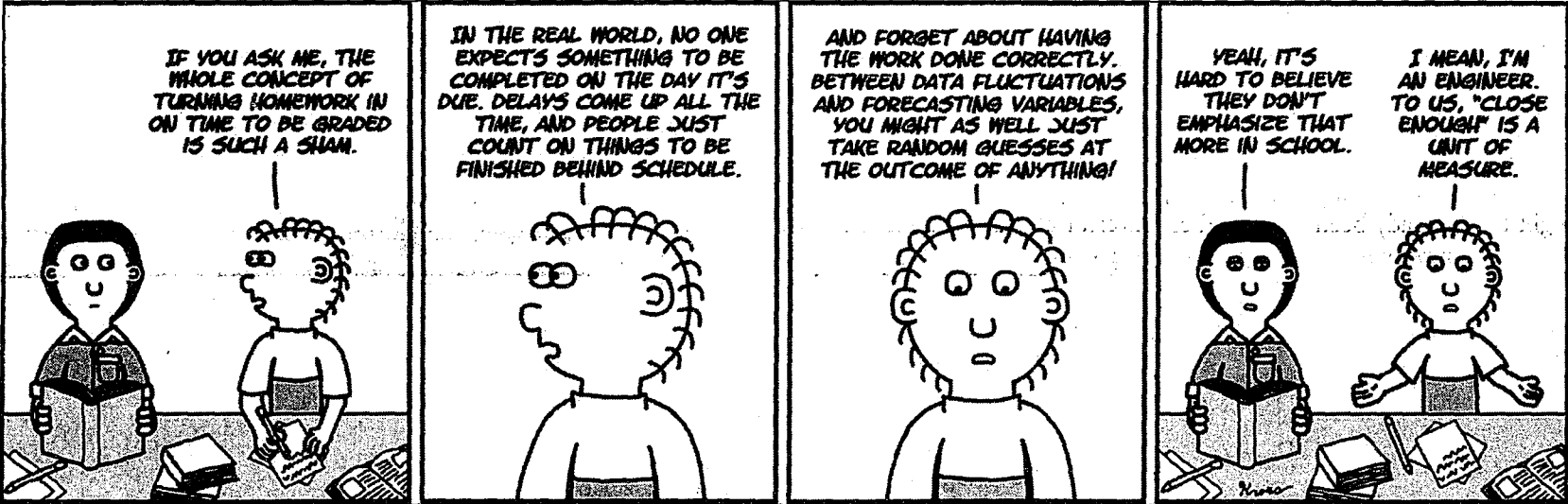
This university is in its infancy regarding national recognition, and yet these suited fools seek to cut the roots of our spring flower by restructuring this university into a hovel for quick-ticket degrees.

Our education is more than a piece of paper giving permission to enter the

job market. A university is not a center for job training; it is a place for critical thought and deeper understanding, a place where the world is unfolded in front of you and the tools for its exploration are given.

Let the vocational and trade schools merely train students, and allow the university its role of nourishing of scholarship for scholarship's sake. If not, and if we allow a committee of businessmen to dictate our future worth in order to save a few dollars, then MTSU should also consider dropping the U.

Aaron Cammarn is a senior history major and can be reached at [akc2u@mtsu.edu](mailto:akc2u@mtsu.edu)



"Last-ditch effort" [ide-online.com](http://ide-online.com) John Kroes

## Trouble ahead for tech industry

Since March of this year, major stock market indices have gained about 50 percent in value. The tech industry has been on par with this growth during the second and third quarters of 2009.

This increase reflects the bottom of the market back in March, originating from a decline that started in late 2007. This decline was due, in part, to overinflated fear of financial system collapse and the changing political environment in the U.S.

As a result, the past two years have seen major shifts in the landscape of the tech industry and entrepreneurship.

Looking back, the late 1990s and early 2000s brought a wave of tech Initial Public Offerings that made Silicon Valley the place to be. Today, most technology companies seek financing through private equity investors, while the IPO landscape has nearly faded away.

The trend of the few tech IPOs made in 2009 is that all have one thing in common: their initial market capitalization is much less than that of the "boom" days.

Once an IPO has been made, a common pattern is for the company's market



Zeroes and ones  
Chris Miller  
value to fall, although the IPOs from this year eventually regain their initial offering price.

This is a sad reality for those wishing to find quick success by building a company with little investment, making an IPO and becoming an overnight billionaire. The truth is, this just doesn't happen in today's economy.

For the more established tech companies and those in other industries, the recent increase in market value may be misleading.

Financial reports do show that companies are able to make a profit in today's economic environment, but only by sometimes taking drastic cost-cutting measures.

The result we see today is

increasing unemployment due to companies reducing their overheads to maintain profits and keep investors happy. While this may be a good short-term solution to increasing or sustaining the bottom line, in the long term, zero or negative growth is a danger to the entire global economy.

Recent market IPOs include Rackspace, a Web-hosting and infrastructure company; Bridgepoint Education, an online education company; Rosetta Stone, a maker of language learning tools; and DigitalGlobe, a company who has satellites that take digital images for services like Google Maps.

These companies all resemble each other because their initial price quickly dropped once they became publicly traded, though it usually rebounded later on.

Of companies doing IPOs today, we see they are mostly established companies with a proven business model that is clear enough for investors to understand.

Companies today need to focus on building better products and services to generate stronger revenues. While short-term gains may

be won through cutting costs, decreasing revenues and marketing of existing products and services will lead to failure.

Although traditional retail and manufacturing have fallen victim to the pattern of cost-cutting rather than innovating, the tech industry has this problem magnified.

Announced last week, the next tech IPO in queue is NewEgg. This company is a distributor of computers and electronic components online, and is a massive force in the consumer hardware industry. Recent financial statements show it is over a \$2 billion company. However, with profit margins under 2 percent, the company has little room for error.

Looking at the cream of the industry, giants like Microsoft, Apple and Google continue to dominate. With the exception of Apple, with 108 percent since March, these industry leaders have not grown a significant amount. They do have a business model that is understood by investors, however.

Apple's innovative products and lead in the smart phone market make it a key player for growth.

As Microsoft comes out of its worst fiscal year ever, the launch of Windows 7 to a welcoming crowd brings hope that the worst is behind the company.

For Google, its continued dominance of online advertising space provides a solid foundation of revenues that seem to weather economic turmoil well.

Compare these companies to the likes of Twitter and Facebook, who can't seem to find a solid business model; or to Palm, whose recent gamble on the Pre smart phone was met with a total lack of enthusiasm.

To overcome the current market recession, companies should focus on what they do best.

Certainly becoming more efficient and cutting costs is a positive thing to do, but now is the time to develop new and innovative products and services that can be a catalyst of growth and innovation for the coming years.

Chris Miller is a senior accounting major at MTSU. He can be reached at [cmm4w@mtsu.edu](mailto:cmm4w@mtsu.edu) and on his blog at [ee99ee.com](http://ee99ee.com).



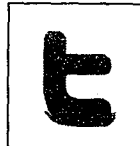
mtsusidelines.com



mtsusidelines.com/multimedia



MTSUSidelines



@MTSUSidelines



YouTube.com/mtsusidelines

Go online to read all of our content!

Students get life lessons, advice during annual career fair - NEWS

Linebaugh Library hosts meet-and-greet with local authors - NEWS



**WERE YOU PREPARED FOR THE CAREER FAIR?**

**online**

TELL US ONLINE AT  
MTSUSIDELINES.COM

# FEATURES



**DID YOU VOTE IN HOMECOMING ELECTIONS?**

BASED ON VOTES FROM  
MTSUSIDELINES.COM.

## YouTube starlet set to drop 'JukeBox'

Priscilla Renea's whimsical yet worldly debut album already garnering buzz

By JESELYN JACKSON  
Staff Writer

Priscilla Renea is a talented singer who started her road to fame on YouTube. Her first video, called "The Dictionary (A Priscilla Renea Original)," is her second most viewed video to date, with more than 900,000 views.

In 2007, Priscilla ditched the webcam and the bedroom carpet for the hefty TV cameras and grand stage provided by MTV through its 'Say What?' Karaoke show.

Fans who were accustomed to seeing her in a small YouTube window were now exposed to her in her full screen lightheartedness, and the effect was cyclical and reciprocal. Appearing on MTV pushed her YouTube hits to 1.7 million and her MySpace listenership to more than half a million.

The YouTube starlets, debut album, "Jukebox" is a futuristic hit.

The 20-year-old from Vero Beach, Fla., has wide-ranging musical sensibilities and influences, in addition to the scope of her talents.

The album displays a vast variety of endearing lyrics, beats and tones. Renea's music is bringing something new and fresh, something that might have already been done, but with a new twist.

The album's external collaborators share exotic talents: Brian Kidd and legendary Danish duo Soulshock and Karlin, who has worked with artists such as Madonna, Enrique Iglesias, Britney Spears, Nappy Seal, Whitney Houston and Keyshia Cole.

Renea has now aligned herself with the Atlanta-based



Photo courtesy of Capitol Records  
The cover of "JukeBox" features stacked records in front Renea.

Priscilla Renea's Jukebox is available for pre-order at \$12.98. The release date is scheduled for December 1, 2009 by Capitol Records



production team Power Entertainment, with additional support of her forthcoming full-length debut on Capitol Records.

Renea's also showing off her funky, fetching fashion sense; her advertorial array graces the pages of trend-setting magazine "Giant," and she's begun a Baby Phat campaign under the direction of taskmaster Kimora Lee Simmons.

"Jukebox" is a fitting title for musical fare that wends from whimsical to worldly to weighty with equal style.

Track one on the album "Dollhouse" is now available

on iTunes. "Dollhouse" is not your average ladies anthem, the lyrics "I ain't a doll! This ain't a doll house!" really shows off her lyrical talents.

"Lovesick" is mainly bubbly, piano-powered pop. On the other hand, "Pretty Girl" is a very meditative, insightful ballad. "Rockabye" is a hip, nod-your-head lecture about premature parenthood. A extremely heavy subject matter of course, but Renea masks it with classic No Doubt-like sass for a surefire hit.

Another standout track is "Mr. Workabee," a tongue-in-cheek tsk-tsk to an immoral male known to "often forget he has a queen at home." Apologizing for being "all up in his beeswax," Renea smoothly but unmistakably looks to right some wrong over a banging, playful beat.

Overall the album was a breath of fresh air, one so versatile that it should be in everyone's iPod.

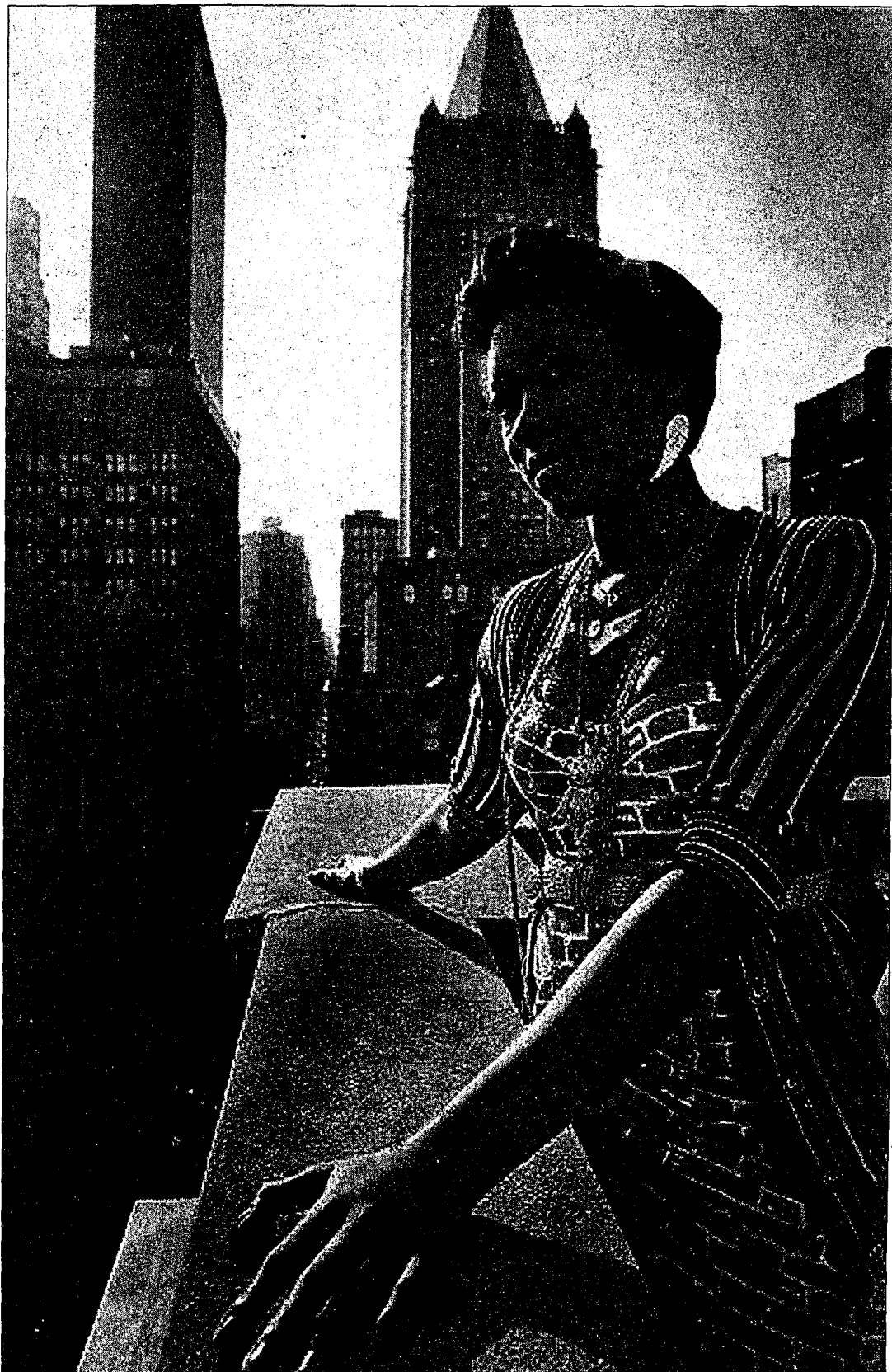


Photo courtesy of Capitol Records  
The 20-year-old Florida native received her start singing the dictionary in front of a YouTube audience.

## Reno Bo plays with big names, stays individual

Bo's solo debut album 'Happenings' defines rock as 'the people's music'

By JESSICA PACE  
Staff Writer

In spite of appreciation for the experimental, the electronic and the sounds that all the synthesizers in the world can make, people are still drawn to low-maintenance rock music and the aggressive romance of the style.

Those people who still love a good rock story will most likely be into Reno Bo.

Bo lived in New York City for years, playing with Albert Hammond Jr. of The Strokes and New York garage rockers The Mooney Suzuki.

A close-knit musical community in New York gave him the freedom to alternate between bands, getting his feet wet between two diverse projects. Collaborating with Hammond was less energetic than, say, playing a no holds barred show with The Mooney Suzuki, during which "the singer would jump around onstage and carry the guitar player on his shoulders."

A fairly recent New York City transplant, Bo cut a solo record and moved to Nashville, two accomplishments stalled between tours with Hammond and The Mooney Suzuki.

The solo debut, titled "Hap-

penings and Other Things," sprang from Bo's desire to write his own material and form a stable band.

"I just had all this stuff I wanted to do, so I'll just do it myself with a whole new group, and we'll just call it my name," Bo laughs.

He may joke that way, but there is no trace of cockiness as he talks about his solo project. Bo puts a lot of emphasis on his band, and the desire to write his own songs seems less driven by ego and more by simple fascination with the craft.

"In New York, there's a lot of great musicians and great people, but as a whole, people go

there to get famous, or to be cool or to be a part of a scene," says Bo. "Here, people come to play music. I don't like every band I see in Nashville, but they're mostly all good at what they do. I appreciate that a lot. I think that makes you better as a musician or writer."

"Happenings" was released this year on Electric Western Records, a label fitting as Bo blends electric grit with the wanderlust essence of the south and the west.

Sets every Tuesday night throughout September at The



Photo by Niki Adeox, staff photographer  
Reno Bo (Far left) performs with his band at The 5 Spot in Nashville. Though his music is considered experimental, it has many connections to the classic roots of rock 'n' roll, such as the Ramones.

5 Spot were equally as fitting. The small, smoky venue is stuck on a little block in East Nashville. One wall is lined with a bar, the rest of the floor cluttered with chairs and a corner stage with a backdrop of red velvet curtains that mock sophistication. It's conducive to a rock show.

Looking as though he stepped out of a year-book circa 1975, Bo has a Ramone-like appeal in

appearance and looks at home in The 5 Spot, performing songs from "Happenings."

In "How Does It Feel," Bo makes somber lyrics sound like a good time with a background of upbeat bass and a long guitar break to close it off. Early '60s rock rears its head through smooth vocals and melody on "Here Right Now," and Bo imitates Oasis with Liam Gallagher's sulky-sneering call on "Sugar

Suite Blues."

Bo does the folk thing with "Baby You're Not Feelin' Me Tonight" by introducing a harmonica and acoustic combination. Not one track lacks a ridiculously catchy chorus or memorable hook.

It has been done before, but it is the sound of elation, born from windows-down music of another era, and it is better performed live without studio polish. It's a solid

rock album, and Bo seems fine with that.

With "Happenings," Bo just lets it be what it is. He does not pile profound meaning behind everything he does. When asked if the phrase "Happenings and Other Things," which was also the title of a poem he wrote, meant anything, he says, "Probably not."

Bo does not have flowery aspirations for his music. The fundamentals at the base of his sound are simple and unchanging. By meeting the most basic musical expectations, "Happenings" exceeds them.

Bo talks about rock music as a philosophy on which hours could be spent interpreting, and refers to it as "the people's music." It is as indestructible as the records it is recorded on since it has withstood the passage of time.

"Old people want to do it. Young people want to do it. It triggers something in us that's fundamentally human," says Bo on making rock music. "It's pretty intense for me."

For Bo, rock is not dead, but only sleeping. And if it's only sleeping, with his debut he has joined the rock club trying to prod it awake not by taking the reins of contemporary music but by tapping at the roots.

**BAND OF THE WEEK**

# ‘Zombieland’ takes over box office

## Horror-comedy has great action scenes, comedic ensemble cast

By KATY COIL  
Features Editor

From movies to books to video games to television, zombies seem to be sweeping the nation, and if the recent film “Zombieland” is any indication, the trend is just getting warmed up.

The film grossed more than \$24 million in its opening weekend, and audiences of the film know exactly why.

“Zombieland” has all the elements of a good old-fashioned horror film with all of the necessary one-liners and punch lines of a good comedy film. In fact, horror comedies have never looked as good as they do in this film.

The U.S. has been completely taken over, replaced by Zombieland, a country overrun by zombies where humans are becoming an increasingly endangered species. Names, close relationships, friendships and basically everything but surviving the zombies are unimportant in this new world order.

In Austin, Texas, the wimpy Columbus (Jesse Eisenberg) spent most of his time before the zombie invasion alone in his apartment, playing “World of Warcraft.” The only time he gets remotely close to a girl, she turns into a zombie and tries to eat him.

At the beginning of the film, he talks about his many fears, chief among them zombies and clowns. He also details his list for survival in “Zombieland,” which comes up periodically through the film as a



Photo courtesy: Sony Pictures  
Columbus (Eisenberg), Wichita (Stone), Little Rock (Breslin), and Tallahassee (Harrelson) gather outside a roadside store in Arizona, prepared to fight zombies that might be lurking around the corner.

running gag.

Taking his double barrel shotgun, he starts out

members are still alive. He meets Tallahassee (played by Woody Harrelson, who is perfect in the role), a man born to kill zombies. Though Columbus’s neuroses don’t mesh well with Tallahassee’s devil-may-care attitude, the two team up as far as Texarkana.

Tallahassee’s only goals in life are to kill zombies and get his hands on the last Twinkie before they run out.

They hit up a grocery store to find Twinkies and end up with the feisty sister duo Wichita (Emma Stone) and Little Rock (Abigail Breslin), who end up conning them out of their car and stockpile of weapons.

They run into the girls later, and the foursome decides to team up, going to Pacific Playland, a California amusement park where the two girls are headed.

After crashing in the Hollywood home of Bill Murray, the girls end up jetting off to Pacific Playland,

which quickly becomes infested with zombies. It is up to Columbus and Tallahassee to show up and help save the day.

The zombie killing in the film is gory, as to be expected, but can be easily avoided by those on the queasy side. In fact, the “R” rating on the film comes from language, rather than any real sex or too much violence. You’d want to cuss a little too if the world were overrun by hungry zombies.

Each of the four main characters in the film brings something unique to the table, which makes them mesh well as a great ensemble cast. Eisenberg is the great comedic straight man with his fears and sense of rules, the voice of reason when no one else really cares.

Harrelson is the exact opposite, a fearless fighter everyone wants to root for and be just like. Stone is the quintessential stone fox who can kill zombies and look magazine cover beau-

tiful while doing it.

Of course, the most applause goes to Abigail Breslin, who brings all of her “Little Miss Sunshine” charm to the art of zombie killing, putting the most skilled sharpshooter to shame with the way she can take down zombies and then look ready to hit the rollercoasters.

One of the things that really makes this film is the one-liners and running gags, though the ingenious zombie kills are pretty funny too. The film even does small vignettes such as “Zombie Kill of the Week” and the appearance of Columbus’s rules. If you want to know why all of your friends keep repeating that phrase and laughing this fall, you need to go see “Zombieland” to get the joke.

All in all, if you want to see a great comedy with zombies, Twinkies and Bill Murray, this is definitely the movie for you.

**Director:** Ruben Fleischer

**Starring:** Jesse Eisenberg, Woody Harrelson, Emma Stone, Abigail Breslin

**Rating:** R for horror violence/gore and language

**Run Time:** 80 minutes



for his hometown of Columbus, Ohio, to see if any of his estranged family

REFRESHINGLY  
INDEPENDENT

MUSIC

25th  
ANNUAL  
FESTIVAL

SOLD OUT  
JOIN THE WAIT LIST

from \$199

Jan 4-9, 2010

www.BigSkiTrip.com

1-888-754-8447

Steamboat

dp

A religion of many different beliefs ...  
including yours.

Unitarian Fellowship of M'boro

"A GLBT Welcoming Congregation"

Sundays - 10 a.m.

www.ufmboro.org

Murfreesboro Center for the Arts - 110 W. College St. - 615-556-1394

# BODY TYPED

Directed by JESSE EPSTEIN

3 Award-Winning Short  
Films on Media and  
Physical Perfection

- >WET DREAMS
- AND FALSE IMAGES
- >THE GUARANTEE
- >34x25x36

One Night Only!  
MONDAY



October 12 | 7PM  
LRC Room 221  
Q&A with Filmmaker

Brought to you by the MTSU  
Distinguished Lecture Series and the Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence.



# SPORTS

## Trojans keep Palladium

### MT falls 31-7 as Troy takes Sun Belt Conference lead

By CHRIS WELCH  
Sports Editor

MT only managed to get on the scoreboard once in the 31-7 flounder against perennial Sun Belt powerhouse Troy on Tuesday night.

The win also entitled Troy (3-2, 2-0 Sun Belt) to possession of the Palladium trophy yet again; the Trojans have been in possession of the trophy since 2006.

"I had no idea it would turn out this way," Trojans head coach Larry Blakeney said. "Coming in I thought we had a chance in this one, but no idea it would turn out this way."

The two teams punted back and forth for much of the first quarter. It wasn't until the Trojans buckled down and gave the ball to RB Shawn Southward that the Trojans could score.

Senior WR Desmond Gee returned the following kickoff for 46 yards, setting up MT at their own 49. But the Blue Raider offense would continue to struggle throughout the first half.

In the second quarter, MT would fare no better with their scoring drives. But the Blue Raider defense would step it up as well, led by senior LB Danny Carmichael. The linebacker forced his fourth fumble of the season, while three other players registered sacks.

Despite the pressure, Troy would continue to push down the field. The Trojan's second touchdown would come just 20 seconds before halftime, off of a 52-yard Levi Brown pass to receiver Chip Reeves. The last-ditch effort put Troy up 14-0 just as the first half expired.

The Blue Raiders would try to convert with less than 10 seconds on the clock, moving inside the Trojan 20 yard line, but time ran out after senior WR Patrick Honeycutt tossed the ball backward to Gee for an additional 10 yard gain.

The first half saw a combined total of 15 punts from both teams, and MT did not convert any alternate drive endings.

After kicking off, MT would allow the Trojans

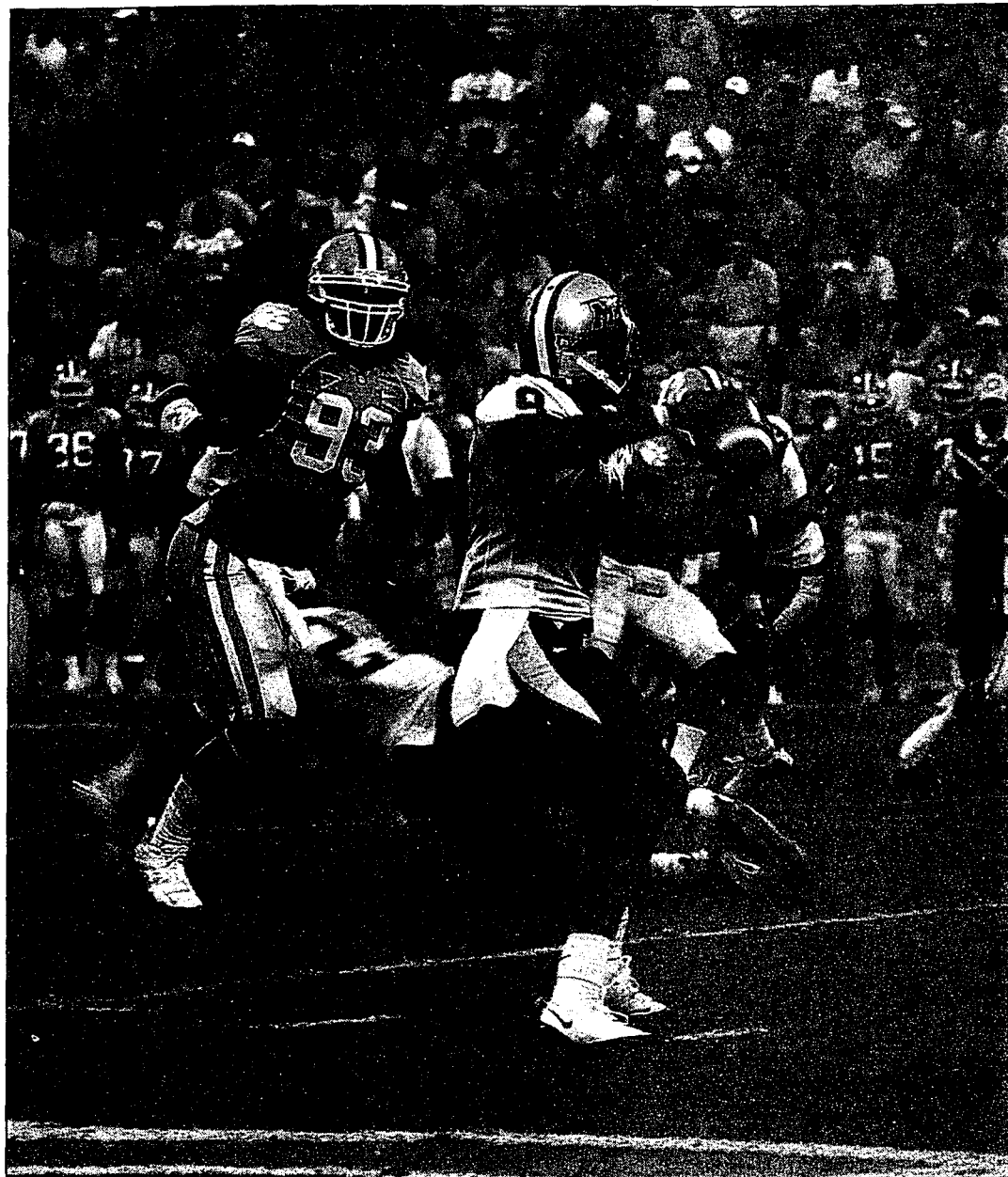


Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor

Junior quarterback Dwight Dasher looks for a receiver in the season opener against the Clemson Tigers.

to run down the field in a scoring drive that took a mere 2:46 off of the clock. After the Michael Taylor PAT, the Trojan lead was increased to 21.

Troy's defense would not let up in the second half. The Trojan's front seven, led by senior LB Bear Woods, harassed the MT rushers throughout the night.

"We had some good pressure packages," Blakeney said. "It was just a great defensive effort."

The intense pressure would get to QB Dwight Dasher, who, in his first drive of the second half, threw an incomplete pass and was sacked. The Blue Raiders would turn the ball over again, so that Troy could run across the field for a field goal. The score tallied the Trojan lead 24-0.

The Blue Raiders would have a very promising next possession, travelling 86

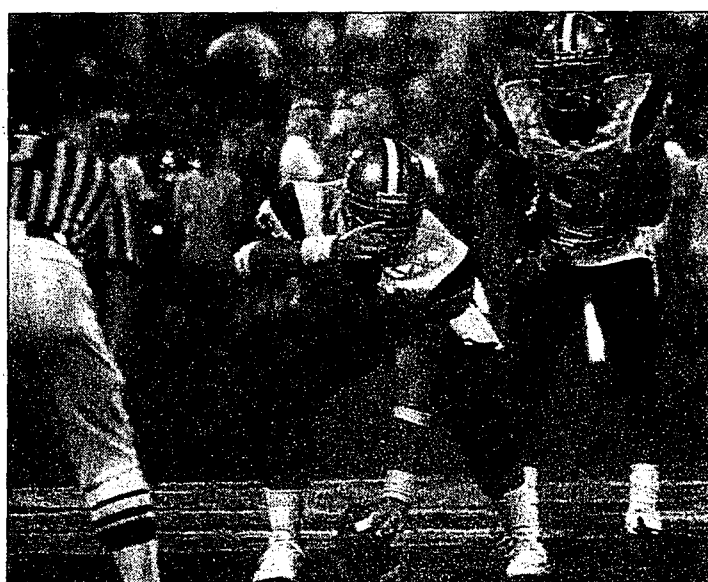


Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor

Junior QB Dwight Dasher sets up in the shotgun to receive the snap from senior center Mark Thompson in the game against Clemson.

yards across 13 plays. But MT would come up short again, after Dasher's fourth-down attempt was stopped just shy of the marker.

MT's defense would stop the Trojan push on the following drive, and the Blue Raiders got another shot

starting from the Troy 41. Dasher completed a 35-yard pass across midfield to freshman WR Tavarres Jefferson with less than a minute in the third to cut down on Troy's lead.

FOOTBALL, PAGE 8

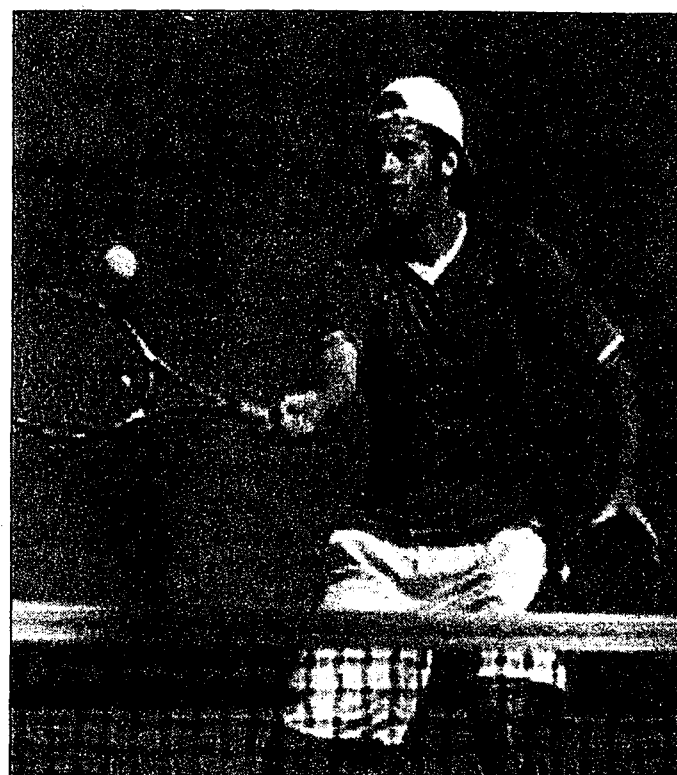


Photo courtesy of MT Athletics

Sophomore Victor Melo aims to return a stray serve at a match. Melo is one of two MT athletes competing in the ITA Qualifiers.

## Melo, Peers shine at ITA Qualifying

By CHRIS WELCH  
Sports Editor

The Blue Raider men's tennis team has successfully invaded the ITA Qualifying matches in Tulsa, Okla.

Sophomore Victor Melo led the action on Saturday, winning his opening match in the Pre-Qualifying tournament by besting Holden Ching of Sacramento State 6-2, 6-4.

"Victor had a good first round match today," head coach David McNamara said. "It's a long tournament and he should gain some confidence as he progresses through each round."

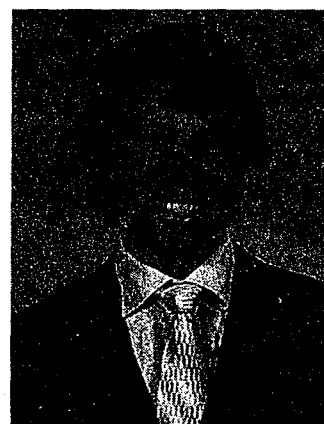
"He has prepared himself over the last three weeks to make a run in this tournament."

Later in the day, 19-seeded Melo took a three-set bout over St. Louis' Jake Hendrie 5-7, 6-4, 10-6. This win put him within one victory of the qualifying portion of the tournament.

Melo lost his spark on Sunday, falling in the pre-qualifying finals match to seventh-seeded Dusan Medan of Marquette, 7-6 (5), 6-4.

Melo could still find his way into the qualifying portion of the tournament if he is selected as a Lucky Loser.

Lucky Losers are chosen during the Qualifying



JOHN PEERS, courtesy of MT Athletics

and Main Draw, and are picked, according to the highest seeds that lose in the final qualifying rounds. Once those seeds are extinguished, the remaining Lucky Losers are chosen by a random draw.

The Main Draw portion of the tournament is set to take place later today, and Melo's possible draw will be announced accordingly.

Melo's teammate, junior John Peers, won his opening ITA All-American Qualifying tournament match on Monday.

Peers came into the match seeded 11th, and bested Nevada's Wessim Derbel, 6-3, 6-2.

"John performed very well under difficult conditions," McNamara said. "It was quite chilly and windy today on the courts. He played one of his better matches this fall."

TENNIS, PAGE 8

## Blue Raider football maintains best record in state

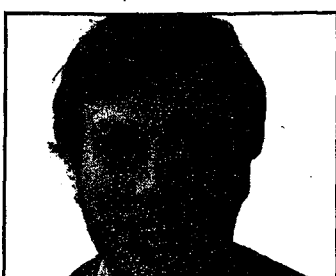
The Blue Raiders have the best record in Tennessee's Division I football.

Hopefully no one was shocked. It's surprising, yes, and even unexpected. But it is a fact that MT football is the best football in the state right now, above two past BCS darlings and a rising power out west.

Cross-state rival Memphis—a team that the Blue Raiders ran over at the Blackout Game earlier this season—have a 1-4 record. That makes for the worst record in the state.

Aside from the loss at MT, the Tigers have tallied a losing streak that spans from No. 8 Mississippi, though C-USA opener against Marshall and up to the road trip last weekend to the University of Central Florida.

The schedule for Memphis doesn't let up, either. On Oct. 10, the Tigers go head-to-head against defensive standout team UTEP. Contests against



### The 5th Down

Chris Welch

Tennessee, a team with a losing record, but an SEC team nonetheless, and Houston, a team that "has just looked almost unbeatable," according to head coach Tommy West, will keep the Tigers on their toes.

After Memphis gets running back Curtis Steele back, the team's offense may step it up. But will it be enough to counteract the UTEP defensive line?

The Southeastern Conference teams aren't faring much better. Both Vanderbilt

and Tennessee are sporting 2-3 records.

The Commodores had a rough start to the 2009 season. After a 45-0 blowout win at Western Carolina, Vandy went on the road to play then No. 9 LSU, where the loss goes without saying. Losses against Mississippi State and Mississippi have brought Vandy down to a 2-3 record and a winless conference schedule so far.

But it's not over yet. The Commodores' schedule could spell disaster for the rest of their season. Tough games against fellow SEC opponents like Georgia, South Carolina and Florida could be a morale crusher for Vandy.

The University of Tennessee started out the season with something to prove, and may have lost that cause already. The Vols could possibly use their 2-3 record to rally the team together and prove to the collegiate world that they

are still in the game; but with a demanding SEC schedule, that's not likely.

Yes, scoring at all (13 points to be exact) on then-and-now No. 1 Florida not only embarrassed the Gators, but also gave the Volunteer nation something to hope for. Fumbling the game away against Auburn took away that spark, and this weekend's game against Georgia will probably not help to regain it.

Tennessee will no doubt win again this season, playing throwaway games against Memphis and possibly Vanderbilt. But for every easy win, there's an embarrassment waiting just around the corner—see here, Georgia, South Carolina and Mississippi.

So what makes MT so different than these teams? It could be, at least compared to Vandy and Tennessee, that the Blue Raiders play

in a largely weak conference. Besides perennial powerhouse Troy, the Blue Raiders don't have any huge conference headaches.

After the season opener at Clemson, the Blue Raider nation seemed to have lost hope, but why? Clemson is an excellent ACC team that played in a home stadium in front of a rabid crowd. To be completely honest, MT's loss should not have been a surprise.

What should surprise us is losing to more Sun Belt conference teams. The loss at Troy was, again, expected. But in a conference that is commonly dominated by the Trojans and the Blue Raiders, what else does MT have to worry about in conference play? Western Kentucky doesn't really pose a threat, nor does Louisiana-Lafayette. MT will have to make sure that more conference losses do not happen.

It could be that MT has dynamic athletes at key positions. With a quarterback that runs, a receiver that throws and a bunch of defensive backs that catch, what can go wrong?

Dasher's running presence has been felt in every game to date. How many times has the QB been the team's leading rusher? Dasher leads the team with 350 yards for gain—200 yards more than RB D.D. Kyles. Or, from a defensive standpoint, does anyone know how many interceptions the Blue Raider defense has had? It's six, for a total of 45 yards.

Speculation could go on and on. The simple fact is that MT is currently the best in the state, and the Blue Raider nation will no doubt keep its eyes peeled to see what the MT football staff has in store for the rest of the season.

# ‘Sidelines’ Player of the Week

Blue Raider tennis athlete Peers represents MT across nation, globe

STAFF REPORT

The Sidelines Player of the Week for Oct. 8 is men’s tennis athlete John Peers.

Coming fresh off of the cusp of an ITA All-American bid on Wednesday, and heading into further ITA tournament competition throughout the week, Peers is one of the strongest tennis players in the country.

The Melbourne, Australia native is also pairing up with teammate Victor Melo for the doubles portion of the main draw tournament.

“[Peers] executed the game plan very well and got the job done,” head coach David McNamara said about Peers. “He made his goal to get into the main draw and is now looking to get a few wins there as well.”

Peers has done very well in the ITA Qualifiers. On Monday, 11-seeded Peers took on Nevada’s Wessim Derbel for a 6-3, 6-2 victory. It all culminated yesterday in the match against Stanford’s Gregory Hirshman, which Peers took 6-3, 6-2.

Peers began his sophomore season with an ITA ranking of 91, and finished 4-3 in singles play. All throughout his sophomore season, Peers and fellow Australian Robert McKenzie would lead the Blue Raiders to victory time and time again.

The junior finished last year’s season with a 21-2 record and went 18-1 in doubles matches. Peers also posted a win over Christian Hansen and Jeremy Tweedt of Tennessee at the ITA Southeast Regionals. His junior year has started off no differently.

This summer, Peers traveled to Belgrade, Serbia to participate in the 25th Summer World University Games.

“It is a great honor to be representing your country in any event. Not only is he representing Australia but also Middle Tennessee State University,” Peers said.

Peers will continue to represent the Blue Raiders, especially at the ITA Qualifiers throughout the remainder of the week.

FOOTBALL  
FROM PAGE 7

After the PAT, courtesy of kicker Alan Gendreau, the score was refreshed to 24-7.

But that was the end of hope for the Blue Raiders, as the beginning of the fourth quarter would also bring another Troy score. 52 seconds into the last quarter, Trojan QB Dantavious Parker would rush up the middle to widen the gap 31-7.

A series of unsuccessful drives would characterize the remainder of the game for the Blue Raiders.

Dasher finished the game 24-of-44 for 245 yards, with the sole touchdown to Jef-

ferson. This makes the fifth game this season that Dasher has thrown for over 200 yards. Jefferson was the team’s leading receiver, catching seven for 79 yards. Honeycutt ran for 66 yards after five receptions.

Bear Woods led the stops and collected nine tackles for the Trojan defense. Boris Lee and Courtland Fuller each tallied seven.

The Blue Raiders’ next game is a non-conference matchup against Southeastern Conference opponent Mississippi State in another nationally televised contest. The game will be aired live on Oct. 17 at 11:30 a.m. on ESPNU at Floyd Stadium.

# Men’s golf team excels in non-conference matchup

Blue Raiders take top five finish on Louisiana road trip

By STEPHEN CURLEY  
Staff Writer

The MT men’s golf team added another top five finish to their resume Monday, placing third at the Squire Creek Classic in Ruston, La.

The Blue Raiders, as a team, shot 294 for six-over par in the final round, ending the tournament with a total score of 867.

“Another solid week for our team,” said Head Coach Whit Turnbow. “This is the best finish we’ve ever had here at Squire Creek.

“Anytime you can pick up 13 wins, you’ve got to feel good about it. We’ve got work to do, and we’ll get after it for the next couple weeks.”

Rival Sun Belt Conference squad the University of New Orleans won the classic in dominating fashion, scoring a ten-under par 854 while Southeastern

Louisiana University finished second with 863. Rice University and Sam Houston University finished behind MT.

The individual highlight of the tournament was senior Kent Bulle, who scored

sophomore Brad Simons both shot 220, tying them for 28th overall.

“Kent was good all week and I am very proud of him,” Turnbow added. “The young guys like Hunter [Green] and Brad [Simons] continue to impress me.”

Senior Craig Smith struggled throughout the Classic, scoring a 78 in the final round to drop him into a tie for 41st overall.

The Privateers’ dominating win was led by junior Ken Looper and sophomore Sebastian Szirmack, who both shot 211 for the tournament and tied for second overall. Looper opened play shooting a 69 in the first round with Szirmack scoring a 68 in the second.

The next action for the Blue Raiders will be Oct. 26-27 at the Adila Intercollegiate in Chattanooga, Tenn.

“[It was] another solid week for our team. This is the best finish we’ve ever had here at Squire Creek. Anytime you can pick up 13 wins, you’ve got to feel good about it. We’ve got work to do, and we’ll get after it for the next couple weeks.”

WHIT TURNBOW  
HEAD COACH, MIDDLE TENNESSEE GOLF

TENNIS  
FROM PAGE 7

He was composed, kept the ball in play and took advantage when he had chances.”

On Tuesday, Peers posted a win that brought him within one victory of the ITA All-American Draw.

Peers took the two-set match against Sun Belt Conference foe Piotr Banas of UL-Lafayette 6-2, 7-5. This victory was enough to put Peers into the finals of the qualifying round.

“I played well,” Peers said. “He was a tough opponent, but I did well enough to get it done. It was a tough match and I really had to work for it.”

Yesterday, Peers followed up his tournament play by taking on Stanford’s Gregory Hirshman, and taking the one win he needed to advance to the main draw of the ITA All-American tournament.

Peers overtook Hirshman in straight sets 6-3, 6-2 in the final round of qualifying.

Peers will begin to play in the main draw today. Brackets have not yet been posted.

Peers and Melo will team up later today to compete in the main draw doubles tournament. Check www.mtsusidelines.com for updates when they become available.

# RYMAN

## AUDITORIUM

Saturday, October 10

ANDREW BIRD

with special guest

Monday, October 26

LENNY KRAVITZ

with special guest

Monday, November 16

regina spektor

Thursday, December 24

Old Crow Medicine Show

with special guest

TICKETS ON SALE FRIDAY AT 11 AM

QWISM

ticketmaster (800) 745-9000

RYMAN.COM • TWITTER.COM/THERYMAN

FACEBOOK.COM/THERYMANAUDITORIUM • @RYMAN.COM

Ryman Auditorium is a National Historic Landmark, open daily for hours.

## THIS WEEK’S TOP TEN:



- 1- Florida**

QUICK STATS: 13-1 (7-1) -- 234 poll points -- Last week: No. 1

GAMES: Def. Oklahoma in BCS title game, 24-14
- 2- Utah**

QUICK STATS: 13-0 (8-0) -- 202 poll points -- Last week: No. 7

GAMES: Def. Alabama in Sugar Bowl, 31-17
- 3- USC**

QUICK STATS: 12-1 (8-1) -- 197 poll points -- Last week: No. 5

GAMES: Def. Penn State in Rose Bowl, 38-24
- 4- Texas**

QUICK STATS: 12-1 (7-1) -- 182 poll points -- Last week: No. 3

GAMES: Def. Ohio State in Fiesta Bowl, 24-21
- 5- Oklahoma**

QUICK STATS: 12-2 (7-1) -- 141 poll points -- Last week: No. 2

GAMES: Lost to Florida in BCS title game, 24-14
- 6- Alabama**

QUICK STATS: 12-2 (8-0) -- 106 poll points -- Last week: No. 4

GAMES: Lost to Utah in Sugar Bowl, 31-17
- 7- TCU**

QUICK STATS: 11-2 (7-1) -- 91 poll points -- Last week: RV

GAMES: Def. Boise State in Poinsettia Bowl, 17-16
- 8- Penn State**

QUICK STATS: 11-2 (7-1) -- 69 poll points -- Last week: No. 6

GAMES: Lost to USC in Rose Bowl, 38-24
- 9- Ohio State**

QUICK STATS: 10-3 (7-1) -- 27 poll points -- Last week: No. 10

GAMES: Lost to Texas in Fiesta Bowl, 24-21
- 10- Oregon**

QUICK STATS: 10-3 (7-2) -- 23 poll points -- Last week: NR

GAMES: Def. Oklahoma State in Holiday Bowl, 42-31

# MTSU STUDENTS GET 10% OFF!

Show us your student ID at The Oaks Pei Wei.

Offer expires 12/31/2009.

## PEI WEI

ASIAN DINER

By P.F. Chang's China Bistro

### EAT IN FIVE LANGUAGES

CHINAJAPANKOREATHAIVIETNAM

The Oaks  
(Medical Center Parkway and Thompson Ln.)  
Take Away: (615) 896-3886