

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

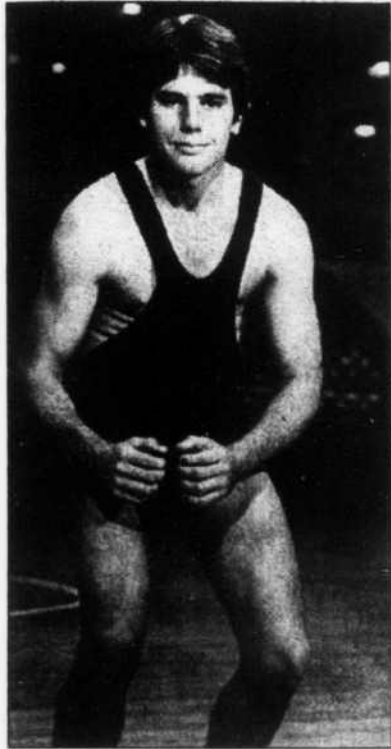
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2008

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

VOL. 84 NO. 53

INSIDE

The evolution of MTSU



Our university has come a long way, as demonstrated by this photo that ran in *Sidelines* in 1979.

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OPINIONS

Is McCain serious?

Not really, columnist argues.
En inglés y español.

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Read more political perspectives

OPINIONS, 7

SPORTS

MT basketball tips off

Blue Raiders win exhibition
against Cumberland
University 81-70 in first action
of season.

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ELECTION 2008



**FOR MORE
PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTION
COVERAGE,
CHECK OUT
PAGE 3.**

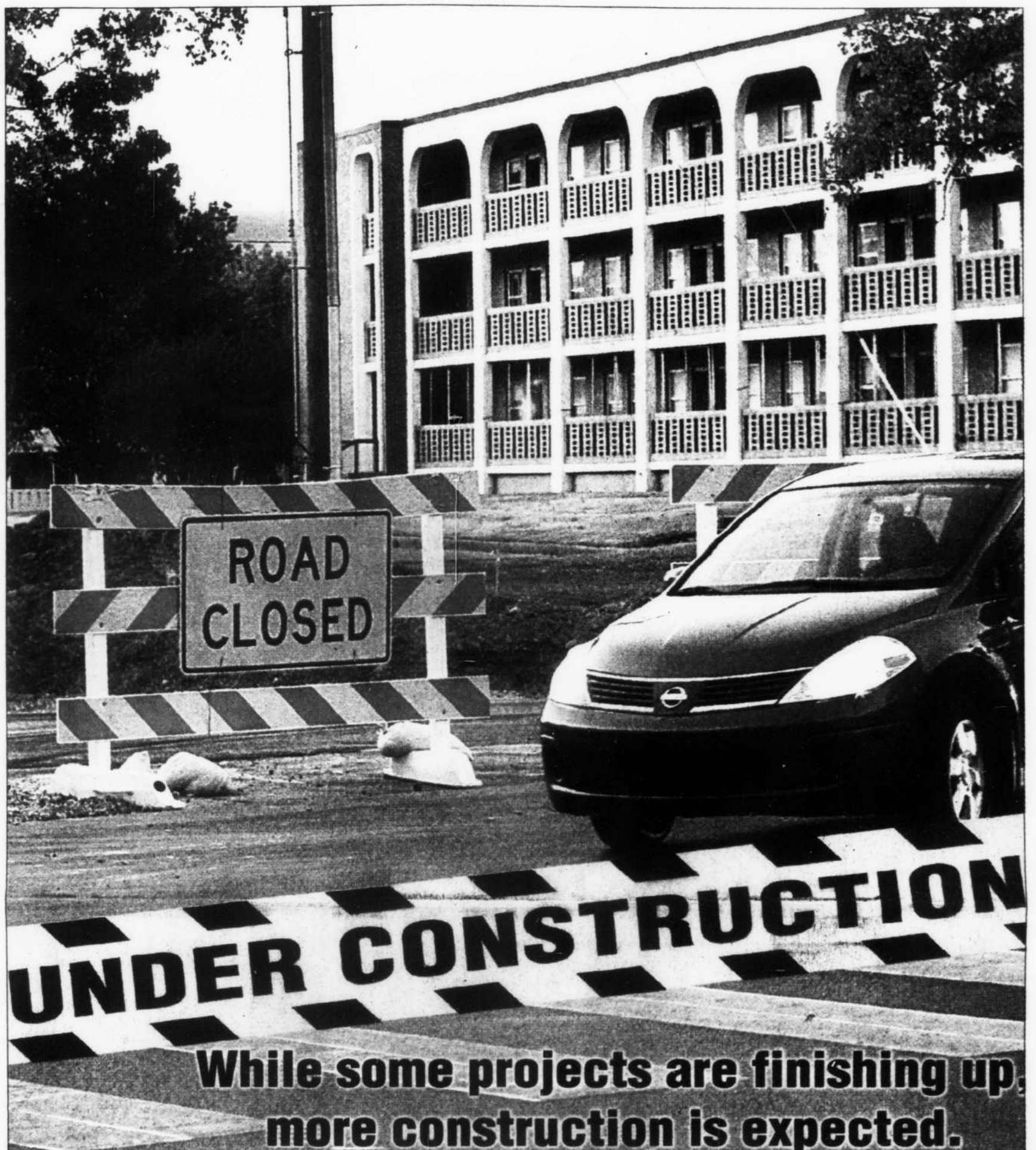


Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor

A car maneuvers through construction near Abernathy Hall and Alumni Drive. Construction to Alumni Drive is part of a \$6.75 million parking and transportation project that has been delayed because of the chiller plant being built behind Clement and Gore halls. Nancy Weatherly, manager of Parking and Transportation Services, said that once Alumni Drive is completed, the road will be able to handle traffic flow better and have a bus lane.

SEE CONSTRUCTION, PAGE 2 FOR THE FULL STORY

Controversial, pro-vegan film airs on campus

By ALEX BLACKWELDER
Photography Editor

Raiders Organized for Animal Rights will show the award-winning documentary *Earthlings* for free in the Business and Aerospace Building this Wednesday at 7 p.m. There will be a question and answer session after the viewing and free vegan snacks.

R.O.A.R., formally known as Giving Animals a Voice, is a student organization of activists that focus on issues surrounding animal mistreatment and exploitation.

According to Kenny Torrella, junior recording industry major and R.O.A.R. member, there isn't much awareness on campus about how we treat animals in society today. R.O.A.R., he said, aims to change that.

The group meets every Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the third floor lobby of the Keathley University Center.

Earthlings, narrated by animal activist Joaquin Phoenix, seems to have had an overwhelming positive response by those who have seen it. Riley Mitchell, sophomore music major, said he became a vegetarian after watching *Earthlings* last year.

"It is a very powerful film," Mitchell said. "It will give you a glimpse of what truly goes on behind closed doors."

Torrella calls the film a "must-see."

Earthlings outlines and analyzes humankind's economic dependence on animals and is important for anyone that wants to find

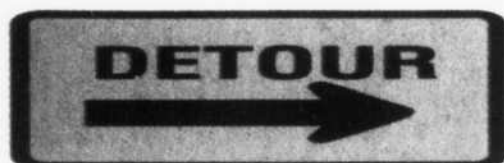


Photo courtesy ISawEarthlings.com

Raiders Organized for Animal Rights will show the chilling documentary *Earthlings* Wednesday.

EARTHLINGS PAGE 5

Construction



prevents
students from
maneuvering
around campus

By MICHAEL STONE
Features Editor

Two locations under construction on campus, Alumni Drive and Cummings Hall, are nearing their expected completion dates, though the Alumni Drive construction has experienced delays.

The section of the road between Blue Raider Drive and Friendship Street has will reopen later than originally expected due to these delays, according to Nancy Weatherly, manager of Parking and Transportation Services.

"The project had to be put on hold because of the chiller plant construction," said Weatherly, who added that the completion date has been moved to mid-February from the end of December.

The chiller plant Weatherly is referring to is being built behind Clement and Gore halls for the future science building, which will be located where Clement, Gore, Wood and Felder halls stand.

Weatherly said the construction of the chiller plant was delayed, resulting in the Alumni Drive construction being delayed due to the proximity of the two projects.

Construction to Alumni Drive is part of a \$6.75 million, parking and transportation project, which also includes a new entrance to Alumni from Rutherford Boulevard and improvements to Middle Tennessee Boulevard.

Upon completion, the road will be "straightened out, handle traffic flow better and have an independent bus lane," Weatherly said.

Motorists will be permitted

to pass Raider Xpress buses on Alumni, or any other road where buses have an independent lane, in spite of the phrase "Do not pass," on the back of the buses, Weatherly said.

Cummings Hall, which is closed this school year for renovations, will reopen on schedule in August 2009 before the start of the next school year, according to Sarah Sudak, director of Housing and Student Life.

Cummings Hall, which is receiving over \$10 million in renovations for "everything in the building," is part of a 10-year, campus-wide dormitory renovation plan, Sudak said.

"Next school year, we will be closing down Corlew Hall for renovations," said Sudak, who added the plan is in its sixth year.

Upcoming projects

MTSU plans to start several new projects within the next couple years, including construction of both a new student union building and a new science building.

Construction of the student union building, which is "approved, in design and moving forward," will begin in early 2010, said Patty Miller, assistant vice president of Campus Planning and Development.

Miller said the current university center is outdated for the population size of MTSU.

"The Keathley University Center's meeting space and student space has been outgrown by the university," Miller said. "The possibility

of adding on to the KUC was looked in to, but it was decided a new building would best benefit the campus."

The building will be constructed in the field between Cummings Hall and the Paul W. Martin Honors College Building.

The new science building, which will be oriented towards biology and chemistry majors, has been designed, but lacks the total funding to begin construction, Miller said.

"Of the \$133.6 million needed for construction, \$18.6 million is available," Miller said.

Miller said the university is awaiting state capital funds for the remaining \$155 million. She added that the university is optimistic about receiving the funds in September 2009 when the new fiscal year begins.

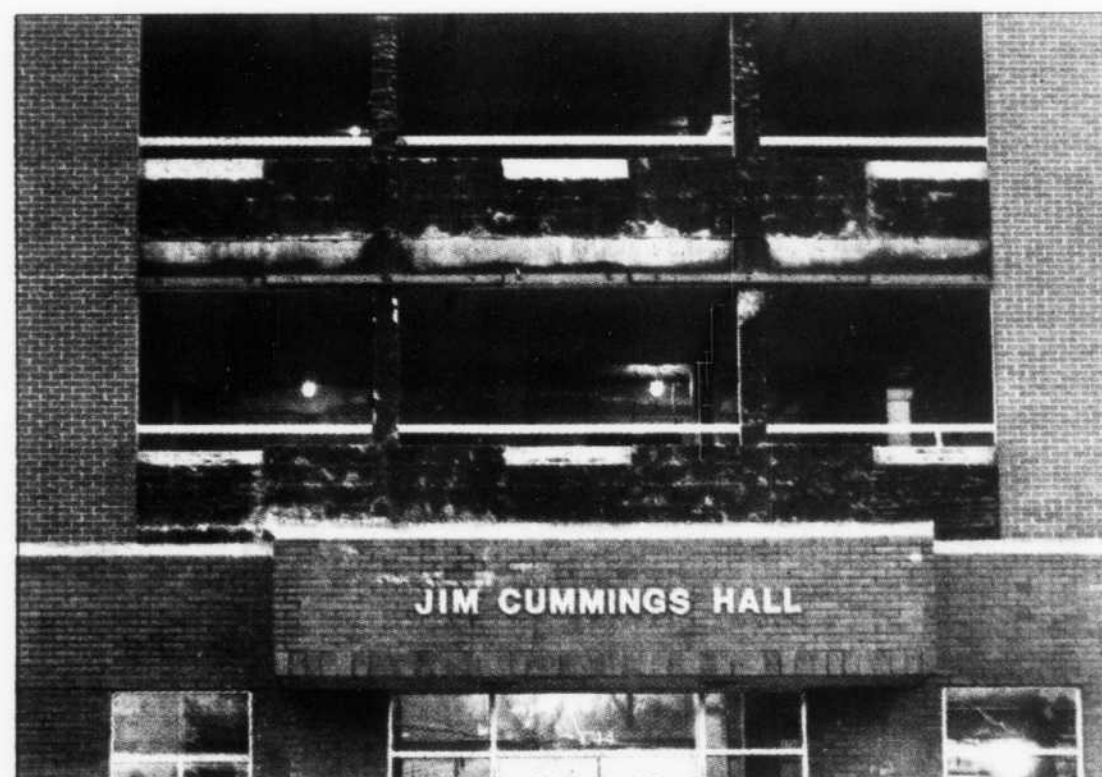
"The construction of these buildings is the next step in the master plan for MTSU's campus," Miller said. "Creating more academic buildings on campus and moving parking off campus will result in a core, academic, pedestrian campus."

To help move parking off campus, Miller said a "large loop" around campus is being developed to improve bus routes and make parking off campus easier for students.

"A parking garage is even a possibility," Miller said.

Weatherly said that Campus Planning and Development has several ideas in the making for MTSU's campus.

"A lot is going to be happening in the next three to five years," Weatherly said.



Photos by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor

Cummings Hall is currently being remodeled and is expected to be completed in fall 2009. It will serve as a freshman dormitory.



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Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

Jessica Kuhn (left), The Punk Phunk Phairyale Princess (middle) and Chris Grimes (right) dance the night away at the Lambda Association costume ball on Thursday in the Tom Jackson building

Costume ball aims to erase students' social barriers

By JESELYN JACKSON
Contributing Writer

In an effort to increase diversity awareness at MTSU, two school organizations partnered to host a Halloween event entitled the Blank Like Me Ball and encouraged participants to dress up "outside of their comfort zones."

The Lambda Association is an organization that seeks to address the diverse needs of all of its members, be it social, political, educational or simply offering support.

The purpose of the Cultural Diversity organization is very similar. Its purpose is to enhance the quality of relationships that the MTSU community has with those of different cultures.

The idea for the ball came from the well-known novel entitled *Black Like Me* by John Howard Griffin.

Black Like Me is a very famous novel and movie about a white man who puts on make-up to look black. He

experiences life as a minority as closely as a white man could.

"The idea of the ball was for everyone to come out and dance," said Jessica Kuhn, sophomore psychology major and Lambda president. "It was titled to encourage diversity meaning black like me, straight like me, gay like me and even to dress as someone out of your comfort zone."

The ball was also based on the ongoing series in *Sidelines*. So far, the newspaper has featured columns exploring the perspectives of biracial, gay, Latino and non-traditional students.

"I just came with a friend," said Gary Woods, senior organizational psychology major. "I heard about it through Facebook."

Overall, the event was intended to encourage diversity on campus.

"I thought the ball would be fun," said Brittney Thomas, junior marketing major. "Any event that promotes


diversity is great."

People attending the ball were encouraged to dress in costumes that represented someone other than themselves. There were men, women, fairies, doctors, Republicans, Democrats and even a racist.

"I really didn't know what to expect when I was asked to come out and be the entertainment, but I am really glad I was," said drag queen and host The Princess from Playdance Bar in Nashville. "I am glad to see that everyone came out and showed their support."

The ball gave the MTSU community a chance to experience life in someone else's shoes. Guests shared that it was a great and creative way to celebrate diversity and Halloween.


The ball was held in the Tom Jackson Building on Oct. 30 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Admission for the ball was \$3 at the door or free if you wore a costume.




Nontraditional Student Week

November 3-7, 2008


"Festivities, Encouragement and Election-year enlightenment"




Monday Nov. 3—Open house from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in Room 320 of the KUC
Free pastries and cider.



Tuesday Nov. 4—OWLS is co-sponsoring the Unity Election Party 2008 with LTA and other groups from 7-11 p.m. in the KUC Grill, this is a nonpartisan event to celebrate democracy. Speakers from both major parties will be on hand, and attendees will be able to watch live election coverage. There will be Gift giveaways, free food, and a silent auction with proceeds to benefit a local domestic violence shelter. This event is free and open to the public. A care package item for soldiers serving overseas or a small donation at the front door is requested.



Wednesday Nov. 5—OWLS information table in front of Phillips bookstore, 1st floor in the KUC from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Thursday Nov. 6—The Nontraditional Week Dinner, 5:30-7:30 p.m. in KUC Room 322. Bring your family and friends, a side dish (salad, vegetables or dessert) that feeds 8 to 10 people and a liter of your favorite beverage. We will also have a guest speaker, Sharon Mitchell-Pierre, who will provide uplifting words about overcoming the daily struggles as a nontraditional student. Immediately after is our Pinnacle Honor Society Induction.

*PLEASE RSVP for the dinner so that we will be able to plan for enough food and supplies. Contact Dr. Carol Ann Bailey at carol.bailey@mtsu.edu or 615-899-5900 or President Monique Deane at monique.deane@mtsu.edu.



ELECTION 2008



McCain reiterates his faith, patriotism in U.S.

In closing days of the United States Presidential election, McCain reprises nationalist message

By BETH FOUHY
Associated Press

Republican presidential candidate John McCain on Saturday criticized Democratic rival Barack Obama's comment that his victory in Iowa's caucuses

last winter had "vindicated" his faith in the American people.

"My country has never had to prove anything to me, my friends," McCain said while campaigning in the Washington suburbs in northern Virginia.

"I've always had faith in it and I've been humbled and honored to serve it."

McCain was referring to a remark Obama made at a campaign stop in Des Moines on Friday.

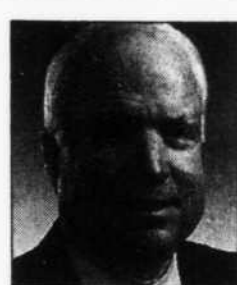
"My faith in the American people was vindicated

and what you started here in Iowa swept the nation," Obama said.

The Illinois senator's win over Hillary Rodham Clinton in Iowa put him on the path to being the first black man to be nominated for president by a major political party.

In response to McCain's remarks, the Obama campaign called the criticism "pathetic" as well as a distortion aimed at attacking the Democrat's patriotism.

"Sadly, this is what we've come to expect from a desperate, dishonorable campaign that will say anything in a failed attempt to win this election," Obama spokesman Bill Burton said.



John McCain

"I believe my experience will inspire a generation of Americans."

Earlier Saturday, during a chilly rally in Newport News, McCain gave Virginia voters a win on Tuesday and warned

that Obama would seek a wide array of tax increases as president.

"He's running for redistributor in chief, I'm running for commander in chief," said McCain, who spoke with a noticeably scratchy voice, stopping at times to cough.

Virginia is one of several reliably Republican states that McCain is struggling to hold.

Recent polling shows Obama running ahead of McCain in the state, which hasn't voted for a Democratic president since 1964.

McCain was heading to Pennsylvania and then New York, where he was to appear on "Saturday Night Live."

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Despite positive polls, Obama not letting up

Regardless of high confidence in the Democratic voting base, Obama fights on

By BEN FELLER
Associated Press

That's what the giddy crowds at Barack Obama's campaign rallies hear when he walks off the stage, the booming sound of Stevie Wonder singing about the promise of a sure thing.

The curious part is that Obama keeps saying just the opposite: Not one thing is sealed.

"We can't afford to slow down, or sit back, or let up, for one day, for one minute, for one second in this last week," the Democratic presidential nominee told supporters Thursday.

"Not now. Not now," he said in the Florida sunshine that day. "We've got to work hard."

For a range of reasons, the slipperiness of polls, the Democrats' history of heartbreak, the still-to-be-determined effect of race, the desire not to jinx himself, Obama is, in fact, working the vote hard.

In the contest against Republican John McCain, Obama has gone big, drawing hundreds of thousands of people to rallies in the last few days alone. He used his fundraising muscle to buy a prime-time TV slot for his infomercial, viewed by 33.6 million, and touted his new unity with former President Clinton.

But Obama also is careful to look engaged individually, too. Twice this week, in campaign offices outside Denver and in Pittsburgh, he got on the phone directly with voters.

One woman grilled him at length about his environmental record. One said she wanted tickets to his inauguration. One made him smile by saying she was 100 percent Obama.

"I won't let you down," he told her.

It is standard election politics not to look cocky. Voters hate being taken for granted. Yet the tone of Obama's argument suggests he is going beyond playing it safe.

Despite all the polling pointing in his favor, there remains a feeling in his campaign that anything can happen at the end. Obama appears easy and unworried, he even took time Thursday to visit a pumpkin patch, but signs and words of overconfidence are shunned.

"Complacency kills campaigns," said Mark Mellman, a Democratic strategist and John Kerry's pollster during the 2004 presidential race. "Winners always run like they are behind."

That helps explain why Obama barreled on with an outdoor rally in Pennsylvania this week despite the foul weather. The thou-

sands of people who showed up endured sideways rain, cold chills and mud. McCain canceled a similar rally 50 miles away.

Obama told them: "If we see this kind of dedication on Election Day, there is no way that we're not going to bring change to America."

On Friday, Obama again showed an assume-nothing attitude.

As the election closes in, Obama leads McCain in most national polls, and most state surveys show him running strong in traditional Democratic states and leading in some that Bush won in 2004, including Ohio, Colorado, Nevada and Virginia. That makes a path for a McCain victory difficult to discern.

Mellman said all those polls assume that every Obama supporter will turn out to vote, and that every volunteer will do what it takes to turn out the vote.

"Don't believe for one second in these polls," Obama told a crowd of 35,000 people outside Orlando, Fla., late Wednesday night. "Power concedes nothing. We are going to work over the next five days like our lives depended on it. We're going to have to struggle."

When Obama talks of the election struggle, others have a hard time believing. His consistent lead in the polls has even become part of the late-night TV comedy conversation.

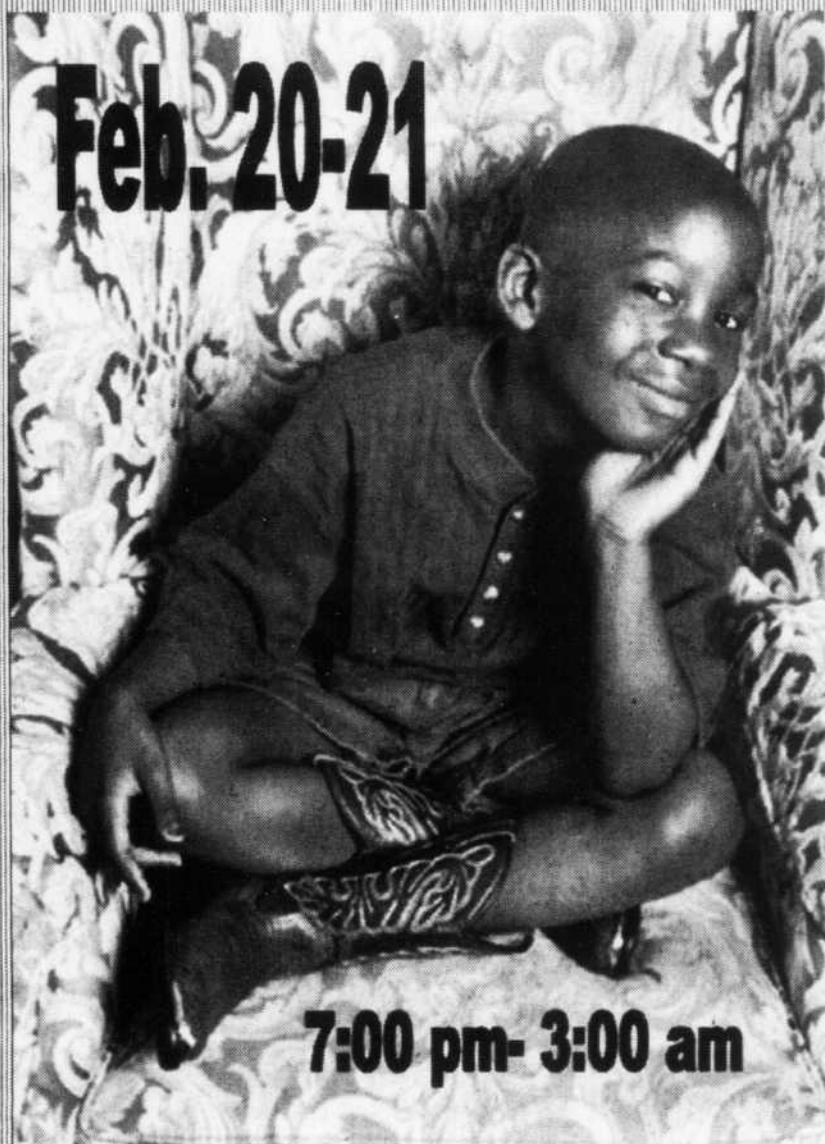


Barack Obama

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If you're willing to not complain about who the president is for the next four to eight years, don't worry about the election.

**OTHERWISE,
GO VOTE.**

TOMORROW!



CURRENT EVENTS

Murfreesboro Symphony Concert: From Words to Music
Monday Nov. 3
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: First United Methodist Church, 265 West Thompson Lane, Murfreesboro.

Red Cross Blood Drive
Tuesday, Nov. 4
Time: 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.
Location: KUC

Unity Election Party 2008
Hosted by: Lambda Theta Alpha, Latin sorority incorporated
Date: Tuesday, Nov. 4
Time: 7 p.m. until 11 p.m.
Location: KUC Grill

Annual Study Abroad Fair
Wednesday, Nov. 5
Time: 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.
Location: KUC Second Floor

NPHC Homecoming Step Show
Friday, Nov. 7
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: Murphy Center
Tickets at Ticketmaster: \$10 plus fees
Tickets at MFT ticket office: \$12

4 Women4 Views with Text
Now through Nov. 13
Location: James E. Walker Library

Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Immersion: A Katrina Room
Now through Dec. 13
Location: Nashville's Parthenon
An exhibit featuring photographs from William Rosen's horrific discovery after returning to his home in New Orleans.

CRIME BRIEFS

Oct. 26, 12:20 a.m. Alcohol
Crestland Ave.
Andrea Page Hill and Angela Petty were issued citations for underage consumption of alcohol.

Oct. 26, 12:28 p.m. Vandalism
Wood Hall
Fire extinguisher discharged in second floor hallway.

Oct. 26, 10:50 p.m. Suicide
Off Campus

Oct. 27, 7:42 a.m. Burglary
Clement Hall
Complainant advised that he came home to his apartment after being gone all weekend and noticed that his apartment was missing some items that were there before he left. He could not advise everything that was missing, but he did advise that some shoes and jackets were missing and there was no sign of forced entry.

Oct. 27, 10:33 a.m. Theft
Miller Horse Coliseum
Subject called and said that someone had stolen his license plate and is requesting an officer for a report.

Oct. 27, 2:46 p.m. Theft
Parking and Transportation
Subject called and requested an officer in reference that some cell phones had been stolen.

Oct. 27, 6:08 p.m. Traffic
James E. Walker Library Lot
Subject advised that someone hit her vehicle while she was in the library and did not leave a note.

Oct. 28, 11:01 a.m. Assistance
Mass Communications Lot
Parking Services requested an officer while they tow a vehicle.

Oct. 28, 1:04 p.m. Traffic
GreenHouse Lot
Subject called and said that someone hit her vehicle.

Oct. 28, 1:38 p.m. Vagrancy
Keathley University Center
Job Powell, a homeless man, was issued a trespassing warning including all of MTSU campus.

Oct. 28, 2:28 p.m. Sexual Offense
Keathley University Center Lot
Subject called saying a male was in the area of the KUC stopping females in attempt to sell them magazines and was also making sexual comments and gestures which were making females uncomfortable.

Oct. 28, 2:35 p.m. Theft
Clement Hall
Subject came into the station to fill out a theft report in reference to the light on his bike.

Oct. 28, 3:30 p.m. Vandalism
Scarlett Commons Apt. 3
Subject called and advised that someone had thrown something at her vehicle and broke her windshield.

Oct. 28, 5:03 p.m. Theft
Tom Jackson Building
Report of a theft of loss of keys in the building.

Oct. 28, 5:35 p.m.

Vandalism
GreenHouse Lot
Subject called wanting to report vandalism to his blue Volkswagen.

Oct. 28, 10:37 p.m. Theft
James E. Walker Library
Report of a jacket stolen from the library.

Oct. 28, 10:39 p.m. Harassment
Peck Hall
Report of a phone harassment on campus.

Oct. 28, 10:44 Suicide Threat
James E. Walker Library
Subject advised that she had been talking on the internet with a friend for a couple of hours and he had made threats of suicide. She advised that he told her he was leaving the library and going for a walk. The officer looked in the area and building surrounding but no contact was made.

Oct. 29, 10:59 a.m. Theft
Peck Hall
Subject called and said that someone had taken books from her book bag.

Oct. 29, 2:03 p.m. Theft
Davis Science Building
Two females came to the station to fill out a report of theft.

Oct. 29, 2:22 p.m. Alarm Fire
James Union Building
Subject called saying there was a trash can on fire in front of the JUB.

Oct. 29, 8:43 p.m. Traffic
MTSU Police Department
Officer was flagged down in the parking lot to take a report of a hit and run.

Oct. 30, 9:05 a.m. Alarm Fire
Wiser-Patten Science Hall
Smoke detectors was set off.

Oct. 30, 10:03 a.m. Miscellaneous
Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building
Subject requested an officer in reference to a possible theft from the nursing clinic.

Oct. 30, 10:48 a.m. Miscellaneous
Woodmore Cafeteria
Subject called and said that one of his student workers is in an argument with another student.

Oct. 30, 12:35 p.m. Vagrancy
Keathley University Center
Subject called and said there were three males that were trying to sell magazines to females and harassing them. Kevin James Cole was arrested for criminal trespassing and evading arrest on foot.

Oct. 30, 2:07 p.m. Theft
Business Aerospace Building
Subject called and said that she just got her back pack stolen from the class room along with her jacket and car keys.

Oct. 30, 2:58 p.m. Traffic
Jones Hall Lot
2006 black dodge caravan

Oct. 30, 7:42 p.m. Theft
Keathley University Center
Theft of a Blackberry PDA from the KUC.

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EARTHLINGS FROM PAGE 1

out the truth about how we treat animals in our society," Torrella said. "It isn't just for people that love animals. It's a film for people that strongly believe in justice, compassion, sustainability and non-violence."

The highly graphic scenes that the film depicts might be

disturbing to some, but according to Torrella, they are vital to changing people's attitudes about animal rights.

"When we tell people what the film is about they say they don't want to see it because they love animals," Torrella said. "This response is understandable, but if we love animals, we shouldn't look away and ignore their suffering."

"Earthlings is a fairly graphic movie, and it recommends a lifestyle many consider extreme. But we are asking that people give it a chance," said Tyler White, R.O.A.R. member and senior recording industry major. "It may change your life."

White said he hoped the showing of the documentary inspires students to participate in Veg Week, Nov. 14 to

17. Students are encouraged to sign up to receive a mentor to help them transition to a vegetarian or vegan diet during this week. There will be daily events such as potlucks, cooking demonstrations, lectures and bike rides.

"Animals can't speak for themselves, so it's up to us to either look away, or to try and make a positive difference," Torrella said.

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Through the Sidelines' Lens



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

(Above) Becky Ward gives the little boy presents for a Pi Sigma Epsilon charity event.

(Below) Brittany Rawson gives a little girl a gift.

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OPINIONS

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Conference helps us to better your newspaper

For the past four days, Sidelines editors have been attending journalism sessions in Kansas City, Mo. at the College Media Convention.

During the conference, classes of diversity, design, Photoshop and management skills were offered to improve the quality of newspapers at numerous colleges across the country.

Diversity classes focused on covering minorities on campus, and by minorities we mean anyone who is part of an organization and isn't getting covered. They were helpful in encouraging us to reach out to organizations.

We don't want to run stories of groups and organizations when they just celebrate a holiday, so we encourage every organization to contact us with any event they are sponsoring or partaking in. Equal coverage is vital to us, and we can't cover something that we know nothing about.

A solution to this problem would be for every organization to have someone send us e-mails with information about upcoming events. E-mail addresses for all section editors can be obtained in the staff box at the bottom of page 3.

We also learned that journalism has become more popular online than in print. Because of the use of the Internet, we have decided to work on producing a multimedia section for our Web site.

Professors and advisors at the convention encouraged students and journalists to join online sites such as Twitter, Facebook and MySpace, in an attempt to have a quicker and more efficient way to inform people.

Sidelines currently has a Facebook page to help increase our connection to the campus community. We upload recent front pages, log notes and post meeting and publication date reminders.

We also learned that, much like ourselves, other college newspapers are finding it hard to recruit and maintain staff members. Nearly every college we spoke to say they are always short-handed, leaving the majority of the work – writing, photography and design – to the editors and a few loyal staffers.

Working for a newspaper isn't an easy task, but it can be one of the most rewarding. On top of building up a resume and portfolio, it allows people to explore a variety of subjects, make new friends and actually test the field of journalism before graduation.

But the problem of recruitment has a double edge. The other side to the issue is that many newspapers will get interested people – particularly journalism majors – who want to write, take photos or design; but then disappear after half-heartedly completing an assignment.

Guest writers, photographers and designers are

EDITORIAL, PAGE 7

Non-traditional like me

Hispanic Gay
Chinese Muslim
Jewish Non-traditional

A six-part series examining diversity on campus

Walking in the shoes of others

By VIRGINIA RAGSDALE
Guest Columnist

While looking back through my high school annual, I remembered all the good times with friends.

"You were a blast," comments read. "We had some wild parties." "Stay cool."

I can admit now – I was not ready to take college seriously.

Fifteen years later a small voice said, "Mommy, I want to be just like you – You're the greatest!" I truly believe my daughter intended every word she said that day.

Hearing the voice of my six-year-old daughter gave me the strength to start a new life for her and my family. I was determined at that

time she was not going to be just like me, a waitress working for tips with no plans for the future.

So I went to the college admissions office to see what I had to do to start classes. It was like a whirlwind. They took me in and explained about grants and student loans. The advisers were so helpful and caring. They explained about tuition limits and helped me fit my college schedule around my job and family.

As a full-time student, I juggled a full-time job with raising my two daughters; I had no time to think. I

claimed that my first career was being a mother and raising my children.

My advisers understood and were willing to help

jobs, friends and family. My advisers eased the inclusion of a college schedule into my complicated family life.

Along the college path, I felt guilty for devoting so much of my time to my studies. Family, friends and co-workers were always very supportive. Through words of kindness, I had the strength to continue when I just wanted to quit.

College, like life, is what you make of it. Yes, having responsibilities to a family limited the activities I participated in while in college.

But the college experience

was a reward in and of itself. Now I am proud for my daughters to say they want to be just like their mom.

College has not only given me the knowledge to build a career path, but also life skills like motivation, persistence and vision.

Now my children have dreams of college. I would hope college gives them the ambition to challenge themselves, to find their place in the world, and to reach for their dreams, no matter what obstacles are in their way.

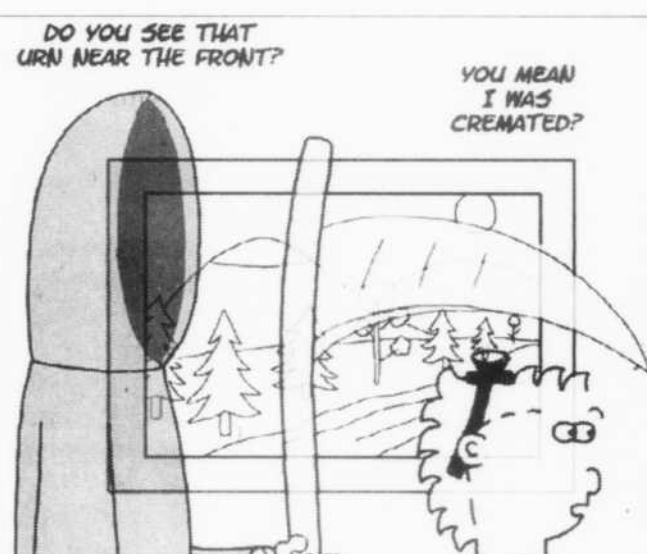
Virginia Ragsdale is a senior education major and can be reached at vlr2f@mtsu.edu. She is the fifth of six students featured in our six-week "Like Me" series.

Hearing the voice of my six-year-old daughter gave me the strength to start a new life for her and my family."

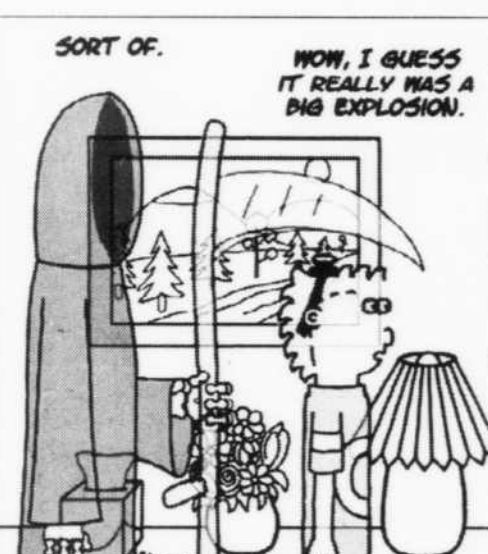
COMICS



"Last-Ditch Effort"



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John Kroes

Polls are unreliable sources of information

How do we really know we can believe the numbers generated by them?

I do not like polls.

I am going to go out on a weak and shaky limb and say that polls are bad because they seem to lead to bad things. I hate the idea that I would turn against information gathering. I pride myself on being much more interested in knowing the truth than needing to be lied to.

I am just not sure polls deliver a truth. I also dip my toes into the libertarian pool on occasion, and the notion of not trusting people to handle information in a responsible way goes against those leanings.

I just cannot seem to shake my dislike and mistrust of polls. I started thinking about this more when I was required to participate in the MT Poll for one of my classes. While this expression of my opinion is not meant to impugn the integrity of the MT Poll, it is meant to raise questions about it and polls in general.

These negative thoughts about polls, and the larger idea of how we currently gather information as a whole, have not been solidified for me but bother me

just the same. My opinions may be based in part in the human reaction of "what I do not understand cannot be true." I am not certain.

I cannot escape the feeling that polls are used in negative ways by most. I am bothered when a pollster announces that his or her data is "scientific" when I do not believe the human mind can be mined in the same scientific way as an atom.

I am incensed that polls are presented to millions as fact with no further discussion

about how, in fact, the results could be skewed by many human factors. It annoys me when I believe a media commentator is forming their opinion based on the result of a poll. It hurts me when a particular poll seems to be aimed at undermining my life. My belief, fact or fiction, that polls will be used for governance gives me chills.

There does not seem to be anything countering these



Guest Columnist
Katie Fowler

feelings. No one is showing me the upside to polling. Pollyanna I am not, but even I, someone who hates trite sentiment, like to be shown

These negative thoughts about polls, and the larger idea of how we currently gather information as a whole, have not been solidified for me but bother me just the same."

the positive, and usefulness, in something that is foisted on me on a daily basis. I need some good to outweigh the bad.

The only thing I see polls and other public opinion gathering methods being used for is as a political foot-

ball for pundits, how to sell me things I do not need, figuring out the cultural divide and how to use it to the advantage of the purveyor of that bit of information, and selling thought to the highest bidders.

Polling, to me, smacks of the same type of pseudo-science as the laughable, in my opinion, body language experts. Their danger wrapped up in their attractiveness.

I know that body language is real because as a human being I rely on my ability to

"read" the body language of others to get cues about their inner thoughts, truthfulness and motives. This is innate in all of us. The very notion that we need an "expert" to tell us what someone really thinks and what they really intend to do is ludicrous, but it seems to me that bad ideas keep grabbing hold of us all and taking root until finally we can not weed them out.

That is how I feel about polls. I think many are turning to poll data to get their opinion fed to them, whether they realize it or not.

We humans operate in a tribal way. We like to conform to the pack. Fighting this need to conform is a monumental task, and I think polling, focus groups, PR firms and corporations are teaming up to make the task even more difficult.

Sometimes I wonder how many people turn on the news for a five-minute fix, see a poll and then let that poll lead them to make a decision that is aligned with the majority of the respondents.

As I stated, these are feelings and opinions based on observation with no scientific data. I could be persuaded to view polls in a more positive light, but I would just suggest that should you like to argue a pro-poll case to me, it would not be wise to start with poll results.

Katie Fowler is a junior journalism major and can be reached at kcf2n@mtsu.edu.

No mucha de una elección, tristemente

Los Estados Unidos están en una situación muy peligrosa.

Estamos luchando en dos guerras que no sabemos terminar. Para empezar, la guerra en Afganistán se falta bastante tropas. En segundo lugar, la guerra en Irak se falta el apoyo de muchos estadounidenses y, más y más, la gente de Irak también.

Al mismo tiempo, los deudas del país son casi insostenibles. En los años siguientes, vamos a sufrir una recesión económica. Como resultado, el ratio de desempleo puede alcanzar ocho o aún diez por ciento.

Además, la crisis del medio ambiente y por consecuencia la crisis de energía son de suma importancia; no podemos ignorarlos porque son demasiado complicados.

Barack Obama ha demostrado que es serio en su deseo resolver estos problemas. Al contrario, yo no creo en la habilidad de John McCain arreglar las cosas que él ayudó a romper.

Muchas personas quieren olvidarse de las guerras, porque la situación en Irak ha mejorado, aunque más que cien miles de nuestros soldados están allí. Obama dijo y dice que necesitamos salir, y estoy totalmente de acuerdo.

En contraste, McCain dice que estamos ganando la guerra, pero no quiere decir cuando será completa. También, a mí, desde el principio la guerra era un error, y McCain dio su apoyo a este desastre.

En otras palabras, Obama dice la verdad, mientras que McCain dice que la gente quieren oír. Así es el caso en la economía, también.

Hace un mes desde McCain dijo que los fundamentos de la economía son fuertes, durante un año cuando el mercado perdió un cuarto de su valor. En el pasado McCain

ha dicho que no entiende la economía muy bien, pero leía un libro del Alan Greenspan.

Pues, Greenspan ha admitido recientemente que sus ideas fueron parcialmente inexactas y tienen la culpa para esta recesión. Entonces ahora McCain habla del problema de "earmarks," que son en realidad el menos de nuestros conciernos.

Sí, es la verdad que Obama se falta experiencia aquí, pero tiene la ayuda de Joe Biden, un hombre con más experiencia en el senado que aún McCain – quien no va a recibir mucha ayuda práctica de su chiste de un vicepresidente, Sarah Palin.

Además, McCain ha tratado pintar Obama como un élite. Pues, McCain tiene siete casas y estuvo aceptado a Annapolis gracias a los conexiones de su padre. Por contraste, la madre de Obama uso cupones de alimentos. Verdadero, ¿quién es el élite?

Por último, no podemos hablar del medio ambiente sin también hablando de energía, porque ayudar el mundo en el futuro tenemos que cambiar nuestras vidas hoy.

Por lo general, Obama quiere poner metas muy agresivas, mientras que McCain quiere actuar como no hay problema, menos el precio de gasolina. Casualmente, su idea de taladrar nacionalmente no puede arreglar nada, dice el departamento de Energía.

En resumen, tristemente, a pesar de su servicio al país, ahora McCain no está hablando de los asuntos. Por esta razón, tenemos dos candidatos, pero sólo uno es serio.

Daniel Potter es un estudiante de periodismo y español. Recibe correos electrónicos en daniel.g.potter@gmail.com.



En español también
Daniel Potter

Not much of a choice at all, sadly

America is in great danger.

We are fighting two wars we don't know how to end. First, the war in Afghanistan lacks adequate troops. Second, the war in Iraq lacks the support of many Americans and, more and more, the people of Iraq as well.

At the same time, America's debts are nearly unsustainable. In the coming years we're going to suffer an economic recession. As a result, the unemployment rate could reach eight or even ten percent.

Further, the environmental crisis and consequently the energy crisis are of utmost importance; we can't just ignore them because they're too complicated.

Barack Obama has demonstrated that he is serious in his desire to resolve these problems. In contrast, I don't believe in John McCain's ability to fix the things that he helped to break.

Many people want to forget about the wars because the situation in Iraq has improved, although more than a hundred thousand of our soldiers are there. Obama has said and still says that we need to get out, and I totally agree.

In contrast, McCain says that we're winning the war, but doesn't want to say when it'll be complete. And, to me, this war was a mistake since the beginning, and McCain gave his support to this disaster.

In other words, Obama speaks the truth while McCain says what people want to hear. This is the case with the economy, as well.

It's been just over a month since McCain said the fundamentals of the economy are strong, during a year when the market lost a quarter of its value. In the past McCain has said he doesn't understand the economy

very well, but was reading Alan Greenspan's book.

Well, Greenspan recently admitted that his ideas were partially wrong and to blame for this recession. So now McCain talks about the problem of earmarks, which in reality are the least of our concerns.

Yes, it's true that Obama lacks experience here, but he has the help of Joe Biden, a man with more experience in the Senate than even McCain – who's not going to receive much practical help from his joke of a vice president, Sarah Palin.

Further, McCain has tried to paint Obama as elite. Well, McCain has seven houses and was accepted to Annapolis thanks to his father's connections. By contrast, Obama's mother used food stamps. Really, who's the elite?

Finally, we can't talk about the environment without also talking about energy, because to save the world of the future we have to change our lives today.

Generally, Obama wants to set very aggressive goals while McCain wants to act like there's no problem, except the price of gasoline.

Incidentally, his idea of domestic drilling won't help a bit, says the Department of Energy.

In conclusion, sadly, despite his service to the country, McCain is no longer addressing the issues.

For this reason, we have two candidates, but only one is serious.

Daniel Potter is a senior majoring in journalism and Spanish. He can be reached at daniel.g.potter@gmail.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A centrist vote for Obama

As founder of the Centrist Party, I can only speak for myself as an individual. Maybe this is representative of the Centrist point of view for some, but certainly not all. I don't know how much it matters, but I wanted to share why I am voting for Barack Obama.

I am a traditional conservative. In my case, that means conserve as much as possible, don't waste. These days, that sounds like the description of a democrat. I don't believe in entitlement programs for the rich, or the poor. I believe that if we don't earn our money, we don't own our money. And if we don't own it, it is likely we won't respect it. Ultimately, if you can't respect something, you might waste it.

Our current economic maelstrom is partly due to entitlements given to corporations and leaders that have bathed in those entitlements (including politicians that relied on corporate campaign money). There are deeper problems, but let us primarily realize that the integrity levels of many CEO's (not all) are far beneath the principles many claim to stand for.

The partnership between politicians and corporate America has led to a society that values consumerism so highly, that we have forgotten

where true values really exist; in our ability to live honorably and foster the values of community and family.

Some proclaim 'free market,' which is silly (because we are in a federally regulated market based on Keynesian economics, 'free market' is not even possible in this system). Corporations and pundits say they don't want government in business. But as soon as they get in trouble, they ask the government for handouts (700 billion anyone; How do you spell inflation?). From Bill stacking to pork barrel projects our government is struggling under its inability to cut the fat out of the budget and get responsible.

The huge very same corporations are wasting our resources to maintain what they say is a higher standard of living, yet they don't realize that quality of life suffers due to their actions. Corporations promote 'that standard' to uphold their profits at 'our' expense.

What is really valuable? Security, health, friends, family, and in my view, above all, honor.

I was fairly evenly split between McCain and Obama for quite some time. I like McCain because he has a strong record of working across the aisle. I liked Obama, because he was able to be serious and discuss unpopular issues that America needs to deal with. So what helped me make up my mind?

I feel that Barack Obama has a better sense of the economic prob-

lems, his policy ideas for performance based education are sound, and his willingness to be strong in how he will approach problems; and his open-mindedness in evaluating them, in a rapidly changing world. On the environment, I think both are evenly aware of the critical issue of Global Warming. Healthcare is difficult because it is becoming increasingly impossible to afford. I hope our next president will come up with a health plan, rather than a healthcare plan.

Generally they are good candidates for president. The reason I began leaning toward Barack Obama is the tone of his responses and his campaign. I believe it upheld the tradition of honor better than the McCain campaign. But my tipping point occurred after a careful examination of the two vice presidential picks. In that, Sarah Palin stood out; watching interviews, getting a sense of her ability beyond the talking points she had been briefed on, it became clear that she does not have the experience required.

I believe the risk is far too high. With all due respect to Senator McCain and his exceptional record, America cannot afford an inexperienced person in the White House, in the event of the Presidents demise. With all due respect to Governor Palin, she has no foreign policy experience, she has very little understanding of the serious challenges Global Warming will put on our economy; and her energy

policy is drill, drill, drill, above all other considerations.

We need a pragmatic Centrist in the White House. For these reasons and others, I am voting for Barack Obama. Centrists right and left should carefully consider the short and long term; think outside the box of right/left. Then cast your vote for the most reasonable presidential ticket. It's not an easy choice, but it may be the most important choice in our lifetime considering all that is on the table at this point in history.

-John Reisman, California

Letters Policy

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

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 the individual writers and not necessarily Sidelines or MTSU.

Have a complaint? We want to publish it. Write a letter to the editor. It's an easy way to express your opinion.

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EDITORIAL FROM PAGE 6

always welcome, but what we need as an organization are loyal and hardworking members who can show determination, creativity, spunk and dedication – regardless of major or experience level.

In fact, we recommend any major to come and work for us. We need experts in all areas and there really is nothing easier than writing about what you know.

Interested in something other than your area of study? We have news beats available for Student Government, crime, Greek Life, construction and Disability Student Services. All the sports teams need reporters and photographers to cover events. Feature stories are always great for descriptive writers and we could always use content for our editorial section.

If anyone fits the above description, we implore you to stop by and pick up an application. Because we won't be around forever, and it is up to those determined individuals to make sure that their college has a newspaper.

Voting should be a lifelong habit; get involved

Every election year, signs and television ads come up telling college students to "rock the vote," or "if you don't vote... you're going to die!"

Am I the only one who finds these absurd? It seems that they're trying to convince college students that voting should be "cool." Why should we be convinced that voting is cool? To me, voting should be a habit just like any other activity we do during the day: brush our teeth, put on shoes, go to class.

College students are the least likely of any age group to vote, at least that's how it was in the 2004 election. The argument among young voters is that politics doesn't affect them at this moment in their life, which is false –

it affects all our lives every day.

The most obvious current example is the debate over the increase in the student activity fees. This is due to the recent state of our economy and the subsequent budget cuts the university has had to implement. That's just one of the thousands of scenarios that I can give to show that politics does affect our daily lives. So please be sure to drop that thought from your mind if you've been asking yourself whether you should vote or not this election year.

We all have a tendency (including myself) to put too much hope in the candidates. Although it is true that whoever becomes our next president will have a say in major policies that will affect us, we



Voting 101
Sam Ashby

have the most control over how we live our lives. I don't want to sound heartless; please don't think I'm saying that if you lose your job and don't have the money to pay your bills that you're on your own. That's not what I'm implying at all. What I mean is that everything isn't going to change overnight, and it's going to take time for things to get back on track. So let's

all try to be patient.

If you are voting, please get informed about the candidates and their issues. Which candidate reflects your views and has the same moral background as you? I cringe when someone says they're voting for this candidate or that candidate because "that's who my dad's voting for." You're not a middle-aged man who owns a business and pays taxes (well the majority of us aren't). For me, it's important to know which candidate has an effective education policy. Also, how is he going to tackle the rising cost of college tuition? What about mental health issues? What will our next president do when it comes to those in poverty and those without healthcare?

Something that is overlooked leading up to the election is the Senatorial and state races that take place. So don't be surprised when you go to the polls on Tuesday and see more than just presidential candidates. A good Web site to find out about the statewide elections is realclearpolitics.com. It has each state and the links to the candidates' campaign Web sites.

The bottom line is that I hope all of you vote this election year and that you all become more involved in our country's political process. We need it now more than ever.

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

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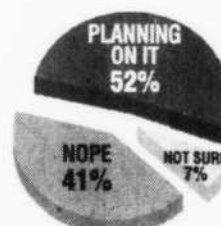
Mass Comm 269

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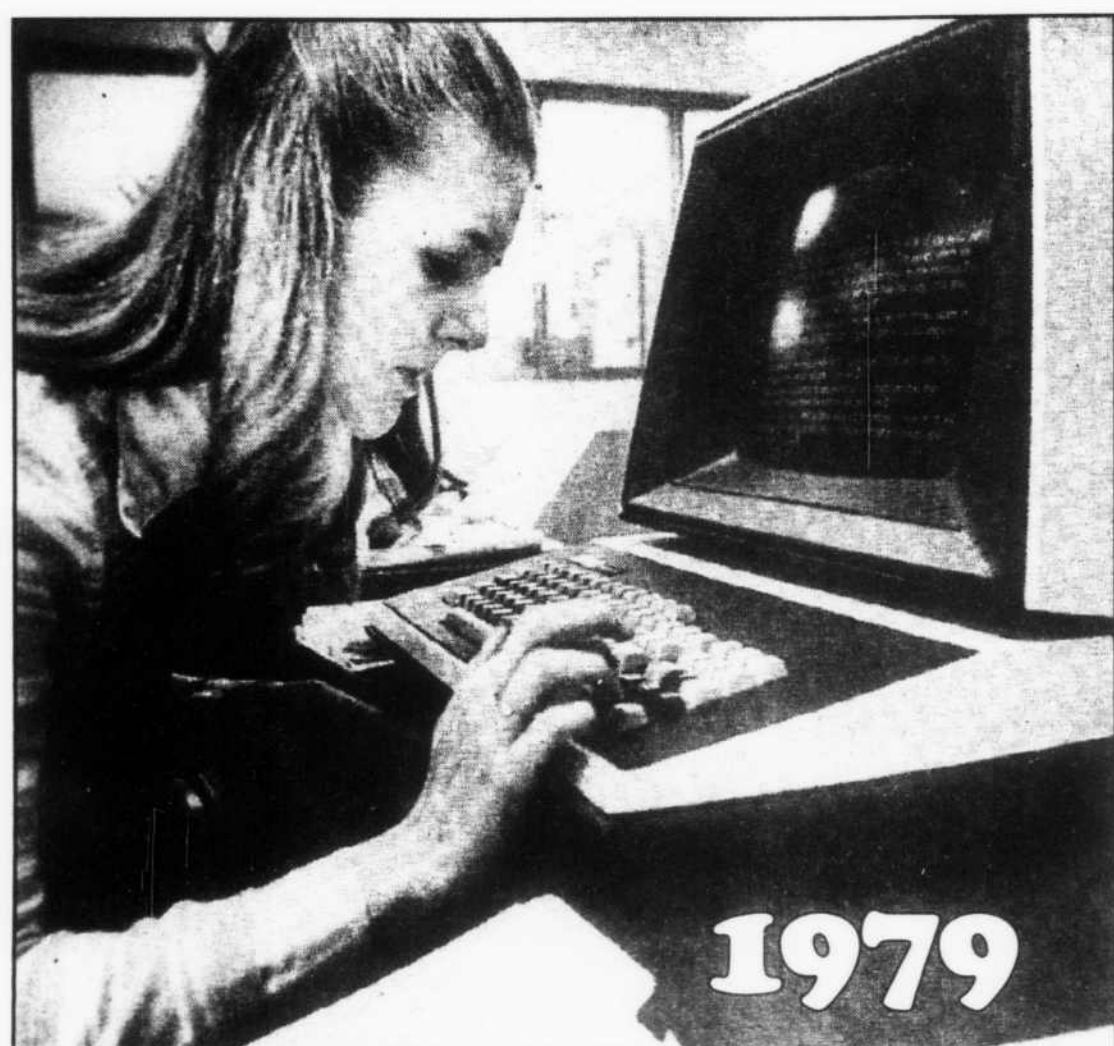
Music

11/3 - Keight Gattis feat.
Magnificent Others - The
Basement @ 911/3 - Dr. Acula, By Blood
We Are Bonded, Run Zom-
bie Run, Stand Your Ground,
Acrasia - The Muse @ 711/4 - Blazin in the Boro Live
- Wall Street @ 9 - FREE11/4 - Sons of William, Wild
Animal, Tone Cluster, Trey
Lockerbie, Jesse Lafser,
Greg Koons, Blake Harvard -
The Basement @ 8 - FREE11/4 - Hours of the Wolf,
Fallen from the Sky - The
Muse @ 711/5 - Majory Lee, Johnny
Bulford, Audrey Baker, Tyler
Dow Bryan - The Basement
@ 6 - FREE11/5 - The Flatliners, The
Swellers, First of the North
Star, The Fakes - The Muse
@ 711/6 - Gunslinger, Winslow
Family Band - Wall Street
@ 911/6 - The Madi Diaz EP
Release Show feat. Cham-
pion and His Burning Flame,
Mikky Ekko, Peter Barbee -
The Basement @ 911/6 - Ressurect The Morn-
ing, In Irons, Adalaide, As
Hell Retreats, Guard your
Steps, Goodbye Apathy -
The Muse @ 711/7 - Snow Black Sunday,
Review Ghost - The 'Boro
@ 811/7 - Old Union - Wall
Street @ 911/7 - A Cursive Memory,
School Boy Humor, Go
Crash Audio - Rockettown
@ 6, \$9/ticketweb.com, \$11/
door11/7 - KrazyEndSane pres-
ents Nashville Metal Music
Awards Prevailing Show feat.
Project Darko, Mindsplitter,
Voodoo Prophet, Omicida,
Dunwich - The Muse @ 7 -
\$511/7 - Zombie Bazooka Pa-
trol - Cafe Coco @ 8 - FREE11/8 - Piranah, Bankside,
Hybris, Mind Splitter - The
'Boro @ 811/8 - All We Seabees, Um-
brella Tree - Wall Street @ 911/8 - Mayor's Youth Council
Talent Show: Stars of the
Future - Rockettown @ 6 -
FREE11/9 - Rowena of the Glen,
Channing and Quinn, Blue
Rock Soul, Farewell Fighter,
Dark Days, Jonell Nathan
Boddie, Zachary Allen,
Shotgun Blue - Rockettown
@ 5:45 - \$10/pre-order, \$12/
door

Other

11/4 - MTSU Idol Finals -
JUB Tennessee Room @ 711/8 - Homecoming Tailgat-
ing - The Grove @ 2:30

Compiled By Katy Coil



Sidelines file photos

(Left) Sidelines received its first computers in 1979 with a value of \$50,000. (Right) Harry Nesbitt helped the '72 golf team win the Murray Invitational.



What started as a small, women's teaching school has grown to be the largest undergraduate college in the state

By Andrea Porter
Contributing Writer

The evolution of MTSU may sound like just another boring history lesson. But in fact, the university has evolved in many interesting and unique ways. Some may find it hard to believe how far MTSU has come and how much it has changed.

MTSU, or as it was originally called Middle Tennessee Normal School, started in 1911. At the time, it was nothing more than a school dedicated to training teachers.

In 1943, the university changed its name to Middle Tennessee State College.

Then in 1965, the name Middle Tennessee State University was born as the school became a four-year college and was able to grant a bachelor's degree in science, as well as the teaching

degree already offered.

MTSU was originally comprised of one building, Kirksey Old Main, one dorm room, and only women attended the university.

Now, MTSU has 109 permanent buildings on campus, and 22,863 male and female students attending the university.

"Over the last 20 or 25 years, there are buildings where there used to be fields – literally," says Faye Johnson, assistant to the executive vice president and provost for Special Initiatives.

The Greek Row fraternity houses are examples these buildings. The eight houses were finished in 2000, and eight fraternities had a place to call their own on campus. Three of these fraternities, Kappa Alpha, Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Sigma Nu, were the original social organi-

zations at MTSU after being officially recognized in 1969.

The many degree options that have come into existence at MTSU now attract a larger student population compared to 1911. There are seven different schools, 36 different departments and 60 different degrees.

MTSU has evolved in assisting students financially as well.

"Many incoming freshmen receive the lottery scholarship, but then lose it after their first semester," says David Chambers, associate director of Financial Aid.

Before the lottery scholarship, students did not receive much aid. In fact, it wasn't until the early '70s that the Higher Education Law was passed which allowed students to access free money through loans for college, Chambers says.

School spirit has evolved as well.

"I believe our school spirit went away, but it's coming back now more than ever," Johnson says.

Johnson says she believes that since MTSU is changing from a residential college to communal one, it lost a sense of school pride. She adds that it has begun to regain it due to the growing number of students.

MTSU's mascot "Lightning" was first adopted in 1998 when the athletics department updated its look. A blue, winged horse was picked to represent the aerospace program and the region's walking-horse industry.

In 2001, MTSU's athletic department became a member of the Sun Belt Conference.

Rules on students have been another big change at MTSU.

Students are more responsible now more responsible for their own actions than back in the '30s, Johnson

says.

Around this time, women were not allowed to leave campus without a written note from a parent or guardian. They were only to leave campus three times during the week and had to return before 5:40 p.m. unless they had a written note saying otherwise. They could not visit family without a written note. There was even a mandatory study time, which started at 7 p.m. and finished at 10 p.m. After that, it was lights out by 11 p.m. Rules have become more lenient, allowing students complete freedom in terms of leaving campus.

From new buildings to loosened rules, the changes that have occurred at MTSU are almost countless. Through all this, the university has maintained its stature and it has grown to stand taller than ever. This has led many students to be proud of the college and proud to call themselves a "Blue Raider."



Sidelines file photos

(Left) Becky Marler writes a ticket for an incorrectly parked vehicle. (Right) MTSU experienced drainage problems after a heavy rain in 1992. The water above is outside Deere Hall.



Are you a super duper creative writer?

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SPORTS

Fast start crucial to Blue Raiders' success

Nov. 14 will mark the official beginning of the much anticipated basketball season at Middle Tennessee.

In regards to the men's squad, Head Coach Kermit Davis knows from years past that a fast start will be imperative to the success of his unit.

Fans have been growing tiresome during Davis' tenure, and much has been attributed to his team's inability to get out of the gates and



Real talk with C-Bow
Casey Bowman

produce victories.

Last season might have been the hardest start for

some fans to swallow. After the Blue Raiders began the season with a dismal 4-9 record, a lot of those same fans even began calling for the coach to either step down or be fired.

Undaunted, Davis rallied his troops and Middle fired away and finished the season on a hot streak, even reaching the finals of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament where they eventually fell to rival Western Kentucky.

That streak where MT went 13-6 to close the year is what brought upon all the hype that they now face. It's for good reason though, as MT virtually returns everyone from that squad.

In the fans' eyes though, another slow start cannot happen. In Davis' eyes, it won't happen. He doesn't have to say it, he used the offseason to prove it.

MT's offseason was one spent with great detail in

preparation. Davis had his group in the gym hours on end, and when his team was allowed to begin practicing, the sessions were filled with non-stop action and physical play – something that was stressed as essential for this team to have success.

With an emphasis on conditioning, defense and rebounding, MT hammered away during the offseason, and Davis primed his team for their next campaign.

Add the new additions like Eric Allen, Montarrio Haddock and Antwaun Boyd to a team full of talent, and every piece of the puzzle seems to be in place, and Middle seems destined for greatness.

Allen and Boyd have the ability to score. Allen is a sharpshooter who can shoot the lights out from anywhere on the court, while

BASKETBALL, PAGE 10

Yates leads MT past Cumberland in exhibition

By TONY STINNETT
MT Athletic Communications

Middle Tennessee Head Men's Basketball coach Kermit Davis has tried to tell his players the team is not where it needs to be at this point of the preseason.

Now Davis believes the players also see it.

Desmond "Boogie" Yates led three Blue Raiders in double figures with a game-high of 27 points as Middle Tennessee disposed of Cumberland 81-70 in exhibition action at Murphy Center Saturday afternoon.

Five Middle Tennessee players scored eight or more in a balanced attack that also featured 13 points from Nigel Johnson, 10 from Kevin Kanaskie, and newcomers Eric Allen and Montarrio Haddock netted nine and eight, respectively.

Despite the successful start in the first of two exhibition games, Davis said the overall performance both individually at spots and collectively as a team is not what it needs to be.

"Everyone had their good moments but I was really disappointed in how we defended," Davis said. "The coaches know where we are but now I think the team does too. We need to get a lot better."

Yates was the offensive difference as he hit 11 of 16 shots, including both 3-point attempts, on the way to his 27-point outburst in 23 minutes of play. Despite the strong offensive effort the Sun Belt's

Preseason Player of the Year said it was clear the team has great strides to make in future practices.

"I think we played hard and we gave effort but we made some mistakes and we have a long way to go," Yates said. "We will take this and build on it through next week's practices and see what improvements we can make before we play our next exhibition game [Thursday]."

Johnson, and Kanaskie, the squad's top playmakers, combined to dish out 14 assists but they were also guilty of six turnovers. Johnson had a stellar line with 13 points, a team-high seven rebounds, seven assists, three steals and two turnovers. Kanaskie also was strong across the board, supporting his 10-point effort with four caroms, seven assists, three steals and a blocked shot. The lowlight was four turnovers.

Darren Avery also displayed energy and finished with six points on 3-of-5 shooting and Davis saw positive moments from each of the newcomers. His disdain, though, was primarily on the defensive end and decision-making at times.

His concern was justified.

Middle Tennessee shot 50 percent in the first half as it opened a 45-36 halftime advantage. But Cumberland, which started the regular season wins before stepping into an exhibition game, kept pace with a sizzling 59 percent shooting percentage in



Photo by Chris Barstad, staff photographer

Senior guard Kevin Kanaskie (5) posted 10 points, seven assists, four rebounds, three steals and a block against Cumberland.

the first half. The shooting display included an uncanny 60 percent (6-of-10) from 3-point range. The difference for Middle Tennessee's defense in the second half was its ability to better defend the 3-point line. Cumberland failed to connect on six 3-point attempts in the second half when they were just 8-of-21 for 38 percent.

"I thought we contested

more shots and defended the 3-point shots better [in the second half]," Davis said. "Maybe they got tired but we did defend better. We just have to do that with consistency from start to finish and we will. We will continue to work on the areas that need improvement and we will keep showing progress because we have a group of good guys with great character."

Cumberland hit its first 3-pointer to take its only lead, 3-0, just nine seconds into the game but Middle Tennessee capped a 21-6 run with Yates' 3-pointer to build a 21-9 lead with 13:26 remaining in the first half.

The Bulldogs, led by Kenneth Simms' 19 points, closed to within 29-25 late in the first half but Middle Tennessee used another late run to seize

momentum and take a 45-36 advantage into the half.

The Blue Raiders maintained their double-digit lead most of the second half and stretched the lead to as many as 19.

Middle Tennessee will have its final tune-up of the preseason in an exhibition game against North Alabama at Murphy Center Thursday at 7 p.m.

Brown suffers thumb injury during practice

Junior forward expected to be ready for season opener

By TONY STINNETT
MT Athletic Communications

Middle Tennessee junior forward Brandi Brown suffered an injury to her right thumb during Thursday's practice and was not able to practice Friday; however, Head Coach Rick Insell remains hopeful she will be in the lineup when the Blue Raiders face Lincoln Memorial in exhibition action today.

Brown suffered two small fractures in her right thumb during a defensive drill.

"It was just a freak thing where she was deflecting a pass on a defensive drill and the ball hit her thumb wrong," Insell said. "There are two small fractures, and you can hardly see them, but it's enough that it aggravates her. As of now, we plan on having her Monday night. We kept her out of practice Friday, and we are taking Saturday off so we will see where

we are Sunday."

Brown has enjoyed an exceptional two weeks of preseason practice and she views the recent mishap as a minor setback.

"The biggest thing is you want to be out there helping your team," Brown said. "It's more frustrating than anything. I expect to be ready Monday."

Brown has been one of the most prolific 3-point shooters in program history during her first two seasons as a Blue Raider. She ranks 10th on the career list in 3-pointers made (103) and ninth in 3-point field goal percentage (.355) entering her junior season.

The 6-foot-3 forward continued to practice for a period of time after the recent thumb injury much in the same fashion as she performed after breaking her left hand during a practice last season.

"Brandi continued practicing and never missed a shot



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor

Brandi Brown (center) averaged 7.1 points last season.

the rest of the day after she fractured her thumb (Thursday)," Insell said. "She did that last year when she hurt her other hand. She kept playing and hit a couple of shots and we later found out it

was totally separated. Brandi is tough minded. She wants to play and she wants to do whatever she has to do to help this team and this program. I just wish everyone had that attitude."

Following Texas loss, Crimson Tide named new No. 1 in AP poll

By RALPH D. RUSSO
AP College Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Next up at No. 1, Alabama.

The Crimson Tide became the fifth team this season to sit atop the AP Top 25, moving up a spot Sunday after previously top-ranked Texas was toppled by Texas Tech.

The Red Raiders, who scored a touchdown with a second left at home to beat the Longhorns 39-33 Saturday night, jumped four spots and past No. 3 Penn State to No. 2. The unbeaten Nittany Lions were idle.

No. 4 Florida moved up one place after its 49-10 rout of Georgia and Texas dropped four spots to No. 5.

The Crimson Tide, which beat Arkansas State 35-0, received 46 of a possible 65 first-place votes from the media panel and 1,600 points. Texas Tech got 12 first-place votes and 1,528 points and Penn State had six and 1,525. The Gators received the other

No. 1 vote.

The top spot in the poll hasn't been held by this many teams since 1990, when Miami, Notre Dame, Colorado, Michigan and Virginia all had a turn at No. 1.

Georgia started this season No. 1 and was replaced by Southern California after the opening week.

USC lasted four weeks before being upset by Oregon State and Oklahoma took the top spot. The Sooners were No. 1 for two weeks, then lost to Texas, which held the top spot for three weeks.

Now it's Alabama's turn.

The Crimson Tide hasn't been No. 1 since finishing that way after the 1992 season, when coach Gene Stallings, quarterback Jay Barker and a ferocious defense won the last of the Tide's six AP national championships.

Alabama's first game as a No. 1 team since October 27, 1980, will be Saturday at LSU.

POLL, PAGE 10

Titans need overtime to stay perfect

By TERESA M. WALKER
AP Sports Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Rob Bironas wanted a chance at redemption.

The Tennessee Titans gave it to their All-Pro kicker, who made sure their run as the NFL's lone unbeaten team continues for another week.

Bironas kicked a 41-yard field goal with 9:36 to go in overtime that kept the Titans perfect with a 19-16 victory over the Green Bay Packers on Sunday.

The kicker had a chance to win in regulation, but banged a 47-yarder off the upright, prompting him to yank his facemask down in anger at himself.

"I was hoping for exactly what happened," Bironas said. "We'd win the toss and get another shot at it. I don't miss many, so I definitely wanted another shot at it to put us in the lead and go home with the victory, 8-0."

The Titans (8-0) won the toss and drove 55 yards in 10 plays to give Bironas another chance. Going out on third-and-2, he swung through his fourth field goal that started the celebration as the Titans matched a franchise record by winning their 11th straight regular-season game.

"When you win eight games, you're going to on occasion need to win some like this, and that is just what we did," Titans coach Jeff Fisher said of his team's second game of a week. "We hung in there."

The Packers (4-4), who showed some early rust coming off their bye, tied it at 16 on Mason Crosby's third field goal, a 38-yarder, with 5:30 left. Aaron Rodgers, fresh with his new contract extension, had plenty of time to end the Titans' winning streak as Tennessee went three-and-out for the fourth time.

Green Bay got to the Tennessee 45, but the Titans forced Green Bay to punt the ball away with 1:49 left. The Packers never got it back even as they downed the ball at the Tennessee 8.

Kerry Collins drove the Titans downfield by go-

ing 4-of-5 for 48 yards, and Fisher ran the clock down to 4 seconds in setting up Bironas for the chance to win in regulation. He said he scraped a cleat on the ground and missed it by a yard. Green Bay's Jarrett Bush said he scraped the ball with the tip of his glove.

“When you win eight games, you’re going to on occasion need to win some like this, and that is just what we did.”

JEFF FISHER
TITANS HEAD COACH

"We felt good about it," Johnson took over. He caught a 16-yard on third-and-6, then ran 14 yards for another first down. He finished with 89 yards on 24 carries and six receptions for 72 yards more. He also scored the Titans' only TD.

"To go right back out, I don't think it could have set up better for us," Collins

said.

Green Bay outgained Tennessee 390-347 in total offense. The Packers also brought in a defense leading the NFL with 13 interceptions, but it was the Titans who made the big defensive plays in sacking Rodgers four times and forcing two turnovers, including Chris Hope's interception in the end zone.

"There are no moral victories," Rodgers said. "We wanted to get to 5-3. We felt like we had a good game plan and we were very aggressive. I just didn't throw the ball as well as I wanted to. I'm very disappointed about the way I played, but our resolve is strong and I'll come back next week and be ready to play in a big game against the Vikings."

The Titans also stopped the Packers twice on downs in the first half and twice when Green Bay had the ball at the Tennessee 12 or closer

before settling for field goals by Crosby.

The Packers did hold the Titans to field goals on their opening two drives for a 6-0 lead.

Rodgers put Green Bay up 10-6 in the second quarter when he took advantage of an injured Titans defense. Tennessee was missing end Kyle Vanden Bosch, who started but went to the sideline in the second quarter and never returned, and linebacker Keith Bulluck went to the locker room with a rib injury on that series. Rodgers found Donald Driver on a 5-yard TD pass.

Tennessee had other chances to pad its lead, but failed to score on third-and-goal from the Packers 4 when linebacker Brandon Schaife ran into tight end Bo Scaife with no flag thrown. Bironas kicked his third field goal of the day, a 22-yarder, for a 16-10 lead with 4:11 left in the third.

Basketball FROM PAGE 9

Boyd is a prolific ball handler with a knack for getting to the hoop and putting up the easy buckets. Haddock will provide needed depth with a physical body. He can play any position with his frame and will be a great tool for Davis to utilize this season.

With one tune up game behind them and one coming up this Thursday, Middle will then begin regular season action against Trevecca.

Ready or not, it's coming. Is Kermit Davis on the hot seat? Maybe. Will "Boogie"

Yates execute like the player of the year he is predicted to be? Maybe. Will Middle fold in light of overwhelming publicity? Let's hope not.

That is the beauty, and often repugnance, of college basketball. You never know what is going to happen. All the preparation and practice is great, but when game time comes, will it hold up?

The greatest teams always seem to have the greatest coaches leading the way. I'll take solace in the fact that Kermit Davis is a great coach.

Hate him or love him, his teams come prepared. Even after huge losses, you'll

never be able to say that a Kermit Davis team was not ready to play.

Does that mean I think MT will be perfect this year? Absolutely not. I do, however, think that Middle's best is ahead of them, and whether or not it's this year will be known in just a few short months.

And as far as expectations go, I know fans are ready for MT to win a conference title and make a postseason appearance. I'm ready, too. But most of all, I think Kermit Davis is ready.

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Poll FROM PAGE 9

the most anticipated in the Southeastern Conference even before this season.

Coach Nick Saban will be coaching in Baton Rouge, La., for the first time since he left the Tigers for the NFL after the 2004 season. Saban led LSU to a BCS national title in 2003.

So the Tide, with its new lofty status, will face a stiff test immediately. Same goes for Texas Tech, which had never been ranked higher than No. 5. The Red Raiders host No. 8 Oklahoma State on Saturday, then have a week off before a road trip

to No. 6 Oklahoma.

Penn State next plays at Iowa.

Seven ranked teams lost last weekend, most from the lower half of the rankings, so the back end of the Top 25 got a shake-up, too.

Southern California is No. 7, and the final two spots in the top 10 are held by potential BCS Busters — No. 9 Boise State of the Western Athletic Conference and No. 10 Utah, which hosts Mountain West Conference rival and No. 11 TCU in a Thursday night game that could decide the league title.

Ohio State is No. 12, followed by Missouri, Georgia and LSU.

No. 16 Ball State is the

lowest ranked of the six remaining unbeaten major college teams in the country. The Cardinals of the Mid-American Conference play Wednesday night against Northern Illinois.

No. 17 BYU, Michigan State, North Carolina and West Virginia, back in the rankings after falling out in mid-September, complete the top 20.

No. 21 California, No. 22 Georgia Tech and No. 25 Pittsburgh re-entered the rankings.

Maryland is No. 23 and No. 24 Florida State dropped eight spots after losing at Georgia Tech.

Falling out of the Top 25 were Minnesota, Tulsa, Oregon and South Florida.



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