

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2009

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

VOL. 86, NO. 10

INSIDE

MT football set to travel to Troy



The Blue Raiders prepare to travel to Troy University on Tuesday for the Sun Belt showdown.

SPORTS, 8

Check out this week's comics

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OPINIONS

Letters to the Editor

Previous letter about Gender Identity bill causes controversy, anger among students.

OPINIONS, 4

VH1 brings in funds to help 'Save the Music'

MTSU PRSSA brings musicians and students together for concert to protect music in school.

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WEATHER

MONDAY
October 5, 2009



69°/50°

TUESDAY
October 6, 2009



74°/61°

WEDNESDAY
October 7, 2009



74°/62°

By Alex Moorman
News Editor

The first Summit for Campus Sustainability began at MTSU on Friday in an effort to get students, faculty and administrators from all over Tennessee involved in green energy.

The Tennessee Valley Authority planned the event in an effort to bring together citizens, conservation groups, environmental policy experts, elected officials and representatives of private business and industry to forge new partnerships and innovative solutions to the most pressing conservation issues in Tennessee.

Edyta Sitko, field organizer for Greenpeace USA said she believed that the premise of the summit was to educate administrators, faculty and students on setting up green fees and renewable energy at their school, which made it fitting to hold it at MTSU because MTSU is one of the first universities to set up green fees for its students.

"I think it is really important that students get involved because they have a lot of power at universities," Sitko said. "These students are working towards solving climate change, educating themselves and their student body and their administration on these issues and showing an example to the rest of the universities."

Sitko also said one of the great things about the meeting was that it gave students a chance to find out how they can work to bring these kinds of programs into their school.

Reggie Miller, Tennessee campus coordinator for cleanenergy.org, said the event went so well that he hoped to make it an annual meeting.

"It highlights the importance of student involvement and input," Miller said. "I think the event went really well because we set some really solid goals for the upcoming year."

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Global Climate Summit Stresses Student Support

Graphic by Shelley Vernon, production manager

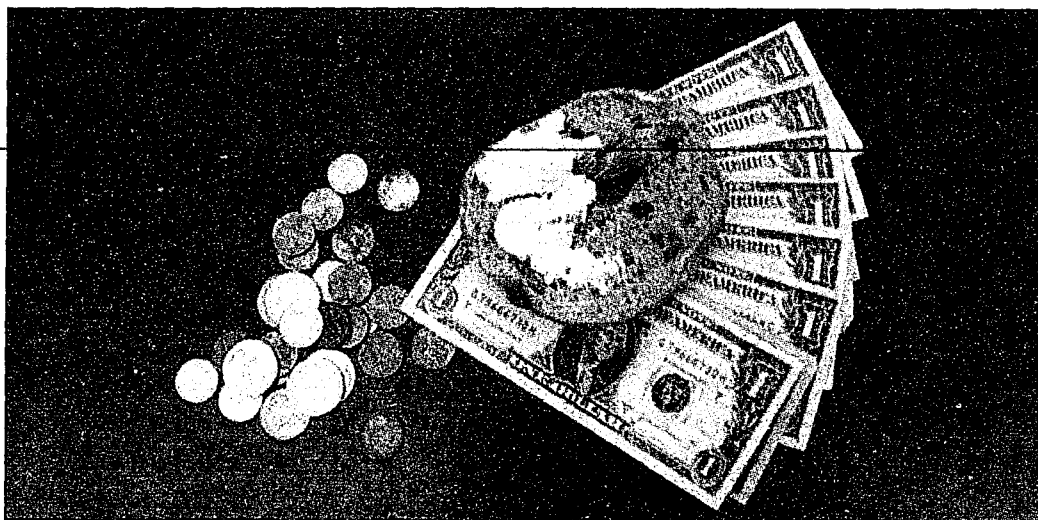


Photo illustration by Jay Bailey, photography editor

A bagel from Einstein Bros. Bagels on campus is \$1.09 and a small cup cream cheese is \$1.49.

Aramark confronts students' complaints of exorbitant pricing

By Brett Poe
Contributing Writer

In response to student concerns about pricing and selection issues, MT Dining Services held its first MT Diner Food Service Committee meeting of the school year last Wednesday.

The monthly meetings are intended to provide an opportunity for students to communicate directly to the MT Dining Services and Aramark teams, as well as to address any issues they may have.

In a survey of students across campus, many were not aware of the methods of communication available to them and had similar concerns about the dining services.

Alex Schultz, a sophomore mass communications ma-

jor who has had a meal plan for the last two years, said he did not understand why there sometimes seemed to be different standards of quality from one dining hall to another.

Pricing was another concern of many students. Junior Michael Jenkins said he thought that prices at Cyber Café were too high after replacing the Burger King inside. Jenkins had a meal plan his first year on campus.

"Having a meal plan is really only worth it if you plan on eating on campus a lot," Jenkins said. "If you live off campus, there's not much need."

Keira Biggs, a freshman liberal arts major, said she thinks items are most over-

priced at Cyber Café.

"I got a bottle of SoBe for over \$4.50," Biggs said. "At a gas station, it would only be \$2.00."

Jared Staples, a freshman liberal arts major, said that he agreed that campus food is overpriced.

"KUC is too expensive," Staples said. "I paid \$7 for a two-meat combo at Asian Express."

The committee addressed a specific issue concerning the pricing of cream cheese sold at the individual sales stands. A single serving is priced at \$1.49 while the bagels themselves are \$1.09. MT Dining Services is investigating the issue with their vendor, Einstein Bros. Bagels.

ARAMARK, PAGE 3

Students set to 'Cram the Van,' fight animal abuse

By EMMA EGLI
Assistant Campus News Editor

Raiders Against Animal Cruelty is hosting Cram the Van this Wednesday on the Keathley University Center knoll from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

All donations will go to Almost Home, a local animal rescue. The event is called Cram the Van because the RAAC will have a large van that they will fill completely with donated items like food, blankets and toys.

RAAC is a student organization that works to educate and inform the students of MTSU, as well as the local public, about the number of cruelties that animals face in today's society.

This year, the organization is focusing on companion animals, like cats and dogs. They will be accepting donations that can be used to help animals in need.

"Strays and overpopulation are a really big problem

in Rutherford County, especially in Murfreesboro," said Kenny Torrella, a senior recording industry major and member of RAAC. "A lot of people don't know why you should spay or neuter or adopt, so we are just trying to educate people."

In addition to Cram the Van, RAAC will also be accepting donations for Beesley's, a local low-cost spay and neuter clinic in Murfreesboro.

"We want to highlight the importance of getting your pet spayed or neutered, as well as why people should adopt rescued animals," said Tiffany Galyon, a senior organizational communications major and RAAC member. "There are just so many animals out there who don't have a home."

Torrella said that only about one in every 10 companion animals find a permanent home.

RAAC, PAGE 3

Students prepare for Homecoming

2009 Homecoming Week Line Up

Fight Song Oct. 15 Time: 7 p.m. Location: Murphy Center	Horseshoe Toss Oct. 22 Time: 5:30 p.m. Location: Behind Recreation Center	NPHC Step Show Oct. 23 Time: 7 p.m. Location: Murphy Center	MTSU vs. WKU Game Oct. 24 Time: 2:30 p.m. Location: Floyd Stadium
Paint the Halls Blue Oct. 12-16	Swap Day Oct. 21 Time: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Location: KUC Lobby	Chili Cook-Off Oct. 23 Time: 5 p.m. Location: Murphy Center Lot	Parade Oct. 24 Time 10 a.m. Location: Middle Tennessee Boulevard

By EMMA EGLI
Assistant Campus News Editor

Homecoming 2009 will take place on Oct. 24, and the Student Government Association is sponsoring numerous events during that week to invite students, faculty, administrators and the community to get involved with campus.

This year's theme for the Homecoming Spirit Competition and Activities is "A Rockin Raider Homecom-

ing." The theme was chosen to show spirit and support for MTSU football, said Mallory Phillips, Homecoming director and senior public relations major.

"It's really just a time to celebrate tradition, and alumni can come back to the university to see how the school has grown and improved," Phillips said. "For students, it's a time to show that they are proud to go to MTSU and show their school spirit."

Phillips also said the

Homecoming Committee has been trying to make all the events as student friendly as possible.

"We had workshops to teach people how to do a fight song, and a float-building workshop," Phillips said. "It's really important to get students out to the events, regardless if they are Greek or not."

The Homecoming Committee encourages student organizations to work together in all planned events.

"Student organizations are

encouraged to join, but anybody can come out to participate in events," Phillips said. "It's a good way for student organizations to market their name as well."

The Fight Song Competition will be held on Oct. 15 at 7 p.m. in the Murphy Center. The competition is designed to reflect pride in the university.

Swap Day will take place Oct. 21 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the Keathley University Center lobby. Students are encouraged to bring a shirt of

another school to trade in for a Homecoming shirt.

"If you don't have a shirt to trade, you can pay \$3 for one," Phillips said. "All the money and shirts will be donated to local homeless shelters."

Other SGA-sponsored events scheduled to take place include the horseshoe competition on Oct. 22 at 5:30 p.m. behind the Student Recreation Center, and the Chili Cook-Off, which will be held in the Murphy Center lot on Oct. 23 at 5 p.m. with a \$3 admission fee.

The National Panhellenic Council will host its annual Step Show in the Murphy Center Oct. 23 at 7 p.m. Admission for the show will be \$8.

The parade and float competition will take place along Middle Tennessee Boulevard Oct. 24 at 10 a.m. Following the parade will be the kickoff of the MTSU game against Western Kentucky at Floyd Stadium at 2:30 p.m. Homecoming king and queen will be announced and crowned during halftime.

2009 Homecoming court king and queen candidates



“As an involved role model on the MTSU campus, I have no Greek affiliation, unlike a majority of the candidates, but I seek to reach out to those who may feel underrepresented.”

DEONNA BOUNDS
JUNIOR, MASS COMMUNICATION



“I feel that I could have the most impact through my involvement in the Student Judicial Board and as a member of the Grades Appeal Subcommittee.”

KATIE PHILLIPS
JUNIOR, EDUCATION AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE



“I truly feel I would represent MTSU in a positive light.”

MARY ALICE PORTER
SENIOR, EDUCATION AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE



“If I were selected as Queen, I would encourage and highly recommend every student to get involved in something they are passionate about.”

ERIN REDMOND
SENIOR, BUSINESS



“If selected as homecoming queen, I would continue to work fervently to promote the Raider spirit and sense of community.”

CHLOE ROBINSON
SENIOR, EDUCATION AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE



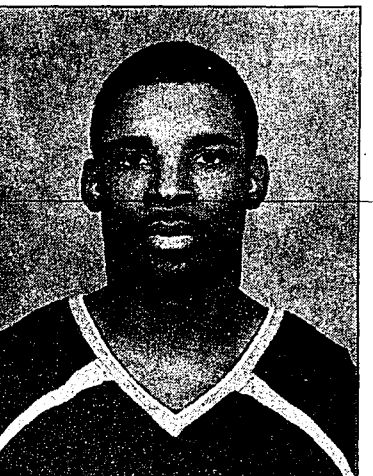
“I would continue to work with the administration to ensure that MTSU's first priority remains our education.”

BRANDON MCNARY
SENIOR, EDUCATION AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE



“I would continue to encourage and promote students to become involved on campus.”

SAM METZ
JUNIOR, LIBERAL ARTS



“I would try to improve the quality of MTSU student life by stressing the importance of MTSU traditions.”

DESMOND YATES
SENIOR, EDUCATION AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE



“I believe that it is an honor to represent MTSU, and I am proud to have this opportunity.”

JONATHAN SECREST
SENIOR, BUSINESS



“I am hard working, involved and a sociable student, not only in Greek Life, but at the university as well.”

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MT Records finds new rock legends

By CALLIE DURHAM
Staff Writer

MTSU Records presented The Tyler Bryant Band and a screening of the film "Rock Prophecies" to get students involved with MT Records, as well as gave the band their first university performance.

The event kicked off Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Wright Music Hall. Door prizes were given away throughout the night in-

cluding: a Bluetooth headset, Samsung cell phone and a guitar.

The film told the story of a photographer named Robert Knight, who was on a quest to find the next rock legend. What he found was a young man named Tyler Bryant, who is the past recipient of the Robert Young Best Blues Player award in America.

In the film, Bryant's mother said Tyler told her that he felt sorry for his

friends because they didn't know what they wanted to do in life, but he was born knowing what he wanted to do.

Bryant said he is now fulfilling his longtime dream of being a guitar player. He got an endorsement deal with Fender and was signed by Creative Artists Agency shortly after graduating from high school and then moved to Nashville.

"This is our first college show," said Bryant.

He took the stage wearing an MTSU Records T-shirt, to which the audience responded with cheers and applause. The students in attendance shared positive feedback in regards to the band's performance.

"Tyler is amazing," said Christina Adams, senior recording industry major. "I saw him once at 12th and Porter, and he always puts on an amazing show."

Adams said that Bryant was good at interacting with the audience and getting everyone "pumped up."

Jason Latendresse, senior recording industry major, said it was fantastic and sounded great. Latendresse recorded a song with Bryant called 'I Believe.'

"It was really fantastic, and he is a really good performer," said Ben Liden, freshman biology major. "I would definitely attend one of his

concerts in the future."

Kristen Miller, junior art education major, said she had never heard of Bryant before, but was given a ticket to the event in class. She thought Bryant was very talented and was going to look him up online.

"He was great," said Alex Smith, freshman environmental technology major. "I am planning on recommending him to my friends."



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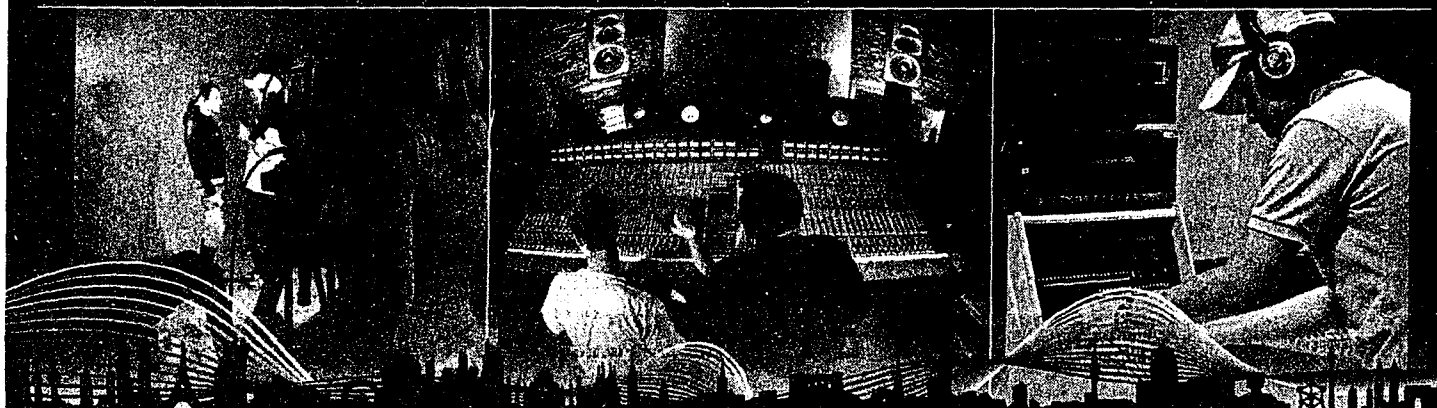
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ARAMARK FROM PAGE 1

Resident District Manager of MT Dining Services, John Tate, explained that the pricing of food items provided by brand name vendors is directly established by the vendors, and not by MT Dining.

Tate said the most common feedback from students relates to the price value of food services. Tate said he believes dining services has met that feedback with monthly \$4.99 value specials rotated through retail venues across campus.

MT Dining Services is also promoting its October special, allowing students, faculty and staff to buy a meal and get an additional meal half-off on Tuesdays and Thursdays at

the JUB and McCallie.

The monthly committee meetings began two years ago when Tate came to MT Dining Services.

"We try to communicate to students and give them avenues to get feedback," Tate said.

He said that the meetings typically get good attendance from students, averaging around 30 people, though the first meeting this year did not see a single student.

Other methods to reach out to students include an MT Dining Facebook page, a monthly newsletter and "Talk Shop" phone-in services.

The next committee meeting will be Oct. 28 in the faculty cafeteria of the JUB.

RAAC FROM PAGE 1

"A lot of people may think that if they have a litter, it will be easy to find a home for all of them," Torrella said. "But nine times out of 10, it's not going to be a permanent home, so they end up getting bounced around to multiple homeless shelters."

"We are collecting cat and dog food, litter boxes, cleaning supplies, sheets and towels and anything else that will be useful to ani-

mals in need," Torrella said. "The list of accepted items is huge and can be found on the Facebook event page or the RAAC Web site."

Torrella said this is the first big event RAAC has held and they hope to get students, members of the community and other student organizations involved.

"We have done documentary screenings and potlucks in the past, but nothing this big," Torrella said. "We are really hoping to get other organizations involved and make donations for this cause."

CRIME BRIEFS

Sep. 29, 4:38 p.m.

Theft

Greek Row

Kyle Murray was issued a state citation for the theft of two bicycles and a trespass warning for Greek Row.

Sep. 29, 11:43 p.m.

Traffic

James E. Walker Library South Lot

Victim reported his vehicle was struck in the parking lot and the suspect left the scene.

Sep. 30, 2:44 a.m.

DUI

Off Campus

Demarko Perigo-Smith was arrested for DUI and violation of implied consent.

Sep. 30, 3:46 a.m.

Public Intoxication

Off Campus

Robert Geist was arrested for public intoxication.

Sep. 30, 10:32 a.m.

Vandalism

Greek Row

Housing maintenance called to report a washing machine cover being torn off.

Oct. 1, 8:49 a.m.

Traffic

Greenland Drive Lot B

Subject called and said someone hit her vehicle.

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Letters Policy

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

OPINIONS

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

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Aramark pushes pricy food with few real options

College is expensive. You don't need to read a newspaper to know this. If you break it down to your barest expenses, you (or your parents) will still be reeling at the cost of higher education.

Let's take a look at some of the costs that accrue for students (and their parents) when it comes to college life. As a student, you're responsible for obtaining books, a residence, tuition money, food, school supplies and a veritable laundry list of others dependent on your particular situation.

What if an organization or conglomerate of organizations decided to run a monopoly on one of these? What if one über-corporation bought up every publisher and made you buy books strictly at its store?

Right here at MTSU, that very thing is happening. The product? Food. The pushers? Aramark.

The contract MTSU has with Aramark gives the food vendor considerable power, including determining prices of various wares at different locations.

It's safe to say that some of the food prices here on campus are absolutely astronomical. Both of the cafeteria options offer all-you-can-eat dining for the price tag of about \$9. Compare this to the \$7.25 sandwich, courtesy of Einstein Bros. Bagels you'll find scattered around the kiosks on campus. It wouldn't take someone of Einstein's intelligence to realize the disparity in product for cost is glaring.

Aramark might claim this is a matter of opinion. If you don't like the food, then why eat on campus? The answer is disheartening.

With food advertisements and vendor locations everywhere on campus, it's not practical to drive off campus between classes to eat then try to find a parking spot on campus. If you're a freshman, you have to buy an entire meal plan anyway. They may as well owe their soul to the Aramark store.

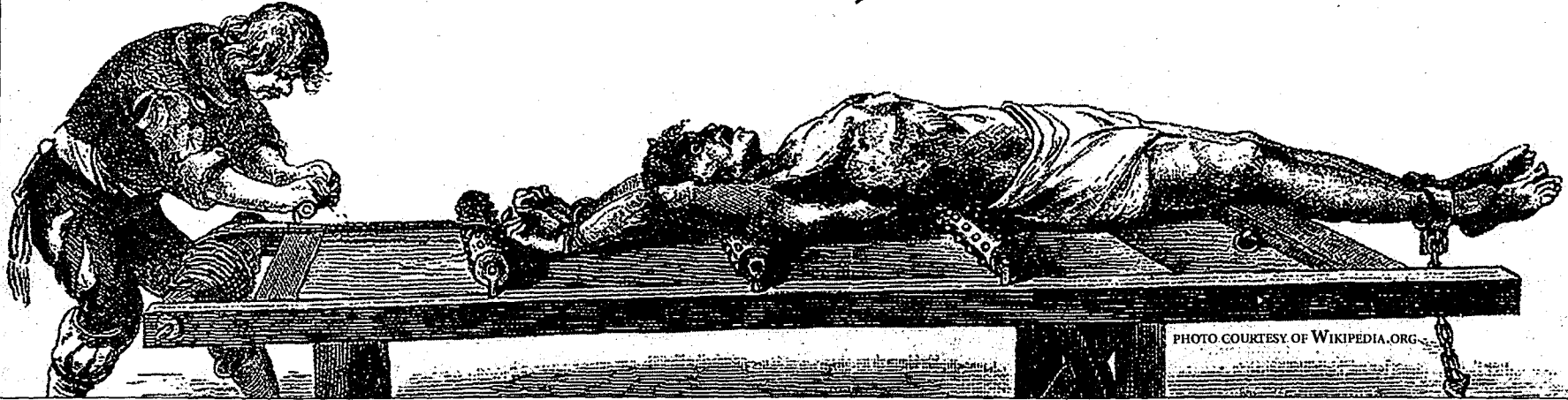
Before you order a pizza for your next club or social organization's meeting, check out the contract between Aramark and MTSU. If the organization is campus-related, then you're in breach of the contract and can actually be fined.

Aramark currently offers select meals for \$4.99 to give less affluent students an option, but the problem in that is each food vendor only has one special and if you don't like the option, then you're out of luck.

Students must demand accountability from the corporation in charge of their food, namely Aramark. Maybe students should organize and boycott Aramark until some sort of price negotiation can be found.

More likely, though, most of them will continue to pay Aramark's fine-dining prices for large quality food. But before you complain about that \$10 lunch you just bought, consider your options.

Torture immoral, un-American



Waterboarding, standing handcuffed to a pipe for hours, prolonged nudity in extreme temperatures, subjection to loud music and flashing lights and a rubber stopper inside one man's rectum are all examples of techniques the U.S. has used to torture detainees associated with Al-Qaeda.

"Well, they're responsible for the 9/11 terrorist attacks," is what you're thinking. There may be truth in that. Perhaps you have not considered how inhumane and ruthless those tactics are.

The old saying "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth" has had America in hot water for the past several years. We continue to allow our government to protect us by fighting fire with fire.

Torture, defined by United



Perceptions

Jessica Harris

Nations Convention, "is any act by which severe pain of suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purpose as obtaining from him information or a confession [...] intimidating or coercing him."

Torture is a never-ending cycle, evil and barbaric. According to the International Review of Red Cross "torture

is a practice [that] harms [victims'] families and the entire society in which it occurs, and that it casts the greatest discredit on these responsible for it." Life is not an episode of the TV show 24 or a Jason Bourne movie. It's real life with real people. Once you get caught up in the never-ending web, it is really hard to get and just walk away.

America has submerged itself in the very thing we claim not to be. In 1954, we put "in God we trust" on our money to distinguish ourselves from communist countries. Now we are almost just as bad as they are.

We are supposed to be above this; we have to find another way to fight this. It worked for our forefathers. So why did America feel like we needed

to start bullying people?

The American people are counting on the government to keep them safe. Those who go and rape, torture and take advantage of other countries only make America's reputation worse. They become a reflection of our society like a stereotype.

We can lay the blame on those who worked at the black sites, former vice-president Dick Cheney, former president George Bush and his administration or the CIA, but ultimately, it comes down to what the next step is. Why is America not that concerned about torture?

We are basically saying everything is fair game when we engage in such activities. Who wants their son or daughter to be beaten unconsciously, withheld food

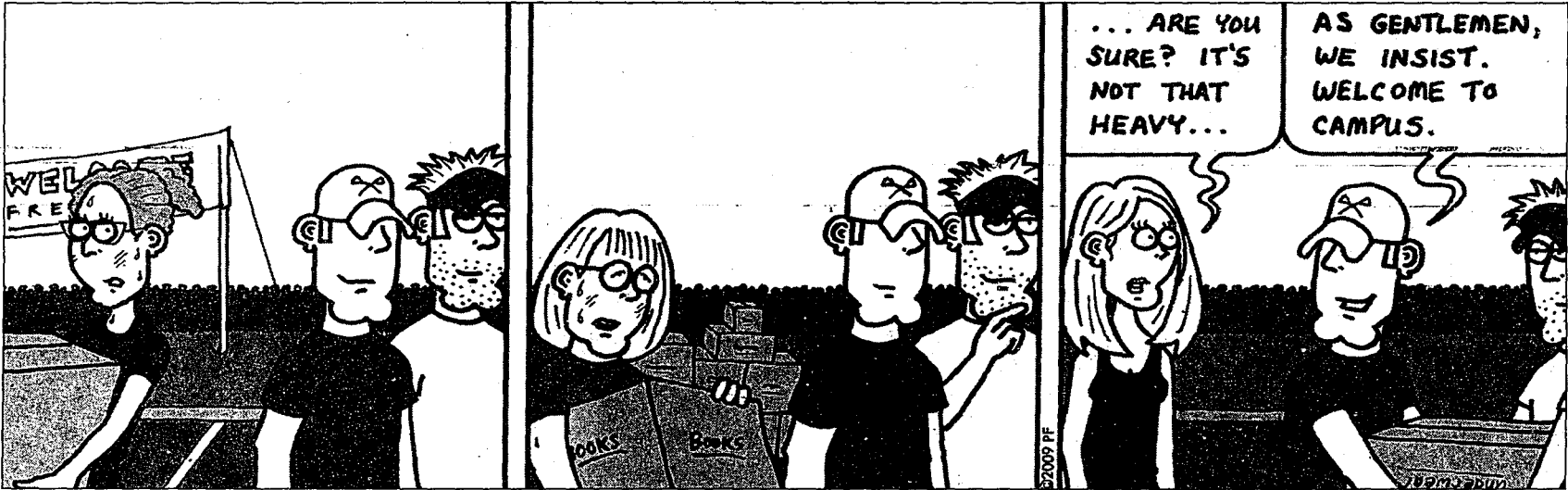
and bathroom privileges?

In the ICRC report: "What it means," Mark Danner said "when it comes to torture, it is not what we did but what we are doing. It is not what happened but what is happening and what will happen."

What is important to understand is America is way past the legal boundaries in this situation. We passed that line the moment we used illegal ways to obtain information. It is and always has been about morality.

How far is America willing to go? How deep are the people willing to allow the government to get in before we say enough is enough?

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



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Phil Flickinger

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor's note:
The following letters to the editor are in response to one which appeared in the last issue of Sidelines ("Gender identity illogical, unreal" by Chandler Hasemeyer, Oct. 1, 2009).

To the Editor:

Recently, "Sidelines" printed a letter to the editor regarding the gender identity non-discrimination bill that was added to the Student Government Association's constitution. The author of this letter was offended that the bill actually passed, and identifies himself as one of "the rest... who are confident in who [they] are."

He also calls the bill an "illogical happening," and argues that since people of other gender identities have to be accommodated, people who think they are bald eagles should be accommodated as well.

These arguments are simply outrageous. It's almost pitiable to think that some people believe their beliefs should take precedence over the beliefs of others. Is it too much trouble to acknowledge that people believe differently and move on?

So someone believes they are biologically male, but their gender is female. What drastic difference to your life does that make? Not much, I'd say.

The gender identity bill is also a part of the Tennessee Board of Regents' system, which dictates over MTSU. It already has transgender people as a protected minority, so MTSU has to protect them anyway. It's unavoidable, regardless of whether it offends anyone.

The author also argues that "human beings are born one of two ways: male or female," and that this is "based on fact, not on what one feels like."

Regardless of whether these people are actually transgender in the sense that they were born into the wrong sex, isn't it proper to respect their personal beliefs, just as we respect the author's beliefs?

Maybe these transgender people are comfortable in who they are too. And if they aren't, they very

well should feel comfortable now that people like the author of this letter have no say in whether or not they feel safe.

Peter Evans
Sophomore, College of Mass Communication

To the Editor:

Gender identity issues are real and are logical. I hate to break it to the real world, but nothing is perfect and gender is not either. Nothing fits into black and white.

My gender identity is firm. I'm a male. But if you look at me, you may or may not see this. I am a biological female. And not everyone is born with a gender. Intersex people do not get this black and white view of life.

The question being brought up about bathrooms is quite valid and something I deal with everyday. Do I walk into a women's bathroom and get the look of death or walk into a male bathroom and have the same problem? I usually hold it and go home.

This is why the gender identity bill that is being passed through the SGA is so important. Why do I have to be discriminated against because you don't understand me?

Education is a great thing for such "illogical" things. And that's why I'm here at MTSU, to get an education. Not just in my major, but one in the real world. So, educate yourself!

Seth Dunlap
Senior, College of Mass Communication

To the Editor:

This letter was helpful in demonstrating exactly what sort of ignorance against which the gender identity bill is designed to protect. However, I think this end may have been better served if the

letter had been published with a sidebar that reported some actual facts about gender identity, rather than relying on widespread understanding of how ludicrously incorrect Hasemeyer's assertions are.

Speaking of facts, I find it interesting that Hasemeyer makes an appeal to fact in order to make a wild assertion that contradicts common knowledge. Hasemeyer states that "there is not a 'both' person out there."

I don't know about Hasemeyer, but I learned the word "hermaphrodite" in first grade. In the years since, I have also learned of those who are intersex. Hermaphrodites have both male and female genitalia, while intersex persons have genitalia recognizable as neither male nor female. Human beings are not born as just male and female.

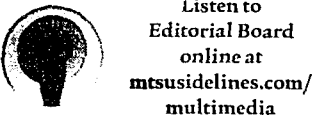
Because there are at least two confirmed biological sexes that are not recognized by the male-female dichotomy, doesn't it stand to reason that there may be more than two gender identities?

Gender identity itself is a complex issue that has to do with social programming and brain chemistry. It is nature versus nurture at its most basic.

In other words, we do not understand it right now. But we know it is real. It has been observed, studied and most importantly, experienced. How did we get to a point in our culture at which we tell people that their experiences aren't real just because we don't experience them ourselves? That type of thinking lacks empathy, compassion and respect for one's fellow human beings— all of which are qualities, I believe, that make us better as individuals, as a culture and as a species.

Nathan Bounds
Senior, College of Liberal Arts

Read the original letter:



FACES IN THE CROWD

Have you heard the rumor of the tobacco ban? How would you feel about such a ban on campus?



Riser

"No, I haven't heard the rumor, but there are people who are going to smoke no matter what. You have to be respectful of both sides."

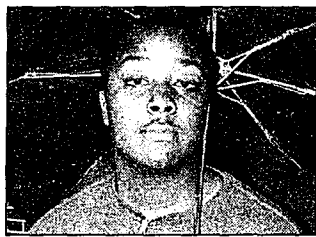
Adrian Riser, sophomore marketing major



Winstead

"In college, sometimes you just need a cigarette, and nobody should be denied that."

Jenna Winstead, senior photography major



Brooks

"I haven't heard about the ban. I don't think it's going to solve anything. We're all adults; we should be able to choose to smoke or not."

Bobby Brooks, freshman digital media major



Smart

"I have [heard the rumor]. I think it would be beneficial to non-smokers, and I kind of think it's a good idea."

Zach Smart, freshman undeclared major

Many things compose manliness

Any of my friends know that from just looking at me, I don't lift many weights, and I don't obsess over my body. I do run and swim because I enjoy the alone time and just being able to move around.

On a recent trip to Books A Million, I couldn't help but notice the large number of magazines dedicated to men's health.

Yes, I do believe it is something that warrants attention. All men should be concerned about their health and lifestyle. But are covers with half-naked women in bikinis really necessary? I'm all for women in bikinis, but it really doesn't do us men a lot of justice when some women think we're either immature or not worth the time.

Growing up, my father taught me that women weren't trophies. I was raised



I'm just sayin'

Sam Ashby

to believe that men shouldn't brag about their sexual experiences with women, because a woman shouldn't be used to enhance a male's standing among other men.

Unfortunately, this seems to be something that a lot of men still take the pleasure in discussing and almost boasting about.

Every male growing up has a somewhat different definition of what a "real man" is. Women are the same way. However, it seems

that many disagree on what that definition is.

This is something I have given a lot of thought to for several reasons. One of my friends back home is one of those guys that believes if you lift weights, build muscle, brag about sexual experiences with multiple women, etc., that makes you "more" of a "man" than a male who may not engage in those types of activities.

I beg to differ. This is an image that many young people seem to have in their mind of what a "real" man is.

One of my personal heroes is Anderson Cooper, the CNN journalist. There has, of course, been speculation over the years that he is gay.

On any given video of him on YouTube, there are always a few comments regarding the matter—as if he were, they would have to stop watching him because

he isn't a "real" man.

But what if he is gay? Does that make him "less" of a man? Of course it doesn't.

It's the same as any other quality that is usually thought to make a male less manly than others.

It isn't what you like, how you dress, and what your interests are that defines a man but rather how a male goes about treating any other human being, especially women.

It's really that simple. Our culture also seems to have this idea that if you're a "nice guy" that implies you are either weak or punish.

My entire life I've tried not to be as manly as possible, but rather as real as possible. I'm not concerned about image. Many males today are afraid that they will project an image that isn't manly enough. So what?

Tupac took ballet and was

a cast member for a production of "The Nutcracker." My point is, you don't have to partake in testosterone driven activities to be "manly."

You can cook, sew, play tea party with your daughter, help your wife and still be a man. That's what a real man should be.

A real man is someone who is there for his family, who puts those he loves first in order to support them.

Lifting weights, drinking beer, and watching football: these things alone don't make the man.

It's how you treat those who are close to you and mean a lot to you that really define what being a man is all about.

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

Healthcare debate bloody, vicious, spun by industry



The Pen is Mightier

Evan Barker

Has anyone noticed that the debate on healthcare has diminished in recent weeks?

One can't help but wonder if the agenda has been changed on purpose to cause it to take a specific course.

Recent statistics from The Guardian and other news sources indicate that there are approximately six registered healthcare lobbyists for every politician in Washington. That's a lot, and they're loud.

Regardless of how one feels about this debate, it's undeniable that there is an obscene amount of money being thrown around.

One can't help but admire the tea party crowd. They're protesting, they're loud, there are quite a few of them, and God bless 'em, for they know not what they do.

The unfortunate thing for the tea party crowd, and the rest of us by proxy, is that they're basically towing the healthcare industry's line, to the detriment of everyone.

The American Medical Association is essentially a militant labor union for doctors. If any group's agenda is suspect, it's that one's.

We know that part of the high cost of healthcare comes from our system of paying for services, as in, the more procedures a doctor performs, the more they get paid.

Insurance companies make their money by not paying doctors, or negotiating the price of procedures down. This incentivizes the performance of more procedures, for which the insurance companies may or may not pay. Guess who loses?

The teabaggers have some laudable goals. Lessening the influence of government on business is a great agenda, if you run a business that makes more money with less oversight, like health insurance or prescription drugs.

Lobbying against government curbs on the price of pharmaceutical products is great, if you don't have to take any prescription drugs. The fact is, the tea party crowd is playing directly into the industry's hand, and the industry will thank them with higher prices for years to come.

The name of the health insurance game is to make money by not providing care. That is how profit is derived.

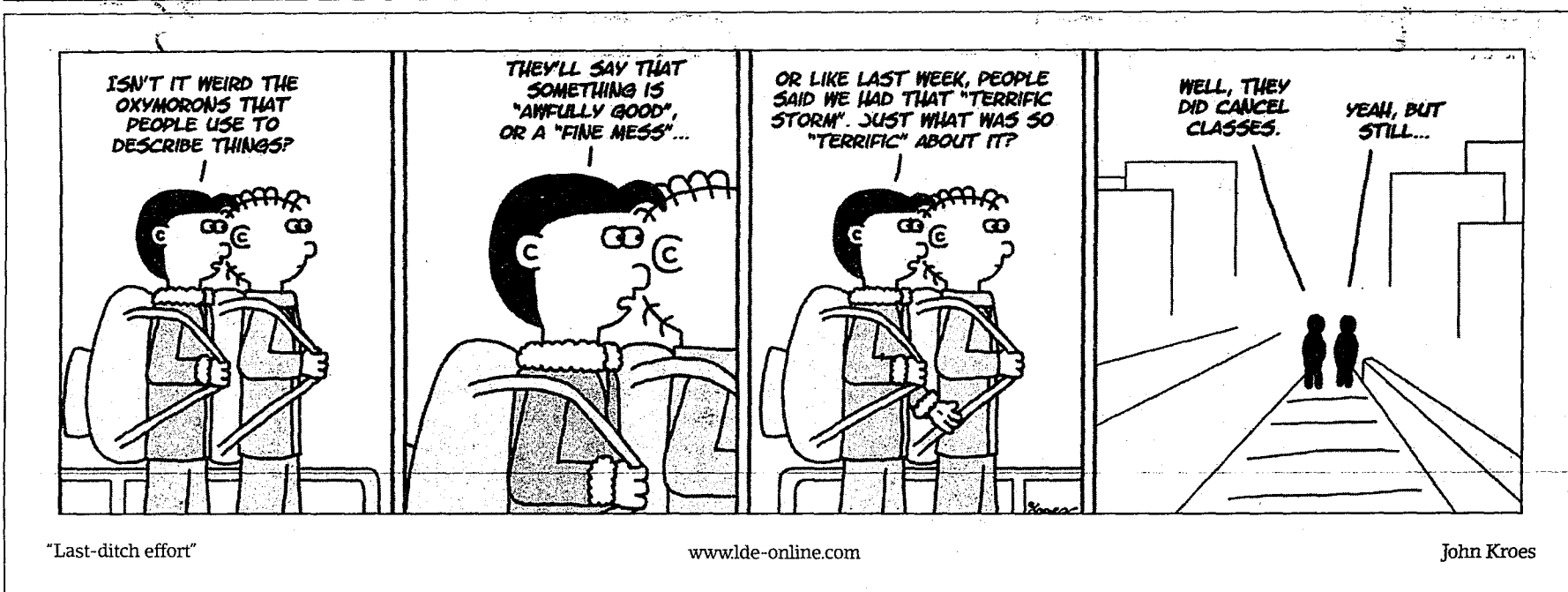
The name of the pharmaceutical game is to make things that patients have to have, but by charging them as much money as possible for as long as possible.

Due to the extraordinary spinelessness of Congress, we have no public option and no price negotiations. Industry is thrilled, while the citizens get drilled.

The teabaggers are angry, no doubt about it. They ought to be angry at themselves.

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

COMICS



One conservative's call to action

I never thought that my words would again appear on the opinion pages of this newspaper after walking across that stage in the Murphy Center in May of this year. I imagine students cheered, professors sighed and administrators wiped the sweat from their brows. When I left, it looked like I took reactionary conservatism with me. And that worries me.

The problem at MTSU is not unique. On hundreds of college campuses across the nation, students are generally apathetic and care very little about anything outside their class work and social life. The university has failed at molding students into citizens. If we truly want to continue this experiment in the American republic, then something has to change.

I still read Sidelines on a



Guest column

Matthew Hurtt

regular basis and am discouraged by the seemingly one-sided presentation of opinions that grace these pages. The content is often thought-provoking, but it deserves the sort of intelligent rebuttal that currently does not exist. I envision a sort of William F. Buckley, Jr. response to the kind of Gore Vidal-esque assertions I read regularly.

I know for a fact that I was not the only conservative on

campus that could string together an argument for publication by this newspaper. In my four years on campus, though, I was often the only conservative voice reflected on its pages.

Where are those students who support limited government and free markets? Where are those students who choose liberty over tyranny? And where are those students who are willing to go toe-to-toe with leftist professors and administrators who seek to squelch honest debate on campus? Stand up and speak out! Your very belief system is at stake!

From the Tennessee Board of Regents encroaching on the very tenets of capitalism by telling Dwight what he can and cannot sell to an out-of-control Student Government Association with its half-cocked notions of gov-

ernance, rational students have to stop the madness!

That action starts with your commentary on campus, local and national issues. Also, sign up to help combat leftist abuses and bias at CampusReform.org. Throughout the month of October, CampusReform is rewarding students \$100 for reporting abuses by professors, administrators and other students. This incentive encourages you to expose the sort of close-minded attitudes which are rampant on university campuses.

Remember what George Washington once said, "When is the time for brave men to exert themselves in the cause of liberty and their country, if this is not?" I think it's about damn time.

Matthew Hurtt, B.A. '09 can be reached at mhurtt@campusreform.org.

Opinions Editor Evan Barker at slopinio@mtsu.edu with your commentary on campus, local and national issues. Also, sign up to help combat leftist abuses and bias at CampusReform.org. Throughout the month of October, CampusReform is rewarding students \$100 for reporting abuses by professors, administrators and other students. This incentive encourages you to expose the sort of close-minded attitudes which are rampant on university campuses.

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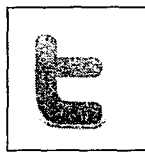
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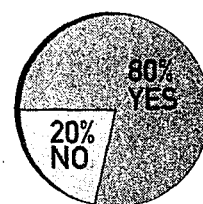
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Go online to read coverage of last night's MT women's soccer game against the University of South Alabama:

mtsusidelines.com

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FEATURES

WILL YOU GO TO MT'S
NEXT FOOTBALL GAME
AGAINST MISSISSIPPI
STATE (OCT. 17)?BASED ON VOTES FROM
MTSUSIDELINES.COM.

Music lovers gather to 'Save the Music'

PRSSA 'VH1 Save the Music' benefit concert aims to put music education back in public schools

By KRISTINA OUTLAND
Staff Writer

Musicians, students and music lovers gathered on Friday night to listen to their favorite bands and raise money for underprivileged children across the country to have access to instruments and funding for music programs in their schools.

The Public Relations Student Society of America hosted its first ever concert in an effort to raise funds for both the VH1 Save the Music Foundation and the PRSSA.

The concert united its audience to support music, something many of them were introduced to through music education programs. This early introduction to music is the reason why many students came to study at MTSU.

"MTSU is unique in the fact that it offers a degree in the public relations field with an emphasis in the recording industry," says Paul Bernardini, vice president of fundraising for the PRSSA MTSU chapter.

"So, with that in mind, VH1's Save the Music Foundation is an appropriate fit to fill a philanthropic opportunity that our chapter hasn't yet taken full advantage of."

The core mission of the VH1 Save the Music Foundation is to restore instrumental music education programs, ensuring that every child has access to a complete education that includes the benefits of music instruction.

"I wish I had a wonderful organization such as this when I was growing up," says Kristi Neumann, a Nashville musician who was featured in Friday



Photo by Sarah Finchum, staff photographer

DeRobert and the Half-Truths before at the McWherter Learning Resource Center as part of the 'Save the Music' concert series on Friday.

night's concert. "I couldn't really start learning to play the guitar until I was 19, simply because I couldn't afford to buy my own instruments."

According to Neumann, she wouldn't be the same person if she had never been introduced to music.

"Music made me who I am," Neumann says. "I would be a disaster without it. The ability for me to jam out on my guitar relieves all my stress."



The concert was successful, raising more than \$500 from ticket sales alone.

Donation jars were dis-

tributed to businesses throughout Murfreesboro as well to give the community a chance to make cash donations to both causes.

Since Save the Music's start in 1997, it has managed to raise \$43 million for schools all over the country.

The MTSU show featured many musical artist from funky house bands like DeRobert and the Half-Truths to Jennifer Berettilonghini, who fearlessly played "Iron Man" on the bagpipes.

A band comprised 30 middle school children from both Central Middle

School and Bradley Academy made an incredible guest appearance. They were led by Luke Hill, the band director for Bradley Academy with the help of his friend, Scott Kinney.

"It's really a difficult thing to combine two groups of children from two different schools and make it work," Luke Hill says. "It truly was quite a feat considering the Bradley Academy kids had about six weeks to prepare as opposed to Central Middle School only having about a week to get ready."

The band did a fantastic job and their passion for music showed in their performance.

Robin Kinney, a student at Central Middle School played the French horn and was excited to explain her involvement. Although she has been playing the horn for one year, she plans on auditioning for the All-Midstate Honor Band as soon as she can.

"They've been blessed to have a band to sign up for," Hill says. "They get to give back tonight and show their appreciation through their musical talents."

ODP also played a huge part in the success of this concert as they controlled the sound. They were very proud and excited to be involved in a function such as Save the Music.

"We are always excited to get our hands on any musical function that we can, especially if its proceeds go toward furthering musical education," says Taylor Cole, a member of ODP and a sophomore at MTSU.

Next Big Nashville previews up-and-coming bands

Concert series brings out the best of Nashville-based bands to share in musical diversity and local sound

By JESSICA PACE
Staff Writer

Wednesday kicks off the fourth year of Next Big Nashville, the music festival that has been gathering in grandeur since it was started in 2006 by co-founders Ethan Opelt and Jason Moon Wilkins.

Festivities begin Oct. 7 and stretch through Oct. 10, featuring over 150 bands weaving in and out of Music City's rock venues.

"Last year, The Protomen - MTSU Alumni - really blew me away," says Meredith Kotas, the head of publicity and marketing for Next Big Nashville. "I've seen them at least 15 times, and every time they add some new dimension to their music and stage presence. Another band that was pleasantly surprising was We Were The States."

"I've heard of these guys forever, but never actually heard them. By the time they finished, I wanted to hear more. Any band that can change your mood solely with their music is fantastic in my book."

This year may not be showing as many bands as in the past - last year featured more than 200 - but the lineup more than compensates.

"I'm really excited to see my favorite local artists: Caitlin Rose, The Protomen again, The Champion And His Burning Flame, and Willie Heath Neal," Kotas says. "I'm also pumped that we have major artists like Carl Broemel of My Morning Jacket, Lucero, Wheels On Fire and Black Diamond Heavies, not to mention the WE FUN movie premiere!"

Other Main acts include Memphis alt-country rockers Lucero, quirky punk **Jemina Pearl** - formerly of Be Your Own Pet and Ten of Tenn - an outstanding

collection of community artists.

But the bands in fine print are up to scratch as well. Like the bare-bones rockers of Modoc as well as the bouncy-pop performers in Heypenny, Next Big Nashville's smaller acts are of the same caliber as the headliners.

Tickets, wristbands and VIP badges as well as a detailed scheduled can be found at nextbignashville.net



"This year, there are higher profile artists, and it's great, because some of them played previous NBN's as 'unknowns,'" Kotas says. "It's a great testament to this city, the loyalty of it's fans, and the festival itself. The whole premise of NBN is to support all the great music that's made here in Music City, especially the budding artists."

Moreover, they represent the enor-

mous wingspan the festival has grown in the past three years. Next Big Nashville is no longer just a music festival, but a presentation of the city's variety and dedication to good sound.

"Watching the community come together for the good of music is inspiring," Kotas says. "Even Nashville's Mayor Karl Dean recognizes what a huge deal this is. He appointed cofounder of NBN Jason Moon Wilkins on his Music Business Council alongside Jack White and Emmylou Harris."

Next Big Nashville progresses by nature, and this year there will be a "Next Warped Nashville" stage making its debut on Saturday.

Stemming from Vans Warped Tour, this branch of the festival will feature bands like Therefore I Am and Conditions from Warped, as well as up-and-comers.

Venues hosting this year are scattered throughout Nashville, and vary in size, setting and comfort level. Depending on the location, showgoers may get to lounge and smoke while enjoying a band, or try to bob their heads to the music while squashed between sweaty strangers.

Some of the legendary rock joints include Tootsie's Orchid Lounge, The Rutledge, The End, The Basement, Mercy Lounge, Rocketown, 12th and Porter and Exit/In.

The music conference does not end when the bands leave the stage either. After-parties will be held at Mercy Lounge/Cannery Ballroom with DJs Electric Western, the Mashville Crew and Happy Valley. There will also be music documentary screenings at Belcourt Theatre.



Photo courtesy: Next Big Nashville

Wheels on Fire, an Ohio-based band, will be performing at the Basement on Oct. 8 from 8:45 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. as a part of Next Big Nashville. The band is touring the US and Europe throughout 2009.

Volleyball takes road win

By CHRIS WELCH
Sports Editor

The volleyball team took no mercy as they travelled to Boca Raton, Fla., to best the Florida Atlantic Owls in an outstanding 3-0 on Friday.

"We played a very good match," said head coach Matt Peck. "We had very few unforced errors and served aggressively. For the first time in two years, we are 2-0 to open conference play, so that is a very good feeling."

Senior Ashley Mead continued an amazing season by capturing 11 kills. Junior

Izabela Kozon took another

10, while sophomore Stacy Oladinni rounded out play with eight.

MT as a whole took 43 kills on the night for a .383 hitting percentage. The team had 12 blocks throughout the game.

Kozon led the team with 11 digs for a double-double, while Mead took four digs of her own.

Oladinni paced the defense with six block assists, while seniors Leslie Clark, Janay Yancey and sophomore Lindsay Cheatham each had three.

"We did a good job of staying in system and for the second straight match the

block came up huge for us," Peck said.

FAU (3-9, 2-2) had just 19 kills and three blocks for the match. None of the Owls posted kills into the double-digits. The Owls' Kristyna Dzmuranova led the team with eight.

FAU's hitting percentage did not rise above .026

MT's defensive standout team, senior Ashley Waugh, sophomore Brynne Henderson and freshman Halie Vannoy paced the backcourt and combined for 15 digs.

The Blue Raiders also faced early favorite Florida International over the weekend. The recap of the Sunday night match against the Panthers is available online at mtsusidelines.com.

To read more, visit us online.

online
www.mtsusidelines.com

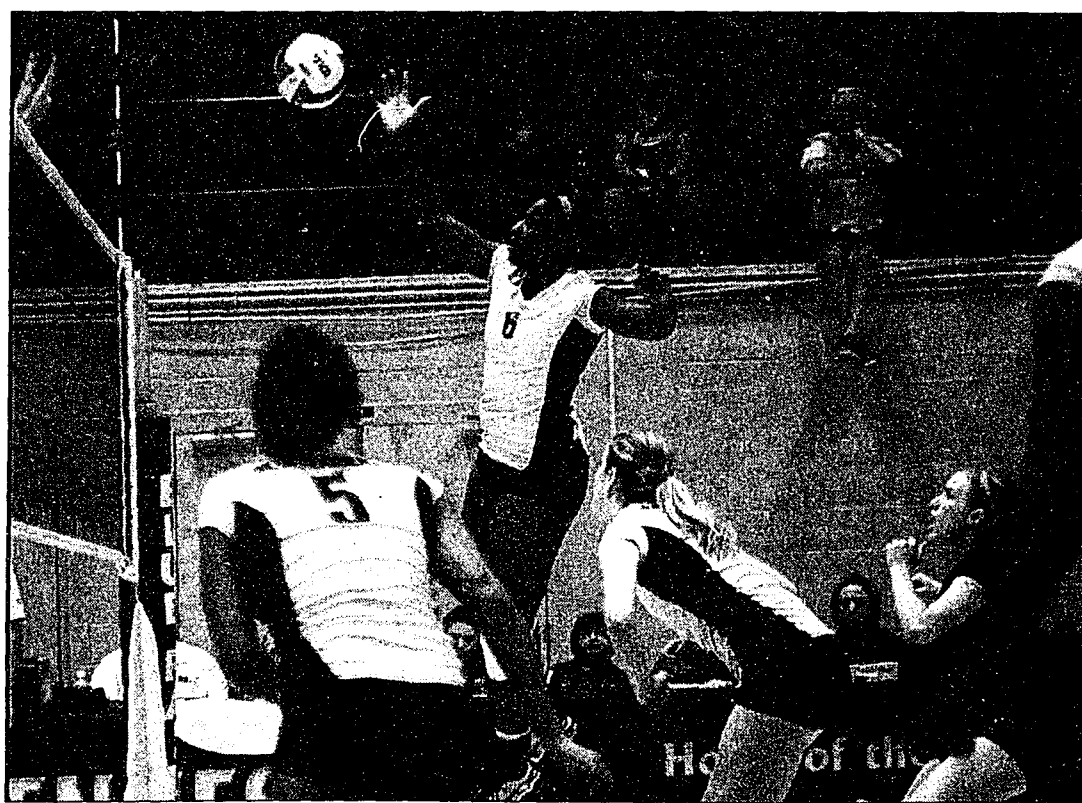


Photo by Alex Teneff, staff photographer

Sophomore MB Stacy Oladinni jumps for a kill against Western Kentucky in the Alumni Memorial Gym.

"For the first time in two years, we are 2-0 to open conference play, so that is a very good feeling."

MATT PECK
HEAD COACH, MIDDLE TENNESSEE VOLLEYBALL



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October 5-7th

Monday October 5th:

**Informational Table KUC Lobby
10-2**

Tuesday October 6th:

**"Cookin for a Cure" & "Up 'Til
Dawn on the Lawn"**

KUC Courtyard 11-2

Wednesday October 7th:

**Information Table KUC Lobby
10-2**

Team Interest Meeting 4:30 & 5:00

**"No Child Should Die in the
Dawn of Life"-Danny Thomas
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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 prepayment
refund 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 6,
MTSU, faxed to the Housing Office
(615-898-5459) or e-mailed to
housing@mtsu.edu by the deadline.

For additional information contact

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615-898-2971.

**MIDDLE
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SPORTS

Track team excels at Louisville Classic

STAFF REPORT

The MT track team travelled to Louisville, Ky., to compete in the Greater Louisville Classic at the E.P. "Tom" Sawyer State Park.

The men's 8,000-meter team was led by 11th place overall finisher sophomore Festus Chemaoui. Junior William Songcock finished directly behind at 14th.

The team as a whole finished 5th out of 39 teams, with 251 points overall.

"It was a good race, and I am really proud of them," said head coach Dean Hayes. "Having Festus and William towards the front shows they have worked really hard. We like this race because the larger field gets the 'overwhelming feeling of large field races out [of] the runner's system."

"This way, when we run the Sun Belt meet, they are confident against the smaller 11 team field."

Zamzam Sangau paced the Blue Raiders women's team once again, placing 11th in the women's 5,000-meter race in a time of 17:43. She improved on two positions than the last race, as she placed 13th in 2008.

Jackie Serem and Marla Bailey both finished in 18:26 to come in at 45th and 46th.

Amber Kassuba placed 140th in 19:32 with Kayla Bryan placing 168th in 19:45 to lead the freshman squad.

The women's team finished 13th overall with 386 points. This is a three-spot improvement over the 2008 race.

The teams will travel to Chattanooga, Tenn., in two weeks for the UTC Invitational. This will be the teams' last stop before the Sun Belt Championships in Monroe, La., on Oct. 31.

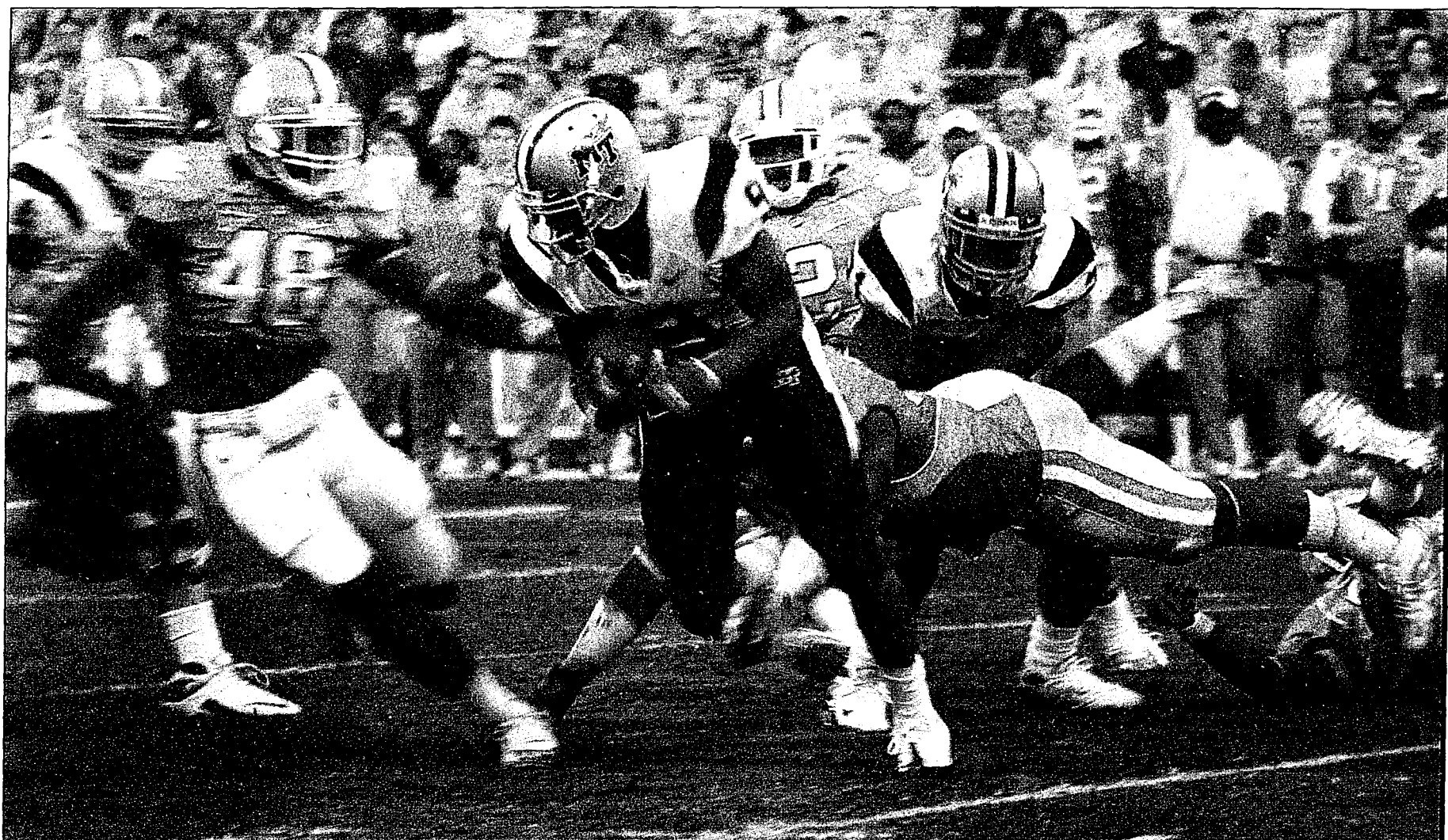


Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor

Junior quarterback Dwight Dasher looks to run the ball past the Clemson defensive line. Dasher is looking to be a leading passer and rusher in the game against Troy on Tuesday.

MT battles for the Palladium

By RICHARD LOWE
Assistant Sports Editor

It won't take much for fans of MT and Troy to get hype for this week's contest. "The Battle of the Palladium" will take place Tuesday night with the world watching on ESPN2. This will be the second year in a row that the game will take place on a weekday with national coverage. Troy head coach Larry Blakeney has seen the results that Blue Raiders have been able to put up so far.

"We're going to try to put wins together back-to-back against Middle Tennessee coming up," Blakeney said. "The game is here and it is on national television, but they have beaten some pretty good teams in Memphis and Maryland and of course North Texas in the league."

"I'm sure they will be highly motivated and well prepared. We have got to match that ef-

fort across the board to get a chance to win the game."

MT head coach Rick Stockstill knows how important this game is for his team in the conference standings but refuses to try to separate this game for the others on the schedule.

"This is an important game," Stockstill said. "I am not going to down play it or not emphasize it any, it is an important game. Our players know it is an important game. Our coaches know it is an important game. But when it is over, we still have to play seven more games. We understand the significance of it, but it is no different than any other game we will play."

Troy will be bringing Levi Brown in as starting quarterback in Tuesday's game. Brown has a Tennessee connection. He is from Mt. Juliet, Tenn., and actually wanted MT to be his choice

for college.

Last year, Brown was named the Sun Belt Conference's Newcomer of the Year and hopes to add on to the accolades.

Troy senior linebacker Boris Lee is an early front-runner for the conference player of the year award and hopes to lead his team to a victory over the Blue Raiders. One motivation factor for him is to stop the offense of current MT offensive coordinator Tony Franklin. Franklin was the offensive coordinator for the Trojans in 2006 and 2007.

"We've been talking about it ever since we found out he went there," Lee said. "Tony Franklin is an amazing offensive coordinator. He's like a mad scientist. He's someone you don't want to go against every week. It's something you have to prepare for, and you have to prepare better than you've

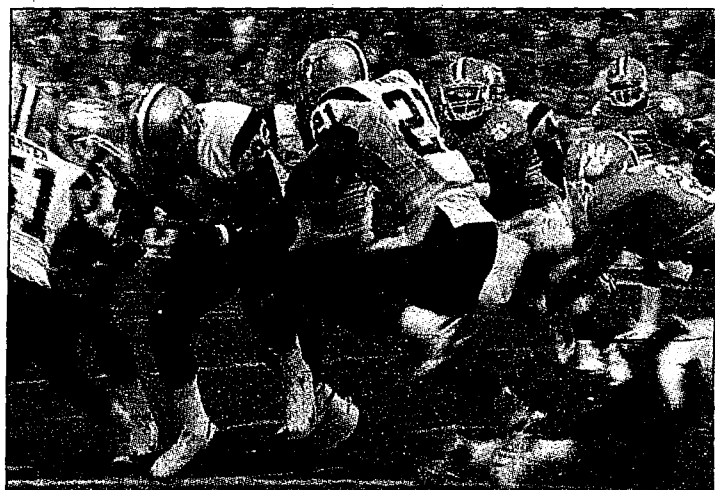


Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor

Senior running back Phillip Tanner rushes past the Clemson line. Tanner will not play against Troy due to a serious knee injury.

been preparing."

"We know Tony Franklin has something up his sleeve, and he's going to come and show up and have Middle Tennessee ready."

MT wide receiver Gene Delle Donne will be looking to help crack the Trojan defense that has traditionally been on top of the con-

ference rankings.

"Their front seven is probably some of the best in the country," Delle Donne said. "Their defensive line is big and aggressive. The two linebackers they have are very good with a fast secondary behind them. Hopefully, we can play our best this week."

Women's soccer falls to Trojans

Single goal causes loss against Sun Belt rival Troy on Friday

By STEPHEN CURLEY
Staff Writer

The Blue Raiders only gave up one goal, but that was enough to hand them the 0-1 loss Friday at Troy University.

The lone goal came at 94:41, when Mary Morris knocked one in after a failed clearing attempt by the Blue Raiders on the Trojan's only corner kick. The ball bounced off several players before landing at the feet of Jill Pinder, who then passed to Morris for the goal.

"It is a very disappointing loss," head coach Aston Rhoden said. "We created a lot of opportunities, but you have to credit Troy for taking advantage of a chance it had in overtime."

MT controlled the entire game, outshooting the Trojans 17-3, but simply could not get one through. Trojan goalkeeper Ashley Branham had her hands full all day and finished with 10 saves. Sophomore

Rebecca Cushing finished with just two.

Troy finished with just three shots on goal, as Morris, April Madden and Nicole Targa each contributed one.

Sophomore Shan Jones led the Blue Raiders in their control, posting five shots while junior Jaimee Cooper added four of her own and senior Jen Threlkeld contributed two. The wealth of shots was further spread around, with five other players contributing one shot on goal each.

The loss ends the Blue Raiders' five-game winning streak and drops the team to 8-2-1 with a 2-1 Sun Belt Conference record. The record is just a half game short of the team's best start ever after 11 games, when in 2006 the team opened 9-2.

The Blue Raiders continue their stint in Alabama Sunday when they travel to Mobile to face The University of South Alabama.

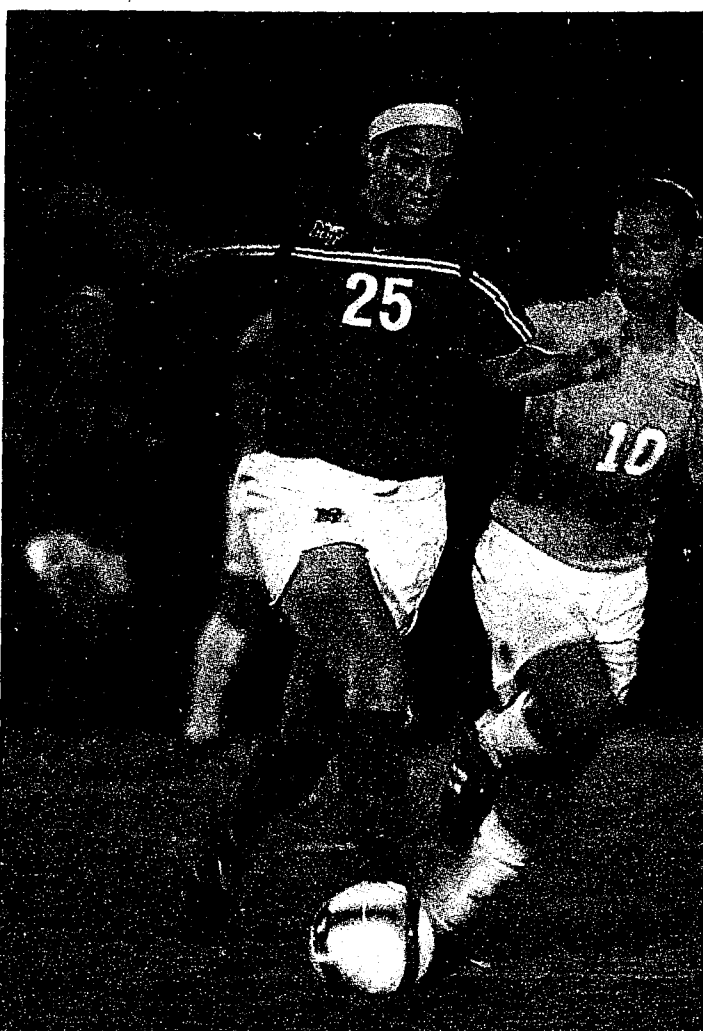


Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor

Sophomore midfielder Luisa Moscoso tears down the field against FIU. Moscoso and team took the win against the Panthers 2-0.

To read more, visit us online.

online

www.mtsusidelines.com

Check out *Sidelines* online for a special MT/Troy section on Monday, Oct. 5 including game updates, in-depth analysis and commentary about the Battle for the Palladium.

DON'T FORGET:

The SGA and MT Dining is hosting a watch party for the MT/Troy game on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in the RaiderZone Dining Hall in the James Union Building.

The much-anticipated MT/Mississippi State game is tentatively scheduled for 3 p.m. on Oct. 17*, but that kickoff time is may change.

*Due to ESPN networks' ability to choose games to be covered as late as 12 days before the game, the time may change in order to be nationally televised.