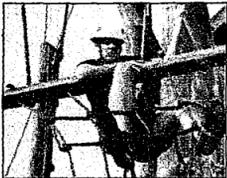


FEATURES



Recreation Center's Alpine Tower helps groups climb towards teamwork.

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OPINIONS



Columnist Rebecca McGrath investigates philosophy of health care and its reform.

PAGE 5

ONLINE



Men's basketball opens season with convincing victory over King College, 93-73.

mtsusidelines.com

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2009

VOL. 86, NO. 20

Town hall meeting attendance low

By **MARIE KEMPH**
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association answered student body questions and concerns in a live broadcast during the Nov. 11 town hall meeting.

Out of the 74 senators elected this semester, roughly half did not attend. Most of the 20 students who attended did not pose questions, though several questions were submitted beforehand by students.

SGA President Brandon McNary gave information on what to expect in the next fiscal year, and said that students should expect

to vote on the new gender identity referendum in the spring.

"We will hold the referendum sometime during the spring semester," McNary said. "We want to make sure students have a voice in the decision-making process."

McNary said many students might not be aware of all of the facts surrounding gender identity issues. Originally he did not know a lot about that particular subject either. He said after spending some time educating himself about the issue, he decided to support the bill.

"Beginning next semester, there will be other student or-

ganizations who will be educating students about the issue before the vote, and we will also be reaching out to students to address possible concerns and answer any questions they may have," McNary said.

The SGA executive panel answered several questions from students during the hour-long town hall meeting, which was sponsored in cooperation with *Sidelines* and MTTV.

The topics discussed ranged from issues such as the gender identity bill and the incident involving the preacher on campus, to food prices, campus safety, budget cuts and

student participation.

Although no one from the school administration or faculty attended the event, McNary said school officials do appreciate input from students and listen to their concerns about campus issues.

In a submitted question, an unidentified sophomore asked the SGA officers if the SGA is just another "rubber stamp organization" for the administration, or if the government body truly represents the students.

"We are the voice for the students," McNary said. "We've passed resolutions that the administration has

not always agreed with, but we did because the students felt that it was important."

Vice President and Speaker of the Senate Heather Rawson, a senior marketing major, said SGA senators have worked hard to represent the students, and include them in campus related issues, events and activities.

"Our senators have done a great job reaching out to students," Rawson said. "We try to do what the students want."

McNary said that while there are a lot of Greek affiliated senators, he thought

he'd done a good job in diversifying.

"We know that there has been a perception that the SGA is only for Greeks," McNary said. "This year we took extra measures to include students from diverse backgrounds."

McNary said he has personally reached out to nontraditional students and non-Greeks by asking them to either run for positions or to help out with committees. He said he has also appointed students to be senators from various backgrounds in an effort to bring more diversity to the organization.

Hip-Hop language teaches students about economy, current generation

By **BITTE UTLEY**
Contributing Writer

Bakari Kitwana, author of "The Hip-Hop Generation" and "Why White Kids Love Hip-Hop," urged students to take an active role in shaping politics and economic policy during a lecture in the Business and Aerospace Building's State Farm Room Thursday night.

"Economically, more and more young people have enough things in common that they can organize around," Kitwana said.

Kitwana said people ages 18 to 25 have again become a force for political and social change, citing the results of the 2008 presidential election as a prime example.

"When asked in a survey entitled 'Understanding the Hip-Hop Voting Bloc' if race mattered in their choice for president, young people overwhelmingly said 'no,'" Kitwana said.

"It was already clear to me from my work in hip-hop that young people process race differently," Kitwana said. "They have a more sophisticated racial analysis."

Kitwana said those surveyed were most concerned about the war in Iraq, jobs for young people and affordable tuition. He said the poll was conducted only two weeks before the election and included an equal number of black, white and Hispanic youths.

"If there is a post-racial generation outlook, young people, I think, have greater insight than anyone else," Kitwana said. "But no one is asking them."

Kitwana compared the beginnings of hip-hop culture during the recession

of the 1970s to the current state of youth culture, in which young people are less likely to focus on differences like race and gender to rally around common causes.

Kitwana called the emergence of hip-hop in the 1970s "an economic story," and discussed how warring neighborhoods united through music to express their frustration with the job market and a lack of opportunities.

He went on to explain that the current generation, who has grown up watching consumer culture celebrated in TV shows like MTV's "Pimp My Ride" and "Cribs," are experiencing similar frustrations.

Kitwana said the rising cost of tuition and a lack of jobs with benefits are forcing young people to redefine success.

"There's a sense of alienation among young people who are unable to reach this new American dream," Kitwana said.

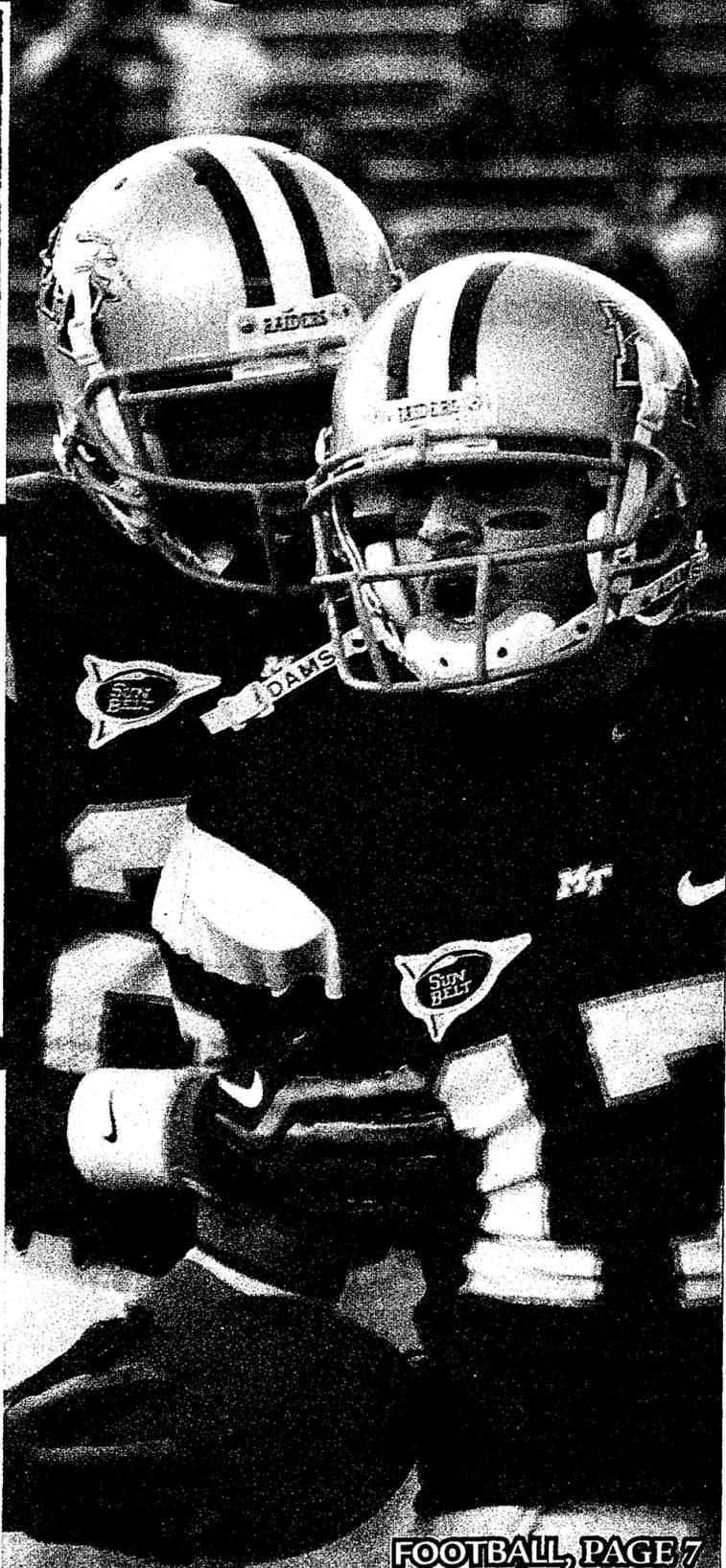
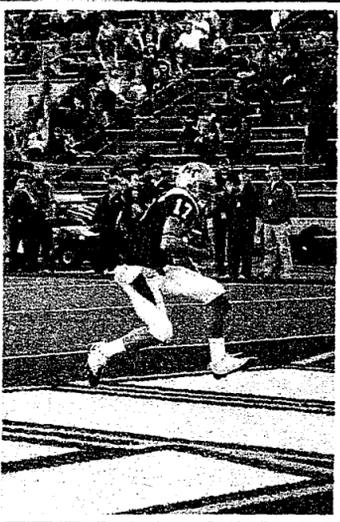
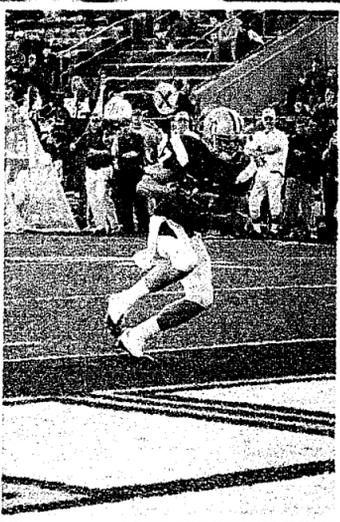
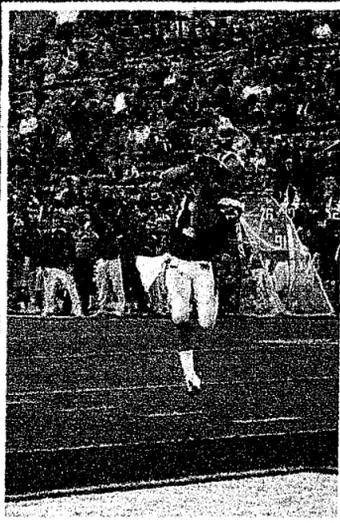
Kitwana said college students should graduate as quickly as possible, spend only what is necessary and start saving.

He also warned that the economy would not return to its former state. He suggested that students learn a relevant second language and think of future career options in terms of what is happening economically in the rest of the world.

When asked after the lecture what young people can do to change political and economic policies, Kitwana replied that youth must learn to think beyond presidential elections.

"There's more than one kind of election," Kitwana said. "We can put more pressure on our congressmen and senators."

MT fries Ragin' Cajuns



FOOTBALL, PAGE 7

Photo by Brennan Sparta
Blue Raiders win Saturday's game against the University of Louisiana 34-17 after being tied 7-7 in the beginning of the game.

Panel discusses transgender's obstacles

By BRITTANY KLATT
Staff Writer

A unified effort of two student organizations brought together a transgender panel on Wednesday to give attendees a brief look into the difficulties that transgender people have during their transition.

The panel, which was jointly hosted by MT Lambda Association and MTSU's Amnesty International, featured five speakers of various stages of transition.

Students were encouraged to ask questions. The discussion lasted two hours and top-

believes the sex they were given is the correct one.

"You have to separate the two and a lot of people don't," said Jaime Faucette, a member of the panel. "My gender and my sex are two different things; I never thought they were the same."

Faucette said she had to face certain set backs because she hasn't fully transitioned. At her job, she is still considered a man.

"At work I have to use the men's room until I can fully transition," Faucette said. "When I am out, then I can use the woman's restroom."

sacrificed some of their power.

"For a white male to go 'I don't want to be a man anymore,' you are losing a lot of power," O'Malley said.

The men then described how their social roles have changes.

"For me, I am now the white male who has certain roles to play," said Aiden Weston, a member of the panel. "When I was growing I wasn't taught how to interact with a male as a male."

He went on to describe how that lack of knowledge has affected the way other men perceive him.

To finish the panel, the speakers told the audience about some to the unexpected side effects of the hormones. Most discussed how the thickness of their hair changes and how the hormones effected their emotions.

"As a guy chocolate is okay," O'Malley said. "I will knife someone for chocolate now."

Hawks then said she discovered that chocolate can level out the estrogen in a person's body, which explains why women crave chocolate.

Amnesty MTSU President Kidd Navarro says the event "was a huge success."

She also said people should attend the lecture by Cat Stevens, a member of the San Francisco LGBT center. The lecture is set for Nov. 18 at 6:00 p.m. in the State Farm Room located in the Business and Aerospace Building.

“The classic definition is the sex is between your legs and gender is between your ears.”

HEATHER O'MALLEY
MEMBER OF TRANSGENDER PANEL

ics ranged from sexuality to gender inequality.

One of the points raised at the panel was the difference between sex and gender.

"The classic definition is that sex is between your legs and gender is between your ears," said Heather O'Malley, a speaker on the panel.

O'Malley said sometimes when children are born, doctors automatically assign a gender based on their sexual organs. She said not every child

Tabitha Hawks, a member of the panel, said transitioning had changed her role in society significantly.

"I knew I would be giving up the gift of being socially elite," Hawks said. "I repair computers for a living, and I walk into places where they say 'they sent a woman to do a man's job?' After the first few months I realized that as a female I'm invisible."

The other women on the panel agreed. By switching from a man to a woman, they

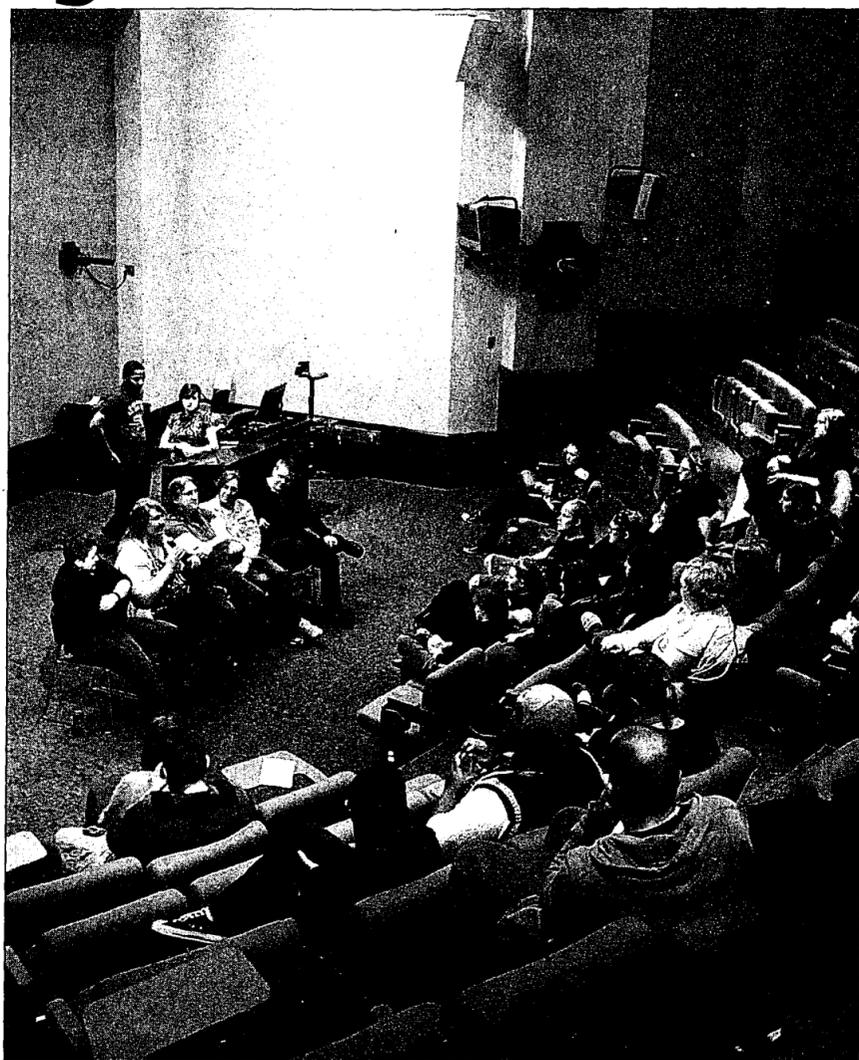


Photo by Sarah Finchum, staff photographer
On Wednesday students discussed with a transgender panel the struggles that transgender students face.

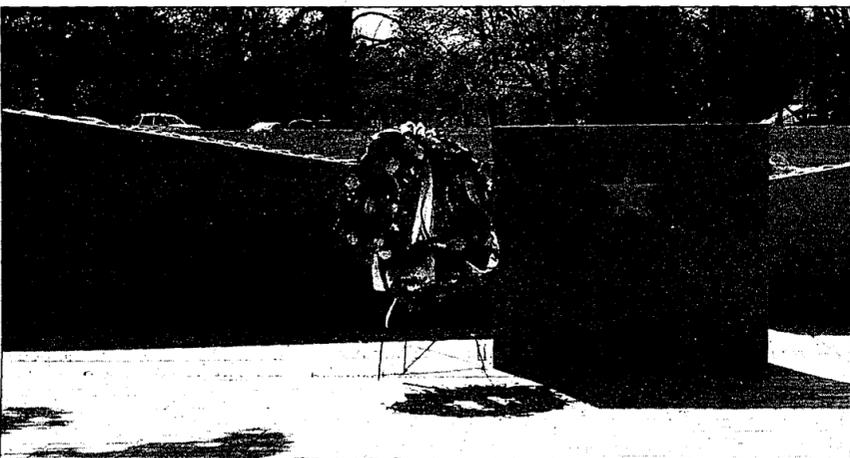


Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor
A veterans wall has been erected in an effort to support students who have served in the military.

Veterans wall to honor fallen students

By GARRETT FRANKLYN
Staff Writer

MTSU's Veterans Memorial Committee celebrated its 28th annual Salute to Armed Forces Day on Saturday with a ceremony to honor the completion of its veterans memorial wall outside of the Tom H. Jackson building.

Robyn Kilpatrick, a member of the committee, said the memorial was the idea of Andrei Korobkov, an associate professor of the political science department.

"Korobkov had students who had died in the Iraqi war," Kilpatrick said. "He wanted to honor all veterans and soldiers."

The memorial itself holds the words: "To those who

have fallen, who were students first and served their country with honor."

Kilpatrick said the two students in particular, Army 1st Lt. Ken Ballard and Army Capt. Pierre Piche, inspired Korobkov. Their names can be seen written in the bricks that form the memorial.

The bricks serve as a fundraiser for the committee and are purchased by donors who engrave them with a special message or names.

Robb McDaniel, committee chairman and an associate professor of the political science department, introduced President Sidney McPhee.

"We are indeed proud to salute veterans, active-duty

soldiers and their families," McPhee said.

McPhee said the memorial stands to remind us of the liberties we take for granted and are paid for by soldiers, who may be our friends, our relatives or our co-workers.

McDaniel then introduced Russell Parman, a 2006 alumnus who served in the military.

"I was inspired by the courage of our Founding Fathers," Parman said. "My generation answered the same call made generations before."

To read more, visit us online.



Activist to discuss equality

By ROZALIND RUTH
Staff Writer

MT Lambda Association and Amnesty International are hosting two events to discuss civil rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students on Nov. 18.

MTSU chapters of Lambda Association, a gay-straight alliance organization, and Amnesty International, a

LGBT issues in the month of November.

Richard Glatzer's "Pedro," a story of the first openly gay reality television star and his struggle with AIDS, will be played Thursday at 6 p.m. as part of the events.

Brandon Thomas, sophomore liberal arts major and member of MT Lambda, said he thinks there are many lessons

and-answer session.

"She'll be talking about different issues pertaining to the LGBT movement," Navarro said. "It's mainly her talking about her role in the LGBT movement in San Francisco and Proposition 8."

The Franchise Tax Board for the state of California stated on its Web site, "Proposition 8 was approved by the voters on Nov. 4, 2008, and it amended the California Constitution to provide that 'only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California.'"

"This week we're just focusing on educating the public," Navarro said.

Navarro said she thinks MTSU is a gay friendly campus.

"We just need to work on being transgender friendly now," Navarro said.

"There are going to be LGBT non-discrimination issues statewide that we're going to have to deal with, and I think it would be important for MTSU students to get involved in that because they haven't been historically in the past," Thomas said.

“This week we are focused on educating the public.”

BRENDA NAVARRO
PRESIDENT OF MTSU'S AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

human rights organization, are working together to host a week of events, including a lecture by Cat Stevens, an LGBT activist from San Francisco and a screening of the movie "Pedro."

Brenda Navarro, junior philosophy and global studies major and president of Amnesty International, said the organization worked with MT Lambda to put together the activities and the organization is focusing on

students will learn from watching "Pedro."

"I think they'll get a different view of life, of having aids and the struggles of coming out way back in the '90s," Thomas said.

Navarro said Stevens, events coordinator for the Charles D. Holmes Campus At The Center - an LGBT organization in San Francisco - will be giving a lecture on Nov. 18 at 6 p.m. in the Cason-Kennedy Nurses Building Room 106 followed by a brief question-

CURRENT EVENTS

Regina Spektor
Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m.

Location: Ryman Auditorium
Admission: \$24.50 - 34.50

Wine, Food and Film at the Belcourt: Coco Before Chanel
Nov. 17, 5:30 p.m. followed by a 7 p.m. screening of the film

Location: Belcourt Theatre

Admission: \$25, \$20 for members; includes film, wine tasting and food.

An Evening of Short Plays: "Shards of Glass and "Portrait of a Mother and Son"

Nov. 19 - 21, 7:30 p.m.

Location: Tucker Theatre

For more information, visit mtsu.edu/theatre

Events Policy

Sidelines welcomes current campus and community events submitted by all readers. Please e-mail events to sloopy@mtsu.edu or slnews2@mtsu.edu, and include the name, date, time and location of the event, as well as your name and a phone number for verification. We reserve the right to refuse events at our discretion as our space is limited.

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 events listed are not necessarily associated with Sidelines or MTSU.

CRIME BRIEFS

Nov. 11, 10:20 a.m.
Vandalism

Scarlett Commons Club House
Maintenance called to report vandalism to the walls in the stairwell.

Nov. 11, 12:16 p.m.
Traffic

Jim Cummings Hall Parking Lot
Subject came to the station to report her vehicle being hit on campus.

Nov. 11, 12:29 p.m.
Warrant

Business Aerospace Building
Samuel Forbert was issued a warrant for reckless endangerment with a deadly weapon and for failure to obey police officer.

Nov. 11, 7:45 p.m.
Theft

Keathley University Center
Report of a stolen wallet and debit card.

Nov. 12, 10:24 a.m.
Alarm

Stark Agricultural Center
Station received a fire alarm from the building advising a smoke detector in the first floor of the mechanical room.

Nov. 12, 5:50 p.m.
Traffic

Recreation Center Parking Lot
Hit and run reported.



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FEATURES



DID YOU GO VEGETARIAN FOR VEG WEEK?

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Team risks splinters, gain confidence

Groups that use the Rec Center's Alpine Tower to build group skills and create new challenges



Photo by Jay Bailey, Photo editor
Members of MTSU women's softball team work together climbing the Alpine Tower II at the Rec Center.



By ALEX MOORMAN
News Editor

As the sunset behind MTSU's Recreation Center, a lull consumed the MTSU softball team as the last teammate was lowered safely to the ground.

The air was cool and crisp on Friday as the team filed out one after the other through the back door of the Recreation Center and onto the moist grass. It is the last

spring," Nevar says. "Anytime you do anything that takes them off their field, you see different personality traits come out and I think that is healthy."

The Alpine Tower II Universal Challenge Course at the Rec Center is designed to give organizations the ability to participate in a variety of challenges.

The tower provides over 32 different climbing options, with challenges for the timid and adventurous alike.

business major and member of the softball team, as she tried to catch her breath. "I feel like I accomplished something by getting to the top."

Emily Coffman, interim program coordinator for MT Outdoors, says that watching people climb the wall is one of her favorite things about the job.

She says that while the climb is hard, the climbers are excited when they finish.

"It is really getting people out of their comfort zone, getting them nervous, getting them scared and then talking them through it until they get to the top," Coffman says with a smile.

Three people were allowed to climb at once while the others stood at the bottom scared for their turn, excited about their teammate's progress and eager to support and strengthen their team as a whole.

Brittney Banania, sophomore education and behavioral science major and member of the softball team, climbed one of the most difficult sides according to Coffman, and Banania says she was thrilled to have succeeded but wasn't sure she could have made it without her team.

"I feel like the encouragement from my team helped me out so much," Banania says with a big smile as she unstrapped her harness.

"Half way through I was shaking and I wanted to quit but my team wouldn't let me and now I'm glad I made it to the top," she says.

The Recreational Center is offering an open climb of the Alpine Tower this Wednesday from 2 p.m. until dark. Check out the Rec Center's Web site for more info at frank.mtsu.edu/~camprec/

surface they'd touch before climbing 55 feet into the air with only a wire and the cries of their teammates to calm their fears.

The team gathered around the tower with looks of fear and excitement on their faces as they slipped into their harnesses and prepared to make the climb toward a better understanding of each other.

Sue Nevar, head coach for the MTSU softball team, says she could see changes in the group after the first challenge and that these courses have not only strengthened the group but made individual players more confident.

"Some of these kids have accomplished something today that they didn't think they could ever do and that will help us on the field this

The programs intention is to help build teamwork and individual strength.

The softball team started their journey to developing a stronger group in early September, participating in the Rec Center's Group Development Activities. These activities are designed to get organizations communicating and engaging with each other in creative and unique ways.

The second task was the Low Challenge Course Elements, which are designed to allow the group to experience mental and physical challenges and how to work together as a team to reach their ultimate goal.

"You have to use a lot of communication; it is a mind over matter thing," says Shelby Barrett, freshman

ALPINE, PAGE 4

Student bands rock the Vine, benefit WMTS

By EMMA EGLI
Assistant Campus News Editor

With a dramatic change of scenery, WMTS 88.3 held its fall benefit show at trendy venue The Vine last Thursday, featuring eclectic local artists Beat Repeat, Hanzelle, Blastoids and Yoseph Y La Zilla.

Walking into the low-lit lofty dance hall, it was intriguing to see how well the four groups, all extremely underground and experimental, were going to use this daily rental facility to their advantage.

"I really just gave the bands a lot of room to do whatever they wanted," says Tiffany Clark, program director of WMTS. "It was a huge courtesy of them to play for us for free."

Clark said she decided to relocate the show from 527 Main Street to the Vine.

The switch definitely benefited the performers, combining a classy venue with their need for a more

complicated audio setup.

Credit must be given to the venue for having such a personal atmosphere, though. Without having a stage, it gave the moderately large audience a chance to get close and personal with the performing acts, especially headliners Beat Repeat.

Comprised of student Clint Chapman and band member Timothy Dugger, Beat Repeat has proven over the past semester that they are a force to be reckoned with.

Playing a house show almost every weekend, it's no wonder their group of Murfreesboro followers is rapidly growing.

"It started off as a side project to see what we could do," says Chapman humorously as he recalls their very first show at a friend's birthday party. "And now we have 11 venue shows in four different cities over the next two months."

Chapman and Dugger

got the eager crowd moving with their spectacular laser show and freeform mixes of popular song samples, catchy beats and extremely heavy bass lines.

The DJs utilize what Chapman calls "dubstep," a rhythmically remarkable genre of electronic dance music that started in the U.K.

"Dubstep has really blown up in the underground scene," Chapman says, referring to influential acts like Bassnectar. "What makes people want to dance is bass, and people are starting to realize what you can do with sound design and technology these days."

Chapman, who was a DJ for WMTS last year, says with radio being so over-commercialized and corrupt, it gives him all the more reason to love independent stations like WMTS.

WMTS, PAGE 4



Photo by Chris Donahue, contributing photographer
Clint Chapman of Beat Repeat gets the crowd moving. The band plays mixes they have created on their laptops, using controllers to adjust these mixes as part of the WMTS benefit show.

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WMTS
FROM PAGE 3

"You can play what you want and say what you want," says Chapman with glowing admiration for the student-run station. "I really took so much pride last year in using it as an outlet to play things I thought should be heard."

Opening act Yoseph Y La Zilla's flashy lights, steady drums and synth-driven sounds put the fluctuating crowd in a trance, especially with student Joseph Kennerly's subtle use of happy vocal harmonies reminiscent of Animal Collective.

"It's hard not to sound like Animal Collective because they are such a diverse group," says Kennerly. "Any kind of synthesizer with electronic beats is going to sound similar."

Kennerly describes his act as "kind of electro-poppy, different, but not too different because I don't try and make it hard to listen to."

The audience seemed to have no trouble listening to it, considering at one point a crowd member yelled, "you have the best bass lines ever."

"I was impressed they did all that at the same time," says Chris Ranker, referring to the group's ample use of drums, guitar, computer, keyboard and midi controller.

Kennerly, who was also a DJ for WMTS his freshman year, says this is his first benefit show for the station, but he remembers attending the show two years ago.

"They had Paper Route and AutoVaughn play, and you can see how those groups have blown up since then," Kennerly says.

Blastoids, arguably the most distinctive and loud act of the night, played to a crowd of devout followers who encouraged the band's crazy antics, which included them smearing paint on their bodies and instruments.

To fully enjoy the band's act, you probably needed a helmet, not just for the barrage of catchy and danceable noise they produced, but for the frequent interactions they had running into the audience.

"I love their energy, that's the best part of their entire



Photo by Chris Donahue, contributing photographer
Clint Chapman begins playing the next mix of music on his laptop.



Photo by Chris Donahue, contributing photographer
Blastoids play an exciting set of experimental music at the benefit.



Photo by Chris Donahue, contributing photographer
Casey Kaufman of Hanzelle plays her cello, helping to create the band's ethereal, fairy tail-like sound.

set," says Lauren Whaley who was highly amused with Blastoid's performance. "Their presence makes their music so much more meaningful."

Hanzelle delivered a beautifully dynamic per-

formance that set the exhausted crowd swaying, particularly with the song "I'm Sorry," which incorporated ambitious sounds and gorgeous strings.

The band has had a bout of popularity lately, espe-

cially after their recent success of winning first out of 32 local bands in the Blue Rooster Battle of the Bands. On their Myspace, Hanzelle describes their sounds as "upbeat, ethereal fairy tales in a head bobbing fit

of comfort," an incredibly accurate description.

Clark seemed to be highly content with how the show turned out, expressing how great it was to get local and underground acts to help support them.

"Music is so central to everyone, especially at a school with such a thriving music scene," Clark says. "These are all student bands and we should be proud of that because that's what our radio station is about."

ALPINE
FROM PAGE 3

Coffman explained that after college the perpetual fear that ensues is intense.

She says exercises on the Alpine Tower will not only prepare students for their future but will allow them to cope better in high stress situations.

She also said that this challenge builds team and group dynamics.

"These things are going to help because you have to work with people all your life," Coffman says as a smile crept over her face.

Coffman says that the challenge is also helpful as a teaching tool for career building because it forces climbers to get out of their comfort zone and rely on their teammates.

"This challenge is very important in career building because when your trying to find a career you are going to have to get out of your comfort zone," Coffman says. "You're going

to get that everyday and it helps build those nerves up and then learning how to control them."

The sun lowered deep into the sky, and the girls chants and cheers filled the air as if lifting the climbers to the top all on their own.

"Some of these kids have been saying for months that they are not climbing this tower out of fear alone and some of these guys are on the ropes right now," Nevar says with a smirk.

Krista Barts, assistant softball coach, said that she thought the challenge course was hard.

She says doing it herself and experiencing the actual challenge in it made her that much more proud of the team.

"It is a rush from the top it is like when you're out of the field, you feel like you've accomplished something," Barts says confidently. "It is difficult so when you make it up then you feel accomplished."

The Rec Center is offering a free-climb on Wednesday, November 18 from 2 p.m. until dark.



Listen to sound slides of climbing the Alpine Tower with the MTSU softball team at the Rec Center online at MTSUSidelines.com/multimedia



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OPINIONS

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Health care incentives bizarre

Feeling healthy today? I sure hope so because these days the state of our health care system is at its highest level of disappointment.

Whatever happened to the days when Dr. Pepper would come to your house and fix your broken finger for free because you were too much of an idiot to keep it out of the car door?

In our country, business is focused on making money and this does include our health care providers. Their primary goals are to make as much profit as possible.

There is something seriously wrong with this logic.

Our health should be their top priority. If not, the public is not going to receive the care it needs and deserves.

A few days ago, my friend told me a story about a young man in need of help. He was having excruciating tooth pain and did not know what to do. A visit to the doctor was definitely in order.

Two hours and 50 signed proof-of-insurance waivers later, he entered the examination room. The young man explained his symptoms and was immediately told that it



Even odds

Rebecca McGrath

was just his wisdom teeth. He was thrown some pain pills and discharged with a recommendation that he should get his teeth removed.

Two weeks after his wisdom teeth were ripped out, this young man still had problems. He returned to the nitwit doctor's office, waited another two hours, filled out even more forms and was finally correctly diagnosed with a completely different problem.

It turns out it was not his wisdom teeth that were giving him the problem, but a completely different set of teeth. To make matters worse, he could not receive the corrective surgery he needed due to the fact that his wisdom teeth had been

taken out!

The doctor's office spent more time having the patient sign forms and prove that he could pay for treatment than actually seeing what was wrong with him.

Is money an important issue? Of course, but proper care should be an even larger priority.

Doctors are supposed to care about their patients, not how large their next paycheck will be. Maybe they should be forced to forfeit their pay whenever a misdiagnosis is made. If this is the case, they would have a little more incentive to get the diagnosis right the first time around. It is a win-win situation. We would get the health care we need, and they would get the paycheck they love.

Careless professionals are not our only scourges in this country. Prescription prices are absolutely outrageous.

The prescription medicine Prozac costs patients \$247.47 for 100 pills. The cost of the general active ingredients is only \$0.11. I am no math ma-

valid address, you can receive health care. However, Canada has its own problems.

Canadian health care services are saturated with patients. Since everyone quali-

fies to be healthy, the wait

times for appointments

are outrageous. Some

are so fed up with

waiting that they

travel to the

U.S. to avoid

it. Others just

don't bother

with getting the

care they

need.

So what

do we do?

If we keep

things as

they are, those

wealthy enough

can have health

care and the poor

will be ignored. If we

decide to change, our sys-

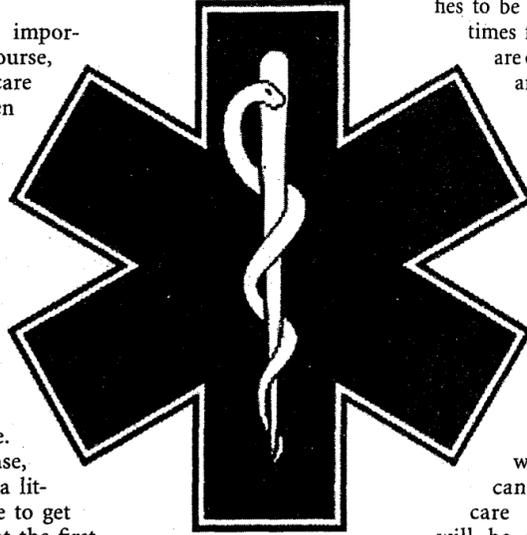
tem will be overwhelmed

by demand.

The only advice I can give

is to stock up on apples.

Rebecca McGrath is a junior liberal arts major and can be reached at rkm2z@mtsu.edu.



job, but that is almost a 225,000 percent markup.

Obviously, there is no easy way out of this problem.

Many look to Canada, a country that provides public health care. If you are a Canadian citizen and have a

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Veterans' war memorial wall reminds us of fighters' service

This past Saturday, MTSU honored veterans with the dedication of their Veterans' Memorial Wall, located outside of the Tom H. Jackson Building.

The university should be commended for its nod to veterans, both past and present. More importantly, it should be commended for the welcoming attitude to future veterans.

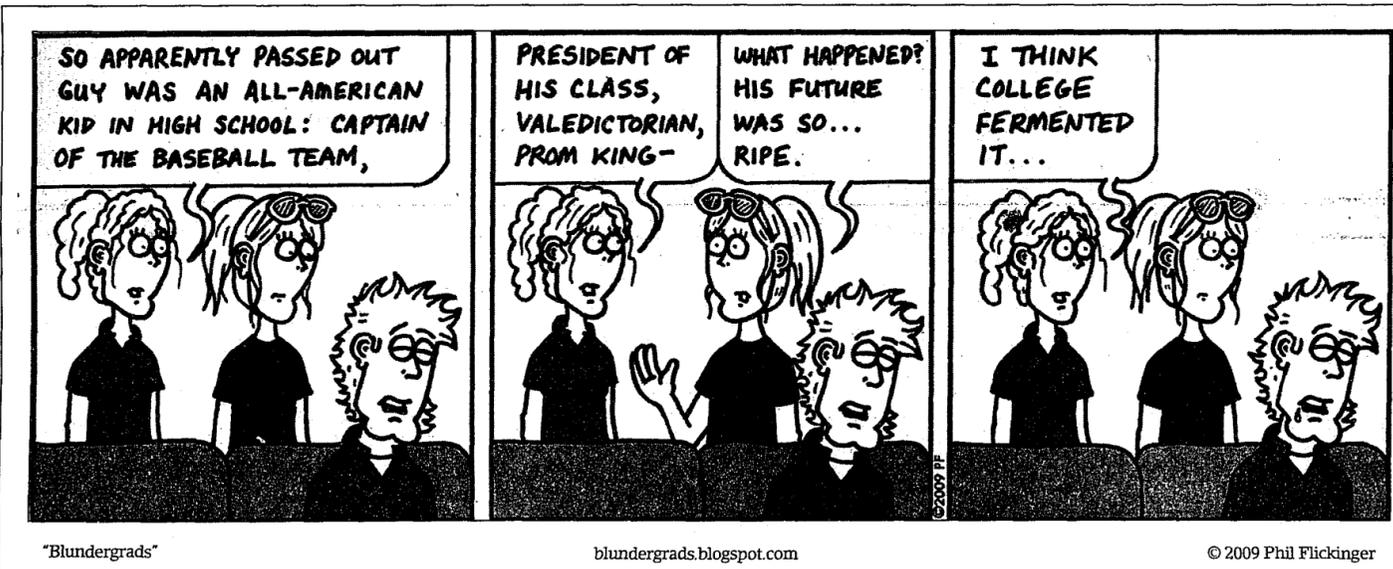
Since the military campaign in Iraq began back in 2003, it seems like the nation has been swept up in a constant political battle, with both sides crusading their opinions, strategies and agendas for our military.

Six years later, the crusade is still going strong, but our troops have been relegated to a mere headcount – the media's tally of soldier deaths every now and then. In 2007, President George W. Bush announced an additional 20,000 or so troops would be shipped to the Middle East. In February 2009, President Barack Obama announced plans to withdraw soldiers, leaving behind a "transitional force" of up to 50,000.

But what does 20,000 or 50,000 people really mean to us? A nice and easily-rounded-off number that runs into our brains during a 45 second newscast, then skips out as the next story comes on.

In a current political climate where numbers are the primary focus, it can be hard to imagine the personal impact of such a high number of troops.

EDITORIAL BOARD, PAGE 6



Darfur apathy reveals true motivation

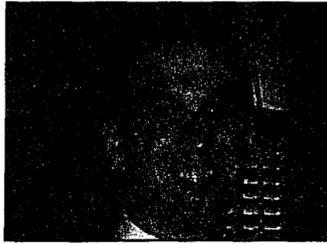
In early 2003, a conflict broke out between the indigenous tribes of Darfur and the Sudanese government. This conflict, or what has been called genocide, has had an impact around the world. Focusing specifically on the United States and the United Nations, I will address how each has, in surprising ways, dealt with this tragedy.

Our government is notorious for being involved in everything, but take notice of the U.S.' biggest influence when entering hostile foreign affairs. Do we enter out of the goodness of our hearts, being concerned with epidemics and terrible violence? Absolutely not.

What about spreading our "Christian values" to those less fortunate? Laughable.

Then political interest must be the answer. Again, close, but no cigar. Economics. Money. Greed.

As many of you probably remember, about two years ago there was a large media clamor for Darfur, and what seemed to be real humanistic concern from nations all over. As a freshman at the time, this was the first I had heard about this conflict. Since then, I have watched and read with interest



Dogood's post

Brett Johnson

about what is being done.

What is being done is a lot of nothing. Talk from the U.S. has been fervent. Despite such critically limited action, there has been plenty of talk as to what we should do.

The U.S. has identified this crisis as genocide, and the need for help is obvious and clear. People are still falling victim to unbelievable atrocities; families are being ripped apart. Sex trafficking is no longer a "hush-hush" business.

Astonishing accounts of torture and death have become commonplace for indigenous peoples in Darfur. The violence is widely spread throughout Sudan to a point that the line between in-

digenous peoples and possible threats has become something commonly overlooked.

So why, with all this talk from the U.S., has nothing been done? A lot of the blame can fall on the shoulders of a busy schedule. While this sounds terribly cynical, it is true. The U.S. economy, instability within our own government and extremely low presidential support make anything overseas, at this point, very unfavorable.

The biggest reason stands clear; we have no gain to make from Darfur. There is no large economic appeal of moving into a country, as we fight a two-front war, and helping to alleviate people who really hold no value in terms of money or politics. There just is not enough immediate value in helping for us to do anything.

This is a particularly sad reality when you think about who "we" is. "We" is the U.S. government. "We" is Big Brother. "We" is known for having 10 sets of eyes on everyone when only five can be afforded.

Constantly, the U.S. enters hostile territory preaching words of good fortune and aid to our brothers. Yet, when the time comes to stand

as a beacon, when it really matters and will make a difference in humanity rather than in our wallets, we fall short.

As for the U.N., there is even less hope to be had. Usually this kind of problem is right up its alley, but for now, other issues seem to be more important, or more profitable. In a release by the U.N., describing its take on the problem, it was written that "genocidal intent appears to be missing."

Apparently mass murder and exploitation of prostitution under a political agenda no longer constitute genocidal activities.

What is a fantastically interesting link is the inactivity of the U.S. as the U.N. does not give support. The last time this disagreement was occurred we enter a war in the Middle East which, in short, has sucked us dry of money and morale.

If the U.S. was able to undermine the opinion of the U.N. after 9/11, then why not now? Now, as masses are being exploited in ways Americans have only read about, we as a government and as a people have not answered the call of those in need.

President Barack Obama is de-

liberating the 54 billion dollars it would take the station 40,000 more troops in Afghanistan. How much of that money could be going to saving lives right now?

With the amount of coverage and awareness that have amounted since 2003 when the conflict between Sudan and the people of Darfur began, it would seem probable that more aid would have been sent. Perhaps this aid could have been more physical necessities such as food, clothes and water, or maybe help would have been more effective in the form of doctors, specialists or some kind of protection for those affected.

Even if it is not our style, there could have been cooperation between nations to do something.

I am not asking for another Charlie Wilson to fly through government red tape and arm these people with everything necessary to combat the Sudanese government, but why now do we shy away from helping others in their "pursuit of happiness?"

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Marriage decline societal problem

Everyone is familiar with the infamous TLC show "John & Kate Plus Eight," but if you look closer it is a prime example of how the American family is going extinct.

Constantly, tabloids plaster their names on the front page discussing divorce, infidelity, child support and money. It is a sad sight to see when a family is broken up like that, especially when they are constantly in the media. Yes, families end all the time but the problem is divorce.

Marriage, as defined by Webster, is the state of being united to a person of the opposite sex [or same sex] in a consensual and contractual relationship recognized by law. However,



Perceptions

Jessica Harris

marriage has become a joke the way the media portrays it.

For instance, people get married on a whim or because they're overly intoxicated. In the movie "The Hangover," Ed Helms plays the charac-

ter Stu Price who is married to women who had an affair. He gets married to a stripper who has a baby and gives her his grandmother's ring. Phil Wenneck, played by Bradley Cooper is a little loose with his marriage, he runs a don't-ask-don't-tell-stays-in-Vegas policy. It's entertainment, yes but who is really being hurt?

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the divorce rate just for the earlier portion of this year was 3.5 per 1000 population. This was reported in forty-four states. About 40-50 percent of marriages end in divorce. This is discouraging, especially for newlyweds and

younger generations. Why are people getting divorced? Selfishness: this is truly the root of all evil.

Marriage is about sacrifice, submitting to each other, loving, caring about each other and trading the "I's" for "us." If you are a selfish person, have a problem giving things up, inconsiderate or a little egocentric, then don't get married. It will save some heartache.

Marriage should be two people in a partnership, who are equally yoked. In the book of Ephesians it says that "husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself... for this reason a man will leave

his father and mother and be united with his wife, and the two will become one flesh."

Marriage is not easy; you can't just quit unless there are circumstance that simply do not allow the partnership to continue. Everyday two people have to make the choice to be married; it doesn't end with the honeymoon, reception or the marriage license. Marriage is everyday and if you truly love your significant other, unconditional love you will fight to keep the union.

People lose the love in their marriages. It's not about the spark, because sparks fade, but about the love. You may be thinking love isn't enough

to sustain a marriage, but it is when it's the right kind of love.

This doesn't mean that one is required to stay in a mentally, physically or emotionally abusive relationship, it is encouragement to fight against all the odds to be with someone you love.

Barbra De Angelis, an American researcher on marriage and personal growth put it like this "marriage is not a noun; it's a verb. It isn't something you get. It's something you do. It's the way you love your partner ever day."

Jessica Harris is a junior journalism major and can be reached at jh33y@mtsu.edu

Editorial Board FROM PAGE 5

Let's use MTSU's population of around 24,000 as our anchor to reality.

The new memorial brings those neatly packaged numbers into perspective. Those numbers mean our classmates, our alumni, our community members, our friends and our family. They are people who survived combat and University 1010.

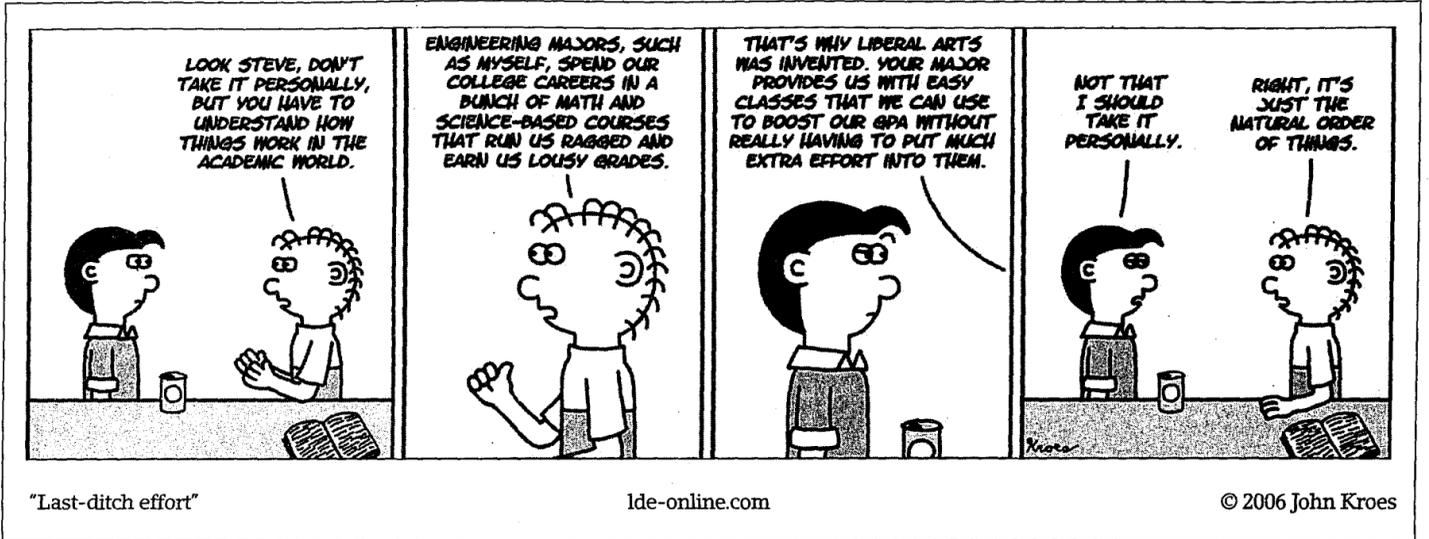
Next time you're bored in a lecture class, count your classmates. Under Bush, one in every five people you count was shipped overseas in 2007. Under Obama, one in every two people is staying until 2011.

Then take those one-in-every-five or one-in-every-two and think about everyone who is connected to them. Think about the families and friends and the fear, pain and sacrifice they feel. Suddenly the 20,000 to 50,000 headcount becomes a much larger number.

Obviously our military population isn't solely comprised of MTSU students, but it is the easiest way to humanize what some of student soldiers give to us. It helps us to take conscious note of their service.

MTSU has done a great service to veterans by building this wall. With our perpetual support and remembrance, each name on the wall could say "I'm one!"

Listen to the editorial board podcast online at mtsusidelines.com/opinions



"Last-ditch effort"

lde-online.com

© 2006 John Kroes

Social media sap valuable energy, time

Facebook, cell phones, video games, television. It could be said that we can never be bored with the limitless gadgets and options we are bombarded with to occupy ourselves.

If anyone has me added on Facebook, you'd know I'm on the Web site at least three hours a day. That's 1,095 hours a year or 45 days out of the year.

I'm an avid video-gamer as well, and with "Modern Warfare 2" now out, you can imagine the time spent with my eyes glued to the TV to the point of straining from staring at the screen for so long.

After playing for two days on a steady basis I had accumulated 10 hours of playing. Ten hours that could have been spent looking for a job. I feel I'm not alone though.

Young people today have developed a dependence on



I'm just sayin'

Sam Ashby

today's technology. Why shouldn't we though?

Technology makes our lives easier and things have been accomplished faster because of advancements like text messaging, email, social networks, etc. But when does it become a hindrance instead of a convenience?

According to an article from bizreport.com, American broadband users account for 76 percent of social media usage, and those using a social networking site

such as Facebook, Twitter or Myspace has risen to 93 percent since 2006.

With the rise of these Web sites, a new awareness must be reached.

The potential for overuse and even abuse is higher as social media become more ubiquitous. Although users must be a certain age to use Web sites such as Facebook and Myspace, parents still allow their young children to create a profile and talk with people online.

I'm all for staying in touch with friends and family, but is it appropriate for an 11-year old to post pictures of themselves on the Internet? I don't think so.

Unfortunately, many parents aren't aware of the perils that social networking sites can bring. There have been horror stories, of course, but

the main defense against this is just to use common sense.

The "violence in video games" issue is something that has been in the public dialogue for the past 10 years at least. Yet, more and more people have turned to them for a serious form of entertainment.

In fact, the recently released first-person shooter "Modern Warfare 2" has broken all previous entertainment release records, selling 4.7 million copies in the U.S. and the U.K. in one day alone. That includes movies, music and television shows as well.

We now live in a society where we could be entertained without ever having any interaction with any other person.

We now have entertainment that requires no mental legwork whatsoever.

It's something that I know that I am guilty of: endless hours on Facebook, reality television and video games. Maybe it would benefit me more if I read a book now and then or watched a documentary on PBS. Mental stimulation could do me some good.

Today's entertainment is worlds away from the world in which our parents lived. It is vastly different even from even 10 years ago. Like many other issues and new circumstances we face today, it is beneficial to approach the choices we have with an informed and open mind.

If we don't, we'll probably just end up on Facebook playing Farmville all day. Let's try not to let it come to that.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Writer biased, writing poor

To the Editor:

Rozalind Ruth entitled her article, "Anti-abortion health clinic exposed" (Nov. 9), when in truth, she was exposed, and not in a very intelligent manner. Her argument was extremely weak with absolutely no concrete evidence supporting her thesis. Please don't allow people to write on these topics unless they truly have a good argument.

Beth Baswell
Alpharetta, Ga.

Raiders fight animal cruelty

To the Editor:

In response to your article "RAAC encourages students to take 'Veg Pledge'" (Nov. 9), it was wonderful to see that Torrella and his group members are actively promoting a compassionate vegan lifestyle on campus. With more and more people becoming educated

about the ways that animals suffer when raised and killed for food, there is an increasing demand for delicious and cruelty-free meals. In fact, a recent study by Aramark, a leading food-service provider, concluded that nearly a quarter of college students are actively seeking out vegan options when they sit down to eat, for reasons ranging from their own health to environmental concerns, and of course, because of cruelty to animals.

Students are understandably horrified when they discover that chickens on factory farms often have their beaks cut off with blades or that many cows and pigs are skinned and dismembered while they're still conscious. If these kinds of abuses were inflicted upon cats or dogs, it could result in felony cruelty-to-animals charges.

Thankfully, delicious dishes, such as those being distributed at the students' event, are widely available. With grocery stores carrying a variety of meat-free products, including veggie barbecue riblets and vegan pizza, it's never been easier

to cut cruelty out of your diet for good. For more information, visit peta2.com to request a free "Vegetarian Starter Kit" as well as stickers and a DVD.

Ryan Huling
College Campaign Coordinator
PETA

Veg Week events raise awareness, compassion

To the Editor:

I am excited to see that vegetarian groups are starting to sprout up on college campuses across the U.S.

RAAC's efforts are a tremendous step in the right direction for bringing awareness to vegetarian issues. College campuses are known for their lack of healthy menu items so enlightening students about a vegetarian diet is a great way to get them to start thinking healthily and compassionately. All the wonderful events RAAC has planned should attract a curious crowd of vegetarians and meat-eaters alike,

from the free food to the "Earthlings" movie screening.

What many people don't realize is that by giving up meat for just a week, they can help to make a difference against animal cruelty. RAAC's efforts should be noted by veg groups across college campuses so we can start spreading awareness on these important issues.

Nicole Dao
Washington D.C.

Community helps keep youths drug free, healthy

To the Editor:

As November is here and Thanksgiving holidays are fast approaching, we are more in tune to thinking about our blessings in life and using this time of year to give thanks to family, friends and those we hold dear.

The Community Anti-Drug Coalition of Rutherford County is a community family, and as such we want to give our thanks to our

coalition members, community partners and the wonderful, caring citizens in the county who have blessed us with their time, talents, energy, passion and commitment to keeping the youth in our community safe, healthy and drug and alcohol free.

The core mission of CADCOR is to bring people and organizations together to create a healthy environment with a primary focus in stemming underage drinking and youth substance abuse.

Our successes and ability to make a difference comes from our dedicated partners in law enforcement, community health care, education systems, local non-profit agencies and government.

Thank you MTSU partners, individually and collectively, for the many blessings that you have bestowed upon CADCOR and the positive impact you are making in the community.

Karen Claud
Community Anti-Drug Coalition
of Rutherford County



Online content:

Crime briefs were unavailable for the 2 prior issues due to the MTSU Police Department's Web site not being updated. All briefs from previous weeks are now updated and can be found at mtsusidelines.com

mtsusidelines.com

mtsusidelines.com/multimedia

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SPORTS

Blue Raiders win fourth straight



Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor
Sophomore RB D.D. Kyles ran for 177 yards on 20 carries. It was his third game in a row in which he ran for over 100 yards in a game. One run was for 53 yards.

Kyles shines in running game; Defense sacks UL five times

By STEPHEN CURLEY
Sports Editor

Sophomore running back D.D. Kyles ran for 177 yards and junior quarterback Dwight Dasher passed for two touchdowns as the Blue Raiders defeated the University of Louisiana at Lafayette 34-17 at Floyd Stadium Saturday.

The game for Kyles marks his third straight 100-yard performance.

Dasher threw for 219 yards and two touchdowns, completing 16 of his 25 passing attempts.

"This is a phenomenal win for our team," head coach Rick Stockstill said.

Things didn't look good early for the Blue Raiders, as the Ragin' Cajuns put together a 14-play, 79-yard drive resulting in the game's first touchdown and a 7-0 lead.

MT was able to answer immediately, as Desmond Gee's kickoff return set them up at the 50-yard line. Six plays later, Dasher hit Patrick Honeycutt from 18 yards out for a touchdown to tie the game at seven.

The teams traded possessions until the second quarter, when ULL again assembled a methodical nine-play, 83-yard drive resulting in a field goal from kicker Tyler Albrecht at the 9:56 mark.

MT was able to drive into Ragin' Cajuns' territory on their next possession, but a field goal attempt by Alan Gendrau was blocked and recovered at

the ULL 19-yard line.

The next play, a pass by ULL quarterback Chris Masson was intercepted by junior defensive end Jamari Lattimore, who then ran it back for a touchdown to give MT a 14-10 lead.

The Ragin' Cajuns' two-minute offense shined at the end of the first half, putting together a nine-play, 72-yard drive in which Masson completed five consecutive passes. Masson capped it off with a seven-yard touchdown to Vernon Wolfe with just nine seconds left in the half.

Kyles sent the Blue Raiders into halftime with a spark, breaking a 40-yard run to run out the clock.

"I challenged them at halftime to man up and prove who the tougher team was," Stockstill said.

The defense responded by not allowing ULL to score the rest of the game. Entering the game, ULL had only allowed four sacks all season, tying them for best in the country. The MT defense sacked Masson five times.

Dasher started the second half strong, breaking a 46-yard run on the first play to set the Blue Raiders up at the ULL 14-yard line. Following a false start penalty, Dasher found junior receiver Garrett Andrews from 19 yards out to give MT a 21-17 lead.

Gendrau increased the lead to 24-17 at the 1:29 mark of the third quarter with a 30-yard field goal.

A seven-yard touchdown

run by Desmond Gee at the 13:16 mark of the fourth quarter and another 30-yard field goal by Gendrau sealed the win.

"To me, we dominated them on both sides of the ball and in the kicking game in the second half," Stockstill said. "We just dominated them. I don't know what the stats say, but it was an impressive second half."

The seventh win earns the Blue Raiders its best start since 2006 and opens up new bowl possibilities. The team does not consider themselves close to being done yet, and are still eyeing much more than a bowl invitation.

"You can't relax as a football team," Stockstill said. "As soon as you relax, they catch up to you."

Despite Troy University's loss to the University of Arkansas Saturday, the Blue Raiders are still one game behind the Trojans in the Sun Belt Conference.

Kellem dominated the Ragin' Cajuns offense, racking up two sacks, seven tackles and a forced fumble.

Dasher now has 15 touchdown passes this season, moving him into fifth place on the school single-season touchdown list.

Gendrau is now one field goal away from the school single-season record of 17.

The Blue Raiders return to action at 3:30 p.m. next Saturday at Floyd Stadium as they host Arkansas State University.

Where are the alumni at the games?



The Lowdown

Richard Lowe

It was only a matter of time before an alumnus approached me with a phrase I get every football season – "Why don't y'all students ever show up to the games?"

Most years I defend the students by saying a mixture of things, and I pretty much have to pull an argument out of my back pocket in order for it to make sense. This year, it was a lot easier for me to make my argument.

I understand the circulation for this newspaper is very limited, but I encourage the students out there to try and spread this to as many community members as possible. The message is pretty clear: The students show up; it's everybody else who doesn't.

I am tired of looking across the stadium from the student section and seeing empty seats on the alumni side. The attendance since the Memphis game has been steadily declining, and some blame has been put on the students but, in all fairness, you can't blame us anymore.

Tailgating has increased in Walnut Grove and student attendance has been pretty steady and has grown year after year. Athletic marketing has increased their efforts.

The biggest sign of disappointment was this season's Mississippi State game. After the strong efforts from the Athletics Department to make sure students were in attendance for that particular game, the alumni found a way to make excuses for not coming. They ranged from the early morning kickoff to cold weather.

There's no secret that the major marketing push for fans is geared towards the older community members. Trust me, they aren't playing "Stuck In the Middle With You" to attract more students in the stands. So if the student attendance is growing while the efforts of marketing are increasing, don't you think it's time for alumni to start looking in the mirror?

The Blue Raiders have one more home game this season. If they win, they will match the record for the most wins in a season for the football program with eight. I sure hope they don't get that eighth win in front of only 15,000 fans, especially with surprisingly good weather lately.

It would be great for more students to be in the stands, but it would be even better if we can get a better showing from the 18,000 alumni who currently live in Rutherford County.

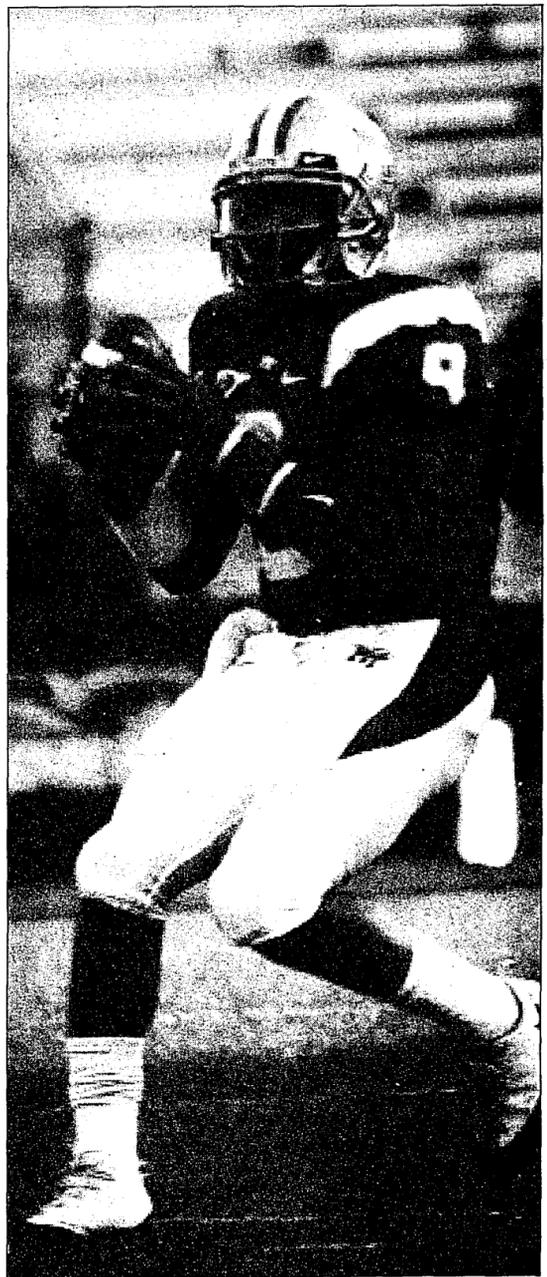


Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor
Junior Dwight Dasher went 16 for 25 for 219 yards and two touchdowns through the air. He also rushed for 89 yards on 17 carries.

Volleyball preps for conference tournament

Victory over Florida Atlantic secures No. 2 seed for Sun Belt Conference Tournament

By JESSICA STAUFFACHER
MT Athletic Communications

MT will play the night match to begin the 2009 Sun Belt Championships after earning the two seed as announced by the league office on Sunday.

Originally it was thought the Blue Raiders would play at 5 p.m. when the tournament begins on Thursday, Nov. 19 but tournament host Western Kentucky chose the 5 p.m. match, so MT will play at 7:30 p.m.

The Blue Raiders will face the seven seed Arkansas-Little Rock. The Blue Raiders defeated the Trojans earlier this season 3-0 at home.

"Of course we are excited for the tournament to start. I think we have had a very good season so far and I think our team is playing very well at this time. Our players know what is on the line as far as making it to the NCAA Tournament and are excited to get things going," head coach Matt Peck said.

MT is on the same side of the bracket as three seed Western Kentucky. The Hilltoppers will play Denver in the first round.

With a win in the first round of the tournament, the Blue Raiders will play the winner of Western Kentucky and Denver in the semi-finals.

Florida International completed its undefeated run in Sun Belt action on Saturday night with a 3-0 win over Florida Atlantic. FIU received the top seed in the tournament and will face North Texas at 12 p.m. to begin play on Thursday.

New Orleans and Arkansas State complete that side of the bracket as they received the fourth and fifth seeds respectively. The two teams were also named co-champions in the West Division but the Pioneers received the higher seed because they won both regular season matches over ASU. The championship will be held November 19 through 21 on the campus of Western Kentucky in Bowling Green, Ky.

The championship match at 3 p.m. will also be broadcast by the Sun Belt Network. The championship match will air November 22 at 5 p.m. on CSS (Channel 27 in Rutherford County) and November 23 on CST at 6 p.m.

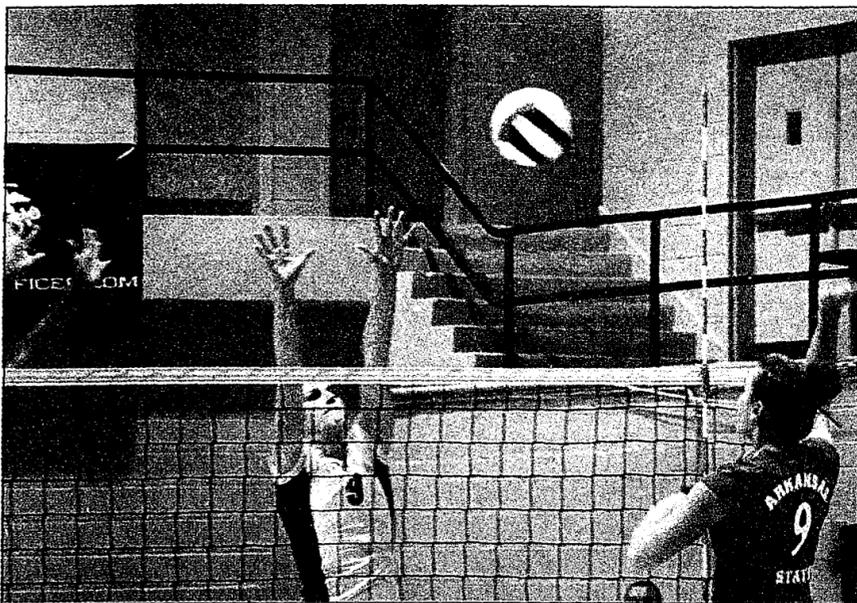


Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor
Junior Izabella Kozon will be looking to lead the No. 2 seed Blue Raiders to another Sun Belt championship.

SBC Championship Schedule Thursday, November 19, 2009

MATCH 1
No. 1 FIU vs. No. 8 North Texas - 12:00 PM

MATCH 2
No. 4 New Orleans vs. No. 5 Arkansas State - 2:30 PM

MATCH 3
No. 2 Middle Tennessee vs. No. 7 UALR - 7:30 PM

MATCH 4
No. 3 WKU vs. No. 6 Denver - 5:00 PM
Friday, November 20, 2009 - Semifinals

MATCH 5
Winner of Match 1 vs. Winner of Match 2 - 5:00 PM

MATCH 6
Winner of Match 3 vs. Winner of Match 4 - 7:30 PM

Saturday, November 21, 2009
Championship

MATCH 7
Winner of Match 5 vs. Winner of Match 6 - 3:00 PM

As the host institution WKU can choose their first round match time.

WKU chose the 5 p.m. match time.

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AND GET HALF PRICE DRINKS THROUGH THE FIRST INTERMISSION

November 19 vs. New Jersey
December 10 vs. Columbus
January 7 vs. Carolina
February 4 vs. Colorado
March 4 vs. Los Angeles
March 18 vs. Minnesota
March 25 vs. Phoenix
April 1 vs. St. Louis

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SMASHVILLE
IT STAYS WITH YOU

NASHVILLEPREDATORS.COM/COLLEGE

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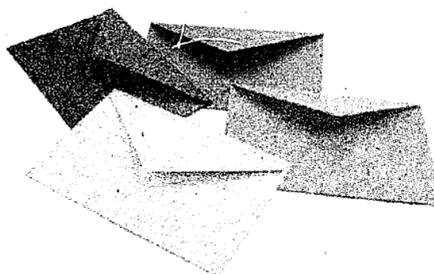
#33 COLIN WILSON

Missed the Great Lick-A-Thon and still want to get involved with Up 'Til Dawn?



It's Not Too Late!!

Register your team and raise your money all in one day.



Great Lick-A-Thon Make-up Day
Thursday, November 19, 2009

10am to 4pm

KUC 322