

Faculty art exhibit attracts students.

Features, page 4

MON 82°/64°

TUES 76°/64°

WED 75°/63°

Blue Raider volleyball falls in tough weekend tourney.

Sports, page 7

# MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

VOL. 86, NO. 2

## MT takes 31-14 win at blackout game

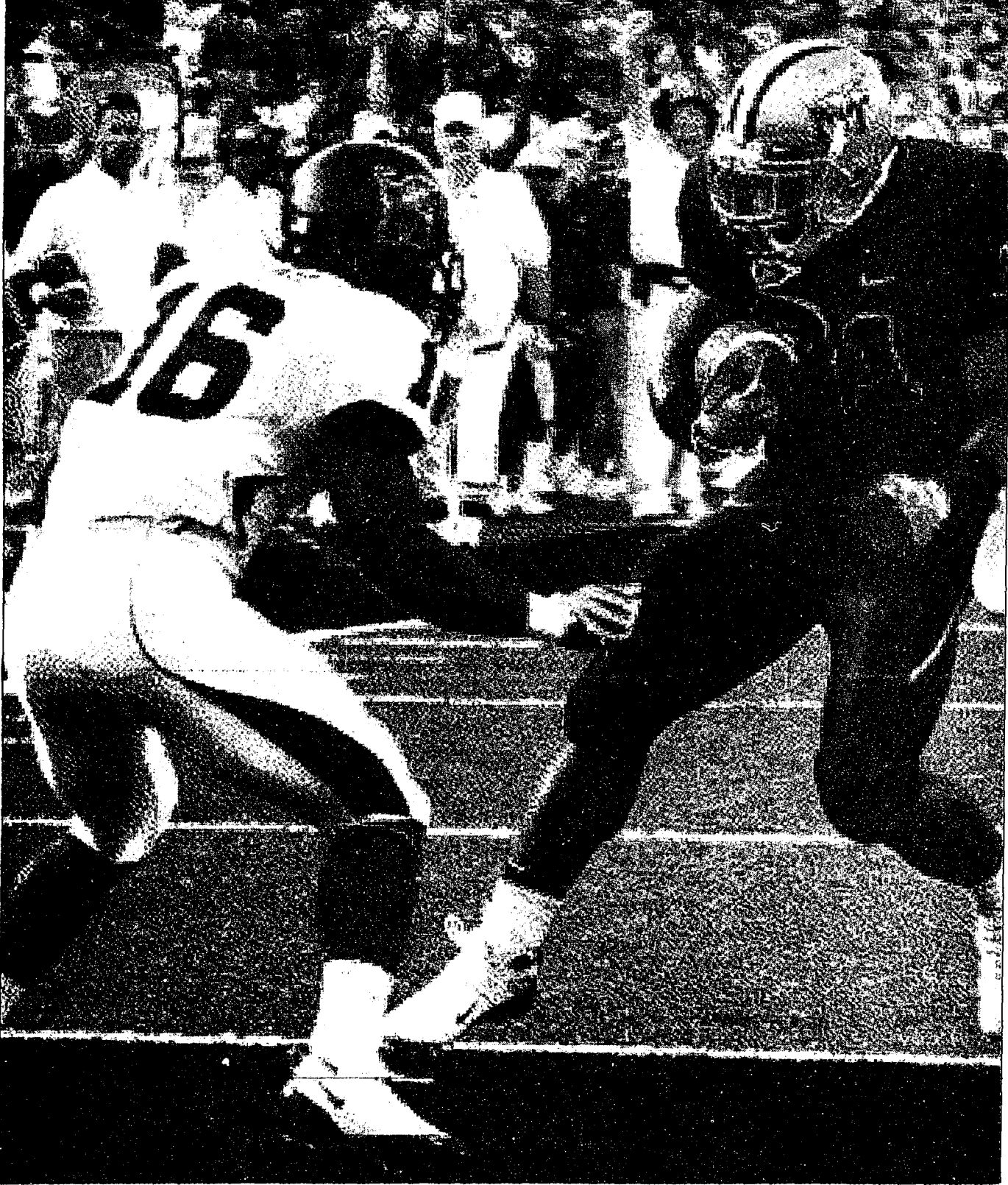


Photo by Brennan Sparta  
A refreshed and spirited Blue Raider team showed up on Saturday night to dominate the field and take on the University of Memphis Tigers for a 31-14 victory at Johnny "Red" Floyd Stadium. The home opener, which was also this year's Blackout Game, had a record 28,105 attendance.

BLACKOUT, PAGE 7



Photo by Jay Bailey, photography editor  
Ronald Prent from Galaxy Studios provides participants with a preview of the recording industry department's new sound board.

## McPhee speaks at unveiling of new console for RIM

By EMMA EGLI  
Assistant Campus News Editor

President Sidney McPhee spoke at the Department of Recording Industry's open house last Thursday to introduce the newly installed Automated Processes, Inc. Vision Surround Console in Studio A in the John Bragg Mass Communication building.

Larry Droppa, president of API, said he was thrilled to be involved with the school because he has really enjoyed meeting everyone involved with the recording program.

"We are happy to be involved with a facility like MTSU where the students of today are the engineers of tomorrow," Droppa said.

Students, faculty and members of the Nashville production and audio community gathered to hear McPhee, along with representatives from API Audio Products.

"I have always been an admirer of our recording industry program," McPhee said. "This is one of our signature programs, and it's always been my goal to ensure that we retain our status as one of the best, if not the best, in the country."

McPhee said there was a reason Forbes magazine placed MTSU as 57th in the list of the 100 best universi-

ties in the U.S.

"We are world class because we have attracted some of the most incredible faculty and practitioners to this campus to teach some of the most outstanding students," McPhee said.

Dan Pfeifer, a recording industry professor, said the new API board cost about \$300,000.

"Now we have five recording studios and five laboratories stocked with up-to-date recording equipment," Pfeifer said. "Part of our event tonight is to showcase these facilities."

Droppa, who has owned API for nearly ten years, said the core development of the console hasn't really changed that much since the technology was first introduced in 1969.

"We are making the same technology today that was developed in the late 60's," Droppa said. "This means the core technology was so brilliant at the time that it's still very valid today and it's still going to work years from now."

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# Gender identity bill returns to SGA

By MEGAN MCSWAIN  
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association voted 25-3 in the first of two voting sessions to reinstate the bill proposal that would include "gender identity and expression" to the SGA constitution last Thursday.

The bill needs to pass by a two-thirds majority a second time in the SGA's next meeting to be reinstated and available for students to vote on, said SGA president, Brandon McNary. The bill then needs to be passed by the student body by a two-thirds majority to amend the SGA constitution.

The amendment to Article 2, Section 2 didn't pass the vote at the SGA

Retreat over the summer. The issue was reintroduced in the SGA's first meeting of the semester by senator Samantha Nichols who had previously voted against it.

"I really did not know a lot about [gender identity and expression], and I really just wasn't aware of how the bill would affect me versus the students," Nichols said. "After getting a little more educated about it and being more aware, I brought it up again."

McNary, who in a June article in *Sidelines* said the amendment was redundant, said he also changed his opinion of the bill after doing some research and becoming more knowledgeable about gender identity.

"In our current constitution we have gender and

we have sexual orientation," McNary said. "So, under my eyes I thought transgender would be protected, but if you do more research and you're informed on the issue you'll see that transgender is separate from gender or sexual orientation."

McNary and Nichols urged the 28 senators at the meeting to put aside their personal beliefs and do their jobs to represent every student at MTSU.

"[The SGA] deserves to give the students a right to vote on this issue," Nichols said. "Yes, we're the voice for the students and the liaison between the administration and the students, but the students need to vote on this. They need to have a say."

Gender identity and expression is included in the Tennessee Board of Regents policy,

with which MTSU and the SGA have to comply, said Brandon Thomas, an SGA senator and the vice president of MTSU Lambda Association, a gay straight alliance.

Thomas, who first introduced the bill, said it is imperative for the SGA constitution to include them because not everyone knows MTSU follows TBR's non-discrimination policy.

"It's important to show that MTSU's inclusive, that it does not discriminate," Thomas said.

Thomas said if the bill is passed, it will be a step in urging President Sidney McPhee's administration to include gender identity and expression in a university-wide non-discrimination policy.

### Article II

Section 2: Recognition of basic human rights. All people are deserving of equal treatment and equal service. Neither the Student Government Association, nor any representative thereof, shall violate these rights on the basis of race, gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.

Shelley Vernon

IDENTITY, PAGE 2



Photo by Jay Bailey, photography.com  
Keathley University Center Grill reopened in mid-Aug. after being renovated.

# Ribbon cutting welcomes students to new KUC Grill

By CALLIE DURHAM  
Staff Writer

The Keathley University Center officially opened its newly redesigned Grille on Sept. 10, garnering mixed reviews from students.

The new KUC Grille features the old standbys of Burger Studio, Quiznos, Pizza Hut and Chick-fil-A.

"I like that it is more spacey and open, and it seems like there is more seating," said Ryan Skelley, sophomore media production major.

A few students liked the new changes, like sophomore video production major Matt Raby.

"I like being able to get unlimited refills on my soda pop," Raby said.

"I think it's a lot quicker and it seems easier to get your food," said Adam Cunningham, junior electronic media production major.

"I think there is more space and a wider variety of foods, but the negative is there is no Starbucks and smoothie place anymore," said Keaton Payne, junior exercise science major.

The biggest complaint from students was over the loss of Starbucks and

smoothie stand. Part of the redesign replaced the coffee shop with Einstein Bros. Bagel.

"I'm not a fan of the new KUC," said Kayla Poss, junior music business major. "I'm very upset they no longer have smoothies."

MTSU sophomore biology major Joseph Ricard said he feels the change was

be in the middle and had the drinks and sushi on it behind a counter," said Ashley Carmack, junior early childhood education major. "Now you have to wait in line for it and it takes forever. And I don't like that there is no longer the Starbucks and smoothie place in there."

The new Grille area offers more seating and a mall food

**“Now you have to wait in line for it and it takes forever.”**

**ASHLEY CARMACK**  
JUNIOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION MAJOR

for the worse. He said he would like to have access to smoothies.

"It's ugly and I don't like it," said Shina Yates, sophomore psychology major. "I also don't like that people who have regular cups are coming in here and stealing drinks from the drink fountain."

Yates also noted that prices seemed higher. "I just like how it used to be."

Construction on the KUC Grille began over the summer and the refurbishment was completed in mid-August.

"I don't like how they moved the island that used to

court style with new menu and restaurant choices.

"The only thing that I don't like is that they took out the back door entrance, so now if you come in the back door of the KUC then you have to walk all the way around," said David Barnes, junior exercise science and physical therapy major.

C.J. Eke, a freshman mass communications major, said he would have liked Aramark to alter other things than just the décor.

"I'm a freshman, but I already know that the food needs to be a lot cheaper," Eke.

## could reduce costs

Staff Report

Congressman Bart Gordon, the Congressional Representative for the sixth district of Tennessee, authored an amendment to the House Energy and Commerce health care reform bill that could initiate reform to medical malpractice, a change that President Barack Obama said could reduce a large amount of unnecessary costs.

The amendment, which was modeled around a Tennessee state program implemented in 2008, is aimed at the reduction of frivolous malpractice lawsuits, and encourages doctors to abandon the practice of defensive medicine.

"Defensive medicine is when doctors order tests and procedures to avoid being legally vulnerable and sued for medical malpractice," Gordon said. "This practice has been estimated to cost more than \$200 billion each year - it's one of the largest sources of wasteful spending in

the U.S. health care system and we need to do something about it."

Obama said he is directing Kathleen Sebelius, secretary of Health and Human Services to move forward on the initiative immediately.

Robert Gibbs, White House press secretary, said that the president is working towards a program that would seek mediation over litigation during disputes.

"I think the president and his team will look at very closely what Congressman Bart Gordon put in the Energy and Commerce legislation, which requires prior to a suit being heard in court, prior to that litigation moving forward, a certificate of merit that is given by a board of medical professionals that certifies the validity of any litigation moving forward to cut down on unnecessary costs, and as the president said, defensive medicine that he hears about from doctors and doctors' groups," Gibbs said.

Kinsey Kiriakos, communications director for

Gordon, said the malpractice reform provision will provide incentives for states that implement certificate of merit or early offer programs as alternatives to going to court.

"These programs have been shown to be effective in multiple states at reducing the number of medical malpractice lawsuits filed," Kiriakos said. "Gordon's measure is the only medical malpractice provision that has been adopted in any of the health care reform proposals before Congress."

Obama said malpractice reform has long been insisted upon by Republicans, and the Bush administration considered demonstration projects in individual states to the ideas - a plan that Obama said was a good idea, and he intends on following suit.

"I don't believe malpractice reform is a silver bullet," Obama said. "But I've talked to enough doctors to know that defensive medicine may be contributing to unnecessary costs."

## IDENTITY FROM PAGE 1

Lambda President Zak Craft, who spoke at the SGA meeting, said the bill will make students feel safer, more comfortable and accepted at MTSU.

"I think that including this

provision in the SGA constitution will make students that are different, students that don't fit into this gender binary system and feel more comfortable at the university," Craft said.

Scarlet Dickinson, a member of Lambda, attended the SGA meeting to support the bill. She said the issue is im-

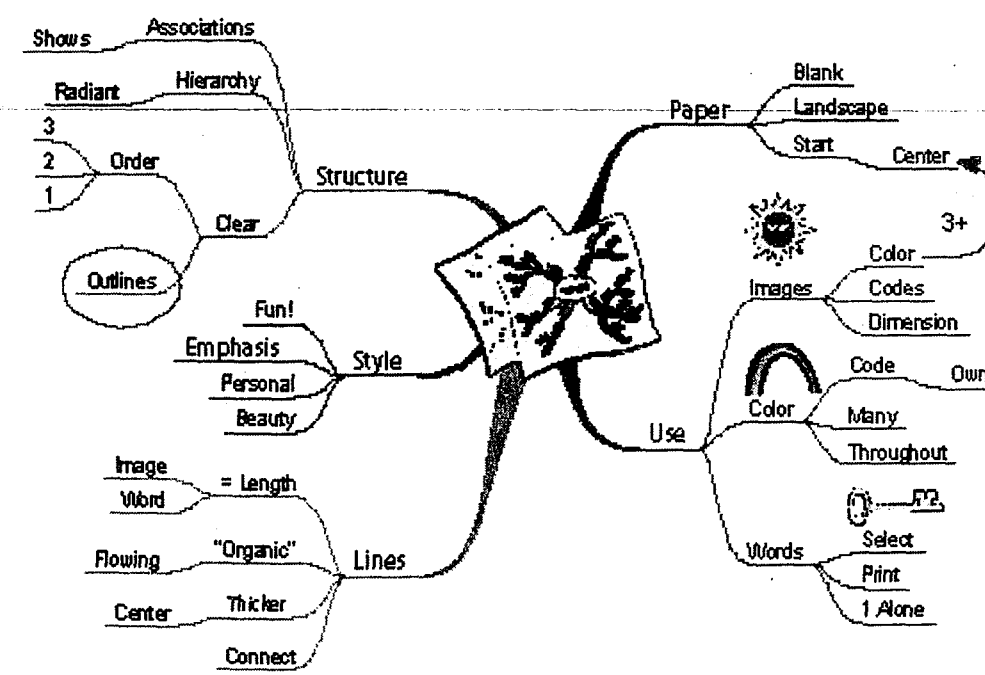
portant to her because she has friends who are transgender and that this bill is not just a piece of legislation.

"No matter what your opinion is of [gender identity and expression], you have to remember it's somebody's right, it's somebody's life you're dealing with," Dickinson said.

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## Letters Policy

*Sidelines* welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to [slopinio@mtsu.edu](mailto: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

### Students, watch SGA

The Student Government Association passed Senator Brandon Thomas' resolution to add gender identity language to the protections afforded under the SGA Constitution.

This is the second time the bill has come before the SGA, although it did not pass in June, when it was first introduced. The reason it passed this time is because some of the senators who opposed the measure have since changed their votes.

Senator Samantha Nichols was quoted by *Sidelines* as saying "I really did not know a lot about [gender identity and expression], and I really just wasn't aware of how the bill would affect me versus the students. After getting a little more educated about it, being more aware and setting my personal views aside from this, I brought it up again."

Brandon McNary, SGA president, said in June that the initiative was "slightly redundant" but has since changed his tune.

We'd like to know more. If the second reading of a bill is sufficient to pass, how many bills have died at their first glimpse at the light of day?

Specifically, why should it take a second reading for a senator to "get a little more educated," enough to pass a bill? Shouldn't the first reading of a bill be enough to make the senators interested enough in the implications of their vote to read up on the issues?

If Nichols had to put her "personal opinions aside" to vote on this resolution a second time, how many other important things have been killed at the first glance due to the moral qualms of the senators? This issue is of extreme importance to SGA and MTSU at large.

In a representative democracy, elected representatives are obligated to vote as their constituency feels. However, there are times and issues about which the constituency may not care or know enough to make informed decisions. In these instances, it is essential that the representatives dig in, research the issues and make a good choice.

If, at a first glance their gut reaction is to go with their "personal opinions" instead of learning about the issue, how will that serve any purpose other than the aforementioned "personal opinions" of the voting senators?

It is very easy for students to ignore the workings of the SGA when they don't feel that their interests are being represented. However, everyone should pay attention.

If your senator does not feel issues are important enough to be informed about them on the first reading, and votes on their personal values instead of those of constituents at large, more important things may be brushed aside by an SGA too busy to be informed, and a student body too apathetic to pay close attention.

SGA makes decisions pertaining to everyone at one time or another. Pay attention. The rights you protect may be your own.

## Look beyond U.S., solve hunger



### I'm just sayin'

Sam Ashby

After the third or fourth time, I had had it. Sweat pouring down my face and my back aching, I told myself that I didn't need to think about it so much. But for someone like myself, thinking things over is almost impossible.

The garbage cans always weighed what seemed to be 60 pounds, and I'm a small guy. I could barely lift it over my head, let alone throwing it into the large green dumpster. The food reeked, and there always seemed to be a tear in the bag regardless of how hard I tried to keep it from ripping across the ground. I am convinced that when working in a restaurant, you see the worst in people.

People seem to become very stingy and rude when it comes to their food. I don't blame them though; I can see where they are coming from. It's hard to take on this perspective when you are the one throwing away their leftovers at the end of the business day.

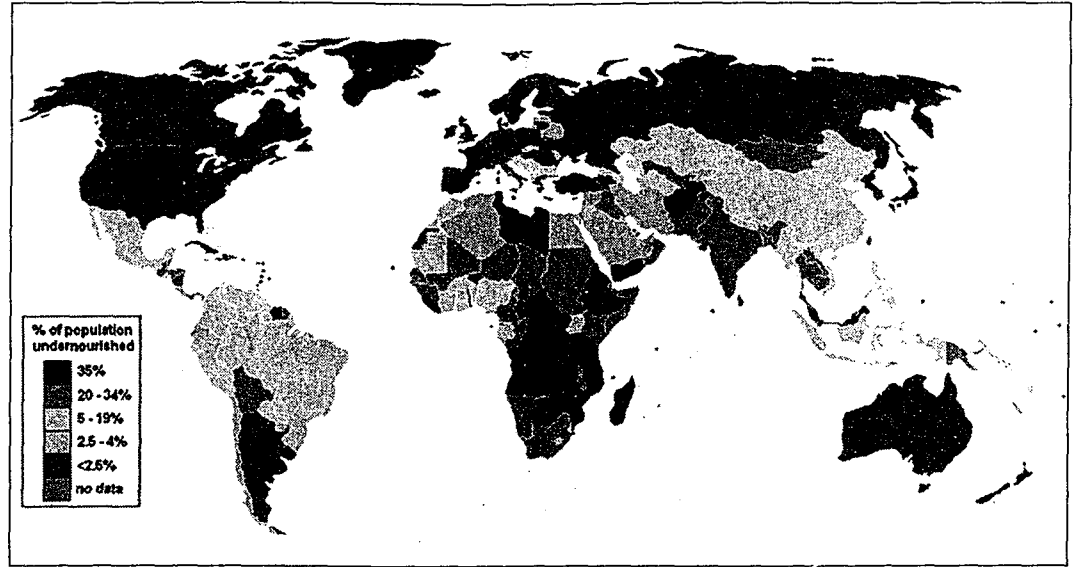
This was my initial thinking behind my leaving my restaurant job. I didn't want to be part of something that seemed to forget about the bigger picture.

The bigger picture being that while we eat this food, there are millions around the world who would give up their own life for a plate of what we eat every day to ensure that their family would survive.

Although it's a strong way of thinking and is definitely something that will leave one seeing the world in a different light, it wasn't until I read an article in "National Geographic" by Robert Draper about Somalia that gave me an entirely new perspective on this all-too-common dilemma in the modern world. One sentence read, "Food is power in Somalia."

It hit me like a brick to my face. All those times carrying out garbage, sweating over that 60-pound can, I was literally holding in my hands the course of an entire nation, whether it be Somalia or any other nation in a similar situation.

Many citizens of the modern world, countries like America, Great Britain, Canada etc., tend to sometimes overlook the power of the everyday items they use. We are lucky that we aren't faced with the problems many nations around the world have to endure: crumbling infrastructure, dirty water and



Graphic courtesy of the United Nations World Food Programme

malnutrition. The list goes on and on. We are in a fortunate position. This can lead to danger, though. It can lead to a fatal perspective.

It's important that we not become too comfortable with our lifestyle, that we sometimes take a step back and realize how fortunate we are to live in a country that is not plagued with the problems many others face on a daily basis. It is our duty then to take some time out of our busy schedules once in a while to not only help those who are less fortunate in the U.S., but also around the globe.

In an age of reality television, celebrity shows and entertainment news, it seems that many Americans have lost touch with what is really going on in our own country and the world.

Losing perspective can be

easy; it's happened to all of us, but there are ways that we can regain our composure and see what's happening around us with fresh eyes.

First, volunteer every once and a while. There are plenty of opportunities on campus and off campus to get involved. During the process, hopefully you'll gain a new outlook on what you have and the things you are thankful for.

Second, watch television that seeks to inform viewers and not entertain them. Yes, I like to be entertained but it's more important to be informed and in the know if you ever want to make a positive contribution in your classes and to your nation. Programs on channels such as PBS, National Geographic and the Discovery Channel usually serve to inform viewers of different

political issues, cultures, religious beliefs and events.

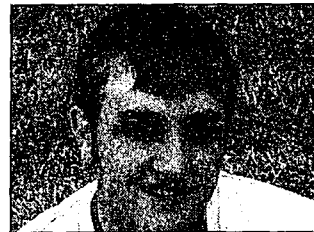
Lastly, join organizations that spark an interest in you. Not only will you meet others who share the same likes and goals as you, the organization might provide service activities for members to get involved with.

With the position we are in as a country with vast influence on the global stage, we would be foolish not to contribute to the world around us. A better informed American citizenry not only benefits this country, but is also a giant step forward in improving the conditions many face every year and creating a more cohesive and positive global community.

Sam Ashby is a freshman liberal arts major and can be reached at [sa2s@mtsu.edu](mailto:sa2s@mtsu.edu)

## FACES IN THE CROWD

### Do you think there is enough support at MT football games, compared to the tailgate parties?



Liden

"I think there is a really good turnout, and tailgating really gets people excited for the game. Tailgating is important to the whole experience."

Ben Liden, freshman biology major



Alonso

"I went to the game and I think the support was pretty good, but I didn't tailgate at all."

Sergio Alonso, freshman pre-pharmacy major



Boehms

"Oh yeah, it's pretty wild. I think tailgating is a must before games."

Sid Boehms, sophomore physical education major



Hwang

"I think that the free food at tailgating helps out a lot there, but I don't really have any idea about game support."

Raphael Hwang, freshman biology major

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Homosexuality biological in nature

To the Editor,

Reading Daniel Bridges' letter to the editor last week (Letter to the Editor, Sept. 10, 2009), I felt compelled to respond.

First off, I encourage Mr. Bridges to visit [foxnews.com/story/0,2933,401722,00.html](http://foxnews.com/story/0,2933,401722,00.html) to learn about the health benefits of masturbation. Now, a more serious matter.

I fail to see how characterizing same-sex attraction as normal is "poisonous," as Mr. Bridges describes it. Same-sex attraction is an inborn characteristic that cannot be changed; ergo, it is natural. Dick Swaab, a Dutch neurobiologist, summed up two decades of research on the matter in his article

"Sexual Orientation and its Basis in Brain Structure and Function," published last year by the National Academy of Sciences. Swaab points out several experiments that showed that the differences in brain chemistry and structure between

heterosexual and homosexual men are caused by differing sex hormone reactions during development.

Ray Blanchard, et al, have hypothesized, based on studies of birth order, incidence of homosexual attraction, and hormonal reactions during the fetal stage and childbirth, that men with more older brothers are more likely to be gay because of "the progressive immunization of some mothers to male-specific antigens by each succeeding male fetus and the concomitantly increasing effects of anti-male antibodies on the sexual differentiation of the brain in each succeeding male fetus." While this study does not definitively answer what causes homosexuality, I don't think it's premature to take "demonic propaganda" off the table.

We still don't definitively know what causes people to be gay, but

**"The lie that we are sinners because we live as God made us is the real poison."**

science has shown what gay people have been saying for decades: being gay is not a choice. This is a not

subject to anyone's beliefs. The lie that we are sinners because we live as God made us is the real poison.

Nathan Bounds  
Senior, College of Liberal Arts

### VA hangs Iraq war veteran out to dry

To the Editor,

I am an Army veteran and am experiencing, like most veterans in my situation, difficulties with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

I attend school at MTSU and am dependent upon the post-9/11 GI Bill for the funding of my education. The bill became law on June 30th, 2008, with the effective start date being Aug. 1st, 2009, so as is evident the VA had more than one year.

Unfortunately for me and many others veterans, the VA did not complete its task. To date, most of us have not received one cent for tuition, books or the promised housing allowance. Upon inquiry to the school's VA representative the best answer I could get (and that he could get)

is that the benefits would start coming through in mid-October.

What this means for me is that I have not been able to purchase one textbook (I've already missed the deadlines for some homework as I cannot complete it without the text!) and have basically eradicated my entire savings to pay for rent and all costs associated with living.

Worst case scenario for some may be eviction. The only option I have left to me is to take out a sizable student loan that I would not have needed had the VA been able to accomplish what was mandated by law.

While I have contacted my representative, I know that government channels can work very slowly.

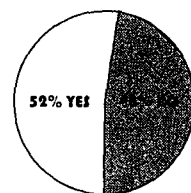
I understand one of the jobs of the free press is to help keep our elected and unelected government officials accountable.

Outside of the official channels we have nowhere else to turn except you. If you could help us merely obtain the benefits we earned it would be very much appreciated!

Adam Kelly  
Senior, College of Basic and Applied Sciences

DO YOU VISIT ART EXHIBITS ON CAMPUS?

# FEATURES



DO YOU PLAN TO TAILGATE FOR THE MEMPHIS GAME?

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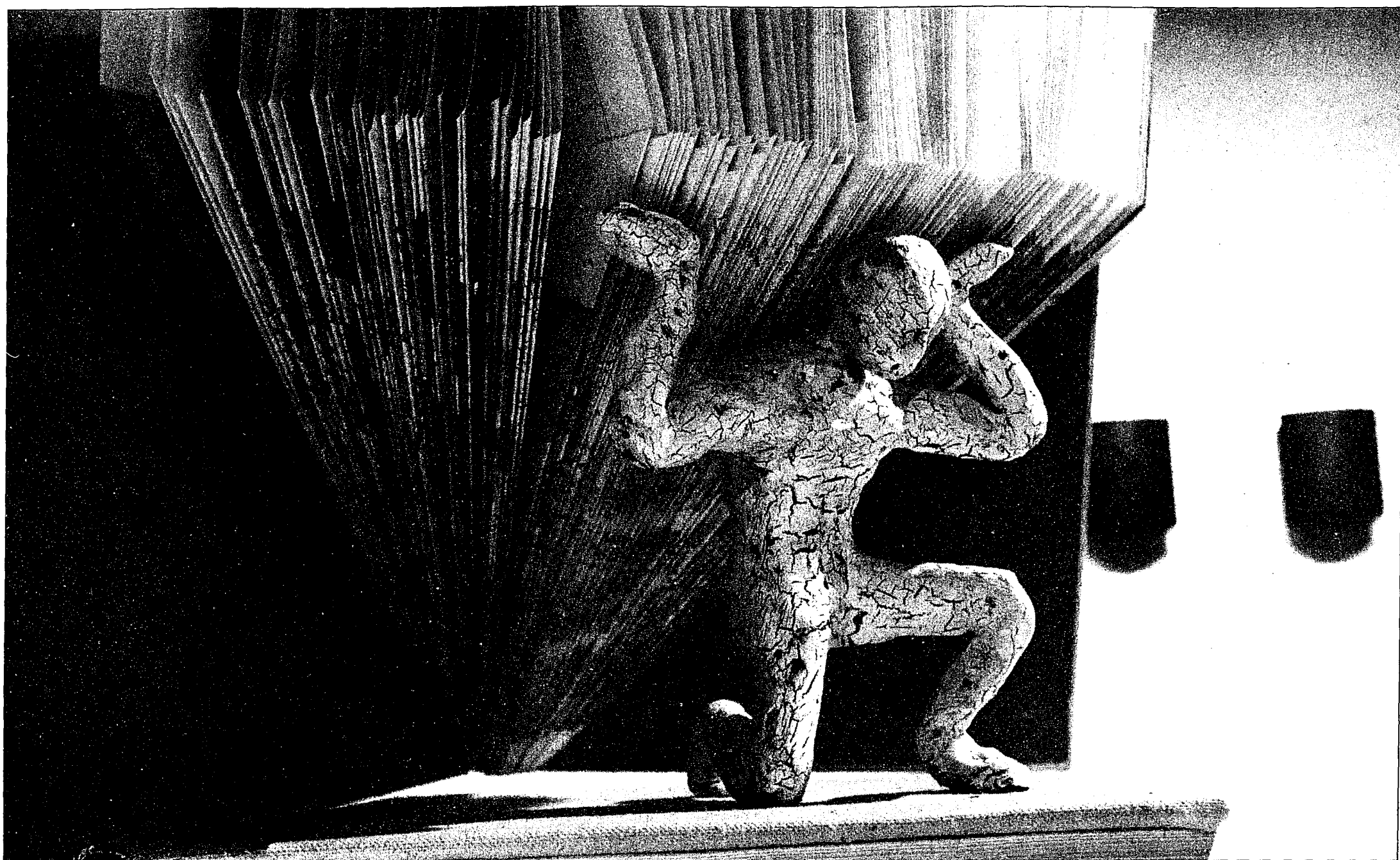


Photo by Jay Bailey, Photography Editor  
Students are greeted by works of their professors upon entering the Todd Art Gallery. "Statue Holding Atlas" (above) is one such work, depicting a man holding an atlas on his back as it opens into a globe.

## Professors' art draws students to gallery

### Recently opened faculty art exhibit receives campus attention

By BRITTANY KLATT  
Contributing Writer

Steel plates with strands of steel wool protruding from various points hang on the wall. A statue holds an atlas, that opens up into a globe on its shoulders while, the sounds of gears and chimes echo through the room. This are not what one expects when entering an art gallery.

The Faculty Art Exhibition at Todd Art Gallery challenges visitors to expand on what they view to be art. The show mixes various materials and styles to create a unique display that reflects different artistic views. Many students said that the exhibit was not what they were expecting.

"I thought there would be more oil, canvas and sculptures," says Amber Nelson, a sophomore double majoring in history and anthropology.

While some of the pieces fit Nelson's expectations, others were so extraordinary that no one could have expected them.

Simple, but elegant tea cups are placed near a large sun-like structure made of steel wool. A piece of earthen-

ware pottery holds Bazooka bubble gum. One professor's work combines calligraphy and type alongside other media. The contrast between the expected and the unexpected creates a striking effect.

Some of the more popular pieces are professor of Jarrod Houghton's "Subterranean" works. Encased in three turn-crank machines are dioramas showing people engaging in various activities underground.

In "Subterranean #3," a group is golfing in a cave located beneath a house. A motion sensor triggers a small light that creates the effect of a setting sun.

Several people were impressed with the amount of detail, and one student said that he found the "Subterranean" to be "really cute."

A piece that gathered plenty of attention was professor of art Christie Nuell's "Underworld".

The work combines animation with ink, gessoed masonite and laser engraving. A small screen embedded in the engraved panel runs an animated movie that shows images of an underground



Photo by Jay Bailey, Photography Editor  
This featured piece in the faculty art exhibit was made by John Donovan, entitled "Kitty Shaman Fig." It was produced with ceramic tile.

factory and an acorn-like object that grows into a flowering plant.

The sound of the factory's gears helps draw viewers to the piece.

Jacquelyn Swanson, freshman art major, was very impressed by Nuell's use of lasers.

"It's got multiple stories," she says, pointing to Nuell's

'Atlantic Crossing.' "It's something that I've never seen before."

Introducing students to new styles was one of the goals of the exhibit. Accord-

ing to Eric Snyder, gallery coordinator, the pieces were selectively chosen to provide a diverse display.

EXHIBIT, PAGE 5

## CALENDAR

movies, music, nightlife and more

### MOVIES

#### Sept. 14 - Sept. 17

Land of the Lost- KUC Theater- 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. - \$2

#### September 19

Teenagers From Outer Space-KUC Theater- 6 p.m.

### MUSIC

#### September 14

Leroy Parnell with Sarah Buxton, Dave Pahanish and Lari White - The Basement - 8 p.m. - \$12

#### September 15

The Bridge - Exit/In - 9 p.m.

#### September 16

Cycle of Pam with Sekond Shyn - Exit/In - 9 p.m.

Guns & Roses Tribute Band Fighters Life Calendar Girl Search - Blue Rooster - 9 p.m.

The Tejas Brothers  
Sarach Siskind  
Antje Devokot  
Brigid Kaelin  
The Basement - 8 p.m.

#### September 17

Play Dance for Pete - Club 527 - \$5 - 9 p.m.

Fountains of Wayne (Special Acoustic Show) - Exit/In - 9 p.m.

Dirty Cherry  
Blue Rooster-9 p.m.

Deadstring Brothers  
Garyson Capps  
Oris Gibbs  
The basement -10 p.m.

#### September 18

Mike Anderson & The Deputys - Club 527 - \$5 - 11 p.m.

Boo Boo Bunny - The Boro - 8 p.m.

Ghostfinger with Tristen and Paper Navy- Exit/In - 9 p.m.

T.H.B. - Wall Street- 9 p.m.

Joe Harvey Band- Blue Rooster- 9 p.m.

The Compromise - Graffiti Bar - 10 p.m.

Elliott Brood

Daddy Patrick Sweany  
Matthew Ryan  
Amanda Shires  
The Basement - 8 p.m.

#### September 19

Toubab Krew- Exit/In- 9 p.m.

Antikythera and Romantic Destructo- The Boro- 8 p.m.

Greg Ginn- Wall Street- 9 p.m.

Brittany Taylor and Tumbleweed- Graffiti Bar- 10 p.m.

NUKEKE ROOTS/a.k.a. ROUDIE- Club 527- \$5- 10 p.m.

Bottle Rockets - The Basement - 12 a.m.

#### September 20

The Bridges and Ponderosa-Exit/In- 9 p.m.

### OTHER

#### Every Monday

Poker - Graffiti Bar-8 p.m., 10 p.m. and 12 p.m. and Roman

# 'I Can Do Bad' does body good

## Tyler Perry's latest film is this week's top of the box office



Photo courtesy Lionsgate Entertainment  
Sandino (Rodriguez) comes to the club to confront April (Henson) about her responsibility towards her niece and nephews as bartender Tonya (Blige) looks on.

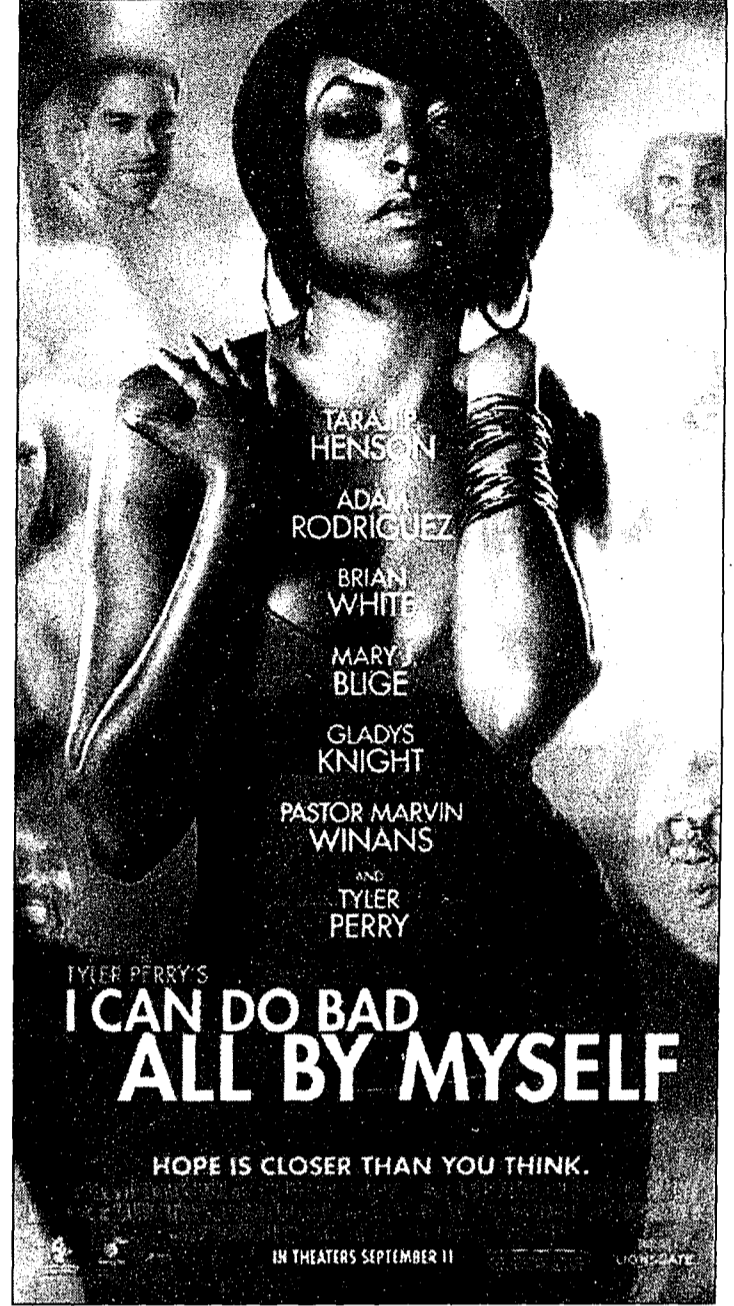


Photo courtesy Lionsgate Entertainment  
Henson is the focal point of two of the three main posters used for promoting Tyler Perry's latest film.

By KATY COIL  
Features Editor

amazingly talented Hope tally handicapped, and Olaide Wilson, is the eldest Manny (Kwesi Boakye),

Tyler Perry's latest film, "I Can Do Bad All By Myself," is a mixture of comedy, drama, music and fun that fans both new and old will love.

Based on Perry's 1999 play of the same name, the film may be a little predictable for those who know Perry's work, but is nonetheless a great story of family, love, redemption and coming into one's own.

Several new characters come back to the screen, such as the hysterical Madea Simmons and Joe (both played by Perry), while some new ones come into focus.

The film begins with Madea and Joe awakening to find three children have broken into their house. Jennifer, played by the

issues because of their deceased mother's crack addiction and were living with their grandmother until her disappearance. Madea sets the three straight, giving them food after they break into her house, and tracks down their aunt for them to live with.

April (Taraji P. Henson) is a hard drinking, chain-smoking club singer who is dating, Randy (Brian J. White), a married man with another child on the way. April does not feel any responsibility for her niece and nephews and is harsh on them, mainly out of anger at their mother.

She wants nothing more than for the children to go back into the custody of her mother.

Just as April is begrudgingly taking the children

into her care, migrant worker Sandino (Adam Rodriguez) shows up at the local church, looking for work and a place to stay. Pastor Brian (Marvin Winans) and Wilma (Gladys Knight) talk April into letting him fix up her house and live in her basement after he does work around the church.

April's self-absorption leads to most of the conflict in her family. She chooses Randy over the needs of the children several times and doesn't understand why Sandino treats the children or her kindly. April's "everything-is-

all-about-me" attitude changes when it is discovered her mother is not missing but dead and unclaimed at the coroner's office.

Sandino helps her through this trying time and fulfills the needs of the children, who suffer from nightmares, medical problems and mental anxiety because of their mother's lifestyle. April also receives some unwanted advice from friend and fellow performer Tonya (Mary J. Blige), who points out April's selfishness, despite her not wanting to be here.

PERRY, PAGE 6



**Director:** Tyler Perry

**Starring:** Tyler Perry, Taraji P. Henson, Adam Rodriguez, Hope Olaide Wilson

**Rating:** PG-13 for mature thematic material involving a sexual assault on a minor, violence, drug references and smoking

**Run Time:** 113 minutes

at 16 and is responsible for her brothers, Byron (Fredderick Siglar), who is men-

who is suffering from diabetes and asthma.

All of the children have

### Exhibit FROM PAGE 4

"I hope students are inspired by the instructors and the different methods available," Snyder said.

Snyder noted that the "response has been fantastic" and attendance was high every day last week.

Although attendance was high, some visitors suggested ways to increase attendance.

Most suggested an increase in on-campus advertisements and updates on Pipeline, but some have more unique ideas.

"I didn't know my professor had a piece in this display until I saw it here," said Jami Harris, freshman biology major. "Maybe professors can talk about their pieces in class."

Because the artwork was so diverse, most of the viewers found a specific piece that drew them in.

Nelson enjoyed Art Professor Bob Durham's, professed she said it reminds her of her childhood. Joseph Todd, freshman computer science major, was impressed by Associate Art Professor Michael Baggarly's "Eleven Across".

"I would like to know what they were going through," said Todd, gesturing to the 11 steel plates hanging on the wall.

"It must have taken a lot of thought to choose a specific dot."

Even though each person

had his or her own opinion on which piece was the most impressive, everyone agreed that it is important for students to visit the art exhibits.

"Students can gain an appreciation for art, motivation and even inspiration from these shows," said Andy Burton, senior anthropology major.


"They help them understand the perspective of other people and their take on life," said Todd. "Maybe they can learn something from it."

The ability to show a different perspective is something on which several students commented.

Nelson believes students should attend because "it is important to see a different view on how things are or how people view them," while Harris said that an art exhibit gives her "a different perspective outside the classroom."

Those interested in seeing more of the faculty's artwork may be interested in the Scholarship Season Sale Exhibition being held in November. According to Snyder, the sale will consist of pieces donated by alumni, faculty and students. The proceeds will benefit both scholarship programs and various department programs.

The faculty exhibition is free to attend and is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The show will run through Sept. 17.



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## PERRY FROM PAGE 5

Perry's Madea and Joe are as hilarious as ever, but were outshone by the talents of Henson and Wilson. Henson is most recently known for her role as Queenie in "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," and does wonderful dramatic and comedic performances in this film.

Her disgruntled, early morning hangover scene at the beginning of the film has the audience in stitches while the scene where her mother is announced to be dead can bring tears to your eyes.

She makes the character of April come alive, into a real person and doesn't let you believe for a second that you are watching a movie.

Newcomer Wilson also has marvelous dramatic acting chops. She manages to portray a sister who is keeping her brothers together and alive, despite their hard life, pulling on your heartstrings in just the right way.

From her sassy defensive front to the soft, sweet girl underneath, Wilson shows the full range of her character and makes you just want to take Jennifer and her little brothers home with you.

With talent this incredible, Wilson definitely has a bright acting career ahead



Photo courtesy of Lionsgate Entertainment

Sandino (Rodriguez) tries to bond with the three kids by offering money to pay for Manny's (Boakye) insulin. Sandino becomes a stable force in the lives of the three children, despite their rocky relationship with April, their aunt.

of her.

With names like Mary J. Blige and Gladys Knight in the credits, it would be impossible for this film not to have a song or two. Though not a full-on musical, the music numbers, mainly centered out of the club and church, are moving, inspirational and make you want to buy the soundtrack as soon as you leave the theatre.

Blige sings the title song "I Can Do Bad" in a soulful, sensitive, yet painfully true way that makes the lyrics come alive.

Knight is still bringing audiences to their feet with numbers like "The Need to Be." The songs of the film fit in perfectly and help bring home the points of the narrative as well as accentuate them.

Costume designer Keith

G. Lewis is the man responsible for the marvelous wardrobe on all of the characters, and really made his creations come alive with this film. From the big beautiful hats worn by the church-going old ladies to the sultry sleek outfits worn by Henson and Blige in the club, all of the outfits in the film look both wearable and high fashion.

The most eye catching are

the black v-neck ensemble Blige wears while performing the title song and the purple off the shoulder number Henson wears while dropping the kids off at Madea's for an afternoon of work.

Though he has worked on all of Perry's past films, something about the pieces in "Can Do Bad" really stand out. The colors of the ensembles particularly

stood out. The film itself popped with color, often accentuated by the outfits on screen.

With a winning cast, wonderful plot, soulful songs and some fashion-forward outfits to boot, "I Can Do Bad All By Myself" is a film that will have audiences cheering, laughing and wanting to see over again.

International job opportunities immediately available for Post-doctoral, Doctoral and select Masters Candidates.

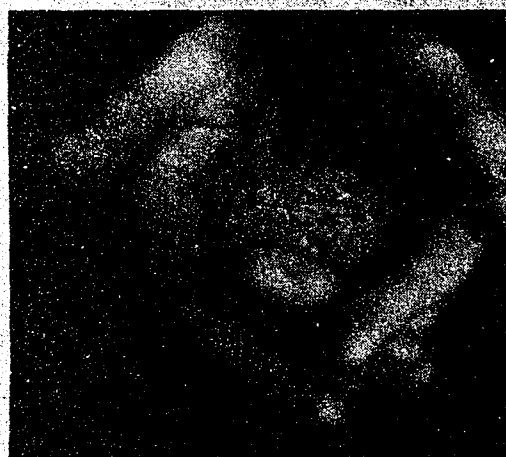
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# SPORTS

## Blue Raiders pull plug on Tigers at Blackout

### Blackout

FROM PAGE 1

Junior quarterback Dwight Dasher led the way as the team's all-purpose player, rushing 105 yards for gain and going 18-26 for 231 yards and two touchdowns in the air.

After winning the toss, the Tigers opted to receive the opening kickoff. Senior kicker David DeFatta kicked off to the Memphis 4-yard line, where Lance Smith would carry the ball 37 yards to the UM 41.

Memphis QB Arkelon Hall got off to an unimpressive start, losing a yard on the first play of the game, then a two-yard loss on a keeper in the drive's second play. After an incomplete pass intended for WR Duke Calhoun, the Tigers were forced to punt.

Senior WR Patrick Honeycutt received the punt but, after juggling the ball, was tackled at the four.

A series of runs and complete passes brought the Blue Raiders closer to the endzone until, from the Memphis 45, sophomore receiver Malcolm Beyah took the ball and threw for junior WR Garrett Andrews for a huge 41 yard gain. On the next play, senior RB Phillip Tanner easily rushed past the line and into the endzone. This run put MT on the board, 7-0.

However, Memphis would answer on their next drive as Curtis Steele rushed for 12 yards into the endzone. Matt Reagan's PAT tied up the score at seven points all.



Photo by Brennan Sparta, contributing photographer

Senior RB Phillip Tanner charges past a Memphis defensive lineman on Saturday at Floyd Stadium. Tanner scored the game's first touchdown.

The first quarter would expire before either team could score again, but it wasn't long after the start of the second that MT set up a scoring drive.

With 11:47 left in the first half, Dasher again took the field to complete a series of three passes. The last pass, a 40-yard throw to sophomore

WR Shane Blissard, was good enough to get into the endzone. Alan Gendreau's extra kick put 14-7 on the board in MT's favor.

The Tigers' next drive would end quickly and with a punt. The Blue Raiders made the best of the situation and drove down the field until they could

get close enough for another Gendreau kick from the 28-yard line. This kick knocked the lead up to 17-7.

The Blue Raiders' defense would continue to show up throughout the night. "We weren't going to back down," head coach Rick Stockstill said. "Our cornerbacks did a great

job at competing. We would try to pressure them, and then try to jam them. Our cornerbacks did a great job."

A series of unsuccessful drives from both teams would help wind down the clock to halftime. The score remained 17-7 as the teams headed to the locker rooms.

MT came out swinging in the second half, starting with senior WR Desmond Gee's 16 yard return from the kickoff. After a defensive standout and both teams trading possession of the ball for five drives, the Blue Raiders again put the ball in the hands of the offense.

Dasher took the helm, passing and rushing from MT's 24 up to the Memphis 24 over the course of about three and a half minutes. At the 24, Dasher connected with WR Honeycutt for another score. The PAT brought the score to 24-7, MT.

Later in the drive, sophomore running back D.D. Kyles rushed for a seven-yard touchdown with 14:15 left on the clock. A shaky-looking Gendreau attempt would split the uprights for a score of 31-7, Blue Raiders leading.

The MT offense would continue to grind away at the Tigers' defense, but would not score again. The game's only remaining score would come from a Lance Smith rush for three yards for a touchdown.

But it was too little, too late, as 1:47 remained on the clock after the touchdown. QB Nicholas Coleman would rush the ball to run down the clock, and just as he made it to the MT 28, the clock reached 00:00. The final score remained 31-14, and MT took the win.

MT's next game is a road trip to College Park, Md., as the team looks to take its second win against the Maryland Terrapins. The game begins this Saturday at 2:30.

## MT Volleyball falls short in Florida tournament

By ETHAN LANNOM  
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee volleyball team traveled to Miami this weekend to compete in the inaugural Miami/Florida International Invitational. The Blue Raiders were looking to rebound after ending last weekend's tournament with losses to Northern Iowa and Ohio.

The team started off the tournament Friday playing Albany, a 2008 NCAA tournament team. The Blue Raiders began the match well winning the first two sets with the

score of 25-19.

Seniors Ashley Mead and Janay Yancey both achieved career highs in the match. Mead recorded 24 kills, while Yancey had nine block assists.

However, MT had problems serving with 14 service errors compared to Albany's seven. Albany also had more digs with 42 against the Blue Raiders' 34.

Albany went on to take the next three sets 25-19, 25-21 and 15-5 giving Middle Tennessee their third loss in a row this season.

Friday night, the team came back to play Miami, a second round opponent from the 2008 NCAA tournament. Again, the Blue Raiders kicked off the match well, winning in a close first set 25-23.

Senior Ashley Mead again led the team with 13 kills. Sophomore Stacy Oladinni and junior Izabela Kozon each added 10 kills of their own.

The Hurricanes came back to win in a very tight second set 26-24. Using that momentum, Miami proceeded to take the

next two sets 25-17 and 25-19.

Service errors again hurt the Blue Raiders as they recorded 16, though Miami had 11 of their own. Each team also had five service aces.

"We are not playing well right now," said Coach Matt Peck. "The people we need to step-up are not stepping up and we need more than one player to be playing well at a time. Until those two things happen, it is going to be very hard for us to win."

Middle Tennessee lost four straight matches for only the second time since Peck took

over the program in 2004.

On Saturday, the Blue Raiders took on highly touted No. 22 Florida State.

Mead led Middle Tennessee for the third straight match with 11 kills. She was the only Blue Raider with double-digit kills.

MT had problems serving once more against the Seminoles. The Blue Raiders recorded 14 service errors while Florida State had only five. The team also had trouble receiving the serve with a tournament high of 10 reception errors.

Junior Sasha McGlothlin played in her first match since an injury at the start of the 2008 season. McGlothlin had three kills in four attempts.

MT lost in straight sets 25-20, 25-14 and 25-22 to the Seminoles to end play at the Miami/Florida International tournament. Their record for 2009 now stands at 5-5.

The Blue Raiders will travel to San Antonio, TX on Sept. 18 for the San Antonio Classic. Middle Tennessee will face Rice, UT-San Antonio and Washington in the two-day tournament.

### 2009-2010 MT Women's Basketball Schedule

Nov. 2	Carson Newman (Exh)	Home
Nov. 9	Lincoln Memorial (Exh)	Home
Nov. 15	Central Florida	Home
Nov. 18	LSU	Away
Nov. 21	Austin Peay	Away
Nov. 25	Tennessee	Home
Nov. 28	Tennessee Tech	Home
Dec. 3	Xavier	Away
Dec. 9	Louisville	Away
Dec. 13	South Dakota State	Away
Dec. 20	Western Kentucky	Home
Dec. 28	Kentucky	Home
Dec. 30	New Orleans	Away
Jan. 3	Louisiana	Home
Jan. 6	Arkansas State	Away
Jan. 9	Arkansas-Little Rock	Away
Jan. 13	Florida International	Home
Jan. 16	Florida Atlantic	Home
Jan. 20	Louisiana-Monroe	Away
Jan. 24	Western Kentucky	Away
Jan. 27	New Orleans	Home
Jan. 31	North Texas	Home
Feb. 3	Troy	Home
Feb. 6	South Alabama	Away
Feb. 10	Denver	Home
Feb. 17	Troy	Away
Feb. 21	South Alabama	Home
Feb. 24	Florida International	Away
Feb. 27	Florida Atlantic	Away



## Women's basketball releases game schedule

By RICHARD LOWE  
Assistant Sports Editor

Lady Raider fans have been acting like it's Christmas Eve for the last couple of months waiting for their team's schedule to be released. Consider this Christmas morning.

The MT women's basketball program released their 2009-2010 schedule this weekend and it features games against seven teams that played in the postseason last year; six of them participating in the NCAA Tournament.

The season opens Nov. 15 at home against the University of Central Florida. They will, then, spend five of their next seven games on the road against LSU, Austin Peay, Xavier University, University of Louisiana and South Dakota State.

In what is sure to be the biggest home game in Lady Raider history, the team will host the Lady Vols of the University of

Tennessee on Nov. 25. That game is scheduled for 7:00 PM.

The Lady Raiders will host the University of Kentucky on Dec. 28 in their final out-of-conference game. Head coach Rick Insell's youngest son, Matt, is an assistant coach for UK.

The Lady Raiders' first Sun Belt Conference game will be against hated rival Western Kentucky University on Dec. 20 at home. Their second game the Lady Toppers will take place Jan. 24 in Bowling Green.

During the SBC schedule, MT will host Western Kentucky, University of Louisiana, Florida International, Florida Atlantic, University of New Orleans, University of North Texas, Troy, Denver and South Alabama.

MT will travel to New Orleans, Arkansas State University, University of Arkansas-Little Rock, University of

Louisiana in Monroe, Western Kentucky, South Alabama, Troy, FIU and FAU.

The SBC Basketball Tournament will take place in Hot Springs, Ark. March 3-9. This will be the second year in a row that the conference championships will be decided in Hot Springs. New this year is that fact that all 13 teams will be invited to come instead of playing first round games at on-campus sites.

The NCAA Tournament will be begin March 20 with the Final Four and National Championship Game taking place Apr. 4 and 6, respectively. The Final Four will take place in San Antonio, TX.

The Lady Raiders return every player from last year's team that went 28-6 and won the Sun Belt Conference regular season and tournament championships, including the nation's leading scorer from last year, Alysha Clark.

# The Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies and the MTSU College of Mass Communication

invite you to celebrate

# Constitution Day 2009

with two days of panels, lectures and musical programming

## Wednesday, Sept. 16

10:20 a.m., KUC Theater

### Free Speech on University Campuses: The State of Play

Vanderbilt University Prof. Bruce Barry, author of *Speechless: The Erosion of Free Expression in the American Workplace*, will make students aware of their on-campus rights.



Barry



Policinski

11:30 a.m., KUC Theater

### State of the First Amendment

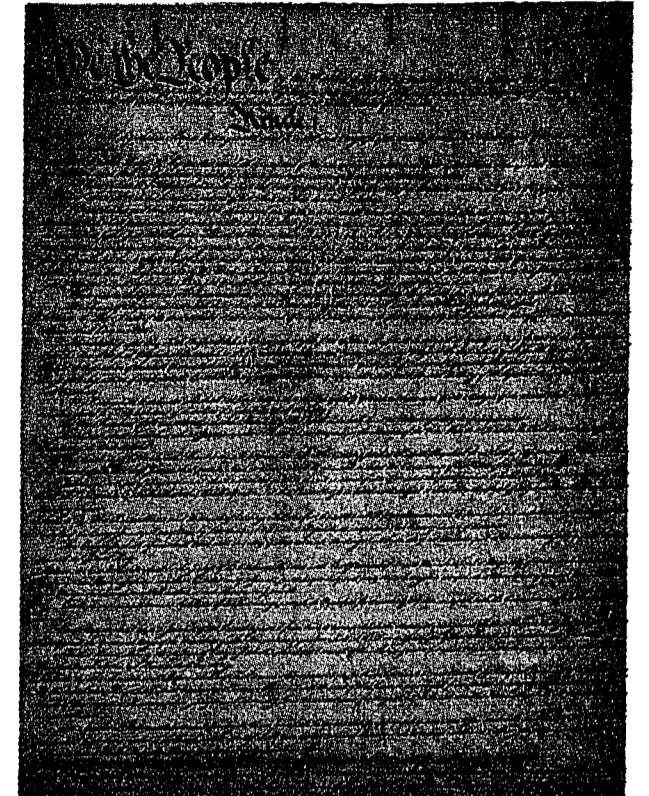
Gene Policinski, vice president and executive director of the First Amendment Center, will present results from the First Amendment Center's annual survey of American attitudes and opinions on First Amendment issues.

2:20 p.m., Tucker Theater

### Freedom Sings



Freedom Sings is a critically acclaimed multimedia experience featuring an all-star cast of musicians and an "only-in-America" story line. It features music that has been banned, censored or sounded a call for social change.



In addition to the events sponsored by the Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies and the College of Mass Communication, enjoy these other Constitution Day activities around campus:

#### Thursday, 7 p.m. BAS State Farm Lecture Hall Living Democracy

Susan Griffin will discuss ideas from her book *Wrestling with the Angel of Democracy: On Being an American Citizen*, in which she weaves memoir with history while exploring the inner life and psychologies that are engendered by democracy and that sustain self-government. She will focus on the role empathy plays in this process and connect environmentalism with social justice.

Griffin is an award-winning poet, essayist, playwright and filmmaker, who has written 19 books and been a finalist for the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize.

Sponsored by the American Democracy Project and the Distinguished Lecture Committee

#### Friday, 1-4 p.m. JUB Faculty Senate Room Workshop on Teaching Democracy: Integrating Themes of Social Responsibility in the Curriculum

Author Susan Griffin will lead the MTSU community in a workshop on how to connect private-public lives to encourage students to draw connections between events and memories in personal family histories with larger histories and issues.

Understanding these connections often restores a sense of rightful place within society, is crucial to democracy, and develops a deeper personal interest. Using passages from her books *Wrestling with the Angel of Democracy*, *Chorus of Stones*, and *What Her Body Thought* and her poem collection *Bending Home*, she will discuss how to open up new avenues of inquiry through written reflection.

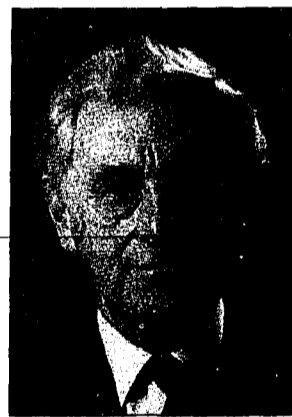
Sponsored by the American Democracy Project and Learning, Teaching and the Innovative Technologies Center

## Thursday, Sept. 17

9:40 a.m., KUC Theater

### The Internet and the First Amendment

Legendary journalist John Seigenthaler will moderate a panel featuring Media Bloggers Association President Robert Cox, attorneys Lew Conner and Steve Wagner, Associated Press vice president/general counsel Srinandan Kasi, and model Liskula Cohen.



Seigenthaler

11:20 a.m., KUC Theater

### The First Amendment in 2009

A panel will explore the state of the First Amendment's five freedoms and what they mean in today's society. Panelists include John Seigenthaler; Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission; and Elaine Jones, former president and director/counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.



Danner

1 p.m., LRC 221

### Torture, Democracy and the American Press

(co-sponsored by the Distinguished Lecture Committee)

Mark Danner is a writer, journalist and professor who has written about foreign affairs and American politics for more than two decades, covering Latin America, Haiti, the Balkans and the Middle East, among many other stories, and has written extensively about the development of American foreign policy during the late Cold War, and about violations of human rights during that time. He has written for *The New Yorker*, *The New York Review of Books* and *The New York Times Magazine*. His next book is *Stripping Bare the Body: Politics Violence War*, published by Nation Books.

2:40 p.m., KUC Theater

### Civil Liberties: Surveillance and Terrorism

Prof. Roger Newman will lecture and lead a discussion on the civil liberties aspects of the War on Terror and technology's impact on the First Amendment. Newman is a professor at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and author of the book *Hugo Black*. He is currently writing a book on President Clinton's Supreme Court appointments.

All events are free and open to the public

For more information,  
contact Beverly Keel at [bkeel@mtsu.edu](mailto:bkeel@mtsu.edu), 898-5150