

# MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2008

VOL. 84 NO. 47

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Band of the  
Week



The Murfreesboro-based Sky-Hi plans to release their new album in early 2009.

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## OPINIONS

Modern horror  
genre is lagging

The scariest part about classic horror movies is that people want to remake them.

OPINIONS, 6

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OPINIONS, 6

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Blue Raiders look for conference road victory against FIU Golden Panthers.

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## COMMUTE

Alumni Drive from Blue Raider Drive to Friendship Street will be closed for the fall semester for road improvements. With the closing of Alumni, there will be no access to the Library parking

lot. During the construction period, the northern part of the parking lot by the Honors Building will be changed from green to white. The southern end of the lot by Ezell Hall will remain green for students. You will not be able to access the campus via Womack Lane.

Due to construction, several lots have been rezoned. All legal parking areas are designated by signs, painted stripes, or other marks. Be sure to check the posted signs BEFORE you park your automobile. If it is not marked, don't park!

For more information, visit [www.mtsu.edu/~parking](http://www.mtsu.edu/~parking).



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor

Beverly Keel moderates a question and answer forum with CNN senior political correspondent Candy Crowley.

## Journalism superstars discuss covering the controversial election

By TIFFANY GIBSON

Campus News Editor

The Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence welcomed guest speakers and nationally-recognized journalists yesterday to describe and share their experiences in covering political campaigns with students.

The event, entitled "History in the Making: Press Coverage of the Presidential Campaign," took place in the Keathley University Center and was open to the public.

Walter Mears, national political reporter, Washington bureau chief and executive editor and columnist with The Associated Press, spoke about his career experiences in covering 11 presidential campaigns.

"It's different from covering state elections and state politics because a presidential campaign has to deal with so many issues, interests and regions," Mears said. "It's a matter of assembling the parts of a puzzle to put together a campaign."

Mears began his political coverage career during the 1960 election between John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon.

He said that standards for reporters have changed since then, because candidates aren't as "chatty" with reporters as Kennedy once was.

As for the upcoming election, Mears said that it's hard to cover a campaign in which everything is being shaped by the shouting of people on both sides of the spectrum.

"One thing I think people need before Election Day is an honest, straightforward, dispassionate account of whom these people are and what they propose to do," Mears said.

With Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin refusing to speak to the press, Mears said that times have changed, because he used to talk to politicians just to get to know them better.

"Palin is not unique, she is just particularly sequestered because they

are afraid she'll talk to Katie Couric again, and she won't be able to remember what it is that she reads, if anything," Mears said.

Furthermore, Mears said that he believes choosing Palin was a tactical move to liven up John McCain's campaign.

"I don't even think John McCain fully believes that she is fully qualified," he said.

Following a brief intermission after Mear's speech, Beverly Keel, director of the Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence, led a panel featuring Mears, Bill Kovach, founding director of the Committee of Concerned Journalists and Washington Bureau Chief of The New York Times, John Mashek, national political correspondent in Washington for the Boston Globe and national political editor of U.S. News and World Report, and John Seigenthaler, chairman emeritus of The Tennessean and founder of the

SEIGENTHALER, PAGE 2

## Economic downfall forces colleges to cut \$43.7 million

By TIFFANY GIBSON

Campus News Editor

MTSU will suffer another budget cut of \$3.2 million due to low state tax revenues needed for Tennessee's overall budget.

The \$3,281,000 will be part of \$43.7 million that will be cut from all public universities in Tennessee.

"The budget was cast based on the projections of what the state tax revenues would be, and the economy, as you know, has been in such bad shape that the state tax revenues are not coming up in accordance to what their projections were," said Mary Morgan, director of communications for the Tennessee Board of Regents. "The state budget has to be balanced, so they have to begin now to make cuts in the state expenditures to try to get it back in sync with what the actual revenues are turning out to be."

Morgan said that the budget cuts are not directly related to what is happening on Wall Street, but the general economic situation definitely has an impact on the state tax revenues.

"I think the Wall Street meltdown has influenced the budget cuts at MTSU," said Sean Jackson, freshman mass communication major.

Jackson said he wishes additional budget cuts would not have to be made

the first budget cut of \$6 million earlier this year.

"We set aside funds to manage the budget cuts without major destruction in the middle of the semester," McPhee said.

However, McPhee said that if more budgets cuts have to be made, the emergency funds will already be used up.

"It's not going to dramatically affect students, but it's currently affecting students now with higher tuition," McPhee said. "Students should expect the impact that it will have on them."

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"I think the Wall Street meltdown has influenced the budget cuts at MTSU," said Sean Jackson, freshman mass communication major.

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## BUDGET CUTS FOR TENNESSEE UNIVERSITIES

UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS

\$4.03 MILLION

MIDDLE TENNESSEE

\$3.28 MILLION

EAST TENNESSEE

\$2.06 MILLION

TENNESSEE TECH

\$1.61 MILLION

TENNESSEE STATE

\$1.37 MILLION

AUSTIN PEAY

\$1.17 MILLION

Graphic by Alicia Wilson, production manager

"A decision for next year is still quite a way off."

All universities have until Friday, Oct. 15 to accumulate a general budget plan that they must be presented to TBR.

McPhee said that MTSU is going to look at the overall budget and compile a plan to be presented to TBR on Oct. 17.

Even though tuition will not increase in the spring, students might be affected in other ways.

"Long-term, there may be things a campus might want to do but won't be able to," Adams said.

Morgan said that Tennessee has had strong funding within the past couple of years, but with budget cuts such as these, it could deteriorate any progress already made.

"It's going to make things harder and tighter," Morgan said. "There will be belt-tightening on all of our campuses."

# Student Health Services helps female students in new clinic

By EMMA EGLI  
Staff Writer

Student Health Services, located in the campus Recreation Center, is now offering a women's health clinic to answer questions and keep female students healthy.

The woman's health clinic offers routine pap smears, birth control counseling, pregnancy diagnosis and sexually transmitted disease testing. They also offer routine checkups on cholesterol, blood pressure and anything else women need for their general health care.

While the woman's health hall is relatively new, services specifically for female students on campus have been around for some time.

Medical director and university physician Dr. Pat Spangler began offering pap smears and other health care specifically for women about 7 years ago when he learned that they weren't being provided at the school.

For many students, especially freshmen, it is the first time they have to worry about their own medical care. The staff at the clinics are sensitive to this and make sure all information is kept confidential and that students, especially women, feel comfortable coming in.

"Many women feel more comfortable with women providers," said Dr. Julianne Womack, university physician. "That's why the staff working in the women's hall are all female."

The services offered at the women's health clinic, as

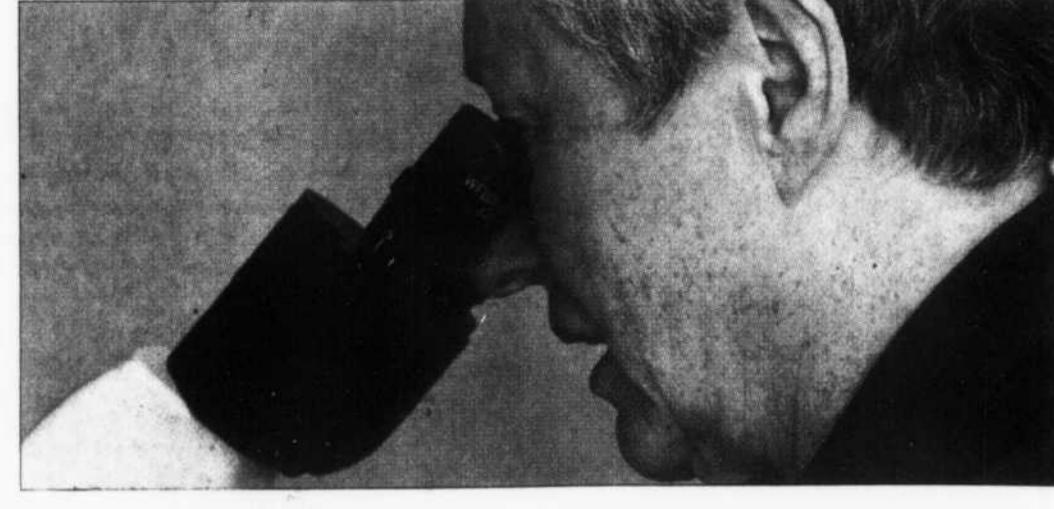


Photo by Alex Blackweider, photography editor

**Women's Health R.N. Sally Kimbrell demonstrates how to view specimen collections from exams.**

well as the main clinic, fit a students' budget. The cost of basic office visits are free thanks to the health fee that students pay every semester.

There are additional charges for other professional services such as lab tests, medications, suturing, blood tests and x-rays.

"It is much cheaper than what you would pay at a regular walk-in clinic," Spangler said. "We charge what the lab charges us."

The clinic has a special contract with the state of Tennessee that allows special discount prices for students. For payment options, students can put their medical charges on their student accounts and payments do not have to be made until final grades go out.

"A lot of students don't have health insurance, so if they went to a hospital or private sector, it would be a financial burden to them," Spangler said. "We are here to help students so that they can finish their education without

worrying about being in debt with medical fees."

Anywhere from six to nine registered nurses are on hand everyday along with three full-time doctors, five full-time mid-levels, two physician assistants and other nurse practitioners.

Student Health Services welcome walk-ins; however, appointments are suggested.

"We are seeing around 150 to 200 students a day," Spangler said. "We prefer appointments, because then you are assured a slot. Now students can simply schedule one online that best fits their own schedule."

Aside from the main student clinic and the women's clinic a new pharmacy is being built. When it is complete, MTSU will be the first university to have a retail pharmacy on its campus.

The pharmacy will offer prescription medications as well as nonprescription drugs, energy bars, power drinks and a drive through window.

A new health educator, Lisa Thomason, has also been hired and will be available for students near the end of the month. She will be on hand to council students on nutrition, sex education, relationships, drug/alcohol abuse and other problems they might need help with.

"When Dr. Spangler came here he really changed student health at this university, and we now have a program that offers full services to students," Womack said. "We are so thrilled that students were invested in it enough to vote to increase the health fee to fund this building."

Spangler and Womack both said that they hope to eventually expand the women's clinic and have an entire second floor built and designated to women's health.

"We want to get the word out so that more women are aware of the program," Spangler said. "We hope our numbers will grow. As the university grows, we have to grow with it."

## CRIME BRIEFS

**Oct. 3, 10:10 p.m.**

**Theft**  
Woodfins Lot  
Subject advised her license plate had been stolen off of her red Saturn.

**Oct. 4, 3:51 a.m.**

**Traffic**  
James E. Walker Library South Lot  
Two subjects were caught doing doughnuts in a golf cart.

**Oct. 4, 10:52 a.m.**

**Traffic**  
Deere Hall Lot  
Brandy Boyd called regarding a note an officer left on her vehicle. We found her vehicle damaged earlier and thought it was a possible hit and run.

**Oct. 4, 3:08 p.m.**

**Theft**  
Peck Hall  
Lady reported a bag being stolen at the baseball field.

**Oct. 4, 11:38 p.m.**

**Alarm**  
Sigma Nu House-Greek Row  
Out at Sigma Nu house in reference to a party, attempting to locate someone with proper authorization.

**Oct. 5, 6:58 p.m.**

**Burglary**  
Scarlett Commons Apt. 9  
Report of theft from someone's room. He entered his room after being out of state to find a laptop and two guitars missing.

**Oct. 6, 12:29 a.m.**

**Suicide Threat**  
Bell Street Lot  
Several females flagged down an officer and said there was a male subject in the Bell Street lot that appeared to be cutting his wrists. Subject was transported to MTMC.

**Oct. 7, 3:35 a.m.**

**Warrant**  
Gore Hall  
Reginald Johnson was arrested for outstanding warrant.

**Oct. 7, 8:58 p.m.**

**Theft**  
Recreation Center  
Subject called saying his wallet had been stolen.

**Oct. 7, 12:41 p.m.**

**Traffic**  
Greenland Drive Lot B  
Victim said that someone had hit her vehicle in the Greenland lot.

## SEIGENTHALER FROM PAGE 1

First Amendment Center

The panel began by examining the second presidential debate at Belmont.

Keel asked the panelists who, in their respective opinions, won the debate.

Mashek said that both candidates gave their campaigns "one-liners," but McCain didn't come out "blazing" as expected.

Kovach said that Americans were the winners.

"The questions were a hell of a lot better than the answers," Kovach said. "Neither [candidate] confronted the issues that are needed for our economy."

Kovach said that the projects that were created by both candidates took place last year, during a completely different financial time.

"There's not going to be enough money left to fund these projects they are talking about," Kovach said.

Seigenthaler said that he thought that for McCain to be successful in the campaign in the debate, he had to separate himself from the George W. Bush administration.

"Obama, to be successful, had to nail McCain to the Bush cross," Seigenthaler said.

Another topic brought up in the panel was the age difference between Obama, 47, and McCain, 72.

Mashek compared both candidates to Kennedy and Nixon in the sense that when people watched the first televised debate, they saw Kennedy as a laid-back, young man and Nixon as an older choice.

Despite the age difference, Kovach said he couldn't believe that during the Belmont debate both candidates got away with not talking about the most important issue.

"If you watched the debate last night [Tuesday], there were many times where Tom Brokaw could have asked 'how do you know?'" Kovach said.

Kovach said the main advice he can give journalism students is to never lose their curiosity for information.

"The most important question a journalist can ask a public figure when they say anything about an issue, is to find out how they support that statement," Kovach said.

Following the panel, Keel sat down with Candy Crowley, CNN's award-winning senior political correspondent to talk about her observations of the presidential campaign thus far.

Crowley said that both candidates are complete opposites, in that "McCain has been fighting to get out of the system, while Obama has been fighting to get into the system."

In addition to identifying their differences, Crowley discussed both candidates' flaws. She said that Obama can be testy at times and that McCain is very vigorous, to the point where there is no telling what he will say.

As a journalist, Crowley said that everyone has biases, and that in order to report on things, it is crucial to understand what those are and avoid them.

After Keel finished her question-and-answer forum with Crowley, she opened the floor to students who took the opportunity to ask Crowley about voting fraud, CNN eye reports and the coverage of Sept. 11.

Crowley said that when you cover something for so long like Sept. 11, it's nice sometimes to step back and get a fresh perspective.

For students aspiring to cover future elections, Crowley asks them to get used to working with words and critiquing themselves.

"Also, history [is important because] when you cover something, history matters, and it gives you perspective on what you're looking at," Crowley said.

Dean of the College of Mass Communication Roy Moore said that he was pleased to have such distinguished speakers for this event.

"We won't have another election for four years, so this is really the only opportunity that students who are in the program have as undergraduates to really focus on the media coverage of an election," Moore said. "It doesn't happen often."



**Thursday, October 23**

**FIGHT SONG**

Murphy Center

7:00 pm

**Monday, November 3**

**PAINT THE HALLS BLUE**

**CASINO NIGHT**

JUB Tennessee Room

7:00 pm

**Tuesday, November 4**

**SWAP DAY @ THE KUC**

**MTSU IDOL**

JUB Tennessee Room

7:00 pm

**Wednesday, November 5**

**HORSE SHOE**

**COMPETITION**

Rec Center

4:30 pm

**Friday, November 7**

**CHILI COOK-OFF**

Murphy Center Lawn

5:00 pm

**NPHC STEP SHOW**

Murphy Center

7:30 pm

**Saturday, November 8**

**HOMECOMING PARADE**

Middle Tennessee Blvd.

10:00 am

**RAIDER WALK**

Walnut Grove

12:30 pm

**MTSU v. UL - MONROE**

Floyd Stadium

2:30 pm

Student Government Association Presents:  
**HOME COMING 2008**

# C-SPAN bus parks at MTSU

Private, nonprofit company C-SPAN covers Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence event with award-winning journalists

By ALEX MOORMAN  
Assistant News Editor

C-SPAN covered "History in the making: Press coverage of the presidential campaign," hosted by MTSU following the second debate held at Belmont University on Tuesday.

The event was held Wednesday in the Keathley University Center. It featured speakers such as Walter Mears, Candy Crowley, Bill Kovach, John Seigenthaler and John Mashek. The C-SPAN bus was on campus from 9 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. filming the event live and meeting with students.

MTSU students were offered a chance to talk with a C-SPAN representative to help them better understand what C-SPAN has to offer to the general public.

"I think that C-SPAN being here is great for our university, because it helps students learn about them and get involved in politics," said Kara Harper, sophomore mass communications major. "I don't watch C-SPAN, but now that I know more about it, I actually want to start watching it."

C-SPAN is a private, non-profit company, created in 1979 by the cable television industry as a public service. They provide public access to the political process. C-SPAN receives no government funding.

"It's the channel that peo-

ple just flip by but if you use C-SPAN as a resource it will help you get a better understanding of what is going on in the political world, and that's important for students to know," said Matthew McGuire, national accounts executive for C-SPAN.

As a public service created by the nation's cable companies, C-SPAN does not track viewership ratings. Its studies by researchers describe audiences interests and viewing habits.

"We cover things that differ from what the local news stations cover because instead of giving a 15 second brief on what happened, you actually get to watch the event unfold," McGuire said.

For around 20 years, C-SPAN has supported initiatives that encourage greater public access to the court, including opening the court to electronic media.

"We feel that if people watch C-SPAN, they can make up their own mind about what they think actually happened," McGuire said. "We don't have reporters giving their opinions, we want people to be able to make their own educated opinion."

C-SPAN covers public affairs and public policies that include House and Senate meetings and briefings.

"I don't watch C-SPAN, but I think it's important for MTSU because it helps students interact with politics,"



Photo Courtesy Facebook  
The C-SPAN bus makes stops around the country to inform.

said Shane Vachunek, junior mass communications major. "Sometimes the political world seems so far from our world but bringing C-SPAN here helps to make students feel that politics are affecting them personally."

C-SPAN's programs do not have television content ratings. Their programs are exempt from the rating systems set up by the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 was the first successful attempt to rewrite

the Communications Act of 1934. The act refocuses federal communications policy-making from multi-agency and intergovernmental attempts to regulate the telecommunications industry.

"I think C-SPAN coming is a really big deal, because it reflects how far our journalism department has come," said Laura Blake, senior mass communications major. "We have a great program at MTSU, and it's nice to have the publicity that we deserve even though it was for the event."



Photo by Katy Coil, assistant features editor  
Students watch the Belmont debate in the State Farm Room.

## Second debate leaves issues still uncovered

By KATY COIL  
Assistant Features Editor

While Senators McCain and Obama were debating in Nashville Tuesday, many MTSU students were watching them on the big screen, learning what each candidate plans to bring to the table if elected.

A debate viewing party and post-debate discussion was held in the State Farm Room of the Business and Aerospace Building Tuesday night. The American Democracy Project, which sponsored the party, hoped that the event would encourage students to become more involved in the voting process and encourage interest in the debate.

Before the debate, some students had made up their minds on which candidate to support, whereas others were still not entirely sure whom they were voting for.

"I don't think either will win," said Jesse Ray, undeclared freshman.

At the start of the debate, Ray said that he is undecided but leaning toward Obama.

"Obama seems good for people who are pissed off at Bush and younger people, but he's got a lot of media behind him," Ray said. "I don't know what McCain has going for him. He doesn't seem to have a lot of support."

Ray said he had definite expectations for what he wanted to see in the debate.

"I hope they're actually answering the questions, talking about the things they're going to do about the economy, war, education," Ray said. "These aren't really debates anymore. They're all media-fied. It's all practiced, rehearsed. But an actual debate, that'd be great."

Still, Ray doesn't think that the debate process is completely outdated.

"They still say what they support. It's better than seeing ads or listening to other people say what the candidates talk about," he said. "You get to hear them answer the questions."

Janelle Mitchell, a junior dental hygiene major, declared herself as pro-McCain at the start of the debate.

"I would like to see McCain win because I'm for him," she said. "I definitely will vote for McCain because he's pro-life. That's my main issue that I stick with."

Mitchell thinks that McCain's experience is one of the things that qualifies him to be president, but she still wanted to know more about him from the debate.

"I really want to hear more of McCain's foreign policy because I didn't hear a lot of that," she said. "Palin didn't talk a lot about that."

Though she is rooting for McCain, Mitchell was happy to see that Obama is in the running.

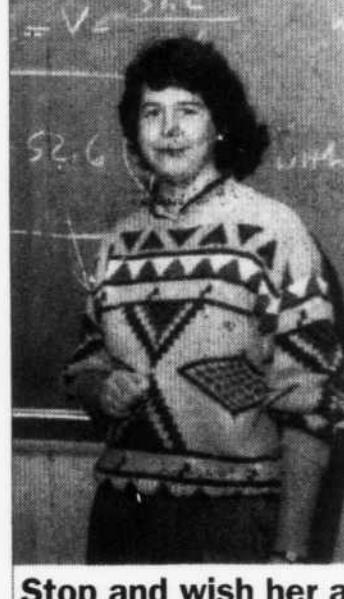
DEBATE, PAGE 5

## Through the Sidelines' Lens



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor  
M. Umut Ermec, a recording industry graduate student from Istanbul, Turkey, plays his darbuka outside the library. The darbuka is a goblet shaped hand drum found in traditional Turkish music.

If you see this calculating woman...



Stop and wish her a Happy Nifty Fifty!

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By JESSY RICHTER  
Staff Writer

The MTSU chapter of the Pre-Professional and Graduate Student organization/American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences will be holding a centennial celebration Oct. 15 from 10 a.m. until noon at the Fairview Building Conference Room.

They will be hosting Joyce Miles, a prominent member of human sciences and National AACFS.

Miles will be using a multimedia presentation to share the heritage and accomplishments of the careers in hu-

man sciences over the past 100 years. Miles will also share a idea of where human sciences will go in the next 100 years.

Members of the audience will also be capable of talking about how the profession has helped families, individuals and communities.

Emily Duck, junior education and behavioral sciences, vice-president of PGS/AACFS, said there will also be high school students in attendance.

"We really hope to not only draw prospective or current human sciences students," Duck said, "but also people

from the community who are or have been in the human sciences field."

Sandra Poirer, Associate Professor of Human Sciences, said through this event PGS/AACFS hopes to make the community aware of their focus.

"As human sciences professionals - we are focused on helping individuals, families and communities make informed decisions about their well-being, relationships and resources to achieve optimal quality of life," Poirer said.

Poirer also said the human sciences department is a diverse department that is rich

in history.

The human sciences department at MTSU is one of the oldest and largest departments on campus and offers majors in family and consumer sciences education, child development and family studies, textiles/merchandising and design, nutrition, early childhood education, and interior design," Poirer said.

There are several other events throughout the United States to celebrate AACFS's centennial.

June 2009, Knoxville, Tenn., will host the final centennial celebration.

AACFS is the only national

nonprofit organization that provides services to FCS students and professionals across multiple practices.

AACFS was founded in 1909 by Ellen Swallow Richards, who was the first woman graduate and professor of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

AACFS has 7,000 members, which include elementary, secondary and post-secondary educators, researchers and administrators, cooperative extension educators, and other professionals in business and industry, not-for-profit organizations and government.

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# Celebrated poet shares his work at MT

By DEAN HOLDEN  
Staff Writer

Pulitzer Prize-nominated author James Reiss will be visiting MTSU for a writing seminar and reading of some of his award-winning poems.

The event will be held at the Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors Building Lecture Hall on Wednesday, Oct. 15 at 4:30 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

In addition to reading some of his award-winning poems from his latest book, *Riff on Six: New and Selected Poems*, Reiss will be taking

some time to talk to students about their own writing aspirations.

"I'm hoping to energize MTSU students about poems and imbibe the spirit of Murfreesboro," Reiss said.

Reiss has written five books, all collections of his poems. His first, *The Breathers*, was nominated for the National Book Award in 1974. His fourth, *Ten Thousand Good Mornings*, was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in 2002. He is currently working on his first novel.

Reiss' works have been published in *The Atlantic*

*Monthly*, *Esquire*, *The New Republic*, *The New Yorker* and *Slate*, among several others.

Despite his accolades, Reiss remains humble about his work and insists that poetry is "not a highbrow experience."

"To listen to a really good poem James Reiss is like letting your hair down and loving every one of its wondrous follies," Reiss said. "Although I shave my head and have the highest

brow imaginable"

Reiss moved to the Chicago area after he retired from teaching in 2007 and was bestowed the title of Professor Emeritus of English at Miami University. Among his former students at Miami

is Ron Kates, associate professor of English at MTSU.

Kates, after running into his former teacher at a Miami

University conference, extended an invitation to speak at MTSU.

"I hadn't seen him in 15 or so years, but after revising some of his poems I remembered his gifts as a writer and a teacher," Kates said. "And with his first novel on the way, what better time to bring him here to talk to students."

"I expect he'll talk to students about writing in real life, just as he does in his own works," Kates said.

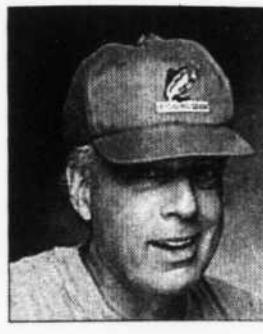
Reiss said he hopes to impart some wisdom and lessons from his personal

experience and wisdom to students who are interested in any form of creative writing.

"I think young writers need to study and 'tend' over their writing, some of whom may be great writers," Reiss said.

Reiss, who began teaching English at Miami in 1962, also said that young writers need to "cast a cold eye" on their work when revising, a topic he will discuss during his visit.

"Revise, revise, revise," Reiss said. "Revise your work but also love it to pieces."



## THIRD FROM PAGE 1

Each candidate had their own reasons for running for president; most of their reasons revolved around getting their message out the public.

The Pacifist Party candidate Bradford Lytle is running for the fourth time since 1984. Lytle continues to run because he said that it is the best way to alert people about non-violent resistance, or by going out and demonstrating.

In the 1960s, Lytle worked on the San Francisco to Moscow walk for peace, in which participants walked in the United States, Western and Eastern Europe, and White Russia, all the way to Moscow distributing leaflets and talking with people about abandoning military programs and the use of non-violent resistance.

"We reached millions of people doing that," Lytle said. "That was when I was in my early 30s, and I am now in 80 years-old, and it is not as easy to walk from San Francisco to Moscow, but I take

advantage of the opportunities that exist, and this [debate] is one of them."

Frank McEnulty, the presidential candidate for the New American Independence party said that said that he was an average American and wanted to run because he wanted to make his country better.

"The reason I started running for president because I was totally fed up and disgusted with the fact that the two major political parties really seem to ignore the vast majority of Americans," McEnulty said.

A lot of Middle Tennessee residents came to the debate with a similar attitude to McEnulty, "fed up with the two major political parties."

"I am completely and utterly disgusted by the two party system in this country that is basically why I am here," said Allyn Cosey II, a Middle Tennessee resident. "I am ready for a change and not the change that Barack Obama or John McCain are talking about, but a real fundamental change in this country."

Running as a third party candidate lets the public know that there are alternatives and what's being sold to them by the Democrats and Republicans is not the only answer, McEnulty said.

"In our travels across the country, we are finding many people who think like us but never knew that there was an organization or a way to get involved," said Gloria La Riva, presidential candidate for the Party for Socialism and Liberation. "I think that we are providing the answers and the way for people to get involved."

McEnulty believes that students can play a vital role to the efforts of third parties.

"Students are important to the efforts of the third party candidates. They are a force we really need," McEnulty said. "They can be a lightning rod for political change."

The debate was sponsored by the Coalition for October Debate Alternatives.

Information on the participating candidates can be found at each of their Web sites.

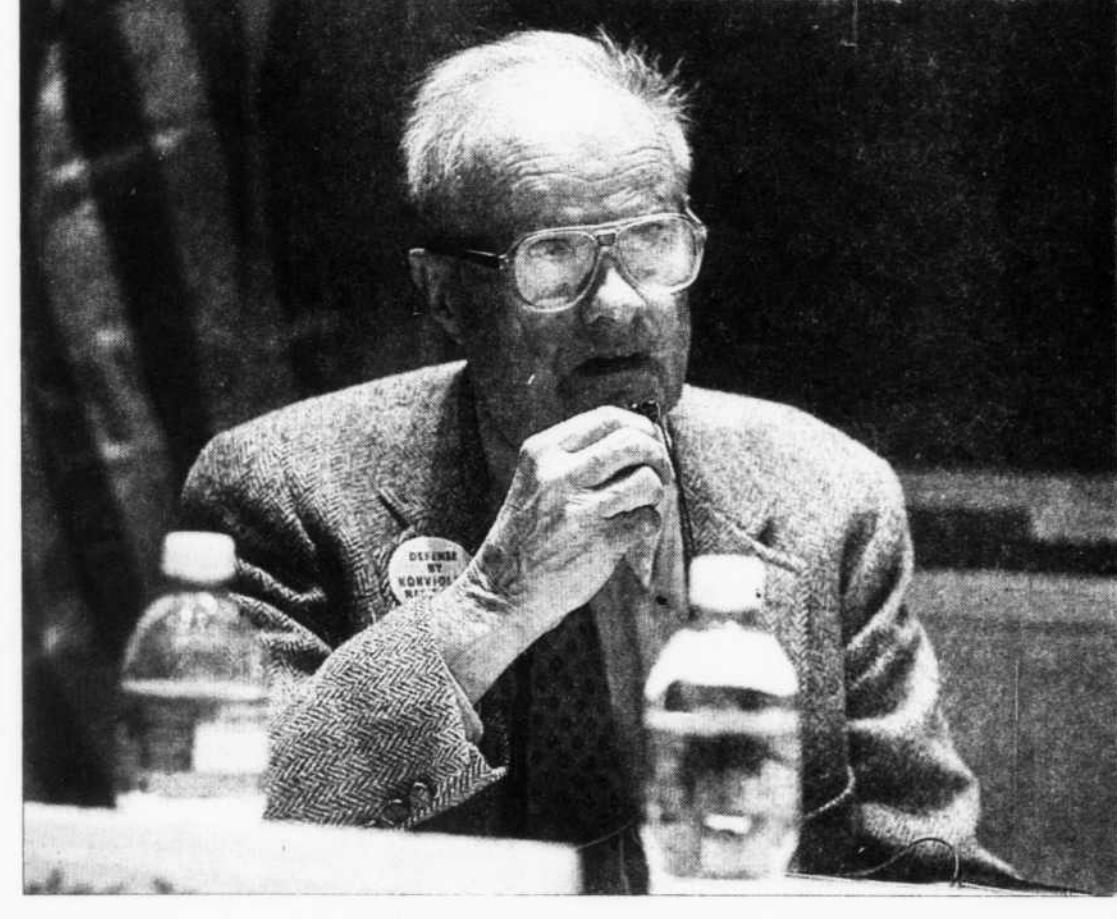


Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photographer, editor  
Bradford Lytle, presidential candidate for US pacifist party, debates his party's views on issues.

Charles Jay  
Bradford Lytle  
Frank McEnulty  
Brian Moore  
Chuck Baldwin  
Gloria La Riva

Cj08.com  
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# JAWC speaker tells her story of domestic violence

By KATIE KELLEY  
Contributing Writer

The June Anderson Women's Center welcomed author Janine Latus this week for Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Latus came to raise awareness about domestic violence as well as promote her book "If I'm Missing or Dead: A sister's story of love, murder and liberation."

She graduated from the Missouri School of Journalism and has dedicated her life to making more people aware of the seriousness of domestic violence.

One in four women will be strangled, hit or shot in a domestic violence dispute.

Latus began her speech by telling her story as a freelance writer. She said that after an essay appeared in O, the Oprah magazine, she decided to write a book about her story.

A year and a half ago, Latus' book was published and has been a huge success in the United States and in other countries such as South Africa.

and Australia.

Latus said she hopes to soon have her book translated and published in Mexico.

Her book has also been on *The New York Times* and *Sunday Times'* bestseller lists.

Latus said that domestic violence was something she had a touch of since she was a child. The first instance she encountered when she was the young age of 12.

As Latus' life progressed, she was also abused by her boyfriend during a vacation at the age of 19.

Aside from falling victim to domestic violence as a child, Latus said she ended up marrying a man who was no different from the ones she had encountered before.

After she'd had enough abuse, Latus said she made the decision to leave her husband in May of 2002. For support, Latus said she leaned on her younger sister Amy.

At the time, Latus said her sister was in love with a man

whom she thought would do anything for her. However, 10 weeks later while Latus was at a work conference in the East Cost, she received a call from her other sister, who said Amy was missing.

Latus said a note was found on her desk that said "if I'm missing or dead." The note said that Amy has loaned her boyfriend, Ron, money and was afraid for her life.

Weeks later, Latus said a man found Amy buried in the backyard of his new house.

"I just wanted to march outside of buildings," Latus said. "When someone shows you who they really are, believe them."

Latus said she encourages people to question whether or not domestic violence could evolve in their relationships.

Purple ribbons will be distributed at the JAWC for students who want to stop the spread of domestic violence and remember those who have been killed because of it.



Photo courtesy of June Anderson Women's Center

**Janine Latus speaks about her book, which deals with her sister's death due to domestic violence.**

## DEBATE FROM PAGE 3

"I'm excited to see an African-American in this position," she said. "I may not like what he's running for, but I'm glad to see him in the position."

Mitchell also thought it was "awesome" that the debate was so close to MTSU and wished she could have been at Belmont to ask a question herself.

An Obama supporter, sophomore nursing major Shunda Rodgers knew certain subjects she wanted to come up in the debate.

"I'm looking forward to

hearing about the middle class, people like us," she said. "I'd like for there to be more money for college students, the war in Iraq, the foreclosures. I want to see some facts and answers."

Rodgers said she believes that debates are important to the democratic process.

"It lets people know what their candidate is bringing to the table," Rodgers said. "It's important to know what they're going to do, what they say they're going to do. Then there's a record of it."

Rodgers watched the first debate and is excited about being able to vote in a presidential election for the first time.

She is also glad to see that the debate is coming to Tennessee.

"It feels good to know that they're in Tennessee," she said. "People like me, they're here for people like me. Nobody really comes here, and to have them come here is a big deal."

After the debate, Jesse Ray had changed his mind from leaning towards Obama to fully supporting Obama in the election.

He felt that Obama had won the debate.

"He got all the responses of everyone in the room," Ray said. "He actually answered the questions. I like Obama more now."

Still, there were things about the debate that Ray disapproved of.

"I think they kind of acted like five year olds at some points," he said. "They did

talk a whole lot about the war. Obama will have more support because he looked like he knew what he was doing. Obama answered the questions directly, but McCain veered off and answered his own questions."

Janelle Mitchell did not feel that either candidate won the debate but that it was a tie.

"They didn't really talk about issues that I could understand," she said. "Obama wants to socialize health care, and I don't agree with that. I like McCain's stance on health care better. I did think they did a good job overall answering the questions. It probably got down to foreign relations and policy because that's what Obama voters wanted to hear about."

She did feel several of the issues she wanted to hear about were addressed by the debate.

"I've always been taught that you don't have to put someone down to make yourself better," she said. "He took cheap shots all through-

out the debate. Obama had been talking about change since early on in the race, when he was up against Hillary, and now McCain talks about change. McCain made smart comments and cheap shots – not that Obama didn't – but McCain took cheap shot after cheap shot. That wasn't needed. McCain would say the same thing Obama would say, but he would twist it a little."

Rodgers did feel both candidates addressed some important issues.

"The most important issue was when they got to the war and what's going to happen," she said.

Rodgers said she feels that debates are good for the democratic process.

"Each candidate needs to bring their A-game every time. Obama brought his A-game and McCain slacked."

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## Student Media Town Hall Meeting

Middle Tennessee Television and MTSU *Sidelines* are offering an opportunity for students and community members to speak their mind about issues surrounding our campus. In an event that will be open to the public, the Student Government Association officers will be sitting on a panel to answer questions that will be submitted before and during the program.

### WHAT:

"Town Hall" meeting starting at 8 p.m.

### WHEN:

Monday, Oct. 20

### WHERE:

Learning Resource Center, room 221

### Scheduled Speakers Include:



Sondra Wilson

SGA President



Brandon McNary

SGA Executive Vice President and Speaker of the Senate



Nathan Haynes

SGA Election Commissioner



Jamie Boyd

SGA Vice President of Administration and Public Affairs

# OPINIONS

## FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

### Budget cuts could affect quality of our university

Our worsening economy has done its damage on Wall Street. It's permeated Main Street. It's found its way into Americans' living rooms, their dinner tables and their pocket books.

And now, it's found a way to pervade our education.

Tennessee's colleges and universities have been told to prepare for an additional \$43.7 million in reduced state appropriations.

University of Tennessee President John Petersen revealed in an open letter to the university community on Monday the cuts are coming. They come after colleges and universities raised tuition this fall and already trimmed spending by \$56 million.

Faced with a faltering economy and falling tax collections, Tennessee has turned to its public colleges and universities and its health care programs for the poor to absorb a new round of budget cuts worth more than \$106 million.

Is nothing sacred? Fannie and Freddie—now, they're worth saving. What with all their good deeds and positive contributions to the American economy.

**But education?**

Nah. Our educational system is what prepares young people to become actual contributors to the economy. Universities build future leaders, future business owners, the future stimulus of the economy.

To forsake the economic development of Tennessee's universities while Washington bends over backwards to help Fannie and Freddie makes little sense and is outright insulting to all of our hard work.

Perhaps McCain and Bush are right and the bailout package will eventually help Main Street. But for now, Tennesseans—their jobs, their bank accounts, their mortgages and their education—are about to suffer the backlash until that "eventuality" comes to fruition.

For the time being, MTSU won't have to cut programs or personnel. The university, luckily, anticipated this. But changes will still be noticeable.

More will come, though. And then—after the prefabricated plan has run its course—the situation will become a little trickier. It's being reported that school officials are taking a hard look at both academic and nonacademic programs. The next round will also likely involve staff.

If it comes to that—and we unfortunately think it will—a tuition hike will become a necessity.

McPhee said earlier this summer that MTSU began looking at the school's programs and how successful they were. He said the school is not going to wait until the cuts happen to come up with a plan.

And now that the cuts are upon us, we hope the plan is strong enough to save those MTSU departments not touted as "pinnacles" of the school. Departments and programs that might have smaller student numbers but are the foundations of a strong and diverse public university.

## Stop remaking horror films; use a little ingenuity, imagination

With Halloween quickly approaching, movie theaters are preparing for the releases of new horror films, such as, *Saw V*, *Quarantine* and *The Haunting Of Molly Hartley*.

All three original films are expected to bring in a large crowd of horror fans, but will future Halloweens be able to do the same, considering a majority of the horror classics are currently being remade?

Remaking movies seems to be a trend that has taken off excessively within this past decade, partly because ideas are scarce and everyone loves the comeback of a beloved villain.

However, films such as *Nightmare On Elm Street*, *Friday the 13th* and *Hellraiser* are classics that do not need to be remade.

Of course, with all the new technology available today, it would be simple to account for gorier scenes with more blood and diverse camera angles, but these things are unnecessary.

The reason these films moved thousands of people is because at the time they were made, they were way ahead of the curb.

In 1984's *A Nightmare On Elm Street*, Wes Craven used special effects that shocked audiences during the kill

scenes, not to mention the character of Freddy Krueger was something completely new and fresh within the horror genre.

Not only do remakes ruin classics, but they also alter the original storylines. For example, the new *Friday the 13th* is scheduled to be released in February 2009 and will expand on the character and the background of Jason Voorhees.

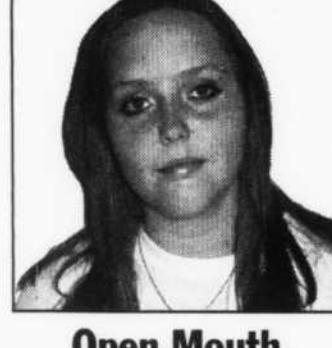
One of the main reasons that Jason is so terrifying to audiences is because he's unstoppable and shows no weaknesses.

Diving into a background story of how he was teased at summer camp might decrease the terror audiences crave.

Basically, remakes of these movies are pointless, but because they are classics and will always find a home with horror fans, upcoming directors pick up these ideas and convince studios to give them millions of dollars to destroy irreplaceable films.

New complex scripts or gruesome kill scenes don't exactly grab my attention. I want the heart and passion behind the idea of the film, which can only be found in the original.

In Rob Zombie's 2007



**Open Mouth, Insert Foot**

Tiffany Gibson

*Halloween*, the plot centered around descriptive death scenes and scare tac-

isn't his motive to kill her and all his family members?

My theory is that *Zombie* took the scene that took place between Jamie Lloyd, played by Danielle Harris and Michael Meyers from *Halloween 5: The Revenge Of Michael Meyers* and threw it in at the end of his film.

Another thing that doesn't make sense is the continuation of the *Scream* saga after almost eight years.

Dimension Films announced that they want to make a *Scream 4* but plan to do so without Director Wes Craven and Neve Campbell.

films, so why is a fourth being brought into question?

The *Scream* movies are revolutionary to the genre, but the only reason why another installment is being brought up is for monetary purposes. The previous three proved to be box office hits, but they were also released in a specific time period with the same characters, screenwriter and director. Without all of these components, there's no guarantee that this film won't be a huge flop.

Money is the main issue for movie studios, because like anything else, the film industry is a business. The sad thing is that this business thinks that it can make money off of previous films and draw audiences to theaters to watch the shocking rather than appreciate the concept.

If studios continue remaking horror films, then what will younger generations have to cherish as the scariest movies of their time? Ideas are, indeed, scarce, but all it takes is a little creativity and passion to make a decent film. It takes more than that to create a long lasting heroine or villain that people will love, but searching for that is better than stealing someone else's ideas and works.

**“New complex scripts or gruesome scenes don't exactly grab my attention. I want the heart and passion behind the idea of the film, which can only be found in the original.”**

tics more than the plot and legend of Michael Meyers. *Zombie* confused audiences with the plot twist at the end, where Michael Meyers offers a peace offering to the character of Laurie Strode.

In the original, Michael Meyers never offered Strode an outlet to get away. Why would he want to? After all,

As to how Dimension Films plans to pull this project off, I have no idea, because the storyline is closed. When Kevin Williamson wrote *Scream*, he said that he felt there was more to the story and that this could actually end up being a trilogy, which is rare in the horror genre.

A trilogy means three

## COMICS



## LETTERS

### Fight the proposed fee increase within the SGA Senate

Many students on campus are largely unaware of what the Student Government Association does; however, this Thursday (Oct. 9), the SGA Senate will vote to arbitrarily and unnecessarily increase the student activity fee.

If it comes to that—and we unfortunately think it will—a tuition hike will become a necessity.

McPhee said earlier this summer that MTSU began looking at the school's programs and how successful they were. He said the school is not going to wait until the cuts happen to come up with a plan.

And now that the cuts are

upon us, we hope the plan is

strong enough to save those

MTSU departments not

touted as "pinnacles"

of the school. Departments and

programs that might have

smaller student numbers

but are the foundations of

a strong and diverse public

university.

Two weeks ago, the Senate debated whether or not to double the current activity fee from \$20 to \$40. While this may seem like peanuts to some, the reasons behind this proposed increase were "we need more money" and "the fee hasn't been raised in a while," both equally invalid arguments for such an unnecessary proposal.

The measure was tabled

and will be debated again Thursday.

The interesting thing about this proposal is that it was suggested and supported by the SGA Sponsor, Dr. Gene Fitch, but the current SGA President, Sondra Wilson, as well as three former SGA Presidents, oppose the measure!

Students need to be aware of this arbitrary and unnec-

essary hike in the student activity fee.

For more information, visit the Facebook group: "Stop MTSU SGA from raising tuition."

It's time for students to rise up and tell the SGA Senate "NO" to arbitrary fee increases!

— Matthew Hurt  
Senior liberal arts

### 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 a phone number for verification. Sidelines will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, length and content.

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

## FACTS IN THE CROWD

### Did you watch the presidential debate on Tuesday night? If so, what did you think about the candidates?



Goodson

"I watched a small part. I haven't looked into the issues yet, but both had really good arguments."

Steven Goodson, sophomore undeclared



Richmond

"Yes. Barack Obama did an awesome job but McCain needs to work on his public speaking a little bit."

Megan Richmond, sophomore EMC



Bradford

"No. I've heard more about Sarah Palin than McCain. He might be smart, but I think he's out of touch."

Morgan Bradford, sophomore undeclared



Cummings

"No. I would have rather gone to a movie. I wanted Hillary to win."

Ashlee Cummings, sophomore social work

**WHO DO YOU THINK WON THE BELMONT DEBATE?**



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# FEATURES

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## Free the funk within

### SkyHi brings a taste of Latin soul to Murfreesboro

By LAURA RAINES  
Staff Writer

As people mill around Wall Street downstairs bar receiving free cigarettes and two-dollar tallboys Saturday night, the venue fills with fans waiting to see that funky little band known as SkyHi.

After an anticipated wait, Dee Adams, lead singer of the band, can be heard above the noise, wailing in his familiar singing voice. Upon hearing this, the crowd moves upstairs to the stage. The scene above is familiar for some. Tried and true SkyHi fans come in droves and gather in front of the stage to enjoy the show.

other six are Josh Sable on guitar, Tim Hawkins on bass, Aaron Heffron on alto sax and vocals, Nick Timmerman on tenor sax and vocals, Josh Cochran on keyboard, and Dave Singleton on drums.

"No matter what happens on stage, the atmosphere is always great," sax-player Aaron says.

With plenty of talent to fill a room, shows are never less than interesting and always please the ever-growing crowds. Fan Brittni Pitts is a regular at the band's shows around Murfreesboro and assures that SkyHi never disappoints.

"I try to make it out to all of the local SkyHi

**“In my opinion, SkyHi has already attained celebrity status, at least with the local people of Murfreesboro.”**

Kayla Shellman  
Fan of SkyHi

Beer flows as more and more people fill the intimate space provided by Wall Street. Girls and guys sway to the intoxicating beats and Latin rhythm of SkyHi's tunes.

"Tonight there weren't as many people here," Dee says confidently. "But with Marujah (another band that was performing) headlining, the fans are never too far away. We have close ties to Marujah and always love to collaborate with them."

As the band plays one of their longer instrumentals, Dee stands in the corner to groove and lets the others musical talents shine. Although he is the lead vocalist of this seven-man band, he knows that everyone is equally talented.

Along with Dee, the

shows," Pitts says as she sways to the music. "They are by far my favorite local group in Murfreesboro, or Nashville, for that matter."

Another fan nods and joins in on the praise.

"I've seen them like a thousand times, but it always feels like it's the first time," Brian Pinkie says. "They are always working on new ways to get the crowd on its feet."

With all the music connoisseurs in Murfreesboro and Nashville, fans sometimes get the feeling that it won't be long until Dee and the band hits the big leagues.

The band already has a big following, especially on the campus of MTSU. This is partly because Dee is an accounting student



Photo courtesy SkyHi

SkyHi's latest album, which includes the songs "Appreciate," "Do It" and "Klikkety Klakk" is available at [cdbaby.com/cd/skyhi](http://cdbaby.com/cd/skyhi).

at the university.

"In my opinion, SkyHi has already attained celebrity status, at least with the local people of Murfreesboro," fan Kayla Shellman says.

As the crowd at Wall Street gets one last song from the guys, Dee's pow-

erful voice, accompanied by a wailing sax, fades into the night. High-pitched screams fly frantically toward the stage, and hands reach out to touch the band members.

"We are currently working on a new album which will be self produced and recorded at the G.E.D. Soul Records studio," Aaron announces. "We will showcase the new material in all upcoming gigs."

As for what to expect from the new album, SkyHi says that, as opposed to their last album, which was all digital, they will go with an analog recording technique. This is to help mold the old-school sound the band is going for in the upcoming record.

"An analog console has a different flavor than digital and can be directly recorded onto a tape," explains Cory Johnson, senior recording industry

major. "Digital is binary (composed of two parts) as opposed to analog."

Cosette Collier, MTSU recording industry professor, tells her students that the difference between analog and digital is that analog is warmer and sounds real, whereas digital is cleaner sounding and presents less noise.

"There is a big debate in the industry about which method is better," Cosette explains. "Since the analog method is older, and tapes are less accessible, the digital technique is considered easier."

The yet-to-be named analog album is scheduled to drop in early 2009.

Ryan Baines says he recently became a fan of SkyHi and can't wait for their upcoming album.

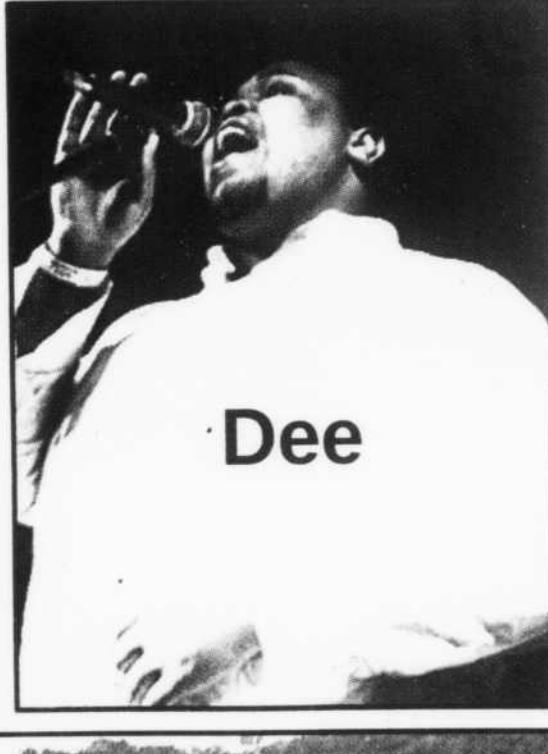
"This is the first time I have heard them play, but I absolutely love SkyHi," Ryan admits. "I haven't heard that kind of talent in a lot of shows I've been

to, even ones I've seen at the Sommet Center."

Classified as funk, soul and R&B, the guys of SkyHi say they get their influence from artists such as Stevie Wonder, Miles Davis, Bob Marley, Jimi Hendrix and Otis Redding. With his amazing vocals and a band worth supporting them, it's a wonder to many why Dee and the rest of SkyHi have not joined the stardom of such artists.

"To the fans, I want to thank you because anything I do that you show interest in lifts me up," Dee says. "It's the reason we do this."

If you haven't had the pleasure of hearing Murfreesboro's SkyHi live, your next chance is at Wall Street with former band of the week THB on October 31. You can also check them out on MySpace at [www.myspace.com/skyhi](http://www.myspace.com/skyhi). And as their motto goes, "Free tha funk within."



Photos courtesy SkyHi

SkyHi making outlookers groove at the Music on the Mountain festival in Boone, NC.

## Upcoming Shows

October 31 @ 10  
Wall Street Halloween Party  
w/ THB

November 14 @ 8  
Club 527

# SPORTS

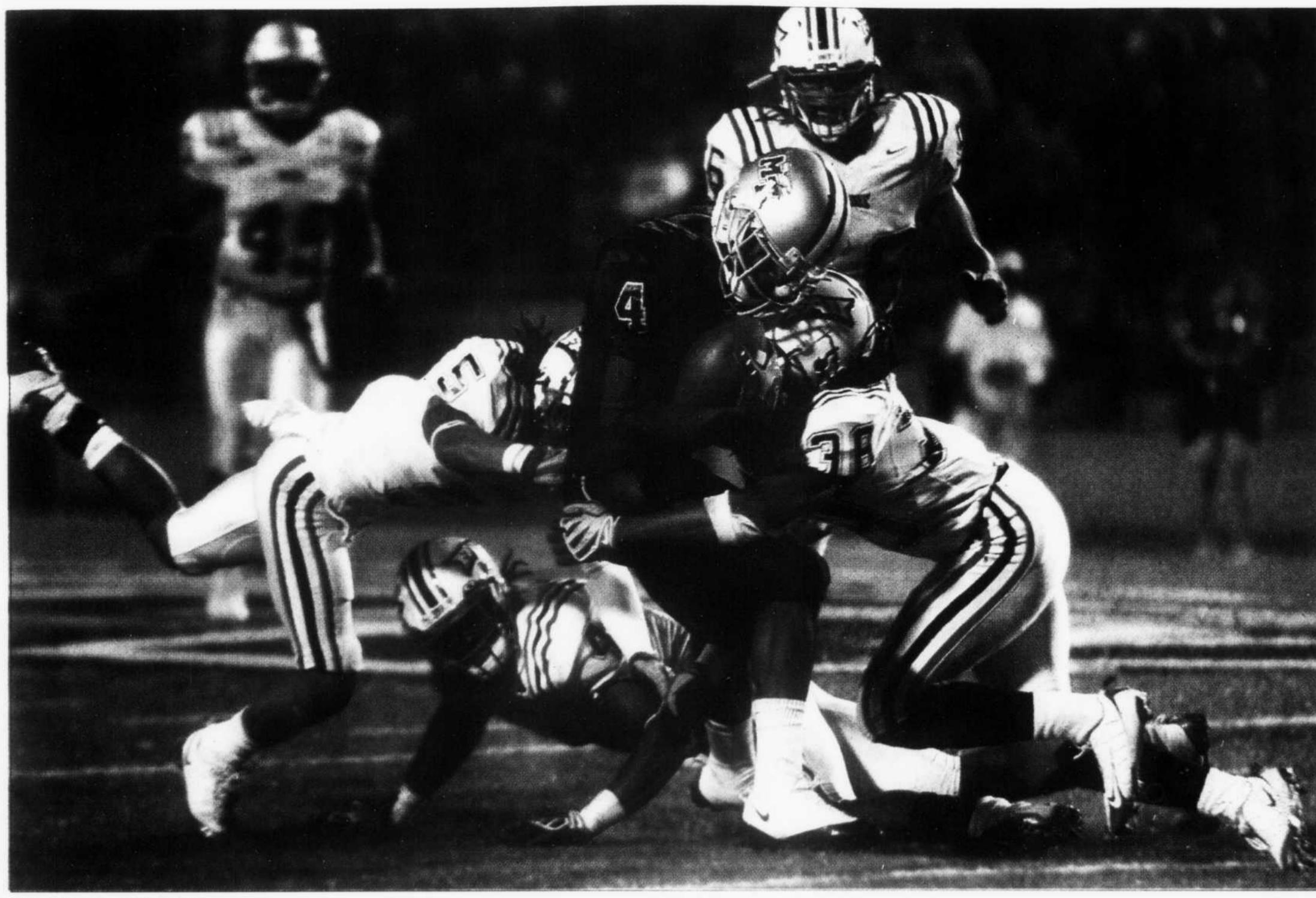


Photo by Alex Trenell, staff photographer

**MT freshman wide receiver Malcolm Beyah (4, black jersey) leads all freshman receivers in receiving yards per game with an 82.6-yard average. Beyah also leads MT with four receiving touchdowns.**

## Blue Raiders look to get even on the road

By CASEY BOWMAN  
Assistant Sports Editor

The Middle Tennessee Blue Raider football team will be back in action this Saturday when they head to the Sunshine State to battle Florida International University.

In what has been tabbed as a must win game, MT will have to forget about the previous teams that FIU has put on the field, for this year is different.

The Golden Panthers (2-3, 1-0) are coming off an impressive performance against conference foe North Texas, in which they dominated the Mean Green 42-10.

FIU, an annual bottom feeder of the Sun Belt Conference, will look to keep their season heading in the right direction. A win would thrust them into the upper echelon, and MT coach Rick Stockstill knows that FIU is no joke this week.

"We just have to correct our mistakes," Stockstill said. "It's not focus or how we start the game. We just have to come out of the blocks with the mentality that we are going to score, and we are going to score every drive."

MT quarterback Joe Craddock was also quick to acknowledge that MT has struggled early in games this season and acknowledged the importance of breaking that habit this week.

"I don't know what the problem is, and some of it may have to do with the defense out there. I do know we have to correct it and find ways to get in the end zone earlier in the game and not way until

the end," Craddock said.

If the Blue Raiders are to jump on the Golden Panthers early Saturday, statistically the odds are in their favor.

FIU has been outscored by opponents a total of 48-14 in first quarter action this season, albeit some of those games were played against Big XII national powerhouses like Kansas and Iowa.

One question remains in regards to the Blue Raider offense, and that is whether or not to completely abandon the running game this weekend.

Running back Phillip Tanner is listed as questionable for Saturday's match up. If Tanner cannot go, the running game will fall in the lap of Desmond Gee, who is a talented player, but has only tallied 93 net yards this season on 37 carries for a bleak 2.5 yards per carry average.

Stockstill and offensive coordinator G.A. Mangus will undoubtedly need to find ways to make the running game work. If they can't make that happen, then look for FIU to utilize their defensive speed to shut

down the MT passing attack.

Defensively, MT will look to stop an FIU offense that, although it hasn't been explosive, has been very consistent and reluctant to turn the ball over.

MT linebacker Danny Carmichael said that the MT defense is aware of the task at hand Saturday.

"Their offense is good. The

quarterback makes things happen, and he has good people around him. They have two veterans at running back, and they have some very talented receivers we must be aware of," Carmichael said.

The Blue Raider defense will look to stop the run against a talented FIU backfield, and also will try put

some pressure on FIU quarterback Paul McCall. To date, no Blue Raider has more than one sack on the season, and no defensive player has more than one interception.

Kickoff this Saturday will be at 6 p.m. at FIU Stadium. MT will follow up with another road game against Big East adversary Louisville.

<b>LEADERS</b>					
<b>PASSING</b>	<b>YARDS</b>	<b>TDs</b>	<b>PASSING</b>	<b>YARDS</b>	<b>TDs</b>
Joe Craddock	1344	7	Paul McCall	506	5
<b>RUSHING</b>	<b>YARDS</b>	<b>TDs</b>	<b>RUSHING</b>	<b>YARDS</b>	<b>TDs</b>
Phillip Tanner	191	3	A'mod Ned	183	2
<b>RECEIVING</b>	<b>YARDS</b>	<b>TDs</b>	<b>RECEIVING</b>	<b>YARDS</b>	<b>TDs</b>
Malcolm Beyah	413	4	T. Y. Hilton	284	3
<b>TACKLES</b>	<b>YARDS</b>	<b>TDs</b>	<b>TACKLES</b>	<b>YARDS</b>	<b>TDs</b>
Ivon Hickmon	36		Scott Bryant	42	
<b>SACKS</b>	<b>YARDS</b>	<b>TDs</b>	<b>SACKS</b>	<b>YARDS</b>	<b>TDs</b>
Eight players tied	1		Robert Mitchell	2	
<b>INT</b>	<b>YARDS</b>	<b>TDs</b>	<b>INT</b>	<b>YARDS</b>	<b>TDs</b>
Six players tied	1		Marshall McDuffie	2	

## Troy-FAU: Setting the Sun Belt back, one penalty at a time

As a student at a Sun Belt Conference school, I'm always excited when I see my favorite conference featured on national television.

Imagine my despair by the end of Tuesday's meeting between Florida Atlantic and Troy on Tuesday.

The Troy-FAU game was a stark contrast to Sept. 30's clash between MT and FAU that ended in dramatic fashion.

Considering most college football enthusiasts probably can't name three teams in the SBC, the FAU-MT game showed viewers that the Sun Belt can play ball, too.

Unfortunately, the Troy-FAU game might have destroyed all the good will created by MT's last-second victory.

The Trojans and Owls, es-



**Outside the pocket**  
**Chris Martin**

specially in the first quarter, played how those unfamiliar with teams would have expected them to play. There were nine penalties in the first quarter alone, and six of those were either false starts or offsides.

Through the course of a 60-minute contest, one would expect a few false starts and maybe an offside call, but six in one quarter just shows

a lack of concentration.

Further embarrassment was derived from the way FAU played. I've heard rumors that the Owls are not the classiest group of chums around, and they've done nothing to disprove that notion over the past two weeks.

Wide receiver Chris Bonner's personal foul against the Blue Raiders, where he ripped a MT player's helmet off despite not being involved in the play, was just one demonstration of FAU's lack of tact.

Between the MT and Troy games, the Owls have been called for three personal fouls and two illegal blocks in the back over their past two games.

Troy wasn't exempt from sloppiness either.

The Trojans, despite excellent field position, were un-

able to score as much as they should have considering all the turnovers the Owls committed.

The Trojans' average starting field position was at their own 43-yard line, and while they did score in the red zone six out of seven times, they could have performed better inside the 20-yard line.

Obviously, Troy isn't on the level of a team like Oklahoma, but one key to winning games is scoring touchdowns in the red zone. Now, one could argue the point is moot considering the final score was heavily in the Trojans' favor, but three of the six times they scored in the red zone, they came away with only a field goal.

Since the SBC is scratching and clawing for all the national recognition it can get,

teams on TV need to score touchdowns. The only time a field goal is exciting is in the last two minutes of a game.

The ineptitude of FAU didn't help make the game any better.

The Owls, for some inexplicable reason, have taken a huge step backward since their improbable 2007 run that ended with a SBC championship and a victory over Memphis in the New Orleans Bowl.

Favored to repeat as conference champs, the Owls have been unable to duplicate their success from last season despite the fact they returned nearly the entire team (18 starters) from a year ago.

FAU's star quarterback, Rusty Smith has looked absolutely horrendous this season, especially when his numbers

are compared with his stats from last year.

In '07, Smith completed 58.7 percent of his passes for 3,688 yards (28.7 per game), 32 touchdowns and nine interceptions.

Through six games this season, Smith is completing only 48.8 percent of his passes for 1,367 yards (22.8 per game) with five touchdowns and nine interceptions.

Since the contest between FAU and Troy was the last nationally televised SBC game until bowl season, the Sun Belt will just have to wait until next year for people to get the bitterness of this game out of their mouth.

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