



Photo by Bailey Ingram, photo editor

Safe at any base?

Despite more youth abstaining from sex, STD cases continue to rise

By AMANDA HAGGARD
Associate News Editor

A recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention survey shows that fewer teenagers and young adults between the ages of 15 and 24 years old

are having sex. The report, Sexual Behavior, Sexual Attraction and Sexual Identity in the United States, compiled data from men and women between 2006 and 2008. From 2006 to 2008, 29

percent of females and 27 percent of males 15 to 24 years old reported not having any sexual contact, compared with 22 percent in 2002. For the purposes of the survey sexual contact was defined as having engaged in oral,

vaginal or anal sex. The study is based on interviews conducted with about 5,300 young people. "It doesn't surprise me that less young people are having sex," said Nicki Hiller, a junior majoring

in English. "It does strike me as odd that all sexual activity is down." Hiller said she feels it is strange because of the overwhelming amount of sex portrayed in the media, but she understands that not having sex because

of a major issue it could cause - pregnancy. The CDC sexual behavior survey is considered the principal and most reliable on sexuality.

ABSTINENCE, PAGE 3



Photo by Bailey Ingram, photo editor
(From left) Professor James Norton receives a retirement gift from Dennis O'Neal, chair of the electronic media communication department, April 17 in the Learning Resources Center.

Longtime professor retires from college

By RICHARD LOWE
Multimedia Manager

Professor James "Jim" Norton was honored by students and faculty for his 35 years of service to the university community Sunday, during the photo department's annual student showcase.

Norton, who teaches in the department of electronic media communication, was surprised by with a small reception of gifts and awarded a plaque, commemorating his long career.

Norton graduated from MTSU in 1967, and he has

PHOTO, PAGE 3

Homecoming theme announced

By APRIL BAILEY
Staff Writer

In honor of the university's centennial celebration, this year's homecoming theme will be "Look to the Future, Remember the Past," said Donald Abels, homecoming director.

Abels said there three themes were proposed and put to a vote. The other two themes were "Always MT" and "Traditions of Excellence."

Students, alumni and faculty were able to vote for the theme and "Look to the Future, Remember the Past" won the majority vote.

"I think this theme expresses more of a centennial feel [and] there is a lot more activities we can do with it,"

he said. He said although last year's theme, "Bright Lights, Blue City," was a good theme, he did not want this year's to be too "cartoonish." He wanted to put the focus on the fact that the university is celebrating its 100th birthday.

Some of last year's homecoming activities produced a higher participation rate than ever before, Abels said, adding that one of the goals will be to keep that momentum going and include even more student organizations.

"Our events last year went great, but we want to



top that [and] increase the sensation," Abels said. He said the committee wants to put greater emphasis on the homecoming parade.

Abels said the goal is to make homecoming bigger and better than ever with new activities and events. He said the homecoming committee hopes to have every department participate in the celebration by either painting or decorating their offices blue.

"We want blue and white everything," Abels said.

Some students said they understand the meaning behind the theme and think it applies well to MTSU's centennial year.

Allan Matoushaya, a graduate student in the College of Business, said the them sounds "like

something from 'Star Trek,'" but when you apply it to the university, it fits well. He added that although he probably will not be able to participate in any of the homecoming events, the concepts behind the theme could be successful.

"In order to know where you're going, you have to know where you've been," Matoushaya said.

Leigh Rose, a junior majoring in psychology, said she thinks the theme is unique to the university.

"It's a good, optimistic theme - I like the idea of focusing more on the future," Rose said.

Homecoming is scheduled to begin Oct. 1, and other events will follow throughout the rest of the month.

SGA to tackle several pieces of legislation

By TODD BARNES
News Editor

Members of the Student Government Association discussed several pieces of legislation Thursday, ranging from placing bicycle tire pumps and more recycling bins on campus to increasing information flow with students.

The three pieces of legislation are Resolution 19-11-S, Resolution 20-11-S and Resolution 21-11-S.

At-Large Sen. Katie Bogle sponsored Resolution 19-11-S, which would place two compressed air bicycle pumps on campus with "a minimal cost to the university." The

proposed locations are at the Business and Aerospace Building and at Andrew L. Todd hall, which houses the Todd Art Gallery, bike racks. "This [legislation] was actually written by a student and sent to me to see this done," Bogle said.

The maintenance budget would allow for the bicycle pumps to be installed, and \$50 will be put back every year to maintain the pumps, if needed.

"A good bicycle pump costs \$50," Bogle said. "So, we're saying at most a year, this is what would be necessary."

Although the senate seemed to favor the legislation,



Photo by Drew Gardonia, staff photographer
Sen. Cody Smith of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences discusses the need for more recycling bins on campus April 14 during the Student Government Association meeting, held in the Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building.

questions were raised on same inflation nozzles. "Mountain bikes have

different valves than other bikes with the really skinny tires," said Sen. Alex Lewis of the College of Liberal Arts. "It's a different valve."

Boglesaid two pumps could possibly be different from one another as a solution, but she will look into the matter further.

Sen. Cody Smith of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences sponsored Resolution 20-11-S, which would place recycling bins on Greek Row.

However, Sen. Rachel Lee of the College of Liberal Arts said she wrote legislation like this during a previous term.

"Last year, I did the exact

same resolution and asked for four [recycling bins], so hopefully, we could at least get one," Lee said. "We went out and talked to recycling [officials] and [they] were cool with it, and [the legislation] passed, and they were like 'Yeah we're going to do this.' So, if [the bins] aren't there right now, then I don't know if more follow-up action has to be taken, or if they [don't want] to do it at all."

Smith said he was unaware of the past legislation.

Sen. Lindsey Austin of the College of Liberal Arts asked where on Greek Row the

rest of the month.

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One local theater captures the zeitgeist of the college community through engaging performances.
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EXCLUSIVELY ONLINE



View photos from the Rites of Spring music festival held this weekend in Nashville.
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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NATIONAL AP NEWS

Well-renowned orchestra to file for bankruptcy protection

PHILADELPHIA – The world-renowned Philadelphia Orchestra will be filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

Orchestra board chairman Richard Worley says the decision was made after an emotional meeting of the board Saturday. Officials say they'll make the filing in a federal bankruptcy court in Philadelphia.

Worley says the orchestra is running low on cash and has been running a deficit. But, officials say concerts and business operations will continue, and a fundraising campaign is planned to try to save the 111-year-old orchestra, traditionally considered one of the best in the nation.

Gasoline prices keep rising, expected to continue climb

NEW YORK – Drivers in Washington, D.C., are now, on average, paying more than \$4 per gallon for gasoline. Five states already have gas prices above \$4 per gallon and New York could join them early next week.

The average price of gas rose to \$4.003 per gallon in the nation's capitol Saturday, according to AAA's Daily Fuel Gauge. The New York average is \$3.996.

The national average for gas has increased for 25 straight days and is now \$3.82 per gallon. Hawaii has the highest price in the U.S. at \$4.47 per gallon.

For American drivers, the \$4 mark harkens back to the summer of 2008, when oil rose to \$147 per barrel and gas prices topped out at \$4.11 per gallon before the economy went into a tailspin.

Machine arrives for rescuers trying to find missing miner

MULLAN, Idaho – Mining company officials have brought in a remote-controlled digging machine to try to reach a worker missing in a northern Idaho mine.

The special digger must be disassembled before being taken more than a mile below the surface, where it will be put back together.

The missing miner hasn't been heard from since Friday, when a tunnel collapsed at the Lucky Friday Mine as two brothers were working. One of the men was able to escape.

Officials say it's unclear if the entire 75-foot section collapsed, or only a portion of it, possibly leaving the miner trapped on the other side. The missing man, 53-year-old Larry Marek, is a 30-year mining veteran.

LOCAL AP NEWS

VW almost ready to start rolling out new Passat line

CHATTANOOGA – With production starting up, workers building the new Passat at Volkswagen's new plant in Chattanooga say it's a winner.

Volkswagen Group of America's Chattanooga Operations says in a statement that the first 2012 Passats will roll off the line in coming days to be sold in the second half of this year.

This Passat, unlike its predecessor with the same name and a base price of about \$27,000, will have a base sticker price around \$20,000 when it hits showrooms.

A maintenance technician who works on robots at the \$1 billion plant, Auby Longley, said he knows what has gone into preparing for the start of production. Longley said he has driven the car and wants to buy one.

Low enrollment causes TSU to cancel several programs

NASHVILLE – Tennessee State University Interim President Portia Shields has canceled seven unpopular degree programs in a cost-cutting move. Among them is the Africana studies program.

Also pared were bachelor's degree programs in foreign languages and physics; a specialist's degree in school psychology; and master's degrees in English, mathematics and music education, according to *The Tennessean*. A report this year showed the programs had, on average, fewer than 10 graduates per year.

Shields says the university can't be all things to all people and must position itself to become stronger. The university will receive \$7 million less from the state next fiscal year.

The Tennessee Board of Regents must approve the changes.

Republican Party committee rejects call for closed primary

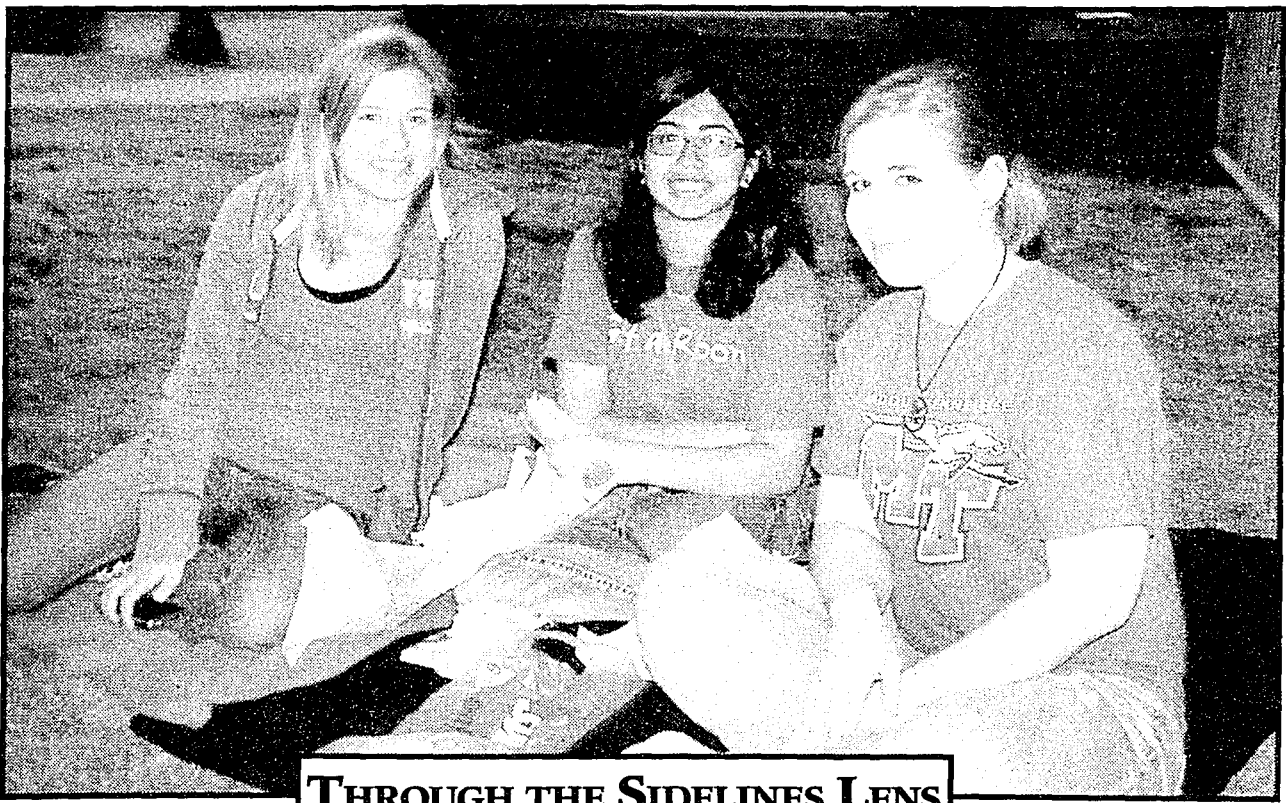
NASHVILLE – The executive committee of the state Republican Party has rejected a proposal to require party registration to vote in Tennessee primaries.

The panel nixed the proposal on a voice vote at a meeting in Nashville on Saturday.

Tennessee voters aren't registered by party, and voters often decide in which primary to participate depending on campaign developments.

Committee member Mark Winslow, a former executive director of the party, introduced the proposal to keep Democrats from voting in Republican primaries and county party organization sessions.

Any change in voting laws would have to be approved by the General Assembly, where Republicans have wide majorities in both chambers.



THROUGH THE SIDELINES LENS

Photo by Andy Harper, design manager
(From left) Freshmen Lacey Johnson, an elementary education major, lounges on a blanket with Samira Shirazi, a biology major, and Ashtyn Davis, a graphic design major, before watching "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1" April 17 on The Knoll outside of the Keathley University Center. The outdoor showing was sponsored by Student Programming.

Administrators name new dean of Liberal Arts

STAFF REPORT

Administrators announced Friday that Mark Byrnes has been chosen as the new dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

Byrnes, a Murfreesboro native, has served as acting and interim dean following the illness and death of John N. McDaniel, who served as the college's dean for more than 26 years.

"The entire university community respects him and looks forward to his upcoming leadership of the College of Liberal Arts," University Provost Brad Bartel said.

Byrnes has taught political science since 1991 and was the associate dean for the college from 2006 to 2009.

"Liberal Arts is a large and diverse college, serving 3,600 majors and, through the general education program, virtually every MTSU student," Byrnes said.

A graduate of MTSU who earned his master's degree and doctorate at Vanderbilt University, Byrnes was also the recipient of one of the MTSU Foundation's 2010 Public Service Awards.

"I'm excited about the opportunity to lead the college and plan to continue its tradition of focusing on students and supporting our faculty and staff," Byrnes said.

As dean, Byrnes will direct 10 academic departments offering 20 bachelor's degrees, five master's degrees and two doctorates, as well as almost 20 interdisciplinary majors and minors, and 10 different centers and programs.

The new dean also serves as chairman of the Rutherford County School Board, elected by his fellow school board members. He is currently serving his second two-year term, which began in 2004.

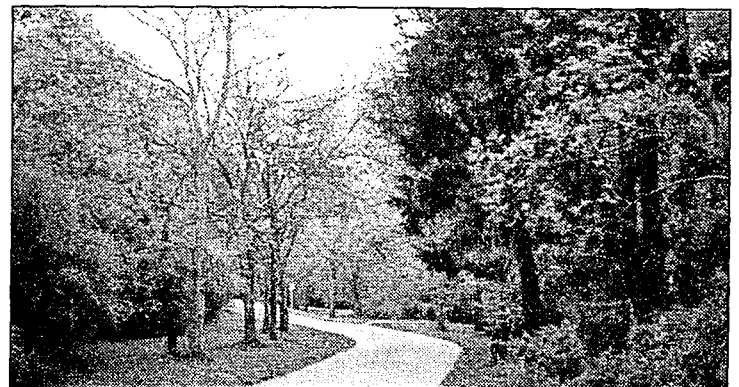


Photo by Bailey Ingram, photo editor
Located just behind Rivermont Apartments off of Thompson Lane, trees in full bloom line the Stones River Greenway on April 17 in Murfreesboro.

Greenway to be extended

STAFF REPORT

A new section of trails are set to open on the Stones River Greenway on April 26, once several trees are removed and trimmed along the new portion.

The extension from Old Fort Park to Barfield Crescent Park is divided into four phases. Phases 1 and 2 will connect the trail past the Cason Trailhead to State Route 99, commonly referred to as Salem Highway.

Angela Jackson, assistant director Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Department, said the trees that will be removed or trimmed are in and around approximately a 3/4 mile area of Phase 2, and access to Phase 3 must be safe in order to open the next to last phase of the project.

Phase 3 will connect to the point where the middle fork splits from the west fork of Stones River and Phase 4 will connect the trail to Barfield Crescent Park.

Phase 3, which has already been initiated, will add one mile of 13-foot-wide trail and one overlook, fencing and landscaping.

Phase 2 is three miles of 13-foot-wide trail which has a large trailhead with pavilions and restroom, two overlooks, several boardwalk sections, a major bridge crossing over the Stones River, a smaller bridge, fencing, entry signage and landscaping.

Jackson said that while parts of the trail are nearly ready to go, the city is asking that people remain off of the closed trails until the project is finished.

"They are closed for your safety," Jackson said. "We will be working hard to get them open as soon as we can."

The new extensions follow the west fork of the Stones River and comprise an overlook of Farmer Lake, she said.

"We are very proud of the Murfreesboro greenway system," Jackson said, "and we are looking forward to opening this newest section."

LOCAL EVENTS CRIME BRIEFS

ON CAMPUS

<p>Clothesline Project April 18 - 19, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. KUC Knoll Tickets: FREE</p>	<p>Silent Disco April 20, 12 p.m. KUC Knoll Tickets: FREE</p>
<p>Take Back the Night April 19, 6 p.m. KUC Knoll Tickets: FREE</p>	<p>Earth Day Celebrations April 21, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. KUC Knoll Tickets: FREE</p>
<p>Larry Gibson: "Keeper of the Mountains" April 19, 7 p.m. BAS Building State Farm Room Tickets: FREE</p>	<p>Spring Concert MTSU Dance Theatre April 21, 7 p.m. Boutwell Dramatic Arts Building Tucker Theatre Tickets: FREE</p>

OFF CAMPUS

<p>Skeletonwitch April 20, 7 p.m. The Muse Tickets: \$8/Advance, \$10/Door</p>	<p>MTSU After Dark April 21, 10 p.m. - 2 a.m. Go Fun USA Tickets: FREE</p>
<p>Young Buck with Ski Hi and Streetlight Allstars April 20, 9 p.m. Gilligans Tickets: \$10</p>	<p>"13: The Musical" April 22 - 23, 7:30 p.m. Keeton Theatre 108 Donelson Pike Tickets: \$15</p>
<p>"Burn This" April 21 - 24, 7:30 p.m. Out Front on Main Tickets: \$10</p>	<p>"Oklahoma" April 22 - 23 7:30 p.m. Murfreesboro Center for the Arts Tickets: \$12</p>

<p>Assault April 13, 4:31 p.m. Gore Hall Two students were involved in an altercation. Officers were notified of the incident after it had broken up, and the matter remains under investigation.</p>	<p>Theft April 13, 6:51 p.m. Corlew Hall A complainant reported that his bicycle was stolen.</p>
<p>Vandalism April 13, 6:16 p.m. Scarlett Commons, Apartment 2 A complainant reported that a black male had damaged her vehicle by jumping on it.</p>	<p>Traffic April 14, 11:38 p.m. James E. Walker Library A complainant reported that her vehicle had been struck while parked in the lot behind the building.</p>
<p>Assault April 13, 6:31 p.m. Scarlett Commons, Apartment 3 A complainant reported that her boyfriend had assaulted her.</p>	<p>Alcohol April 15, 3:09 a.m. Rutherford Boulevard Brock Ballou, 19, was arrested for driving under the influence and charged with violation of the implied consent law.</p>

CRIME STOPPERS

A cash reward of up to \$1000 is being offered for information that leads to the arrest of the person or persons who stole a Rogue Acoustic Guitar from Cummings Hall on March 5.

A cash reward of up to \$1,000 is being offered for information that leads to the arrest of the person or persons who are stealing computer equipment from the second floor of Andrew L. Todd Hall. The items were stolen March 21 and March 23.

Anyone with information about these incidents should contact MTSU Crime Stoppers at 615-898-2424. All callers will remain anonymous.

CORRECTION

In the April 7 article, "Muslim students bring to light love of religion through poetry," Kahin Mohammad's name was misspelled as Kahim Mohammad.

Sidelines regrets these errors.

EVENTS POLICY

Sidelines welcomes current campus and community events submitted by all readers. Please e-mail events@snews@mtsu.edu. Include the name, date, time and location of the event, as well as your name and contact information. We reserve the right to refuse events at our discretion as our space is limited.

Study finds correlation between women's education level, number of sexual partners

ABSTINENCE FROM PAGE 1

Anjani Chandra, a health scientist for the CDC, described the decline as significant in an interview with *The New York Times*. Chandra helped conduct the study.

She said she did not want to consider reasons for the decline.

This study also focused on oral and anal sex among teens and young adults. It was prompted by concerns that some young people "may engage in other types of sexual contact before they have vaginal intercourse, to avoid the risk of pregnancy. In addition to placing themselves at risk of STIs, some studies have documented that engaging in these other types of sexual contact may accelerate young people's initiation of vaginal intercourse," according to the study.

Chandra said it is complicated to look for sex trends prior to 2002 because previous surveys did not collect as much specific data about various forms of sex.

Another study by the CDC shows a slight drop in overall teenage pregnancy rates.

Hiller said she thinks young adults might be becoming more aware of how their actions affect their lives. She said her reasoning

for abstaining from sex is due to her roots in Christianity.

"I think being in school has a lot to do with trying to remain from being sexual active, but God has a lot to do with it too," she said.

Hiller added that many of her friends are choosing to abstain from sexual activity as well.

In ages 22 to 44, for women more so than for men, the report indicated higher educational achievement was linked with lower percentages with 15 or more partners in lifetime.

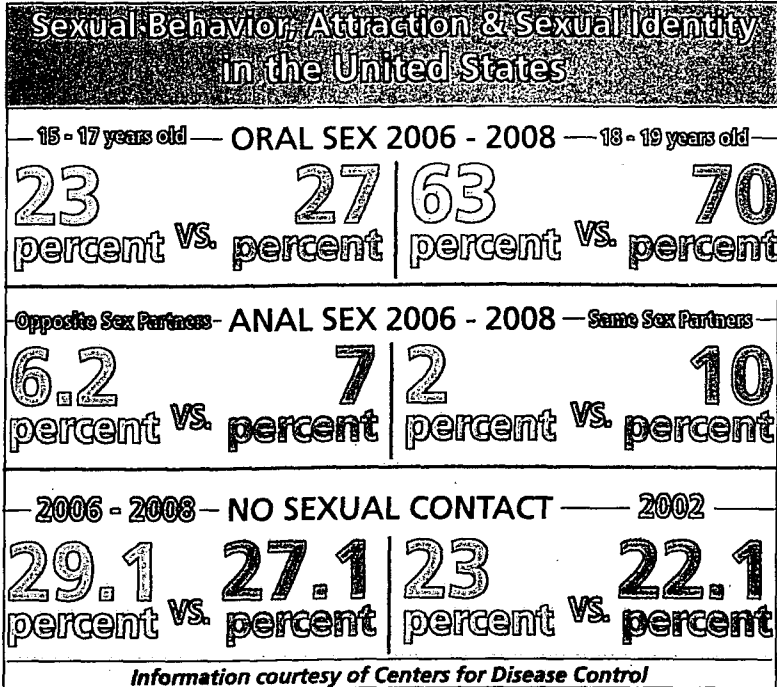
While about 12 percent of women with lower levels of education reported 15 or more partners, about 7 percent with bachelor's degrees or higher reported 15 or more partners.

In regard to same-sex sexual experiences, neither men nor women indicated a significant difference in educational background.

David Holland, a senior in the College of Liberal Arts, said as a gay student, he limits his sexual activity because he does not think having a relationship is the best idea during college.

"I don't want to have sex outside of a relationship," Holland said. "It's just never a good idea. It complicates things in a way I can't handle when I'm trying to get good grades."

The report shows that 27 percent of boys aged 15 and



Graphic by Andy Harper, design manager

23 percent of girls aged 15 have had oral sex with an opposite-sex partner.

Holland said that when he was in high school in 2003, many of his friends had not yet engaged in intercourse but had engaged in oral sex.

"I'm not saying it's safer," Holland said. "But, it does come with less baggage."

Hiller said she remembers other students talking about sex, but that many of them looked at it from a standpoint of, "I can always have sex when I'm out of high school," adding that now that she is in college she feels she should wait even longer.

At ages 18 to 19, those percentages are 70 percent for boys and 63 percent for girls.

Among those aged 15 to 17, about 6 percent of boys and 7 percent of girls have had anal sex with an opposite-sex partner.

"People are probably more likely to engage in oral sex because there are less consequences," Hiller said.

Holland agreed, adding that there are consequences of engaging in oral and anal sex, including a potentially higher risk for STIs, even though they may abstain from vaginal intercourse.

About half of all STIs appear among persons aged 15 to 24 years old, and the medical cost of these diseases for that age group alone was estimated to be more than \$6.5 billion in 2006, according to the study.

Appreciation showcased

PHOTO FROM PAGE 1

since spent his time teaching students the art of photography, helping them to prepare for events just like yesterday's showcase.

The program selected 20 students to have their photos on display until June 20.

"The student exhibit is a juried exhibit," said Tom Jimison, a photography professor, who serves as the curator for the Baldwin Photographic Gallery. "When we get the work together, I jury the showdown from what was submitted. We hung probably about half of what was submitted."

"It's very nice to be able to present my work someplace that's very well respected," said Sean Pietzsch, a junior majoring in photography.

This year's show is the final student one in the LRC, according to Roy Moore, dean of the College of Mass Communication. There are tentative plans to build a gallery inside of the Mass Communication Building. Until then, future student showcases are likely to be held in the James E. Walker Library.

For Anna Houser, sophomore majoring in photography, the opportunity to submit her work in future student shows is something she looks forward to.

"If there is another student show, I will always submit [my work] because it's super cool to be in it," Houser said.

Senators prepare for final meeting of spring semester

SGA FROM PAGE 1

recycling bins would be placed.

"We got this idea originally from one of the presidents on Greek Row," Smith said. "He was talking about potentially placing paper recycling bins in their computer labs, but also a can and bottle recycle bin beside the dumpsters on either end."

Smith also sponsored Resolution 21-11-S, which is called the Right to Know Act. It would

require the executive officers to write a formal e-mail to students about situations that would affect parking and travel.

"Students should have the option to receive a more personal update in the form of an e-mail of all the happenings on campus that may affect parking and travel to and from their classes than a PipelineMT announcement," Smith said.

Vice President Samantha Cobb asked SGA adviser Danny Kelley, dean of Student Affairs, if there was a formal e-mail sent to students.

Kelly replied that as a faculty member, he receives an e-mail from Parking and Transportation Services and thought that students did as well.

"I've never gotten one," Cobb said.

Additionally, she said students might skip over informal announcements.

"I know when sometimes [students] see something like 'university announcement,' [they] don't read past the first two sentences," Cobb said. "I don't think anybody does."

Some senators said they believe the job of sending formal e-mails out may be too much for the executive officers. They wanted to know whether a committee should be formed to conduct more research.

Cobb said that possibly the External Affairs committee could handle the research, but the legislation is still in its early phases of construction.

The senate will vote on all of the proposed resolutions Thursday during the last SGA meeting of the spring semester.

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FEATURES

Edginess on the edge of campus

Out Front on Main isn't your average playhouse.

Photo courtesy of George Manus Jr., theater director

Actors Buddy Jones and Justin Hand mix the dark humor and violent emotion of the "The Pillowman's" interrogation scenes in a pitch that immediately draws the audience in.

By JOE ZIKE
Contributing Writer

Two thin men in white shirts and dark slacks talked quickly while one of them waved an intimidating gun. Thirty feet from them, a woman stood next to a crown of thorns and played with blood. On a table next to her was a safety deposit box filled with toes. A cross stood against the wall, and a young girl painted herself green.

That was the scene backstage April 1 at Out Front On Main, Inc., a few minutes before show time.

Out Front is "theatre by the people and for the people," and it promises to produce "contemporary, edgy and thought-provoking" theater.

The audience took its seats, the lights dimmed and George Manus, Jr., founder and executive director of Out Front, approached the table at center stage to welcome the crowd and thank them for celebrating Out Front's one year anniversary at 1511 E. Main St., right next to the university.

"I would like to warn you that there are very disturbing images and sounds throughout the show," Manus said, as he introduced the play.



Photo courtesy of George Manus Jr., theater director

"The Pillowman" is set in an unnamed totalitarian state, and is centered around a writer enveloped in his art whom is interrogated for a number of child murders.

It was a disclaimer offered to audience members unfamiliar with Martin McDonagh's "The Pillowman."

"It's very edgy, bloody and intense," said Brenna Todd, a sophomore majoring in theater, cast as the "Little Jesus Girl" who is crucified by her foster parents. "Being crucified, it's not something that happens to you every day."

Self-immolation is just one of many themes in "The Pillowman." An avowed Baptist, she said that the play is "a lot more than people think."

Set in an unnamed totalitarian state, "The Pillowman" is centered on a writer enveloped in his art who is interrogated for a number of child murders.

The play opens with the writer Katorian, played by Buddy Jones, wearing a hood over his head in an interrogation room. Two police officers, Tupolski and Ariel, played by Justin Hand and Andy Woloszyn respectively, walk in and the questioning begins. Jones, Hand and Woloszyn mix the dark humor and violent emotion of the play in a pitch that immediately draws the audience in.

Violence, torture and fratricide are displayed in powerful images, and the story moves along in a narrative that is unsettling yet calm at times. Its dark comedy pulls laughter from an unsuspecting audience without losing its intensity, and seconds later it blankets the shocked crowd with silence.

It disorients a person's notions of tragedy. With

"The Pillowman," Out Front delivered on its threefold promise.

"I like shows that make you think," Manus said.

His dedication to edgy and thought-provoking theater has attracted a diverse crowd.

"We've had students majoring in aerospace, political science, English, theater and psychology act in our shows," Manus said.

He loves being close to the university. There is a lot of talent here, and Out Front serves as an outlet for expression that is not always found on campus.

"There are things you can do here that you can't do at school," said Jared Pickett, a junior majoring in theater who played Michal in "The Pillowman."

Pickett said he's never been in a play like this before where his character is handicapped.

"I approached it like I was playing a child," Pickett said.

"I read the play a year ago and fell head over heels for it. It's just so well-written. We did the play with only one month of rehearsals. It was an interesting challenge I was ready to take."

Out Front is a place where shows are meant to challenge

"At first, I didn't have high expectations about this, for \$5 it is absolutely worth it. I'm sold on plays now."

AMOULOM PHIMPHIVONG
SOPHOMORE, ACCOUNTING

the actors and the audience members, and it seems that Manus has always been embracing challenge.

After graduating from MTSU's theater department a few years ago – a request for the specific date resulted in the admonishment: "Don't ask that question!" – Manus started producing his own shows.

People took notice and wanted to be a part of that edgy energy. Manus took a job with the Rutherford County Center for the Arts and worked with them for a number of years with the understanding that he would be able to



Photo courtesy of George Manus Jr., theater director

Actresses Kelly Mitchell and Leah Fincher assume the roles of youthful rebellion in "Dog Sees God."



Photo courtesy of George Manus Jr., theater director

Philip Storvik and Leah Fincher find their tact for the dramatic scenes of "Dog Sees God."

do more challenging shows.

"In 10 years of existence, they had never done an African-American show," Manus said.

He put on August Wilson's "Fences," and it sold out every night. Excited by the success of the show, he wanted to do another one, but the commission for the Center for the Arts was less enthusiastic. One commission member told Manus that "we don't seek out exclusively white shows, so we don't think we should seek out exclusively black shows" for production.

"That stance really made me consider where I was working," Manus said.

Eventually, he went his own way, and since founding Out Front, he has received a lot of support from the center.

"People are taking notice of what we're doing," he said. The audience is as diverse as the material, and the feedback has been great so far.

"It was like watching Edgar Allen Poe in the dark," said Adam Gimenez, a junior majoring in music, of "The Pillowman."

Anoulom Phimphivong, a sophomore majoring in accounting, had never been to a play before and said he was blown away with this first experience.

"At first, I didn't have high expectations about this," Phimphivong said. "For \$5 it is absolutely worth it. I'm sold on plays now."

This month, Out Front will be performing "Burn This," by Lanford Wilson, and for one night only on Wednesday, they will perform the "Marijuana-Logues."

"It's basically poking fun at worry, anxiety and really the fear of this drug," said Leah Fincher, director of the show.

Theater can poke fun at certain mores and turn serious matters into comic relief. But sometimes, it's much more personal.

"I did a monologue for a women's recovery center about women-trafficking and rape," Fincher said. "I've never been through that. I've never experienced that. But, you give a monologue to someone who's been through that and they start tearing up – that's when theater's relevant."

Fincher said she really respects the work George is doing.

"It's important because theater is relevant," she says. Most shows run four nights a week for three weeks. General admission is \$10, but the price for students and seniors is \$5. It's cheaper than a movie for live, thought-provoking entertainment.

"This is a great establishment," one patron noted. "You come here, and you'll know good work 'cause you see it."

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OPINIONS

Sidelines is the editorially independent, student-produced newspaper affiliated with Middle Tennessee State University and the College of Mass Communication. *Sidelines* publishes Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and online during June and July. The opinions expressed herein are those of individual writers and not necessarily *Sidelines* or the university.

Pardon my French, but laissez-faire

The free market is not a popular idea, from *The Grumbling Hive* of commerce that embraces the vices as a necessary condition for prosperity, to the *Creative Destruction* that brings about a positive change in society through economic evolution.



Josh Fields
Columnist

Yet, even with all of its harshest critics, none have been able to deny that the market is the most efficient means of production. Likewise, in the words of economist Milton Friedman, "the operation of the free market is so essential, not only to promote productive efficiency but even more, to foster harmony and peace among the peoples of the world."

Still, it is through fierce debate that we establish the rules by which our economic freedoms can reside. The problems that are established with these rules of law are abhorrent to the process of dynamic markets because law and government, as they should be, are relatively constant.

As new laws are cast into the dynamic light of market processes, the shadows cast can very often leave many in the dark. As institutions age, the bureaucracy of government strangles their ability to adapt, yet a streamlined government is a threat to liberty itself.

The well-intentioned men and women responsible for these outcomes more often than not seek to remove the perceptual nature of the stultifying effects of labor on the human spirit. Despite being seemingly moral in their actions, they generally destroy the incentive for men to seek out commerce and innovation.

A society without the tangible and intangible rights of man alike cannot operate as an effective marketplace.

As with the poem *The Grumbling Hive*, by Bernard de Mandeville, the restoration of man's view of virtue may be accompanied by poverty and primitive conditions. I've heard many conversations on campus, which reflect the desire for a return to their perception of heaven on earth, but very often these actions create the most hellish conditions.

Though the market isn't entirely free, and never will be, the liberalization of global marketplaces has lifted more people out of poverty in the past decade than in any point in human history. The perceived demise of

America hasn't been due to the passing of U.S. industry due to comparative advantages of foreign nations, rather it has been due to the failure of U.S. institutional structures.

Education and the withering middle class nearly go in tandem. The fact is that our education system has been so static in its teachings that it has been unable to adapt to the market demands. Meanwhile, many of our industries have become unwilling to innovate because the long-standing tradition is comfortable, and our education system merely encourages its continuation.

So, while it is easy to blame our lack of adaptive abilities on the market, it is very often our static institutions and laws which hamper the ability for human intuition to fuel innovation and establish the creative destruction that is needed for economic evolution. So, if you will, pardon my French, but laissez-faire.

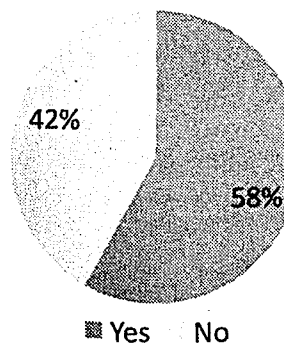
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- ☑ "Congrats to MTSU baseball team for winning its series with Troy. Could this be the turning point for the Blue Raiders?" - Tom Kreager
- ☑ "Congrats to all the new Sigmas at MTSU!" - C. Mance
- ☑ "MTSU VS TSU Talentshow this Thursday!" - Arielle Woodmore

Negotiations to continue over federal budget

- ☑ "Goodbye pell grants..." - Darrell Ray Land

Politics not set by absolutes

Communist, socialist, and anti-capitalist; these terms have not only been tied to the president but now have been extended to Democrats as well as liberals. Is this assumption really fair?

The argument can be torn apart with reason and by simply looking at this generalization. Communism is a complete fiscal and social takeover of all businesses and people's lives. Socialism is a fiscal policy to force a more equalized society. This provides two questions: Are all businesses owned by the government? Are ghettos gone from the United States?

Since neither of these answers is yes, we can scratch out communism and socialism taking over the country. Now this brings up a new question.

Can one be a fiscal conservative and be a social liberal? I would argue that many people fall under this category that are in fact Democrats and some Republicans.

To say that all liberals are communists and socialists is simply not a true statement. The Emancipation Proclamation is a very liberal document, but it is not *The Communist Manifesto*, by Karl Marx.

Why not, is this not liberal? Aren't all liberal things communist to those that make this argument? The answer is obviously no. This is because there are fiscal liberals (economic principles) and social liberals (all people should have equal civil rights).

There can be an intertwining of policies at times and this is where the confusion is found, but



Spencer Douglas
Columnist

there is still a distinction. Healthcare is an example of a social liberal policy being translated into a fiscal policy. Another more obvious example we deal with in life is affirmative action.

These policies are put in place by a large number of social liberals, but it does not necessarily mean that those who are socially liberal will approve of the policy because they see the cost.

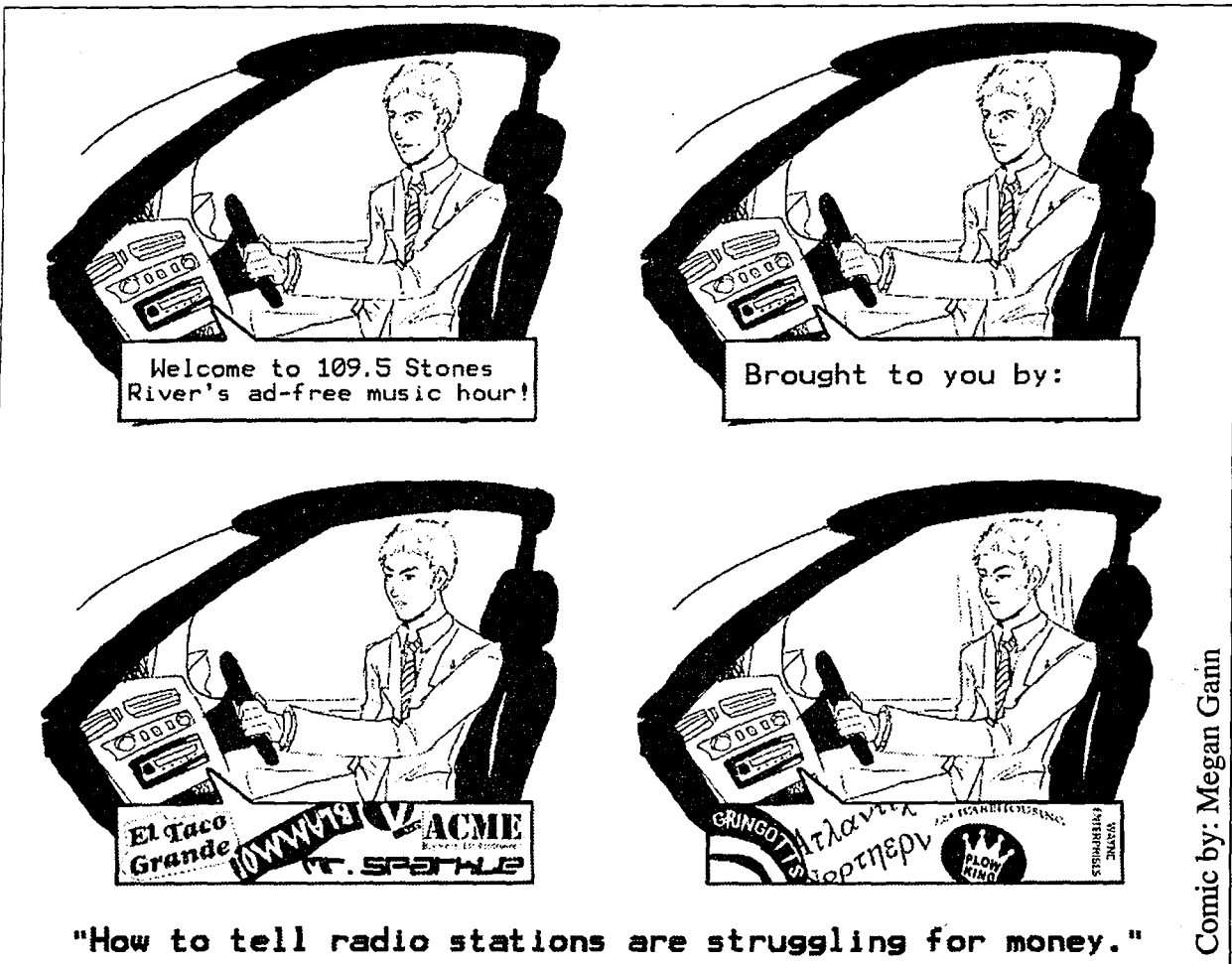
For example, the gay community argues that they should be allowed to get married because heterosexuals have 1,001 more rights when they are married.

Some of these rights include seeing a loved one in the hospital, and being an equal partner in making decisions concerning burial plots.

That does not mean to support this position means supporting giving funding towards gay marriage or funding an individual's burial.

We need to be more careful when trying to label people in absolute terms and consider all aspects of an issue.

Spencer Douglas is a senior majoring in political science. He can be reached at spencerlee23@aol.com.



More straight allies needed in LGBT fight

I am the vice president of MT Lambda, the queer-straight alliance on campus. After meeting me and learning of my heterosexuality, many people wonder what got me so involved in lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues.

I wasn't always involved with or aware of LGBT issues. If I were asked about my stance on gay marriage, gays in the military, or same-sex couples adopting while in my sophomore year of high school, I'm not even sure what my answer would have been.

I did not think about things like that because the only gay people that I knew of were characters on television and they looked so fun, sassy and carefree.

At the end of my years in high school, I found myself surrounded by many gay friends. I would watch them struggle with their family, religion, school bullies and themselves.

In one particularly painful case, I watched a boy who forced himself to date females, because he loved being a Christian and didn't want to be kicked out of his church.

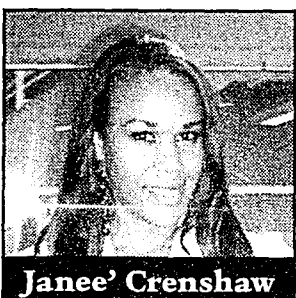
It drove him to loathe himself and become self-destructive. It wasn't fair. Why would a church deny anyone's right to worship? This question plagued me then, and it still does to this very day.

Then there were the bullies in high school. My peers felt perfectly comfortable approaching my openly gay friends and telling them they'd burn in hell, die of AIDS, and molest children. They thought that their behavior was acceptable because my gay friends "chose" to be gay.

Many times, I almost got physical, usually with a male, because they seem to make sexuality their business. Bullying and disrespect really catalyzed my involvement with LGBT issues.

I found myself donating to every LGBT organization I could and talking about equality every chance I got in my classes.

In 2008, a year after I graduated from high school,



Janee' Crenshaw
Guest Columnist

California's vote on Proposition 8 occurred. The measure narrowed the definition of a legally recognized marriage in California to one between a man and woman.

This ban overturned the state's Supreme Court ruling that same-sex couples had the constitutional right to marry. During that time, I participated in my first protest.

The national protest against Proposition 8 was held November 15, 2008. I proudly walked the streets of Nashville with my huge poster declaring "Love Knows No Gender."

We received many honks of approval and a few middle fingers. Overall, the protest went well. Unfortunately, Proposition 8 passed, and I felt defeated, yet invigorated to speak on equality more than ever.

As an African-American woman, I find it hard not to relate the arguments against the gay community to rights that people like me did not always have. Without the help of white allies in the Civil Rights Movement, African-Americans may not have been able to achieve rights in the 1960s.

Where and how far would the movement have gone without President John F. Kennedy declaring to end racial discrimination during his term and Lyndon B. Johnson signing the 1964 Civil Rights Act?

Would racial discrimination be put on the backburner even longer without Freedom Rides that consisted of black and white people courageously banding together for equality?

The only sure way for LGBT equality is if straight allies join in on the fight. LGBT people need more straight allies to get involved and speak up with and for them.

At the end of the day, it all comes down to equality and respect. Everyone deserves the right to love and marry. I do not want to be the one embarrassingly telling my future grandchildren that I stood back and did not stand up for equality.

Janee' Crenshaw is a junior majoring in behavioral and health sciences. She can be reached at jic2c@mtmail.mtsu.edu.

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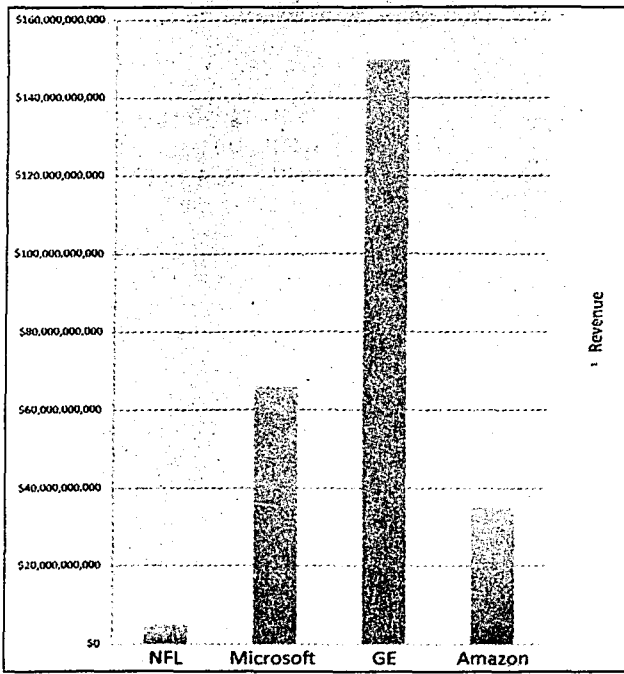
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SPORTS



NFL lockout worries fans, not economists

By ALEX HUBBARD
Staff Writer

The possibility of a NFL lockout extending into part or all of the official season is not widely viewed as a good thing.

The NFL is a multibillion-dollar industry reaching from coast to coast and corner to corner of a nation already on uncertain economic footing. If NFL teams decide the most prudent course is to cut the office staff or offer fewer incentives to do business with the league, the short-term economic picture will not be helped.

Those who study sport economics closely, however, believe this short-term picture is indeed very short, and the general impact of a work stoppage in the NFL will be minimal to the point of nonexistence, despite the league's popularity.

Aside from the unhappiness of fans over the prospect of lost games, the most obvious effect of a lockout is the absence of fan-generated revenue at businesses frequented by sports enthusiasts — such as restaurants in areas around sports venues, which in the case of NFL stadiums, will be sitting empty.

While these businesses will certainly feel an individual impact, forecasts of economic discomfort to a city's business community, or to the city itself, are largely unfounded, sports economists say.

"This is the ironic and unusual aspect of sports," said Dr. Brian Goff, a distinguished professor of economics at Western Kentucky University, who contributes to a blog focusing on sports economics.

"The amount of revenue and people involved is not huge," he said. "NFL revenue is \$5 billion. Compare that to GE, \$150 billion; Microsoft, \$66 billion; even Amazon, \$35 billion. If GE revenue falls by \$5 billion next year, the average person will not notice."

To better illustrate this point, Goff points to the amount of time spent by the average sports fan not spending money while still enjoying sports. Fantasy sports are a leading example of this, where hours can be spent organizing and maintaining a virtual team without spending any money.

Then consider the amount of time sports fans typically spend reading about their favorite teams, from low-cost or free publications, and engaging in water-cooler conversation, and the time spent on activities related to sports that does not earn money for anyone adds up.

"This ratio of dollars spent versus time spent can't be rivaled by other items," Goff said.

Studies conducted during

work stoppages in the past, such as the NHL lockout that claimed the entire 2004-05 hockey season, have proven that the overall economy in cities hosting those teams will not suffer. In fact, some businesses may gain from the stoppage. Many economists feel this is due to fans spending money on other activities rather than saving it.

"Economists generally find that the economic impact of professional sports teams is overstated," said Dr. Mark Owens, a professor of economics at MTSU.

"For every bar on Broadway that loses money by not having a football game on Sunday, there might be a restaurant in Murfreesboro that has more business," he said. "People find something else to spend their money on locally."

Nashville Predators TV commentator Pete Weber lived through two work stoppages under the employ of two different NHL teams, as well as two NFL conflicts in the 1980s as a sports talk show host. He was a witness to the more difficult side of sports work stoppages, observing the uncertainties that many people felt.

Weber himself felt relatively safe during the last work stoppage, as he was under contract with the Predators and had work outside of his duties to keep him busy and bring home money, but not every employee was under contract or safe.

"Some teams immediately cut staff," Weber said. "I was fortunate to have been protected by contract — others all over the league, seeing that a lockout was not only a possibility, but a probability, were burning up the photocopiers sending out resumes to non-hockey entities. We lost some very good people, as did other teams."

The best way to minimize any impact a NFL work stoppage may have remains simply not to have it extend into the regular season. The decision by the NFL players to decertify as a union and go the route of the courtroom rather than the bargaining table has changed the way the dispute can be solved, but Goff believes the right set of circumstances can end the lockout in short order.

"It didn't surprise me that things went this far, but I thought we might see a settlement around or shortly after the draft," Goff said. "Games of chicken can sometimes end with crazy results, but the owners and players both have a good thing going. The owners' olive branch regarding the judge's mediation suggestion seems like a signal that this may get resolved before too long."

Straight out of left field

Blue Raider Spotlight:

Name: Tyler Acker
Hometown: Old Hickory, Tenn.
Year: Senior
Major: Exercise Science
Role Model: Josh Hamilton
Favorite Food: Italian
Favorite Movie: "The Lincoln Lawyer"
Favorite Type of Music: Christian Rap
Pre-game ritual: Batting Practice & Smoothie King



Photo by Erica Springer, staff photographer

Tyler Acker (9) has shifted from behind the plate to left field proving he has an agile talent in both the infield and the outfield.

By WILL TRUSLER
Sports Editor

Blue Raider left fielder Tyler Acker is a bright spot in what has been a dismal season for MT baseball, but you wouldn't know it from talking to the star senior.

Early in his MT career, the Old Hickory native struggled with injuries that sidelined him for extended periods of time. All his hard work and determination have paid off his senior year, though, as he has solidified himself as a leader both on and off the field.

When head coach Steve Peterson came to Acker this season and asked him to switch from his lifelong position at catcher to left field, he answered the call without so much as a groan.

Through 31 games this season, he has posted a .301 batting average with 14 RBI and 18 runs scored. Acker has also performed as the model of consistency at the plate, holding the distinction of being one of only two players on the team with a positive walk-to-strikeout ratio, with 14 walks to only 11 strikeouts. He is even tied for the team lead in stolen bases with six.

However, all those accomplishments are just numbers to Acker, as he finds time, when not playing baseball, to stay humble and focus on the more important things in life.

The Blue Raider star is scheduled to graduate this spring with a degree in exercise science. He plans to attend physical therapy school after graduation, if he is not selected in this June's MLB draft. He is also currently engaged and hopes to get married sometime in the next year.

Acker recently sat down with *Sidelines* to discuss his MT career,

the upcoming MLB draft and what he plans to do after graduation.

SL: You started out this season as the starting catcher before moving to left field. Which position do you prefer?

TA: As much as I love catching, left field has been great in a way. It's not nearly as bad on my body as catching was. My favorite position would still be catching.

SL: You also lettered in football in high school. What inspired you to pick baseball to play in college?

TA: I had a lot of injuries in high school. Originally, I wanted to play football going into high school, but as it happened I just kind of feel like God led me to baseball, and that's where I am today.

SL: The MLB draft is coming up in June. If you could choose what team drafted you, who would it be?

TA: If I could pick a team it would be the Rangers. I was born in Texas and all my family lives in Oklahoma. If I get drafted period it'd be great, but if not, there's more to life than baseball. If it's time to hang it up, I'll hang it up.

SL: You and the other upperclassmen are used to a lot of success. How have you adapted to your current role as an underdog this season?

TA: It's been really tough. I've been a part of some great teams here. My sophomore year was statistically the best team ever to come through here at MTSU. The main thing is, with so few upperclassmen on the team, helping the younger guys get the hang of things and just keep that winning mentality and trying to assume the role of a leader on and off the field and do the best I can.

SL: How do you physically prepare for the season?

TA: Just hit the weights hard. The

coaches do a great job of getting us prepared physically. It's just one thing where you have to work hard with conditioning and running when we first get here in the fall and when we get back from Christmas break. Nutrition is a big part of it too and just staying active.

SL: What do you do for fun when you're not on the diamond?

TA: I like to do a lot of physical activity. I love racket sports. I love to be outdoors and just hunt and fish. Those are probably the two most fun things that I do. [I go] deer hunting in the fall, duck hunting in the winter, turkey hunting in the spring, and then fishing in between whenever I can.

SL: How do you feel about the NCAA change from metal to composite bats?


TA: It's definitely been a little different. The ball doesn't travel nearly as far, but I think good hitters are still going to find ways to get hits.

SL: If you could compare your game to any current major league player, who would it be?

TA: I kind of started out hitting a few more doubles earlier in the year, so maybe like "Pudge" (Ivan Rodriguez) on this side of his career. He does a really good job behind the plate and he's always hit for a high average.

SL: What is your most memorable moment as a baseball player here at MTSU?

TA: Definitely winning the Sun Belt Conference tournament championship and the regular season championship in 2009. That was probably the greatest accomplishment, and then just going on to play in the NCAA regional. Not many teams get to do that, and it's just been a great experience.



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