



Partners
through
thick and thin
page 5

Adorable ragamuffins
dance and sing
in [flash]



An editorially
independent
newspaper

Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

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CAMPUS BRIEFS

'Love Your Body Day' continues

Women for Women, the student feminist organization, will be holding "Love Your Body Day" today out on the Keathley University Center Knoll from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This event is to promote positive body image, self-esteem and healthy living.

Sorority sponsors pumpkin carving event

Alpha Chi Omega sorority will sponsor "Carve Out Domestic Violence," from 12-3 p.m. Friday, Oct. 22 behind Corlew Hall. Participants will carve pumpkins to benefit violence awareness. For more information, contact Jessica Reeves at jgr2f@mtsu.edu.

Health Career Day held Monday in JUB

The annual Nurses/Health Career Day will be Monday, Nov. 1 from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building. Representatives from several mid-state and national organizations will be on hand to meet students who are interested in pursuing careers in nursing and health related occupations. For more information, please contact Martha Turner or Mimi Thomas at 898-2500.

Sorority hosts Jell-O tug of war

Delta Zeta sorority will host "Turtle Tug," a tug of war tournament in Jell-O, to benefit MTSU Speech and Hearing Clinic. The event will be held at 3 p.m. on Oct. 22 next to Cummings Hall. For more information, contact Jessica Reeves at jgr2f@mtsu.edu.

'Taste of Nations' offers international cuisine

MTSU Study Abroad and Aramark will sponsor the first annual "Taste of Nations," featuring foods from around the world tonight from 5-8 p.m. at the McCallie Dining Hall. International students will be representing their countries and Study Abroad will be available to answer any questions. The cost is \$8 per person or one meal on a meal plan.

Greek groups host "Trunk-or-treating"

At 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 22, Alpha Delta Pi sorority and Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity will host "Trunk or Treat," a trick-or-treat event for community and faculty children at the Livestock Parking Lot on Greenland Drive. For more information, contact Jessica Reeves at jgr2f@mtsu.edu.

Prize-winning poet will present work

Pulitzer Prize-winning poet W.D. Snodgrass will read poetry and answer questions about his works at 4:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 25, in the Hazlewood Dining Room at the James Union Building. This event, sponsored by the English department and Virginia Peck Fund Committee, is free and open to the public. ♦

Big Boi expected to bring in crowd

By Kristin Hall
Managing Editor



Big Boi

MTSU students and local fans like the way Big Boi moves, as evident from the huge response to the recent announcement that the rapper will be giving a concert after MT's game against Idaho Saturday.

J. J. Jenkins, a senior microbiology major, said that the concert is bringing in some of his friends from Fisk University in Nashville.

Ashley Shapiro, a sophomore textile major, went to one game as a freshman and found it boring.

But the fact that Big Boi is coming this weekend is likely to

"I hate to admit this, but I've been at MTSU for four years and never been to a game," he said.

change her mind, she said.

These are exactly the kind of students that President Sidney McPhee is hoping to attract.

"We need to build a tradition of the excitement of folks participating and supporting the university," McPhee said. "A football or basketball program has to be an event."

Bob Glenn, vice president of student affairs and vice provost of enrollment management, said that the other choices were Bob Dylan and Jay Leno.

But McPhee initially had one

artist in mind.

"My first selection, if he was available, was Lenny Kravitz," McPhee said, whose brother's wife is Kravitz's cousin.

"We will get him, but for the timing we had to see who was available," he said.

McPhee said that he and his daughter, both enjoy Big Boi's album, "Speakerboxx," and he wasn't interested in bringing more "hardcore" rappers like Ludacris and 50 Cent.

The cost of the concert, esti-

mated at \$82,000, will be covered partly by the athletics department and student activity fees.

"We would anticipate that would be offset by the additional tickets sold for the game," Glenn said.

John Brooks, the director of the ticket office, said that 1,200 tickets have already been sold for the game, which starts at 2 p.m.

Students are encouraged to

See Concert, 2

One-woman wonder



Photo by Emily Nance | Photo Editor

Estelle Condra performs her 90-minute one-woman show *Blind People Shouldn't Vacuum* on Oct. 13 for Disabilities Awareness Month.

Obese employees have disadvantages

By DeAnn Currey
Staff Writer

Bill Ford, chair of the Weatherford Chair of Finance, and Charles Baum II, assistant professor of economics, had an article about obesity in the workplace published in the September issue of *Health Economics*.

Baum and Ford began researching obesity in the workplace two years ago. The goal of their article was to find out if obese people were being penalized in their careers because of their weight. They were also

interested in how many Americans are becoming overweight each year.

"You pay higher [in the workforce] for being obese," Ford said.

The partners took their data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth. They then looked at education, experience, age and other personal characteristics of people who had participated in a previous survey.

The article shows the increasing number of

See Obesity, 2

Resolution provides for student input

By Alex Miller
Staff Writer

Student Government Association Senator Meagan Flippin called for the creation of a Web site where students would be able to post their ideas.

Students would access the Web site via a link on PipelineMT. They will be able to post ideas for improving the university and even draft their own resolutions.

"This Web site would allow for the student body to have a direct voice to SGA members so that the SGA could better perform its job," states the text of the resolution.

"When I was a freshman

senator I was always thinking about what students need on campus," Flippin said. The Web site will be an effective way for students to speak "directly to the SGA."

The SGA Senate voted in favor of her resolution on Thursday, Oct. 7.

"I just want to say it is a great idea," Senator Randy "Cricket" Crawly said, shortly before the vote.

Now the resolution awaits the approval of MTSU administrators. Flippin is confident that they will support it.

"I don't see why they wouldn't," Flippin said. "Two heads are better than one, and three are better than two." ♦

Art department moving to former Todd Library

By T.J. Green
Contributor

MTSU's art department will finally make its move to the renovated Todd Library in time for the spring 2005 semester, said Jean Nagy, interim chair of the art department.

The move will begin during Christmas break with classes that are currently held in the Art Barn. These classes, including foundations, painting, sculpture and ceramics, will be held on the first two floors of the Todd Library.

Classes held in Saunders Fine Arts, such as graphic design, printmaking, letterpress and book arts, will be moved to the third floor of Todd during the summer, with the first classes being held next fall.

The move to the Todd

Library will bring the art department together into one building, as well as give it a more noticeable presence on campus, Nagy said.

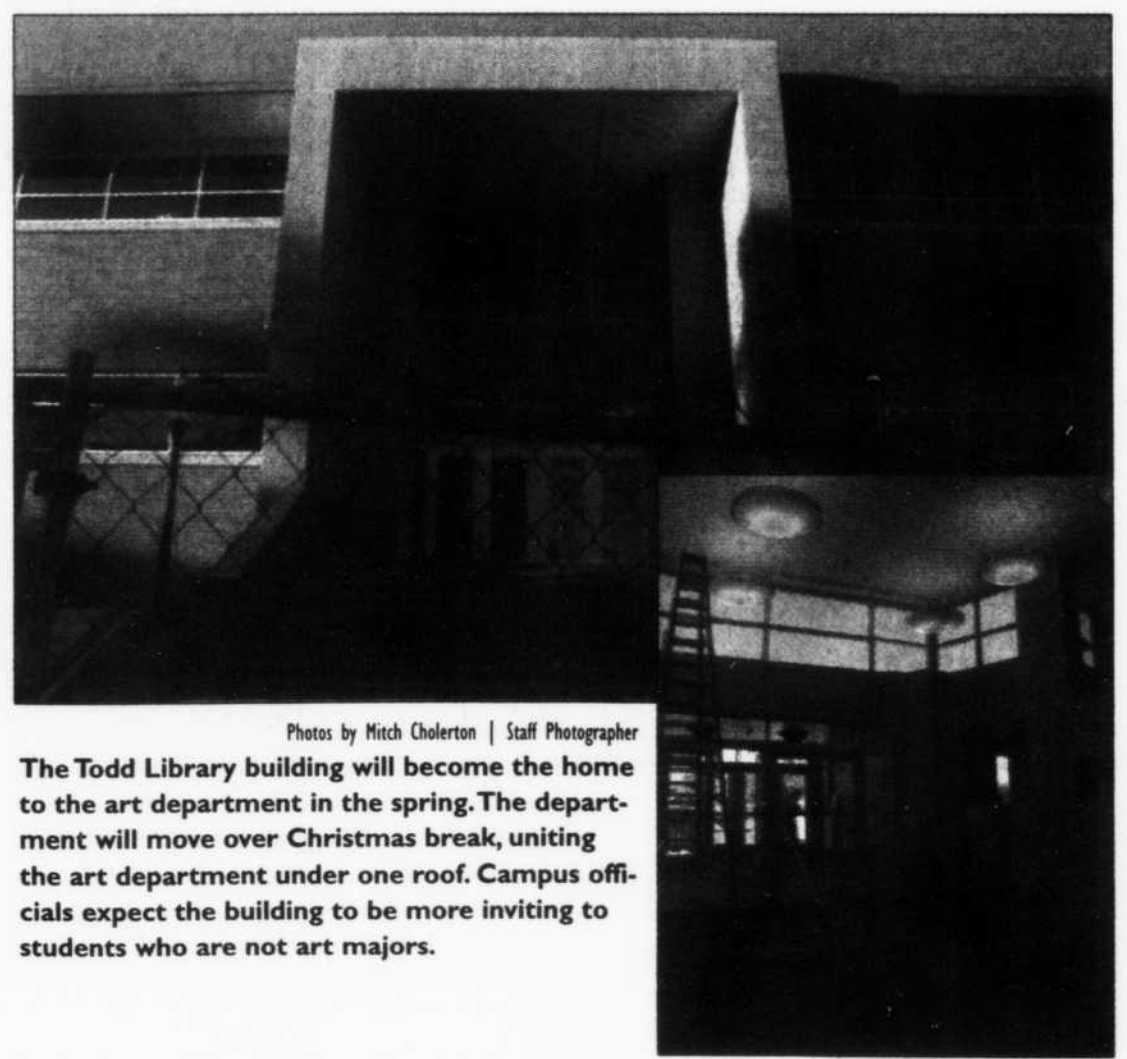
"Just having a cleaner facility and being all in the same building are what I look forward to the most," Nagy noted.

Located next to the Keathley University Center, Nagy said it is expected that the Todd Library will be more inviting to students who are not directly involved in the art department.

Some of the classrooms in Todd will feature glass walls that will allow visitors to the building the opportunity to see art classes in action, Nagy said.

In addition to the larger, cleaner classrooms and more spacious gallery, the move to

See Moving, 2



Photos by Mitch Cholerton | Staff Photographer

The Todd Library building will become the home to the art department in the spring. The department will move over Christmas break, uniting the art department under one roof. Campus officials expect the building to be more inviting to students who are not art majors.



This week's poll question at
www.mtsusidelines.com

Do you support the
SGA Electoral Act?

Reception celebrates Hispanic heritage

By **Hillary Robson**
Staff Writer

The Hispanic Heritage Month reception, organized by the Hispanic Student Association, featured music, food and dancing that celebrated the rich cultural significance of Hispanic heritage on Oct. 13.

Students from all cultural backgrounds attended the event. Food catered by Aramark, music from oversized speakers and women in multi-colored dresses greeted guests as they walked through the front doors of the Alumni Center.

Hispanic Heritage Month spans Sept. 15-Oct. 15 so that the days of independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua can be recognized. Mexico declared independence on Sept. 16, and Chile became independent on Sept. 18.

The month is in honor of the 37 million people of Hispanic origin living in the United States, roughly 10 percent of the population.

"One of the main goals of the

[the Hispanic heritage Association] is to bring students together from all different backgrounds," said Caroline Bizot, president of the Hispanic Student Association.

Bizot began planning the event a few months ago in conjunction with the Multicultural Affairs office. Bizot invited educator Marisela Tapia to discuss "cultural merges and the importance of maintaining Hispanic culture in America" as well as folklorist dancers.

Tapia took the podium stating that she was "very excited and very proud" to present at the event as a Mexican-American. Tapia works for Murfreesboro City Schools, and she discussed how difficult it is to transition between languages and cultures when first introduced to the United States.

"When I work with ... children I see how proud they are of being who they are. Yes, with the years, they do change, because we have to change a little bit. We live here, we learn the language, but the one thing we don't change is our culture - our lan-

guage," Tapia said.

Tapia discussed the need for bilingual educators so that those of Hispanic culture can continue to preserve the cultural identity that is contained in language.

"We don't need 30 days to celebrate who we are, we can celebrate who we are everyday, and this applies to every culture. We need to be proud of who we are and give to the community," Tapia said.

At the conclusion of Tapia's presentation, she invited all of the guests at the reception to get more involved.

Bizot presented Tapia with an honorary award celebrating her contribution to education and the community.

The folkloric dancers, called "Tradiciones de mi Pais," or "Traditions of my Country," are locally based and present native dances.

"It's a regional dance from the state of Jalisco. Every state in Mexico has different regional dances, and we are doing the central part of Mexico," said Jackie Onate, a junior account-

ing major.

The dances of Jalisco are often called "jarabe" or "sweet syrup" because they are mostly courtship dances. Women in beautifully colored with wide-skirted dresses, and their hair tied back in ribbons, danced closely with men in sombreros.

The dresses were brought from Jalisco in Mexico along with the bows worn in the performers' hair as well as the shoes. The group has been dancing for a year and a half, and each dance takes a few months to learn.

Onate explained the motivation for her involvement with the dancing group, "since none of us knew how to dance, since we grew up in the United States mostly, it was just part of a culture that we wanted to learn."

Two years ago, a similar reception was held in honor of Hispanic Heritage without the strong turnout that this year's event produced.

Bizot hopes that future events will entice an even larger crowd to attend. ♦

CRIME LOG

Compiled By **Melissa Bowman** - Associate News Editor

Thursday, Oct. 14 - 7:41 a.m.
Peck Hall
Vandalism less than \$500
Graffiti left on several places in the Peck Hall courtyard.

Thursday, Oct. 14 - 12:02 p.m.
Jones Hall
Theft less than \$500
Subject requested an officer to take a report of an item taken from her office.

Thursday, Oct. 14 - 6:52 p.m.
Cummings Hall
Fraud
A girl's credit card number was stolen by her roommate.

Thursday, Oct. 14 - 8:33 p.m.
Cummings Hall
Vagrancy
Daniel P. Long of Woodbury, Tenn. was arrested for criminal trespass.

Friday, Oct. 15 - 2:27 p.m.
Womack Lane
Assault
William Taylor of Murfreesboro was arrested for domestic assault.

Saturday, Oct. 16 - 12:18 a.m.
Greenland Drive
Traffic violation
James Newsom of Jacksonville, N.C., was pulled over for a light law violation. He was driving on a suspended license.

Saturday, Oct. 16 - 2:24 a.m.
Rutherford Boulevard
Reckless driving
Subjects were doing doughnuts in the parking lots.

Saturday, Oct. 16 - 2:44 a.m.
Crestland Avenue
Underage consumption
Adam Gonzales of Thompson Station and Ashley Brickle of Franklin were given state citations for underage consumption.

Saturday, Oct. 16 - 4:56 p.m.
Scarlett Commons
Traffic violation
Lawrence Sampson of Houston, Texas was driving on a suspended license.

Saturday, Oct. 16 - 11:23 p.m.
Rutherford Boulevard
DUI first offense
Rolando Arrieta of Murfreesboro was driving under the influence of alcohol.

Monday, Oct. 18 - 11:38 a.m.
Scarlett Commons
Theft less than \$500
Subject requested an officer to take a report in reference to some items stolen.

Monday, Oct. 18 - 6:13 p.m.
Corlew Hall Cafeteria
Vagrancy
An individual was accessing questionable material on computer. The individual had left and moved on to the Keathley University Center. The individual was taken off campus to Jupiter and East Main Street and given a trespass warning.

Monday, Oct. 18 - 11:15 p.m.
Scarlett Commons
Harassment
Complainant came into the police department requesting a report in reference to harassment.

Tuesday, Oct. 19 - 12:22 a.m.
Off Campus
Assault
The Murfreesboro Police Department requested a unit to be sent to Womack I-22 to ask Arlene Bell if she gave permission for a male to take her son. Bell requested that her son be returned. Bell and the male were left in the residence with two children.

TSU professor discusses global warming

By **Laura Lindsay**
Staff Writer

Sujata Guha, a chemistry professor at Tennessee State University, presented her calculated study of "Bromine-Catalyzed Oxidation of Methane in the Earth's Atmosphere" on Thursday, Oct. 14, as a guest seminar speaker for the MTSU department of chemistry.

"Among other processes, the overall build-up of methane is controlled by its oxidation reaction with hydroxyl radicals," Guha said. "Through sophisticated theoretical methods, a novel scheme of methane oxidation in the atmosphere has been developed."

Guha said she chose to study this because methane is a very important natural gas fuel.

"We have both natural and man-made sources of methane, with landfills being of the larger man-made sources," Guha said. "Coal and oil mining are other

sources of methane. Methane as a fuel source is valuable."

Too much methane is being put in the atmosphere, chemistry professor Martin Stewart said. He said it is just not natural to have that much methane in the atmosphere.

"Have you been out west and seen fire on top of the oil wells?" he asked. "Those are people who are taking oil out of the ground, but are not saving the gases, so they burn the methane."

"Methane is the simplest organic chemical with one carbon and four hydrogens, and it is a gas," Stewart said. "It gets up into the atmosphere because it is dense."

When methane enters the Earth's stratosphere, it is oxidized by bromine, which creates greenhouse gases. Therefore, high concentrations of methane lead to global warming, which Guha said is cause for concern.

"Methane is actually a greenhouse gas which floats above the

atmosphere and forms a blanket," Guha said. "This blanket absorbs all the heat that the earth sends out to space. It is good to have some heat, but a lot of heat [results in] global warming."

Methane is harmful, and this danger escalates because the chemical element bromine actually destroys methane, Guha said. She discovered that this bromine-catalyzed cycle causes growth of the ozone hole and produces carbon monoxide, water and oxygen molecules.

Once oxidized, the carbon monoxide converts to carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide, as well as water in this vapor form, is a greenhouse gas. Because carbon dioxide and water vapor harm the ozone layer, Guha said she wants to find a way to capture and stabilize the bromine atom.

This bromine-catalyzed cycle is similar to the previously studied chlorine-catalyzed cycle.

Guha said the bromine-catalyzed cycle is just more potent or effective because bromine has a different reactivity than chlorine. Chlorine and bromine are both halogens, which means their reactions are similar because they have the same type of chemical properties. However, they are in very different positions in the periodic table because their reactivity is different, Guha said.

Guha said her calculations and these studies are another way of looking at some of the untapped sources of ozone depletion.

Guha's presentation was part of a weekly seminar series that will be held every Thursday through Dec. 2 in the Davis Science Building, Room 100. Anyone is invited and encouraged to attend. Stewart is the chemistry seminar director and may be contacted at mstewart@mtsu.edu. Guha may be contacted at sguha@tnstate.edu. ♦

Concert: Students encouraged to be early

Continued from 1

show up early for the game to beat the rush and find parking.

Tickets will be available up to the fourth quarter of the game, but after the game is over no one will be admitted, and readmissions will not be allowed.

MTSU needs to average 15,000 fans in the stadium for home games in order to stay in Division I-A, according to recent NCAA regulations.

Predictions for the event have varied, but officials are expecting more local people, like high school students, to attend than normal.

"Ideally, we'd love to have 30,000, of course," said Mark Owens, director of MT media relations. "I don't know. There are so many factors. No one's been throwing out any numbers."

The reasons students gave for not being interested in MT football were varied, but most of them centered on a lack of tradition and the fact that so many students commute.

"Vanderbilt's got a losing tra-

dition, but at least it's a tradition," said Jenkins, who said he's a fan of MT football but doesn't attend the games because he lives in Nashville.

"I could sit back and name at least five players in the NFL from MTSU. They have a decent program," he said. "No one gives MTSU the credibility they deserve."

McPhee sees this concert as only a small picture of bigger things to come for MT athletics.

"We have grown in numbers. We were successful in 2000-01, 2001-02, and then we went on hard times," he said. "In retrospect, we've made enormous strides. Look what's going on in the tailgating in the grove area. I know people expect things overnight."

"If we pay our dues on the front end and work hard, we will get there," Glenn said.

Both Glenn and McPhee said that another big artist will perform at Floyd Stadium for MT's last home game, but they are not yet announcing the name. ♦

Moving: Art Barn to be demolished for parking

Continued from 1

the Todd Library building will allow the art department to be eligible for accreditation by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design.

The Art Barn was not sufficient enough for the university to receive this accreditation, Nagy said.

While the majority of the building will be used by the art department, it will also share a portion of the ground floor with the Albert Gore Research Center, which is currently

located in the McWherter Learning Resources Center.

The research center houses a collection of historical items, such as photographs, memorabilia, diaries, letters and other media that preserve the history of MTSU and the surrounding region.

Nagy said that once the move is complete, the Art Barn will be demolished, but it has not been decided what the location will be used for.

The most likely use for the space will be additional parking, she said. ♦

Obesity: Overweight women suffer more

Continued from 1

Americans who are becoming overweight each year.

Their research shows that one in three Americans is overweight, while one in five Americans is considered obese. Americans are now more likely to be obese than to smoke cigarettes or use illegal drugs.

Cigarette use has decreased dramatically since the 1960s, but since then obesity has been on the increase. It was discovered that a truly obese person would lose tens of thousands of dollars over their career. Women, the study found, risk losing more money than men.

"Women often are more likely to be penalized more than


men are for being obese," Baum said.

When a woman is obese, she will roughly make 6 percent less than a non-obese woman. Obese men, on the other hand, will roughly make 2 percent less than a non-obese man.

Though the pay difference may not be fair, one of the reasons for it may be that an obese person is more likely to have more health problems than a person who is not obese.

"As you are thinking about your career, get the best education you can here at MTSU, and if you are already overweight, get control over it because eventually it is going to cost you money and it is going to hurt you," Ford said. ♦

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Council annexes land for expansion

By Laura Lindsay
Staff Writer

After more than a year of discussion and public hearings conducted by the city of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County, last Thursday night city council members annexed 130 acres near State Route 840. The city plans to develop infrastructure on a portion of the property.

The land is located within Rutherford County and outside of Murfreesboro city limits. It is also beyond the Urban Growth Boundary, Rutherford County Assistant Planning Director Scott Phares said.

"This just happened to be in the county's jurisdiction, but not the city's," Phares said. "It was a unique situation, and there are no more like it right now."

The decision was made after a third and final reading of the passage and following a public hearing in which county residents spoke out against the pending action. The city annexed the land to prevent a subdivision from being developed on the property.

The city decided it needed to annex the land because it plans to build an interchange and thoroughfare at the location to connect Broad Street and Cherry Lane. Murfreesboro Mayor Tommy Bragg said they annexed the area to protect it, and the city will continue negotiations with land owner Jeanette Chadic.

Chadic said she purchased the land for about \$1.5 million and had invested about \$300,000 into the proposed development. She said the city offered her \$2.7 million for the property, but she is not certain whether the offer still stands.

Chadic did not say that this offer wasn't acceptable, but said she had the impression the city council thought the offer was too high. She said she will get legal representation unless she receives an acceptable offer.

Murfreesboro Information Officer Chris Shofner said that, as far as he knows the city is still offering Chadic \$2.75 million for the entire property. As an alternative, the city has agreed to pay \$50,000 an acre for the 20 acres that are needed for the proposed road.

Murfreesboro planner Robert Lewis said approval for the plan was granted by the Rutherford County Planning Commission. The approval was given on Sept. 13, although the city and the county planning staff had requested a delay. The delay might have provided an opportunity for the city and county to coordinate their plans.

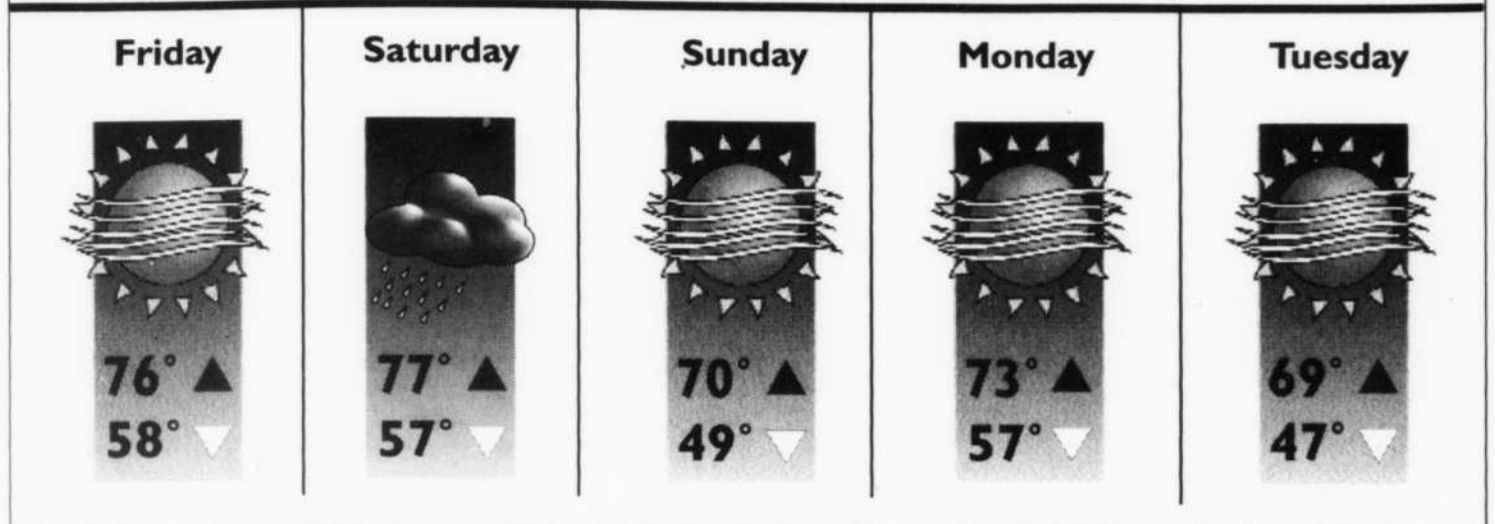
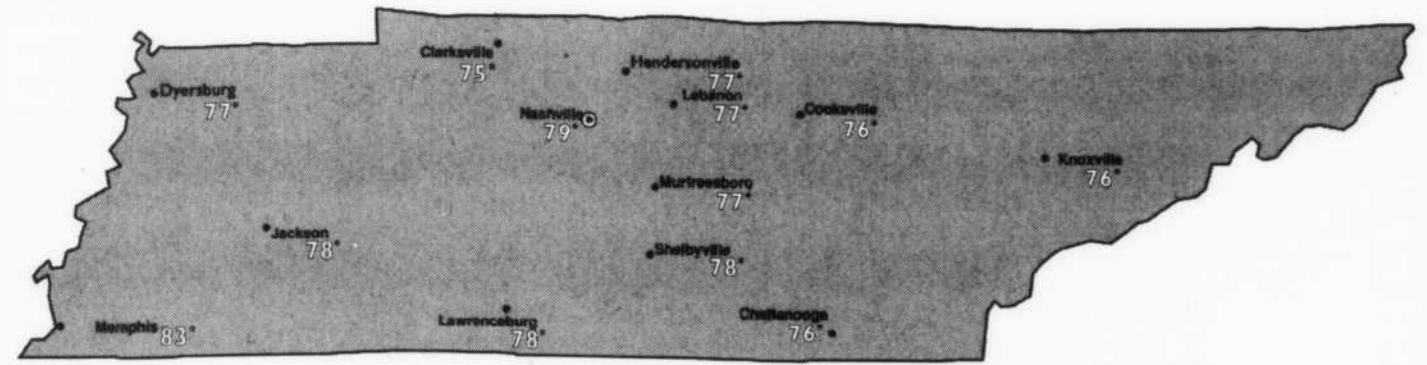
This extension had been proposed by Murfreesboro Planning Commission Chairman Bob Lamb on Sept. 20, during a joint meeting of the Rutherford County Regional and Murfreesboro Planning commissions. The commission did not delay.

The county's position is that the interchange and thoroughfare are within its map and because Chadic's proposal met all the subdivision regulations, by law, Rutherford County had to approve it, Phares said.

The city's thoroughfare plan was approved in spring 2003 and recorded with the Register of Deeds on June 13, 2003. The city's position is that this direct route between Route 840 and Broad Street will be needed to relieve traffic congestion in Murfreesboro, Lewis said. ♦

Tennessee Weather – Thursday's Highs

From the Associated Press



Health departments running out of flu shots

By Chris Jones
Associated Press Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – People vulnerable to influenza are having a hard time finding the vaccine at Tennessee health departments because of the national shortage.

Many health departments in rural areas of the state have already run out of vaccine, while some urban areas – such as Shelby, Knox and Hamilton counties – still haven't received any.

"We're hoping it will be a mild season because of the vaccine shortage, and we want to make sure that the vaccine is only given to high-risk individuals," said Dr. Allen Craig, epidemiologist with the state Department of Health.

Tennessee expects to receive about 100,000 doses of flu vaccine this year, which is less than

half of what the state requested, Health Department spokeswoman Diane Denton said.

About 700 people in Tennessee die every year from flu-related complications, state officials say.

The United States' vaccine supply of about 100 million doses was nearly cut in half this month after authorities found one of two suppliers, Chiron Corp., was potentially contaminated. This left only 55 million doses available from the second manufacturer, Aventis Pasteur.

Davidson County has received 10,000 doses of the vaccine, and officials are vaccinating about 1,300 people a day. But Memphis, Knoxville and Chattanooga are still waiting.

Health departments in smaller Middle Tennessee counties received a supply of 15,350 shots, and by Tuesday more than 8,000 doses had been

administered.

Denton said Wednesday that six out of 12 counties completely out of flu shots and were not able to meet the demand.

No one knows when, or if, those health departments will get more flu shots. But Denton said people shouldn't be alarmed because there are other vaccine providers in the area.

More than 2 million vaccine shots were shipped last week to health care providers around the country, intended for groups considered at risk of infection by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Denton said.

High-risk patients are children ages 6 to 23 months, adults older than 65, people with chronic medical conditions, pregnant women, nursing home and long-term care facilities residents and health care employ-

ees who work with at-risk patients.

Denton said there are an estimated 90 million people in the country who are considered at-risk.

Federal health officials announced Tuesday that another 2.6 million doses, for a total of 58 million, will be available nationwide in January. Denton said Aventis Pasteur is releasing a few million doses of the vaccine nationwide in about six to eight weeks.

Craig said people who aren't considered high-risk shouldn't panic because the flu can be treated with over-the-counter drugs. People should just take extra precautions by washing their hands, covering their mouths when coughing and staying at home when sick, he said. ♦

Shumaker says that feeding frenzy forced his departure

By Matt Gouras
Associated Press Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – In his first interview since questions about extravagant spending forced a quick resignation, former University of Tennessee President John Shumaker said he was the victim of a feeding frenzy by "piranhas."

In an interview with *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Shumaker said he would like to work in the field again and said the episode created an unfair caricature of him.

Lawmakers involved in the episode as it unfolded, and afterward in reforming the way university presidents do business, said Shumaker isn't facing the reality of spending problems during his short tenure.

"He came real close to the district attorney general up there prosecuting him," Jerry Cooper, D-Morrison, and co-chairman of the Tennessee General Assembly's joint Fiscal Review Committee said Wednesday. "He was totally at fault."

Shumaker, among the high-

est paid university presidents at \$735,000 a year when he was hired to replace ill-fated predecessor J. Wade Waddell, was hit with a firestorm of criticism in August 2003.

Shumaker said the scandal got out of hand, in part, because he didn't handle it properly, not because he was guilty of egregious wrongdoing.

He also told the publication that problems arose because he hadn't put a staff in place that would carefully pay attention to details, and he became the focus of intense media scrutiny.

"It was a slow season, and there was the appearance of wanton spending by the president," he said in the interview. "I don't blame the media for the troubles. I think to some degree I was responsible for that – less so than people think I am."

State Sen. Randy McNally, R-Oak Ridge, who was involved in the search for Shumaker's replacement and in reforming policies at state colleges, said Shumaker had plenty of opportunities to explain himself when the allegations arose.

"He was given an opportunity to come before a legislative committee to answer the charges that were brought against him in the comptroller's audit and he refused to do so," said the chairman of the Senate Education Committee.

Auditors said Shumaker paid credit card bills with public money, spent nearly \$500,000 remodeling the president's house, and gave a \$300,000 no-bid contract to a friend. Also among the findings, the audit said Shumaker altered records to cover up otherwise legal, if questionable, spending and travel.

The former UT president told *The Chronicle* that the person given the no-bid contract was never a business partner, and said it was only awarded after review by university counsel.

Shumaker takes issue with other findings, telling *The Chronicle* that it "is not true" that he bought flowers with a university credit card for a woman with whom he had a personal relationship. He was also criticized for using the university plane to visit Carol Garrison when she was president of the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

"The appearance of personal visits is more apparent than real," Shumaker said.

He also said spending on the house was warranted because he used it to entertain donors.

Shumaker, who now works as a fund-raising consultant for nonprofit organizations, told *The Chronicle* that he wants to get back into higher education. ♦

There is hope
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From the Editorial Board What we can't stand in this election year

Election years can be exhilarating, particularly close elections like the upcoming presidential brouhaha. But they can also be exhausting, irritating and downright unbearable at times.

With an eye toward Nov. 3, here are a few things (and people) we have grown weary of and would just as soon see go.

We're sick of Sen. John Kerry blaming President George W. Bush for the shortage in flu vaccines – it is unfair and unreasonable to do so. Maybe those of you who usually get it can give your bodies a break from having viruses injected into your bloodstream every year.

That said, we're also tired of hearing that we will all die if Kerry wins and that he has terrorists over for dinner parties.

We're also kinda tired of hearing that we'll all die if Bush wins.

Sadly, the attacks become even more petty – no more ketchup jokes, please.

Speaking of jokes, political candidates need to stop trying to be funny. The likability scale is way too attached to presidential chances as it is, and pandering to late night talk show hosts doesn't help.

We are also very tired of our time in the media, who insist on treating every poll as gospel. Ask Howard Dean what polls do for you.

We're tired of coverage about campaign strategy – instead of picking apart how they said it? Media coverage about media coverage is also getting tiresome.

And we can't stand both political parties claiming Ronald Reagan and Christopher Reeve for political gain.

Neither man is here to tell us what they think, so the candidates might not want to put words in their mouths, lest they meet them in the afterlife.

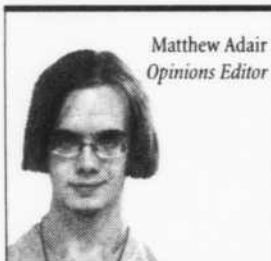
As far as people go, we're tired of Al Franken, Ben Stein, Michael Moore, Wolf Blitzer, Tucker Carlson, Bush, Kerry, Ralph Nader, Laura Bush, Teresa Heinz-Kerry and all of Bush's and Reagan's children.

And last but certainly not least, we're tired of lists posing as insightful political commentary. ♦

From the Opinions Editor

Browsing for body parts gives hope for patients

Need a spare lung? A kidney maybe? Perhaps your pancreas has given out?



Matthew Adair
Opinions Editor

Well, if you're of the same mindset as Bob Hickey of Edwards, Colo. then you can just track down a willing donor through the miracle of the Internet.

Granted, the doctors at St. Luke's Medical Center weren't all that keen on the idea at first. Hickey's surgeon, Dr. Igal Kam, went as far as to accuse Hickey of paying his donor, Robert Smitty, under the table to get Hickey the kidney he needed.

Thankfully, the hospital made an exception for Hickey, and the 58-year-old man got his kidney Wednesday.

It's a novel idea, really. Given that, according to CNN.com, 80,000 people wait for organ transplants every year, having the option to search for a person willing to donate their own organs to those in medical need can be a blessing for those who have been put "on hold" by the medical community for months.

Of course, the extremely unregulated nature of the Internet may make some wary of dealing in human organs over the Web. The Web site that Hickey used to find a potential donor, MatchingDonors.com, admits that it is not endorsed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

However, it isn't as though they are selling organs fresh off the shelf, so to speak. The Web site's purpose is, in its own words, "a venue where patients and potential donors can communicate and hopefully expedite a live donor."

Of course, there's no guarantee that you'll find a potential donor, and at \$295 for a 30-day membership the hope for that much-needed (or whatever else you might have a need for) might prove to be pricey, especially when coupled with any medical costs the patient might already be facing.

It's still a novel idea though. People need healthy organs and wherever there is a need, someone will attempt to fill it.

So, anyone need a spare kidney? ♦

Matthew Adair is a sophomore art education major and can be reached at matt.adair@gmail.com.

Keep an open mind towards religion

I remember, when I was 14, being in church and thinking that everyone chanting The Lord's Prayer in a unified and monotonous voice was irrational for a group of educated people.

Is any one religious belief more rational than another? In this country, and in other parts of the world, religious tolerance has become exceedingly ridiculous. While the Islam faith demands that women must walk around with only their eyes showing, we don't pass judgment on it because it is a religion.

Of course we don't. That's where the idea of tolerance comes from.

But what if I truly believe that an undetectable china teapot is orbiting the sun? Is that belief rational? Not any more so than Judaism and Christianity. However – and this is crucial – it's not any less rational either.

It is an unfortunate fact that the existence of God can never be disproved. In fact, most religious people will not have a logical conversation about their faith. It doesn't take much to realize that the reason religion cannot be submitted to logical argument is that it

You Should Know This Already



Carter Fort
Staff Columnist

would fail miserably. People who practice holistic medicine have said, "Our products kept failing double-blind testing. That's why we stopped doing the tests!" It's not hard to see the problem with that statement.

Am I saying there is no God? Not quite. What I am saying is that there is no more evidence that God exists than there is evidence that the china teapot is orbiting the sun. There is no way to prove that the teapot isn't there, but why believe in it when there is no evidence?

When I say evidence, I mean theories that have become accepted as facts through rigorous scrutiny, testing and immunities to such testing, but that doesn't stop people from having "faith" in

them. But what is "faith?" Is it simply believing in something that there is no proof of? That sounds an awful lot like willful ignorance. Some people have even tried to state that if there were proof of God, then they couldn't have faith in Him, and therefore wouldn't be able to worship Him. Is this making anyone else dizzy?

Now comes the tricky part. Pay attention, this is important.

First, if you don't think evolution is possible, then you don't understand it. If you don't understand it, then pick up a copy of "The Blind Watchmaker" by Richard Dawkins.

Second, don't be afraid to question and explore your own beliefs. We are allowed to do that, you know.

Third, do not allow anyone to press ideas on you unless they can provide you with proof. If I told you that your dog was dead and you came to realize that the only evidence I had of this was a "vision," then you'd probably be pretty pissed at me for worrying you.

Fourth, read more. I know that there's not a lot of time for it and

that reading books outside of class isn't exactly cool, but make the time. Read a book about quantum physics instead of going to Bible study. Visit a Web site on atheism instead of going to synagogue. Trust me, you're not going to miss anything that won't be there next week.

Last but not least, discuss your ideas freely. Don't be closed-minded or afraid to realize that the things you've spent your life trusting in might not be the best answers.

Don't be afraid of a world without your beliefs. It's a beautiful thing to see the world for what it is. Even though I was sad at first when I found out that there was no Santa Claus, it was much more happy to learn that my parents loved me enough to buy me fun things for Christmas.

We live in a world of knowledge. It flows around us constantly. Don't be scared of grabbing as much of it as you can. ♦

Carter Fort is a junior digital animation major and can be reached at cf2b@mtsu.edu.

Letters to the Editor

Conservatives promote isolation, ignorance

To the Editor:

Justin Wax's column in *Sidelines* on Oct. 11 is not only misleading, but also slanderous and is not something a reputable publication would print. As an alumnus of the University of Pittsburgh's Semester at Sea program, I immediately noticed several misleading, untruthful comments and am appalled at the lack of research and care evident in such a column.

Wax chose to lambaste communism without attempting to understand it and, in doing so, made several drastic errors. I am fortunate to be one of a select few citizens of the United States to travel to Cuba legally (while participating in Semester at Sea), and in doing so had the honor of receiving a presidential address from Fidel Castro this past January. While I do not agree with all of Castro's ideals, I must say that I witnessed more smiling people in the streets of Havana than I have ever seen in America.

Wax states that communist governments do not believe in religious liberties or the Bill of Rights. After standing in the streets of Havana and seeing a statue of Jesus across from the Port of Havana, a Jewish synagogue, and several churches, I can assure you that this is not true. Even in China, Vietnam and North Korea, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism and Christianity have huge religious followings.

In Cuba, the government owns nearly everything. That seems strange, but in return, every citizen is promised a job, a house, food, education through the doctorate level, and medical care – all for free. While citizens may not have a right to choose which school they go to or what doctor tends to their wounds, they have the right to choose what they will study and where they will work. No, Cuba doesn't have a "Bill of Rights," but surprisingly, the right to choose is found in everyday life.

Wax continues to state that, "communists even regulate when citizens can drive their cars." As a Semester at Sea student, I was privileged to visit Cuba, Vietnam, China and South Korea (while studying North Korea). I must say that in Cuba it is hard to obtain a car, but if you can afford it and the nation has gasoline, you can drive it anytime. In Vietnam the streets are packed with motorcyclists. In China, the highways of Beijing have worse traffic jams than most major U.S. cities. And in North Korea people certainly drive around in their own cars.

In fact, the only places that restrict driving are in democratically elected governments. Bogota, Colombia, in mountainous regions. This isn't a communist practice and such comments are not only ignorant, but also ludicrous.

Next, Wax states, "that the Communist Party USA is fervently attempting to elect John Kerry as our next president." This is another misleading statement. The Communist Party USA states on their Web site that they simply want to "Build Unity! Defeat Bush and the Ultra Right!" This does not quite constitute giving Kerry an endorsement.

Sadly, inaccuracies in this editorial don't just stop with false statements about Communist nations and the "other" political affiliation Kerry has. Wax continues with his puppetry by stating that Kerry is a liar for telling the truth about war atrocities in Vietnam.

Since I have been to Vietnam and have seen the War Crimes Museum and Wax has not, I can say that I've seen the vile pictures taken by UPI photographers during the Vietnam War. Sure, war atrocities happened on both sides, but it's a little extreme to say that Kerry is a liar for having the courage to tell the truth.

And yet you continue to defame the character of Kerry by accusing him of meeting with a Communist leader – President Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua. If President George W. Bush would have been patient, removing Saddam Hussein without destroying the nation, more than a thousand of our peers would be alive today and several thousand Iraqis would be, too. Wax's ideals seem to focus on isolationism, ethnocentrism, and egotism.

I would recommend that Wax check his facts before he publishes such slanderous material again – not only do Republicans and Democrats hear him, but undecideds do as well. What kind of image are you producing for yourself, your political party, and your school? I've always been taught to think before I speak – unfortunately, Wax chose not to.

I choose freedom. I choose respect. I choose John Kerry.

Isaac Nuell
Senior, Department of Aerospace

Homecoming crown not worth time, effort spent

For the past few weeks I have not been able to walk anywhere on campus without being bombarded with posters of homecoming candidates. Each poster had a unique smiling face with the text "vote for me." However, each of these gave absolutely no reason why I should give anyone my vote.



Gretchen Jenkins
Staff Columnist

Which raises the question, exactly what is the point of being Homecoming King or Queen? Is it to represent spirit, pride and tradition? Is it to grace around in expensive attire? Is it a huge popularity contest? Is it to spend an outrageous amount of money promoting a local fraternity, sorority or other club?

Some believe it is a positive competition that promotes mentorship. Freshman Melissa Buchanan feels that "the queen is someone everyone looks up to. She is beautiful, sweet and smart."

Others feel that the court represents a long line of what was and is to be MTSU. But the majority of people think it is one big popularity contest.

Whatever the reason for this candidacy, is it really necessary to spend so much money? This year local candidates and their organizations gave away free pizza, cookies, sodas and candy.

That alone amounts to thousands of dollars, but you can't forget to include all of the stickers, pins and T-shirts worn by the sponsors. And then there is the issue of signs.

The huge screen printed signs cost several hundred dollars. There were hundreds of posters printed using an outrageous amount of ink and paper. I just trust my rising tuition money didn't go to help print all these signs on "free" MTSU printers.

All together it adds up to, well, a whole lot.

On top of outrageous funds, there is the matter of time. Candidates spend countless hours campaigning. There they sit perched on makeshift thrones outside of the Keathley University Center with pasted smiles, shaking hands, hopefully not missing out on valuable class time.

All of this could be justifiable if all of these students were running for a political office that actually did something.

What responsibilities do winners really have? Walking on and off the football field at halftime for a few minutes and taking several pictures in uncomfortable outfits don't seem like huge tasks. Student Government Association senators normally spend far less money and they actually have a job to do.

Granted, homecoming is an important tradition that creates pride and spirit in bringing together alumni, friends and family. I just don't know when homecoming contenders turned into the New York Yankees of campus life with unlimited funds.

Surely with that amount of money and time, the winners should get something spectacular. But 15 minutes of fame and a tiara doesn't equal all that effort in my book. Then again, if that is your life-long goal, more power to you.

I guess you could add that to your resume next to first place finish as Pork Princess at the County Fair. No employer can resist that. ♦

Gretchen Jenkins is a freshman political science major and can be reached at gmj2d@mtsu.edu.

SIDELINES

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Blue Raiders finish road trip half game out of first MT defeats Denver 2-1 in double overtime

By Casey Brown
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee's soccer team took an important step towards the Sun Belt Conference title on Friday, shocking the preseason favorite Denver 2-1 in a thrilling double overtime contest.

"We beat a very, very good team here today, and I'm very excited for the girls and program because it's our first win against Denver in our school's history," MT head coach Aston Rhoden told MT Media Relations.

Both teams fought through a scoreless first half. Denver was unable to capitalize on a few quality scoring chances. Pioneer Carlynn McCallum came up short twice, first hitting the crossbar. Her second opportunity was denied on a leaping save by Blue Raider keeper Jenny Manis.

The first goal of the game was not scored until early in the second half, when Laura Miguez

found Claire Ward on a cross. Ward finished the play, beating Denver keeper Danielle Wiley in the upper right corner of the net.

The goal was the fifth of the season for Ward, with all five coming in the last three games. Miguez's assist was her team-leading eighth.

"This was a great win for our team," Miguez told MT Media Relations. "We played well as a team and this means a lot to us. We are playing with confidence and we have our goals in front of us."

Unlike many of MT's victories this season, this win did not come easily. Denver scored the equalizer in the 79th minute, off a corner kick from Pioneer Jenna Billingsley. Diana Brunkhardt received the corner and served it to Laura Mann, who headed the ball past Manis.

At the end of regulation, the Blue Raiders and the Pioneers remained in a deadlock, thanks to

See Denver, 7

Manis saves six, MT ties Mean Green 0-0

By Mark Emery
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee soccer team is only one-half game behind first place in the Sun Belt Conference after their 0-0 tie against North Texas on Sunday.

Last year, the Blue Raiders defeated the Mean Green 4-3 in overtime for their first win in six tries against them. This year it took two overtimes and neither team could figure out the other's defense. Jenny Manis recorded six saves in the 110-minute game and her sixth shutout of the season.

"We spend so much time working on our defense and it's paid off all season, especially on this trip," Manis told MT Media Relations. "We knew the importance of having two good games [Denver and North Texas] this weekend and our team rose to the challenge. It's a good feeling com-

ing back home."

Manis was helped by the solid play of defenders Katy Rayburn, Sara Wohlhueter and Jessica Northcutt.

"This was a successful weekend for our team and the girls played exceptionally well on what is always a difficult road trip," MT head coach Aston Rhoden told MT Media Relations. "This game against North Texas was a defensive battle and Jenny Manis played with several big saves, and our defenders had an outstanding game, as well."

MT needed the outstanding defensive performance as they were out shot 21-10 by North Texas. Laura Miguez led the MT offense with four shots on goal but was unable to score.

"I thought we were the better team today," Mean Green head coach John Hedlund told UNT Media Relations. "We had a few shots bounce off

See UNT, 6

Partners through thick and thin

By Colby Sledge
Sports Editor

When the Tennessee Titans' season opener against the Miami Dolphins was moved up to Saturday due to Hurricane Ivan, little did anyone know how fate was slowly setting the table for a trend that has become much more than a coincidence.

The first piece of the puzzle fell into place when another storm, Hurricane Frances, forced the postponement of the Blue Raiders' game against Florida, meaning Middle Tennessee would open its season at Akron on Sept. 11 – the same day the Titans played Miami.

Both teams went on to win their respective contests on the road: the Blue Raiders battled back to defeat the Zips 31-24, while the Titans used their usual methodical game plan to defeat the Ricky Williams-less Dolphins 17-7.

So both teams won their season openers. No big deal, right?

Wrong.

After playing on the same Saturday in September, the Blue Raiders and the Titans have shared the same result every weekend: If MT wins, so do the Titans. If MT loses, so do the Titans.

And currently both are 2-4 with little hope of winning their respective conferences.

Sidelines decided to take a look into the matter and found that the bonds between the Blue Raiders and the Titans run more deeply than anyone may have previously noticed.

Mere coincidence?

Sidelines staff writer Mark Emery first looked into the eerie coincidences two weeks ago ("Titans, Blue Raiders share common bond: Losing spectacularly" – Oct. 7) and confirmed that the ties were certainly creepy, if not scientifically legitimate.

For instance, in the Blue Raiders' 27-20 loss to Florida Atlantic on Sept. 18, the Owls outscored MT 21-0 in the third quarter after the Blue Raiders led 17-6 at halftime.

One day later, the Titans led the Indianapolis Colts 17-10 going into the fourth quarter before the Colts outscored Tennessee 21-0 to win 31-17.

The trend continued as both teams lost three straight games. The link even held true when the Titans played the Green Bay Packers on Monday Night Football. Obviously inspired by the Blue Raiders' 45-17 of Arkansas State two days earlier, the Titans rolled over the Packers 48-27.

Last week, however, both teams returned to what has become a common theme this year: losing. The Blue Raiders were trounced by Florida 52-16 on Saturday, and the Titans followed suit with a 20-10 loss to the Houston Texans last Sunday.

"Now, man. We prepare, they prepare," senior MT linebacker Alvin Fite said when asked if there was anything fishy going on between the two teams. "I honestly don't keep up with them right now because

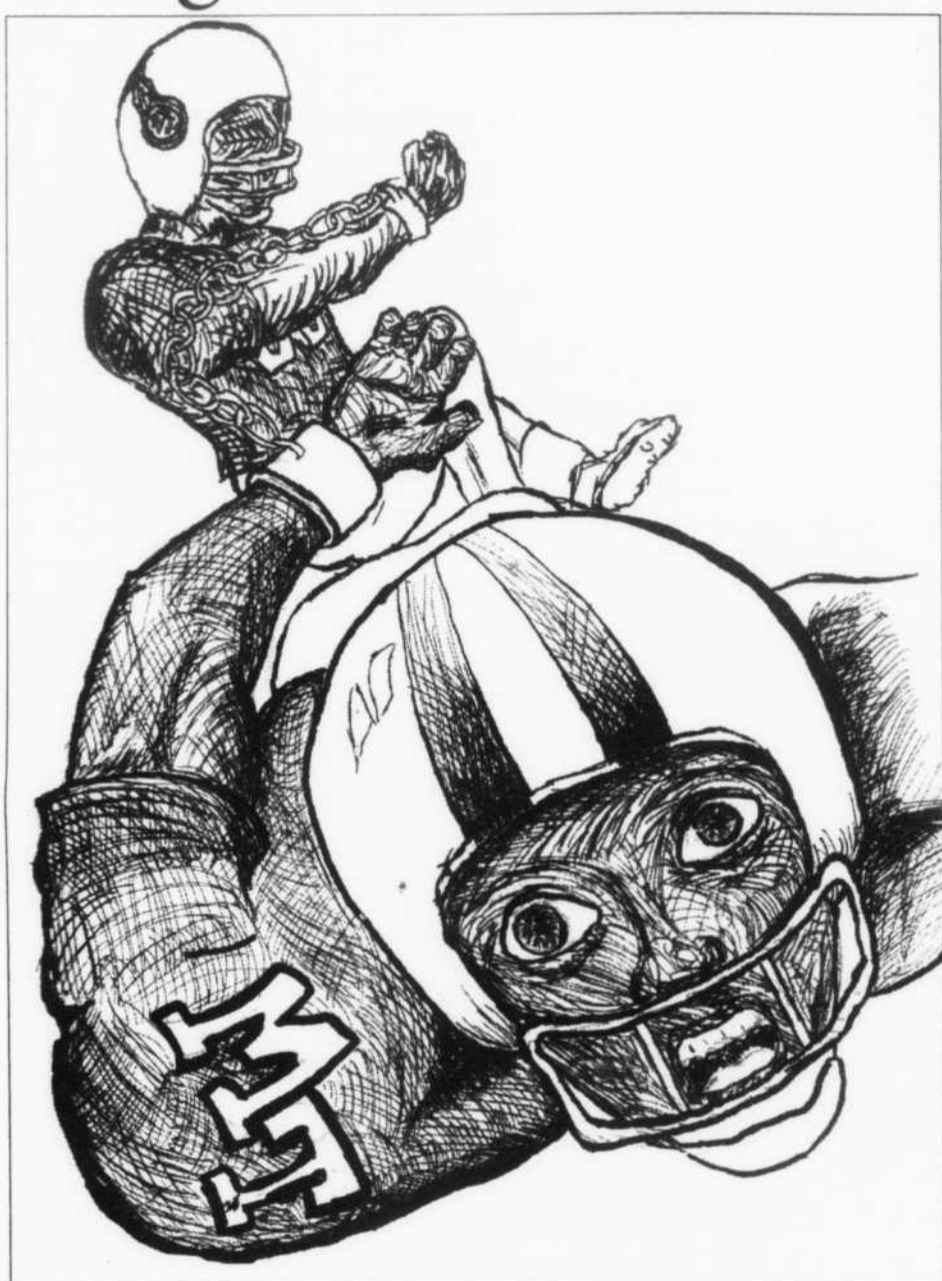


Illustration by Brandon Morrison | Staff Illustrator

The Blue Raiders and the Titans have shared all of their wins and losses.

"We've got our own problems." The Titans did not return calls seeking comment.

Student reaction

Junior mass communication major and Titans season-ticket holder Tanja Gangwisch said she had previously considered the reality of a curse, but didn't want to think that it was true.

"It's crossed my mind," Gangwisch said. "But I don't want to say that, because if the Blue Raiders don't win another game, then the Titans won't win one either, and that would be bad."

Other students just wanted to see their Blue Raiders win – even if that means the Titans will win, too.

"I'd much rather see both of them win," sophomore aerospace major Tyler Babb said. "It seems like everybody's a Titans fan around here, but being a college student, the Blue Raiders matter more to me."

"I hate the Titans, but I go to MTSU and I'd rather see them win," junior mass communication major Steven Mizell said. "I'd rather see the Blue Raiders win and the Titans losing, but if I had to choose, I would definitely choose the Blue Raiders winning and the Titans winning."

What are the odds?

To make sure we weren't making much ado about nothing, we placed the streak before Dennis Walsh, an associate professor in the Department of Mathematical Sciences. Using both teams' winning percentages from last season – .333 (4-8) for the Blue Raiders, .722 (13-5) for the Titans – for probability calculations, Walsh concluded that the preseason chances of the Titans and the Blue Raiders winning both their first and fifth games and losing the remaining four games in lockstep were approximately 7 out of 100,000.

Furthermore, the probability of both teams matching any win-loss sequence for six games rises to a mere 6 out of 1,000.

And that's assuming the teams have no impact whatsoever on each other.

"No matter which way you shake it, it's a pretty interesting coincidence," Walsh said.

So as the Blue Raiders take on Idaho this Saturday, watch closely: You may be seeing tomorrow's Titans-Vikings result in advance.

And just in case anyone gets any ideas, Sidelines takes no responsibility for betting losses incurred from this story. ♦

Wynn leads Gators in 52-16 rout of MT

By David Hunter
Senior Staff Writer

The University of Florida defeated Middle Tennessee 52-16 at the Swamp in Gainesville, Fla. Saturday afternoon.

The Gator offense put the ball in the end zone seven times and piled up 501 yards in total offense.

Florida place-kicker Matt Leach hit a 37-yard field goal to begin the scoring. MT's Colby Smith answered back, however, with a 39-yarder to tie the score at 3 with 7:47 remaining in the first quarter.

The Gators found the end zone on their next possession when Chris Fisher found O.J. Small for a four-yard touchdown pass.

Florida's Demetrice Webb quarterbacked off Blue Raider cornerback Clint Marks and took it down to the MT 21-yard line. A few plays later DeShawn Wynn took in from five yards out to extend the lead to 17-3.

After an MT punt, Andre Caldwell took a pass from Leach 68 yards for a score.

The Blue Raiders struck back as Marks led the Blue Raiders on a nine-play, 80-yard drive. The final play was Marks finding MT wide receiver Kerry Wright down the sideline for a 37-yard touchdown pass to make the score 24-10.

"It's a play we've seen on film," Wright told www.gatorzone.com. "We've seen that a lot on our routes and we just made a big play. I found a hole in the defense."

Wynn answered with a 15-yard touchdown run with 3:24

left in the second quarter to make the score 31-10.

Right before the half, however, MT's Roy Polite picked off Leach's pass for Polite's first career interception. The Blue Raiders turned it into three points when Smith hit from 41 yards out to make the halftime score 31-13.

Chad Johnson caught a 37-yard touchdown pass from Leach a couple of minutes into the second half. On the following possession the Blue Raiders scored their final points of the game when Smith hit a 27-yard field goal to make the score 38-16.

Florida added two more touchdowns, as Ciatrick Fason ran it in from 20 yards and Wynn scored from nine yards out.

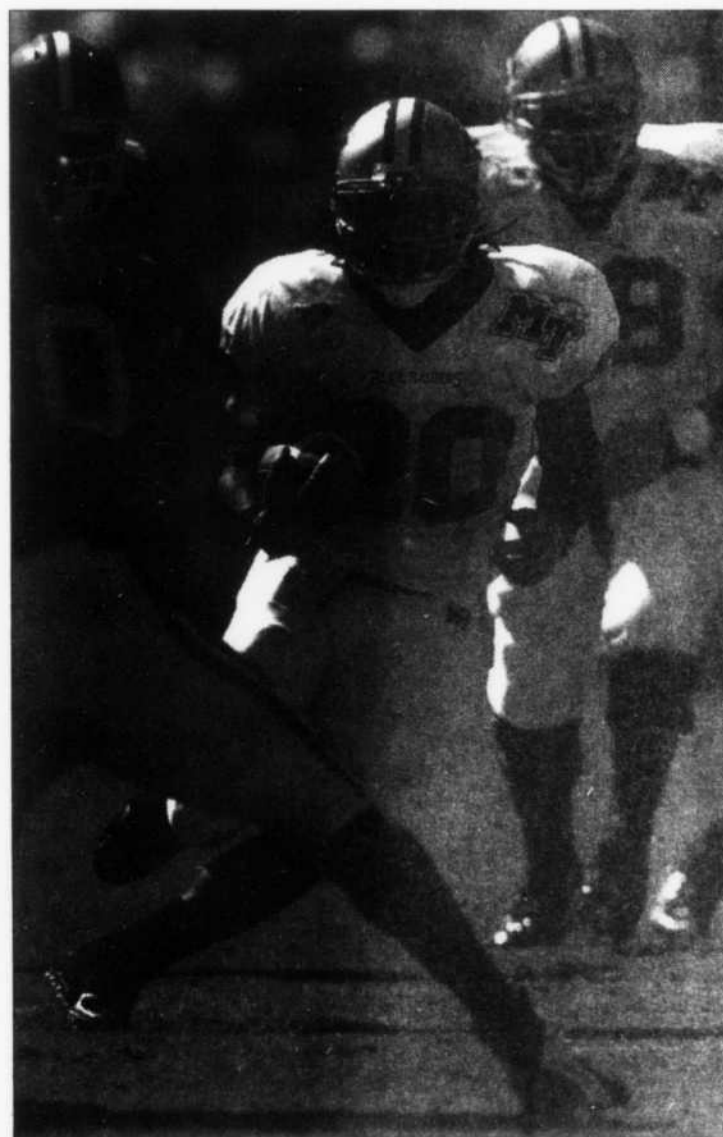
"I think there are some positives, but we just got beat by a better football team," MT head coach Andy McCollum said to www.gatorzone.com. "It's real simple."

Marks won 25-of-37 for 223 yards with one touchdown and two interceptions. Wright had his eighth 100-yard game in his career by catching nine passes for 112 yards and a touchdown.

Eugene Gross was MT's leading rusher with 53 yards on 16 carries.

Leach finished 17-for-22 for 316 yards with three touchdowns and an interception. Johnson caught six passes for 103 yards and a score, while Wynn ran for 81 yards and three touchdowns.

The Blue Raiders fell to 2-4 as the Gators improved to 4-2. MT takes on Idaho this Saturday at Floyd Stadium at 2 p.m. ♦



Courtesy of MT Media Relations

MT's Eugene Gross had 53 yards on 16 carries Saturday.

Titans Box

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Record
MT	W 31-24 @ Akron	L 20-27 FAU	L 17-24 @ ULL	L 21-30 @ UNT	W 45-17 ASU	L 16-52 @ Florida	2-4
Titans	W 17-7 @ MIA	L 17-31 IND	L 12-15 JAC	L 17-38 @ SD	W 48-27 @ GB	L 10-20 HOU	2-4

Volleyball drops two SBC matches on road

By Jill Davis
Staff Writer

The Blue Raider volleyball team fell to New Mexico State 3-1 (12-30, 25-30, 30-24, 14-30) Friday before losing 3-1 (25-30, 30-26, 22-30, 24-30) at Denver on Sunday, ending the team's seven-game winning streak.

MT struggled early in Game 1 on Friday, registering only seven kills and suffering through 10 errors for a .094 attack percentage. Kristen Hendricks took a pass from Tanya Allen and slammed it down for NMSU's first point en route to a 12-4 run to open the match.

Dara McLean broke the Aggies' streak with a kill, but that did not stop NMSU from going

on another 11-4 run to finish Game 1 with a 30-12 victory.

The Aggies took Game 2 away from the Blue Raiders. The Blue Raiders closed to within one point at 16-15, but the Aggies held on to win 30-25 and hold a 2-0 edge at halftime.

MT came back in Game 3 by taking advantage of 11 Aggie errors to win 30-24.

"Middle Tennessee is very athletic," Aggie head coach Mike Jordan told NMSU Media Relations. "I give their coach a lot of credit, but we are probably equally as athletic."

Game 4 was all Aggies, as the team sealed MT's fate with 12 kills.

McLean and Deckard each had 12 kills in the match.

On Sunday the Blue Raiders lost to Denver (10-9, 4-4).

McLean recorded a match-leading 21 kills in the loss, marking her 11th consecutive match with at least 10 kills.

Deckard had 18 kills and 10 digs for her second double-double of the year.

MT lost Game 1 after committing nine errors, but the Blue Raiders still tied the Pioneers five times in the late stages of the game.

The Blue Raiders came back in Game 2 to tie the match 1-1. Denver led 24-23 before MT scored six unanswered points to go up 29-24. Denver extended the game by two points with a kill and a bad set by MT, but

McLean got the final kill to end

the game 30-26.

Game 3 was tied at 22 before Denver went on a 4-0 run.

Denver came away with a 30-22 win, recording a match-high .438 hitting percentage.

The Pioneers then won Game 4 30-24 by limiting MT to just a .157 hitting percentage. Although MT held a 69-65 kill advantage in the match, Denver was more efficient on offense, holding an edge in attack percentage.

Four Pioneers recorded double digit kills, including Halt's season-high 15. Both Alyssa Hampton and Amanda Millard had 12, and freshman Sarah Wirth added 11.

MT (10-10, 4-3) returns home Friday to host New Orleans (14-5, 4-3) at 7 p.m. ♦

Chase for the Cup heads into final turn

Sports commentary



David Hunter
Senior Staff Writer

The first ever NASCAR Nextel Cup Chase for the Championship got off to a slow start, but it's beginning to gain speed.

After the halfway point of the 10-race "playoff," Kurt Busch is in position to take his first-ever Cup title. He has finished in the top-10 in the first five races in the chase, including a victory at New Hampshire.

Of course, Busch has also had luck on his side, including Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s naughty word that cost him 25 points and the point lead. Busch leads Earnhardt Jr. by 24.

Saturday night Busch was involved in an opening lap crash in the UAW-GM Quality 500 at Lowe's Motor Speedway in Charlotte, N.C. The damage was light, however, and his crew was able to fix it.

Toward the end of the race, Jimmy Spencer and Brendan Gaughan touched coming off Turn 4. Busch had to drive through the infield grass to avoid the wreck, but still finished the race in fourth.

Busch has won on three of

UNT: Cannot break Manis

Continued from 5

the post and their goalie made some great saves, but we should have won the game."

One of those shots was a 25-yard kick by UNT sophomore Kristen Campbell that bounced off the crossbar in the final minute of the first overtime.

Another shot came in the second overtime, when Manis tipped a 30-yard attempt by UNT senior Elaine Bacchus over the goal.

five tracks that the series has left: Martinsville, Atlanta and Homestead. He has finished second at Darlington, and has two top-10 finishes at Phoenix.

The two other drivers that have a legitimate shot at the title are Dale Earnhardt Jr. (-24), and Jeff Gordon (-74).

I'm still going with my pick of Busch winning the title that I made before the first Chase race.

The most important moment of the Chase so far came at Talladega, where Earnhardt Jr. said the s-word in victory lane. Everybody and their mothers have an opinion on the issue, so I will keep mine short.

Earnhardt Jr. broke a rule, and NASCAR had to do something. Earlier this season, two drivers in the Busch Series cussed to the media. NASCAR fined each one \$10,000 and took away 25 points. It would not be fair to let one person get away with it, even though Little E is easily the most popular driver in all three series.

Also, I wish the fans would get off the media's back. These same fans cried when NBC didn't talk to Tony Stewart after winning a race last season. You cannot have it both ways.

In any case, the next race is Sunday at Martinsville, Va., with the Subway 500. NBC coverage begins at noon. ♦

MT soccer finishes regular season at home

By Clarence Plank
Staff Writer

The Blue Raider soccer team will play its final three matches at home in its bid for the top seed in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament, beginning with a match against conference rival Western Kentucky on Friday at 3 p.m.

"Western Kentucky is always going to be a tough game," Middle Tennessee head coach Aston Rhoden said. "On any given day its about the players now, and where the heart and the desire is and who really wants to win it more."

The Lady Toppers (7-8, 2-3 SBC) will play against MT after losing to Denver 2-1 in double overtime Sunday. The Lady Toppers kept the match close despite being outshot 17-12 by the Lady Pioneers, who fell to MT for the first time in their history last Friday. Keeper Meredith Goodson had four saves for WKU in the loss.

This Friday's MT-WKU match could become the third consecutive double-overtime match for the Blue Raiders.

After defeating Denver 2-1 in extra time, the Blue Raiders tied North Texas 0-0 on Sunday.

MT is led offensively by Debs Brereton, who is 14th in the nation with 0.93 goals per game. Brereton, who scored the game-winning goal against Denver, also holds the school record for single-season points (33) and tied the MT single-season marks for goals (13) on Friday.

Freshman keeper Jenny Manis has continued her stellar play, logging six shutouts while posting a 0.95 goals-against average. Rhoden insisted, however, that Brereton and Manis are just two parts of the more important whole.

"I think one of the goals definitely for us going into the season was the spirit of team," Rhoden said. "I think we definitely have embodied the fact that when one of us doesn't play well, then one of us will play better."

Last year the Blue Raiders and WKU played to a 1-1 tie.

After their match against the Lady Toppers, the Blue Raiders will host South Alabama on Oct. 29 and Louisiana-Lafayette on Oct. 31. ♦

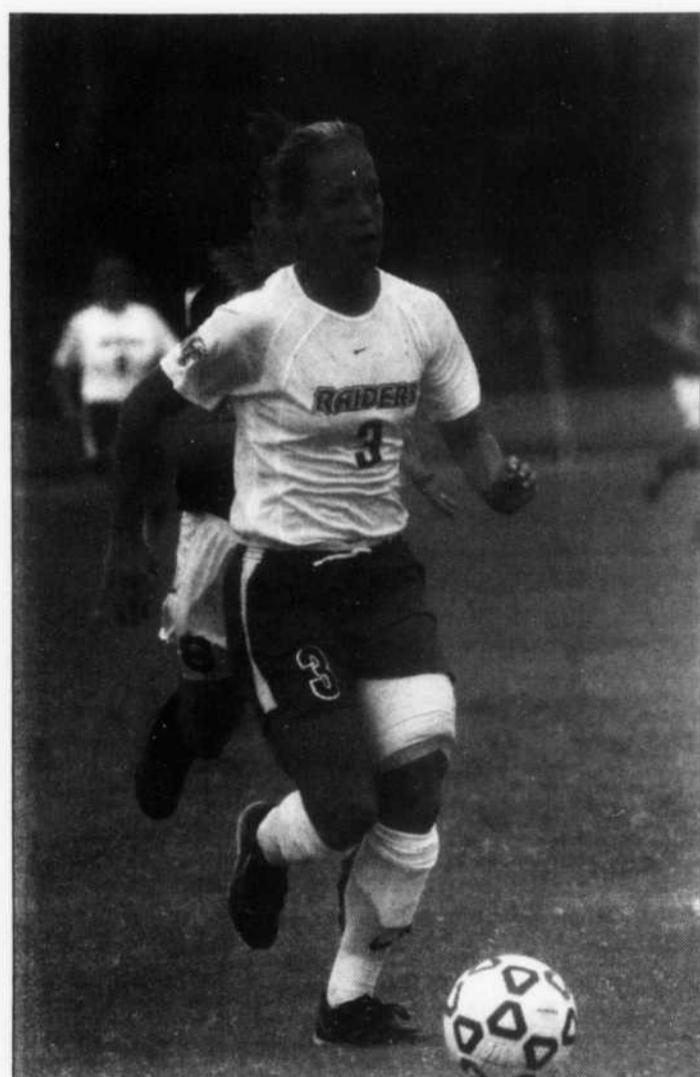


Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

MT senior Danielle LaDuke has five goals this season.

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IN THEATRES EVERYWHERE OCTOBER 22

MT finishes third, fifth at UTC

By Katy Hamlett
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee cross country teams had their strongest race of the season Saturday at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga FrontRunner invitational.

After a disappointing last-place finish two weeks ago in Louisville at the Cardinal Classic, the women's cross country team finished fifth place overall, beating out Alabama State and Montevallo College.

Sarah Johnson, Marjorie Gombert and Miranda Gallaway took the top three spots for the Lady Raiders, finishing 23rd, 24th and 26th overall.

Samford University won the women's race with 28 points, with sophomore Lauren Blankenship leading her pack with a second-place finish.

Host school UTC took second place in the 5,000-meter race with 29 points, Mercer College placed third with 90 points, and Tennessee State defeated MT by less than a point at 131 to finish fourth overall.

The men's team, led by senior Geoffrey Lagat, finished third with 67 points, marking the Blue Raiders' strongest finish of the season.

Finally fully recovered from his injuries, Lagat finished the four-mile course in 15:47, taking 11th place and running his fastest race of the season.

The rest of the team was at Lagat's heels, with Derek Dell finishing 12th, Steve Strafsun finishing 13th and Jonathon Guillou taking 14th place in the event.

"Overall, we ran well as a team and I am pleased with the overall performances," Middle Tennessee coach Dean Hayes told MT Media Relations.

Host team UTC's first, fourth, fifth, and 10th place finishes gave the Mocs their overall Samford University took second place in the event, boasting the eighth and ninth-place finishers.

"Our runners continue to show improvement with each meet and that's a good sign with the Sun Belt meet coming up in two weeks," Hayes told MT Media Relations.

The MT teams have been focusing on the SBC meet at Arkansas-Little Rock all season.

"What really counts in the conference meets," Lunning said. "These races [before the conference races] are more like workouts."

MT's next race will be the SBC meet in Little Rock, Ark., on Oct. 30. ♦

Siljestrom falls after two wins

By Mark Emery
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee men's tennis team had mixed results at the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Region III Championships in Memphis, Tenn.

Andreas Siljestrom had a first-round bye before defeating Nolan Polley of the University of Kentucky 6-3, 6-4 in the second round. In the round of 32, Siljestrom defeated Tulane's Jacobo Hernandez 7-5, 6-3. In the round of 16, however, Siljestrom lost to No. 35 Scott Brown of Vanderbilt 1-6, 6-7.

Marco Born also had some success in the tournament. Born first defeated Louisiana State's Paul White 7-6, 6-3, before defeating Irving Morales of Troy University 6-4, 6-0. In the round of 32, Born also fell to a Vanderbilt player, as Jason Pinky won 7-5, 6-2.

Blue Raiders Kai Schledorn and Greg Pollack both won their first matches, but both lost in the next round. Schledorn defeated the University of Tennessee's Kiril Tcherveniachki 7-6, 6-3 before falling to Jose Carles Pinto of Mississippi State in three sets, 7-6, 1-6, 1-6.

Pollack defeated Murray State's Jeff Lester 6-3, 6-0 in his first match, but fell in three sets to David Canudas of Southern Mississippi 6-7, 6-4, 2-6.

Brandon Allan and Anant Sitara both fell in their first matches. Allan went three sets before falling to Shunuske Shimizu of Tennessee Tech 7-5, 4-6, 4-6.

Sitaram's match also went three sets and every set went to a tiebreaker before he lost to the University of Memphis' James Spence 7-6, 6-7, 6-7.

In doubles, the team of Allan and Schledorn had a first-round bye.

In the second round, Allan and Schledorn defeated Tulane's David Goulet and Jonah Kane-West 8-5.

In the round of 16, however, the MT duo lost to the University of Georgia's Strahinja Bobusic and Colin Purcell 5-8.

MT's other doubles team of Born and Siljestrom defeated Alabama-Birmingham's Sebastian Falk and Andre Maier 8-4 in their first match. Born and Siljestrom then lost, 8-9, Janne Holmia and Greg Oullette from the University of Florida.

MT's next tournament, the University of Tennessee Fall Invitational in Knoxville, Tenn., is on Oct. 29-31. ♦

Blue Raiders to host New Orleans, South Alabama Denver: MT finally wins

By Katy Hamlett
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee volleyball team is preparing for two critical Sun Belt Conference matches at home this weekend.

First, the Blue Raiders will host the University of New Orleans Privateers Friday night. Last year the Blue Raiders fell 1-3 in New Orleans at Lake Front Arena, but MT volleyball head coach Matt Peck is optimistic about Friday's match.

"UNO is 15-5 overall, about like us," Peck said. "They've had a very good season, but so have we. We're really focusing on this match. It will be a huge game for us."

Like the Blue Raiders, UNO is entering the upcoming match with a recent two-game losing streak to SBC teams. Last weekend the Privateers fell to Arkansas-Little Rock 1-3 and then dropped a hard-fought match against Arkansas State 2-3. Both losses came in New Orleans.

UNO's standout leader is senior Jennifer Cruz, who was recently honored with Sun Belt Conference's Player of the Week award after registering 21 kills and 10 digs in UNO's match against ASU.

On Sunday, MT will host South Alabama at the Alumni Memorial Gym. Historically, South

Alabama has never been a top contender in SBC volleyball play, and this year is no different. This season the Lady Jags hold a 1-14 overall record and a 1-7 record in SBC conference play.

South Alabama is also entering Sunday's match with two recent SBC losses at home to ASU (3-1) and UALR (3-0). The Jags, currently last in the SBC West Division, will take on the East Division leader Western Kentucky in Bowling Green, Ky., on Friday night.

The Blue Raiders fell to New Mexico State (1-3) and the University of Denver (1-3) this weekend, ending the team's seven-game winning streak.

"Up to this point we've done very well on the road," Peck said. "But we just haven't played well enough for a long enough time to win these tough matches."

This weekend freshman Tara Mikuszis will be returning to play after nearly a month on the bench from an injury that occurred during a late September match.

"Tara was getting a lot of playing time before her injury, so we look forward to having her back in the game," Peck said.

The Blue Raiders (10-10, 4-3) will take on UNO Friday night at 6 p.m. and South Alabama on Sunday at noon at the Alumni Memorial Gym. ♦

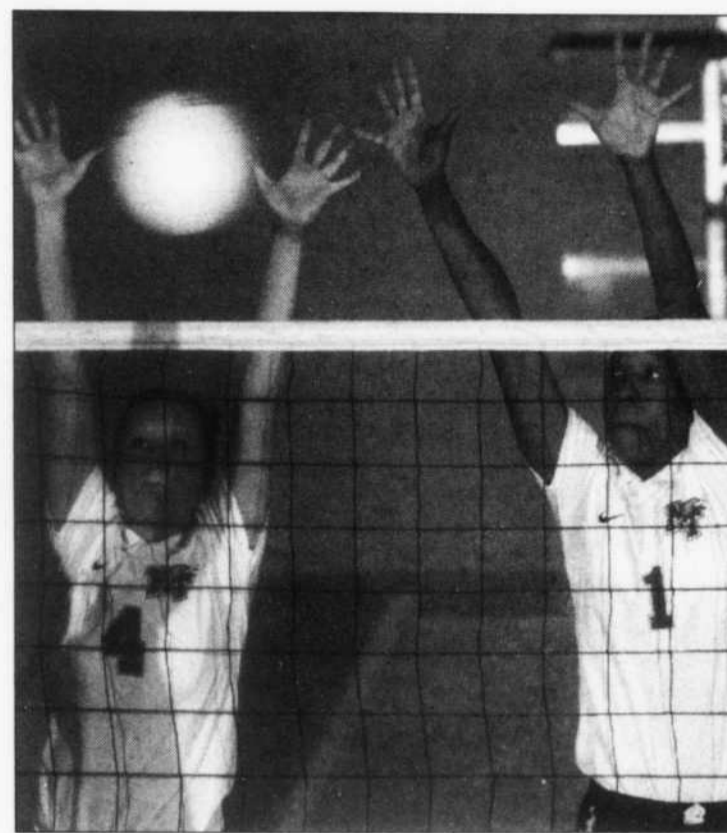


Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

Megan Sumrell and Quanshell Scott go up for the block.

Continued from 5

valiant defensive efforts by both units. The two squads battled through a scoreless first overtime. The decisive strike was made with four minutes left in the second extra period, as Debs Brereton scored a goal in the 106th minute.

"We really pushed hard for the win," Pioneer head coach Jeff Hooker told Denver Media Relations.

"Our first goal really showed character, but it's still disappointing that the lone opportunity MT had in both overtimes combined they scored on."

"The girls deserved to win the game because they had to work very hard for it," Rhoden said.

The win moved MT to 9-4 overall, 3-1 in SBC play. Denver dropped to 4-9-2 overall and 2-2 in the conference. ♦

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