

MONDAY  
NOVEMBER 10, 2003

47 63



Partly Cloudy



This week's poll question  
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"Have you ever  
had your bike stolen on campus?"



Winter is approaching.  
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In Living, 6

The university's  
editorially independent  
student newspaper

# Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

MURFREESBORO,  
TENNESSEE

Volume 79 No. 40

## Blue Raiders trounce Trojans



MTSU Blue Raiders defeated the Troy State Trojans 27-20 Saturday night. The Blue Raiders' record is now 3-7. MT will play Louisiana-Lafayette at home on Saturday at 2 p.m. For full game coverage, see page 8.

Photo by Jamie Lorange | Chief Photographer

## Veteran's day celebrated tomorrow

### Research center collecting soldiers' stories

By Leah Massey  
Staff Writer

Veterans' Day will be recognized throughout the country on Tuesday. "I think it's good that veterans are remembered at least once a year," said Horace Reed, World War II veteran and retired MTSU biology professor.

Reed was a light machine gunner in the 84 infantry and served during World War II. During his experiences in the armed forces, Reed learned a lot about how people react in war. He observed American and British soldiers, captured German soldiers and civilians as they dealt with war.

"There are some things that you might think you can't tolerate," Reed said. "But you learn to tolerate."

Before entering the military, Reed enlisted in the reserve corps and began college at the University of Tennessee. This meant that he could go to college until he was called upon for active duty.

Reed went back to the places he remembered serving in during the war in 1998.

Some of the places were just as he remembered, but others had changed because of construction and re-growth.

Memories, like those of Reed's, are what Betty Rowland, executive aide of the Albert Gore Research Center, has been collecting in interviews.

So far, 211 interviews have been conducted as part of the Middle Tennessee Oral History Project. Of these interviews, 110 have been with veterans. The war veteran interviews are also part of the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress.

Rowland said that she has spoken with veterans from many wars, but those from the World Wars are of special priority because of the project is ongoing.

"It's not just a lesson in history," Rowland said. "It's a lesson in living."

"It's an honor to be in a position to listen to these stories," said Lisa Pruitt, director of the research center.

Rowland said that after World War II, most soldiers didn't want to talk about their experiences. They just wanted to move on

with their lives. Only within the past 10 years have many veterans begun discussing their experiences. In fact, some family members of the veterans had never heard the stories until the interviews were conducted.

A former pilot told Rowland that he had experienced many successful bombing runs during World War II and had been a top pilot, but when he returned to the states, he didn't know how to drive a car.

Many of the veterans have commented on the World War II memorial that is to be unveiled on Memorial Day in May, hoping that they would have a chance to be present at its presentation.

When asked about the war in Iraq, many veterans agreed something had to be done. Rowland pointed out that these are people who had seen war, that they know what war really is. Many veterans commented that something had to be done, but that the job should not be rushed.

"I think if something hadn't been done," Reed said. "Things might have turned out much worse." ♦

## MTSU student appointed to Board

By Tim Poland  
Staff Writer

MTSU finance major Matt Chapman was named to the Tennessee Board of Regents in late June.

Each year, one student is awarded a position on the TBR.

Out of three nominees provided by the TBR Nominees Government Presidents' Council, Chapman was the student that Gov. Phil Bredesen gave the thumbs up to when the final decision was made.

"Matt will bring strong academic insight into the important role that higher education plays in our state," Bredesen said in a press release issued soon after the decision was made.

The Tennessee Board of Regents is the sixth largest higher education system in the United States and is responsible for managing about 182,000 students who attend a total of six universities, 13 community colleges and 26 technical schools across the state.

He graduated from Vol State with an associates degree in business commerce.

Chapman's responsibilities will include traveling to different institutions to learn about the issues that each school has and then addressing them to the board.

He, along with the rest of the board, will be addressing issues such as the new Hope Scholarship. He also will be involved in creating policies such as the decision to cut back the hours needed to graduate.

The position does not offer much leisure time as most of Chapman's day seems to be involved with working with students and the Student

Government Association. He also receives tons of mail and phone calls and often must leave for several days to attend board meetings.

"I have a passion for the higher education system," Matt said. "And I feel there is much to be done in order to make sure that students get the proper education and that most of the barriers are removed, especially in this difficult time."

In the summer, Chapman is director of park operations at Nashville Shores.

"I get so much business experience there," he said. "It really helps me to understand how a business is run."

At the age of 15, Chapman achieved the rank of Eagle in the Boy Scouts. He is also included in the Who's Who in America's Junior Colleges and was a member of Phi Theta Kappa.

"He will be an asset to the board," Bredesen said. "I am glad he agreed to serve."

Chapman's one-year appointment ends June 30 of next year. After he graduates from MTSU, he hopes to attend graduate school for economics and someday go into investment banking.

Right now, however, his time is spent identifying student and campus needs throughout the state.

"I want to keep students in Tennessee, work to develop our education system here and increase the quality of life in this state," Chapman said. ♦

"I want to keep students in Tennessee, work to develop our education system here."

—Martha Turner  
Director of Career and Employment Center

## Leadership conference begins next week

By Stephanie Hill  
Staff Writer

Any faculty or student who would like to improve their personal or organizational leadership can attend a free conference at the World Outreach Church New Harvest Sanctuary on Friday.

The Jennings A. Jones College of Business is the main sponsor of the seminar.

The MTSU Leadership Essentials: Improving Your Leadership Potential Conference is in its inaugural year and planning started during the summer.

"This conference is intended to provide a look at certain aspects of leadership from some unique perspectives," said Jim Burton, dean of the Jennings A. Jones College of Business.

Speakers include Aubrey B. Harwell, Jr., chairholder of the Jennings A. Jones Chair of Excellence in Free Enterprise, R. Earl Thomas, professor of management, Earl Swenson, chairholder of the Jennings and

Rebecca Jones Chair of Excellence in Urban and Regional Planning and Col. Nimrod McNair, president of the McNair Group, a business consulting firm.

Registration is from 8:15-8:45 a.m. The conference starts promptly at 8:45 a.m.

"I was asked by Dean Burton to be one of the panel speakers and I think the conference will serve as a great opportunity for the University's continuing efforts to enhance its relationship with area business leaders and the business community," Thomas said.

The conference is open to anyone who would like to attend but reservations are required by Tuesday.

"We have invited a number of special friends of MTSU, but anyone interested in improving personal or organizational leadership potential is welcome to attend," Burton added.

According to the conference's brochure, the conference is aimed

See Leadership, 2



Photo by Brandon Morrison | Photo Editor

Bicycle thefts are up significantly this semester. None of the bicycles have been recovered.

## Local thieves target campus for bicycles

### Bandits have nabbed 20 bikes this term

By L.P. Anderson  
Staff Writer

A continuing MTSU police investigation has yielded few clues into who attacked a police officer during one of the many recent bicycle thefts on campus.

The thieves have taken roughly 20 bicycles from campus this semester, said MTSU police Sgt. Matt Foster. He could not recall Tuesday the number of thefts during the previous semester.

But this semester, the thieves are more aggressive in their pursuit of bicycles, Foster noted.

Two unidentified men struck MTSU police Sgt. Tom Wright with a bicycle on the evening of Sept. 29, according to a release from the MTSU police.

Wright had tracked the men to an off-campus spot shortly after they stole a bicycle from university grounds.

"They hit him with the bike and then got away before back-up could arrive," Foster said.

These men are part of a small group of local thieves Foster believes is responsible for the bicycle thefts.

Police have captured none from the group.

Police cannot ascertain whether the thieves are pawning the stolen bicycles since students here rarely record a bicycle's serial number, which pawn brokers use to catalog their inventory.

Students here can register their bicycle in an MTSU police log that records a bicycle's model, color and serial number, Foster said. Most students do not take the time to register their bicycles.

Until students here routinely register their bicycles with police, Foster said, the number of thefts will continue to waver between zero to 15 each semester.

"It just runs in cycles like that, and this semester we've had quite a few taken," Foster said. ♦



## Leadership:

Continued from 1

at business owners, managers, elected officials, members of board of directors, chamber of commerce members, leadership organization members, college students, faculty and staff.

"Leadership is an often used and seldom understood term," Burton said. "We are trying to help more people reflect on what is involved in leadership and to improve their own leadership skills. We have carefully selected our speakers to have expertise, experience and good presentation skills. We have chosen our topics to provide insight into some less discussed areas of leadership."

Topics included in the conference are "Perspectives on leadership," "Leadership and philanthropy," "Leadership of corporate organizations," "Leadership of professional organizations," "Ethical leadership imperatives" and "What leaders say and how leaders say it."

"We have had 175 people register so far, however space is limited to 280 people," Burton said.

Those interested in the conference can contact Jennings A. Jones College of Business at 898-2764. ♦



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This message made possible by an educational grant  
from the Pfizer Health Literacy Initiative.



## Lunar eclipse of the heart



A lunar eclipse took place Saturday night. A lunar eclipse occurs when the earth passes directly between the Sun and the moon. The eclipse began around 6 p.m., and lasted for five hours.

Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

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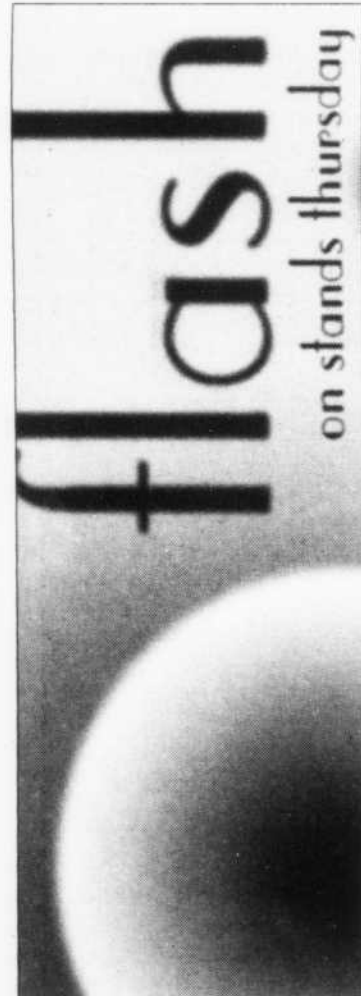
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# Voters split on approval of President Bush

## Bush camp using grassroots support

By Vanessa Maltin  
U-WIRE

(U-WIRE) WASHINGTON — Three years after one of the most contested elections in American history, voters are again split on their approval of President Bush.

Without the overwhelming flood of national unity brought on by the Sept. 11 attacks and disapproval over the handling of the war in Iraq and the economy, the country is divided 50-50, with a partisan election looming over Bush as Election Day approaches.

Kevin Madden, a Bush campaign spokesman, said the Bush

camp is preparing for the tough contest by building grassroots support across the country and taking nothing for granted.

"The 2004 election will be fought state by state, district by district," Madden said. "But historically incumbent presidents have faced much lower poll numbers going into an election year than Bush is now."

Madden said he thinks voters are going to look favorably on Bush's leadership throughout the war in Iraq and his promise to help every American find a job.

Other Republicans view Bush as a strong candidate, whose conviction and dedica-

tion to the American people will lead him to another term in the White House.

Democrats, however, believe that Bush is leading the nation in the wrong direction.

"As Election Day gets closer, people will begin to realize that the Democratic candidate will do a better job at keeping Americans safe," said Adam Kovachevich, a spokesman for Sen. Joe Lieberman's, D-Conn., campaign. "Bush faces such a rocky road because he hasn't led with integrity and the American people know it."

Kovachevich said that the past three years have left the Bush administration with a

string of broken promises to defend during the election.

"[Bush] said the mission in Iraq was accomplished. But it wasn't. He promised more jobs but there aren't any," Kovachevich said.

Yet with nine candidates still on the ticket and no leader amongst them, Democratic voters have been unimpressed by the parties lack of effort to find an alternative to Bush's policies at home and abroad.

Christine Swisher, a junior at George Washington University and a New Hampshire voter believes that once the Democrats settle on a candidate they will be able to rally enough support to regain the White House.

"The circumstances as they

were after [Sept. 11, 2001], anyone would have been popular," Swisher said. "But as Bush's true policies have come to life people are realizing that it's time for an administration change."

Voter interviews imply that Bush has successfully converted only a few of those who voted against him in 2000.

Even several of his supporters in 2000 are unsure if they will continue to support Bush in 2004 unless there are significant improvements in the job situation and violence in Iraq.

Alan Darius, a registered independent from Jupiter, Fla., said he voted for Bush in 2000 and intends to support him again unless something catastrophic happens.

He agrees with critics that

Bush has made mistakes with the United Nations, but gives him credit for standing up for his convictions in both Iraq and his handling of the economy, which is now turning around.

"If the Democrats come up with a better answer for the world's problems, I will support them," Darius said. "But I don't believe that right now any of the nine candidates can do that."

Andrew Fullerton, a recent graduate of Bucknell University said that if the United States continues to lose troops in Iraq that Bush will have a difficult time finding support for the election.

"Bush's goals are correct," Fullerton said. "But his methods are incorrect." ♦

# Proposed bill threatens early decision at universities

## Minorities hurt by admission procedure, senator claims

By Kat Schmidt  
Tufts Daily

(U-WIRE) MEDFORD, Mass. — Early decision hurts minority enrollment and should be discouraged, according to Massachusetts Sen. Edward Kennedy, who has proposed a bill that would introduce federal penalties for institutions that allow the process.

The bill singles out institutions that offer early decision, give preference to legacy students, or have minority graduation rates 10 percent below the national average.

Schools that refuse to comply with the proposed legislation would be forced to double financial aid offers to minority students on federal scholarships and create programs to improve minority graduation rates.

The proposal argues that the early decision process favors richer, non-minority students because it requires a student to

attend a university if admitted.

"Low-income students cannot take advantage of early decision, because they need to compare financial aid packages from a variety of schools," the proposal said.

The proposal quotes a Harvard study that claims applying early decision is equivalent to an additional 100 points on a student's SAT score.

Candidates who apply early are more likely to be admitted than if they applied during the regular decision period.

For this year's freshman class at Tufts University, the early decision admittance rate was 38 percent, and only 26 percent for regular decision.

Early decision offers legacies — applicants whose relatives attended the institution — an increased chance of admission.

"Early decision is ... for the ultra-elite, full-paying kid who may not be as smart as some of the other kids in the pool," said

Harry Siegel, the director of college counseling at Stuart Country Day School in Princeton, N.J.

"If the kid has a B average and his father went to Princeton, [early decision] is the only way the kid will get a fair look, otherwise he may end up ... at the University of the Ozarks," Siegel said.

Education officials have protested the bill, questioning the perceived encroachment of federal involvement.

Higher education organizations, including the American Council on Education and Council for Advancement and Support of Education, have written letters of protest.

"We don't think that the federal government has a role in being watchdog over college admissions," said Chris Simmons, Assistant Director of Government Relations at the American Council on Education.

Siegel agrees.

"If a university is dedicated to free and open exchange of ideas, they should be the ones to determine the nature of their student bodies," Siegel said.

"[Statistics-based admissions] would set up a monster quota system that wouldn't level the playing field, but exacerbate [the problem]," Siegel said.

Siegel also says the process of creating legislation could create unintended consequences.

"There are so many publics to appease and too many forces pushing and pulling" on the legislative process, he said. "Wherever they ask a committee to design a horse, they will come out with a camel."

Officials also question whether early decision or legacy admissions affect minority graduation rates, as Kennedy claimed.

While it can play an important role in the college process, Tufts University Dean of Admissions Lee Coffin doubted that government legislation per se would directly affect minori-

ty participation.

"The senator's intentions are good ones, and preserving access to a college education is obviously a goal I share," Coffin said, "but I am not convinced that ED processes and legacy admissions thwart such access."

Coffin says he agrees with a *Wall Street Journal* op-ed piece by Princeton Dean of Admissions Janet Rapeyle.

In the article, Rapeyle argues that reporting early decision information to the government will not improve minority admissions.

According to Associate Director of Admissions Daryl Tiggler, early decision is an option for students with a clear first choice to receive a more favorable look by the admissions committee.

The university benefits by admitting students early decision, Tiggler says, because they are more enthusiastic and more likely to contribute to the student body.

Education officials suggest the responsibility to diversify

schools rests not only on colleges, but high school officials and the students themselves.

"You have to change the mentality of the guidance counselors, not the law," Siegel said.

"If your last name ends in a vowel, [many counselors] will at best point you to a third-tier school," Siegel said.

"The real change for the better would be for every college to admit everyone on a rolling basis, but institutions won't do this because it makes their U.S. News and World report ranking go down."

With rolling admissions, a student is either admitted or rejected right when he or she applies.

"Colleges and universities are doing well to make sure that all students are aware of the options open to them," Simmons said.

"The responsibilities are on high school students to educate themselves about colleges and then understand what options are open to them," Simmons said. ♦

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Spring 2004

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## From the Editorial Board

### Dean's comments misconstrued

Democratic Presidential hopeful Howard Dean was misunderstood for his statements about the Confederate flag.

"But I think there are lot of poor people who fly that flag because the Republicans have been dividing us by race since 1968 with their Southern race strategy. ... I want to go down to the South and talk to people who won't make any more than anybody else up North but keep voting Republican against their own economic interest," Dean said in an October interview.

While Dean may be right, his awkward way of introducing the topic hasn't helped matters much. Dean was not pandering to racist Southerners.

What Dean was suggesting is that the Democratic Party has done a piss-poor job of appealing to those their party benefits most. In fact they've done a good job of alienating poor white southerners. So much so that poor white southerners are voting Republican rather than Democrat.

Dean said he was merely suggesting that the Democratic Party be more inclusive. Folks flying Confederate flags have been alienated from the party, despite the fact that they could benefit if the party were in power.

This most recent statement by Dean might be indicative of the Democratic Party's inability to convey its message to possible swing voters. Instead they make awkward statements, like Dean's, which alienate as much as they include. Way to be accidentally ironic, Dean.

The statement is so awkward it almost insults the southerners with Confederate flags in their pick up trucks. Dean was suggesting that southerners with Confederate flags in their pick up trucks are poor.

Poor people, he said, should vote their economic interest, Democrat.

He may be right, but what an awful way to get to your point. The other candidates have attacked Dean for pandering to racists. Now that they've called all southerners with Confederate flags racist, they've done a good job of putting off a good number of potential voters.

Way to miss the point completely, Democrats.

Unless the Democrats can get their message together, they don't have a chance of beating George W. Bush next year. The more they fumble around making misstatements, then argue about it, the more they aren't communicating to their voters.

The Republicans are winning those voters because they are playing smarter and communicating better than the Democrats. ♦

## Take made-for-TV movies with a grain of salt

### Speaking of Which



David Cotton  
Staff Columnist

The made-for-television movie has never exactly been the greatest art form our culture has to offer. The typical dramatized television biography, or biopic, is even worse. Ostensibly a depiction of actual events, the biopic is to history what reality shows are to everyday life. These hastily-made movies usually contain the dialogue and production values of a daily soap opera, and about as much historical merit.

But rarely does a biopic gain such notice or provoke so much anger as the CBS mini-series *The Reagans*. Afraid of a negative portrayal of the conservative idol, Republicans are up in arms, and apparently are getting results. Along with accusations of liberal slander from conservative pundits and

radio talk show hosts, the Media Research Center has threatened a boycott of companies that advertise during the mini-series for what it claims to be an unfair and inaccurate depiction of historical facts.

Feeling the pressure, CBS has decided to not show the mini-series on the network, but rather on their partner company, the cable network Showtime. While hardly placating right-wing conservatives, the move to the commercial-free Showtime keeps CBS from having to worry about nervous advertisers under the threat of boycott.

Letter-writing campaigns and product boycotts are fine democratic methods of protest, and should not be viewed as some insidious form of censorship. But I still have to wonder, why all the fuss?

While it should be noted that neither I nor the movie's critics have actually seen the film, I don't expect much quality from this genre. Any resemblance between this

movie and reality is no doubt purely coincidental. But what else is new?

Even good movies about history are rarely all that accurate. Mel Gibson's *Braveheart* irritated history buffs around the world with decisions such as a bridge not being a necessary component in the Battle of Stirling Bridge. It didn't keep the film from winning an Oscar for best picture.

But *Braveheart's* subject, Scottish warlord William Wallace, was portrayed as a hero, and that seems to be the real problem. Inaccurate history isn't the issue, but someone's hero being shown negatively is. I can't help but think that a portrayal of Reagan as anything less than the saintly defender of the free world would disappoint his legions of fans. Obviously they wouldn't appreciate a movie that focuses on the former president's alleged absent-mindedness and the controlling nature of his wife. But even if it wallows in overblown stereotypes, does it really deserve

such outrage?

Sure, the timing is in poor taste considering the former president's battle with Alzheimer's disease, a struggle shared with his wife and the Reagan family.

But is the hurried and unauthorized television biography of Pfc. Jessica Lynch any less sleazy? How about the one about Elizabeth Smart, Amy Fisher, Joan Crawford or anyone else who has had his or her life condensed into a poorly made movie of the week? Why is it OK to subject any other American citizen to a melodramatic misrepresentation but not this particular public figure?

If this type of entertainment is accepted in the first place, then it is hard to see why a historical figure, who will be discussed and reinterpreted for years to come, would be an unacceptable topic. Once the most powerful man in the world, it is hard to believe Reagan's reputation hinges on one mini-series. We should try not to unfairly tarnish someone's reputa-

tion, but we shouldn't be too ready to accept the canonization of our leaders, either.

I don't wish to defend the voyeuristic slice of trash TV that is the "true story" biopic. But I will point out that it is just a movie. If *The Reagans* is just history through a liberal lens, then I suppose conservatives can make their own Reagan biography. To imply there is only one correct version of history, or to expect a work like this to be held to any kind of factual standard, is silly.

If you think a soap opera version of our 40th president's term sounds entertaining, then by all means watch *The Reagans*. If you think you'll be offended, don't.

But while it might be old-fashioned, if you're looking for a deeper reflection of history, might I suggest a book, as opposed to a television mini-series. ♦

David Cotton is a senior English major and can be reached via e-mail at balor6@aol.com.

## WHAT A SCHMUCK!!

*Sidelines'*  
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watch for  
muttonheads.



There are typically two ways to do anything – the good way and the bad way. Interestingly enough, when illegal drugs are involved, the police typically seem to pick the bad way.

Take recent activity in Goose Creek, S.C. Stratford High School's administration, including principal George McCrackin, believed there was a large marijuana trafficking ring in the school.

The good way to handle this scenario, "Finding drugs in a suburban high school," would be a couple of police officers to bring in a dog, which should then sniff around. Officers might open up a locker for a peek and either arrest some students or, finding nothing, go home and think, "I bet some teachers were over-reacting, and there really wasn't anything going on."

Of course, the police chose to do things the bad way. Fourteen officers, with guns drawn, stormed into a hallway in the school where, according to one of the officers, a lot of drug activity takes place.

They immediately yelled for all students to get down on the ground, with their hands behind their backs. Officers forcibly handcuffed any students who wouldn't comply with the

absolutely ridiculous situation.

Then they brought in the dogs, who walked up and down the hallway. We bet you can't guess how much dope the canine officers detected. Give up? None. Not one ounce, gram, dime bag or joint. Although, and this is certainly encouraging for their efforts, the dogs did supposedly smell marijuana on 12 of the students' backpacks.

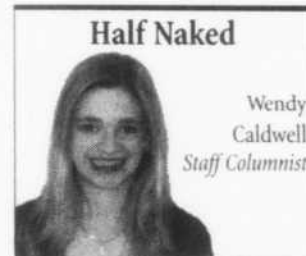
Let's you think that this recount is some trumped-up attack on the inherently noble and otherwise effective war on drugs, visit [www.ksat.com/news/260644/detail.html](http://www.ksat.com/news/260644/detail.html), where you can watch the school surveillance video yourself.

"I was just upset knowing they had guns put to their head and a canine was barking at them and about to bite somebody," Latonia Simmons, a parent of a Stratford High student, said. "It was just awful."

McCrackin doesn't think so, however.

"The volume and amount of marijuana coming into the school is unacceptable," he said in an interview after the police hadn't found any drugs anywhere in the school. ♦

## 'None of the above' should be option when deciding on candidate for office



Wendy Caldwell  
Staff Columnist

Every time there's an election, it seems that voter turnout is an issue. Of all the eligible voters, very few actually go to the polls to cast their votes.

Most assume this is apathy: People don't vote because they don't care. Though this is sometimes the case, it's not always true.

I was in the office last week when a colleague raised an excellent point: options.

When people vote, there are very limited options. Generally there's a Republican, a Democrat and a few independents you've never heard of. I have more choices at Baskin Robbins.

The aforementioned colleague had a great idea: There should be a "none of the above" option.

Think of voting as a multiple-choice test. Generally, there are four or five options, and usually the last choice is "none of the above."

This could really help voter turnout. Some peo-

ple don't vote simply because they don't feel any candidate is worthy of the job. If people could actively vote for no one, rather than passively refrain from voting, they would. It would serve as an indicator that people really are interested in their government, and it would also let candidates know where the people's concerns lie.

If "none of the above" wins, it's time to look at the candidates and those who lost in the prelims. We could compromise to find a candidate that represents what people want.

They could make the voting process a little more entertaining, too. If voting were fun, more people would do it.

For instance, instead of voting for a candidate, you could vote against all but one. It would have the same effect, but it would appeal to more people.

With politics today (and political ads), it seems as though voting has turned into the process of choosing the lesser of two, three or four evils. Voting against is really what voting is to a lot of people.

There could also be a special booth for parents who bring their kids with them. It could be set up arcade style, and the kid could throw something at

the candidates his or her parent does not want.

OK, so that last part is a bit of a stretch, but I think the "none of the above" option could really work.

This could extend to campus voting as well. MTSU's voter turnout is embarrassingly low. If people could vote against SGA and Homecoming candidates, we may see a higher percentage of our student body hitting the online polls.

However, I think MTSU's problem is a combination of apathy and forgetfulness.

I'm certain a great deal of MTSU students don't vote because they don't care. For instance, if you don't know any of the Homecoming King and Queen candidates, why would you vote? It just seems pointless. Perhaps "Who are these people?" should be an option.

There may not be anything we can do about some people's lack of interest in government – be it federal, local or collegiate – but we can give voters a few more options when they hit the polls. ♦

Wendy Caldwell is a junior mathematics major and can be reached via e-mail at VISA717@aol.com.

## SIDELINES

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

### Letters Policy

*Sidelines* welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. E-mail letters to [slopinio@mtsu.edu](mailto:slopinio@mtsu.edu) and include your name and a phone number for verification.

*Sidelines* will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, length and content.

Cable's still out.  
Here's the latest report:

Tennessee Titans 31  
Miami Dolphins 7

Got it from the Internet.  
Waiting on ya, Comcast.

[slopinio@mtsu.edu](mailto:slopinio@mtsu.edu)

### Letter to the Editor

#### Parking spaces are for students first – keep out conventions and other events

To the editor:

I am sick and tired of paying an ever-increasing tuition each fall for someone else to take my parking space. Each semester, there is always some "important" event that invades our campus and takes valuable parking spaces away from students who actually have legitimate business here.

This morning, as I attempted to park in the Bell Street lot for an 8:05 a.m. class in Peck Hall, I noticed that there were barricades with "caution" tape blocking off 40 percent of the lot yet again.

At first, it was no big deal because I scoped out an area next to a department vehicle where there were four vacant spots. I zoomed around the little aisle, thinking I was so clever.

As I began to pull my car in, someone got out of the department vehicle and approached my car shaking his head punitively.

I rolled down the window and he says, "You can't park here."

"Why? I thought that these spaces were free because the barricade isn't covering them."

"No, they're all reserved for some kind of Nursing Convention or something."

Normally, I wouldn't mind just driving away and parking elsewhere. However, I need to be close to all my classes because I have a Phase II ankle sprain which causes constant swelling and requires physical therapy.

Why am I paying for a parking decal that doesn't mean squat when a high school basketball tournament or career fair decides to set up shop at MTSU? Something has to give.

Elisha McKay  
Junior  
College of Liberal Arts







# D.U.I.

## Losing to the odds



Photo Illustration by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

In Tennessee, drinking while under the influence of alcohol results in a mandatory 48 hour jail sentence.

By Trey Porter  
Staff Writer

Gentlemen Jim's has \$2 pitchers on Tuesdays and you've been there since three o'clock in the afternoon. Eight dollars later, you're having a great time and enjoying the 25 cent hot dogs that are arguably the best in Murfreesboro.

Odds are you drove there.  
Odds are you will drive home.  
It happens all the time in Murfreesboro, and a growing number of MTSU students are finding themselves driving under the influence offenders.  
Mr. Tall, who did not want his real name used, was arrested for a DUI his sophomore year.

"I had a few beers at the house before

I went to Jim's [Gentlemen Jim's]," Tall says.

Tall recalls that he then had a few more whiskey drinks, before having the infamous "8 liquor ... kicker." He went on to talk about playing darts and having a good time.

"Nobody ever really thinks about how they're going to get home," Tall says.

The path Tall was on after Jim's was not to his house. He met a girl at the bar who invited him to swing by her place on his way home.

"It was only a few miles. I figured I could make the trip," Tall says. "I was headed to the Woods at Greenland."

Tall was pulled over going 41 mph in a 30 mph zone, as well as for swerving over the line.

"I looked the other way every time he [the officer] asked me a question," Tall says. He told me he detected the presence of alcohol. He asked me to turn my car off and step outside."

Tall was arrested for DUI and spent some hours in jail. He describes it as cold and very quiet. He says the inmates appeared down-trodden and worn with life.

"The food was very disappointing; really pretty bland if you ask me," Tall says.

The entire process cost him about \$1,500, what he estimates to be about 100 hours between community service and time spent in jail, and some pride.

His blood alcohol content was .14. The legal limit is .08.

According to Mothers Against Drunk Driving, driving under the influence doesn't just endanger the person committing the action, it endangers everyone. As the arrests continue to made, stories begin to be spun as well.

Mr. Blue, as he wants to be called, was busted a year ago for D.U.I. after leaving the parking lot of Campus Pub. His B.A.C. was .09, right above the legal limit.

"I probably had seven or eight Budweisers and maybe one shot of vodka, but hell, I can handle my liquor," Blue says.

Blue does not consider himself a partier, or someone who is a risk.

See D.U.I., 7



Jonathan Hicks

A friend asked me this weekend what kind of mp3 player she should request for Christmas. So I thought, "Why not do my article on some of the best hard drive mp3 players out there?"

Here are two of the top players on the market.

First and foremost in the lineup is Apple's tiny iPod. It's dimensions are 2.4 x 4.1 x .62 inches and it weighs in at 5.6 ounces.

You can get the iPod in sizes of 10, 20 or 40 gigabytes, which means that they can hold around 2,500, 5,000 and 10,000 songs ripped at 128 kbps, respectively.

The features are what really stand out on this bad boy. Not only does it hold a bunch of songs but you can also store files.

The player also has some personal digital assistant functionality so that you can store phone numbers and addresses. There is also a calendar and a to-do list.

Now, I'm sure you're wondering what software you need for this and how easy it is to use.

Well, if you have ever used an Apple machine, then you know how friendly their products are. The player itself uses either a Firewire or USB 2.0 connection, so all music and file transfers are really fast.

Also, Apple's great music software iTunes was released for Windows not too long ago, and one of the cool things about iTunes is that it will sync up your music collection with your iPod. So you don't have to drag and drop files if you don't want to. iTunes will know what files are on your computer and on your iPod and make sure they are the same with no work from you.

Unfortunately, if you are a Windows user, you have to have drivers to use the iPod. So you can't just plug it in and have it work.

The iPod is also really expensive. A 20GB iPod will set you back around \$400. Plus the battery life is pretty short, only holding about an 8 hour charge.

The next player I'll talk about is the Nomad Zen NX. It's a little bigger than the iPod, at 4.4 x 3 x 0.86 inches and 7.9 ounces, but that's still really small.

The Zen comes in 20, 40 and 60 GB sizes and can hold about 5,000, 10,000, and 15,000 songs respectively. That's about it for features.

The Zen can hold files as well as songs but it doesn't have the added functionality of a calendar or contact list like the iPod does.

Another sore point for the player is the software. Apparently the software that Nomad bundles with the Zen is slow and counter-intuitive.

Fortunately another company call RedChair makes software for Nomads. The software is called Notmad and you can find it at [www.redchairsoftware.com](http://www.redchairsoftware.com).

Some good things about the player are its sound and price. The Zen is much louder than the iPod plus a 20 GB Zen will only set you back around \$250.

There you have it. Now don't forget Santa's cookies. ♦

Send computer questions to [jh2j@mtsu.edu](mailto:jh2j@mtsu.edu).

## Winter is approaching: is your car ready?

By Devora Butler  
Staff Writer

With the winter months approaching, there is no better time to ensure that your automobile is ready for the cold weather.

According to Glenn "Bud" Mitchell, owner of Bud's Tire of Murfreesboro, auto maintenance is vital all year round. However, he stresses that cold winter months make those tasks even more critical.

He says any winterizing should include standard tire rotations every 5,000 to 7,000 miles and oil changes every 3,000 miles.

He also suggests a check of air filters and car batteries.

A car care check-up should not take much time out of your busy schedule, Mitchell says.

"The entire process should take less than an hour, especially if there is no need for changing belts, hoses and such," Mitchell adds.

Phil McCoy, AAA Auto Club South's regional manager for emergency road service, says there are a few items all winter drivers should keep on board – just in case they haven't heeded the warnings and find themselves on the side of the road in their broken-down vehicle.

These items include a blanket, a spare pair of dry shoes and clothing, a coat or a jacket, bottled water, a flashlight and reflective material to ensure that the disabled vehicle has high visibility on the roadside.

His personal tip is for clearing icy windshields.  
"I would suggest that you add a mixture of de-icer to your washer fluid. There is nothing better to help cut through that windshield ice," McCoy says.

For more tips on winterizing your car, check out the sidebar or visit [www.askmen.com/toys/cars/51\\_car\\_review.html](http://www.askmen.com/toys/cars/51_car_review.html). ♦

## Is your car ready for the cold climate?

By Jamie Thouin  
Contributor

It's easy to overlook the benefits of cold-weather car preparation. After all, it's time-consuming and many people don't know what should be done to ensure their car makes it through the winter without giving up the ghost. Here are a few tips to make sure you aren't stranded on a cold day.

- The fact that a car needs antifreeze may seem obvious, but many older cars bought in a warm climate may not have the proper ratio of water to antifreeze. This can cause significant damage to the radiator – and to the engine if it freezes. Those are expensive repairs. Make sure you're prepared by having the radiator flushed. Any speedy oil change franchise can do this job, and it only takes a few minutes.

- While you're there, maybe your car is one that needs to have its oil changed to a lighter weight. A heavy oil weight is a leading cause of hard cold starts for certain vehicles. Using heavy-weighted oil in the winter often doesn't provide the viscosity a motor

needs to run right. However, always be sure to check the manufacturer's recommendations for oil weights. Most new cars don't need a different weighted oil for the winter season. The manufacturer's specifications can be found in the manual, or at their Web site.

- It's never good to rev your car up after initial start-up – doubly so during cold weather. Don't rev your car over idle speed until at least thirty seconds has passed; your motor will thank you.

- Make sure your tires are up to snuff. A good tread isn't the only thing to worry about though. Old tires with lots of tread can still provide poor traction, especially in cold weather. Inflation is another concern. As the temperatures go down, air becomes denser. This can cause under-inflation. Check your tires' inflation on cold days and add air according to the manufacturer's specs.

- Check accessory belts for any signs of wear and replace as needed. If you know your belts are old, it would be wise to replace them even if they do not appear worn. Cold weather makes belts brittle.

- Be sure that your anti-lock braking system is working properly. You're more likely to use ABS on snowy or icy roads. If the ABS isn't working properly, it could cause a wheel to lock up prematurely. If that happens, a spin is almost guaranteed. Also, as in any weather climate, be sure that your brake pads and rotor surfaces are in good condition.

- Replace wiper blades. Good visibility leads to safer driving.

- Speaking of visibility, always scrape the frost off the entire rear window, both side windows, the entire windshield and exterior rear view mirrors. Peering out of a four inch square of cleared window will only lead to trouble.

- Never use hot water to free frozen doors. Hot water can cause cold metal and windows to crack. If you must use water [but only on the door locks], make sure it's only lukewarm.

- Finally, preparation is essential. Carry around a bag of sand or salt and a cheap shovel. These items can save your day when you get stuck on a remote road.

Cold weather preparation doesn't have to be hard. If your car is well maintained throughout the year, then winter preparation will be relatively easy. If you need new tires or your belts are old, the best time to replace these items is before Old Man Winter comes.

Thouin is a geoscience major and member of the pit crew for Treehouse Racing in Nashville, Tenn. ♦

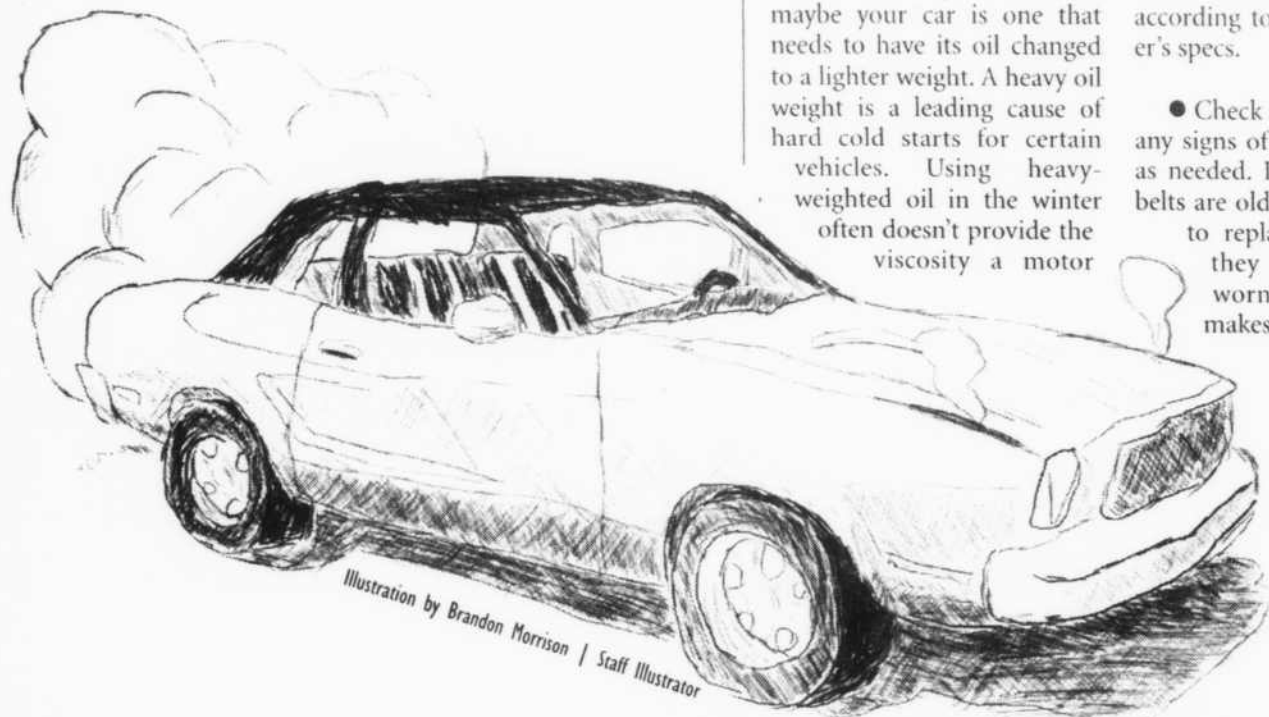


Illustration by Brandon Morrison | Staff Illustrator



# Graduate student sings at Wizards basketball game

By Tekendrea Fayne  
Staff Writer

"I've always wanted to be a singer," graduate student and Cummings Hall resident assistant Christina Ellis says.

"Ever since I was a little girl, I would tell people that when I grow up I want to be a singer. That's all I dreamed about."

Ellis' dreams did come true. In September, Ellis was invited to sing the national anthem at the opening game of the Washington Wizards, an NBA team in Washington, D.C.

A close friend e-mailed Ellis that the Atlanta Hawks were looking for people to sing the national anthem for their opening game.

After checking the Atlanta Hawks' Web site, Ellis went to several other NBA teams' Web sites and got their contact information. She sent her version of the national anthem to the Memphis Grizzlies, Los Angeles Lakers, Atlanta Hawks and the Washington Wizards.

Within two weeks, the Wizards' president of marketing and promotions, Damien Bass, contacted Ellis. He said her voice was beautiful and strong. Bass invited Ellis to sing the national anthem at the opening game with four free tickets and back stage passes.

"I couldn't believe my ears," Ellis says. "They weren't even looking for a singer."

Because Ellis had already made plans to go out of town the week of the performance, arrangements to miss class and take off from work were already in place prior to getting the good news.

Ellis canceled her trip and called her closest friends and family to share her excitement

about the upcoming performance.

"Everyone was so surprised," Ellis says with a laugh. "Especially here, at Cummings, because I ran downstairs and yelled, 'Hey everybody, I am singing for the Washington Wizards.'"

Bass had Ellis arrive at the stadium an hour before the game. Once there, she did a sound check and was told to stay in her dressing room until the performance.

Ellis says everything was so fast because the anthem could only be two minutes. However, she was nervous minute by minute.

Ellis is no stranger to stardom. Before Ellis went to the University of Maryland, she lived in Atlanta and attended Clark University. Ellis won several talent shows, opened a concert for recording artist Chico DeBarge and hosted her own television show called *The Shack*.

"Whitney Houston's 'I Will Always Love You' is the song I would sing and win the crowd over every time," Ellis says. "People would actually be on their feet, standing and applauding."

In Atlanta, Ellis hired a manager. After performing at school functions, major record labels contacted her to offer a deal, and artists wanted her to sing on their albums.

Ellis, though, stood her ground, focusing on education. She left Clark University to attend the University of Maryland, and graduated with a 4.0 grade point average.

Another reason Ellis turned down recording contracts was that she no longer wanted to sing rhythm and blues, but



Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

Christina Ellis, a masters candidate in English, will sing the national anthem for a Washington Wizards game.

gospel. She decided to wait on the deal that was right for her.

While in Maryland, Ellis had even more success in music. Despite a busy senior year, she managed to join the gospel choir and get the leading role of Dorothy in the school semester play, *The Wiz*.

The president of the university found her voice so powerful and inspiring that he asked her to sing wherever he spoke.

In between meetings and school assignments, Ellis still works on her career. She plans

to relocate next year when she decides which record company to work with.

Due to Ellis' spectacular performance, the Wizards invited her back to sing at their televised game against the Philadelphia 76ers. The game will be broadcast nationally on the Warner Brothers cable network on Jan. 10 at 7 p.m.

"Singing is what makes me happy," Ellis says. "It gives me a rush and is something I will never stop doing." ♦

## D.U.I.: Arrest costly

Continued from 6

"I do lawn care, you know, and me and the boys just go out to the pub or somewhere to shoot some pool and wind down after work," Blue says.

A few hours later, he was ready to go home. Blue had barely made it out of the parking lot when an officer pulled up behind him.

"Looking back, I know it was stupid," Blue says. "At the time I didn't think I was drunk and was upset that I had gotten pulled over. I did well on the sobriety tests, but I think it was my attitude that got me sent to jail."

He thought jail was pretty exciting.

"I went to the drunk tank that night," Blue says. "I didn't actually go spend the night in jail until after the court stuff."

"Driving drunk is dumb, plain and simple. It may have took some craziness for me to see all that, but I see it now," he adds.

Blue's journey through the system cost him about \$2,000.

These are the real stories of MTSU students who've been arrested for driving while intoxicated.

If, after a night of partying, you've had too much to drink, safe transportation options are available. In addition to calling a sober friend for a ride, taxis and the University Trolley are also available. Nightly passes cost \$5. ♦

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## Campus Calendar

Monday, Nov. 3-14

Registration for Spring Semester 2004  
Registration books available in the  
basement of the James Union Building  
For information, call 898-5094.

Monday, Nov. 10

Honors Lecture Series  
Peck Hall, Room 109A, 3 p.m.  
"Problems of Health Care in the U.S."  
Speaker: Foster Amey  
For information, call 898-2152.

Slide/Lecture Presentation by  
photographer Claudio Cambon  
Learning Resource Center, Room 221,  
7:30 p.m.  
For information, call 898-2085.

Wednesday, Nov. 12, 17 and 18

Brown Bag Health Event  
Sponsored by the Recreation Center  
Keathley University Center Theater  
Various topics in health  
For information, call 898-2104.

Thursday, Nov. 13

Anti-Drug and Anti-Terrorist  
Awareness Day  
Forrest Hall, 9:30 a.m.  
For information, call 898-5702.

Study Abroad Pizza Fiesta  
Sponsored by the Spanish and Italian  
foreign language classes  
Boutwell Dramatic Arts Building,  
Room 303B, 3:30-4:30 p.m.  
Information available for those  
interested in studying in Costa Rica,  
Cuba, Spain, Italy or Mexico.  
Pizza is free for those in attendance.  
For information, call 898-2981.

Friday, Nov. 14

Blue Raider Volleyball  
MTSU vs. Louisiana-Lafayette  
Alumni Memorial Gym, 7 p.m.  
For information, call 898-2450

Monday, Nov. 17

Honors Lecture Series  
Peck Hall Room 109A, 3 p.m.  
"The Day the Music Died. How the  
Music Business is Changing"  
Speaker: Beverly Keel  
For information, call 898-2152.

Alpha Psi Omega Dinner Theater

"A Fable"  
JUB, Tennessee Room  
Event and dinner are free to students.  
Seats limited. Pick up tickets in KUC,  
Room 308, 7 p.m.  
For information, call 898-3441.

Tuesday, Nov. 18

"Society For Success Lecture"  
Business and Aerospace Building,  
State Farm Room, 6 p.m.  
For information, call 898-2551.

Tuesday, Nov. 18-22

Flu Shots  
Sponsored by the Nursing Department  
and Health Services  
Cason Kennedy Nursing Building,  
Room 109  
Cost is \$12  
Appointments can be made by calling  
Linda Lawrence at 898-5950.

Every Friday and Saturday in November  
Distortion Music Video  
Channel 10 MTTV, 9 p.m. and midnight  
For information, e-mail [jjn2d@mtsu.edu](mailto:jjn2d@mtsu.edu).

## Want to get published?

Sidelines Living Section is seeking  
article submissions for a  
**SPECIAL HOLIDAY ISSUE**  
to be published on Nov. 26.

The topic will be  
family holiday traditions.

E-mail\* your 300-500 word story to:  
[slfeatur@mtsu.edu](mailto:slfeatur@mtsu.edu).

Submissions accepted from students, faculty  
and staff. Deadline is Nov. 14, 2003.

Sorry, no pay for the story.  
But you will receive a byline.

\*No attachments please. Copy and paste your story  
into the body of the e-mail.



# SPORTS

8 ♦ SIDELINES

Monday, November 10, 2003

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

## MT netters beat Arkansas State Friday

By Crystal Perry  
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee volleyball team defeated Arkansas State Friday.

One of the team's leading players, KeKe Deckard, recorded 24 kills in the win over Arkansas State.

Deckard's 30 second kill at Arkansas State on Oct. 28 broke the school record for kills in a match with 35.

She recorded her 24th kill of the night as the Lady Raiders were at match point 14-12, and Arkansas State was making a comeback. After receiving a set by teammate Goldie Bilyeu, Deckard made a kill to seal the game and the match.

After the set, Bilyeu continued to make exceptional progress as she recorded her second double-double with 52 set assists and 16 digs. Bilyeu is also in the Lady

Raider record books for assists in her career.

Her 915 assists for the season led the team and was good for fifth place for assists in a season in the Lady Raider record book. She is known for her assists against Arkansas, Tennessee and Chattanooga.

As the Sun Belt race heated up, the Lady Raiders stayed in contention for a berth in the eight-team Sun Belt Tournament. The Lady Raiders are currently tied for seventh place.

Last year, they finished the season 7-7 in the Conference and 17-15 overall, followed by a Sun Belt Conference quarterfinals.

"This year the key is to keep moving," head coach Lisa Kisse said. "To do so, we will have four seniors to replace. Anytime you graduate a player, it means it's time

for a new person to step up."

The Lady Raiders are now on a four-match winning streak and improved to 4-7 in the Sun Belt Conference and 13-16 overall. Arkansas State falls to 7-5 in the Sun Belt and 19-9 overall.

Since the Sun Belt Conference, Kisse has seen enhancement for her team. After advancing to the conference tournament, Kisse is ready to get the 2003 campaign started.

"We have the recruiting class capable of replacing the graduates that we lost," Kisse said. "We hope our program is able to continue to build towards becoming one of the conference's top teams."

When the Lady Raiders take the court this year, one adjustment the team will have made is its alignment. Kisse pointed out that the adjustment will be advantageous to her young team. ♦

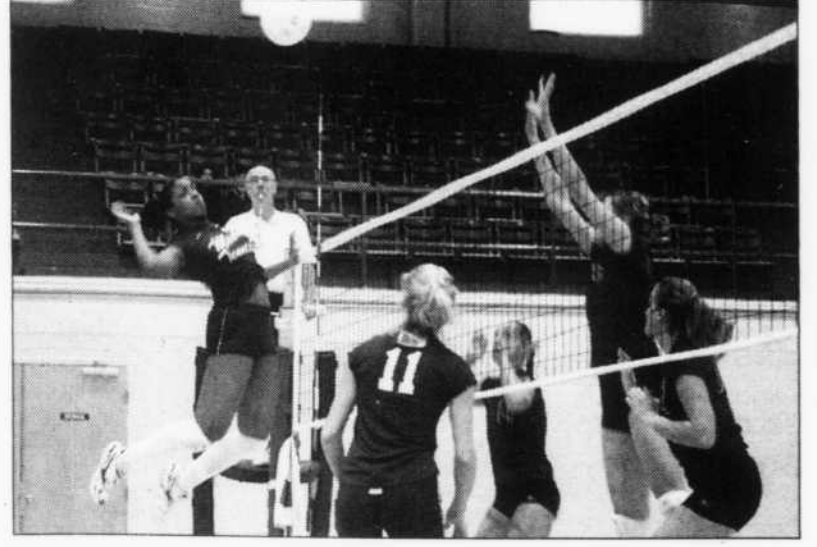


Photo by Steve Cross | Staff Photographer

Senior Karisse Baker helped the Lady Raiders overcome SBC foe Arkansas State Friday. MT improved their overall record to 13-16.

## Blue Raiders defeat Troy State 27-20

Kerry Wright sets school record with 1,023 receiving yards

By Colby Sledge  
Staff Writer

On the coldest night of the year, Middle Tennessee had just enough fire power to defeat Troy State University 27-20 Saturday at Floyd Stadium.

Andrico Hines compiled 257 yards of total offense and two touchdowns to lead the Blue Raiders (3-7, 3-2 Sun Belt Conference), who used every facet of the game to seal the victory.

"He's [Hines] special to this football team," MT head coach Andy McCollum said after the game. "He's a leader. I couldn't be more proud of him."

MT got an unexpected boost from its special teams early when punter Robert Billings faked a punt on fourth and one. Billings, a 1,000-yard rusher during his senior year of high school, sprinted 54 yards down the right sideline for his first career touchdown to give the Blue Raiders a 7-0 lead.

"I finally had enough courage to call a fake punt, not knowing that we'd score," McCollum said. "I was thinking about just getting two yards. I was just begging for 2 yards. Robert Billings made me look good."

Kerry Wright became the first MT receiver in history with 1,000 yards receiving in a season on the biggest play of the game. Thirty-seven seconds after TSU quarterback Chris Leak's 5-yard touchdown pass to Jason Samples gave the Trojans a 20-17 lead, Hines found Wright in one-on-one coverage down the middle of the field for a 56-yard touchdown.

"At the beginning of the season, all I was trying to do was be a leader on this team and have a winning season, and it's been great for me," Wright said. "I'm very honored."

The win wasn't assured, however, until Randy Arnold intercepted Leak near midfield with 42 seconds left in the game.

"The play before that I missed a call, and I had to make up for it," Arnold said.

The Trojans' loss wasted a career day for running back DeWhitt Betterson, who rushed 33 times for 177 yards and two touchdowns. Betterson also had one fumble, however, that led to a 32-yard field goal from Brian Kelly that put the Blue Raiders up 10-7 at halftime.

"DeWhitt did his part," TSU head coach Larry Blakeney said. "I know he'd like to have the fumble back that I guess set up one of their scores, but we can't take anything back. We have to go with what has transpired. DeWhitt Betterson

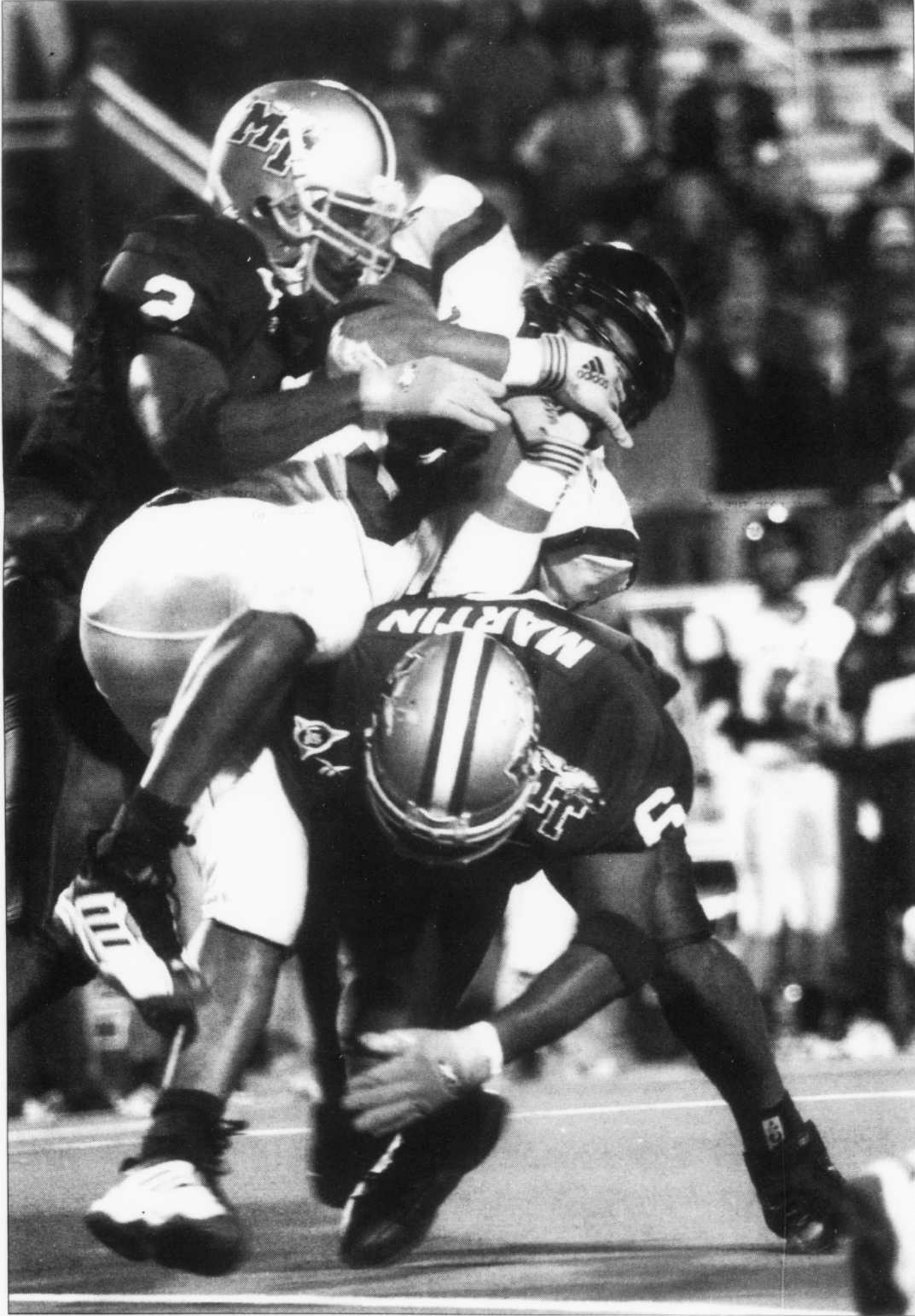


Photo by Jamie Lorange | Chief Photographer

Michael Woods and Will Martin tackle Troy State running back DeWhitt Betterson Saturday night.

See Blue Raiders, 10

## MT offense comes up big against rival Trojans Saturday night

By Jerry Wilkinson and Crystal Perry  
Sports Editor and Staff Columnist

The Blue Raiders defeated Troy State Saturday night to advance their record to 3-7 after losing to Utah State the previous weekend.

The Blue Raiders had their game face on.

"Troy State is a good football team. This is a rivalry," head coach Andy McCollum said. "We knew they would be ready to play. They played a Thursday game, so we knew they had some extra time to prepare for us. It was a tough challenge."

In the first quarter, MT had 47 more yards rushing than TSU. Robert Billings faked a punt at the Blue Raider 46-yard line with a fourth and two situation. Billings, the senior punter, played running back in high school and rushed for more than 1,000 yards his senior season.

The Blue Raiders rushed for a combined 195 yards and two touchdowns.

As far as the offensive line was concerned, they came in ready for the Troy State defense. Some of MT's most outstanding players were back, including Josh Willoughby, Brandon Westbrook,

Julius Grant and Bill Brasch.

Willoughby made his first career start at center, while Westbrook moved back to left tackle for the first time this season.

Quarterback Andrico Hines ran nine times for 90 yards and was 15 of 22 passing for 167 yards.

Meanwhile, he connected with Kerry Wright for a 56-yard touchdown reception in the fourth quarter, Wright's eighth of the year, tying the single-season record at Middle Tennessee.

Saturday night was a positive turnout for both Hines and Wright. Hines was Player of the Game, and Wright became the first 1,000-yard receiver in Middle Tennessee history.

Wright has 1,023 yards receiving this season, with two games left.

"The offensive line did a great job tonight, giving me time to make plays," Hines said. "And I am really glad Kerry Wright went over 1,000 yards, and it made it even more special by winning the game tonight."

See Offense, 10



Photo by Jamie Lorange | Chief Photographer

MT linebacker Dennis Burke returns a fumble by Troy State late in the first half Saturday night.

## Gunn and Kermit: Great names in sports

Sports commentary



Jon Leflew  
Staff Columnist

As I sat courtside recently at our Blue Raider's first exhibition basketball game, I stumbled upon something remarkable.

This revelation, though obvious and elementary, is something I never actually stopped to think about, but the world of sports is full of some really cool names.

Now, let me be the first to say that names have very little to do with athletic performance. Boomer Esiason had a very memorable name yet played for the Bengals. Joe Smith was a top NBA free agent two years ago, and Ricky Williams is one of the best running backs in the game.

However, one cannot deny the mystique brought to the world of sports by something as simple as a name.

For instance, take the sport of golf. With a name like Tiger, young Eldrick Woods III had better dominate his sport. Mediocrity for this superstar would make him simply a house cat.

Another great name in the world of golf is John Daly. After all, with the exception of his uncanny length off the tee, this Arkansas native is an average, daily John: middle aged, overweight, and constantly fighting the urge to down a six-pack.

Along with animal nicknames and puns, something as simple as alliteration can add allure to a name.

Mickey Mantle was a great baseball player with an even greater name, one that will roll off tongues for centuries to come.

Sammy Sosa and Mark McGwire are two more baseball names with repetitive sounds that make them easy to say and hard to forget.

Several family names often make the headlines of sports pages, particularly in football.

The Gramatica family has three members kicking in the NFL, while brothers Morten and Gary Anderson have kicked for various pro teams for seemingly an eternity, the lone cross bar on their helmets gleaming in the sunlight.

The Earnhardts and Pettys have dominated stock car racing for decades, while Bobby and Brett Hull are two of the greatest hockey players ever on ice.

This name madness does not apply to just the playing field. John Madden's beyond obvious quips on Monday Night Football are just that, maddening for all who can bare to listen.

In short, no matter which sport you are watching, someone involved has a catchy name.

We at MTSU are very lucky

See Kermit, 9



# MT wins big in SBC matchup

By Colby Sledge  
Staff Writer

The University of Denver claimed its third consecutive Hardee's Sun Belt Conference Soccer tournament title Saturday with a 1-0 overtime victory over the University of North Texas.

SBC Freshman of the Year Llanea Grinditch scored the golden goal in the 94th minute, her second goal of the tournament. Grinditch was named the Most Outstanding Player of the tournament and was one of four Pioneers named to the all-tournament team.

"It's an exciting way to win a game and a championship," Denver head coach Jeff Hooker told sunbeltssports.org. "Defensively, we were very solid throughout the tournament, not giving up any goals in three games. We didn't go deep in the bench, but we had some great legs, and nobody gave up."

The Mean Green (15-6-1, 6-1-1 SBC)

lost to Denver (18-3, 7-1) in the championship match for the third straight year despite seven saves by UNT keeper Briana Buchanan. Denver outshot UNT 17-8 overall.

The tournament played out exactly as expected, despite the torrential rain that forced the second round to be played Friday instead of Thursday. There were no upsets, as the top four seeds outscored the bottom half of the bracket 21-3 in the first round.

Middle Tennessee (12-7-2, 5-1-2) could only sit and watch the finals after being eliminated by UNT 4-0 in the semifinals. The Blue Raiders won their first tournament game in team history last Wednesday in a 3-0 victory over the University of Arkansas-Little Rock.

"We've always been to the tournament, but we've never won a first-round game," MT head coach Aston Rhoden told www.sunbeltssports.org after the victory over UALR. "So it was good for us not only to win, but also to do it without giving up a

goal. This is really exciting for us."

The Blue Raiders then lost to the Mean Green, who scored three goals in the second half to put MT away. The loss marked the second year in a row that UNT eliminated the Blue Raiders in the tournament. UNT defeated MT 4-1 last year in the first round.

Before the tournament, Rhoden was named the 2003 SBC Coach of the Year. Rhoden led the Blue Raiders to a school-record 11 regular-season wins as MT earned the No. 3 seed in the tournament, its highest seed ever.

Claire Ward was named SBC Newcomer of the Year after coming to MT from Ayr, Scotland. Junior forward Laura Miguez and sophomore goalkeeper Danielle Perreault were named to the all-tournament team.

With the win, Denver received an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament. The Pioneers will find out who they face in the first round at 3 p.m. on Monday. ♦

## Kermit: Great sports names

Continued from 8

to have some of the best basketball names around.

Tommy Gunn is an all-conference player from Syracuse, N.Y., who is almost as dangerous as the weapon with the same name.

Even more impressive than a

name like Tommy Gunn is the name of 2002 Sun Belt Coach of the Year, Kermit Davis.

Whether or not the men's basketball team is successful is yet to be determined, but one thing is certain: Names like Tommy Gunn and Kermit Davis, win or lose, are bound to be noticed. ♦

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3 Roomates needed to take lease over at Sterling Gables. \$335/month. Pool view! Call 497-0968.

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Female roommate needed for house in Cason Lane area. \$250/mo and share of utilities. Call Courtney 867-9250.

Roommate needed to share 2 bedroom apt. on Ewing Blvd., within walking distance to campus. Rent is \$350 + utilities. W/D, dishwasher, personal bathroom included in apt. Roommate needed soon so call today. Call Rick at (615) 896-7321.

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Beautiful green and yellow parakeet for sale. Paid \$20 at Pet Smart. Will sale for \$15 obo. Call 904-7554 or email elh2m@mtsu.edu.

Ball Python-year and half old. Tank and lights included. \$200 obo.

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**ATTENTION BANDS!** Want to play Betastock 2003? Beta Theta Pi is hosting this rock concert charity event to benefit the MTSU Day Care. We are looking for 4-5 bands to play this event on October 30, 2003. For more information, contact Paul at 494-8663, musician4life68@yahoo.com

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# Lady Raiders lose in SBC match

By Jori Rice  
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee volleyball team (13-17, 4-8 Sun Belt) lost to the University of Arkansas-Little Rock 3-2 (28 30, 30 26, 26 30, 30 22, 15 13) Sunday afternoon.

KeKe Deckard led MT with 22 kills, while Karisse Baker added 11 kills along with Dara McLean.

UALR's Larisa Durmisevic had 23 kills and 11 digs. Behind Durmisevic was Ivana Vracar with 18 kills and 11 digs.

Another UALR player that helped out was Ivana Kuzmic. She had 16 kills and seven blocks, giving her team an average of 10 blocks.

Meanwhile, MT struggled defensively and offensively for this match.

"It was really sporadic," head coach Lisa Kisee said.



"We weren't playing well." "Parts of each player's game was not working," Kisee said.

"The transition offense did not go well," Kisee said. "Our passing is what really hurt us."

"We wanted to put a good block on Vracar and Durmisevic, but we weren't passing well," Kisee said. "The team really needs to work on the transition offense."

"Nobody could get in the flow of the match," Kisee stated.

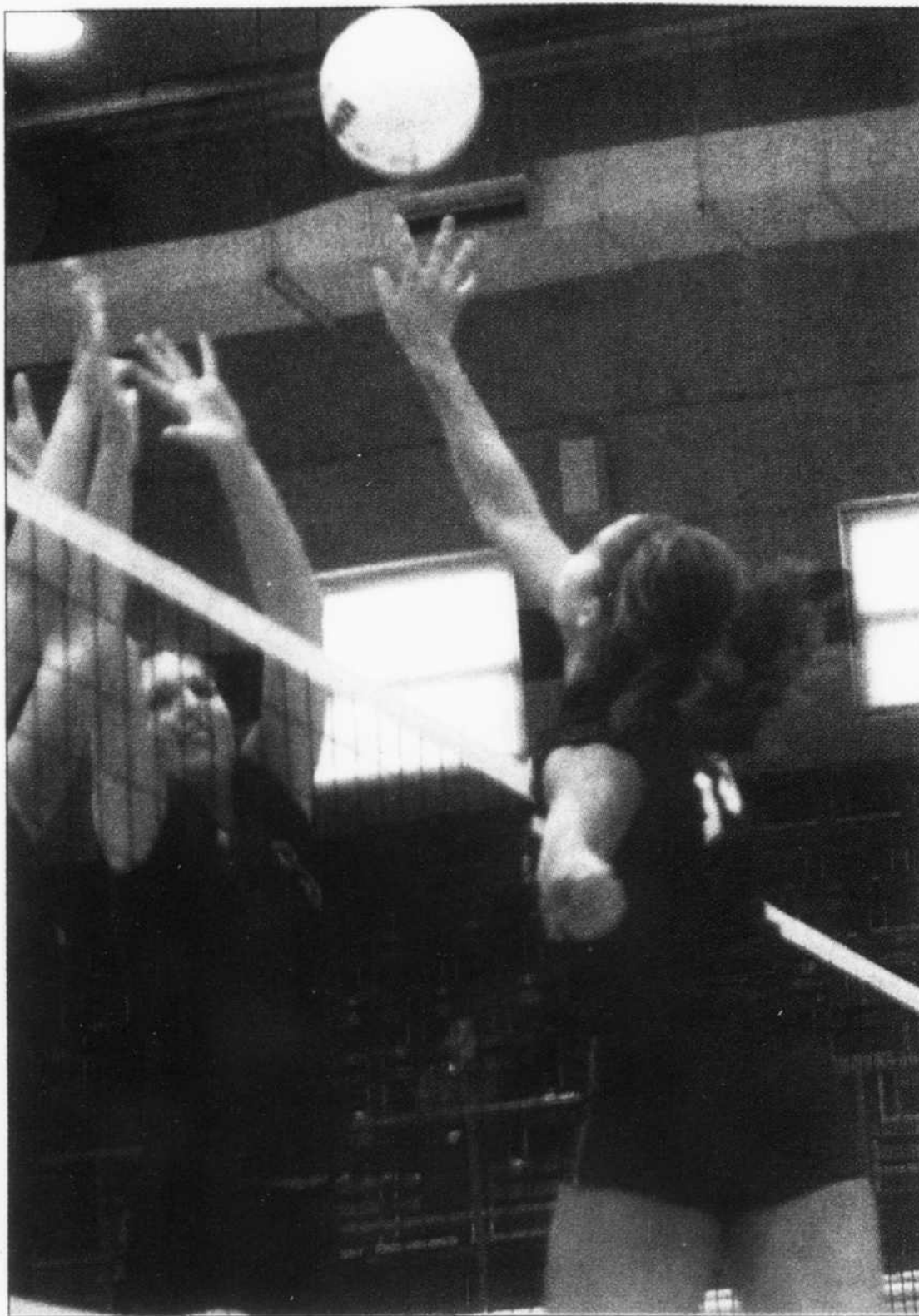
Although MT lost the first game, they came back to win the second game.

Deckard slammed one of her 22 kills to help MT win the second game, but UALR came back. Durmisevic got one of her kills when she helped UALR win the third game.

UALR had a ball handling error, which made MT win the fourth game. MT and UALR played the fifth game for the win.

Deckard hit the ball out of area, giving UALR the game point. UALR won the fifth game and took on the match.

The Lady Raiders committed four errors



MT outside hitter Allison Liptak tries to hit the ball over two Trojan defenders Sunday.

Photo by Steve Cross | Staff Photographer

in the fifth game. Moreover, the Lady Trojans recorded a .409 attack percentage in contrast to MT's .200.

MT had a winning streak until the match against UALR. The Lady Raiders are still in the hunt for a berth in the SBC championship tournament.

MT will end its season this weekend. The

team hosts Louisiana-Lafayette on Friday at 7 p.m. and Western Kentucky at noon on Sunday.

"We are still battling throughout the whole match. The team is not going to give up," Kisee said. "The team no longer has a winning streak but they are still ready for next week." ♦

## Blue Raiders: Trojans 'good'

Continued from 8

is a good young man like most of our kids are good people, and they try hard. We weren't able to get it done, and that's a heartbreaker for me."

The loss dropped TSU to 4-6 and was the Trojans' third of four consecutive road games. TSU has eight road games this season, with only four home contests.

"It's been awful. Early on, you look at it and say," Blakeney said. "Well, that's not so bad, and then you think about all the buses and airplanes and security checks that you have to go through with 100 to 120 people and the miles that you travel. Sooner or later, it wears on you a little bit."

The only damper on the evening for the Blue Raiders was an injury to Hines' throwing hand midway through the

fourth quarter. Hines was removed from the game and had his right hand heavily wrapped afterward.

"On the last run, I think I took a helmet to the hand, I'm not sure," Hines said. "I know it didn't feel right."

"I'm very concerned, because it's [Andrico's] senior year and because of what he means to this football team," McCollum said. "But I also know that Clint Marks and Josh Harris are very capable to win games for us."

Hines was taken for X-rays after the game.

Overall, McCollum was pleased with his team's performance, especially because of the difficulties the Blue Raiders have had this season.

"It's easy to turn your back, and I'm glad these kids haven't," he said. "I think that showed when we beat a good Troy State team." ♦

## Offense: Churning up yards

Continued from 8

Under McCollum, the offensive is grinding out an average of 449.2 yards per contest. The Blue Raiders have accumulated 6.1 miles of offense inside Floyd Stadium. The team has 942 points during this stretch for an average of 39.3 points per game.

Recent history also favors the Blue Raiders against Louisiana-Lafayette this weekend. MT has put up more than 40 points in 10 of their last 19 games at Floyd Stadium.

"The center has a lot of responsibility, and if we have to move guys around to handle that spot, then we will," McCollum said.

"We keep looking for breaks. I mean, there is one of them and five of us and the ball bounces right to them. We made the big play to win this game. We made the battle to win this game, so it is a good win for the entire team."

The Blue Raiders will stay at home for the second consecutive week to take on Sun Belt Conference foe ULL. The Ragin' Cajuns are 3-8 overall and 3-3 in the SBC. The game will kick off at 2 p.m. at Floyd Stadium on Saturday. The MT matchup will conclude the Cajuns' season. ♦



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## SO... psychology, huh?



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