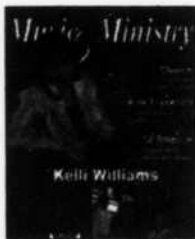


THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 7, 2000

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Showers



Administering Faith

Student launches *Music & Ministry Magazine*

See *Campus Life*, page 5



Raiders go Gator hunting

See *Sports*, page 7

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ONLINE

Should drinking be allowed on campus?

INSIDE: Covering Greeks' actions just part of our jobs See *Opinions*, page 4

SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University

Volume 76 No. 6

www.sidelines.mtsu.edu

Murfreesboro, TN

Alumna files suit against MTSU

By Matthew Kelly
Staff Writer

Katherine Addison, a 19-year MTSU employee who was terminated last year, has filed a federal lawsuit against the university claiming she was unlawfully dismissed in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Family Medical Leave Act.

Addison alleges in her lawsuit, filed on July 27, 2000, that she was "retaliated and discriminated" against and ultimately dismissed by MTSU officials because of her disabilities. She also claims that the university tried to "manufacture a false basis" for her termination to cover this up.

Addison, who graduated from MTSU with a B.B.A. degree in 1980, was hired by the university that same year. At the time of her termination, Jan. 19, 1999, she was working as a database coordinator in the human resource services office. Kathy Musselman, director of Human

Resource Services, refused to comment about the case.

"It's preliminary to comment directly on the lawsuit because they are getting ready to go into litigation," said MTSU's Director of News and Public Affairs Doug Williams, citing the advice of the university's legal counsel.

Williams did point out that the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission did not find MTSU to be in violation of federal law.

"The EEOC was unable to conclude that MTSU violated any federal statute regarding discrimination," he said.

EEOC documents confirm that Addison filed a "Charge of Discrimination" with the agency in November 1999 and that a determination was issued in April 2000 finding no violations of federal statutes.

The EEOC also notes, however, that while they found no violations, their ruling does not "certify" that MTSU is actually in compliance with the law, nor does it preclude Addison's right to

sue the university.

"There are so many reasons why an administrative agency would not be able to work out an agreement of any sort in a given case," said Vanderbilt University law professor Robert Covington, who specializes in labor and employment law. "This doesn't prejudice her ability to make a case at all."

"The plaintiff's obligation is to establish first of all that she is a qualified individual with a disability," explained Covington. "In order for the disability to be serious enough to entitle her to the protection of the statute, it must be a disability that limits her in major life activity."

In her lawsuit, Addison claims that she qualifies as a person with a disability because she has "asthma, bilateral carpal tunnel syndrome, right elbow tendinitis, back and neck pain, arthritis, perimenopause, and a spastic colon."

The lawsuit also states that "it was

clear that reasonable accommodations could be made" for her problems and that she could perform her job duties with "accommodation in her work schedule."

According to Covington, this is the plaintiff's second obligation to establish that he or she is still able to perform the essential functions of the job with or without reasonable accommodation.

"What constitutes reasonable accommodation is a highly individual case-by-case matter," said Covington, "involving both the nature of the disability and the nature of the job."

The accommodations Addison requested were having adjustments made to her work schedule. The university did change her start time from 8 a.m. to 8:30 in June 1998, but denied another request in August 1998 to move her start time to 9 a.m. That same month Addison also claimed a request she made to work past 5 p.m. to compensate for missed time due to

doctor's appointments was denied as well.

After that, Addison's lawsuit states that she was "retaliated against and discriminated against" by receiving "numerous reprimands and warnings ... suspension without pay" and having her work schedule changed back to 8:00 a.m.

"A schedule change can be a reasonable accommodation in some situations," said Covington. "For example, a person with substantial fatigue works for a couple of hours and must have a few hours off before working again. The person can work the seven or eight hours that the job requires, but not all at once."

Covington noted, however, that in some situations such an accommodation would not be reasonable. He gave the example of a small department where it is necessary for a supervisor to always be on duty. It would not necessarily be reasonable in that case, according to Covington, to alter the supervisor's work schedule.

"If the person is simply inputting data into the computer then a revised schedule would probably be a reasonable accommodation," he continued, "since it doesn't usually involve a particular need for a person to be somewhere at a particular time."

MTSU bases its policy on reasonable accommodation on applicable state and federal laws, according to Forrestine Williams, director of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action.

"The law says that a reasonable accommodation should be made," said Williams, "and what is reasonable is determined on a case-by-case basis."

Williams said MTSU has accom-

See **Addison**, 3

Warming up for The Swamp



Photo by James Evans | Editor in Chief

Band of Blue members exit the football field after Wednesday's rehearsal to talk about this weekend's trip to Florida.

Mock Trial teams 'on higher ground,' looking forward to national competition

By Erin Edgemon
Staff Writer

After nine years of remaining in the top ten in the nation, two of MTSU's Mock Trial teams are holding steady as 8th and 17th.

"We are starting out on higher ground than we ever have before in returning talent and experience," said Kyle Dodd, the president of Mock Trial. "We expect to finish in at least the top three in all tournaments this year."

This year's teams, which are coached by John Vile, chairperson of Political

Science; Clyde Willis, associate professor of Political Science; and by retired professor Tom Van Dervort, will start the season with approximately six, eight person teams, including many new and returning members.

The top two ranked teams are currently led by Dodd, Allison Vantrease, Jay Michael, Douglas Sadler, Virginia Vile, and Jarrod Stone.

Vile, who authored the first college text on mock trials titled, *Pleading the Court: A Mock Trial Handbook*, said he's looking forward to this year.

Vile hopes that the returning mem-

bers will remain "highly competitive."

"Our main goal is to teach and to learn, and any trophies or awards we get are simply lagniappe," said Vile.

Sadler said he hopes for the teams to win nationals.

Mock Trial is also hosting the Mid-South Invitational Tournament Nov. 10-11 in the KUC and the BAS, and it will involve 40 to 50 mock trial teams.

The tournament is made up of four rounds which allows each team to play two rounds as plaintiff and two as defendants. The civil case to be tried this year includes a "wrongful death" suit filed by

the spouse of an individual who died on an expedition to Mt. Everest. The spouse is suing the company that led the expedition, but the company says the deceased "assumed the risks." The witnesses in the trial include climbers, a doctor, meteorologist, and widower.

The top ten mock trial teams in the nation include Bellarmine College, University of Maryland, Yale University, Furman University, Saint John's University, University of Michigan, Rhodes College, Middle Tennessee State University, Howard University, and the University of Texas.

Sex offender law considered for universities

By Bryan Caplan
The Diamondback (U. Maryland)

(U-WIRE) COLLEGE PARK, Md. - In an effort to promote safety on college campuses nationwide, a new bill has been introduced in Congress to require federally funded colleges and universities to release information on student sex offenders to the campus community.

This new legislation, spearheaded by Rep. Matt Salmon (R-Ariz), is leaving some with a sense of uncertainty and distrust while leaving others with a strong conviction for privacy rights, and is rekindling an already fiery debate.

Salmon said in a press release that students are not provided with information about the criminal records of sex offenders on college campuses.

Federally mandated privacy laws currently prohibit most colleges and universities from revealing some personal information, including students' Social Security numbers and criminal records.

Colleges are permitted to release a student's name, address, telephone number, date of birth and major, as well as any extracurricular activity, degrees and awards received, and most recent educational institution attended. The release of this information is based on student consent.

Campus spokesman George Cathcart declined to comment on the proposed legislation, saying that it is unclear whether the new bill would amend the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (also known as the Buckley Amendment), which protects a student's educational and privacy

See **Sex**, 3

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MTSU student ID - \$5 Public \$7
Information = 898-2551



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KUC Room 308. Information - 898-2551

Take it from Turner



Let's get a drunk bus

By Turner Hutchens
Assistant News Editor

Murfreesboro is full of drunks. I don't really think anyone can deny that.

I'm not saying that everyone in this lovely town of ours is a binge-drinking college student. But there are a lot. A whole lot. And they almost all drive. Students live off campus, especially when they are over twenty-one. People drive to parties and bars. They drive home drunk. They drive to other bars and parties drunk. They drink at restaurants and move to bars, drink more, and drive to parties and often top off the night by driving to a friend's house for a few beers before going home.

I'm not speculating here. This is what happens.

The dangers of drunk driving are obvious. And, despite Murfreesboro having some wonderfully diligent and uptight police officers watching, this goes on every night. Not only Friday and Saturday nights, but also every day of the week there are drunk drivers all over town.

Is there any other way for 60 or 70 drunks to get home from the Boro on two-for-one night? Or how about the wonderful new establishment Harvey-Washbangers, miles from anybody's house? At bars like these,

designated drivers only have four or five beers in the two hours they are in the bar. And strangely enough, people tend to forget they have to drive home somewhere around the third beer.

Now, I don't suggest that we beef-up surveillance of drivers and increase penalties (although that might significantly reduce enrollment at our school, with everyone in jail), rather, I would like to see some public transportation in this town, especially at night.

Why don't we get a drunk bus? That's an activity fund the students could get behind. People don't want to drive drunk, but they also don't like sitting at home alone. And in this town, drinking is what there is to do.

A bus could just make the rounds. Busses already go from campus to some of the local apartment complexes. Why not the bars.

Okay, so I understand this would cost some money. But the city could kick in a few bucks. Murfreesboro could save a lot of money they spend now patrolling the streets if they just cut the problem off where it drinks.

I know that most cops don't enjoy busting drunks for driving, but they are dangerous.

See Turner, 3

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CAMPUS BRIEFS

Compiled By Turner Hutchens - Assistant News Editor

Searching for careers

The Placement and Student Employment Center will host Career Day from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. on the Murphy Center track. All students and faculty are invited. Approximately 125-150 employers and graduate schools will participate. For more information or a roster, contact the Placement Center in KUC 328, call 898-2500 or visit "http://www.mtsu.edu/~career" www.mtsu.edu/~career.

MTSU celebrates Founders Day

It is a long way from the Normal School of 1911. This fall MTSU enrollment surpassed 19,000; full-time enrollment now exceeds the University of Memphis. The university's incredible progress is built on a rich tradition which will be celebrated Monday, Sept. 11, from 9 until 11 a.m., in the MTSU Alumni Center. The theme is "Ringing in a Tradition." There will be an exhibit of historical photos and other artifacts, courtesy of MTSU Photo Services, the Gore Center, and local businesses. In addition to a display of past class rings, there will be an unveiling of the new class ring at 9:30. Pianist William Richardson will play period tunes. For more information, call News and Public Affairs at 898-2919.

Marching to the beat of a heart

MTSU will host the American Heart Walk on Sunday, Sept. 17. The walk will support the American Heart Association, which depends on volunteers to raise money and fund research.

All are encouraged to attend. Registration will begin at 1 p.m. and the walk will start at 2 p.m.



WEEKDAY FEATURES

MORNING BEAT (6-9AM)

ASSOCIATED PRESS NEWS

"FRESH AIR" WITH TERRY GROSS (4-5PM)

OVERNIGHTS WITH BOB PARLOCHA

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Addison: MTSU accused of wrongful termination

Continued from 1

modated employees in the past and acknowledged that such accommodation "could involve rearranging work schedules." Addison's lawsuit states that as a result of her health problems, and the additional health problems of her son, she requested "intermittent leave" under the Family Medical Leave Act. She claims that leave was denied and she was later terminated "based in whole or in part on her absences and tardiness, which were protected under the FMLA."

Addison is suing MTSU, the Tennessee Board of Regents,

and the State of Tennessee for back pay with interest, insurance premiums, medical costs and attorney's fees, in addition to "compensation for non-pecuniary losses, including emotional pain, suffering, inconvenience and mental anguish."

Both Addison and her attorney refused to comment about the case.

"I believe in people's right to privacy," stated Scott Daniel, Addison's lawyer, adding that he believes the case should be tried in court and not in the press.

The first court date, an initial case management conference, is set for Sept. 13. ♦

Turner: Sticking drunks in bus - it just makes sense

Continued from 2

That is, they're dangerous behind the wheel. If we just stick them all on a bus, fully equipped with plastic and paper baggies for those who can't quite hold

on until the next stop, maybe we can help save a few lives.

I'm tired of hearing sirens in the night and seeing my classmates strapped to spine-boards. I think it's worth whatever it costs. ♦

Sex: Congress weighs new law for sex offenders' disclosure on campuses

Continued from 1

rights.

Gary Pavela, director of judicial programs, said Congress will probably look into the privacy acts at each college or university and amend each accordingly if this bill were to become a law.

"The legislation sounds vague and generally laws like this attract a lot of attention, but never pass," he said. "Also, I would be surprised if Congress adopts this as a law because of the logistical difficulties involved."

Pavela said it would take a lot of manpower to organize a list of convicted sexual offenders on each college campus, because officials must take into account international students as well.

The legislation is designed as an extension of Megan's Law, which mandates that the public be made aware of the whereabouts of sexual offenders. That law was passed and has since been adopted in every state after a 7-year-old New Jersey girl was strangled and raped in 1994 by a neighbor who was previously convicted of a sex offense.

University of Maryland students expressed mixed sentiments about the proposed bill. While it is unclear as to how

officials would notify the campus community of sexual offenders, some students said there are moral implications involved in placing a label on an individual.

"There is a real fine line to consider when looking into the issue because you don't want to invade someone's privacy," said James Allen, a junior business major. "Our criminal justice system isn't perfect and maybe a person did not really commit a sex crime. But now they may be branded."

Officials from the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers said a broad-based notification system would hinder the rehabilitation process for certain offenders. Association officials said such vague legislation does not take into account the circumstances of the individuals involved.

But while ATSA members oppose certain goals of such legislation, Fran Henry, ATSA chair of public policy, said the decision to name repeat offenders and convicted pedophiles should be evaluated in an effort to safeguard the community.

However, he said the decision to release the names of first-time offenders should be carefully evaluated.

Christy Olenginski, a senior

human resources and marketing major, said individuals should not be reprimanded for past mistakes if they have been properly treated and are fit to return to society.

"In one respect, I would feel bad for the individual if they really have changed," Olenginski said, "because there is always two sides to every story."

Although some view the issue as a matter of the individual's privacy, others said this issue is a matter of public safety.

"It's something good for the public to know and I feel like I can protect myself in one way or another if I am made aware of such individuals," said Regina Marasia, a sophomore letters and sciences major. "But at the same time, it is up to the individuals to redeem themselves."

Ishan Beezer, a junior finance and accounting major, said labeling an individual for past mistakes is questionable, while at the same time understandable.

"I would want to know if my roommate was convicted of a sex crime, but I think these individuals should be made aware of the law before coming to a large college campus," he said. ♦



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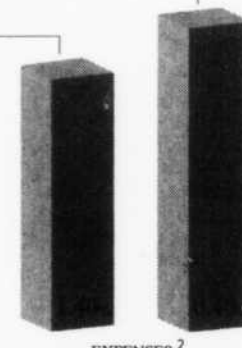
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OPINIONS

4 SIDELINES

Thursday, September 7, 2000

Murfreesboro, TN

From the staff Covering Greeks' actions just part of our jobs

In the past this newspaper has been accused of being "anti-Greek," meaning that the staff likes to only write negative stories about fraternities and sororities at this university.

For the record, we're not against Greeks or any other organization or group on this campus. However, we do cover stories that are deemed newsworthy. Exactly what is considered newsworthy is pretty subjective — even scholars have a hard time defining it.

There are some basic types of events that we do cover.

For instance, when an individual or a group of individuals does something illegal, we write a story about it. This type of reporting is usually the easiest kind to do.

A majority of the "negative" Greek stories we have done fall under this category.

For example, last year we wrote a story about a group of Greeks who got caught stealing materials from a construction site during Homecoming week for a float they were building.

Another example is when a fight broke out between two fraternities during an intramural football game.

Yesterday, this newspaper wrote about illegal drinking that occurred during some parties on Greek Row.

Throughout all of these events, illegal things were happening. It's not this paper's fault that these things occurred. The staff was only doing its

job by reporting what had happened. But there's more to the story than that.

Even though we have to cover the negative events, we recognize the positive aspects of Greek life as well.

The theology behind fraternities and sororities is noble. They're intended to be a group of students who band together to amplify their college experience. It gives these students people to relate with and encourages a sense of unity. Together they help people in the community through charitable projects.

These Greeks are decent, concerned people, and they are usually the ones who call this newspaper and complain about the negative coverage.

But our negative coverage usually doesn't involve these individuals. Instead, it involves the ones whose only mission in life is to get drunk and party. These things aren't illegal when done responsibly, but responsibility and maturity escape some individuals.

The result is that the immature Greek members do something stupid and illegal, and then this paper has to write a story about it.

The point to all of this is that we aren't anti-Greek. We just have to report on newsworthy events.

Instead of getting angry at this paper and its staff, the responsible Greeks should look inward at their members who like to give them a bad reputation.

Don't touch that dial! Avoid listening to 'sold-out' stations

Frankly My Dear



David
Sargent
Staff
Columnist

I've been pushing the radio button on my radio for the last two years here in Middle Tennessee, and frankly, like with most cities, I'm mildly impressed with the results of my scans.

You see, we live in a country that is controlled by a majority-ruling party. And unfortunately, this majority tends to be of the tonally/rhythmically-challenged persuasion.

Year in and year out we are forced to tune in to the section of the electromagnetic spectrum that tends to breed...well, crap to be honest.

Yes, we live in a "brave new world" of radio where "wing-tips" control the playlists that you and I are subjected to, and it tends to sound like the same old...well, crap.

The obvious question is, "why do we allow ourselves to be the victims of impersonal radio frequencies that have to call themselves names like (hypothetically speaking, of course) 'The Surfboard' or 'The Jackass' (I meant Donkey, I meant Donkey), and give away free crap to grab listeners? Especially when there are so many stations across the board to choose from?"

Well, that was an excellent question.

Americans just love to listen to...well, crap. We are so bent on what's easy, comfortable, convenient and cheap that it's just too much work to try and understand alternative music styles so as to give ourselves more options. The "wing-tips" on the 35th floor are well aware of this. They breed off of this. They realized a long time ago that radio, like every other possible service in the old U.S. of A, could be turned into a snowball of a commercial venture with minimal work.

Most conversations between radio executives must sound a lot like this:

Wing-Tip 1: Hi, my fellow money-grubbing, musically-blinded friend-type person.

Wing-Tip 2: Hi, my similarly-parasitic and musically-blinded friend-type person.

Wing-Tip 1: I just got this album in from a large corpo-

ration that specializes in taking advantage of Americans' lust for mediocrity.

Wing-Tip 2: Is that the same company that signs bands fronted by young, finely built men and women that have no concept of musical diversity or integrity and probably grew up listening to...well, crap?

Wing-Tip 1: Wow, you read my mind, friend-type person.

Wing-Tip 2: Yeah, but not as well as I read your wife!

Wing-Tip 1: Bwahaha!

Wing-Tip 2: Bwahaha as well!

Wing-Tip 1: Let us go then and play this song so unsuspecting listeners will give us their money and we can buy an over-priced country club membership for our under-developed golf games.

Wing-Tip 2: Okay, friend-type person.

My answer to avoiding this unfortunate pattern of what I like to call "crap music" is this. Don't listen to the Umm-Chick, Umm-Chick (onomatopoeia for assembly-line techno) stations, or any of the other crap radio out there. Call it a boycott for our ears.

Instead, tune into one of the two stations conveniently located on this fine campus of ours. These two little stations do not have names. They just play quality music and occasionally take pride in bashing larger stations that play...you know.

The stations are WMOT 89.5 (Jazz) and WMTS 88.3 (Everything).

The jazz set on 89.5 can't really have much said about it — the music speaks for itself. Jazz is beautiful — listen to it, understand it.

And "MTS" just plain kicks...equally as well, of course. Whatever music you can think of, they'll play, unless it's crap music, of course. That's why I have it set on my preset.

Well, that and because Madonna is apparently "a first class ho" (Obscure MTS reference).

So, rock on MTS and swing on MOT! You guys are the saving grace of the Nashville waves (I just wish MTS reached up to Rivergate).

And you complacent "music-lovers" out there, don't give in to stations like 102.9 "The Vibrator" (I mean "The Buzz," I mean "The Buzz") because they all tend to play...well, you get the point.

SIDELINES

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Kristopher Jones

Jenny Tenpenny Crouch

Sidelines is the non-profit, editorially-independent 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 to the Editor

More must be done to keep weekends alive

I am writing to concur in his most recent column (MTSU should stay alive on weekends, August 30). You are correct that we need to be doing a better job of providing students with something to do on weekends. Let me say in the strongest terms, we understand and we are trying.

With that in mind, let me tell you about a few of the things we have planned for the near future.

I have asked the staff of the division of Student Affairs to be more deliberate in bringing activities to the weekends.

We are not yet to the point where every weekend will be covered, but we are moving in the right direction.

The weekend of September 15 and 16 will be the first home football game. I recognize that simply having a home football game is not enough to keep many of you here for the weekend. So, we have planned some additional activities. We will start with a picnic on the Knoll in the afternoon.

Come out and have a burger and enjoy some good music.

The picnic will start about 5:30 p.m. At approximately 6:30 p.m. we will have our first pep rally of the season.

At 8:00 p.m. we will have comedian Tommy Davidson performing in Tucker Theatre. This will be a ticketed event, although there is no

admission charge. Students can pick up a ticket by bringing their student ID to Room 306 of the KUC.

Shawn was also right to suggest that we concentrate effort on the freshman class. It was for that reason that we gave each new student who went through Customs a new shirt they could wear with pride on this campus. It is also with that in mind that we have planned an event specifically for freshmen at the first football game.

Freshman Forum will be hosting a picnic, sponsored by Student Affairs, especially for freshmen. Come and have supper, on us. All you will need to do is show up, wearing the shirt you were given at Customs.

Shawn is also right about one other thing — we must have your help to be successful. We are working hard to plan more events for the rest of the semester. But there is a very strong sense here that students just won't show up on the weekend for anything.

If you want me to be able to be your advocate and make things happen for you, you have to SHOW UP. I have to be able to point to results in order to win support for the efforts we have underway for you. If you really want there to be more things for you on the weekends, then you hold the key.

If you show up, we have a chance. If you don't show up, I will continue to work as hard as I can for you. Things on this campus are going to change. You control how quickly that will happen.

Thank you in advance to those who are going to give me a chance. I look forward to working with you.

I look forward to seeing you on September 15 and 16.

Robert K. (Bob) Glenn, Ph. D.
Vice President for Student Affairs
rglenn@mtsu.edu

Desperately seeking help
in campus computer labs

Hey Sidelines,

I've read your articles about lack of help at MTSU.

I am presently taking the 217 (C++) computer class, and I can tell you from first-hand experience that the labs are terribly understaffed.

You can easily spend half of the two-hour lab waiting on some help, and when (and if) it comes, you are lucky to get five minutes of their time to help straighten out a week's worth of problems.

Being a tutor myself (in the calculus-help lab), I know that a computer can only spend one-on-one time with a certain number of people in a certain amount of time, and I also know that nothing is as good as one-on-one help.

Simply stated, the computer labs need more help.

Don Kimble
drk2b@mtsu.edu

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Protect Second-Amendment rights

Part one of a
two-part series

Campaign Commentary



Kevin
Latta

Staff Columnist

America been so heated. With the recent Million-Mom March in Washington and images of Columbine still plaguing our memories, the anti-gun lobby in America has gained considerable strength in the waning months of the Clinton Presidency.

As one of the more than 65 million gun owners in America, a lover of the Constitution and Bill of Rights and one of the more than 73,000 Tennesseans who supports our General Assembly's ruling on handgun carry by possessing a state-issued handgun carry permit, the stand of each candidate regarding the inalienable

right to keep and bear arms implicitly stated in the Second Amendment is one of many key factors in determining where my vote will go November 7. With several members of the United States Supreme Court postponing their retirement until after the election, the ballots we cast will effectively decide the future makeup of the highest court in the land.

After the landmark tobacco case that garnered the infamous "Castano Group" of attorneys more than \$250 billion in settlements for their clients in 2000, these same attorneys have now set their greedy sights upon the gun industry.

Having conspicuously not ruled on a Second Amendment case since 1939, the members appointed to the bench in November will have the opportunity to end these frivolous suits once and for all.

It is up to us to pick a candidate that will make sure that his nominations do this rather than allow the high court to proliferate the nonsense and lack of logic that permeate the anti-gun movement.

The logic-lacking emotion displayed by gun-control advocates, while admirable for its intensity, is simply that: lacking in any logic.

Why would a criminal, someone who by definition disregards the law, obey any law made regarding the right to use a gun in the commission of a crime?

Because the answer to the question is so obvious, activists like Rosie O'Donnell and groups such as Handgun Control, Inc. are forced to perpetuate myths that feed on the emotions of people uneducated on the issue in order to garner support for the Clinton/Gore agenda of further infringing on the rights Americans have been guaranteed for over 200 years.

Even President Clinton himself is in on the act. When the results of a multimillion-dollar National Crime Victimization Survey that he commissioned the Department of Justice to conduct showed that the accidental deaths of children caused by handguns was at a 50-year low, he quickly raised the age limitations and re-commissioned the study to include gang shootings as

"accidental."

He did this so that he too could tout inaccurate information in order to prey on the emotions of the American people.

Al Gore knows that the current administration's stance is wrong. As a member of Congress, he voted against a 14-day waiting period, against dealer licensing and inspection and against serial numbers on handguns manufactured in the United States. Even many gun-rights advocates see the need for one or more of these programs. So why the switch by Gore, who vehemently supports Clinton's anti-gun agenda and has criticized Bush's support of carry permits in Texas?

Because Al Gore is someone who, like his boss, is concerned only with getting and staying elected. He is someone who decides his stance on the issues according to how much money he gets from groups in support of or opposed to certain issues.

Al Gore is someone who has forgotten that his job description entails listening to the American people.

CAMPUS LIFE

5 ♦ SIDELINES

Thursday, September 7, 2000

Murfreesboro, TN

Student leaps on faith to make dream come true

By Shawn Whitsell
Opinions Editor

What do Master P and MTSU student Michael Thompson have in common? Well, most of us know that Mr. Perry Miller is the captain of No Limit Records, one of hip hop's most successful labels, but some of you may not know Michael Thompson, publisher of *Music and Ministry Magazine*.

What these two successful men have in common is that Master P started No Limit Records, an independent record store in California that flourished into No Limit, the record company, with money that he inherited from his grandfather. As for Thompson, his dream came true when he showed his grandmother a business plan that he'd created as a college freshman for his own magazine.

When he told her exactly how much it would cost, she said something that really surprised him.

"Well, let me know when you're ready," she said, offering him financial backing for his magazine.

"*Music and Ministry Magazine* is a magazine that reaches an audience that loves gospel music, that wants to learn about gospel music and the industry," Thompson said via cell phone.

"My mission wasn't clear at first but I knew I loved gospel music so I just sort of took articles from here and there and put together a magazine," Thompson later added.

Thompson, who deals mainly with the graphics and design of the magazine admits that he isn't a good writer. Thompson said he can't write but he has a team that helps with the writing as well as the other regular duties of a publication such as editing, advertising, photography, etc.

Thompson also has a professional advisory board which includes MTSU Mass Comm professors Loren Mulrairie (Esq. Legal Counsel) and Sybril Bennet (CEO, Bennet Communications). Thompson also said that his grandmother, who owns a woman's clothing store, still advises him. Thompson also credits MTSU's EDGEway Communications, a group of MTSU public relations student, for their help with his project.

"God is awesome. He sent people my way who want to write. Whatever I need, God provides," he said. "I made the first step toward my dream, everything I needed has been provided."

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SPECIAL: Family & Health Issue!

The current issue of *Music and Ministry* features artist Kelli Williams. Thompson's next issue is due to hit stands soon.

When asked about the public response to the magazine, Thompson replied, "It has been awesome" before telling about his newfound semi-celebrity status. He's been on the news, radio and gospel shows. Not bad for a junior Public Relations/Recording Industry Specialty major here at MTSU.

"I just like hearing [that] people

are inspired," he said before telling me how a woman called him because she was inspired by something she read in the premier issue.

Although money is a constant issue and Thompson admits that he doesn't exactly how he'll continue to fund the magazine, he does know that as long as he continues to step out on faith, God will see him through.

"I did the first issue but I didn't think I'd have the money to do a second. I barely paid for the first one."

But when a public relations firm wanted to buy a full-page ad on the back of the magazine for the rest of the year, Thompson was able to pay for the third and fourth issues.

Thompson first starting designing flyers for other people. While attend-



ing Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, N.C., Thompson submitted a resume to a recording studio hoping

ing to get a job answering phones but instead was offered a job designing the newsletter for the studio's gospel music clients.

Thompson said the studio had clients from various genres of music including Hootie and the Blowfish so when they offered him the job to design the gospel newsletter, he knew it was God's plan for him.

"It was right up my alley," Thompson said in reference to his old job. He was even given enough freedom to name the newsletter, which he called "Gospel Edition."

Thompson admitted that he really liked the name *Gospel Edition* and really wanted to use it for his own magazine but he felt it was more appropriate to call it *Music and Ministry Magazine*.

"[The name] Music and Ministry encompasses not only the music but the ministry as well," he said.

Music and Ministry Magazine is going into its fourth issue soon, with an artist named Darwin Hobbs on the cover. The magazine, which has grown from eleven pages to 20 since it's March/April premier, will also feature music reviews, financial tips and a gospel music Top 40 music chart.

Thompson said he and his team, which consists of students as well as community leaders, are in the progress of working on the magazine's one-year anniversary celebration, which will entail a gospel music concert, where Thompson will present two awards: one for music and one for ministry.

Copies of *Music and Ministry Magazine* can be purchased in MTSU's Phillips Bookstore as well as Nashville music stores and gospel book stores for only \$2.

Thompson said that he is currently looking for people to become involved with the magazine in various areas such as journalism, marketing, advertising and public relations. Anyone interested can get more information at www.musicandministryonline.com

Like Master P's empire has conquered the hip hop music industry, I think Master T's growing empire can do the same for gospel music. ♦



Top 11 reasons to stay at MTSU on the weekends

By Courtney Huckabay
Features Editor

I want to encourage all you suitcase-toting, campus ditchers to stay here on the weekends, even if it's just one time. And of course, you're asking "Is she out of her mind? There is absolutely nothing to do here on the weekends!" But I'm saying that if you give it just one chance and MAKE something happen, then it's worth your while and you might even want to try it again sometime.

Being an out-of-state student, I am always here on the weekends. Honestly, there are some things I like about being the only one here and there are a lot of things I don't like. I am so sick of everyone using the "but it's a suitcase college" excuse that I could gag right now.

It's only a suitcase college if you make it one.

Dr. Glenn once said that it's like the chicken and the egg thing—if students stay, then there will be more to do, but if there was already more to do, then students would have a reason to stay. So let's start the hatching and just stay here so people will wake up and give us more to do!

This column is mostly serious because I really do want more people around, but it was pretty hard to come up with 10 or 11 things just on campus to make you want to stick it out. Of course there's more to do in Murfreesboro and Nashville in general, but my focus is on campus. So I figure if you're staying around on the weekends you might check out one of these events, and see a movie here in Murfreesboro too. (Or whatever fits your fancy, just know that there's still stuff to do outside of campus walls while you're staying here.) So, here goes...

- 11 • The KUC Theater shows movies on the weekend (No seriously, maybe they would if there were enough people here to see a Saturday matinee.)
- 10 • Tennis tournaments
- 9 • The University Library has GREAT weekend hours! (Same goes for this—SHOW them that they have a reason to open the doors wider on weekends.)
- 8 • Volleyball matches
- 7 • Nobody else is here, so you pretty much have the entire campus to yourself
- 6 • Soccer games
- 5 • McCallie Dining is closed!
- 4 • Music on the Knoll every Friday afternoon
- 3 • The FREE Comedy Showcase with Tommy Davidson on the Friday night before the first home football game
- 2 • Home Football games
- 1 • Show your school spirit!

Lit happens



Photo by Jessica Norton | Photo Editor

Jay Popott, lead vocalist for the band Lit, wows the crowd during a performance Monday night at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center. The concert was presented free of charge by 102.9 The Buzz and Sundrop.

ON CAMPUS

Compiled By Courtney Huckabay - Interests Editor

To submit an On Campus announcement, come by the James Union Building, Room 308. Due to limited space, some announcements with later dates may be held.

Sept. 11

The Founder's Day celebration will be held at the Alumni Center from 9 until 11 a.m. and in the KUC Courtyard from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Sept. 12

The Spitfire Tour will be held in Tucker Theatre at 7 p.m.

The Speech and Theatre Dept. will be holding auditions for Evening of Dance on Tuesday, Sept. 12 from 6:30- 8p.m. Auditions will be in Dance Studio A at the Murphy Center. Call 898-2640 for more information.

Phi Sigma Pi invites any students with a 3.0 GPA or higher to come find out how they can enrich your experience at MTSU. Informational meetings will be held Sept. 12-14 at 7 p.m. in KUC 324. Contact Matthew Peachey at 890-4744 for more information.

Sept. 13

All students are encouraged to participate in the 2000 student organization fair on Wednesday, Sept. 13 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the KUC courtyard. Several MTSU student organizations will set up displays and pass out information on how to get involved on campus. Free food and drinks will be served. Call 904-8418 for more details. Rain date is Sept. 20.

Sept. 14

The first MTSU volunteer fair will be held from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 14. Students and student organizations wishing to become involved in community service both on and off campus may come by to talk with representatives from area community agencies. Free drinks will be served. Call 904-8418 for more information. Rain date is Sept. 21.

Sept. 15

Applications for Student Activity Funds are available in KUC 130. The application deadline is Friday, Sept. 15 at 4 p.m. To be eligible for funds, you MUST attend one of the Student Organization Orientation sessions and be a registered student organization. Orientation sessions will be held Aug. 31 at 3 p.m., Sept. 5 at 4 p.m. and Sept. 6 at 5 p.m. All sessions are held in KUC 322. For more information call 898-2750.

All student organization presidents MUST attend one of the Student Organization Orientation sessions in order to be updated for the 2000-2001 school year. The meeting will last over an hour. Please call 904-8418 for more information.

Student Affairs presents "Welcome Back Comedy Showcase" with comedian Tommy Davidson at 8 p.m. in Tucker Theatre. It is free and open to the public. Tickets are available in the Student Activities office, KUC 308.

Sept. 20

The University Rules Committee for the 2000-2001 academic year will meet at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 20 in KUC Room 210. Contact Dr. David Hays at 898-2440 for more information.

Sept. 21

The Division of Continuing Studies and Public Service are offering several technical training and certification classes this fall. One course, AutoCAD, will be held on Thursdays from Sept. 21 through Dec. 7. It is worth three CEUs and costs \$325.

Contact Saeed D. Foroudastan in the department of engineering technology and industrial studies for more information.

Ongoing

Campus Crusade for Christ, an interdenominational campus ministry, invite all to attend their weekly meeting every Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. in the LRC Room 221. For more information contact Mike at 848-6741 or Eric at 896-2039.

The Works of Phil Vanderweg will be displayed in the Art Barn Gallery through Sept. 27 during regular gallery hours.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes welcomes all students to come for fellowship on Tuesday nights at 8 p.m. in the Football Game Day Room located between the stadium and athletic weight room, across from Murphy Center. There will be great speakers, Bible studies, activities and friendship. Contact Rhonda Neitzel at 893-6109 for more information.

The Presbyterian Student Fellowship welcomes everyone on Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. to a fellowship of study, singing, friends and fun. For more information call Rich at 893-1787 or Mary at 867-7370.

The Victory Church and Raider Victory Ministries invite everyone to attend their service on Sundays in the KUC Theater at 10 a.m.

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SPORTS

Murfreesboro, TN

Wednesday, September 7, 2000

SIDELINES ♦ 7

Raiders headed to the swamp

By Michael Edwards
Staff Writer

At 5 p.m. on Saturday, the Blue Raiders will down the silver and blue, taking the field against the No. 5 ranked Florida Gators at "The Swamp," in front of 83,000 Gator faithful.

Indeed, this will be the toughest and highest ranked opponent in MTSU history.

Forget about the fact that Florida has an impressive 70-0 record against unranked opponents since head coach

Steve Spurrier took over. Forget about Florida losing only four games at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium since 1990. Forget that the last non-SEC team from outside the State of Florida to win in "The Swamp" was Memphis in 1988.

"It's a big deal to go into 'The Swamp' and play a football game," said Brock Lillis, senior lineman.

However, as Ty Cobb once said, "That's why they play the game."

The one thing going for MTSU is the fact that Florida will travel to Knoxville for their next game.

"I hope we do get overlooked," head coach Andy McCollum said. "I'm sure they are not real worried about Middle Tennessee."

When Florida runs

Tailback Robert Gillespie led the Gators in rushing as the starter last week, against Ball State, with 112 yards on 17 carries, while sophomore Earnest Graham and senior Bo Carroll combined for 36 yards on 12 carries.

The Blue Raiders will counter the Gator running attack with a strong defensive line. Two key weapons on the "D-line," tackle Curtis Daniely and end Brent Walker are both questionable for Saturday's contest. Middle Tennessee gave up over 200 yards rushing last week against the Illini, with two Illini backs topping the 100-yard mark.

The Florida offensive line is just like the rest of the Gators team: talented.

Tackles Mike Pearson and Kenyatta Walker, both weigh in at more than 290 pounds, while the guards Thomas Moody and Leon Hires both tip the scales at 283 and 302 respectively. Sophomore center David Jorgensen will anchor the line.

When Florida passes

Well, unlike last year, Spurrier appears to have decided on a quarter-



back -- Jesse Palmer. A week ago, Palmer completed only 21 of 46 passes for 327 yards and three touchdowns and no interceptions. Backups Brock Berlin and Rex Grossman could see action late. Palmer likes to spread the field, as he completed 21 passes to nine different receivers, four of which, had three or more catches.

Again MTSU, has improved drastically from a year ago on defense. The Raiders may benefit very much from that improvement against the Gators.

The defense allowed only 190 yards passing last week against the Illini, including two sacks and one interception.

The Raiders will rely heavily on the play of defensive backs Jykine Bradley, Delvin Pikes, Kareem Bland and Jermaine Francis. The quartet combined for 41 of the Raiders 93 stops against Illinois.

When MTSU runs

Just say, "Dwone Hicks."

This gang buster pummeled the Illini defense on his way to 134 yards on the day.

His partner, Jamison Palmer will not see action on Saturday. Palmer was injured against Illinois, and his officialy out for the Florida Game. Palmer led the Raiders in rushing last year, and was on his way to a 100-yard day until his injury.

The Raider offensive line has beefed up since last year. Everyone has remained intact and healthy from last week.

Fifth-year senior Barry Hall anchors the Blue Raider line at tackle, while Brandon Westbrook is at left tackle. Westbrook tips the scale at 285 while, Hall weighs in at 316. At the guard

See Swamp, 8



Phot Provided

The Swamp

Tennis talent better than ever

By Andrew Butler
Staff Writer

After dominating the Ohio Valley Conference by winning ten straight regular season titles and competing in four out of the last five NCAA tournaments, the MTSU tennis program prepares to enter into a tougher Sun Belt Conference.

The program kicks off its 2000-01 schedule this weekend with a Pro-Am on Friday and Saturday at the Blue Raider Tennis Complex.

While dual play will not start until January, Blue Raiders men's tennis coach Dale Short is already looking forward to the new challenges that the Sun Belt will pose.

"As a whole, the Sun Belt is much, much stronger," Short said. "It will be much harder to get into the NCAA tournament as an automatic berth because we'll have to win the tournament like in the OVC."

In the OVC, we could almost go into the tournament with one leg cut off and we were going to win the tournament. Now we can't do that. We are going to possibly have one of our better years to win the conference."

The men's team returns its top three players from last season. Oliver Foreman and Daniel Klemetz, who split time playing in the No. 1 position last season, both return to a squad that Short considers deeper than last season's team.

"We anticipate being much more solid throughout the team than we were last year," Short said. "If we can dot our i's and cross our t's, do what we are suppose to do and stay healthy, I think the team can challenge what the team did three years ago when it got up to No. 4 in the country."

"The talent is better than we've had in at least three years."

Foreman, who was 20-19 overall in singles last year, is a junior from Eastbourne, East Sussex while Klemetz, a sophomore from Sweden, was 29-9 in singles as a freshman.

They join Robert Gustafsson as the top returnees.

Gustafsson, a junior from Sweden, was 31-11 in singles last year. Sophomore Sean Bowen and junior Mark Pellerin round out this year's returnees.

"Oliver is very emotional, big-hitting type of player," Short explained. "He has shown that he can beat some of the better players in the country."

But, until this point, has not been able to do it consistently. Robert has been very consistent.

We are looking for him to be as steady a performer as possible. If he can develop a little bit bigger game, then I think he can break through in the national rankings.

"Daniel had a great summer, probably the best summer

of the three. We are looking for great things out of him."

Together, the threesome gives the Blue Raiders experienced players who can perform but, Short is hesitant to name a number one player right now.

"It does not mean that they will be in the top three because of the three players we've brought in will definitely stir things up," Short said.

Short has also added three freshmen this season including Oakland product Trevor Short, his son, and Australians Kirk Jackson and Michael Staniak.

"We are very excited about the three players we brought in," Short said. "They all better than the two that we lost."

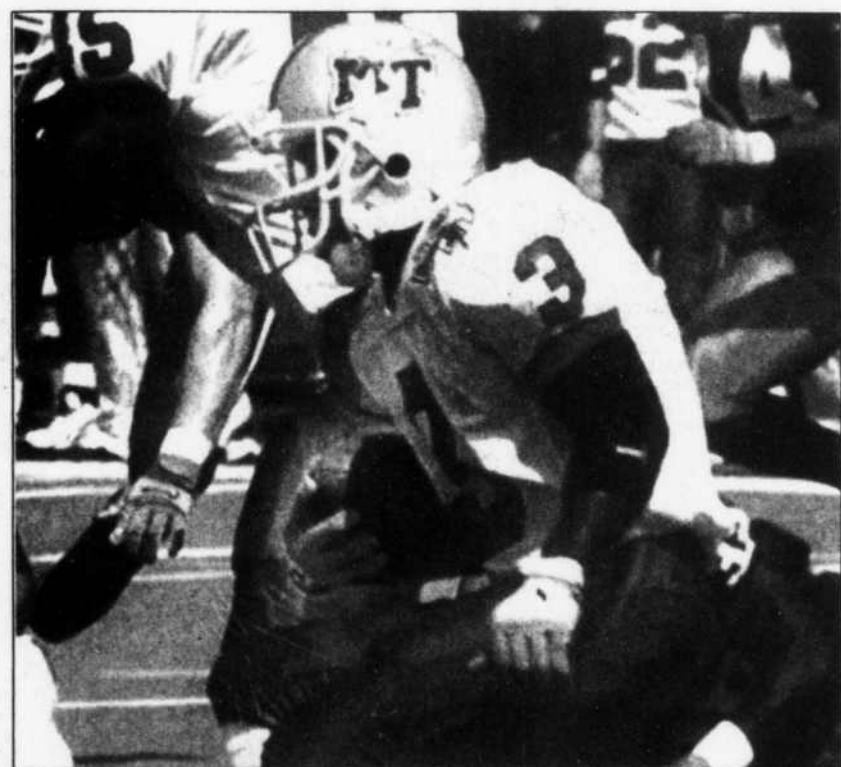
They will need the amount of talent that they have in order to have the same type of success in the Sun Belt that the Blue Raiders program had in the OVC.

They had a preview of a couple of the top teams in the conference last season. In back-to-back duals, MTSU lost home contests to nationally ranked South Alabama and the University of Louisiana-Lafayette.

The Blue Raiders lost to South Alabama, the eventual conference winner, 6-1, but lost a close 4-3 match against the Rajin Cajuns, the second-place team in the conference. Both teams were nationally ranked when they faced MTSU. ♦



Photo Provided



Hansford rushes during season opener.

Photo by Jessica Norton | Photo Editor

Little guy has a big heart

By Colleen Cox
Staff Writer

Hansford Johnson is not the biggest player on the field, but he is full of knowledge and determination.

Johnson stands only 5-foot-8, which is small for a wide receiver.

He makes up for his lack of size though with speed, agility, excitement and knowledge about the game of football.

He enjoys just getting on the field and playing.

"I'm excited about all eleven games," Johnson said. "I just want to get out on the field and play."

He also has a positive outlook.

"Every year I expect us to win every game, but things happen: fumbles here, interceptions here," Johnson said. "This year is going to be a good year for

us."

His work ethic and outlook come from his mother, he said.

He describes his mother as his role model saying, "she is a hard worker who never got any recognition, but continued to work hard because she knew there was a blessing in that."

Johnson came to MTSU as they were making the transition to Division I-A. He came here because "it was an opportunity for me to play."

"It was a program that was moving to the next level, and I felt like I wanted to be a part of that transition."

He believes the move to Division I-A was the best for the program and the school.

While here, Johnson has matured as a person and a player. He also has learned many new things.

Overall he says his experience has

been "a really, really good one."

As for his future, Johnson said, "My future? I leave up to God. Whatever he wants me to do but, I do have a desire to play in the NFL."

Johnson would like to see more students at the games.

"We need fans. They're that extra boost when we're tired," Johnson said.

He has a solution for the lack of student support.

"PR needs to promote games more," Johnson said. "Maybe have pep rallies to let students know we do have a football team."

"A lot of people leave high school and they're jacked up for football. Many people say this is a suitcase college but, it's only a suitcase college if you make it a suitcase college."

"We need to promote football and sports more here at MTSU." ♦



Women's Fall Schedules

VOLLEYBALL

Sept. 8-9	Xavier Tournament	Cincinnati, OH	6:00 p.m.
Sept. 8	Xavier		1:00 p.m.
Sept. 9	Virginia		6:00 p.m.
Sept. 15-16	Western Michigan	Macon, GA	
Sept. 15	Mercer Tournament		
Sept. 15	Wofford		12:30 p.m.
Sept. 16	UNC-Asheville		5:00 p.m.
Sept. 19	TENNESSEE-CHATTANOOGA	Murfreesboro, TN	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 22	*FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL	Murfreesboro, TN	6:00 p.m.
Sept. 23	*LOUISIANA TECH	Murfreesboro, TN	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 26	*Western Kentucky	Bowling Green, KY	5:00 p.m.
Sept. 29	*Louisiana-Lafayette	Lafayette, LA	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 3	Belmont	Nashville, TN	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 6	*Arkansas-Little Rock	Little Rock, AR	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 7	*Arkansas State	Jonesboro, AR	3:00 p.m.
Oct. 11	*Mississippi State	Starkville, MS	6:00 p.m.
Oct. 13	*DENVER	Murfreesboro, TN	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 15	*NEW MEXICO STATE	Murfreesboro, TN	2:00 p.m.
Oct. 17	BELMONT	Murfreesboro, TN	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 20	*South Alabama	Mobile, AL	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 21	*New Orleans	New Orleans, LA	5:00 p.m.
Oct. 24	Memphis	Memphis, TN	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 28	*ARKANSAS STATE	Murfreesboro, TN	5:00 p.m.
Oct. 29	*ARKANSAS-LITTLE ROCK	Murfreesboro, TN	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 3	*NORTH TEXAS	Murfreesboro, TN	7:00 p.m.
Nov. 5	*WESTERN KENTUCKY	Murfreesboro, TN	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 10	*Florida International	Miami, FL	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 12	*Louisiana Tech	Ruston, LA	2:00 p.m.
Nov. 16-19	Sun Belt Conference Tournament		TBA

* Sun Belt Conference Opponents
Parents Weekend
CAPS indicates home match

CROSS COUNTRY

Sept. 16	Western Kentucky Invitational	Bowling Green, KY
Sept. 30	Vanderbilt Invitational	Nashville, TN
Oct. 14	Austin Peay Invitational	Clarksville, TN
Oct. 28	Sun Belt Championships	Little Rock, AR

TENNIS

Sep 22-24	Furman Fall Invitational	Greenville, SC	All day
Oct 6-8	Indiana Fall Invitational	Bloomington, IN	All day
Oct 13-15	Middle Tennessee Fall Invitational	Murfreesboro, TN	All day
Oct 27-29	Vanderbilt Fall Invitational	Nashville, TN	All day
Nov 3-5	Rolax Regional	Winston-Salem, NC	All day

SOCCER

Sept. 8	Appalachian State	4 p.m.
Sept. 10	Drury	1 p.m.
Sept. 15	Florida International*	6 p.m.
Sept. 17	Florida Atlantic	11 a.m.
Sept. 21	North Texas*	4 p.m.
Sept. 24	South Alabama*	1 p.m.
Oct. 1	Denver*	1 p.m.
Oct. 5	Eastern Illinois	2 p.m.
Oct. 10	Belmont	4 p.m.
Oct. 13	Murray State	4 p.m.
Oct. 15	UL-Lafayette	1 p.m.
Oct. 21	Southeast Missouri	7 p.m.
Oct. 23	Arkansas State*	3 p.m.
Oct. 27	Jacksonville State	3 p.m.
Oct. 29	East Tennessee State	1 p.m.

Swamp: Raider's go Gator hunting this weekend

Continued from 7

spots are 325 pound Reggie Primas and 295 pound Gil Matias, while Brock Lillis, 269 pounds, will play center.

The Blue Raider offensive line will have its hands full against the Gator defensive line. All-American Alex Brown will be at right end. Brown is a future first round pick in the NFL. Gerard Warren is the run stopper at 308 pounds, and his partner is Gurley. Buck Gurley, that is. Thaddeus Bullard will hold down the left end spot.

When MTSU passes Wes Counts will start. Joe Johnson

will back him up, but he will play.

Forget that Johnson out played Counts in every aspect of the game against Illinois. Counts is a junior and has the benefit of the doubt when it comes to playing football at MTSU.

Johnson was 13-of-16 for 112 yards and zero interceptions, although he did fumble a snap and lose 14 yards. Counts was 12-of-24 for 150 yards and two interceptions.

Johnson has the advantage on Counts, in that he has a better arm and is more mobile. Counts has more experience, which could be key in "The Swamp."

If the offensive line doesn't hold

Saturday, it doesn't matter who takes the snap because they will be watching the game from the training room.

Middle Tennessee's receiving corp is tremendous. Led by Kendal Newson and Tyrone Calico, the Raiders passed for over 200 yards last week and have the ability to do the same against Florida.

Newson will break the school record for receptions in a career with three on Saturday. He trails Demetric Mostiller by two.

Calico is 6-foot-4 and has an advantage over every defensive back he faces with his height and leaping abilities. However, if the ball is not thrown his

direction he cannot use that height. He did drop a sure touchdown pass against Illinois though.

Other receivers such as David Youell and Hansford Johnson will see a great deal of playing time, when the Raiders use their three, four and even five receiver sets.

The Bottom Line
Middle Tennessee is not supposed to win. Nobody thinks they are going to win.

Spurrier referred to the game as a preseason game, showing his total lack of respect for the Blue Raiders.

Someday though, the Blue Raiders are going to beat a highly rated team

and much to the dismay of Greg Pogue, they will become a quality football team. This may not be the week and next week may not be the week, but it will happen.

Remember, "That's why they play the game."

"We have to focus, make sure we finish and play hard like we usually do," Hicks said.

If it does happen this week Middle Tennesseans can catch the game on News Channel 5 Plus at 5 PM on Saturday.

"This is a chance for people to see what we are all about," McCollum said. ♦

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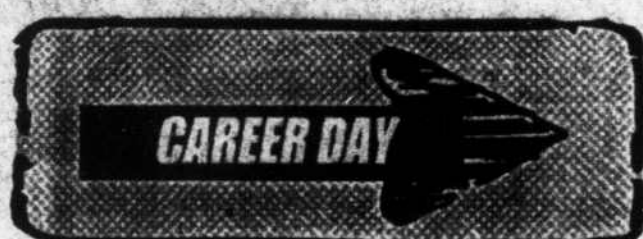
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11-2

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