

Sidelines open house: Monday, Sept. 8, Mass Comm room 269 at 6 p.m.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2008

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

VOL. 84 NO. 37

INSIDE

Band of the week



A group of students formed a country/rock group by the name of Ribbonpigeon.

FEATURES, 6

OPINIONS

Inequalities in education still exist

The vast disparities within Chicago's public education need to be addressed.

OPINIONS, 5

Check out this week's comics.

OPINIONS, 5

SPORTS

Another ACC foe comes to Floyd Stadium

For just the second time, a team from the Atlantic Coast Conference visits Murfreesboro.

SPORTS, 8

COMMUTE

Alumni Drive from Greek Row to Blue Raider Drive will be closed this week for final surface paving.

Alumni Drive from Blue Raider Drive to Friendship Street will be closed for the fall semester for road improvements.

With the closing of Alumni, there will be no access to the Library parking lot. During the construction period, the northern part of the parking lot by the Honors Building will be changed from green to white. The southern end of the lot by Ezell Hall will remain green for students.

You will not be able to access the campus via Womack Lane.

For more information, visit www.mtsu.edu/~parking



Photo By Alex Blackwelder, Photography Editor
Student volunteer Rachael Charlton (left) laughs with evacuees Shawn Mason (middle) and David Maron (right), both from New Orleans, in the Recreation Center.

Disaster shelter helps hundreds

By TIFFANY GIBSON
Campus News Editor

The Recreation Center gymnasium is closed until further notice to serve as a disaster shelter for over 450 Hurricane Gustav evacuees.

Over the holiday weekend, evacuees from Louisiana and various affected states arrived at MTSU to stay at the Rec Center on cots. The Red Cross employees and volunteers provided clothing and food for those displaced.

"I am pleased we can provide assistance to reduce the stress and issues these people are dealing with," said President Sidney McPhee. "The Red Cross, faculty and staff, students and other organizations are doing a wonderful job helping."

ARAMARK provided food for the victims on Sunday

and Monday.

"We served 350 people for lunch on Sunday and 510 people for breakfast, lunch and dinner on Monday," said Brett Muller, assistant food service director.

In addition to offering food for the evacuees, Muller said several managers and employees working in McCallie Dining Hall assisted in serving meals for the victims.

The Tennessee Baptist Association and First Harvest Food Bank will supply meals for the evacuees throughout their stay.

Student volunteers are also lending a hand with food by contributing food, serving evacuees during meals and answering any questions or concerns evacuees may have about the area.

"These people are in need



Photo By Alex Blackwelder, Photography Editor
Edgard Izaguirre sets up for math, writing and arts and craft sessions for children of evacuees.

and they came up here with nothing. They have been pulled from their homes for the second time in three years," said Gary Ferguson, MTSU graduate student and volunteer. "It's important

to volunteer and be here for them and make sure their stay is as comfortable as possible. They are our guests."

Ferguson said that volunteers began setting up cots over the holiday weekend in

order to prepare for the evacuees' arrivals.

"It was a little shaky at first because we didn't have quite enough blankets, but corpo-

EVACUEES, PAGE 3

Students save at Sam's Club

By FAITH FRANKLIN
Assistant News Editor

Sam's Club is offering students a solution to help improve their grades in home economics and finance with a membership to their local Sam's Club.

Students can obtain a year-long Sam's Club Collegiate Membership for \$40 and receive a \$15 gift card toward their first purchase.

"Sam's Club thought that [the membership] would be very beneficial to college students, considering all of the benefits that are available to club members," said Betty Zapata, Murfreesboro Sam's Club marketing manager.

Each Collegiate Membership comes with a complimentary add-on card, for roommates or housemates to share the shopping duties as well as savings.

According to Zapata, if a student has two or three roommates, he or she can buy items in bulk and avoid spending as much money

throughout the school year.

"Sam's helps students make the most of their budgets," Zapata said. "College students who live tighter will benefit from the membership."

Sam's Club offers its members a variety of goods and services at a discounted price.

"We want students to know the great benefits we offer when they become a Sam's Club member," said Gerri Livingston, Murfreesboro Sam's Club Manager.

Students will have an opportunity to purchase electronics, dorm room necessities, food cleaning supplies and appliances.

"Not only do we offer items in bulk, but we also offer clothing and apparel, paper goods, electronic items and groceries," Zapata said.

Outside of merchandise, Sam's Club also offers gas to its club members.

"As a member, students will also receive the benefit of Sam's Club gas," Living-



Photo By Alex Blackwelder, Photography Editor
Community members shop at the Sam's Club in Murfreesboro.

ton said. Recently, Sam's Club commissioned research firm Russell Research to conduct a survey this past June.

According to the survey, 89 percent of Americans "note a shift in back-to-college priorities given the current economic conditions."

The survey's findings indicate that there is a concern about covering tuition costs as well as food and beverages.

Sam's Club is offering a solution that provides students value and savings for this

school year and beyond.

"Students should know about the value that Sam's Club has, and how that great value will save them money," said Livingston.

The survey also found that 85 percent of Americans agree that college students can increase savings by shopping at a one-stop shop or warehouse retailer.

Students are eligible for the Sam's Club Collegiate Membership as long as they are in school every year when they renew their membership.

Blackman High hosts voter drive

By BYRON WILKES
Community News Editor

Blackman High School held the first student-sponsored voter registration drive in Rutherford County on August 29.

The BHS Student Government devised the idea to provide unregistered pupils older than 18 as well as faculty and staff members a convenient location, time and place to register.

"We actually talked about registering voters that were too busy to get out or just didn't know the process," said BHS Student Government President Terry Nowell. "This is a very historic election, and we want everybody informed, excited and registered."

The registration drive took place in the BHS cafeteria and directly outside the school during lunch period.

VOTE, PAGE 3

CRIME BRIEFS

Aug. 27, 10:14 a.m.

Assault

Bell Street Lot

Starlette Custer was charged with Aggravated assault.

Aug. 27, 7:15 p.m.

Theft

Murphy Center

Subject said that her purse was stolen from her classroom.

Aug. 28, 8:59 p.m.

Theft

Keathley University Center Grill

Subject said their cell phone had been stolen.

Aug. 28, 9:58 p.m.

Theft

Mass Communication BLDG

Subject said his bicycle was stolen.

Aug. 28, 11:09 p.m.

Weapon

Recreation Center

Acue Wicks was arrested and charged with simple possession of marijuana and possession of a weapon on school property.

Aug. 28, 11:09 p.m.

Weapon

Recreation Center

Corby Stokes was arrested and charged with possession of a weapon on school property.

Aug. 29, 1:01 a.m.

Sex Offenses

Sigma Nu House-Greek Row

Charles S Crews and Andrew Hohwald were arrested for indecent exposure and underage consumption. Crews was charged with criminal impersonation.

Aug. 29, 1:25 a.m.

Vandalism

Greek Row

Subjects' vehicle was vandalized the previous day.

Aug. 29, 6:30 a.m.

Vandalism

Bell Street Lot

Grounds supervisor reported someone drove through the fence

at Campus School Playgrounds.

Aug. 29, 10:12 a.m.

Miscellaneous

Womack Lane Apt. G

Housing requesting an officer to be present for a welfare check.

Aug. 30, 12:46 a.m.

Alcohol

Scarlett Commons, Apt. 1

Stephanie Lewis, Kayla Henry and Jaclyn Wakefield were cited for underage consumption.

Aug. 30, 10:37 a.m.

Vagrancy

MTSU Campus

Charles Springer was arrested for criminal trespassing.

Aug. 30, 3:42 p.m.

Vandalism

Greek Row

Subject came in and said his vehicle had been vandalized on Greek Row.

Aug. 31, 5:27 a.m.

Suspicious Person(s)

Sigma Nu House-Greek Row

Olliver Teston was cited for criminal trespassing and vandalism over \$500.

Aug. 31, 8:02 p.m.

Burglary

Scarlett Commons Apt. 3

Subject advised police that two iPods were stolen from the apartment.

Sept. 1, 11:45 a.m.

Theft

Recreation Center

Theft report said that around \$580 was taken.

Sept. 2, 12:32 a.m.

Theft

Cope Administration BLDG.

Complainant said she was walking near the Cope building and a W/M with a dark heavy beard on a bicycle rode by and bumped into her and then realized her wallet was missing.

Campus and Community events

Iron Man

Sept. 5

The KUC Theater will be having its last showings of Iron Man at 7 p.m. and again at 10 p.m. Admission is \$2.

Main Street's Friday Night Live Concert Series

Sept. 5

6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Held on the Public Square in Downtown Murfreesboro. Free Admission. Bring your lawn chair.

Pedaling Into the Past: Bicycle Tour of the Stones

River National Battlefield

Sept. 6

Held at the Stones River National Battlefield, 3501 Old Nashville Highway, Murfreesboro. Tour begins at 9 a.m. at the park visitor center.

MTSU Police Dept, 1412 E.

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VOTE FROM PAGE 1

terest among the students as a whole," said Justin Smith, BHS English teacher. "Their efforts were really impressive in pulling all of this together."

The idea to do the voter registration drive came from BHS sophomore Elizabeth Ortlieb, who is also a member of the Student Government.

"I just sort of came up with the idea after I went to Declareyourself.com in May," Ortlieb said. "I think it's really important for the future of our country."

Declare Yourself is a non-partisan nonprofit campaign

to encourage young voters to practice their democratic rights.

"I thought it would be a great idea to hold a registration drive similar to what Declare Yourself was doing, but independently," Ortlieb said.

The registration drive is the last in a series of programs concerning the 2008 presidential election, and included a mock presidential debate in which representatives from both the McCain and Obama camps came to the school and spoke in front of the student body.

"The Student Government was grabbing questions in the aisle from students, and I was just impressed by the

quality of the questions being asked," Smith said. "It really shows that the students are interested in this election."

According to Nowell, most of the work included keeping up with contacts and making appointments with them.

"We are extremely thankful to the Rutherford County Democratic and Republican Party headquarters here in Murfreesboro," Nowell said.

In the United States, only roughly 50 percent of the eligible population votes in the presidential elections. Unregistered voters may register at the Rutherford County Election Commission Office at One Public Square South across from the Rutherford County Courthouse.

Music and school spirit unite

By FAITH FRANKLIN
Assistant News Editor

Main Street will continue to host its Friday Night Concert Series with a community-wide pep rally for MTSU's Blue Raider's football team as they prepare to play Maryland Saturday.

The concert will be held on Sept. 5 and will feature The Boomers, who will perform their style of American blues and rock.

The free concert will be held at the public square from 6:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m..

Main Street's Friday Night Live Concert Series is a way to promote the Downtown Square and community.

"I think that [the series] is a really great opportunity to embrace the community while supporting the local venues and society," said Nikki Juliano, assistant manager of MTSU athletic communications.

The pep rally will feature MTSU's Lightning, the MTSU cheerleaders and band.

"Friday Night Live and an ideal venue for celebrating our football team," said Richard Gabel, executive director of Main Street Murfreesboro and Rutherford County.

This Friday is also a way to celebrate "the return of MTSU students to Murfrees-



Photo Courtesy of Kathleen Herzog, event coordinator for Main Street.
The Boomers prepare to rock out on the Main Street square.

boro, and showcasing our community spirit," Gabel said.

Main Street Murfreesboro is a non-profit organization committed to maintaining, enhancing and promoting the historic downtown as the heart of the community.

The Boomers have performed around the United States and feature a harmonica, keyboard, guitar and drums. Concertgoers can enjoy the flavor of ZZ Top, the Allman Brothers and B.B. King.

The performances for the series are typically "from all around the board," said Kathleen Herzog, event coordinator for Main Street Murfreesboro and Rutherford County.

The series has featured swing bands, country music, blues and rock. Last months

perfumers performed songs from Motown, Gladys Knight and Beyonce'.

Last month's concert was widely attended and Herzog said this Friday night's concert will have several thousand people in attendance.

"The turnout has been huge this year," Herzog said. "We had to close the streets last month."

Concertgoers are encouraged to wear MTSU blue to receive special savings from participating restaurants and retail stores downtown.

Participating stores will have a blue decal in the store's window indicating its participation.

Concertgoers should bring their own lawn chairs for seating.

For additional information, Main Street may be contacted at 615.895.1887.

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Palin pregnancy issue should be private

By JOCELYN NOVECK
Associated Press

Sen. John McCain's surprise choice of Palin made headlines a few days earlier, the revelation of her daughter's pregnancy has sent shock waves across the political landscape — and spawned countless Web references to "Juno from Juneau," a play on the name of last year's popular movie about a pregnant teen.

But what do voters really think? Will the pregnancy reflect negatively on Palin or on the man who chose her? Or will Palin's predicament instead humanize her and draw some sympathy votes?

Interviews across the country by The Associated Press on Tuesday found many said

it should be a private matter. Yet some of these same people wondered whether Palin could be an effective vice president and deal with the obligations of parenting both her own and her children's children.

Back when teen star Jamie Lynn Spears revealed she was pregnant at 16, chatter centered on her mother — more famous for her older daughter, Britney — and whether she was somehow to blame.

But in Palin's case, voters of all political stripes expressed the view that parental guidance only goes so far.

"As a parent, you cannot be totally responsible for your child," said Kurt Farrell, a 71-year-old Atlanta resident. "This is not a crime, and it doesn't mean she did not do

her job. You can't guide your child 100 percent."

The story, he said, is simply "not our business."

Farrell, who is originally from Trinidad and is a staunch Barack Obama supporter, added he was certain Obama wouldn't use Palin's personal situation to gain political leverage, and indeed Obama has said forcefully that he believes candidates' children are off limits.

But one supporter of the Illinois senator felt the information was fair game. "It gives you insight about her," said Joannell Williams, a 37-year-old high school teacher from Hahnville, La., who fled Hurricane Gustav and was visiting relatives in Atlanta.

"What I keep asking my-

self is, if you can't take care of your own household, how can you take care of the nation," said Williams. "If she is so strong on conservative values why wasn't she able to get that through at home? My mother raised seven daughters. ... None of us came home pregnant."

Others expressed the view that the pregnancy says more about McCain than Palin. Though his campaign said he knew about the pregnancy beforehand, questions persist about how thoroughly McCain vetted the candidate and how much interaction they had before he announced the surprise selection last Friday.

And the question is an important one, said political scholar Steven Cohen, because the choice of a running

mate is a candidate's first major presidential decision.

Whereas Obama appeared to take the long road to selecting a Vice President, naming a committee that included Caroline Kennedy, McCain by contrast "appears like he was a student cramming at the last minute for an exam," Cohen said, a professor of public administration at Columbia University.

Wendell Eubanks, a 46-year-old pastor from Chicago, had his doubts about Palin. "If I'm running for office, I have to lead by example," Eubanks said, a Democrat who has a Sunday gospel show on the radio. "How can you lead the country, if you can't lead your own family?"

EVACUEES FROM PAGE 1

rate partners in the community gave us blankets and sheets," Ferguson said.

"It's really great so far, and the student volunteers have been taking good care of me," said Shawn Mason, New Orleans native.

Edgard Izaguirre, junior marketing and public relations major and volunteer, came up with the idea to create math, English, art and story time sessions for the children.

"It breaks my heart knowing that they don't have an education right now," Izaguirre said. "They are just sitting around waiting with their parents, and by having art class, math, writing and story time sessions, it will give them a chance to stimulate their minds and help them focus on the key ingredient in life, which is education."

Izaguirre said there will be three sessions every day. At 10 a.m., math and writing will be offered. At 4:30 p.m., arts and crafts will be open. And at 8 p.m., a story time session will be held before the children go to bed.

Community members and numerous organizations such as Alpha Delta Pi, Phi Beta Sigma, Alpha Tau Omega and the men's rugby team have donated supplies for these sessions and raised funds within the community.

On Thursday, WJXA Mix 92.9 in Nashville will team up with the Red Cross to bring free ice cream samples at 2 p.m. to evacuees.

"I started out serving food, so I got a chance to meet everyone, especially the kids, who are great," said Rachael Charlton, senior political science major. "It's really like a family atmosphere in here with everybody helping each other."

Overall, many evacuees have described MTSU as a clean and quiet environment.

"It's peaceful here," said Quinton Maxwell, a plumber from Louisiana. "That's the best thing about it; there's no violence around here."

"I don't pray for disaster, but if it were to happen then I would make the best of it. And so far it is really good," said Chutwunelye Okoirie, contractor and Nigeria native. "They are giving me food, clothing and the space is really clean."

Even though evacuees are receiving shelter and care, many of them can't help but worry about their houses enduring the tropical storms.

"I haven't heard anything just yet, but I do know they cut the power off because wires were in the streets and posts were down," Maxwell said. "They did this to avoid anyone from getting electrocuted, so they shut off the power in the whole city."

Mason said that he has been at the Rec. Center for four days, but feels it's too soon to tell right now if his residence in New Orleans is still intact.

"I'm sure they are making sure everything is together before they bring us back down," Mason said. "Plus two more storms are supposed to be coming."

As of now, Dean Flever, spokesperson for Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, said that the evacuees in Tennessee are currently in a planning stage and waiting for New Orleans to make an announcement allowing residents to come back.

A volunteer log sheet available in the Rec. Center for any students or community members that want to volunteer their time.

"I know if I needed help in this situation, then I would be really appreciative if people would help me out," Charlton said. "Once I got here and met the people and saw how appreciative and faithful they are, I didn't want to leave."

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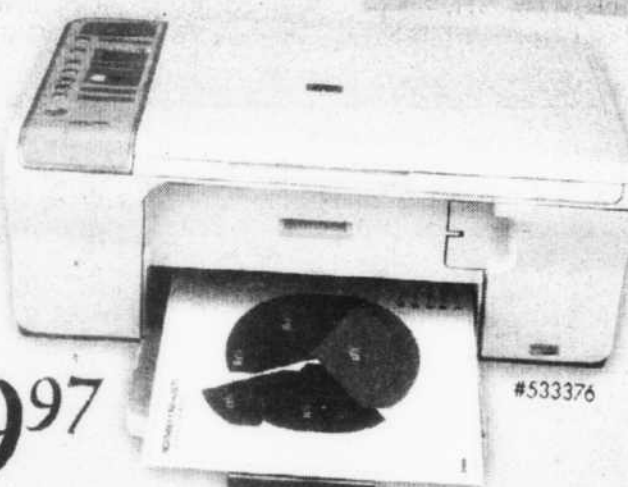
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OPINIONS

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Palin is just not palatable

On August 29, John McCain chose Alaskan governor Sarah Palin to be his running mate in the 2008 presidential election.

McCain's choice has drawn much criticism from both sides of the political spectrum, most famously that McCain's campaign is pulling the sexism card. It should come as no surprise when considering the coverage of the errant mass of unsatisfied Hillary supporters Republicans hope to pick up in the November election.

McCain's selection of Palin poses more than a few problems.

It's no secret that McCain is an advocate of Bush's position on sex education – or lack thereof. It's also no secret that Palin's daughter Bristol has a five-month-old bun in the oven. So much for that.

To be fair to Bristol, it wasn't as if she really ever had a choice in the matter. In 2006, her mother affirmed her staunch pro-life stance by stating she wouldn't resort to abortion even if her own daughter was raped.

Fortunately, fellow teen mother Jamie Lynn Spears has extended her best wishes and even a baby gift for Bristol. How heartwarming.

But we have only begun to probe into the hornet's nest that is the life and times of Sarah Palin.

While being hailed as a politician with family values at heart, whispers abound concerning Palin's youngest son, Trig, who was diagnosed prenatally with Down syndrome. Many have speculated that Trig is actually the first son of daughter Bristol, as Bristol was reported to have been out of school for five to eight months to recover from mononucleosis, which typically lasts anywhere from two weeks to three months. Eight months is certainly a highly suspect outlier in that standard deviation.

But no one here at *Sidelines* is accusing Palin of being a liar. Yes, she did laugh repeatedly on air as shock jock radio host Bob Lester called Alaskan Senate president Lyda Green (a cancer survivor) a "bitch" and a "cancer" and even poked fun at Green's role as a mother. But we're not calling her a liar. Yet.

And then there's Bristol Palin's baby's daddy, Levi Johnston. A self-described "(expletive-deleted) redneck" on his MySpace page, some of his favorite activities include hanging out with the boys, fishing, shooting some stuff and "just (again, expletive deleted) chillin'." Brilliant.

And how about Todd Palin, the stay-at-home hockey coach dad who also works for British Petroleum? Perhaps the husband and wife team can negotiate together on possible future drilling in the tundra across the Rubicon.

On the bright side, though, if McCain is elected by some apocalyptic turn of events, Palin will indeed be the first vice president with the ability to skin a moose.

A little accountability

Equality of education is the responsibility of all; needs to be supported by government and community at large

Over 1,000 students and their communities protested the educational system in the state of Illinois this week, calling into question an alarming trend of discrimination that continues to occur in schools across the country.

Chicago public school students boycotted attending their own schools, instead taking the bus to New Trier, an affluent suburb, to enroll there, an event that volunteers said was similar to the historic "bus boycott in Alabama in the 1950s."

In a move that is arguably one of the largest of its kind in history, the children continue their protest – one that sheds light on some of the problems facing our school systems today.

The "No Child Left Behind" act was created in an effort to hold schools accountable – that is, to make sure that students are up-to-par on their reading, writing and arithmetic. The problem with this legislation is that there is no promise of equality on behalf of the government.

The discrepancy between the amount of money spent on each student in Chicago and New Trier is an example of what is happening all over the country. Chicago Public Schools spent \$11,300 per student last year, while New Trier spent \$17,500. This expenditure often directly correlates with student success.

Why the huge difference? Let's look at what New Trier Superintendent Linda Yonke had to say. My favorite was her statement that "many factors affect school performance, including supportive parents and hardworking students."

Obviously a child who grows up in a low-income area can't possibly be hardworking or have supportive parents who want their child to do well so that they can break the cycle of poverty.

These parents and children want to have old text-



Grammar Gal Schools You

Jessica Laven

books, apathetic teachers who try their best but are paid \$10,000 less per year than their colleagues and a budget that doesn't allow for the extras that other, more affluent students, are afforded.

While "No Child Left Behind" is the catchphrase of the decade, many people seem to overlook one of the very foundations that the American public education system is built on – FAPE. Free and Appropriate Public Education. Notice there's nothing in that statement that qualifies "appropriate" education based on residence or wealth of zoned school district. FAPE is supposed to ensure that every child has access to materials, educators and environments that are of quality.

Students are essentially allowed to go to school wherever they choose. This is part of FAPE. If they don't feel like they're getting what they need at their school, they can change schools. School administrators love diversity – it makes them look really good – until they perceive that diversity as a threat to their "No Child Left Behind" status.

If test scores drop, parents and the community get mad. If parents and the community get mad, administrators lose jobs. If administrators lose jobs, they end up at "one of those schools."

True, there are administrators who truly want their schools and districts to do well. There are those who are actively part of the

classroom, making sure their teachers and students have the tools conducive to a successful learning environment.

There is a whole other crop of administrators, though.

The ones who simply use educational administration as a launchpad for their political careers.

The ones who bathe themselves in bureaucracy and the blood, sweat and tears of their teachers and students.

The ones who are quick to blame everyone but themselves for their failures, but beam with pride and accomplishment at their "job well done" when test scores show improvement.

These people are a detriment to schools, especially at-risk schools. Administrators who fail to foster a supportive environment are ultimately giving up on their students and teachers. But who holds administrators accountable?

In an ideal world, the community. After all, the community does pay their salaries. The problem with this is that, again, many administrators hold positions of power. They can be hard to get rid of. It usually comes down to money.

If enough parents and community leaders can band together and threaten to pull their money out of the school district, people listen. Easier said than done for parents who can't afford it, though. There's that pesky old inequality again.

The whole "not in my back yard" argument used by middle- to upper-class citizens ends up doing a huge disservice to the whole of society.

When people pick and choose which of their country's children get access to quality education, they ultimately agree to support an over-stressed public welfare system. They agree to pay for those who can't afford health insurance. And they continue the cycle of our

country's failing to live up to another basic tenant of public education – that every child will eventually use his or her knowledge in a way that supports the global economy. We're obviously talking more than money here. We're talking about "the pursuit of happiness."

Inevitably, it's the communities who are accustomed to having everything they need that give equality the cold shoulder. Yanke admits that "there's...no denying the fact that funding allows us to have smaller classes, a deep and rich curriculum and many extracurricular activities," but that seems to be an afterthought in her world, where wealthier parents are the supportive ones, and at-risk children don't work as hard as her students.

State Sen. James Meeks has asked Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich and the state legislature to support a program that would distribute \$120 million to four clusters of Chicago's most underfunded schools. So far, no promises have been made.

So while Yanke's district continues to enrich the lives and futures of their students with advanced classes, violin lessons and soccer games, the children of Chicago continue to wait. They wait to find out how much their futures are worth to the powers-that-be in Illinois' state government.

Hopefully their elected body isn't full of stodgy suits, and is instead led by politicians who recognize that students can only be expected to accomplish so much when they are not given what they need to perform their best in school.

So yes, "No Child Left Behind" should be about accountability, for sure. From the government.

Jessica Laven is in the graduate education program and can be reached at slopinio@mtsu.edu.

FACES IN THE CROWD

How long did it take you to park this morning?



Martin

"25 minutes."

Rachel Martin, Sophomore Recording Industry



Lay

"45 minutes."

Allison Rose Lay, senior Communication Studies



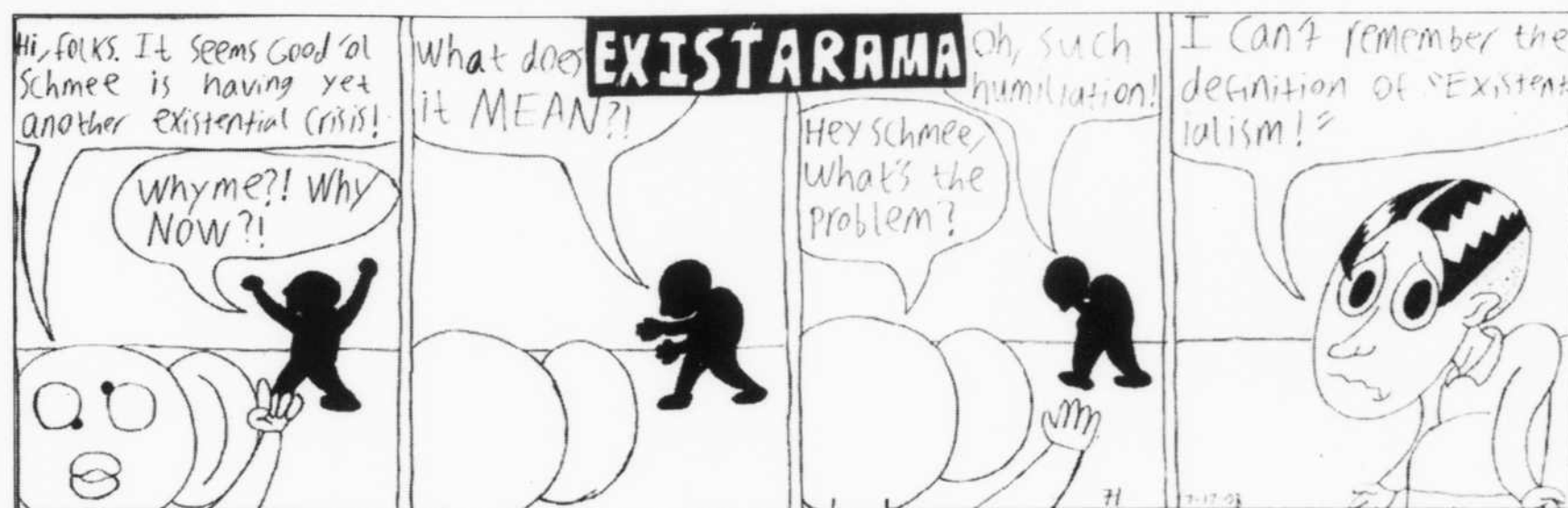
Finney

"It took me probably 6 minutes to park tonight but during the day I ride my bike. Parking is terrible and it saves on gas."

Trevor Finney, sophomore Digital Animation

Compiled by Alex Moorman

COMICS



"And Friends"

frankhasenmueller@gmail.com

Frank Hasenmueller

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MTSUSIDELINES.COM.The passion of
MTSU's dancersBy MADI FLOURNOY
Contributing Writer

MTSU's Dance Theatre Company consists of 35 dancers, who practice rigorously seven days a week for a variety of events and concerts throughout the year.

Kim Neal Nofsinger, artistic director of Dance Theatre, has been teaching dance at the university level since 1991 and has put hard work into making it a pre-professional company.

"Dance Theatre is a great opportunity to see fantastic work in concert," Nofsinger says.

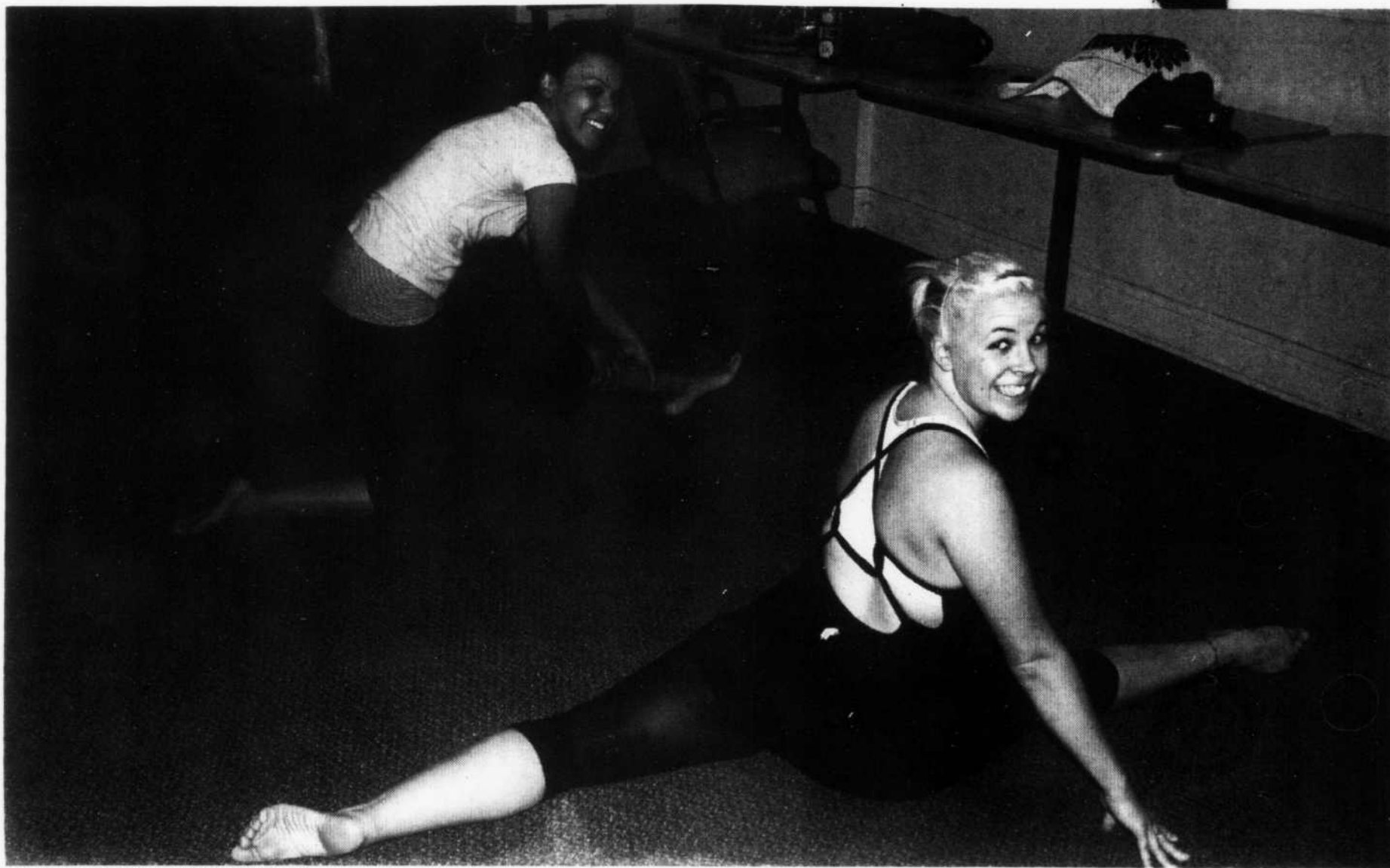
The company has a hectic year ahead of them, with two major main-stage concerts – the first, which is yet to be titled, will occur on Nov. 13, and the other will take place sometime in the spring.

This year, Dance Theatre is developing the touring aspect of dance by performing at the Parthenon in Nashville. In the spring, MTSU will host the American College Dance Festival Regional Conference, where the students will perform with other collegiate dancers.

Kim Richards, senior liberal studies major, is going into her sixth semester as a part of the company.

"I believe [Dance Theatre] is a very sophisticated program that allows all levels of dance to succeed in performance," Richards says.

Performers for each concert practice twice a week as well as participate in a company class on Saturday mornings. These weekend



(From left to right) Jennifer Blake, senior theatre major, and Devin Hall, sophomore nutrition major, stretch together at a rehearsal

classes change every week with guest choreographers that get the dancers excited to actually wake up early and move their bodies.

This semester, they will learn from the talent and expertise of guest choreographers Ivan Pulinkala, Mari Jo Irbey and Sara Semonis. Pulinkala is the director of Kennesaw State's dance program.

Irbe is a dance instructor from Loyola University in Chicago. Semonis is an assistant professor of dance at Illinois State University.

The student's other dance teachers, are Marsha Barsky and Nancy Ammerman, assistant director of Dance Theatre. All of the professors will give their time and knowledge to the company and other dance students

participating in classes each week.

Chelsea Gray, freshman biology major, is performing in one of Nofsinger's pieces in the fall concert.

"I heard about Dance Theatre from a friend at my old studio, who went to their show and said it was really cool and the kind of dancing I'd like to do," Gray says.

Nofsinger says that the de-

partment tries to keep dance routines from staying the same.

"The style of dance we do varies from semester to semester," Nofsinger says. "This semester, we are having modern work, ballet work and jazz work as the genres we are working on."

The dancers rehearse in the Fairview Building's dance studio, which is al-

most always full of dedicated students who practice within it.

Auditions each year are open to all MTSU students, so anyone can come and try out. If dancing just isn't your thing, don't feel left out. Just come see the first major concert this November to witness a unique performance that won't be found anywhere else.



Photos Courtesy Ribbonpigeon

(Above) The guys bust out a smile during a promotional photo shoot.
(Top Right) Lead singer/guitarist Kent Goolsby keeps the rhythm going while lead guitarist Mike Burgess plays a solo.
(Right) Members of the rhythm section, bassist Jonathan Merritt and drummer Blake Loftis, keep the song grooving along.

COUNTRY
+ ROCK
+ INNOVATION
RibbonpigeonBy LAURA RAINES
Contributing Writer

For lead singer Kent Goolsby and his alternative-country band Ribbonpigeon, music has become as much a part of life as breathing.

With their soulful sound and upbeat energy, it's easy to see why these intelligent and talented musicians are on the fast track to success. The guys of Ribbonpigeon, like all bands, are looking to catch a break in the music industry.

The thing about them, though, is they stand a very strong chance.

In the beginning, there were three members – Goolsby, Blake Loftis and Jonathan Merritt. They met at Cookeville High School where they spent four years in and out of different bands that never seemed to mesh.

When it was time for college, the three decided on MTSU. It was here that they began to collaborate as musi-

cians. And Murfreesboro has a great atmosphere for rising bands, and meeting others with the same passion for music.

"Blake lived in Scarlett Commons with a random roommate who ended up being Mike (Burgess), so that's how we met our fourth member," says Merritt, the band's bassist.

Burgess graduated with a recording industry degree from MTSU and now plays lead guitar and a more unique instrument, lap-steel guitar. Today, he and Loftis live together. Goolsby and Merritt live next door, and this is where the self-taught musicians practice.

"Luckily we have never had any noise complaints from the neighbors," Merritt laughs.

So what about that odd name?

RIBBONPIGEON, PAGE 7

Upcoming Ribbonpigeon Concerts

Sept. 14 - The End, Nashville
 Sept. 17 - Liquid Smoke, Murfreesboro
 Sept. 26 - The 5 Spot, Nashville
 Oct. 4 - Wallstreet, Murfreesboro
 Oct. 24 - The 'Boro, Murfreesboro
 Nov. 8 - The Speakeasy, Birmingham
 Dec. 13 - Acoustic Coffee House, Johnson City

RIBBONPIGEON FROM PAGE 6

It's the stuff dreams are made of - literally. Goolsby had a dream involving a Nazi prison camp, a headmistress and a nameplate. The rest, as they say, is history.

"The nameplate said Ribbonpigeon and in my mind I thought, 'Oh yeah, of course, that's the name of my band,'" Goolsby says.

RP fans may remember a time when the name Ribbonpigeon applied to just one person instead of the whole band.

"Kent had been writing acoustic songs under the name Ribbonpigeon for quite some time and we decided to try turning a few of them into full-band songs," Merritt says. "It all just fell together perfectly."

This summer proved just how perfect the four are together.

Ribbonpigeon, along with a cameraman, drove up the east coast in a Yukon for their four-city tour. Those cities were Chicago, New York, Boston and Washington D.C. As their blog reads, they stayed with some amazingly gracious people who put them up for a couple of nights at a time.

"We were able to do the tour entirely because of the great friends we have along the way who hooked us up with some really good local bands and let us crash at their places for the night," Merritt says. "It is definitely something we could not have done alone."

Along with any good road trip comes some amusing stories. One of Ribbonpigeon's is an encounter with the NYPD.

"In New York, we played in Brooklyn, and after we finished, this group of people who lived there wanted to take us down to the East River to show us the view of Manhattan," Merritt smiles as he remembers. "We got down there and after a while one of the guys decides, largely due to

Makers Mark, that it would be a good idea to swim in the river. So before long, eight people are in the disgusting East River. Then, right as we are getting out, the NYPD shows up and disagrees that this was a good idea. So, basically, we all ended up with summons from New York."

But now that college is back in session, it's harder and more stressful for the guys of RP to try and organize a tour of spectacular magnitude. Throw in a job and band practice and you have one pretty hectic schedule.

Don't think that the four don't have time for friends, even though they are very busy. It's a lot easier to hang out with your comrades when your best ones are in your band.

Late practices often turn into conversations of times past and dreams of the future. Mix in the hours of dedicated song composition, and you have the music that continues to keep fans happy.

Recent MTSU graduate Sarah Shellman has been to hundreds of local shows over her five-year college career. She has seen most of the local talent and says that Ribbonpigeon is definitely her favorite.

"Ribbonpigeon has a distinct originality that really shines on stage," Shellman says.

But, like with all bands, people try and compare them with other bands.

"Our sound has been compared to groups like Lucero and Crazy Horse but the best thing to do is listen for yourself," Merritt says.

Those having never heard RP and would like to, and those diehard fans of the band, will have many upcoming chances to check out the show, both locally and nationwide.

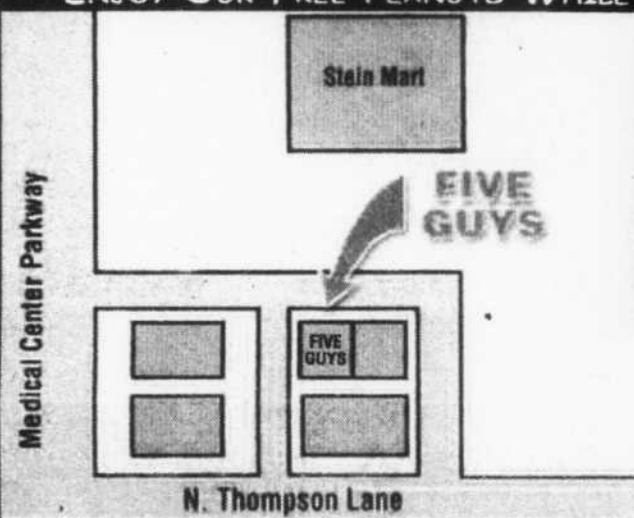
Check the guys out at www.myspace.com/ribbonpigeon for some sample listening and more information about one of the most original bands to come out of MTSU, Ribbonpigeon.

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SPORTS



Photo by Chris Barstad, staff photographer

Running back Desmond Gee (2) and the Blue Raiders are looking to earn the first home win against a team from one of the former BCS Conferences (ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, Big East, PAC-10, SEC).

For second straight year, MT to face an ACC opponent

By CASEY BOWMAN
Assistant Sports Editor

The MT Blue Raider football team, for the second consecutive year, will host a BCS caliber program from the ACC within the friendly confines of Floyd Stadium.

Last year it was Virginia, and now MT will welcome the Terrapins of Maryland this Saturday.

This will be the third meeting between the two programs. Most recently, MT fell to the Terrapins at College Park in a closely contested

game, 24-10. Maryland holds a 2-0 advantage in the overall series.

MT (0-1) will look to erase the memory of their season opening loss to the Troy Trojans, but Head Coach Rick Stockstill says his team doesn't feel any added pressure going

into Saturday's contest, even though a win would arguably be the program's biggest since their arrival in the Football Bowl Subdivision.

"To me there is not," Stockstill said at Tuesday's press conference. "We want to beat Maryland at home Saturday

and we wanted to beat them two years ago on the road. We don't spend a lot of time talking about Maryland because, to me, it's about us. We have to work and focus on improving as individuals and as a team. It would be nice to win at home but we are not

putting any more emphasis on this game or added pressure on the players because I don't think that's how you approach it with your players."

Pressure aside, if the Blue

FOOTBALL, PAGE 10

The time for a big MT win is now



Real Talk with C-Bow

Casey Bowman

Seasons come, and then they go, and every year MT has a chance to capture that elusive "signature win."

To this point, it has been to no avail.

I say no avail simply because I don't count Vandy as a big time win – sorry, but they are on a lower level than what their SEC title gives them.

But alas Blue Raider Nation – it's time.

This Saturday, the Blue Raiders will once again have that chance, and with other Sun Belt schools beginning to get their signature wins, the time is now for MT to produce it's own.

It's time.

Two years ago, MT went into the home of the Terrapins and battled for four quarters against a team that many thought would blow them out. MT hung in there, but the bottom-line is they didn't get the win.

Last year, fans were treated to what should have been the biggest win in program history against Virginia, but that wasn't meant to be either. Last second luck has not been something the Blue Raiders have had.

Now, however, it's time.

Maryland will enter Floyd Stadium Saturday, after narrowly escaping the claws of the mighty Fightin' Blue Hens of Delaware in their season opening contest.

This Saturday is MT's time. It's time to get that notch on their belt. It's time to jump that hurdle so this program can finally move forward.

I know that I'm tired of saying, "Well maybe next year."



Photo by Chris Barstad, staff photographer

Danny Carmichael (44) and MT will look to stop the UM offense.

The time is now!

Instead of talking about heartbreaking defeats that Middle fans have come accustomed to since their inception into the Football Bowl Subdivision (formerly Division Ia), how about we talk about that time when Middle opened a can on an ACC team and showed them some "basketball on grass."

If this is going to happen, it's glaringly apparent that some things need to change.

Everyone needs to forget about Troy – that ship has sailed and it's not coming back.

There's no sense in dwelling on what could have been. MT must look at the positives that came from the Troy game instead, and use it to their advantage.

The passing game needs to pick up where it left off last week. MT was successful in the fourth quarter against Troy, when they finally opened up the field and threw the ball further than 3 yards out.

Freshman wide outs Sancho McDonald and Malcolm Beyah were two bright spots against Troy, as well as sophomore Wes Caldwell. If MT is going to win, these guys need the ball in their hands, and

preferably 20-30 yards down the field when they do get the ball.

This all, of course, will depend on how the running game shapes up. Desmond Gee and Phillip Tanner accounted for a combined 121 yards on 34 carries against Troy, and will need just as much, to open up the passing game.

On the defensive side of things, the answer to a successful game is simple for the Blue Raiders – tackle.

Troy was able to break tackles left and right on the Raider defense, which in the end, contributed to the Trojans final scoring drive with the game winding down that put things out of reach for MT.

One thing is for sure though; the tools are in place for MT. Albeit they are unproven tools that haven't stood the test of time, the fact remains that this team has the talent to compete with every school on the schedule.

The main thing in all of this is that, well, it's time. It's time to say enough is enough and just win.

Casey Bowman is a senior journalism major. He can be reached at slsports@mtsu.edu.

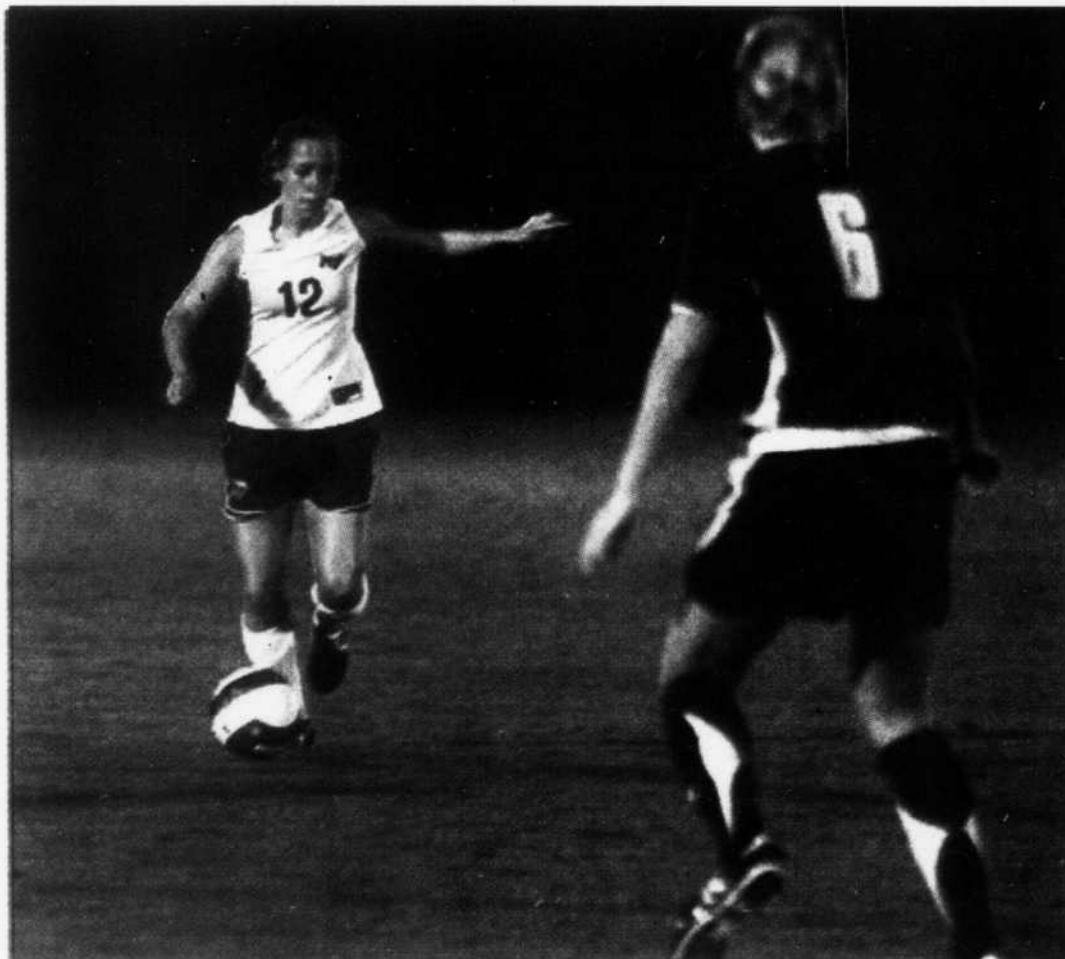


Photo Courtesy of MT Athletic Communications

Sophomore forward Kelly Downs (12) and the Blue Raiders have not produced much offense.

MT soccer having trouble taking advantage of scoring opportunities

By ANDREW MCNAMARA
Contributing Writer

The offense for the MT women's soccer team is like a keyboard without a SHIFT or CAPS lock key. They just can't capitalize.

Through three games, the Raiders have managed two goals on 48 shots.

On Sunday, the Blue Raiders lost to Belmont 1-0, despite outshooting the Bruins 19-11 in the game. The loss, their second home defeat, drops the team to 0-1-2 on the season.

Head coach Aston Rhoden said he was disappointed in his team's inability to find the back of the net despite repeated attempts.

"That was a very disappointing game for us," Rhoden said. "We have so much ability up top, we just couldn't finish our chances, and we had our chances."

They got their chance in

the second half, when MT outshot the Bruins 12-3, and freshman midfielder Laura Lamberth ripped a shot from about 35 yards out that just hit off the crossbar.

Also, freshman forward Shan Jones had several near-breakaways stopped by a pack of Bruin defenders everytime she started to see an opening.

"I think the opportunities were created, but I didn't get to finish them," Jones said. "We all didn't play too well."

The lone goal in the game came off a penalty kick late in the first half. Junior forward Annie Musacchio hit the shot of a lifetime from atop the 18-yard box that bent around the four person wall and just off the fingertips of MT goalie Kela Casiple.

Bruins head coach Lisa Howe was very happy to get a tough road win against a

cross-town rival.

"We knew we might have limited opportunities and knew we needed to take advantage when we got one," Howe said. "But this is one of the better games we have played this year, and the first half was one of the best we played and we're fortunate it came at the right time."

On Friday, the Blue Raiders started the 2008 home schedule with a hard-fought 2-1 defeat to the Vanderbilt Commodores at Blue Raider Field, their first home opener loss since 2001. On Aug. 23, the Blue Raiders tied 1-1 with the Jacksonville State Gamecocks in Jacksonville, Ala.

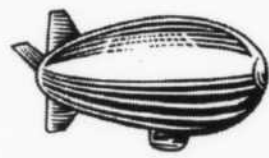
The Blue Raiders return to action when they open the Middle Tennessee Classic with a match against the Texas Tech Red Raiders. Kickoff is set for 6:30 p.m. on Friday at Blue Raider Field.



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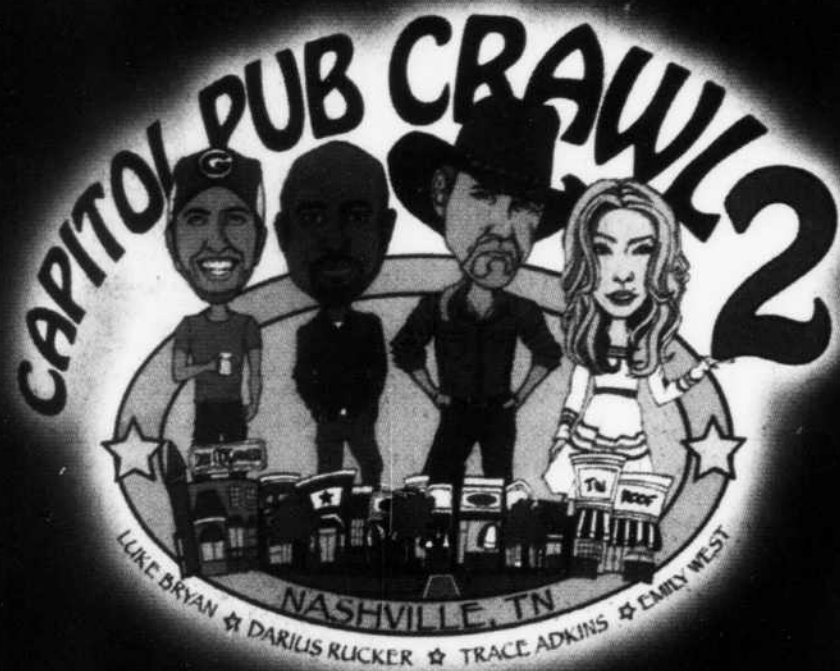
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Raiders are to compete with Maryland, they will do so with a depleted lineup that has an abundance of injury issues.

Linebackers Lonnie Clemmons and Andrew Harrington are both doubtful for Saturday's contest. Defensive back Rod Issac is also doubtful.

Maryland will bring in a talented core of wide receivers into Murfreesboro Saturday, including standout junior Darrius Heyward-Bey, who caught 4 passes for 70 yards and a touchdown in Maryland's week one victory over Delaware. Heyward-Bey also accounted for the Terps only other touchdown with a 12-yard scamper.

While the defense seems to be somewhat beat up for the Raiders, it is the offensive line that has taken the worst beating of all so far.

Saturday's game will be played without offensive linemen Chris Hawkins, Evon Lettsome, and Roger Gowan. Sophomore OL Mark Fisher, who was originally feared to be out until the

MTSU			Maryland		
	Yards	TD		Yards	TD
Passing			Passing		
Joe Craddock	200	1	Jordan Steffy	115	0
Rushing			Rushing		
Phillip Tanner	61	1	Da'Rel Scott	197	0
Receiving			Receiving		
Sancho McDonald	65	0	Darrius Howard-Bey	70	0
Tackles			Tackles		
Jeremy Kellem	7		Alex Wujciak	8	
Sacks			Sacks		
Alex Suber	5	1 SACK	N/A		
Wes Hofacker	4	1 SACK	Interceptions		
Interceptions			Terrell Skinner	6	1 INT
Ivon Hickmon	4	1 INT	Kevin Barnes	3	1 INT

midway point of the season, did play against Troy without reinjuring his shoulder, but is still in no shape to contribute

on every snap for MT.

MT's offensive line will have their hands full this weekend, but it seems as

though the Raiders defensive linemen are the ones who will have the biggest task of all.

Maryland will bring a

highly talented group of linemen including six of their seven top performers from last season.

Stockstill knows that task will be tough against the veteran group.

"I think it's going to be hard to get to their quarterback (Jordan Steffy)," Stockstill said in regards to Maryland's offensive line. "All of the offensive linemen are 6-foot 5, 330-plus pounds. They are very big and very active and we don't have a huge overpowering inside guy. It will be a challenge to get to the quarterback but hopefully we can keep fighting and battling and scrapping and finding a way."

Running back Phillip Tanner knows what a win could do for the Blue Raiders in this contest, and seems to think that the close contest from two years ago will help the Raiders gain a mental edge.

"We look back on it knowing we can and we have the athletes and coaching staff. There is no reason to believe we can't win," Tanner said.

Saturday's game will be televised on CSS, and kickoff is scheduled for 6 p.m.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Hall of fame inductions Saturday

Five new members will be inducted into the Blue Raider Hall of Fame before MT takes on Maryland in football Saturday.

Kelly Holcomb (football), Joe Campbell (football), Jerry Beck (basketball), John DoDoo (track and field) and Paul Goebel (tennis) will be inducted into the hall of fame at 3:30 p.m. at the Kennon Sports Hall of Fame Building in front of Floyd Stadium.

Holcomb, Campbell, Beck, DoDoo and Goebel will join the 97 other members of the Hall of Fame to bring the total number of inductees to 102.

The ceremony is open to the public and will take place before the Blue Raiders open on the ACC's Maryland Terrapins at Floyd Stadium.

ASU sweeps SBC awards

Following its impressive win over Big 12 team Texas A&M the Arkansas State Red Wolves earned all three of the Sun Belt Conference Player of the Week awards.

Quarterback Corey Leonard was named SBC Offensive Player of the Week after putting up 160 yards on 15 of 28 passing with one touchdown with no interceptions and 86 rushing yards on the Aggies.

The defensive nod went to linebacker Ben Owens. Owens finished the game with seven tackles, a fumble recovery, an interception and a sack.

Kicker Josh Arauco kicked four field goals in the 18-14 win to lock up the special teams award.

MT names new Associate AD for Compliance

Daryl Simpson was selected as the Associate Athletic Director of Compliance earlier this week, replacing Michael Moleta who now works with the NCAA Compliance Office.

Simpson previously worked as the Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance at North Texas, a position he held for past two years.

His hiring brings him back to MT where he had served as a graduate assistant in the MT compliance office in 2004 and 2005.

He graduated from Northern Arizona with a bachelor's degree in hotel and restaurant management in 2002 before completing his master's degree in sports management at MT in 2005.

"I'm really, really excited to be a part of Blue Raider athletics again," Simpson said. "I think it can be a smooth transition and I'll be able to jump right in because of the good relationship I have with people on campus from my previous experience at Middle Tennessee."

Four golfers named Academic All-Americans

Four members of the Middle Tennessee women's golf team recently were recognized as All-American scholar athletes by the National Golf Coaches Association for their academic and athletic performances during the 2007-08 academic year.

Jamey Dillard, Taryn Durham, Clara Leathers and Leigh Wilkins earned the prestigious honor and were selected to the All-American Scholar Team after producing grade point averages in excess of 3.5 during the academic year.

"It's a very good honor and I'm proud of all these young ladies for what they represent on and off the golf course," Middle Tennessee women's coach Chris Adams said. "This is great praise for them for being students, as well as athletes. Golfers miss a lot of class so the demands on these players are high. It says a lot about them for being able to manage their academics and athletics, and it says a lot about our academic support staff for assisting in their needs to be successful."

Criteria for selection to the All-American Scholar Team are some of the most stringent of all college athletics. The minimum cumulative GPA is 3.50 and student-athletes must have competed in at least 50 percent of the regularly scheduled competitive rounds during the year.

The National Golf Coaches Association, founded in 1919 is a non-profit organization representing women's collegiate golf coaches. Today, the NGCA represents nearly 500 coaches throughout the United States and is dedicated to educating, promoting and recognizing both its members and the student athletes they represent.

Information gathered from MT Athletic Communications.



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