

MONDAY
OCTOBER 25, 2004

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Sunny

Humorist
performs
one-woman
show

page 5

Strong second half
leads MT to win

page 6



An editorially
independent
newspaper

SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University

2003 National Finalist
Best non-daily
university newspaper
Society of Professional Journalists

Volume 80 No. 28

CAMPUSBRIEFS

Student newspaper hosts open house
Sidelines, MTSU's student newspaper, just moved from the James Union Building to the Mass Communication Building, Room 269. An open house will be held today from 4 - 6 p.m. with free pizza and free CDs. Students interested in working for *Sidelines* are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Kristin Hall at 904-8357.

Campus rec holds water aerobics workshops

A workshop for those interested in teaching water aerobics will be held at the Campus Recreation Center from 6 - 9 p.m. Oct. 29 and 9 a.m. - noon Oct. 30. The workshop is open to student, faculty and staff. To register, come by the Campus Recreation office Monday-Friday between 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The fee is \$10. For more information, call Pam at 898-2255.

Magicians to perform at Howl-O-Ween

The Middle Tennessee Magic Club and the Murfreesboro/Rutherford County Center for the Arts presents *Howl-O-Ween Magic Friday*, Oct. 29 at 7:02 p.m. Seven magicians will perform acts. Tickets are \$5 per person and are available in advance at Mullins Jewelers at 19 Public Square or the Center for the Arts, at 110 West College Street. For more information see www.IBMring252.com.

SEA pushes air-friendly transportation

The Students for Environment Action will be sponsoring an "Alternative Transportation Week" Oct. 25-29. Members of SEA will be on the Keathley University Center Knoll from noon - 3 p.m. with information and free bike repair. Today, the documentary "Kilowatt Ours" will be shown at 7 p.m. in the McWhorter Learning Resource Building, Room 221. On Wednesday, Oct. 27 SEA will hold a new member meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the KUC, Room 315. There will also be events on Friday, Oct. 29 and Oct. 30.

Hilleary will speak for Raider Republicans

The Raider Republicans will have former congressional candidate Van Hilleary as a guest speaker at their meeting tomorrow at 6 p.m. in the Bragg Mass Communications Building, room 149.

All students, faculty and staff are encouraged to attend. For more information visit www.raiderrepublicans.com or e-mail Tyler Smith at tsmith@raiderrepublicans.com.

Nurses/Health Career Day held next week

The annual Nurses/Health Career Day will be Monday, Nov. 1 from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building. For more information please contact Martha Turner or Mimi Thomas at 898-2500. ♦

Political groups advocate voting

By Erica Rodefer
Campus News Editor

The College Democrats and Raider Republicans are planning their last-minute attempts to appeal to student voters and get them to the polls during early voting.

A shuttle financed by the Tennessee Republican Party will be busing students from MTSU's campus to the early voting polls this week.

The Raider Republicans are

sponsoring the shuttle, which will be departing from the parking lot behind the Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building several times a day today through Thursday, Oct. 28.

Republican candidate for state senator Jim Tracy and candidate for state representative Oscar Gardner will be present on the bus to introduce themselves and answer any last-minute questions that students might have, according to Raider Republican Vice President Tyler

Smith.

Organizers say the shuttle service does not claim to be nonpartisan, but all are invited to take advantage of the free service.

"It's not going to delay democracy just because someone's view does not line up with ours," Smith said.

People wearing pro-Kerry stickers would be just as welcome as anyone else, he said.

The shuttle is a last attempt for the Raider Republicans to

get students to vote.

"We understand that the student vote is very important," Smith said. "We need all the students we can to get out there."

Smith also said that he thinks maybe more students would be inclined to vote if they could go with a group of their peers.

"It would be hard to assume that everybody would just automatically go, but maybe if

See Shuttle, 2

Shuttle Schedule

The shuttle will leave from the parking lot behind the Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building at the times below. The shuttle will return immediately after voting.

Monday/Wednesday
9:10 a.m.
11:30 a.m.
12:40 p.m.
2:20 p.m.

Tuesday/Thursday
9:40 a.m.
11:25 a.m.
1:00 p.m.
2:40 p.m.

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Big Boi



Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

Big Boi performed after the football game against Idaho Saturday at Floyd Stadium.

Gay marriage to be debated on campus

By Nona Kempton
Staff Writer

Gay marriage and a proposed constitutional amendment that would make gay marriage illegal will be debated at MTSU Tuesday night, event organizers said.

The debate will feature Sonnye Dixon, pastor of Hobson United Methodist Church in Nashville and member of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission, and Jerry W. Flowers, leader of Nashville's for a Brighter Future, a conservative political group.

The event will be held in the State Farm Room at the Business and Aerospace building at 7:30 p.m. Political science professor John Maynor will serve as moderator.

The Campus Freethought Alliance, a human issues group, and Alpha Omega, a student Christian service organization, are sponsoring the debate.

"This is an election year, and this is a big issue on the table," said Timmy Gibson, president of CFA and an event organizer.

Amanda Cotton, CFA's vice president, said the goal is to inform people who may be basing their vote in the upcoming election on the issue of gay marriage.

"We feel it's an important issue," Cotton said. "People may

be confused about it. It's not as simple as it sounds."

Matthew Harding, an off-campus adviser coordinating the event for Alpha Omega, said that part of the debate will focus on the proposed constitutional amendment that would limit marriage to heterosexual couples.

"This will be a debate about amending the constitution once and for all as Americans," Harding said. "It's a sad state that in our culture, we have to amend our constitution for what is obviously evident in humanity: that marriage is between a man and a woman."

Harding said that Flowers has been "outspoken on this topic" and will be arguing for the amendment.

Will Langston, philosophy professor and faculty advisor for CFA, said that Dixon will be arguing against a constitutional amendment and in favor of partnerships for gay couples.

Gibson said that since both participants have religious affiliations, the debate will be on an even footing and keep the discussion from being strictly secular versus religious doctrine.

"They can't just use religion as an excuse," Gibson said. "It won't just be 'because the Bible says it's wrong.'"

The event is free and open to the public. ♦

Possibility of draft still topic of debate

By Matt Anderson
Staff Writer

Eventually, the situation in Iraq will come down to one question: Should we stay or should we go?

Either way, the answer is likely to raise more questions. But if the answer is "stay," soldiers will have to come from somewhere. Events in the United States and Iraq have raised the specter of a draft.

Congress recently voted on the "The Universal National Service Act of 2003," when it was defeated 402-2. The bill would have reinstated the draft for men and women 18-26.

Rep. Charles Rangel originally introduced the bill in the hope that "the nation would slow its march to war." Rangel voted against the bill, the first time a congressman voted against a bill he sponsored.

When Rock the Vote began mailing simulated draft cards to raise the issue, Republican National Committee chair-

man Ed Gillespie accused them of scare tactics.

On the campaign trail, Sen. John Kerry has said that President George W. Bush, if re-elected, would reinstate the draft. In the second debate, Bush said, "We're not going to have a draft, period."

Is it all partisan hackery, or is a draft possible?

"There's always a possibility, that if the nation were attacked, there would be a draft," John Vile, chair of the political science department, said. "And both parties would support it."

Vile said that an all-volunteer force was preferable, saying that it offers more flexibility and that casualties can be slightly less tragic when they involved volunteers.

Major Chuck Giles agreed that an all-volunteer army is best. Giles is an MTSU military science professor and has served in Germany, Korea and Saudi Arabia.

See Draft, 3

Scholars day showcases student research projects

By Tim Hill
Staff Writer

An event showcasing the research projects of the MTSU community was held on Friday, Oct. 22 in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building.

At Scholars Day, faculty members presented many of the research projects that they had working on for months, and some for even a few years.

President Sidney McPhee was in attendance at the event. He said that he was looking forward to seeing the results of a nanotechnology project by MTSU professor Preston McDougal.

"One of the things that separates MTSU from others is that our professors and students regularly work together on projects like this," McPhee said.

In a project titled "Prevention Through Understanding," Carol Smith and her research partners spent



Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

Michael Mooneyham, a senior electromechanical engineering major, shows Nayer Eradat, an associate professor of physics, how the solar vehicle, built by students in the engineering technology department, works.



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

Who are you going to vote for?

Opinions 4 • Living 5 • Sports 6 • Classifieds 7

Black and Gold Beauty

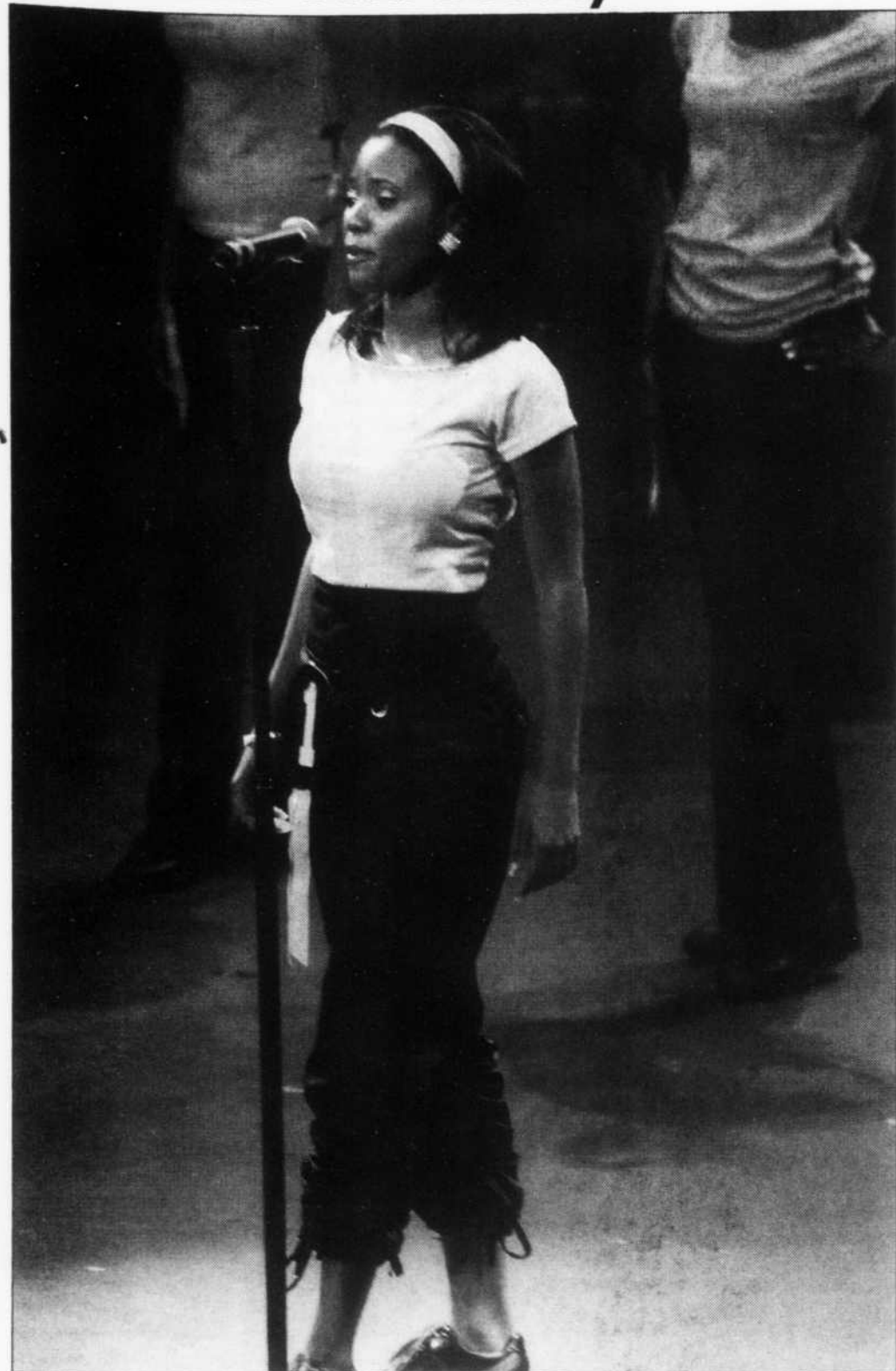


Photo by Emily Nance | Photo Editor
Kristen Johnson introduces herself as a contestant in Thursday's Miss Black and Gold Pageant. Fatima Jasseh was crowned Miss Black and Gold 2004.

SGA passes legislation to ban graffiti, fliering, sidewalk chalk

By Alex Miller
Staff Writer

Student Senator Shawn Kehoe called for harsher penalties for graffiti at Thursday's meeting of the Student Government Association.

"People are spreading trash on campus," Kehoe said. "I don't appreciate it when I can't get from the parking lot to the [Keathley University Center] without seeing fliers from seven different organizations." In the text of the bill, he points out that graffiti and misplaced signs diminish the natural beauty of campus and are expensive and time-consuming to remove.

The student Senate voted in favor of his resolution, which recommends prosecuting to the fullest extent of the law people who paint graffiti, place fliers in the wrong place or "uses sidewalk chalk in/on inappropriate areas."

The bill recommends prosecuting anyone caught spray painting, but it makes a distinction between students and the non-students charged with flier or sidewalk chalk violations. Non-students would be prosecuted while students are to be disciplined by the dean of student affairs.

"The problem we have is catching these people," Dean of Student Life Gene Fitch said.

He told the student senators to confront people who are breaking the rules and then give their names to Judicial Affairs.

Although the resolution mentions several types of graffiti, senate debate dealt with fliers placed in unauthorized areas.

Student senator Kasey Talbott questioned the significance of the resolution, since all of the activities it mentions are already either illegal or prohibited by campus regulations.

"I'm having déjà vu," he said. "Haven't we done this before?"

Although Kehoe is certain most students will appreciate his resolution, he expects opposition from some.

"I think the bands will hate it," he said.

In addition to stiff penalties for graffiti, the resolution requires anyone "wishing to solicit or promote any agenda," including political campaigns, to get written permission outlining where their advertisements will be placed and how long they will be there.

Now that the Senate has approved the resolution, it is up to administrators to decide whether or not to adopt it.

Student reaction to the proposed crackdown on graffiti has been mixed.

"I don't really care," Rachel Sullenger said about fliers illegally hung at campus bus stops. "It doesn't bother me. It just gives me something to look at."

Jimmy Turner disagrees with her.

"It's pretty trashy," he said about the fliers. "If we want to be an upstanding university we don't need crap on the walls."

Cliff Griffin admitted that he didn't know where fliers are permitted.

"It's a problem that people don't know the rules," he said. "Like me, for instance."

According to the student handbook, fliers may only be placed on bulletin boards.

While recruiting for her fraternity, Melanie McKinney decided that the university doesn't provide enough space for fliers.

"I put my signs up so I could get new members in, but the places that they're allowed, many people don't look. But places such as the bus stop, I get a lot of good responses," she

said. "We should be able to put them a lot more places than those that are assigned, especially in the KUC ... because we're paying for this university."

Jacob Spaulding thinks the rules governing flier placement are "pretty fair, but as many fliers and things go up, people are, you know, bound to break the rules."

Robert Ball thinks prosecuting offenders to the full extent of the law "might be a little harsh... spray paint, yeah, I could see that because it's harder to remove, but paper, trash, if someone gets caught they can just clean it up."

Turner shares Ball's apprehension.

"Full extent, it depends on what that is," he said. "They shouldn't sit in jail for a couple nights or whatever ... something needs to be done though."

Spaulding doesn't believe the fliers will ever really go away.

"I don't know if it's possible to really shut it down too much with how much effort is involved," he said. "I don't know if it's worth that. I mean, as far as aesthetic purposes, yeah, I mean there's stuff all over the place, but at the same time, it's been like this as long as I've been here. I'm pretty much more than used to it." ♦

MTSU faculty member up for TSU president

By Matt Anderson
Staff Writer

Gloria Bonner, an MTSU dean, is one of eight nominees for Tennessee State University president.

Out of 35 official candidates, only eight were nominated. TSU's current president, James Hefner, will retire in May 2005.

An advisory committee to the Tennessee Board of Regents is currently reviewing applications.

"I am not really that involved in the process at this point, by choice," Bonner said. "I have chosen [to let] my curriculum speak for itself."

"I'm very excited about it. [I] have mixed emotions," she said. "I'm a graduate of MTSU."

Nominations are made in secret, so Bonner does not know who nominated her. But she says it could be a number of people.

"Because we have one of the largest teacher education programs in the state, I've been privileged to work with lots of people in the three grand divisions of Tennessee. So apparently my colleagues have observed me ... and they may see something presidential in me," she

said.

Bonner grew up in Murfreesboro and graduated from MTSU in 1972.

She has a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from MTSU and a doctoral degree from TSU.

"[TSU] was smaller. It was more of an intimate setting because we all knew each other, and I'm sure that was the same for faculty," she said. "It doesn't mean, however, that because [MTSU is] larger, we have abandoned quality... I think that's one of the greatest qualities we have."

Bonner's husband, Ray, also graduated from MTSU, where he lettered in football. He went on to play for the Detroit Lions.

Bonner joined MTSU's faculty in 1985. She taught developmental studies courses in the program's inaugural year. While she taught undergraduate education courses, she moved through the "professorial ranks" and became associate dean, then assistant dean.

Now she is dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, overseeing around 4,100 students, 175 faculty members and six departments.

"It's been developmental. I cannot speak to my progression without acknowledging the tremendous support that I've received here from my colleagues," she said.

Bonner is full of praise for her faculty.

"My greatest source of pride is the faculty that I work with," Bonner said. "They really do give their best at all times, and it matters to me that we recruit faculty who care about individuals."

"That makes the job as dean and providing leadership so much easier," she said.

She especially praised Bob Eaker, currently a professor in educational leadership, who she said has been instrumental in her career.

"It could not have been possible without an outstanding mentor in Bob Eaker, who was the previous dean," Bonner said.

A public meeting of TSU's advisory committee will be held Nov. 11.

Bonner said they will announce a list of four to five candidates for interviews in the near future. ♦

Shuttle: Rally, transportation, speakers encourage early voting

Continued from I

we can give them some kind of incentive, being there with their friends, or something you can do with other students your age," he said.

However, the Raider Republicans administration does not know how effective this push will be, because to early vote in Rutherford County you have to be registered with the county.

Anyone registered in another country or state will not be admitted at the polls.

"If all students were registered in Rutherford County, it'd be a great success," Smith said.

The College Democrats are also planning a last push to encourage young voters to get to the polls this week as well.

They plan to host a rally tomorrow at noon on the Keathley University Center Knoll, followed by a march to the polls to encourage students to vote, according to College Democrats President Christy Holden.

"We're having speakers from

local campaigns here and the chairman of the Tennessee Democratic Party," Holden said. "We're going to have music ... refreshments, things like that."

Among the speakers will be Matthew Trail, son of state Sen. Larry Trail; Cecil Coleman, wife of Rep. Kent Coleman; the Tennessee Democratic Party Chairman, Randy Button and a former MTSU student speaking on behalf of Congressman Bart Gordon.

"The Rutherford Democratic Party has been giving rides to the polls all along," Holden said. "We've been [taking voters to the polls] for a while, we just haven't had shuttle systems running on campus."

Holden said she doesn't think the Republican shuttle will be very successful in persuading voters.

"The majority of people have already made up their minds," Holden said.

Although, she admitted that riding on a van with "someone putting ideas in your head" might be a more effective means to sway voters than simply hold-

ing campaign signs outside of voting precincts or other common tactics.

Holden also mentioned that the rally has been kept relatively secret because the College Democrats thought the Raider Republican would try to counteract their efforts.

"I think they're trying to get one big Republican rush in there because of our rally," Holden said.

In addition, the Raider Republicans have invited former Congressman and the 2002 Republican candidate for Tennessee governor, Van Hilleary, speak at their meeting tomorrow in the Bragg Mass Communications Building, Room 149 at 6 p.m.

Hilleary be talking about last-minute voting efforts and how college students can be effective in encouraging others to vote.

Early voting in Tennessee ends Thursday, Oct. 27 at 7 p.m. ♦

Scholars: Presentations cover diverse topics

Continued from I

the last two years in a partnership with the state's health department.

Their goal was to train emergency responders in dealing with and recognizing the causes of unexpected infant deaths.

"We want to prevent a rush to a [Sudden Infant Death Syndrome] conclusion," she said.

"In 1997, there were 103 sudden infant deaths reported in

Tennessee," she said. "It went down to 77 in 2002, but the numbers are hard to read because in each of these deaths, it is hard to know for sure whether every available piece of evidence was looked at clearly," she said.

Another presentation included the results of an archaeology dig by Kevin Smith's team at the Sam Davis slavery quarters.

"We found that there was this cabin where the slaves all

lived together, but then after emancipation, one freed slave came back and lived by himself," he said.

"The slave in question was actually blind and didn't have any family to go home to, so he went back to the place where he grew up," he said.

Smith said that based on evidence collected at the site, the resident of the quarters-turned-cabin died in 1925. ♦

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Comm 228

Be a journalist.
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and fill out an application.

Play tells story of Bell Witch

By Hillary Robson
Staff Writer

"Spirit: The Authentic Story of the Bell Witch of Tennessee" opened Thursday at the old Bell School in Adams, Tenn. and continues through next weekend.

The play, written by David Alford, tells the story of the Bell Witch — the mysterious and often violent specter said to haunt the grounds of the Bell home. The Mockingbird Theatre presented the play.

"I have been fascinated by this story since I was a child and my grandmother told me the Bell Witch would get me if I didn't behave," Alford, who grew up in Adams, said.

He wrote the play to document the accounts recalled by the Adams family in the memoir "Our Family Trouble," written by Richard William Bell as well as eyewitness accounts.

The story of the Bell Witch began in 1804, when the Bell family moved to Adams (then known as Red River) from North Carolina. After moving into their new home, the family began hearing mysterious noises and later, voices from a woman ghost that called herself Kate.

Kate was said to wage physical attacks against the family, the most which were inflicted upon John Bell's youngest daughter, Betsy. The girl was slapped, poked and stuck with pins in vicious acts that left the young girl bruised. When John Bell died after falling sick to a strange illness, Kate attended the funeral and was said to laugh, curse and sing songs as he was buried.

Kate didn't disappear when

John Bell died. Instead, she continued to torment Betsy Bell, preventing her from marrying the man she loved before taking a hiatus for seven years. She returned to deliver prophetic messages about the Civil War and World Wars before promising a return in 1935.

The Bell Witch never made it back in 1935, further adding to the mystery of the legend. On land the Bell family once owned there is a cave that local believe the witch came to after her prophetic visit, a cave that is said to still be haunted. Locals claim that voices, knocking sounds and strange lights can be seen at the entrance to the cave.

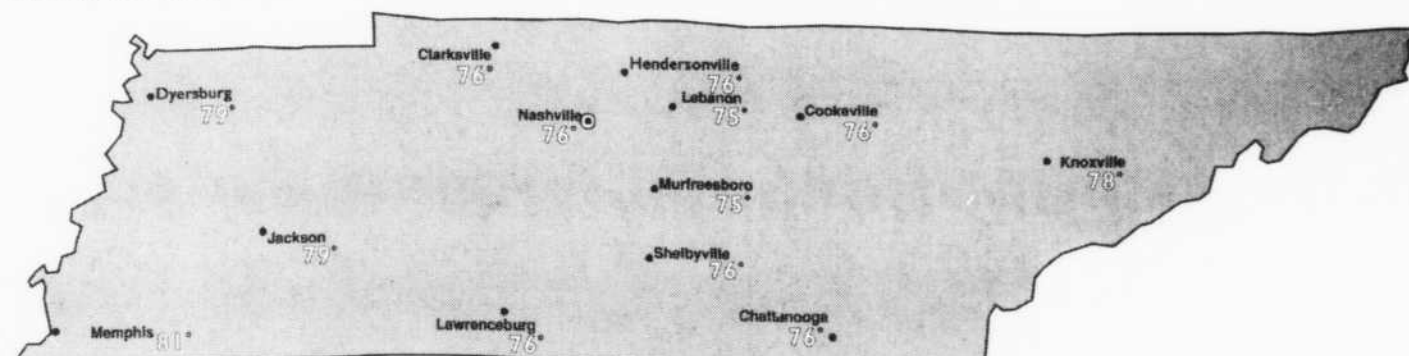
That cave can be visited through Halloween for \$7. Tours are given by the Kirby family, who have also created a replica of the original Bell Cabin. Information about cave tours, including special Halloween night tours, can be found by calling 696-3055.

The play has a special VIP pass for \$40 that includes a tour of the Bellwood Cemetery, dinner at the Bell School with members of the Bell family and cast of "Spirit" and preferred seating. Regular tickets for the Thursday through Sunday night shows are \$15 for adults, \$7.50 for students with ID.

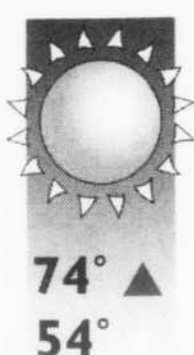
Purchase tickets by phone by calling 696-1300 or at the Adams Antique Mall. The schoolhouse cafeteria at the Bell School will be serving dinner prior to the Thursday-Sunday night performances at 7 p.m. More information about the play, the Bell Witch and the Bell family can be found at www.bellwitchplay.org ♦

Tennessee Weather – Monday's Highs

From the Associated Press



Tuesday



Wednesday



Thursday



Friday



Saturday



Draft: Iraq conflict lasted longer than expected

Continued from 1

"I think the men and women in the army today would want to see the volunteer army continue," Giles said. "The draft would bring people in for a couple of years, then they would get out. We need men and women with more of a commitment, that way you're not always training someone else."

According to *The New York Times*, the Army has invoked stop-loss to extend the tours of more than 45,000 soldiers, leading to allegations of a "backdoor draft." Vile said the charges were legitimate.

"People sort of signed agreements with the understanding they'd have two years of service," Vile said. "But they're still subject to being called back ... It does suggest that some of the contract rules have been altered by the government in the process."

"I think we're more comfortable with that than a real or complete draft," Vile said.

Giles said that most of those on extended tours are not combat soldiers, but mostly logistics, specialists and technicians.

"Their skills are needed," Giles said. "Everybody going into the service knows the needs of the country come before personal needs. I think everybody understands that."

A recent Pentagon study recently said the "American military does not have sufficient forces to sustain current and anticipated stability operations, like the festering conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan and other missions that might arise."

The "festering" conflict in Iraq is not unlike others, according to Giles, in that it has lasted longer than people originally expected, but Giles also said it is very different from the

Vietnam War.

"Every conflict has been a longer term stay ... we're still in Bosnia," Vile said. "Clinton said we wouldn't be there more than one year."

"It's not a quick fix. Maintaining peace after a conflict has always taken time."

Vile presented two ways of looking at Iraq, one optimistic, another pessimistic.

"There is something preferable about having people dying over in Iraq, or dying in New York City, or dying in Nashville," Vile said. "I don't know what the extent is to which we set up a battlefield to which other people have come and it's out of our country."

"Is it funneling people who would normally try to attack us here to attack us there?"

Or, Vile said the other possibility is that the United States is creating new enemies, rather than diverting old ones.

"We've created an additional cohort of enemies in addition to those who are planning to attack New York ... we now have another group of people that hates us."

The likelihood of a draft depends largely on the United States' success in Iraq and whether "other missions" arise. Both are impossible to predict.

"If we have to do something like [Iran], we may very well need a draft," Vile said. "I don't think we have enough soldiers to do it ... not while we're in Iraq."

"One advantage of the draft is that if you needed 50,000 people tomorrow, you could probably get them, in a way that you might not be able to do with an all-volunteer force," Vile said.

"If you have an all-volunteer force, you have to offer enticements." ♦

Sales tax now deductible from income tax

Staff Reports

Tennessee taxpayers who itemize their federal income tax returns will be able to deduct a portion of what they pay in state sales tax effective this January.

President George W. Bush signed the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 on Friday that will provide \$136 billion in new tax breaks, including \$5 billion for state sales tax allowances for residents of states that do not have an income tax.

Nine states, including Tennessee, do not have a state

income tax. The other states include Alaska, Florida, Nevada, South Dakota, Texas, Washington and Wyoming. New Hampshire has neither a sales tax nor an income tax.

Congressman Bart Gordon, D-Tenn., is one of the bill's sponsors.

"Allowing Tennesseans to deduct the state's sales taxes from their federal income tax is only fair," Gordon said in an issued statement. "Tennesseans end up paying more taxes to residents who live in states that collect an income tax, which is

deductible."

"I am pleased we've finally brought fairness to the federal tax code for states like Tennessee," said Senate majority leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn. "This will mean an additional \$470 in tax savings for almost one-quarter of Tennesseans filing their taxes for 2004."

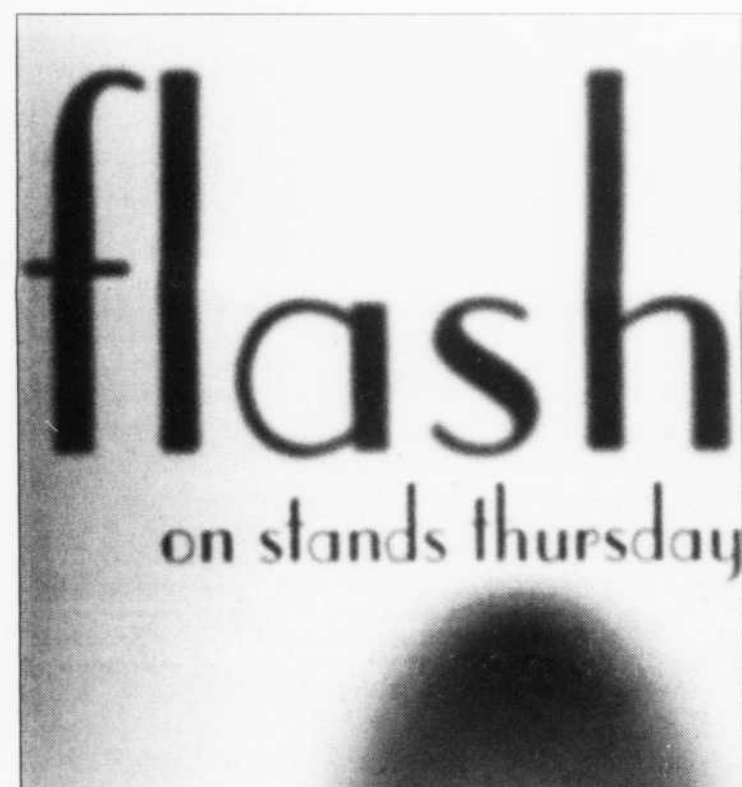
The IRS estimates that 25 percent of all Tennessee taxpayers itemize their federal income tax return.

According to documentation from the Congressional Research Service, the bill would allow taxpayers who itemize

their federal taxes to deduct an estimated amount of state sales taxes paid. A tax table will take into account income filing status, number of dependents, adjusted gross income and the state and local sales tax rate.

The new tax law, which provides breaks for manufacturers, farmers and Alaskan whalers, among others, will expire in 2005.

Rep. Jim Cooper, D-Tenn., said that the new law "gives us a foot in the door, and now I am looking forward to working in Congress toward a permanent solution." ♦



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SIDELINES ONLINE

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Tel: 494-5220

Snayma: 244 South Lowry Street

Tel: 223-0330

Rutherford Co. Democratic Party Headquarters

410 New Salem Rd., Suite 100, Murfreesboro

Tel: 494-5755

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Volunteers of America

From the Editorial Board What will it take to fill the stadium?

By all accounts, Big Boi was a bust. The athletic department is currently reporting that 16,918 fans attended Saturday's game, but that number will likely fall after an outside auditor examines the numbers. Even if these numbers stand, the Blue Raiders must attract more than 41,000 fans to the final two home games – which just won't happen. If and when Middle Tennessee doesn't meet that requirement, the football program will be put on probation (meaning they can't go to a bowl game the next year) and would be skipping down the road to a lower level of competition – which hurts the entire athletic program.

So what would bring fans into Floyd Stadium? For one, it would help if we actually knew who the other teams were. Nobody gets excited about the Idaho's and the Louisiana-Monroes of the football world.

Why not bring in regional teams? The school's largest crowd came when the Blue Raiders played Tennessee State all the way back in 1998.

But coaches and administration officials won't tell you that the reason you won't see a I-AA team like TSU or Western Kentucky is because the Blue Raiders and bigger schools are afraid to lose. An MT loss to a smaller program could mean a loss in local recruits. Conversely, a school from a larger conference would be hesitant to come to Murfreesboro for the same fear of losing to the Blue Raiders.

Even if local teams weren't an option, there are still plenty of viable ways to get butts in seats. Since everyone complains about our "commuter school" status, why not try at least one weekday game? There are more people on campus on a Wednesday or a Thursday night than on a Saturday afternoon.

Better giveaways have already shown they attract more students – the baseball team set a new all-time attendance record by offering free airline tickets.

The athletic department is doing a lot to help the problem, but even more has to be done, lest this quandary resolve itself in a return to I-AA status. ◆

From the Opinions Editor One frustrated left-winger throws in the towel for '04

I wish to inform the public that, with sadness in my heart, I am throwing in my towel and pulling out of the running for the presidency.

You probably didn't even know I was running. Moreover, I imagine you think this is all absurd, as I don't meet the qualification outlined in the U.S. Constitution. A minor problem, I assure you, and most certainly not the reason I am withdrawing from the race.

Honestly, I just can't see how I can hope to garner any votes. We're a rock'em, sock'em sort of nation. We might not like to admit it, but we like to watch a war. It's exciting to us. So I doubt the idea of trying to eliminate the causes of growth in terrorist groups by improving our standing and image towards nations hostile to us would go over very well. Where's the drama, people would ask me. Where's the excitement and the cheering crowds of liberated peoples?

I tried to compromise and be more action-oriented by suggesting that we throw sociology textbooks at pundits who favored a more a gung-ho approach, but it didn't help much.

And there's the matter of health care. I was all about the idea of giving Medicare the ability to buy medicine and supplies in bulk. I figured it would garner me a lot of typically Republican votes – they all swoon whenever someone talks about good management and saving money, right?

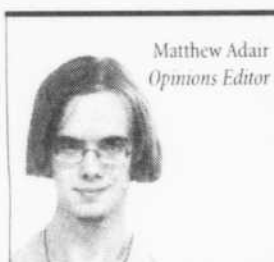
I like an efficient public sector. Who doesn't? Apparently, it's the same people who attack anyone who proposes single-payer health insurance, even when Physicians for a National Health Program suggested that comprehensive single-payer insurance managed at the state level would cut health care spending by amounts hundreds of millions and even in the billions of dollars.

I thought Americans would have been pleasantly surprised to see a liberal with attitude. Quite a few of you out there apparently like President George W. Bush's "go get 'em" approach, so I thought putting that sort of determination behind a desire to learn how to fix our problems instead of charging into matters would sway the electorate in my favor.

But don't think I've given up hope. I still intend to be quite active in this election cycle. It's my duty as an American to stand behind my country and vote. After all, I'd hate to let her down.

Besides, maybe I'll use the next four years to get around that whole age requirement difficulty. ◆

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



Matthew Adair
Opinions Editor

Health care is nation's moral duty

Due to the recent shortage of vaccine, workers on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. have been asked to forego getting flu shots if not in a high-risk category. However, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., had the courage to stand up and declare he is just too important not to be vaccinated. Luckily for him, the shots are offered free of charge to members of Congress, so nothing would stand between the millionaire and his vaccination.

Because of state-supported vaccination, Frist will not have the flu bug interrupting his speeches on why the United States should not have a national health care system or a patient bill of rights or the right of the American citizen to sue for medical mistakes.

It is not surprising that a doctor-turned-politician, part of the evil medical empire known as the Hospital Corporation of America, would be opposed to these ideas. But the widespread opposition to universal health care among Republicans serves no purpose



Cave Canem

David Cotton
Staff Columnist

other than to pander to Frist's corporate interests.

Republican and corporate propaganda warn of a loss of choice in medical service if universal coverage is instated. But nothing suggests that the private health care industry would collapse if there were no uninsured Americans. Just because the government offers cheese to those with little money for food does not mean everyone else stops buying the cheese of their choice.

During the recent presidential debate, President George W. Bush, who has seen five million Americans lose their health insurance and prescription drug costs grow at four times the rate of inflation, complained that Sen. John

Kerry's health care plan would be too expensive.

The fact is the current system is too expensive already. Lack of health insurance costs the country up to \$130 billion per year, according to the Institute of Medicine.

Universal health care is not more expensive in the long run. As is, the United States spends more on health care than any other industrialized country.

Unfortunately, the extra money spent on health care in this country does not always buy better care. The United States has a higher infant mortality rate than the United Kingdom, Canada, France, Germany and Japan.

Republicans currently blame the high cost of medical care on the right of the citizen to file a malpractice suit.

But with the number of injuries caused by medical accidents in hospitals as high as three million, and nearly 300,000 people dead as a result of medical negligence per year, it is easy to see that the problem is in the malpractice, not the

malpractice lawyer.

The truth is that our current health care system is an inefficient mess. Possibly 25 percent of all health care costs are wasted in needless administration processes. Add in the greed that makes a company like HCA pad the bill with unfair charges and you get a medical money pit that profits a few, but breaks everyone else.

America will eventually have to face the current health care crisis. More than 15 percent of the population, nearly 45 million Americans, go without health coverage. The only answer is some sort of state assisted system that allows for universal access.

Despite what Republicans suggest, it is not just a question of cost, but also of morality. A nation as rich as ours has a moral responsibility to care for its citizens. ◆

David Cotton is a graduate history major and can be reached at dpc2b@mtsu.edu.

Be a yellow dog Republican

According a recent poll, President George W. Bush enjoys a colossal lead over Sen. John Kerry in Tennessee. The most recent analysis, SurveyUSA, has Bush leading Kerry by 22 points as of Oct. 19. Therefore, it's safe to say Bush, barring a miracle, will carry the great state of Tennessee once again.

Most conservative to a tax hiking, abortion-supporting liberal from Massachusetts. As Tennesseans vote their conservative values on Nov. 2, they need to vote those values all the way down the ballot.

Jim Tracy, candidate for state senate, and Oscar Gardner, candidate for state representative, are two GOP candidates in touch with Tennessee values.

Tracy, a native Tennessean, owns a small business and is a former teacher and coach. He has earned endorsements from Tennessee Right to Life as well as the National Federation of Independent Businesses, a pro-small business organization, and earned an "A" rating from the National Rifle Association.

Oscar Gardner is managing director of Murfreesboro Financial Group in Murfreesboro. He is also a former teacher and coach. Gardner, a hall of fame football player at the University of Indianapolis, has lived in Tennessee for 23 years.

He earned the endorsements of the National Rifle Association, Tennessee Right to Life, and the NFIB.

Tracy and Gardner oppose two liberal lawyers – Sen. Larry Trail and Rep. Kent Coleman. Both Trail and Coleman have terrible pro-abortion records. Brian Harris, director of Tennessee Right to Life wrote, "In one short term, Kent Coleman has racked up one of the most radical pro-abortion voting records of any Tennessee legislator. His commitment to abortion knows no limit and his position is clearly out of touch with the prevailing views of his constituents. It's time for him to go."

Trail's pro-abortion votes also disgusted Harris and pro-life Tennesseans. Trail voted the pro-abortion American Civil Liberties Union position 12 of 13 times.

Tracy recently won the City Cafe straw poll, defeating Trail by roughly 60 votes, according to *The Daily News Journal*.

Trail, obviously rattled at Tracy's strong showing, has launched vicious attacks against the challenger. Trail claimed Tracy has raised "dirty campaign" from drug companies. Tracy's campaign denies the accusations, calling the ads "A Trail of Deception" and outright lies.



Reality Check

Justin Wax
Staff Columnist

The Tracy campaign Web site also responded by accusing Trail of taking "more than \$50,000 from trial lawyers and trial lawyer organizations."

Coleman manifested his liberal beliefs when he told *Sidelines* in September that while he was opposed to a state income tax, he would not sign a pledge.

"The simple-minded people who just sign pledges are not the kind of people who should be elected into office," he said.

What was Coleman really saying? Simple-minded conservatives, who promise to stick to the positions they campaigned on, should not be elected.

Coleman won't be caught dead supporting an income tax during an election year – but if he wins re-election, don't be surprised when he finds supporting an income tax his fiduciary responsibility.

We've heard that junk before. Gardner and Tracy adamantly oppose a state income tax. They know that punishing the taxpayers for liberal financial mismanagement is wrong. Both Republicans support the taxpayer bill of rights, which would restore fiscal accountability to the General Assembly.

Colorado implemented a taxpayers' bill of rights (TaBOR) in 1992. Since then Colorado's per capita income increased 51 percent compared to 38 percent in Tennessee. Colorado's number of jobs increased 32 percent compared to 17 percent in Tennessee. Colorado's gross state product increased 79 percent compared to 49 percent in Tennessee.

TaBOR's impact will force government to "set priorities, restore the credibility and confidence of the legislature, and most importantly give Tennesseans more control over what we pay in taxes," Gardner said on his Web site.

It's time for Rutherford County citizens to have statesmen like Gardner and Tracy who reflect our values. After you vote for Bush, go all the way down the ballot and send Tennessee values to Nashville, too. ◆

Justin Wax is a sophomore history major and can be reached at justin@furtheringfreedom.com

Be your own voter when at the polls

Election Day is just around the corner. I hope everyone is registered to vote because it is our right and responsibility.

Last year if you can remember, I wrote in an article that I don't vote and I don't complain.

Since then I have grown another year older and with that I have gained more education on this issue. My voice has been counted because I am an American.

The reason I was against voting was because everyone tried to force his or her opinions on me when I showed the smallest bit of interest. So, if you are one of those people, stop. Your opinion is your opinion, not the right opinion. If you keep forcing your beliefs on others you are doomed to live a very lonely life. Let other peoples' voices be heard.

Plus, I viewed all politics as lies, scams and slams against the different parties that separated the people of this country when we needed to come together the most. Why do we have to fight about the problems in our country? If there was such a thing as voting for a compromise among parties, I would be the first one in line to vote.

Now I understand politics run our country if we like it or not, which I don't. That is OK because there's nothing we can do to change it at this point, but it's important to make my voice heard on whom we want to run our country.

My advice to you is to educate yourself. We do not need any uneducated voters at the booth. That is even worse than not voting at all. Voting is serious business. That is why we have to be 18 or older to vote. It is not a child's game.

Don't take what other people say as total fact. Make your own opinion about the issues that are important to you. It is your decision.

Watch the news. I hope you at least watched one of the debates. They were on just about every channel. In short, listen to the candidates. Are their plans to make your life better?

Don't let your parents' political standards shape yours just because you don't want an argument. Don't let your teachers' views influence you because you want to make the grade. Don't let your friends' choices be the popular choice because you want to fit in.

Everyone has his or her own reasons and issues that are important to their vote. The question is: What is important to you? I am not going to tell you who to vote for. All I say is vote. If you don't, you have lost the control you personally have in this amazing country. ◆

Kacey Hercules is a junior social work major and can be reached at kah2x@mtsu.edu.



Kacey's Corner

Kacey Hercules
Staff Columnist

Correction

Sigma Alpha Epsilon participated in the "Trunk or Treat" event (Greek groups host "Trunk-or-treating," Oct. 21, page 1) last Friday. *Sidelines* regrets the error.

Letters Policy

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopinio@mtsu.edu, and include your name and a phone number for verification. *Sidelines* will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, length and content.

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Sidelines online poll results

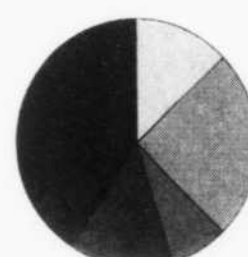
Do you support the SGA Electoral Act?

Yes, we need to avoid another election controversy. (13 percent)

Yes, it's good that the SGA is taking steps to clarify its position. (25 percent)

No, there is no need for clarification. (8 percent)

No, I'm an anarchist. (14 percent)



I'm not concerned. (41 percent)

Visit www.mtsusidelines.com to answer this week's poll question, "Who are you voting for?"

Humorist performs one-woman show

Estelle Condra performs bringing insight and laughs to campus community

By Audrey Scruton
Staff Writer

If laughter really is the best medicine, then Estelle Condra has a long life ahead of her.

Condra performed her one-woman show, "Blind People Shouldn't Vacuum," at MTSU on Oct. 13 in Tucker Theater, and encouraged people to laugh with her as she shared humorous experiences in the life of a blind person.

Diagnosed as a child with the hereditary eye disease retinitis pigmentosa, Condra turned her eventual blindness into a performance asset and is now a sought-after keynoter, touring worldwide as an inspirational speaker, hilarious comedian and stunning actress all rolled into one.

"I am a performer and a speaker and I travel around the country to camps and conferences to share my art with others," Condra says.

Several people on campus were eager to hear about Condra's show.

"I'm very excited about her performance," said John Harris, director of Disabled Student Services. "I have heard about her before, but I have never been able to attend one of her performances live. She has a very impressive reputation."

Harris applauds Condra for her ability to turn her blindness into a creative tool. "It is very inspiring and good to see a blind person perform like Estelle does," Harris says.

According to her Web site, www.estellecondra.com, "Estelle Condra has had a diverse career in theatre arts on three conti-

nents, including work in South Africa, England and the United States. After completing her drama studies in South Africa and England, she worked for a variety of acting companies (portraying roles such as Antigone, Medea and Joan of Arc)."

In 1973, Condra married and moved to the United States, where she settled in Nashville.

Retinitis pigmentosa, one name for a large group of inherited visual disorders, caused Estelle to lose her sight gradually by causing progressive degeneration of the retina of the eyes.

Usually, peripheral vision is lost first, followed by central vision. Because the deterioration occurs behind the eye, people with RP appear to have the power of sight.

Most people would say that blindness is not a laughing matter, but Condra would disagree.

"To overcome our personal challenges, we have to learn to laugh at ourselves," she says.

Condra believes that others have a more difficult time dealing with her blindness than she does.

"My lack of sight does not dominate my life; it dominates the lives of others around me," she says.

Although her one-woman show provides pure fun and entertainment, Condra believes it can change people's attitudes and stereotypes about blind people as well.

"The audience realizes that blind people don't spend their lives in the doldrums," Condra says. "Laughter is also a part of our lives and we welcome others to laugh with us."



Photo by Emily Nance | Photo Editor

"Don't make me prove to you that a vacuum in the hands of a blind person is a lethal weapon!" Condra exclaimed.

When asked what inspired her to become such a prominent keynote speaker, Condra replies, "I don't know if I'm inspired. I simply like what I do and then I do it a lot!"

Nikki Pinson, a senior accounting major, enjoyed Condra's show.

"She was definitely an inspi-

ration speaker, but she was really funny and not cheesy about it," Pinson says. "She made a point through humor instead of trying to get sympathy."

Condra's appearance at MTSU is one of many that she is making at colleges and universities across the South over the

next few weeks. Condra is scheduled to stop in Atlanta followed by a return to the Nashville area.

"Then, at the beginning of November, I will be performing in both North and South Carolina, and so on and so on. It's constant travel," Condra says.

Estelle Condra's performance at MTSU was held in conjunction with Disabilities Awareness Month and was sponsored by Tennessee Arts Commission and Very Special Arts Tennessee. ♦

Dear Emily



Dear Emily,

I've been best friends with the same group of people since freshman year.

We've done everything together for the last few years, but now it seems like we're growing apart and I don't know why.

We used to hang out every night, eat lunch together, schedule classes together, have tons of inside jokes and know each other better than anyone else.

But lately, it seems like we're all changing and going different directions.

We haven't all hung out in a while because it seems like everyone's always busy with other things. When we do hang out, it just seems like we don't click like we used to.

I don't want to lose these awesome friends that I've shared my college life with, but I don't know what to do. It just seems like it will never be the same again. Is this normal? Is there anything I can do to hang on to my friends?

College Kid That Doesn't Want to Grow Up

Dear College Kid,

Somebody once said that life is a balance of hanging on and letting go. The trick is knowing when each is appropriate.

First of all, what you and your friends are going through is absolutely normal. Ironically enough, change is the only constant part of life. As such, all friendships inevitably reach a crossroads at which point you will have to decide whether you are still on the same road, or if it's time to move on.

And yes, you can still hang on to these friendships, but you have to realize that they

probably won't ever be the same again. Appreciate them for what they were, accept them for what they are and understand that you can't try to relive the past.

Things are constantly changing and you have to roll with the changes, even while you cherish your memories of all the good times you shared with your pals.

Take everything as it comes and don't try to force a friendship that just isn't working; however, don't think your friendship was any less genuine or valuable simply because it's not clicking anymore.

Individual friendships are difficult enough to maintain; group friendships have even trickier dynamics to work with. While some people in the group may remain friends longer than others, the "group" situation can be shaky as it often requires that each individual in the group remain exactly the same.

College is a temporary situation, and to enjoy it fully you have to realize the impermanence of most of the friendships you will make during these years.

For a brief moment in time, we're all in the same phase of our lives, sharing similar experiences and life-changes as we grow up and discover who we really are and where we belong in the world.

College is also an environment conducive to bonding with people. Never again will we be plunked down with 22,000 other people our age in our own little world with few "grown-ups" around to tell us what to do. We eat, sleep, breathe, study, party, stress out and laugh with each other 24/7 and sometimes it feels like these days will last forever.

But all good things must come to an end; after all, we are only here for a few years, and then much of the common ground we share with our college friends will disappear as we all move on to a new phase of life and consequently, want new friends who are in the same phase.

Although some people are only supposed to be in your life during this specific season, I also believe there are a precious few with whom you will always be friends.

Maybe you'll move away after graduation and get married and have different careers, but there are some friends who will always be kindred spirits, who will always know how to make each other laugh and for whom college will merely be the starting point for a lifelong friendship.

I hope you have a friend like this! ♦

Honors College hosts first pumpkin carving contest

By Jay Cash
Staff Writer

First time events are underway in the newly built Paul W. Martin Sr. Honors building.

A variety of activities have been planned for various occasions, and this month in keeping with the holiday spirit, students are getting ready to test their carving skills for the first ever "Monster Bash Pumpkin Carving Contest."

This contest is open for every MTSU student and will be at the Honors College beginning at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday. Students can register up until Tuesday at the Honors College.

All you need to bring is a creative idea; both pumpkins and knives will be provided. You can still bring your own specialty tools, though, according to Georgia Dennis, event coordinator of the Honors College.

There will be five separate categories: Traditional, Scary, Imaginative, Elegant and Ugly, with prizes given to the winners of each.

"I hope to keep them up until Saturday when we will have an open house for the Honors College. But everyone is encouraged to take their pumpkin home after Saturday," Dennis says.

"The Honors College is so happy to finally have their own building now where they can provide many more activities and functions for the students, and celebrate with other events," she adds.

Several events are scheduled next month for the Honors College, including Native American Folk Music and a Louisiana Cajun Swamp Zydeco concert to be held in the amphitheater.

So far, only two students have signed up for "Monster Bash Pumpkin Carving Contest."

Jim Miller, sophomore student says, "I would rather attempt painting a pumpkin



than try my luck at carving it on the spot. They never turn out like I want."

The rules for the contest are simple. Just show up 15 minutes before the contest begins, pick out the pumpkin of choice and then go at it.

"Students can paint, carve or decorate the pumpkins anyway they want to - whatever you can imagine," Dennis says.

Stop by Dennis' office in HONR 226 by tomorrow to reserve your pumpkin and register to compete. ♦



MIDDLE TENNESSEE 34 IDAHO 14

Strong second half leads to MT win

By David Hunter
Senior Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee football team ran their way to a 34-14 victory over Idaho last Saturday afternoon at Floyd Stadium.

Starting running back Eugene Gross suffered an ankle injury during the first half and had to leave the game, but two of his replacements, Terry Jackson and Lee Baker, each found the end zone.

MT quarterback Clint Marks also ran for a score. "Today, the offensive line did an extremely well job," MT running back Terry Jackson said.

The Vandals started the game moving the ball until they got to the MT 41-yard line.

Idaho was going to punt on fourth-and-eight, but the Blue Raiders were called for a substitution infraction. The Vandals then converted on fourth-and-three.

Four plays later, Vandal quarterback Michael Harrington found Luke Smith-Anderson for a 20-yard touchdown.

On MT's first possession, the offense drove the ball down to the Vandal 18, but Idaho's Robert Davis picked off a Marks pass at the Vandal nine.

Idaho was not able to convert the turnover into points, however, and the MT offense took its next possession 70 yards in nine plays. Baker scored from one yard out early in the second quarter to tie the score at seven.

The Vandals took back the lead on a drive that included a roughing the passer penalty and an Idaho self-recovery of a fumble. The drive ended with Jayson Bird running five yards for a touchdown, putting Idaho up 14-7.

The Blue Raiders tied the score again when Marks took an option keeper five yards in the end zone with 58 seconds remaining in the half.

On the ensuing kickoff, the Vandals fumbled a pooch kick, and MT's Keno Raymond recovered the ball at the Idaho 25.

Four plays later, MT's Colby Smith nailed a 29-yard field goal with 23 seconds left in the half to put the Blue Raiders up 17-14 at halftime.

In the second half, the Blue Raiders took control and held the Vandal offense scoreless. On MT's opening possession, Terry Jackson broke a 52-yard run to the Vandal seven-yard line.

The run was the longest of the season for the Blue Raiders, and it was also the longest run of Jackson's career.

Three plays late, Jackson finished the job with a one-yard touchdown run to make the score 24-14.

The Blue Raiders added a touchdown late in the third quarter when Pedro Holiday scored from 14 yards out with a one-handed catch in the end zone to make the score 31-14.

"He made a great catch," Marks said. "It was a fade route to him, and he had man-up coverage. Pedro made a play, and he made a real good catch."

In the final quarter Smith kicked a 42-yard field goal into the wind to finish the scoring for the Blue Raiders.

Marks finished the game going 18-of-26 for 194 with a touchdown and an interception. Marks also rushed for 45 yards with a touchdown.

Jackson was the leading rusher for the Blue Raiders with 78 yards, and Baker added 26.

Idaho's Harrington went 25-of-38 for 200 yards and one touchdown.

The MT defense held Idaho to only 99 yards rushing, a week after Bird and Rolly Lumbala each had more than 100 yards rushing. Saturday the Blue Raiders held the duo to a combined 82 yards.

"We knew we had to stop them in order to win this ball game," MT linebacker Dennis Burke said.

MT improved to 3-4 and 2-2 in the conference, while Idaho dropped to 2-6 (1-3). ♦

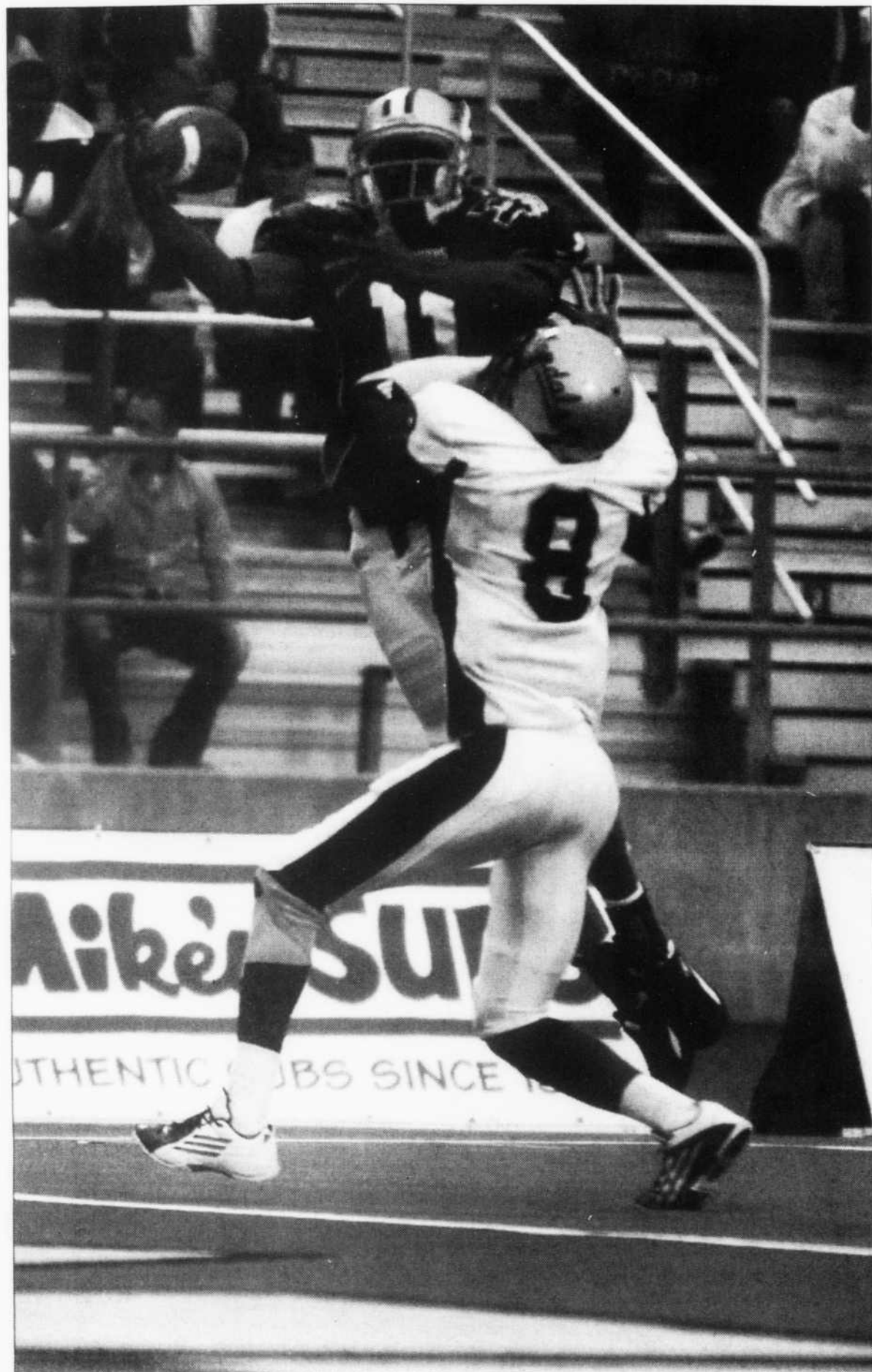


Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

MT's Pedro Holiday leaps to make a touchdown reception over Idaho cornerback J.R. Ruffin.

Blue Raiders, Big Boi attract 16,918 – for now

Staff Reports

The Middle Tennessee athletic department reported that Middle Tennessee's 34-14 win over Idaho on Saturday drew 16,918, the first time in three home games the Blue Raiders attracted more than the NCAA-mandated average of 15,000 fans.

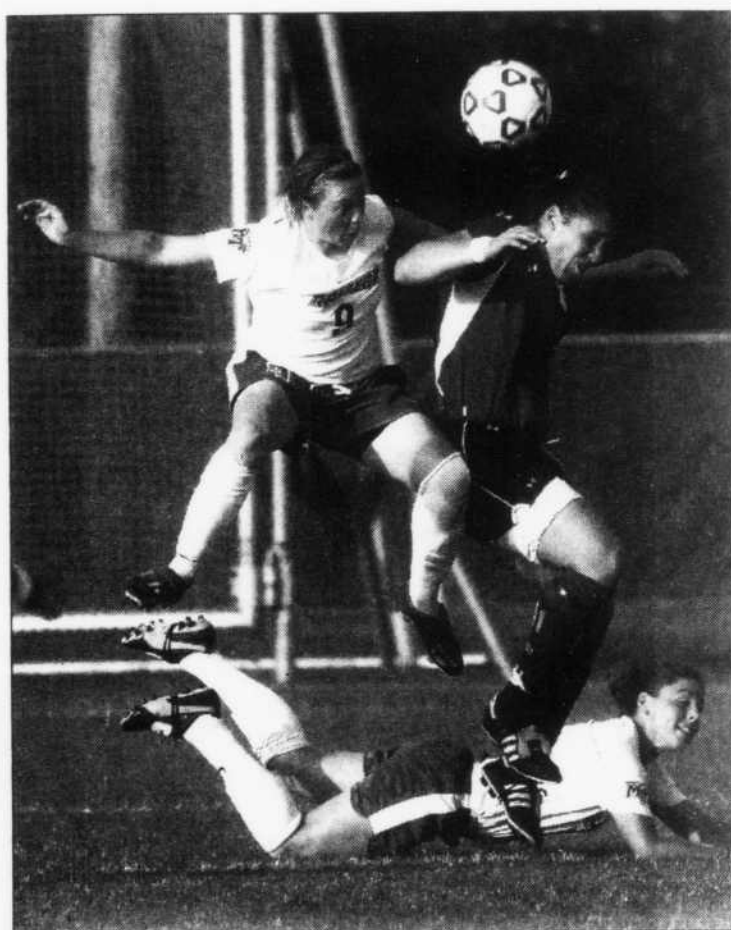
But those numbers could change pending the final reports from the outside auditor that reviews MT's figures. Both of the original figures from the previous two games dropped after the audited numbers came back, including a loss of more than 2,000 fans at the Arkansas State game on Oct. 9.

The audited figure for Saturday's game will not be available for several days. ♦



Big Boi

Date	Opponent	Original	Audited	Change
Sept. 18	Florida Atlantic	13,348	13,092	-256
Oct. 9	Arkansas State	13,250	11,093	-2,157
Oct. 23	Idaho	16,918	?	?



Forrest scores game winner in overtime

By Casey Brown
Staff Writer

Lately, it seems Middle Tennessee has acquired a flair for the dramatic.

After battling Denver and North Texas to double overtime last weekend, the Blue Raiders again stretched the game to extra time, defeating rival Western Kentucky 2-1 in a thrilling conference contest Friday at Blue Raider Soccer Field.

"I think we worked really hard," MT defender Katy Rayburn said. "It's unfortunate we had to go into overtime, but as a team we really fought for each other. Things are looking really good for us right now."

The two teams fought hard in a scoreless struggle until the closing minutes of the first half, when WKU midfielder Alicia Dalby broke the stalemate with a long free kick that lofted just over the reach of MT keeper

Jenny Manis and into the back of the net for a 1-0 Hilltopper lead.

The score in the 40th minute marked the first time the Blue Raiders have trailed in a home match this season, but the deficit proved to be short-lived. In the second half, the MT defense tightened and Manis gave one of her best performances of the season, finishing with 10 saves and denying several quality chances.

MT found the equalizer four minutes into the second half, when Rayburn headed a free kick from Lisa-Marie Woods past WKU keeper Meredith Goodson.

"There are still a lot of challenges," Rayburn said. "We're taking shots, but today we didn't get very many in. We're performing well, but we need to start capitalizing on more of those opportunities."

The Hilltoppers seemed to have a sure scoring opportunity in the 86th minute when Betsy Duncan sent a hard volley towards the net. But Manis responded with a crucial deflection, sending the game into overtime.

The extra period ended nearly as quickly as it began. Just three minutes in, Blue Raider midfielder Kaley Forrest redirected a long pass from Woods, heading the ball into the corner of the net for the game-winning score.

"We make very good use of our set plays," MT head coach Aston Rhoden said. "It was good to see someone like Lisa [Woods] play the ball as she does, and Kaley [Forrest], who is one of the best headers of the ball I've ever seen, make contact and head it. The key is our girls playing to their strengths."

"I just go up and hope for the best," Forrest said of the deciding goal. "It's really just a lot of luck, I think."

The match was a physical one, with the two squads combining for 24 fouls and five yellow cards. In the course of such rough play, the Blue Raiders have been saddled with numerous injuries so far this season.

"We're really just trying to stay healthy," Forrest said. "But as long as we keep winning, we'll be fine." ♦

Sports commentary



Jonathan Hutton
Staff Columnist

Football team asks 'What if?'

By Jonathan Hutton
Staff Columnist

In just about any sport, you can look back and ask the question "What if?"

With this year's Blue Raider football season, the question seems to be a running theme.

I'm not one to dwell on the past, but if you look back at the games the Blue Raiders have played this year compared to their overall record, you can't help but wonder what would have happened if something had gone differently.

What if the Blue Raiders had gotten off to a better start? What if they hadn't committed a stupid penalty here or there? What if the team could get the breaks they needed to win some key conference road games?

These questions have little relevance now that they're in the past, but for your reading pleasure, let's look at a few areas that may have turned MT's season around.

The Blue Raiders' first home game again: Florida Atlantic did not kick off the season the way the team and fans had hoped. We definitely didn't see the offensive showing the Blue Raiders had planned on, or the fans of the Blue Raiders had counted on.

After coming off a road win against Akron, a win against Florida Atlantic would have started off the season the way the Blue Raiders needed to. After dropping the game to FAU, the Blue Raiders lost a tough game to conference foe Louisiana-Lafayette, not only giving MT a 1-2 record but making them 0-1 in the Sun Belt Conference, with a road trip to SBC football king North Texas swiftly approaching.

In Denton, the Blue Raiders dropped another tough game to the Mean Green, making MT 0-2 in the conference and not helping out the team's chances at making something of their season.

Now I'm not saying the Blue Raiders didn't go into these games prepared, because every loss came between seven and 10 points. Seven to 10 points! That's a result of MT either turning the ball over or the ball not bouncing their way when the opponent fumbles.

What if the Blue Raiders had caught some breaks in these two SBC games? For one, the Blue Raiders would be 4-0 in the

See **What if?** 8

Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

Lisa-Marie Woods (9) fights for position against Western Kentucky.

MT newcomers bring excitement to Fan Jam 2004

By Mark Emery
Staff Writer

Approximately 400 people were on hand to see and meet the players of the Middle Tennessee men's and women's basketball teams at Fan Jam on Thursday.

"I wish there could have been more people here," said senior Scott Davidson, who said he has been to every basketball game since he was a freshman. "I think there are about 3,500 students that live in the dorms and tonight there were approximately 100 students. I wanted to see the benches pulled out and have 11,000 people here."

The teams were going to take part in a Midnight Madness event, but due to the rescheduling of the Middle Tennessee-Florida football game there was a scheduling conflict. University officials decided that they would rather have the band and cheerleaders present for the event and decided to schedule Fan Jam a week later.

"I don't know if it was publicized enough," senior Joe Whitehead said. "Maybe people didn't really know about the event, but I wanted to see more fans supporting the teams."

Head coaches Stephany Smith and

Kermit Davis loved the energy of the people at the event, however.

"You can tell there has been a buzz about both our basketball teams around the community the last few weeks," Smith said. "With the turnout here tonight it's easy to see the fans are excited about the season and it was a fun night for our players, the students and the community."

"It's always good to see the community people come out to support our players," Davis said. "The support shows there is interest in the two programs and the players feel their hard work is worth it. These people are our base support and it was great to see so many of them here tonight."

The evening was full of various events such as the three-point contest, a slam dunk contest and the fans getting a chance to meet with the players after the event.

"I loved the slam dunk contest," Whitehead said. "I thought it was great."

The slam dunk contest featured junior newcomer Marcus Morrison beating out sophomore Bryan Smithson as he scored a 28 out of 30 and Smithson failed on his two attempts to get a dunk.

Before the slam dunk contest, they held the three-point contest. Fats Cuyler made

it to the final round as he beat out fellow Blue Raiders Jonathan Loc, Mike Dean and defending champion Wes Durrant.

Jenne Webb made it to the three-point finals for the Lady Raiders as she beat out fellow teammates Latoya Barclay, Patrice Holmes and Ditte Jakobsen.

Cuyler barely won in the finals with a total of nine three-pointers to beat out Webb, who had seven three-pointers.

After the events, both teams then scrimmaged. The White squad took a 15-9 victory over the Blue squad for the Lady Raiders. For the Blue Raiders, the Blue squad won 20-17 over the White squad.

After the scrimmages, the fans got a chance to get the players' autographs and to get their pictures taken with them.

The Blue Raiders open their season Nov. 19 at Murphy Center against Lambuth University. The Lady Raiders also begin their season at home as they take on South Florida Nov. 12 in the first round of the Preseason Women's National Invitational Tournament. ♦

Photo by Blake Noel | Staff Photographer

Marcus Morrison throws down a dunk during Fan Jam on Thursday.

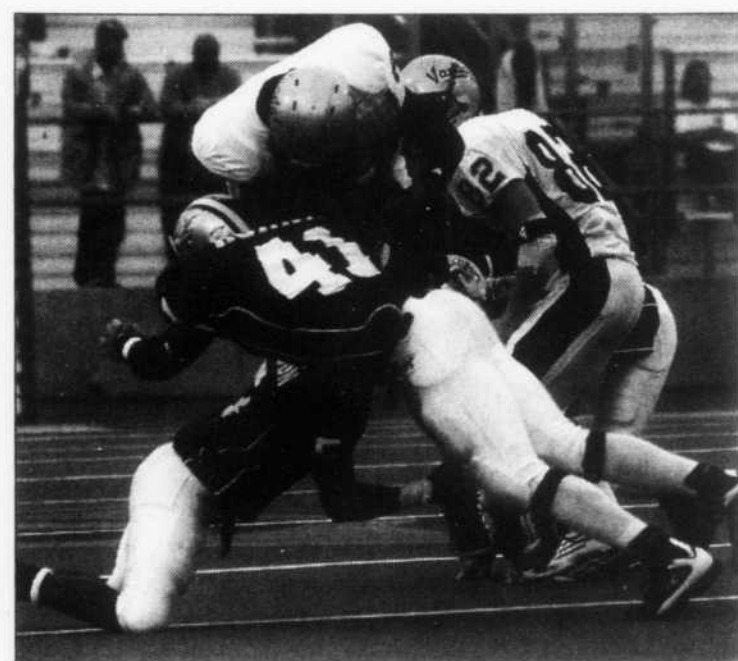


Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

MT sophomore Marcel Horne makes a tackle Saturday.

Run defense keys second-half shutdown

By Mark Emery
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee football team enjoyed a good performance both offensively and defensively on its way to the 34-14 victory over Idaho Saturday.

The defense bent in the first half of the game, but did not break. The Vandals were able to score on two of their first three drives and had a total of 153 yards, but after that the MT defense shut down the Idaho offense.

The Blue Raiders allowed a season-low 323 total yards and held the Vandals to only 87 yards rushing. They were able to shut down the Vandals running back combo of Rolly Lumbala and Jayson Bird, who were coming off a game against Louisiana-

Lafayette in which they both rushed for over 100 yards.

"I thought they [the defense] came out in the second half and shut them out," MT head coach Andy McCollum said. "They shut the run down and hold teams like that to 80 yards rushing, then I'd say they fought their tails off. I thought they competed well."

One thing that McCollum said the defense still needs to work on is stopping the first drive of the opponents. The defense has stopped its opponent from putting up points on its first chance in only two games this season.

On offense, the team saw starting running back Eugene Gross go down early in the game with an ankle injury. Backups Terry Jackson and Lee Baker filled in nicely, how-

ever, as they led the Blue Raiders to a season-high 165 rushing yards.

Jackson helped break the game open in the second half when he rushed for a season long 52-yard run and then was able to finish off the drive with a score.

"I was just trying to stay focused," Jackson said. "And whenever I get in, just make the best of it."

Baker also added 16 yards and a touchdown that tied the game at seven. Not to be outdone, Clint Marks also took part in the running game. Marks rushed for a season-high 43 yards and his first rushing touchdown of the season.

The Blue Raiders will hope to continue to build on the momentum when they play host to Utah State at home this Saturday. ♦

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Blue Raiders win 3-1 at home

By Jori Rice
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee volleyball team defeated New Orleans 3-1 (30-18, 30-32, 30-22, 30-24) Friday night for a Sun Belt Conference win.

"I don't think it was one of our best matches because we had KeKe Deckard making errors that she doesn't normally make, hitting the ball out of bounds," MT head coach Matt Peck said. "But people did step up. Lindsay Sisco played a great match and Andressa Lyra did well with blocking, passing and serving."

After easily taking the first game, the Blue Raiders lost the second when UNO came back on an attack error caused by MT.

"I think we were playing really well in Game 1 and just relaxed too much in Game 2," Peck said. "To the Lady Privateers' credit they picked up their game and shocked us."

MT came back in Games 3 and 4, however, and took the victory.

"It was a good thing for us to lose Game 2 because we became more focused and it got us back in the match," Peck said. "Even in Game 4 we were down by two points, and we came back and played a very nice fourth game."

Lyra led the Blue Raiders in kills with 19, while Deckard had 18 and Dara McLean hit 17.

UNO had four players in double digits in kills, which was led by Melissa Mikuski with 15. Jessica Helgeson, Hillary Carr

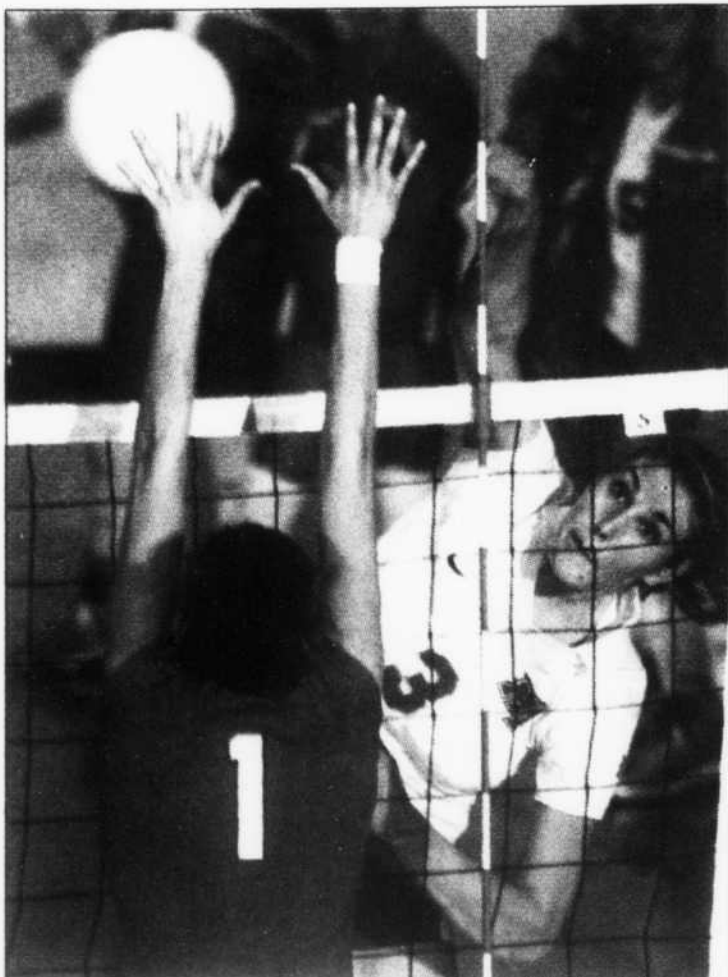


Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

MT's Dara McLean (3) puts a kill over UNO's Jaci Bayley.

and Dobrilla Kovacevic all had 12 kills each.

The MT defense created 10.5 blocks, while UNO tried to keep up with 8.5.

MT improved its record to 11-10 and 5-3 in the SBC, while UNO dropped to 14-6 (4-4 SBC). MT came off the road from two SBC losses to Denver and New Mexico State and Peck was excited to get back in the win column.

"I was pretty happy with the outcome," Peck said. "We haven't played at home in three weeks, so we were ready for a win, but it was really nice to come back. I think it was a big win for us," Peck said.

The Blue Raiders defeated South Alabama 3-1 at home Sunday to move to 12-10 overall and 6-3 in the conference. *Sidelines* will have a full report on Sunday's match in Wednesday's edition. ♦

Women search for chemistry

By Jori Rice
Staff Writer

The Lady Raider basketball team is getting ready for the 2004-2005 season, and the program's annual Fan Jam was a chance to show everybody the squad's brand new faces and the returning players' development at Murphy Center Thursday night.

After the Lady Raiders' intrasquad scrimmage at the end of the event, however, Middle Tennessee head coach Stephany Smith was far from impressed.

"I thought the scrimmage was sloppy," Smith said. "It's easy to see we have six brand new players we are working into the plans. The triangle offense is a complex offense to begin with, so that's a learning experience for our new players."

Although Smith showed concern Thursday night, the Lady Raiders feel this season will be very competitive because of their success last year. MT won the Sun Belt Conference with a 79-57 victory over Western Kentucky and a 67-62 upset of No. 4 seed North Carolina in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

"There is going to be pressure on our backs,

especially in the conference," sophomore Krystle Horton said. "There is a big X on our backs. We are a target for people this year."

Despite that pressure and the new players' adjustments, the Lady Raiders fully expect to improve over last year's 24-8 season. The Lady Raiders fell in the second round of the NCAA tournament to Notre Dame 46-59.

"Everybody on the team knows that we want to go further than we did last year in the NCAA Tournament, so we come to practice more focused and prepared to get back into the swing of things," senior Patrice Holmes said.

Right now, however, the Lady Raiders' goal is team chemistry, and the only cure is more practice.

"We started practicing and our team chemistry needs to get better," Horton said. "But we will stay working as a team and playing hard in practice, so our focus can be better for the games."

"You build character, strength and chemistry in practice," junior Tia Stovall agreed.

The Lady Raiders open the 2004-05 season at home against South Florida on Nov. 12. ♦

Men confident after event

By Cody Gibson
Staff Writer

The men's basketball season is approaching, and the season unofficially began Thursday night at Fan Jam. A crowd of about 400 fans was on hand as the MT men's basketball team ushered in their third season under coach Kermit Davis.

"It's amazing the season is starting again," Davis said. "It's been a nice two years. We had the best practice we've had since I've been here."

Fan Jam is an important event to Davis, because not only does it give players a chance to get rid of the nervousness, but it also gives fans a chance to meet the players.

"A lot of times you come to games and watch the team and support the players, but it's difficult to interact with them," Davis said. "This is a time when you can interact with our players and staff and get to know the guys."

This year Davis looks to take his team further, and many of the players have lofty expectations for the 2004-2005 team.

"Our goal is to make the NCAA tournament," junior guard Fats Cuyler said.

Bryan Smithson agreed with Cuyler, saying that the most important thing was team success.

Fan Jam was not all business, however. Marcus Morrison won the hotly contested dunk contest over Smithson.

"I've had plenty of experience in dunk contests," Morrison said. "That definitely helped me."

Morrison said that he has plans for some great dunks in the regular season, too.

"I've been known as a game-time dunker as well," he said.

Cuyler won the three-point shootout over the Lady Raiders' Jenne Webb nine to seven. He also credited his victory to prior experience.

"In high school, I was in several of these, so that helped," Cuyler said.

Unlike the Lady Raiders, who conceded they had to work on team chemistry, several Blue Raiders agreed that they were ready for the season. The Blue Raiders open the regular season Nov. 19 against Lambuth University. ♦

What if?: MT football team could be 6-1

Continued from 6

conference and in a great position to play in the New Orleans Bowl.

The Blue Raiders have shown their ability as a football team. Just look at the past two home games, which the Blue Raiders have won convincingly. With the exception of Florida, the Blue Raiders had the ability to be undefeated, but things just haven't gone MT's way recently.

So now that the Blue Raiders can't look back on the easiest schedule in recent memory, they can ask "when?" MT will be playing in a bowl game when the Blue Raiders begin to control their own destiny rather than relying on other teams to lose. For the past few seasons, the Blue Raiders haven't had that control.

To get that control, you have to catch some breaks. If they're not happening, you have to make them happen. As a Blue

Raider fan, you have to believe that things will turn around soon. The team is going to catch some breaks and win the close games.

And if you still don't see it happening, look at it this way: If the Boston Red Sox can defeat the Curse of the Bambino, MT can win the Sun Belt. ♦

Jonathan Hutton is a sophomore mass communication major. He can be reached at jdh3x@mtsu.edu.

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OCTOBER 25-30, 2004
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